

KỶ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI
LẦN THỨ XVII, NĂM 2026
ĐỀ THI MÔN: TIẾNG ANH - LỚP: 10
Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút
(Không kể thời gian giao đề)

Đề Tiếng Anh_10
(Đề thi gồm 23 trang)

SECTION A: LISTENING (50 points)

Part 1. Complete the notes below. Write NO MORE TWO WORDS AND/OR NUMBER for each answer. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

Marketing campaigns

The avocado:

- A British PR company was hired to raise its profile and stimulate demand
- Became a (1) _____ in the UK diet after a successful campaign
- Eventually turned into one of the most successful (2) _____ promotions in UK history.

Oat milk:

- The campaign (3) _____, especially dairy producers, making oat milk seems cool.
- Promotion in the USA through coffee shops reduced the need for advertising.
- Seen as more environmentally friendly than other alternative milk products such as (4) _____

Norwegian seafood:

- The promotion of Norwegian skrei, known as (5) _____ helped promote Norway's seafood industry.

(Adapted and edited from IELTS TUTOR)

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 2. You will hear a short interview on the impact of technology on people's happiness. For questions 6-10, decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

6. Arthur Brooks suggests that the decline in happiness since the 1990s is mainly caused by economic instability, particularly the global financial crisis.
7. The interviewer suggests that the psychological effects of modern technology are now widely acknowledged.

8. Brooks believes constant exposure to vast amounts of information makes it harder for people to reflect on the meaning of their lives.
9. Arthur Brooks suggests heavy phone use encourages greater reliance on the right hemisphere of the brain.
10. Brooks believes people can grow and learn from suffering as part of ordinary life.

(Adapted and edited from CBS News)

Your answers:

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 3: You will listen to two students called Jolie and Alan talking about TV series they watch called “The Sensing Brain”. For questions 11 – 15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

11. What point is made about a good sense of smell?
 - A. It is a natural ability that is hard to improve.
 - B. Some people have a far better one than others.
 - C. It can be developed in a similar way to other abilities.
 - D. Some people exaggerate how poor theirs is.
12. What does Jolie say about describing perfumes?
 - A. Experts use a vocabulary that is hard for people to understand.
 - B. Some perfumes are too complex to be described.
 - C. Ordinary people sometimes fail to use words appropriately.
 - D. Some perfumes require a particularly specialist vocabulary.
13. When talking about smell and the brain, Alan reveals
 - A. his belief that humans have superior smelling abilities to some animals.
 - B. his doubts about whether humans and animals should be compared.
 - C. his suspicion of those who report on experiments in the media.
 - D. his awareness of the problems of conducting accurate studies.
14. Alan and Jolie agree that listening to music while studying
 - A. is beneficial if the music chosen is not too emotional.
 - B. has an undesirable effect on their powers of concentration.
 - C. helps the mind to focus on things that are important.
 - D. has different effects depending on the material being studied.
15. When talking about the next episode of the programme, Jolie shows that she
 - A. is worried about the amount of information there is on the internet.
 - B. has doubts about how good the internet is for people.
 - C. believes the internet makes her own life more difficult.

D. trusts in her brain's capacity to evaluate information on the internet.

(Adapted and edited from Viet FCE)

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4: You will listen to a recording about a report on micro dramas. For questions 16-25, complete the summary by writing NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS in each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (20 points)

The Rise of Micro Dramas

Micro dramas are short vertical videos often featured on platforms such as ReelShort, a (16) _____ app. They usually contain exaggerated plots with (17) _____ and jaw-dropping twists, all packed into snack-size vertical video clips. Unlike traditional soap operas, these dramas often have (18) _____ on every minute rather than every hour to keep audiences interested. They tap into the behavior of _____, where viewers seek immediate satisfaction from the story. China's micro drama market exceeded ¥50 billion in 2024, (20) _____ the country's own box office. Producers are now focusing on the U.S. market, believing that if micro dramas appeal to American audiences, they can be successfully sold to the rest of the world. The format began in China around 2018 as producers tried to (21) _____ the growing popularity of short-form video platforms like TikTok. Micro dramas developed on Chinese platforms such as Douyin and Kuaishou and rapidly grew during the pandemic due to their short length, low cost and suitability for quick viewing. One important storytelling technique to get people engaged is that the story almost goes right (22) _____, wherever the drama is. Micro dramas include a variety of genres, ranging from the romantic comedy, the vampire stories to (23) _____. In contrast to traditional big-budget TV series, micro dramas provide a cost-efficient, (24) _____ that can be produced rapidly and scaled with ease. Finally, the marketing strategies for these dramas are often (25) _____ specific audiences, particularly women aged 25–35.

(Adapted and edited from CNBC)

Your answers:

16.	17.
18.	19.
20.	21.
22.	23.
24.	25.

SECTION B: LEXICO- GRAMMAR (40 points)

Part 1. For questions 26-45, choose the best option A, B, C, or D to complete the following sentences and write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (20 points)

26. Although usually unflappable even in front of a crowd, _____ during the recital.

- A. her anxiety overwhelmed Carla completely
- B. Carla being overwhelmed by anxiety
- C. Carla's anxiety overwhelmed her
- D. Carla was overwhelmed by anxiety.

27. If your proposal is approved early, then _____ for the entire project timeline.

- A. the so much better
- B. the better so much
- C. so much the better
- D. so the much better

28. We've been talking for ages, but _____, I haven't even started my homework yet.

- A. coming to think of it
- B. coming to think about it
- C. to come to think of it
- D. come to think of it

29. Although widely regarded as one of the most talented players of his generation, _____ during the final match.

- A. his performance disappointed the fans
- B. being disappointed by his performance
- C. he disappointed the fans
- D. he was disappointing the fans

30. The new company had been _____ with one problem after another and looked as if it were about to go under.

- A. glorified
- B. tainted
- C. fraught
- D. bewildered

31. Most frequently, an earthquake lasts 30 to 60 seconds, so usually there is no time to avert the mortal _____ once the shaking starts.

- A. upkeep
- B. upturn
- C. upshot
- D. upswing

32. Unfortunately, his report doesn't _____ with what we've learnt from other sources.

- A. pally
- B. rally
- C. tally
- D. ally

33. I did not mean to offend her but she took my comments _____ and now will not talk to me.

- A. amiss
- B. awry
- C. apart
- D. aside

34. The runner was far ahead for most of the race, but at the end she won only _____.

- A. larger than life
- B. on the dot
- C. by a whisker
- D. a notch above

35. The proposal drew many negative comments as it _____ common sense.

- A. struck a hard bargain against
- B. reinvented the wheel of
- C. threw the book at
- D. flew in the face of

36. Customers are tempted to break _____ with so many alluring products available online.
 A. the ice B. the mold C. the cycle D. the bank
37. The proposal sounded promising, but in reality, it was nothing more than _____.
 A. smoke and mirrors B. a can of worms
 C. a long shot D. a close call
38. She was clearly nervous, but she managed to _____ and deliver an excellent speech.
 A. keep her chin up B. get cold feet
 C. bite the bullet D. hit the nail on the head
39. I'm hoping that this work experience will stand me in _____ in my future career.
 A. good grounding B. good stead C. fine precedent D. stable footing
40. The company was found to be _____ breach of several international regulations.
 A. at B. on C. in D. under
41. The investigation revealed a major security _____ that had gone unnoticed for years.
 A. loophole B. breakdown C. setback D. turnout
42. He _____ denied the accusations, saying they were totally false
 A. excessively B. superficially C. strenuously D. unstintingly
43. After the earthquake, the entrance hall was turned into a _____ casualty ward.
 A. mainstay B. makeshift C. piecework D. wayside
44. Tim: "You are so lucky to be going abroad for a whole semester!"
 Janet: " _____, I'll miss my friends and family".
 A. That is B. On account that C. All the same D. But despite
45. Like more and more women, she believes marriage would _____ her style.
 A. restrict B. impede C. obstruct D. cramp

Your answers:

26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
31.	32.	33.	34.	35.
36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
41.	42.	43.	44.	45.

Part 2. For questions 46-55, fill each gap with the correct form of the words in brackets. Write your answer in the boxes provided. (10 points)

46. The phenomenon is barely _____ to the naked eye under normal conditions.
 (PERCEIVE)

47. Some species feed primarily on fruit and so aid in seed _____. (DISPERSE)
48. The slight _____ in his left hand was corrected by surgery. (FORM)
49. Many carriers of the virus remain completely _____, making it difficult to control its spread. (SYMPTOM)
50. His unconventional ideas and refusal to follow trends made him feel like an _____ in the industry. (FIT)
51. Matt says you must be good at _____ to take responsibility of a restaurant owner. (TASK)
52. The CEO's resignation was a _____ announcement, sending shockwaves through the market. (BOMB)
53. The historic building requires constant _____, which places a heavy financial burden on the local authorities. (KEEP)
54. Years of conflict led to his complete _____ from his family, leaving relationships beyond repair. (STRANGE)
55. She quickly became the team's _____ expert for handling complex negotiations. (GO)

Your answers:

46.	51.
47.	52.
48.	53.
49.	54.
50.	55.

Part 3. The passage below contains 5 mistakes. For questions 56-60, underline the mistakes and write the correct forms in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

The environmental impact of war starts long before the war begins. The building and maintenance of military forces alone require extensive natural resources. When conflict breaks out, the war itself causes devastate destruction to ecosystems including species loss and creates the potential for invasive species. Other monumental impacts to the environment include deforestation, waste dumping, soil and water poisoning, crops destruction, and the reduction and extinction of animals and plants.

The worst is that wars don't just end with a signing agreement between the fighting countries; many regions affected by war are not expected to recover for decades. One example is the Vietnam War (1954–1975). Overall, the American army sprayed over 70 million liters of chemicals over the rainforests, targeting specifically on cultivated land to disrupt rice production and destroy crops. The results seen in Vietnam were horrific, and the consequences are still being felt today. Nearly 50% of the mangroves – which are

important carbon sink and coastal protection – have been destroyed. The natural habitats within the Vietnamese forests that were homes for vulnerable species such as tigers, elephants, bears, and leopards have been irreversibly destroyed.

Your answers:

	Mistake	Correction
56.		
57.		
58.		
59.		
60.		

SECTION C: READING (60 points)

Part 1. For questions 61-70, read the following passage and decide which option (A, B, C, or D) best fits each gap. Write your answers in corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

The election of deputies to the 16th National Assembly and People's Councils for the 2026–2031 term (61) _____ Vietnam's strong spirit of renewal and adaptability in a new phase of development. According to Tran Thang, this move represents not only a political event but also a carefully (62) _____ strategy aimed at improving governance. In an interview, he pointed out that holding the election earlier than usual is far from a mere technical (63) _____; rather, it reflects long-term vision in strengthening and streamlining the state apparatus. In recent years, the lack of synchronisation between elections and institutional restructuring has (64) _____ delays in policymaking and coordination. By advancing the election schedule, the government aims to (65) _____ greater coherence across the political system, thereby enabling more efficient governance and quicker policy implementation, especially against the (66) _____ of global uncertainties. This reform is also closely linked to the adoption of a two-tier local administration model, which is intended to enhance decentralisation and local (67) _____. Thảng further emphasised that the success of such reforms largely (68) _____ on three key factors: qualified human resources, advanced technology, and effective coordination mechanisms. As the country continues to develop, elected representatives play an increasingly vital role, acting as a bridge (69) _____ the people and the State. He concluded that the election is not simply a routine procedure but a crucial step towards building a governance system that is modern, transparent, and more (70) _____ to the needs of its citizens.

* Tran Thang is an aeronautical engineer and commentator in the US.

(Adapted and edited from <https://vietnamnews.vn/politics-laws/>)

61. A. reflects B. demonstrates C. illustrates D. conveys
62. A. calculating B. calculated C. calculative D. calculation
63. A. refinement B. intervention C. adjustment D. alteration
64. A. accounted for B. resulted in C. gave rise to D. brought about
65. A. generate B. foster C. yield D. induce
66. A. context B. framework C. setting D. backdrop
67. A. initiation B. initiating C. initiative D. initiate
68. A. rests B. depends C. hinges D. draws
69. A. among B. across C. between D. within
70. A. accountable B. adaptable C. receptive D. responsive

Your answers:

61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.
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Part 2. For questions 71-80, fill each of the following numbered blanks with ONE suitable word and write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

Scientists say marijuana doesn't ease anxiety or other mental health conditions

Using medical or recreational marijuana to ease symptoms of numerous mental health conditions does not appear to be effective, according to two recent analyses of existing research. Medical marijuana includes products containing cannabidiol (CBD) and delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the compound responsible (71) _____ the plant's euphoric effects. However, researchers found no convincing evidence that any form of cannabis (72) _____ effective in treating conditions such as anxiety, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder. The findings were based (73) _____ an analysis of multiple randomized controlled trials conducted over several decades. Widely regarded as the (74) _____ benchmark of clinical research, these studies examined various methods of cannabis administration. Most of the medications used in these trials were oral

formulations, such (75) _____ capsules, sprays, or oils, rather than smoked forms more commonly used in real-life settings, (76) _____ raises concerns about the broader applicability of the findings. Moreover, cannabis use did not result (77) _____ significant improvements in other conditions, including bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. (78) _____ such findings challenge popular assumptions, they also call into question the widespread use of cannabis in mental health treatment. Nevertheless, conducting such studies (79) _____ be inherently difficult, given the practical and ethical constraints involved. For the vast (80) _____ of cases, current evidence does not support the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

(Adapted and edited from <https://edition.cnn.com/2026/03/16/>)

Your answers:

71.	72.	73.	74.	75.
76.	77.	78.	79.	80.

Part 3. For questions 81-90, read the following passage and circle the best answer to each of the following questions. Write your answers in corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 points)

COMPETITIVENESS

Competitiveness denotes an individual's **propensity** to outstrip others, often prompting them to **construe even mundane situations as tacit contests** in the absence of explicit winners or losers. For instance, an adolescent may juxtapose the popularity of their social media posts with that of peers, despite the absence of any tangible reward or formal metric of success. In such circumstances, the perceived rivals may remain entirely oblivious to the competitive dynamic that has been tacitly constructed around them.

In formal contests, highly competitive individuals may go to extraordinary—sometimes disproportionate—lengths to secure ascendancy. While such drive can galvanize motivation, perseverance, and productivity, an excessive fixation on victory at all costs may precipitate burnout, interpersonal estrangement, or social alienation. When competitiveness begins to engender persistent emotional distress or to encroach upon everyday functioning, professional psychological intervention may be warranted.

From a biological standpoint, competition is an ineluctable corollary of evolutionary pressures. Across the natural world, organisms must vie for finite resources such as nourishment, territory, shelter, and reproductive opportunities. Human competitiveness can thus be interpreted as a vestige of this evolutionary heritage. In certain contexts,

competitive success may indirectly enhance survival prospects; for instance, financial prosperity can improve living conditions and facilitate more reliable access to essential resources.

In contemporary society, however, competitiveness functions primarily as a psychological disposition rather than a direct determinant of survival. [■] At moderate levels, it can bolster self-esteem, augment life satisfaction, and impel individuals to pursue goals with heightened diligence. [■] Importantly, competitiveness is not an immutable personality trait; rather, it is contingent upon situational and social contexts, fluctuating across environments and interpersonal dynamics. [■]

Individuals are particularly inclined to become competitive when their sense of **self-worth is predicated upon social comparison**, especially within domains they deem integral to their identity. [■] Competitive impulses are further intensified when adversaries possess commensurate levels of competence, as uncertainty regarding the outcome renders the contest more psychologically salient. Social dynamics can further amplify this tendency: individuals frequently become more emotionally invested when competing against acquaintances, within relatively small cohorts, or under the scrutiny of an audience.

Moreover, competitiveness tends to escalate when individuals find themselves proximate to either extreme of a hierarchy—approaching the apex or the nadir—since both positions generate substantial psychological pressure. Resource scarcity also acts as a potent catalyst for rivalry. When resources are constrained, one individual's gain inevitably entails another's loss, thereby exacerbating competitive tensions.

Despite its potential advantages, competitiveness can become pathological when it manifests as a compulsive and unremitting need to prevail. Individuals exhibiting such hypercompetitive tendencies frequently espouse a Machiavellian worldview, rationalizing ethically dubious behaviours—such as manipulation, strategic misrepresentation, or deception—in their pursuit of success. This orientation can corrode interpersonal trust and erode moral integrity.

Excessive competitiveness may also prove deleterious to personal well-being. Overinvestment in achievement can lead individuals to neglect other vital dimensions of life, including friendships, leisure pursuits, and emotional fulfilment, ultimately resulting in isolation and exhaustion. Furthermore, perpetual comparison with others may engender chronic feelings of inadequacy, since there will invariably be someone more

accomplished. This relentless quest for superiority can precipitate perfectionism, sustained psychological strain, and broader mental health difficulties.

In such circumstances, therapeutic intervention may prove beneficial. Individuals can work toward cultivating a sense of self-esteem that is decoupled from external rankings, establishing ambitious yet realistic goals, and delineating boundaries with overly competitive environments. Engaging in activities motivated by intrinsic enjoyment—rather than extrinsic validation—alongside addressing related conditions such as anxiety or depression, may ultimately help restore psychological equilibrium.

(Adapted and edited from <https://www.goodtherapy.org/>)

81. According to the passage, what is the main idea?

- A. Competitiveness is a psychological tendency that can produce both beneficial and harmful consequences depending on circumstances.
- B. Competitiveness developed primarily as a survival strategy in early human evolution.
- C. Modern societies encourage excessive competitiveness that inevitably leads to psychological disorders.
- D. Social comparison is the most important factor shaping human personality.

82. The word “propensity” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to

- A tendency
- B. strategy
- C. obligation
- D. opportunity

83. The phrase “construe even mundane situations as tacit contests” in paragraph 1 most nearly means

- A. create structured competitions in ordinary activities
- B. interpret ordinary situations as if they involve competition
- C. encourage others to participate in contests
- D. exaggerate the importance of victory

84. According to paragraph 2, what is one possible negative consequence of excessive competitiveness?

- A. Reduced motivation to achieve goals
- B. Social isolation and emotional exhaustion
- C. Decreased productivity in professional settings
- D. Loss of interest in personal success

85. Why does the author mention evolutionary competition in paragraph 3?

- A. To demonstrate that competitiveness has biological origins
- B. To argue that competition is no longer necessary for survival
- C. To show that humans compete more intensely than other species
- D. To criticize evolutionary explanations of behavior

86. According to paragraph 4, which of the following is true about competitiveness?

- A. It is a fixed personality trait that does not change over time.
- B. It depends largely on social and situational circumstances.
- C. It becomes weaker as individuals become more successful.
- D. It is determined primarily by biological inheritance.

87. The phrase “self-worth is predicated upon social comparison” in paragraph 5 most nearly means that individuals

- A. evaluate their value by comparing themselves with others
- B. prefer cooperation instead of competition
- C. avoid situations that involve evaluation
- D. consider competition harmful to self-esteem

88. According to the passage, all of the following can intensify competitiveness EXCEPT

- A. Facing opponents with similar levels of ability
- B. Experiencing scarcity of important resources
- C. Being observed by other people
- D. Avoiding comparisons with other individuals

89. According to paragraph 7, what is one characteristic of hypercompetitive individuals?

- A. They tend to justify unethical behavior in order to achieve success.
- B. They prefer cooperative environments rather than competitive ones.

- C. They avoid situations involving social comparison.
- D. They maintain stronger interpersonal relationships.

90. Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

This context-dependent nature helps explain why individuals may behave competitively in some situations but not in others.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- A. The first square
- B. The second square
- C. The third square
- D. The fourth square

Your answers:

81.	82.	83.	84.	85.
86.	87.	88.	89.	90.

Part 4. For questions 91-100, read the passage and do the following tasks. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (15 points)

**From the Gold Standard to the Petrodollar: the journey of the U.S. Dollar
maintaining its power**

Money has not always existed as paper bills or digital figures in bank accounts. For much of human history, people relied on barter—the direct exchange of goods. A farmer might trade rice for fish, while a blacksmith exchanged tools for food. However, barter had clear limitations: both parties needed to want what the other offered, and it was difficult to determine fair value. To overcome these problems, societies gradually adopted a common medium of exchange.

In early civilizations, items such as shells, salt, and livestock served as money. Over time, gold and silver became dominant because they were durable, scarce, and easily divisible. Eventually, monetary systems were tied to precious metals, leading to the development of the gold standard. Under this system, paper money and coins could be exchanged for a fixed amount of gold, giving currency intrinsic value and stability.

After World War II, the global monetary system was reorganized through the Bretton Woods Agreement in 1944. The U.S. dollar became the central currency, with other countries pegging their currencies to it. The United States promised to convert dollars into gold at a fixed rate of \$35 per ounce, making the dollar effectively the foundation of the global financial system. As a result, central banks accumulated large reserves of U.S. dollars.

However, by the late 1960s, the system began to weaken. The United States increased spending on the Vietnam War and domestic programs, leading to a rapid expansion of the money supply. While more dollars circulated globally, gold reserves did not increase at the same rate. This imbalance caused concern among other countries, which began exchanging dollars for gold. As U.S. gold reserves declined, the system became unsustainable.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon ended the convertibility of the dollar into gold, an event known as the “Nixon Shock.” This marked the collapse of the gold standard and the transition to fiat currency, meaning money was no longer backed by a physical commodity. Instead, its value depended largely on trust and government authority.

This shift raised a critical question: why would countries continue to use and trust the U.S. dollar without gold backing? The answer emerged through oil.

In the early 1970s, the United States reached an agreement with Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest oil exporter. Saudi Arabia agreed to sell oil exclusively in U.S. dollars, while the U.S. provided military protection and security support. This arrangement was later extended to other oil-producing nations in OPEC. As a result, most global oil transactions were conducted in dollars, creating what is known as the petrodollar system.

Because oil is essential to modern economies, countries around the world needed U.S. dollars to purchase it. This created a constant global demand for the currency. Nations began holding large amounts of USD in their foreign exchange reserves to ensure access to energy supplies.

These dollars did not remain idle. Oil-exporting countries and central banks typically reinvested them, often by purchasing U.S. Treasury bonds, which are considered among the safest financial assets. This created a cycle: countries buy oil using dollars, oil exporters receive those dollars, and then reinvest them into the U.S. economy. As a result, capital flows back to the United States, helping finance government spending and budget deficits.

The petrodollar system provides several key advantages to the United States. First, it reinforces the dollar's status as the world's primary reserve currency. Since countries need USD for trade and energy imports, they must hold it in large quantities. Second, it allows the U.S. government to borrow money more easily and at lower interest rates, as global demand for Treasury bonds remains high. Third, strong demand for the dollar enables the U.S. to issue more currency without significantly weakening its value, a privilege not shared by most other nations.

Additionally, the central role of the dollar gives the United States considerable geopolitical influence. Because much of global trade and finance depends on USD, the U.S. can use financial tools, such as sanctions, to exert pressure on other countries.

The global monetary system has evolved from barter to precious metals, to the gold standard, and finally to fiat currency. After the collapse of the gold standard in 1971, the United States maintained the dominance of its currency by linking it to oil through the petrodollar system. This system has ensured the continued central role of the U.S. dollar in international trade and finance, shaping the modern global economic order.

(Adapted and edited from <https://readtoolead.com/>)

Questions 91–97: Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage? Write:

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

91. The inefficiency of barter largely stemmed from the difficulty of ensuring that two parties simultaneously possessed goods that the other desired.

92. Precious metals replaced commodities such as shells and livestock primarily because governments imposed strict regulations requiring their use as currency.

93. Under the gold standard, the value of paper money derived entirely from public confidence rather than from any tangible asset.

94. The Bretton Woods system effectively made the U.S. dollar function as the central reference point for international currencies.

95. The collapse of the gold standard occurred mainly because countries rapidly increased their gold reserves while the supply of U.S. dollars remained limited.

96. The petrodollar arrangement ensured that countries purchasing oil from Saudi Arabia were required to use U.S. dollars for payment.

97. Oil-exporting nations that accumulated large amounts of U.S. dollars were legally obligated to reinvest those funds in U.S. Treasury bonds.

Questions 98–100: Choose the correct answer **A, B, C or D**.

98. *What is the primary function of the petrodollar cycle described in the passage?*

A. To ensure that oil-exporting nations remain economically dependent on the United States.

B. To channel surplus U.S. dollars generated from oil trade back into the American financial system.

C. To stabilize global oil prices through coordinated monetary policy.

D. To prevent fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar in international markets.

99. *According to the passage, why did many countries begin exchanging dollars for gold in the late 1960s?*

A. They feared that the United States might no longer possess sufficient gold to guarantee the value of all circulating dollars.

B. They sought to weaken the influence of the U.S. dollar in international trade.

C. They needed gold to stabilize their own domestic currencies.

D. They expected gold prices to rise dramatically in global markets.

100. *Which of the following best explains why the U.S. dollar has remained the dominant global reserve currency after the end of the gold standard?*

A. The United States imposed regulations requiring international transactions to be conducted in dollars.

B. Oil-producing countries adopted a pricing system that effectively required global buyers to obtain U.S. dollars.

C. International financial institutions replaced gold reserves with U.S. Treasury bonds.

D. The United States maintained the largest gold reserves in the world.

Your answers:

91.	92.	93.	94.	95.
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96.	97.	98.	99.	100.
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Part 5. You are going to read an interview in which **five leading figures in science and technology** reflect on experiences that profoundly influenced their professional outlook. For questions **101–110**, choose from the people (**A–E**). The people **may be chosen more than once**. (10 points)

A. Dr. Eleanor Vance

During the early stages of my career, I tended to conceptualise technology in almost exclusively technical terms. My focus was firmly on efficiency, system architecture, and computational elegance; questions concerning human experience or social consequences scarcely entered my calculations. That perspective altered dramatically when I became involved in a project deploying low-cost communication devices in geographically isolated communities. Observing how these devices enabled families to reconnect and allowed students to participate in remote education forced me to reconsider my assumptions. What I had once regarded as a purely technical enterprise revealed itself to be deeply embedded in social reality. Since then, I have approached technological innovation less as an abstract exercise in optimisation and more as a means of enhancing human capability and connection.

B. Dr. Karim Al-Fayed

I have always considered myself a methodical researcher. When designing a new encryption architecture, I adhered meticulously to established protocols and assumed that such procedural rigour would inevitably yield predictable results. However, during the testing phase, the system produced irregular outputs that appeared, at first glance, to signal a serious malfunction. My instinct was to discard the anomaly and begin again. Yet curiosity prevailed, and a closer examination revealed that the unexpected configuration possessed properties that made it significantly more resilient to cyber intrusion. What had initially seemed a failure proved to be the most productive moment in the entire project. The experience impressed upon me that innovation frequently emerges not from flawless execution but from a willingness to interrogate apparent mistakes.

C. Dr. Hannah Schultz

Several years ago, I presented research on artificial-intelligence-assisted diagnostics at a major international symposium. Confident in both the data and the methodology, I anticipated a routine academic discussion. Instead, a senior scholar openly challenged the conceptual foundations of my work, questioning not only its feasibility but also its

practical necessity. Although the critique was somewhat disconcerting, it compelled me to clarify my arguments and articulate the potential implications of the research more precisely. What followed was an unexpectedly vigorous debate among attendees. Paradoxically, the criticism drew considerable attention to the project, and the discussion that unfolded proved instrumental in bringing the work to a far wider audience than I had initially envisaged.

D. Dr. Miguel Ortega

For much of my professional life, I believed that careful planning could largely eliminate uncertainty. This conviction was severely tested when a robotics system my team had spent years developing malfunctioned during its first public demonstration. The failure was highly visible and, at the time, profoundly discouraging. Nevertheless, rather than abandoning the project, we conducted a painstaking analysis of the malfunction. In doing so, we uncovered structural weaknesses in the design that had previously gone unnoticed. Addressing those weaknesses enabled us to develop a significantly more reliable system in subsequent iterations. In retrospect, that moment of failure proved to be the most instructive stage of the entire project.

E. Dr. Priya Natarajan

My professional journey has been far from linear. Having originally trained as a software engineer, I had little inclination to engage with medical research. That changed abruptly when a close family member was diagnosed with a degenerative neurological disorder. Confronted with the limitations of existing diagnostic tools, I began exploring how computational modelling might assist clinicians in detecting early indicators of the disease. What began as an intensely personal attempt to understand a medical condition gradually evolved into a broader research agenda. The predictive algorithm that emerged from this work is now used in several clinical settings. In many respects, a private challenge ultimately reshaped the direction of my entire career.

(Adapted and edited from compiled sources)

Questions 101–110: Which innovator...

101. initially regarded technology primarily as a technical system with little consideration for its social implications?

102. recognised the significance of an outcome that had first appeared to be a technical defect?

103. followed established methodological procedures but encountered results that did not conform to expectations?

104. realised that thorough preparation does not necessarily prevent failure?

105. altered their professional trajectory as a result of a personal event?

106. had the conceptual basis of their work publicly questioned by a colleague?

107. came to appreciate the social and human consequences of technological development?

108. used the analysis of a failure to produce a more effective design later on?

109. created a technological tool intended to address a medical problem?

110. was surprised by the level of attention their work received?

Your answers:

101.	102.	103.	104.	105.
106.	107.	108.	109.	110.

SECTION C: WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. The tables below are the results of research, which examine the average percentage marks scored by boys and girls of different ages in several school subjects. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. You should write at least 150 words. (20 points)

Boys:

Subject	Age	Maths	Science	Geography	Languages	Sports
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This image shows a full page of a document template designed for handwriting practice or general note-taking. It consists of approximately 30 evenly spaced horizontal dotted lines across the entire width of the page. There are no margins, headers, footers, or other markings present. The background is plain white.

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