

(Đề thi gồm 19 trang)	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 (50 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 10 minutes to check your answers at the end of the listening section.
- All the other instructions are included in the recording.

Part 1. *You will hear two novelists, Sarah and James, discussing various aspects of being a writer ONCE and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)*

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.

- Sarah avoids writing whenever possible because she has no interest in storytelling.
- Sarah believes that writing regularly every day can sometimes reduce the quality of her work.
- James suggests that removing distractions can help some writers concentrate better.
- According to Sarah, most novelists openly admit that they are better than other writers.
- James thinks that negative reviews have a strong influence on how he evaluates his own book.

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 **Sarah**;
 J for **James**;
 B for **Both** of the speakers.

- Bringing a piece of writing to completion engenders a profound sense of satisfaction.
- Compelling oneself to write through sheer force of will can prove counterproductive.
- One may adopt a writerly mode of thought without formally belonging to the profession.

9. Novelists, by disposition, tend to exhibit a measure of egocentricity.
 10. Irrespective of their tenor, critical reviews exert minimal influence upon me.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	7.	8.	9.	10.

Part 2. Listen to part of an interview *ONCE* and do the tasks that follow. (10 points)

For questions 11 — 12, choose TWO letters from A-E to indicate TWO true statements about dog ownership in the past, according to the conversation. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Which TWO statements are true about dog ownership in the past, according to the conversation?

- A. Dogs were more expensive to buy from breeders.
- B. Owners did not have to spend much money on their dogs.
- C. Dogs often required special diets.
- D. Medical costs for dogs were usually low except in old age.
- E. Owners regularly bought grooming products for dogs.

For questions 13 — 15, choose THREE letters from A-G to indicate THREE trends in modern dog ownership mentioned in the conversation.

- A. Increasing concern about the cost of keeping dogs
- B. Greater use of expensive, specialized dog food
- C. More frequent participation in dog shows
- D. Growing popularity of grooming and hygiene products for dogs
- E. Dogs being treated more like family members or children
- F. A decline in veterinary services
- G. Owners preferring mongrel dogs over pedigree dogs

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. What's the subject of the show?
- A. Dog keeping and associated dilemmas.
 - B. The evolution of dog market products.
 - C. Economic aspects of pet upkeep.
 - D. Various problems modern dog owners face.
17. What's so peculiar about the host's first dog?
- A. It required little care and managed mostly on its own.
 - B. Its needs made it superior to purebred dogs.
 - C. It was a resilient animal that required little to no attention.

- D. It didn't put much strain on its host's family finances.
18. What does it take to possess a dog capable of starring in exhibitions?
- A. It requires meticulous attention and maintenance.
 B. One of the things it demands is special sustenance.
 C. Developing proper eating habits.
 D. Possessing sufficient funds ensures the dog is in top condition.
19. Which aspects dramatically raised the upkeep of a pet?
- A. Natural economic circumstances which raised the prices of food and other products.
 B. Increased prices of food and the introduction of dog vanity products.
 C. An increasing interest of various food producers in selling costlier products.
 D. Introduction of a variety of products that increase pet maintenance.
20. What's the host's reaction to the popularity of grooming products?
- A. He is rather conservative about it.
 B. He is confused by the idea.
 C. He sees it as something eccentric.
 D. It's a rather overwhelming phenomenon.

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
16.	17.	18.	19.	20.

Part 3. For questions 21 — 25, listen to a talk about the Sami community 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. (10 points)

21. What traditional livelihood of the Sami people is mentioned as surviving modern development?

.....

22. What could the scientific research on solar geoengineering potentially do to the world?

.....

23. What natural phenomenon is used as a model for solar geoengineering?

.....

24. What device was planned for testing over Sami territory in 2021?

.....

25. What might belief in a technological "Plan B" delay, according to the Sami council?

.....

Your answers:

21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
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Part 4. For questions 26 – 35, listen to a student talking about changes in management in the future TWICE and complete the following notes, write 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. (20 points)

THE FUTURE OF MANAGEMENT

Business markets

- greater (26) _____ among companies
- increase in power of large (27) _____ companies
- rising (28) _____ in certain countries

External influences on businesses

- more discussion with (29) _____ before making business decisions
- environmental concerns which may lead to more (30) _____

Business structures

- more teams will be formed to work on a particular (31) _____
- businesses may need to offer hours that are (32) _____, or the chance to work remotely

Management styles

- increasing need for managers to provide good (33) _____
- changes influenced by (34) _____ taking senior roles

Changes in the economy

- service sector continues to be important
- increasing value of intellectual property
- more and more (35) _____ workers.

Your answers:

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

II. READING (100 points)

II. 1. LANGUAGE IN USE (35 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 numbered boxes provided. (5 points)

Urban food forests are increasingly being embraced as a viable strategy for enhancing community resilience in metropolitan areas. These deliberately designed ecosystems (36) _____, integrating ecological principles with social equity considerations. By incorporating fruit trees, perennial crops, and diverse understory plants, such spaces not only facilitate informal environmental education but also democratize access to fresh produce. These initiatives supply nutritious food; (37) _____. The open-access harvesting model fosters both food sovereignty and social cohesion among participants. Municipal authorities have begun to endorse these projects, acknowledging their multifaceted advantages and (38)_____.

In contrast to conventional green spaces, food forests typically require fewer external inputs, as their polycultural structure enhances natural pest regulation and soil fertility. Furthermore, their layered vegetation contributes to mitigating urban microclimates. As climate instability intensifies, localized food systems gain increasing relevance. When communities collectively engage in food production, (39) _____. In addition, these ecosystems provide critical habitats for pollinators, thereby sustaining broader ecological networks. Certain food forests also incorporate communal kitchens (40) _____, thereby extending their function beyond cultivation into the realm of cultural transmission and public health education. Intergenerational knowledge exchange is frequently observed, reinforcing both cultural continuity and adaptive capacity.

36. A. are predicated on monocultural efficiency, prioritizing output maximization over ecological balance
B. are engineered to replicate natural forest dynamics while ensuring equitable access to food resources
C. having prioritized short-term agricultural gains at the expense of long-term sustainability outcomes
D. which are designed for exclusive consumption by economically advantaged urban populations
37. A. they simultaneously function as aesthetically enriching green infrastructures within dense urban environments
B. it inevitably leads to the degradation of biodiversity in adjacent residential districts
C. these systems has undermined public engagement in environmental stewardship initiatives
D. such developments rarely contributes to improvements in urban livability indices
38. A. integrating them into broader urban planning frameworks and sustainability agendas

- B. to have been discouraged by policymakers due to perceived inefficiencies in land use
- C. having imposed regulatory barriers that limit community participation in such schemes
- D. they are resisted by local stakeholders concerned about potential land-use conflicts
39. A. they are rendered increasingly vulnerable to external economic and environmental shocks
- B. they tend to exhibit heightened adaptive capacity in the face of systemic disruptions
- C. such practices results in diminished collective engagement over extended periods
- D. these systems has been associated with declining levels of food security
40. A. where locally sourced ingredients are collaboratively prepared and consumed by community members
- B. which people has utilized individually without any form of social interaction or cooperation
- C. that rely predominantly on processed food products rather than freshly harvested produce
- D. in which participants was discouraged from engaging in shared culinary practices

Your answers:

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 numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

Social media has become a global phenomenon. Wherever a young person may live, or whatever their socio-economic status might be, it is highly likely they will be engaging on multiple social media platforms. So exactly how is the use of social media (41) _____ the young generation?

One positive influence is that social media allows people to connect with one another at the click of a button. Should someone wish to discover more about a particular issue, it is simply a matter of finding a like-minded online community. In this way, they can exchange ideas, discuss experiences, and describe how they have overcome certain challenges. As many of the younger generation are deeply (42) _____ problems such as social (43) _____ and global warming, social media can provide them with a means for bringing about change.

However, while social media might sometimes be a force for good, it can also affect young people in ways that could be considered manipulative. A case in point is when vloggers recommend expensive brands. There are some teens who really aspire to be as

popular as their idols, so they can be extremely susceptible to this kind of promotion. What they may not realise is that there is a very strong chance a company is paying the influencer to (44) _____ these items.

(45) _____, the most consequential impact of social media seems to be the way it allows people to acquire and spread knowledge so effectively. The fact that many young activists have forced businesses to change their policies and practices for the better proves this point.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 41. A. imposing on | B. objecting to | C. impacting on | D. replying to |
| 42. A. concerned about | B. absorbed in | C. addicted to | D. connected with |
| 43. A. democracy | B. insurance | C. background | D. injustice |
| 44. A. claim | B. introduce | C. announce | D. endorse |
| 45. A. By contrast | B. On balance | C. In addition | D. Nevertheless |

Your answers:

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. (10 points)

BELIEVE	ABSTRACT	KNOW	AVERSE	DIMINISH
ECLECTICISM	EXTRA	HARD	TRACT	SOP

The world is full of things that you have not heard of; many of them are strange, some of them wonderful, some funny, some nearly (0) _____. Some are basic to everyone's education; others are (36) _____ but still fun to know. Here is a collection of facts, taken from various fields.

- You probably know already that the penguin must be a(n) (37) _____ bird to survive in the fierce cold of Antarctica. Did you know, though, that a penguin can jump six feet in the air?
- When opossums "play possum", they are not actually playing. Oddly enough, terror has a(n) (38) _____ effect on possums. Fright makes them go to sleep.
- Mosquitoes have teeth. Since mosquitoes are so tiny, imagine how (39) _____ their teeth must be!
- Snakes are occasionally born with two heads. Such a two-headed snake is extremely (40) _____. Not only is it pugnacious with other animals, but its two heads will often fight each other for food.

Your answers:

0. unbelievable	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). (10 points)

Do you habitually dedicate in excess of an hour each day to text your acquaintances? Do you frequently neglect professional duties, academic pursuits, and recreational activities to scrutinise your mobile device for notifications? Do you feel moody and irritated if you are separated from your phone? Do you rarely utilise your phone for verbal discourse anymore, and do your thumbs ache from excessive digital communication?

Should you affirm 'Yes' to any of the aforementioned inquiries, then the likelihood is that you are a textaholic. A textaholic can be delineated as an individual who is dependent on exchanging text messages. The primary indicators encompass a compulsive drive to text which takes precedence over all other engagements, and withdrawal symptoms unless messages fail to materialise, leading to agitation, despondency, and a deficit of self-esteem. Ancillary issues comprise insomnia, ocular strain, and repetitively strain injury attributable to constant messaging, not to mention spiralling mobile phone expenses. The genesis of the predicament, as with numerous dependencies, lie in the yearning to evade emotional hardships such as stress, apprehension, and interpersonal difficulties. Experts forewarn that text addiction is poised to become the most prevalent form of dependency in the foreseeable future, particularly amongst the younger demographic.

Consequently, what remedial actions can you undertake if you suspect you might be a textaholic? The paramount objective is to re-establish equilibrium in your existence. Ensure you resist the compulsion responding to every incoming message, and contemplate occasionally leaving your mobile phone behind when you embark on external engagements. Most crucially, make a point of allocating quality time with companions and family members, and endeavour to re-cultivate the art of face-to-face discourse instead of orchestrating our relationships via text messages. Not only will this conserve both your temporal and financial resources, but you may also rediscover the profound gratification of authentic communication.

Your answer:

0. text→ texting	51.	52.
53.	54.	55.

II. 2. READING COMPREHENSION (65 points)

Part 1. For questions 56-65, read the following passage and fill in each of the following numbered spaces with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (20 points)

The Importance of Children's Play

'Play in all its rich (56) _____ is one of the highest achievements of the human species,' says Dr David Whitebread from the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, UK. 'It underpins how we develop as intellectual, problem-solving adults and is crucial to our success as a (57) _____ adaptable species.' Recognising the importance of play is not new: over two millennia ago, the Greek philosopher Plato (58) _____ its virtues as a means of developing skills for adult life, and ideas about (59) _____ learning have been developing since the 19th century. But we live in changing times, and Whitebread is mindful of a worldwide decline in play, pointing out that over half the people in the world now live in cities. 'The opportunities for free play, which I experienced almost every day of my childhood, are becoming increasingly (60) _____,' he says. Outdoor play is curtailed by perceptions of risk to do with traffic, as well as parents' increased wish to protect their children from being the victims of crime, and by the emphasis on 'earlier is better' which is leading to greater (61) _____ in academic learning and schools. International bodies like the United Nations and the European Union have begun to develop policies concerned with children's right to play, and to consider implications for leisure facilities and educational programmes. But what they often lack is the evidence to (62) _____ policies on. 'The type of play we are interested in is child- (63) _____, spontaneous and unpredictable — but, as soon as you ask a five-year-old "to play", then you as the researcher have intervened,' explains Dr Sara Baker. 'And we want to know what the long-term impact of play is. It's a real challenge,' she says, her voice (64) _____ with genuine curiosity. In a study carried out by Baker with toddlers and young pre-schoolers - two (65) _____ age groups, she found that children with greater self-control solved problems more quickly when exploring an unfamiliar set-up requiring scientific reasoning. "This sort of evidence makes us think that giving children the chance to play will make them more successful problem-solvers in the long run."

Your answers:

56.	57.	58.	59.	50.
51.	52.	53.	54.	55.

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. (7 points)

- A. Even the tourists are affected, the most placid and tolerant of us becoming short-tempered and exploitative.
- B. Historic towns, their streets now choked with traffic, their temples, churches and

cathedrals seemingly reduced to a backdrop for holiday snaps that proclaim, 'Been there, Done that'.

- C. Tourism is now among the world's most important industries, generating jobs and profits worth billions of pounds.
- D. Less appreciated, perhaps, is the social dislocation unsustainable tourism can cause: once-cohesive communities disrupted as the holiday industry replaces old crafts, turning fishermen into tour boat operators, farmers into fast-food store waiters or hotel cleaners.
- E. All too often, clutching our soon-to-be-discarded souvenirs and cursing late flights and anybody who doesn't speak our language, we arrive home muttering: 'After that, I need a holiday!'
- F. Some of the world's richest environments bruised by the tourist onslaught, their most distinctive wildlife driven to near-extinction, with wider environmental impacts caused by the fuel-hungry transport systems used to take holidaying travellers around the world and back again.
- G. We are increasingly familiar with some of the worst effects of unthinking, unmanaged, unsustainable tourism: previously undeveloped coastal villages that have become sprawling, charmless towns, their seas poisoned by sewage, denuded of wildlife, their beaches stained with litter and empty tubes of suncream. 3
- H. At the same time, however, mass tourism can have dire effects on the people and places it embraces - both tourists and the societies and human environments they visit. 2

Your answers:

0. B	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.
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Part 3: Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow. (15 points)

TEAM-BASED LEARNING

A. The rapid globalization of information technology (IT) and widespread internet access have made IT skills essential across all professions. Despite the corporate world's booming use of IT tools, there's a significant shortage of adequately skilled individuals ready to enter the workforce with minimal on-the-job training.

B. The *New York Times* recently highlighted that many companies are actively seeking bright students with an interest in IT, offering attractive incentives like competitive salaries, annual bonuses, and immediate stock options to encourage applications. One American IT consulting firm, for instance, hosts 25 to 40 prospective recruits for two-day visits that include interviews, team exercises, and social events. These team activities are designed to demonstrate that the work involves collaboration with other intelligent individuals on engaging projects, rather than isolated coding.

C. Over the past decade, employers have recognized the substantial benefits of collaborative projects in product development. This real-world success is mirrored by research indicating that small team-based instruction can lead to desirable educational outcomes. To bridge the gap between academia and industry needs, colleges and universities are increasingly incorporating team-based educational models into their IT curricula. A prime example is the American Intercontinental University (AIU), which has integrated team projects into a major portion of its IT programs across its global campuses. With a diverse student body, AIU's team-based learning provides students with social and technical support, allowing them to experience both the successes and challenges inherent in collaborative work.

D. While not traditionally common in higher education, team-oriented instruction offers significant advantages for IT graduates. Since most IT work environments involve some form of teamwork, collaborative learning equips students with the necessary tools to work effectively with diverse individuals towards common goals. In this model, students spend considerable in-class time working in permanent, heterogeneous teams, often composed of individuals from varied socio-cultural backgrounds and skill levels. Activities focus on applying concepts rather than just memorizing them. Students' grades are typically based on overall team performance and peer evaluation of individual members.

E. The teacher's role in a team-based environment shifts from a mere information provider to a facilitator and manager of learning. They guide teams in setting goals and performance standards, while team exercises help students refine problem-solving skills by applying theory to simulated real-world situations. This empowers students to take control of their own learning, utilizing each other as resources and managing tasks responsibly. Individual preparation is still crucial; students must study assigned material and undergo individual assessment tests to ensure comprehension and application of concepts. Additionally, team assessment tests require discussion and consensus, fostering critical communication skills and conflict resolution. Team presentations (written or verbal) enhance cohesion, with members sharing responsibility for presenting and persuading. Facilitators provide ongoing feedback on team dynamics, task management, and overall progress. Application-oriented team exercises provide practical experience and expose students to diverse perspectives.

F. Team-based classrooms are particularly beneficial for colleges with international students. This learning approach encourages communication, problem-sharing, conflict resolution, and time/resource management—all valuable skills for navigating new social situations. The emphasis on social interaction within teamwork provides an advantage for students who may feel uncomfortable in traditional classroom settings. It allows individuals from different cultures to understand and leverage their differences

productively, fostering an environment where students can express themselves freely without feeling singled out. This collaborative learning model is designed to better prepare students for today's global workplace, fostering exploration, communication skills, and superior results. As the future unfolds, employers will increasingly seek out graduates possessing these crucial team-oriented abilities.

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. Many companies offer competitive salaries and immediate stock options to attract bright IT students.
74. Collaborative projects in product development have shown substantial benefits for employers over the last decade.
75. The American Intercontinental University (AIU) heavily integrates team projects into its IT program curricula.
76. The two-day visit for recruits focuses primarily on individual coding assessments rather than team interaction.
77. Most IT graduates strongly prefer working independently rather than in collaborative team settings.
78. Students from different cultural backgrounds are encouraged to suppress their differences in order to avoid conflict.
79. The American Intercontinental University (AIU) is the sole institution globally employing team-based learning models.

Your answers:

73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.	79.
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For questions 80 — 87, choose from the sections (A-D). The sections may be selected more than once. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Which section_____?

80. mentions a recruitment strategy designed to show that IT work involves teamwork rather than solitary tasks?
81. explains how assessment in team-based learning includes both group and individual evaluation?
82. describes the changing role of teachers in a collaborative learning environment?
83. highlights a mismatch between industry demand and the availability of skilled workers?
84. provides an example of a university implementing team-based learning on a large scale?
85. emphasizes the benefits of teamwork for students from different cultural backgrounds?
86. explains that teamwork helps students apply knowledge rather than simply memorize it?
87. mentions that companies offer attractive incentives to attract IT students?

Your answers:

80.	81.	82.	83.	84.	85.	86.	87.
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Part 4: Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow. (13 points)

The expression dog is man's best friend might "**have more weight**" in the case of first-year university students suffering from homesickness, according to a new UBC study. The study shows that animal-assisted therapy can help students combat homesickness and could be a useful tool in lowering post-secondary drop-out rates.

- [2] "Transitioning from high school to university can prove to be a challenge for many first-year students," says Assistant Professor John Tyler Binfet of UBC's Okanagan campus. "Given that students who experience homesickness are more likely than their non-homesick **cohorts** to drop out of university, **universities have a vested interest in supporting students during their first-year transition.**"
- [3] In the study, 44 first-year university students who self-identified as homesick were given a survey to measure levels of homesickness, satisfaction with life, and connectedness with campus.
- [4] Half of the students completed eight weeks of dog therapy, while the other half were informed that their sessions would begin in eight weeks' time. Dog therapy included 45-minute weekly sessions involving small group interactions with the dogs and handlers, and engagement with other first-year students participating in the study. Following the initial eight-week session, participants in both the treatment group and the non-treatment group completed the survey again.
- [5] Participants who completed the eight-week program experienced significant reductions in homesickness and a greater increase in satisfaction with life. Participants reported that sessions "felt like they were at home chatting with friends who brought their puppies," while the non-treatment group reported an increase in their feelings of homesickness.
- [6] According to a 2009 report conducted for B.C. Stats, students who left post-secondary happy were almost twice as likely to have felt a sense of belonging compared to students who left unhappy. Students who left university unhappy were almost twice as likely to say they did not feel a sense of belonging on campus.
- [7] A total of 29 percent of students who dropped out cited more interactions and friendships with other students as a factor that would have influenced their decision to stay longer. While further study is needed, a university's ability to influence campus connections could be a useful tool in lowering drop-out rates in first-year students, says Binfet.

- [8] “Many first-year university students face the challenge of integrating into their new campus community,” says Binfet. “Homesick students are three times more likely than those who manage their homesickness to disengage and drop out of university.”
- [9] “Moving to a new city, I did not know anyone at the university and became very homesick and depressed,” says UBC Okanagan student Varenka Kim. “I was mainly secluded in my dorm room and did not feel like I belonged here. Coming to animal-assisted therapy sessions every Friday gave me a sense of purpose and kept me enthusiastic about life.”
- [10] The impact of homesickness on university students can be profound. It can affect their academic performance, social interactions, and overall well-being. Homesickness can lead to feelings of isolation and depression, making it difficult for students to adjust to their new environment. This is why interventions like animal-assisted therapy are so crucial. By providing a sense of comfort and companionship, therapy dogs can help alleviate some of the emotional burdens that come with being away from home.
- [11] Universities across the globe are recognizing the importance of mental health support for their students. Many are now incorporating animal-assisted therapy programs as part of their broader mental health services. These programs not only help students who are struggling with homesickness but also those dealing with anxiety, stress, and other mental health challenges.
- [12] The positive outcomes from UBC’s study highlight the potential of animal-assisted therapy as a preventive measure against drop-out rates. By addressing homesickness early on, universities can help students build resilience and develop stronger coping mechanisms. This, in turn, can lead to higher retention rates and better academic performance.
- [13] In conclusion, the findings from UBC’s study underscore the value of animal-assisted therapy in supporting first-year university students. As institutions seek to improve student retention and overall well-being, incorporating therapy dog programs can be a key strategy. By providing comfort, reducing homesickness, and promoting a sense of belonging, therapy dogs can help students thrive during their university journey.

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. The phrase “have more weight” in paragraph 1 of the provided passage is CLOSEST in meaning to _____.
A. be heavier than something else B. be more likely
C. be complicated D. have greater significance

89. The word “cohorts” in paragraph 2 of the provided passage is OPPOSITE in meaning to _____.
 A. followers B. adversary C. colleagues D. members
90. Which statement is supported by the information in paragraph 4 of the provided passage?
 A. Only half of the students completed the survey before dog therapy.
 B. All of the students completed the survey after dog therapy.
 C. All students received dog therapy during the study.
 D. All participants completed the survey after the first 8 weeks of the study.
91. Why does the writer of the provided passage refer to the 2009 report conducted for B.C. Stats?
 A. It clarified that 29 percent of students dropped out of university as they didn’t experience a sense of belonging.
 B. It explained how some students had a natural sense of belonging.
 C. It showed the connection between unhappiness and a lowered sense of belonging for students.
 D. It highlighted that unhappy students left despite a sense of belonging at university.
92. Which of these statements can be inferred from the provided passage?
 A. Dog therapy helped students to gain a sense of belonging at university.
 B. Universities are developing tools to help students make connections.
 C. Dog therapy assisted students in making new friends.
 D. Universities don’t understand how to prevent students from dropping out.
93. The author of the provided passage wants to insert a sentence about trial programs in France and Germany. Where would be the best place for this sentence?
 A. at the end of paragraph 13 B. at the end of paragraph 11
 C. at the end of paragraph 6 D. at the end of paragraph 4
94. Which of the following statements is NOT supported by information given in the provided passage?
 A. Both the treated and non-treated groups completed the survey twice.
 B. Animal-assisted therapy is the only reason students stay in school instead of dropping out.
 C. Animal-assisted therapy can lead to an overall sense of well-being.
 D. Students are more likely to drop out of school if they feel homesick.

Your answers:

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. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

A study at UBC suggests that (95) _____ therapy can help first-year students deal with homesickness, a problem that may lead them to (96) _____ of university. In the research, students participated in weekly sessions that involved interaction with dogs as well as other students.

After eight weeks, those who received the treatment showed improvements in both homesickness and (97) _____ with life, whereas the other group experienced increased homesickness. Research also highlights that a sense of (98) _____ is crucial in determining whether students remain at university.

In addition, homesickness can negatively affect students' (99) _____ performance and emotional well-being. Therefore, early interventions may help improve retention rates and strengthen students' (100) _____ mechanisms.

Your answers:

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 provided. (10 points)

The Paradox of Choice in Modern Society

In contemporary consumer societies, individuals are often celebrated for the unprecedented freedom they possess when making decisions. From selecting a career path to choosing what to eat for breakfast, modern life is defined by a vast array of options. At first glance, this abundance appears to be an unequivocal advantage, promising greater satisfaction and autonomy. However, recent research in psychology suggests that this assumption may be fundamentally flawed.

[101]

The concept, often referred to as the “paradox of choice,” posits that while some choice is undoubtedly better than none, an excessive number of options can lead to negative psychological consequences. Individuals confronted with too many alternatives frequently experience anxiety, decision fatigue, and even regret after making a selection. Rather than feeling empowered, they may become overwhelmed and dissatisfied.

[102]

One explanation for this phenomenon lies in the cognitive burden associated with evaluating numerous possibilities. Each additional option requires mental effort to assess

its potential benefits and drawbacks. As the number of choices increases, so too does the complexity of the decision-making process. This can result in individuals either postponing decisions or avoiding them altogether.

[103]

Moreover, an abundance of choice can heighten expectations. When people believe they have selected the best possible option from a vast pool, they are more likely to feel disappointed if the outcome does not meet their expectations. This is compounded by the tendency to imagine the advantages of the options not chosen, leading to persistent feelings of regret.

[104]

Interestingly, this paradox extends beyond consumer behavior into other domains, including education and personal relationships. Students offered too many academic pathways may struggle to commit to a particular field, while individuals navigating online dating platforms often find it difficult to settle on a partner, continually searching for a “better” match.

[105]

Ultimately, the paradox of choice challenges the deeply ingrained belief that more freedom necessarily leads to greater happiness. Instead, it suggests that limitations, when appropriately structured, may enhance well-being by simplifying decision-making and reducing psychological strain.

Missing Paragraphs:

A

In response to these challenges, some experts advocate for the deliberate limitation of choices. By reducing the number of available options, individuals can focus more effectively on what truly matters, leading to more satisfying and confident decisions.

B

For instance, studies have shown that consumers presented with a limited selection of products are more likely to make a purchase than those faced with an extensive range. This counterintuitive finding highlights the potential drawbacks of excessive variety.

C

This perspective represents a significant departure from traditional economic theories, which assume that more choice invariably leads to better outcomes. Instead, it introduces the idea that human decision-making is subject to cognitive and emotional constraints.

D

In extreme cases, the pressure to make the “perfect” choice can lead to paralysis, where individuals are unable to decide at all. This state of inaction can have serious consequences, particularly when timely decisions are required.

E

Historically, having a wide range of options was a rare privilege, limited to a small segment of society. For most people, choices were constrained by economic necessity and social expectations.

F

Furthermore, the role of technology in amplifying choice cannot be overlooked. Online platforms provide access to an almost infinite array of alternatives, intensifying the challenges associated with decision-making.

G

As a result, individuals may begin to question their own judgment, wondering whether a different choice might have yielded a better outcome. This self-doubt can diminish overall satisfaction and erode confidence over time.

Your answers:

101.	102.	103.	104.	105.
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III. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1: *The table below shows the salaries of secondary/high school teachers in five Southeast Asian countries in 2025, including their starting salaries, earnings after 15 years, maximum salaries, and the number of years required to reach the highest level. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.*

You should write between 150 and 200 words. (20 points)

Table: Secondary/High School Teachers' Salaries in 2025 (USD per year)

Countries	Starting	After 15years	Maximum	Years to reach maximum
Viet Nam	3,000 – 4,500	5,500 – 7,000	8,000–10,000	25–30
Thailand	9,000 – 12,000	14,000 – 18,000	22,000–28,000	20–25
Indonesia	4,000 – 6,000	8,000 – 12,000	15,000–20,000	20–30
Malaysia	10,000 – 13,000	18,000 – 25,000	30,000–40,000	20–25
Singapore	30,000 – 40,000	50,000 – 70,000	80,000 –100,000	15–20

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Some people think that individuals should have complete control over their personal data, while others believe that governments and organizations should be allowed to use personal data for the benefit of society.

[illegible][illegible]

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