

Đề Tiếng Anh_11 <i>(Đề thi gồm 18 trang)</i>	KỲ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI LẦN THỨ XVII, NĂM 2026 ĐỀ THI MÔN: TIẾNG ANH - LỚP 11 Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút (không kể thời gian giao đề)
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I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

- The listening section is in **FOUR** parts. The recordings of Part 1 and Part 2 will be played **ONCE** only, and the recordings of Part 3 and Part 4 will be played **TWICE**. At the start of each recording, you will hear a sound.
- There will be a piece of music at the beginning and at the end of the listening section. You will have **TWO** minutes to check your answers at the end of the listening section.
- All the other instructions are included in the recording.

Part 1. Listen to a conversation between Dr. Smith and Dr. Lee, two economists, discussing the impacts of Middle East Crisis on the global economy and do the tasks that follow.

For questions 1 – 5, decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG) according to what you hear. Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- The current spike in global energy costs is primarily caused by a significant reduction in consumer demand.
- International banking organizations have already implemented emergency loans to help stabilize the affected shipping routes.
- Commercial uncertainty causes corporate leaders to withhold capital, which ultimately slows down the opening of new positions in the workforce.
- Industrialized, high-income nations are expected to face the most significant increase in poverty levels due to the conflict.
- A few nations that supply petroleum to the global market may experience a momentary increase in their economic revenue.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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For questions 6 – 10, decide whether the following are mentioned by only one of the guests, or by both of them. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided, write:

S for Dr. Smith;

L for Dr. Lee;

B for Both of the economists.

6. The conflict is causing immediate instability in the global economy, especially through rising energy prices due to disruptions in oil supply.
7. Increasing inflation is reducing consumers' ability to spend on non-essential goods, which may slow economic growth worldwide.
8. The conflict could interrupt important international shipping routes, making global trade more expensive and less efficient.
9. A prolonged conflict will ultimately damage the global economy more than it benefits any country.
10. Poorer nations are likely to suffer the most because they lack the resources to cope with higher costs and economic pressure.

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 2. Listen to a talk about AI Integration in Medical Care and do the tasks that follow.

For questions 11 – 12, choose TWO letters from A-E to indicate TWO TRUE statements about the current utilization of AI in Medical Care. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. AI algorithms can detect diabetic retinopathy from retinal scans with accuracy matching or exceeding ophthalmologists.
- B. AI systems have completely replaced radiologists in interpreting CT scans and X-rays in most hospitals.
- C. AI-powered tools assist pathologists in identifying cancerous cells in biopsy images, reducing diagnostic errors and turnaround times.
- D. Most deep learning medical AI models are fully transparent, allowing clinicians to easily understand and verify every recommendation.
- E. AI has reduced drug discovery timelines from years to just a few weeks for all pharmaceutical companies.

For questions 13 – 15, choose THREE letters from A-G to indicate THREE TRUE statements about potentials and challenges of using AI in Medical Care. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. AI can bridge healthcare gaps in underserved regions through tele-radiology platforms allowing rural clinics to access specialist-level interpretations.
- B. Many deep learning medical AI models operate as "black boxes," making it difficult for clinicians to understand or justify AI recommendations.
- C. AI algorithms have eliminated bias in healthcare, ensuring equal performance across all patient populations and demographic groups.
- D. AI-driven population health analytics can identify at-risk cohorts for preventive interventions, potentially reducing chronic disease burden at scale.

- E. Regulatory frameworks for adaptive AI models that learn continuously are fully established and comprehensive across all medical devices.
- F. AI integration in medical care reduces the cognitive load of clinicians by automatically filtering all diagnostic data without requiring additional infrastructure or training.
- G. Generative AI has had a minimal impact on the timeline of drug discovery, as designing novel candidates for diseases like fibrosis still takes the same number of years as traditional methods.

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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For questions 16 – 20, write the letter A, B, C or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions according to what is stated or implied by the speaker.

16. AI algorithms like Google's LYNA and PathAI are primarily used to _____.
 A. replace the need for human pathologists
 B. increase diagnostic accuracy and speed
 C. perform retinal surgery automatically
 D. prioritize all types of CT scan findings
17. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of AI in operational efficiency?
 A. Automating clinical documentation
 B. Forecasting patient admissions
 C. Triageing symptoms via chatbots
 D. Designing novel fibrosis drug candidates
18. Approximately _____ was the reduction in ER boarding times at Johns Hopkins.
 A. 15% B. 20% C. 30% D. 50%
19. What is the key advantage of using AI in drug discovery?
 A. Accelerating the design of new drug candidates
 B. Eliminating the need for clinical validation
 C. Reducing the cost of genomic sequencing
 D. Ensuring 100% accuracy in human trials
20. The 2019 study on care management was mentioned in order to _____.
 A. show how AI reduces healthcare costs for all patients
 B. demonstrate how flawed data can lead to racial bias
 C. explain the "black box" nature of deep learning
 D. highlight the success of adaptive learning models

16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
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Part 3. For questions 21 – 25, listen to a talk about how playing sports benefits your body and your brain, TWICE and answer each of the following questions with no more than TWO words taken from the recording. Write your answers in the corresponding spaces provided.

21. What natural hormones does the brain release during exercise that create feelings of euphoria?

22. What is the euphoric feeling from exercise commonly called?

23. For how long can school sport participation reduce the risk of depression?

24. What type of mindset does consistent sports training help reinforce?

25. What key trait is developed by learning to cope with defeat in sports?

Part 4. For questions 26 – 35, listen to part of a talk about the best fuel TWICE, and complete the following summary with no more than ONE word and/or A number taken from the recording for each space. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Crude oil, the source of gasoline, comprises numerous complex 26. _____ that release harmful emissions when burned. Electric vehicles eliminate the need for internal 27. _____ engines but depend on widespread charging 28. _____. Alternative liquid fuels can utilize existing distribution networks, with carbon-neutral options produced by capturing atmospheric CO₂ or leveraging biological processes. Plants naturally 29. _____ carbon dioxide through 30. _____, though biofuel feedstocks must avoid crops dependent on emission-intensive 31. _____. Economic barriers include fossil fuel 32. _____, which contribute to the green 33. _____ - the extra cost of sustainable technologies. Additionally, many alternative fuels are not 34. _____ with conventional engines, hindering adoption. The optimal fuel must ultimately prove both affordable and environmentally 35. _____.

26.	31.
27.	32.
28.	33.
29.	34.
30.	35.

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I. READING (8.0 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (3 points)

Part 1. For questions 36 – 40, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Language and thought are two of the most intricate components of human cognition – two _____ (36) itself. But they're not isolated systems, nor are they experienced as such. Isolated systems are part of the theoretical model. They're abstract; static. This is not true of language and thought. Those are perceived, experienced and understood (to the degree that they are understood at all) as dynamic processes – and that is just as true of the perceptions, experiences and understanding of modern linguists as their historical counterparts. It's just _____ (37).

Language and thought are not understood first, objectively (as systems or modules), but personified, _____ (38), and then inferred function and utility. But that isn't how perception operates, despite our preconceptions. Perception of language as a tool, for example, occurs before or in concert with perception of language as a shaper of reality. We see what words mean _____ (39). Perception of language as a medium of personality also occurs before perception of language as a system. This is particularly true of the acquisition of others' ideas, living ideas, but we also see the non-living "structural world" as animated, with purpose and intent. _____ (40) "the linguistic relativity principle" within us. We evolved, over millennia, within intensely communicative circumstances. This means that the most significant elements of our environment of origin were messages, not signals, codes or situations.

(Adapted from The Language Instinct by Steven Pinker)

36. A. of the faculties divided by Consciousness
 B. of the most basic divisions of Consciousness
 C. ways of dividing the most basic Consciousness
 D. times as much as the basic divisions of Consciousness
37. A. that linguists don't acknowledge
 B. what is unacknowledged by linguists
 C. that isn't linguistically acknowledgeable
 D. whatever comes to linguists' knowledge
38. A. We would be the only case if the perceived system were neutral
 B. That would only be the case if we perceived neutral systems first
 C. Our neutral would be the first to perceive the system of each case
 D. Only when we first perceived the case in system could we be neutral

39. A. faster in our seeing just what they do
B. just as fast as or faster than our seeing
C. just as fast or faster than we see what they are
D. the fastest possible just in our seeing what they are
40. A. The hypothesis, because it is called by linguists
B. In view of the hypothesis of what linguists have called
C. Hypothetically, owing to the fact that linguists have called this
D. This is because of the operation of what linguists have called

36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
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Part 2. For questions 41 – 45, read the passage below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The rapid rise of generative Artificial Intelligence has sparked a heated debate regarding the (41) _____ of human creativity in the digital age. While some herald these tools as a democratic force, allowing anyone to manifest complex visual ideas, others argue they represent a (42) _____ of artistic integrity. At the heart of the issue lies the question of authorship: if an algorithm synthesizes millions of existing data points to produce a "new" work, who truly (43) _____ the copyright? This isn't merely a legal quibble; it's an existential challenge to the traditional notion of the artist as a solitary genius.

Furthermore, the (44) _____ of AI-generated content into mainstream media has led to concerns about the devaluation of human labor. As we navigate this shifting landscape, educators and policymakers are (45) _____ to rethink how they define intellectual property, ensuring that the human element of storytelling remains protected in an increasingly automated world.

(Adapted from Digital Ethics Quarterly)

41. A. sanctity B. tenacity C. longevity D. brevity
42. A. dilution B. distortion C. disruption D. dissolution
43. A. exerts B. retains C. wields D. garners
44. A. proliferation B. infiltration C. assimilation D. penetration
45. A. breaking new ground B. leaving no stone unturned
C. taking the bull by the horns D. burning the midnight oil

41.	42.	43.	44.	45.
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Part 3. For questions 46–50, complete the passage by filling in each space with one of the words given in the box in its correct form. There are FOUR extra words, and

the first one, (0), has been done as an example. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

PERCEIVE	COHERE	INFER	ADAPTABILITY	LOGIC
RELY	NOVEL	EXCLUDE	ANALYSE	VALID

In early discussions of artificial intelligence, machines were (0) **perceived** primarily as tools capable of performing repetitive calculations, their role largely confined to assisting human operators. Over time, however, advances in computing power and algorithmic design have led to systems that can identify patterns, draw (46) _____, and even generate content that appears strikingly original. Despite these developments, critics argue that such systems lack true understanding, as their outputs depend heavily on statistical (47) _____ rather than genuine reasoning.

One key limitation lies in the way AI models process information. Instead of forming a (48) _____ representation of the world, they operate by detecting correlations within vast datasets. As a result, they may struggle when confronted with situations that require flexible thinking or the ability to (49) _____ to entirely new contexts. Furthermore, their dependence on existing data means that anything (50) _____ from training sets—whether due to bias or oversight—can significantly affect performance.

While proponents maintain that continued innovation will eventually overcome these challenges, others caution that the gap between simulation and authentic cognition remains substantial.

0. <i>percieve</i>	46.	47.
48.	49.	50.

Part 4. The passage below contains SIX grammatical mistakes. The first one, (0), has been identified. For questions 51–55, UNDERLINE the remaining FIVE mistakes and WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the numbered boxes provided as the example (0).

Marie Curie's late 19th-century research into radioactivity – a phenomenon of two unstable elements, polonium and radium – still forms the basis of modern nuclear medicine. When radiation strikes a cancerous cell, the high-energy particles disrupts (0) the DNA, producing cell death. As the patient's condition improves, the resulting treatment reduces tumor size until remission occurs. To administer the therapy, doctors first calibrate the radiation levels with both the machine and the patient by adjusting the collimator settings. This precision suggests that only a modestly manual intervention –

usually a single technician operating the console – should be required to deliver the dose accurately enough for effective treatment.

The contemporary machines, some delivering doses of several grays, are controlled by a large console linked to imaging software – a system that has been functioned for decades before being upgraded with AI algorithms. As the isotopes are encapsulated, lead shielding can block much of their emissions; as a result, the medical staff experience less exposure and the procedures are lasted longer. Their focused beams concentrate energy, causing the tumors to shrink and minimise side effects. Curie also foresaw radiation risks beneath the skin, proposing a layered barrier that the emitted particles almost never penetrate, preventing deep tissue damage and to ensure a complete protection. Thus, a scientific breakthrough continues to demonstrate its relevance in one of the world's most remarkable medical advancements.

0. <i>disrupts</i> -> <i>disrupt</i>	51.	52.
53.	54.	55.

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (5 points)

Part 1. For questions 56 – 65, read the following passage and fill in each of the numbered spaces with ONE suitable word.

The digital era has ushered in a phenomenon colloquially dubbed "brain rot," a term used to describe the perceived mental stagnation resulting from the habitual consumption of mindless, short-form media. While the phrase (56) _____ across as hyperbolic, neuroscientists are increasingly concerned with how "low-effort" digital stimuli affect our neuroplasticity. The core of the issue lies in the (57) _____ to which these platforms exploit the brain's dopamine-driven reward system. By delivering rapid-fire, nonsensical content, they ensure that the user remains (58) _____ in a loop of passive consumption, rarely requiring the cognitive "heavy lifting" associated with deep reading or critical analysis.

This constant bombardment of fragmented information can lead to a noticeable (59) _____ in one's attention span. When the brain becomes accustomed to receiving instant gratification every few seconds, the effort required to engage (60) _____ more demanding tasks—such as following a complex narrative or studying a technical manual—becomes disproportionately taxing. Experts argue that we are effectively training our brains to be (61) _____ of sustained focus.

Furthermore, "brain rot" is not merely about the content itself, but the (62) _____ absence of meaningful reflection. In the (63) _____ of a more structured intellectual environment, the mind begins to favor surface-level recognition

over deep comprehension. If this trend continues (64) _____, there are fears that future generations may struggle with the very analytical skills that are (65) _____ to navigating a complex world.

56.	57.	58.	59.	60.
61.	62.	63.	64.	65.

Part 2. For questions 66 – 72, rearrange the following sentences from A-H in order to make a complete and meaningful passage. Write your answers (A-H) in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

- A. Although many traditional educators resist change, the integration of STEM into school curricula has become increasingly essential for preparing students for a technology-driven world.
- B. Even though teachers may require additional training, professional development programs can support them as they integrate STEM methodologies into their lessons.
- C. Because real-world challenges rarely exist in isolation, STEM education promotes the blending of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into cohesive learning experiences.
- D. The inclusion of STEM in the curriculum fosters collaboration among students, and it also prepares them for careers that demand both technical expertise and teamwork.
- E. While some institutions struggle with limited resources, governments and organizations are providing funding so that STEM programs can be more widely implemented.
- F. As education systems evolve, the successful integration of STEM will depend on sustained investment and strategic planning so that all learners can benefit equally.
- G. Students who engage in STEM-based learning tend to develop critical thinking skills, and they are better equipped to adapt to rapidly changing job markets.
- H. Schools that adopt interdisciplinary STEM approaches not only enhance students' problem-solving skills but also encourage creativity and innovation across subjects.

(Shortened and adapted from www.morderneducation.us)

0. A	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	81.	72.
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Part 3. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

THE ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A. As artificial intelligence (AI) systems become increasingly embedded in decision-making processes across domains such as healthcare, finance, and governance, questions arise not only about their technical capabilities but also about the legitimacy of

delegating moral judgement to them. While it is frequently argued that AI can outperform humans in terms of consistency, speed, and resistance to certain forms of cognitive bias, such claims do not necessarily entail that these systems should be entrusted with moral authority. Indeed, the assumption that improved performance in narrowly defined tasks translates into ethical competence is itself highly contested. At the heart of the debate lies a crucial distinction between technical proficiency and ethical legitimacy, with some scholars maintaining that moral reasoning requires forms of understanding, intentionality, or accountability that AI systems do not possess and may never acquire.

B. A persistent challenge concerns the attribution of responsibility in contexts where AI systems contribute to decision-making outcomes. When harm results from such decisions, responsibility may appear to be distributed across a network of actors, including software developers, data providers, organizational users, and regulatory bodies. However, the mere fact that multiple parties are involved does not in itself clarify how responsibility ought to be allocated, nor does it resolve the question of whether responsibility can meaningfully be shared. Some commentators have proposed that existing legal frameworks could be adapted to address these complexities, drawing analogies with other domains involving distributed risk, yet there remains considerable disagreement about whether such adaptations would be adequate in practice or whether entirely new conceptual approaches are required.

C. The opacity of certain AI systems further complicates ethical evaluation, particularly in cases where decision-making processes rely on highly complex statistical relationships that resist straightforward interpretation. Models based on advanced machine learning techniques may generate outputs that are difficult to explain even for specialists, thereby limiting the extent to which affected individuals can understand or contest decisions. While increasing transparency and explainability is often proposed as a partial remedy, it is not universally accepted that such measures would resolve all ethical concerns. In particular, explanations that are technically accurate may still be inaccessible or meaningless to non-expert users, raising questions about whether explainability alone is sufficient to ensure fairness, accountability, or informed consent.

D. Concerns about bias in AI frequently focus on the data used to train these systems, which often reflect historical patterns of inequality and social stratification. As a result, algorithmic outputs may reproduce or even amplify existing disparities across different demographic groups. Nevertheless, it would be an oversimplification to assume that all instances of unequal outcomes necessarily indicate unjust bias, since such disparities may arise from a complex interplay of factors, including structural conditions, measurement choices, and contextual variables. This complicates efforts to define fairness in purely technical terms, as competing conceptions of fairness may lead to incompatible design choices. Consequently, addressing bias in AI requires not only

technical interventions but also normative judgements about which forms of inequality are ethically acceptable.

E. Debates about autonomy in AI systems often revolve around determining the appropriate degree of human oversight in decision-making processes. Some argue that maintaining direct human control is essential for preserving accountability and ensuring that moral responsibility can be clearly assigned. Others contend that excessive human intervention may reduce efficiency, introduce new forms of error, or undermine the potential benefits of automation. Between these positions, a range of intermediate models has been proposed, including systems in which humans supervise rather than directly control algorithmic decisions. The optimal balance between autonomy and oversight is likely to depend on contextual factors such as risk level, domain of application, and societal expectations, and no single approach has achieved universal acceptance.

F. Finally, the governance of AI raises issues that extend beyond the boundaries of individual societies, reflecting the inherently global nature of technological development and deployment. Although there have been numerous calls for international coordination in establishing ethical standards and regulatory frameworks, significant obstacles remain. Differences in legal traditions, economic priorities, political systems, and cultural values complicate efforts to achieve consensus on fundamental principles. Moreover, it is not yet clear whether a globally uniform framework would be either feasible or desirable, given the diversity of perspectives involved. As a result, the future of AI governance is likely to involve a complex interplay between local regulations and broader international initiatives.

For questions 73 – 79, decide whether each of the following statements is True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

73. Technical superiority alone justifies granting AI systems moral decision-making power.

74. There is general agreement that current legal systems can adequately address issues of AI responsibility.

75. Some experts believe that improving transparency may not fully solve ethical problems related to AI.

76. All unequal outcomes produced by AI systems are evidence of bias.

77. The level of human control over AI systems should be identical across all applications.

78. A single global ethical framework for AI is certain to be established in the future.

79. Specific real-world examples are given to illustrate the harm caused by AI systems.

73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.
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Questions 80–87: Which section contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A–F**, in boxes 80–87.

NB: You may use any letter more than once.

- 80. a distinction between performance ability and moral justification
- 81. a suggestion that explanations may not be useful to all audiences
- 82. a statement that shared involvement does not automatically resolve responsibility
- 83. a warning against oversimplifying the interpretation of unequal outcomes
- 84. a reference to uncertainty about whether global agreement is desirable
- 85. a recognition that different situations may require different levels of human involvement
- 86. a claim that adapting existing systems might be possible but not necessarily sufficient
- 87. an indication that ethical concerns extend beyond purely technical considerations

80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.
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Part 4. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

THE DYNAMICS OF DUALITY: THE PRINCIPLES OF YIN AND YANG

1. Oriental philosophy posits that the universe is governed by a perpetual flow of opposing yet complementary forces, and the value of any phenomenon is determined by its position within this rhythmic oscillation. This may strike some as an esoteric fringe notion, but in fact, it has long underpinned the foundations of Eastern thought. This worldview was born from the ancient observation of natural cycles - day and night, summer and winter. In the centuries since the *I Ching* (Book of Changes) was codified, scholars have come to see all structures, from the biological to the cosmological, as manifestations of this binary tension. Simultaneously, as Western systems theory has evolved, some thinkers have noted that the mathematical laws of feedback loops mirrors the ancient dialectic of Yin and Yang. This perspective collapses the barrier between the physical and the metaphysical, expecting that the same principles of equilibrium will eventually explain both subatomic particles and global sociopolitical shifts.
2. For philosophers and practitioners of traditional medicine, the Yin-Yang framework offers a transformative lens and immediate diagnostic powers. For scholars of history, it also promises to provide the “**primordial loom**” that has eluded them for centuries: a single overarching theory that unites disparate human experiences -from the rise and fall of empires to the fluctuations of the human pulse. [I] According to

this doctrine, a revolution and a viral infection are just two patterns of energy flow that can be analyzed using the same basic concepts of excess and deficiency. This idea is extremely attractive; it gives all observers a common language, builds bridges over intellectual rifts, and easily exports insights across disciplinary borders.

3. In the process, this philosophy inverts the traditional hierarchy of conflict. Hitherto, opposition was seen as a zero-sum game - a battle where one side must eventually vanquish the other. However, proponents of the Yin-Yang model believe that such a victory is an impossibility, as each pole contains the seed of its opposite. [III] The work of maintaining stability should therefore be entrusted to the cultivation of "middle paths," whose capacity for endurance exceeds that of radical extremes. In practice, this means that adherents are skeptical of any permanent "win" or "loss," preferring to find the subtle movement of transition within a moment of apparent stasis.
4. The philosophy is most firmly entrenched in its two mother disciplines: traditional medicine and martial arts. Of the two, medicine is the more significant. It was the clinical application of Yin-Yang that turned a philosophical observation into a world-shaping methodology that can transform the very health of a civilization. You may not agree with the idea that organs are "receptive" or "active" entities, and that liver, lungs, and heart are just different methods for processing *Qi*, but you should know that this is a foundational dogma, and that it is changing how global holistic health is understood.
5. Not only individual bodies are seen today as energy-processing systems, but also entire societies such as corporations and cities. [III] Laypeople believe that the economy consists of distinct actors - producers, consumers, and regulators. Yet experts see the economy as a mechanism for balancing the Yin of resource conservation with the Yang of expansionist consumption.
6. According to this view, rampant capitalism and centrally administered socialism aren't competing ideologies, but rather different points on an energetic spectrum. [IV] At bottom, they are competing methods of managing flow. The former model uses decentralised, rapid Yang energy to drive growth, whereas the latter relies on the stabilizing, slow-moving Yin of collective security. For example, how do you determine the price of a commodity? In a Yang-heavy system, the market oscillates wildly based on desire; in a Yin-heavy system, it is held static to ensure social cohesion.
7. On a much grander scale, if historians predict a period of global unrest, they look for signs of "Yang-excess"—over-extension, aggression, and depletion. The inflow of diplomatic restraint (Yin) will enable states to speed up their recovery, thereby providing more stability and averting collapse. Even if a superpower adopts a flawed expansionist theory, its more balanced competitors will achieve the hoped-for

longevity. Yin-Yang thought thus distributes the work of analyzing historical trends across a web of interconnected forces. In a system where the knowledge of balance is dispersed among many factors, a single shift can act to coordinate the separate actions of entire nations.

For questions 88 – 94, write A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided to indicate the answer which fits best according to what is stated or implied in the passage.

88. What is the writer's main aim in paragraph 1?
- A. To dismiss Yin-Yang as a mystical concept irrelevant to modern science.
 - B. To present Yin-Yang as an ancient but increasingly relevant worldview.
 - C. To highlight the differences between Western math and Eastern philosophy.
 - D. To argue that Yin and Yang only apply to biological systems.
89. What is the significance of the reference to the *I Ching* and Systems Theory?
- A. It suggests that modern science has corrected the errors of ancient texts.
 - B. It establishes the historical and conceptual weight behind the Yin-Yang model.
 - C. It highlights two historical movements that remained entirely separate.
 - D. It proves that mathematical laws are superior to philosophical ones.
90. Why was the term "primordial loom" mentioned in paragraph 2?
- A. To criticize the theory by implying it is an old-fashioned relic.
 - B. To indicate that the theory is more of a poetic myth than a reality.
 - C. To show that Yin-Yang is presented as a unifying, foundational framework.
 - D. To claim that history can be predicted with mechanical precision.
91. The inversion of the traditional "hierarchy of conflict" is presented as _____
- A. a logical response to the inevitable failure of radical ideologies.
 - B. a rhetorical strategy used to confuse political opponents.
 - C. a contested hypothesis that has been proven false by modern history.
 - D. an accidental result of the shift toward holistic medicine.
92. What is the most likely outcome of viewing societies as energy-processing systems?
- A. A total rejection of the importance of individual economic actors.
 - B. A shift in focus from winning conflicts to maintaining dynamic balance.
 - C. The discovery that expansion is always more beneficial than conservation.
 - D. The creation of a rigid global government to control all flows of energy.
93. The extended discussion of economic models ultimately functions to _____
- A. argue that markets function best when they are completely unregulated.
 - B. demonstrate how complex systems mirror fundamental energetic principles.
 - C. contrast the high cost of socialism with the benefits of capitalism.
 - D. provide evidence that economic systems are immune to philosophical influence.

94. Where in the passage does the following sentence best fit?

"Philosophers increasingly interpret the state, too, as a self-regulating energetic system."

A. [I]

B. [II]

C. [III]

D. [IV]

88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.
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For questions 95 – 100, complete the summary with no more than TWO words taken from the passage for each space.

The philosophy of Yin and Yang is presented as a significant framework rather than a marginal idea. It emerged from observations of (95) _____ and has evolved into a system that views all structures as manifestations of (96) _____. By offering a unifying framework, it claims to provide a (97) _____ that allows scholars from different fields to share a common analytical language.

At the same time, the philosophy challenges the traditional view of conflict, in which one side must (98) _____ the other. Instead, it asserts that because each pole contains the (99) _____ of its opposite, stability is found in "middle paths." The full implications of this shift are most evident in (100) _____, where the application of these principles has transformed a philosophical observation into a world-shaping methodology.

95.	96.	97.
98.	99.	100.

Part 5. In the passage below, five paragraphs have been removed. For questions 101 – 105, read the passage and choose from paragraphs A-G the one which fits each gap. There are TWO extra paragraphs which you do not need to use. Write the letters A-G in the corresponding numbered boxes.

THE ART OF LESS: JAPAN'S MINIMALIST REVOLUTION

In the neon-drenched streets of Tokyo, a city synonymous with high-tech consumerism and frantic pace, a quiet counter-culture has taken root. For decades, the post-war Japanese dream was built on the accumulation of material wealth—the more gadgets, clothes, and furniture one possessed, the higher their perceived status. However, a growing number of citizens are now stripping their lives down to the bare essentials, choosing to live in nearly empty apartments with only a handful of possessions.

101	
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This philosophical framework is more than just a cleaning method; it is a rejection of the "consumerist trap" that has dominated Japanese society since the economic bubble of the

1980s. The movement gained significant traction following the devastating 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. In a land where the earth can literally shake your world apart at any moment, many realized that the heavy possessions they cherished were not only unnecessary but could become lethal projectiles during a tremor.

102	
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Take, for instance, the case of Fumio Sasaki, a former editor who once possessed a massive collection of books and CDs. Today, he lives in a one-room apartment with just three shirts, four pairs of trousers, and a few essential toiletries. He claims that getting rid of his things has allowed him to appreciate the world more deeply. This sentiment is echoed by thousands who find that the vacuum left by discarded objects is quickly filled by a sense of psychological liberation.

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However, it would be a mistake to view this trend as merely a modern reaction to environmental or safety concerns. The aesthetic of minimalism is deeply woven into the historical fabric of Japanese culture. Long before the term became a global buzzword, the principles of Zen Buddhism preached the beauty of "Ma"—the celebration of empty space. In traditional tea ceremonies and ink-wash paintings, what is left out is often considered more important than what is put in.

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Yet, the modern minimalist movement also faces criticism. Some argue that it is a "privilege of the wealthy"—a lifestyle choice available only to those who have the financial security to buy whatever they need exactly when they need it, rather than storing it "just in case." To these critics, minimalism is less an act of spiritual enlightenment and more a fashionable display of austerity by those who have already tasted the fruits of capitalism.

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Ultimately, whether minimalism is a fleeting trend or a permanent shift in the Japanese psyche remains to be seen. What is clear, however, is that for many, the "less is more" mantra has provided a much-needed sanctuary from the noise of the modern world. By clearing their physical environments, they are attempting to reclaim their mental sovereignty in an age of infinite digital and material distraction.

Missing Paragraphs:

A. Furthermore, the shift is driven by a practical desire to reduce the mental load of decision-making. In a world of infinite choices, the minimalist finds peace in the "uniform." By limiting their wardrobe to a few versatile pieces, they bypass the daily

fatigue of deciding what to wear, allowing their focus to remain on more meaningful pursuits.

B. This radical paring down is often referred to as *Danshari*, a term coined by decluttering consultant Hideko Yamashita. The word is composed of three kanji characters: *dan* (refusal), *sha* (disposal), and *ri* (separation). Together, they represent a path toward letting go of the physical and mental attachments that weigh us down.

C. In contrast, the older generation in Japan often finds the movement baffling. Having lived through periods of scarcity, many elderly citizens view the intentional disposal of perfectly good items as *mottainai*—a sense of regret over waste. To them, the accumulation of goods is a hard-won symbol of the nation's survival and success.

D. Consequently, the physical environment of a minimalist's home often resembles a gallery rather than a living space. Surfaces are bare, and every item that remains must serve a dual purpose of utility and aesthetic harmony. This starkness is not intended to be cold, but rather to create a "breathing room" for the soul to rest.

E. Indeed, for many practitioners, the act of discarding becomes a ritual of self-discovery. As the clutter disappears, the individual is forced to confront who they are without their "props." Without the status symbols of a designer watch or a luxury car, one must find value in their own character and experiences rather than in their inventory.

F. Historically, the Japanese home was always a flexible space, with futons that could be folded away and sliding doors that could reconfigure a room. This inherent cultural proclivity toward multi-functional, sparse living made the transition to extreme minimalism feel like a homecoming for many, rather than an alien imposition.

G. This visceral reminder of the transience of life prompted a re-evaluation of what truly matters. Why spend a lifetime working to pay for space to store items that provide only fleeting joy? The result was a collective "unburdening" that has seen sales of storage units plummet while second-hand shops are overwhelmed with high-quality donations.

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III. WRITING (5 points)

Part 1. *The table below provides information about the monthly active users (in millions) of eight popular Artificial Intelligence applications in 2024 and 2025.*

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant. You should write between 150 and 200 words.

Nº	AI Application	2024 (Millions)	2025 (Millions)
1	ChatGPT	140.0	230.5
2	Microsoft Copilot	35.2	115.0
3	Google Gemini	20.5	95.8
4	Character.ai	18.0	26.5
5	Midjourney	15.4	19.2
6	Claude (Anthropic)	6.2	48.0
7	Perplexity AI	5.5	32.4
8	Jasper	12.0	10.5

(Adapted from Global AI Trends Report 2025)

Part 2. Write an essay of at least 300 words on the following topic.

The prevalence of "short-form content" on social media is increasingly linked to changes in how teenagers process information.

Some argue that this constant stimulation erodes attention spans and the capacity for deep concentration. Others, however, view it as a necessary cognitive adaptation for rapid information processing and multitasking in the digital age. Additionally, critics warn that the fleeting nature of such content leads to "digital amnesia," where the brain fails to commit information to long-term memory.

Which view(s) do you agree with? Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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