

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 **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 discussion about smartphone dependency ONCE 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.

1. The concept of nomophobia has been universally accepted within clinical psychology.
2. Smartphones have replaced traditional methods of communication in most situations.
3. Some specialists believe that smartphone addiction can exist even without formal diagnostic recognition.
4. Smartphones are mainly used for practical purposes rather than for emotional regulation.
5. Users tend to underestimate the amount of time they spend on their smartphones.

For questions 6–10, decide whether the following are mentioned by only one of the speakers, or by both of them. In the corresponding numbered boxes provided, write:

G for Dr. David Greenfield

D for Scott Dunlap

B for Both of the speakers

6. People may rely on smartphones to avoid interacting with others.
7. Smartphone use can influence both mental processes and behaviour.
8. Users are often unaware of their own smartphone habits.
9. Smartphone use can be intentionally shaped to increase user engagement.
10. Scientific testing is used to optimise how digital features affect users.

Your answers:

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

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Part 2. Listen to a talk about boredom and ADHD ONCE and do the tasks that follow. Questions 11–12, choose TWO letters from A–E to indicate TWO true statements about boredom and attention regulation mentioned in the talk. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. Boredom occurs when the brain fails to maintain sufficient stimulation to sustain attention on an activity.
- B. The reduced brain activation associated with ADHD mainly affects emotional regulation.
- C. Difficulty regulating attention is identified as a defining feature of ADHD.
- D. Boredom affects people with ADHD in exactly the same way it affects most other individuals.
- E. ADHD is linked with excessive activation in areas responsible for executive functions.

Questions 13–15. Choose THREE letters from A–G to indicate THREE statements about stimulation-seeking behaviour mentioned in the talk. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. When an activity lacks stimulation, people may seek alternative forms of stimulation.
- B. All stimulation-seeking behaviours are damaging to an individual's goals.
- C. Some stimulation-seeking behaviours may be harmless even if they are not beneficial.
- D. Seeking stimulation usually results in improved productivity.
- E. People may engage in behaviours such as impulse spending or taking on too many projects when bored.
- F. Stimulation-seeking behaviour is always a conscious and deliberate decision.
- G. Such behaviours occur only when individuals lack self-discipline.

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. According to the talk, ADHD brains tend to experience boredom more easily because _____.

- A. they struggle to regulate attention and remain stimulated by routine activities
- B. they produce less dopamine than typical brains
- C. they respond too strongly to external distractions
- D. they prioritise emotional responses over cognitive processes

17. When an activity provides sufficient stimulation, _____.

- A. emotional responses become less intense
- B. executive functioning becomes more effective
- C. people experience reduced levels of dopamine
- D. individuals become less aware of their surroundings

18. The speaker's comparison between craving dopamine and feeling hungry mainly illustrates that_____.
- A. people tend to seek the quickest available source of stimulation when deprived of it
 B. hunger and boredom are controlled by the same brain mechanism
 C. unhealthy choices are always driven by emotional impulses
 D. people prefer stimulation that requires significant effort
19. The mindfulness strategy STOP is presented as a way to_____.
- A. immediately interrupt all distracting behaviour
 B. prevent boredom from occurring in future situations
 C. pause and observe internal states before deciding how to act
 D. increase the level of stimulation in routine activities
20. According to the speaker, developing awareness of stimulation-seeking behaviour allows individuals to_____.
- A. completely eliminate impulsive decisions
 B. make more deliberate choices about how they respond to boredom
 C. maintain constant motivation in all situations
 D. replace boredom with productive activities automatically

Your answers:

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

Part 3. For questions 21–25, listen to part of a talk about atherosclerosis TWICE and answer each question with no more than TWO words taken from the recording. Write your answers in the corresponding spaces provided.

21. What term refers to the early accumulations formed beneath the artery lining during the initial stage of the condition?

22. What is the name of the fibrous structure that develops over the plaque to contain it?

23. What medical condition is used to describe chest pain caused by an insufficient supply of oxygen-rich blood to the heart?

24. What type of clot is formed at the site where plaque ruptures in the bloodstream?

25. What specific type of stroke is caused when blood flow to the brain is obstructed?

Part 4. For questions 26–35, listen to part of a lecture about the formation of planets from cosmic dust TWICE, and complete the summary with no more than ONE word for each space. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Planet formation takes place in vast interstellar clouds of gas and dust, often produced by (26) _____. When such a cloud reaches a critical threshold known as the Jeans (27) _____, it collapses under its own gravity.

As the cloud contracts and heats up, it eventually becomes hot enough for nuclear (28) _____ to begin, leading to the formation of a star. This process also results in a rotating (29) _____ disk of surrounding material.

Within this disk, turbulent motion can send particles (30) _____ into each other. At the smallest scale, dust grains adhere through weak intermolecular forces known as van der (31) _____.

However, as clusters grow larger, they are expected to (32) _____ them up upon impact, raising questions about how growth continues.

One possible explanation involves (33) _____ charge, which alters particle interactions under the influence of radiation.

Further evidence suggests that these particles eventually form solid structures known as (34) _____, although the mechanism remains unclear.

At this stage, neither electrostatic forces nor gravity are sufficient, so a surrounding dust (35) _____ may help particles stick together.

Your answers:

26.	31.
27.	32.
28.	33.
29.	34.
30.	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 letters A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The ubiquity of complex language among human beings is a gripping discovery and, for many observers, (36) _____. But to tough-minded skeptics like the philosopher Hilary Putnam, it is no proof at all. Not everything that is universal is innate. Just as travelers in previous decades never encountered a tribe without a language, nowadays anthropologists have trouble finding a people beyond the reach of VCR's, Coca-Cola, and Bart Simpson T-shirts. (37) _____, but then, language is more useful than Coca-Cola. It is more like eating with one's hands rather than one's feet, which is also universal, but we need not (38) _____ to explain why.

Language is invaluable for all the activities of daily living in a community of people: preparing food and shelter, loving, arguing, negotiating, teaching. (39) _____,

language could have been invented by resourceful people a number of times long ago. Universal grammar would simply reflect the universal exigencies of human experience and the universal limitations on human information processing. All languages have words for “water” and “foot” because all people need to refer to water and feet. Once invented, language would entrench itself within a culture as parents taught their children and children imitated their parents. At the heart of this process (40) _____, with its general multipurpose learning strategies.

(Adapted from *The Language Instinct* by Steven Pinker)

36. A. compelling proof that language is innate.
B. language is innate compelling proof
C. innate proof is compelling language
D. that is compelling proof of innate language
37. A. Before universal language was Coca-Cola
B. As Coca-Cola was universal language before
C. Language was universal before Coca-Cola was
D. Inasmuch as Coca-Cola as universal as language
38. A. be instinctive to invoke a special hand-to-mouth explanation
B. explain a special hand-to-mouth instinct to invoke it
C. invoke to explain a special hand-to-mouth instinct
D. invoke a special hand-to-mouth instinct to explain why
39. A. Necessity being the mother of invention
B. The mother of invention being necessity
C. Inventions being the mother of necessity
D. Necessity be the invention's mother
40. A. flexibly wondrous human intelligence hides
B. is wondrously flexible human intelligence
C. human intelligence proves wondrous flexibly
D. signifies flexibly wondrous human intelligence

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.

One of the most hardest things that empaths are confronted with is articulating their own, personal needs in a relationship. Often, empaths are engulfed by the needs of their (41) _____ other. In fact, a co-dependent relationship may emerge in which the beneficiary of the empath's attention and care becomes addicted, in a way, to the empath's care. What this does is create an imbalanced dynamic in which one of the parties gives and the other party takes. This can leave the empath drained and exhausted. When the empath is unable to assert their needs, they may ultimately end up resenting a person they once loved. They may still harbor deep feelings for this person. Yet these

emotions may have been (42) _____ into a sense of resentment. This is why the empath in the relationship needs to speak up and make their needs explicit. When an empath is able to do this, their partner will acknowledge. Should the partner's disposition be characterised by emotional detachment and (43) _____, they may readily disregard such appeals as inconsequential.

Under these conditions, one might be best advised to contemplate (44) _____ on the relationship, especially if it is causing more harm than good. Please bear in mind that your partner or spouse may be an energy vampire. That is why it is of the utmost importance to prioritize yourself in a position of prominence. (45) _____, recipients of empathetic investment frequently neglect to recognise that a lack of reciprocity may culminate in the loss of the emotional support they have come to depend upon.

(Adapted from *Emotional Intelligence Mastery* by Diana Brain)

41. A. pivotal B. significant B. celestial D. ethereal
 42. A. warped B. looted C. annihilated D. prevaricated
 43. A. superficiality B. euphoria C. reverence D. equanimity
 44. A. biting the dust B. cutting from the same cloth
 C. casting pearls before swine D. pulling the plug
 45. A. Ineffably B. Exultantly C. Deplorably D. Unassailably

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.

CELEB	VAGUE	SPIRIT	TRANSPARENT	CLEAR
HUMID	TRANSCEND	VAST	CELIBATE	HUMBLE

Translucent people have the tendency to glow from within. The way I see it, these people are the ones that, owing to an experience with sacred plants or (0) _____ practices, have come into contact with a deeper nature of self, and have attained a different way of perceiving reality. After that event, they feel the call and (46) _____ to move in a new direction, and a sense of (47) _____. Translucents refer to life as an endless process, like an unfolding of discovery and delight. Translucence is more a direction than a destination. Like heading North, the process doesn't involve a specific point of arrival. It is a way of living life with art and humour, continuously coming back to a perennial here, always steeped in the (48) _____ of the view, and blessing each moment with a gift of creative presence.

Once they start to impugn and reinterpret some assumed beliefs about reality, they learn to transform the models and maps that they have inherited. Instead of following a doctrine, they embrace many teachers, and experience the whole of life as a teacher. Rather than conforming to the ways that have been handed down through society, they embody a radical feminisation of the spiritual life. Rather than denouncing the world,

seeking (49) _____, they are actively involved, taking delight in the joys of life more than ever. Rather than building a holy or "spiritual" personality in any external way, their most easily distinguishable quality is a sense of simplicity and humour about themselves and their lives. They are plain, honest, deep and, at the same time, remarkably human. Their (50) _____ is proverbial.

(Adapted from *Cambridge English Proficiency* by Tower Bridge)

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).

Have you ever looked at someone being given surprising news and they seem to have very little reaction with it? Beneath the veneer of composure lies a far more intricate and profound emotional substrata than is conventionally disclosed. There's something seethes there beneath the surface and it's important to recognize that emotion even if you do not see it bubble out. It's perfectly normal for people to hold their feelings in; outbursts are usually frowned upon in society and flamboyant enthusiasm is discouraged. This is especially true for men so if you are trying to figure out a significant man in your life, you have to remember that they may not always be displaying their actual thoughts and emotions. Do not call people out on it unless you have to, but take it into consideration when interacting with them. Paradoxically, the validity of the opposed tendency is no less demonstrable. Unless you have made a full display of emotions or had a breakdown, people generally assume you're okay and act as such nothing has changed. It can be quite frustrating if you're the one who's suppressing your emotions, but it feels perfectly fine for those at the other end. Where you are situated on the other end of the dynamic, insofar as you are the party withholding emotional expression, you ought not to internalise the circumstance as subjective targeted. Don't assume that they should know your thoughts because people can only see as much as you allow them to see.

(Adapted from *How To Read People Like A Book* by James W. Williams)

Your answers:

0. with → to	51.	52.
53.	54.	55.

II. 2. READING COMPREHENSION (65 points)

Part 1. For questions 56 – 65, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only ONE word in each space. (20 points)

Bias (56) _____ women is as entrenched as it was a decade ago and gender equality progress has gone into reverse, according to a UN report. (57) _____ by the UN development programme on Monday, it found that half of people in 80 countries believe

men (58) _____ better political leaders, 40% believe men are better business executives and a quarter believe it is justified for men to beat their wives. These (59) _____, from data collected between 2017 and 2022, were largely unchanged from the previous GSNI report, which used data from 2005 to 2014. The biases result in (60) _____ for women in politics, business and work, as well as (61) _____ away of their rights and human rights (62) _____, said the researchers. Despite women being more educated and skilled than ever before, there was a 39% salary gap with men, they added. The UN report calls for women's economic (63) _____ to society to be better recognised, including unpaid work, for laws and measures that ensure political participation to be (64) _____, and for more action to (65) _____ stereotypes.

(Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development>)

Your answers:

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. (7 points)

- A. Exposed to the extreme seasonal temperature fluctuations of an attic environment, the timber's porosity facilitates continuous evaporation, gradually concentrating the dark elixir and necessitating annual replenishments.
- B. Diverting from traditional wine fermentation, the freshly extracted liquid is subjected to continuous simmering in open copper cauldrons until evaporation halves its original volume.
- C. Only after a strict minimum of twelve years-sometimes enduring up to twenty-five for the prestigious "extra vecchio" designation-is a minuscule, intensely flavored portion deemed worthy of extraction.
- D. A traditional *batteria* typically comprises five to seven such receptacles, systematically arranged in descending volume and crafted from diverse woods like oak, chestnut, and juniper to impart layered aromatic profiles.
- E. The journey originates in late-autumn vineyards, where freshly harvested Trebbiano and Lambrusco grapes undergo gentle pressing to yield a raw, unfermented liquid historically known as "must".
- F. The rigorous execution of the *rincalzo* technique ensures a consistent evolution of complex flavors, albeit reducing the ultimate yield to a mere fraction of the initial harvest.
- G. The dense, caramelized syrup that remains is left to cool before being introduced into a succession of wooden casks, marking the inception of a decades-long maturation.

- H. To compensate for the steady evaporative volume loss, master artisans meticulously draw liquid from larger barrels to fill the adjacent smaller ones, establishing a dynamic system of fractional blending.

(Adapted from *MasterClass*, <https://www.masterclass.com>)

Your answers:

0. E	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.
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Part 3. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

HOW LANGUAGE FORMATS THE MIND

- A. The proposition that human cognition operates independently of its linguistic software contains purely subjective connotations, a dogma that has historically lacked empirical corroboration. From a strictly mechanistic perspective, the mother tongue functions as an operating system, programmed to format the chaotic influx of sensory data into an ordered, analyzable reality. To observe this, one must measure the algorithmic calculation of spatial parameters. The assumption that egocentric spatial processing is an inherent human default is a demonstrably flawed paradigm. English speakers rely on an egocentric coordinate system—a variable grid of 'left' and 'right' that recalculates continuously as the physical body rotates. Conversely, populations such as the Kuuk Thaayorre of northern Australia operate exclusively on absolute cardinal vectors, specifically north, south, east, and west. In Pormpuraaw, an individual must continuously stay oriented merely to formulate a grammatically correct sentence. To successfully execute spatial communication, their cognitive machinery must sustain an unrelenting, background calibration of planetary directions at all scales. Consequently, their navigational proficiency is not a product of innate biological superiority, but a mandatory cognitive allocation imposed by their specific syntactic architecture. Such populations maintain constant orientation with a precision that routinely confounds eminent Western scholars, proving that spatial calculation is rigorously mediated by syntax.
- B. This absolute spatial framework systematically dictates the conceptualization of temporal vectors. Measuring the abstract progression of time requires a tangible physical metaphor; yet, the calibration of this metaphor diverges rigorously across linguistic algorithms. When subjects are tasked with sequencing chronological stages—such as a biological organism aging or a crocodile growing—an English speaker invariably plots the timeline on a strict left-to-right axis. This represents a linear extrapolation of their orthographic conventions. Hebrew speakers, conversely, lay out the progression from right to left. The Kuuk Thaayorre, however, devoid of relative spatial variables, lock their temporal sequences onto an east-to-west trajectory. The directionality of time for these subjects is mathematically contingent upon their physical bearing: seated facing south, the sequence proceeds left to right; facing north,

the vector reverses. Furthermore, while English speakers unconsciously conceptualize futurity as an advancing frontal vector and physically sway forward when contemplating it, speakers of Aymara, an Andean language, visualize the past as in front of them and the future behind, gesturing accordingly. The human representation of time is therefore not a universal constant, but a derivative parameter strictly governed by external lexical constraints.

- C.** The syntactic mechanisms of a language also dictate the cognitive resources allocated to causal attribution, thereby manipulating the mathematical probability of event recall. All occurrences, including instantaneous physical anomalies or accidents, necessitate a degree of cognitive construal to assign agency. English speakers exhibit a measurable predilection for transitive, agent-centric constructions, applying them uniformly even to inadvertent events, for instance, explicitly stating "John broke the vase". By contrast, languages like Spanish or Japanese employ a mechanistic, non-agentive syntax for accidents, effectively neutralizing the human agent, which translates roughly to "the vase broke itself". In empirical paradigms evaluating eyewitness memory, researchers tested participants observing individuals intentionally or accidentally popping balloons, breaking eggs, or spilling drinks. Subjects from all linguistic backgrounds registered intentional acts with equal acuity. However, when recalling accidental events, subjects from non-agentive linguistic backgrounds demonstrated a statistically significant deficit in identifying the perpetrators. The syntax acts as a cognitive filter: by systematically distancing the agent from the inadvertent outcome, the language minimizes the memory storage allocated to the culpable individual, rendering their identity a zero-value variable within the neural network.
- D.** Furthermore, the structural intricacies of a linguistic code can mathematically optimize or retard the assimilation rate of baseline biological and logical concepts. The numeric lexicon of Mandarin, which mirrors a strict base-10 algorithmic logic, lacks the troublesome and irregular 'teen' integers found in Western languages. This streamlined design allows juvenile subjects to compute mathematical insights proportionally faster than those navigating the anomalous integer terminology in English. Similarly, the densely marked grammatical gender system in Hebrew compels a child's cognitive apparatus to compute its own biological sex approximately a calendar year ahead of subjects operating in a gender-neutral Finnish environment. Even more striking is the capacity of linguistic structures to manipulate involuntary automatic biases. Controlled measurements of Arabic-Hebrew bilinguals in Israel revealed that implicit attitudes shift quantitatively depending on the language of operation. Specifically, subjects exhibited more positive implicit attitudes toward Jewish names when tested in Hebrew than when tested in Arabic. Ultimately, these empirical observations invalidate the premise of linguistic universality. The native

tongue does not serve as a passive conduit for the transmission of pre-existing data or independent thoughts; rather, it operates as a deterministic framework that dictates cognitive resource allocation, formats perceptual boundaries, and rigorously weaves the very data structure of our subjective reality.

(Adapted from "How Language Shapes Thought" by Lera Boroditsky)

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. (7 points)

73. Early linguistic relativity theories historically lacked sufficient empirical data.

74. Egocentric spatial processing is naturally ingrained in all human brains.

75. Eminent Western scientists study Aboriginal languages to improve their navigational proficiency.

76. Spanish speakers recall perpetrators of accidental and deliberate actions with differing acuity.

77. English syntax systematically distances the human agent when describing unexpected physical accidents.

78. Japanese participants express profound remorse after causing inadvertent physical damage.

79. The subconscious psychological biases of bilingual individuals undergo measurable fluctuations contingent upon the language they are actively using.

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. (8 points)

Which section _____?

80. mentions a mandatory grammar rule demanding continuous mental calibration of planetary directions

81. discusses the correlation between standard orthographic conventions and the visual sequencing of time

82. alludes to unconscious bodily gestures reflecting a linguistic conceptualization of futurity

83. describes a chronological trajectory that dynamically reverses itself based solely upon one's physical geographic orientation

84. points out a specific syntactic filter transforming a culpable human into a meaningless variable

85. notes experimental procedures utilizing mundane physical accidents to evaluate recall

86. references a streamlined numeric lexicon accelerating the assimilation of baseline mathematical logic

87. highlights a densely marked grammatical gender system expediting a juvenile subject's computation of biological sex

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.

THE PHARMAKON OF THE DIGITAL AGE

1. Contemporary discourse often mischaracterizes technology as a mere set of passive instruments—external tools we wield with absolute autonomy. The late philosopher Bernard Stiegler, however, offered a radically different perspective, arguing that humanity and technology are inextricably co-constitutive. Drawing on the Greek myth of Prometheus and Epimetheus, Stiegler posited that humanity was born out of a biological deficit. When Epimetheus distributed traits to the animal kingdom, he absentmindedly forgot humanity, leaving our species entirely defenseless. To compensate, Prometheus stole fire and technical skill. Consequently, humanity is defined by its original "default"; we are the only species that requires artificial prostheses—from flint tools to sophisticated neural networks—to survive. We did not simply invent technology; rather, technology invented us.
2. This inherent reliance on the artificial gives rise to Stiegler's concept of "**epiphylogenesis**," a term designating the unique evolutionary trajectory of the human species. Unlike other organisms, whose evolutionary memory is strictly encoded within their genetic biology, humans possess the extraordinary capacity to externalize their memory into the material world. When a prehistoric artisan crafted a flint tool, they inscribed their somatic knowledge into the stone, creating a physical archive that outlived its creator. Over millennia, this externalized memory has accumulated into written texts and sprawling digital databases. Epiphylogenesis dictates that our cognitive evolution is heavily mediated by these technical objects. With every new technology introduced, our neurological architecture and very mode of existing in the world are permanently restructured.
3. To capture the dual nature of our technological existence, Stiegler resurrected the ancient Greek concept of the *pharmakon*. A *pharmakon* is simultaneously a poison and a cure, depending entirely upon its dosage and context. [I] Stiegler argues that every technology is inherently pharmacological. Writing, for instance, cured the limitations of oral memory by preserving knowledge across generations, yet it also poisoned the mind by allowing the internal capacity for memorization to atrophy. In the contemporary epoch, digital technology represents the ultimate, most potent *pharmakon*. The internet provides an unprecedented cure for ignorance, offering an infinite repository of knowledge. Yet it simultaneously acts as a virulent poison,

cultivating severe cognitive distraction, systemic alienation, and the insidious erosion of deep intellectual engagement.

4. The poisonous aspect of the digital *pharmakon* manifests most devastatingly in what Stiegler terms generalized "proletarianization." During the Industrial Revolution, proletarianization referred to the process by which factory workers were systematically stripped of their physical craftsmanship (*savoir-faire*). [III] Knowledge was transferred from the artisan's hands into mechanized machinery, reducing the worker to a mere biological appendage. Stiegler controversially asserts that the digital age has initiated a far more insidious, cognitive phase of this phenomenon. By outsourcing our memory to smartphones, our navigational skills to GPS satellites, and our critical decision-making to predictive algorithms, we are experiencing the proletarianization of our cognitive and social skills (*savoir-vivre*). We are progressively forgetting how to remember, how to navigate autonomously, and how to cultivate the essential knowledge of living.
5. Furthermore, this cognitive proletarianization is exacerbated by the algorithmic architecture of surveillance capitalism, which structurally short-circuits human desire. In a healthy psychosocial environment, desire is cultivated through an intricate process of imagination and anticipation. However, contemporary digital platforms are explicitly engineered to bypass this profound psychological mechanism. By utilizing predictive analytics, algorithms calculate what we want before we are consciously aware of it, instantaneously satisfying impulses with targeted content. Stiegler warned that when algorithms continuously anticipate our needs, they destroy the capacity for genuine, unscripted desire. [III] This leads to a pervasive state of "**symbolic misery**," wherein the aesthetic and cognitive lives of billions of individuals are monotonously synchronized by the economic imperatives of monopolistic technology conglomerates.
6. This mass synchronization triggers a catastrophic crisis of attention, severely destabilizing the intergenerational transmission of knowledge. The digital attention economy, designed to maximize user engagement through relentless, fragmented stimuli, explicitly promotes "hyper-attention"-a cognitive mode characterized by rapid, superficial scanning and a perpetual craving for novelty. [IV] This directly cannibalizes "deep attention," the sustained, contemplative focus required to read a complex text or engage in rigorous philosophical reflection. Consequently, educational institutions find themselves in an existential crisis, struggling to transmit complex cultural heritage to a generation whose neurological circuitry has been hijacked by the *pharmakon* of the screen. For Stiegler, this erosion of attention represents a systemic failure of societal care and a direct threat to the foundations of civilization.

7. Despite this bleak diagnosis, Stiegler's philosophy is not one of apocalyptic despair. Because humanity is intrinsically technological, rejecting the digital realm to retreat into a pre-industrial utopia is an ontological impossibility. Instead, Stiegler advocates for the urgent invention of a new pharmacology—a rigorous "therapeutics" of technology. This requires a radical societal pivot toward "de-proletarianization." We must proactively redesign our digital infrastructures not to exploit human vulnerabilities for economic rent, but to actively cultivate cognitive capacities, foster deep attention, and empower critical participation. The ethical imperative of the twenty-first century is to transform the digital network from a toxic mechanism of algorithmic control into a curative scaffolding that elevates our collective intelligence.

(Adapted from "Bernard Stiegler's philosophy on how technology shapes our world", Aeon Essays)

For questions 88 – 94, write A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes to indicate the correct answer which fits best according to what is stated or implied in the passage. (7 points)

88. What is the writer's main aim in paragraph 1?

- A. To critique the illusion of human autonomy over digital tools.
- B. To define human existence through its inherent reliance on technology.
- C. To validate mythological narratives as accurate biological histories.
- D. To explain how biological deficits caused the obsolescence of physical tools.

89. The concept of "**epiphylogenesis**" in paragraph 2 is presented as _____.

- A. a biological process integrating machinery into human genetic codes
- B. a modern phenomenon triggered by the vast accumulation of databases
- C. an evolutionary regression caused by reliance on artificial prostheses
- D. a developmental path sustained by materializing knowledge across generations

90. What is the significance of the reference to the prehistoric artisan crafting a flint tool?

- A. It illustrates the physical preservation of cognition across generations.
- B. It emphasizes the stark divide between primitive and modern tools.
- C. It highlights how early tool-making permanently altered human genetic biology.
- D. It shows how artificial prostheses compensated for innate physical vulnerabilities.

91. What is the most likely outcome of algorithms preemptively satisfying human impulses?

- A. The standardization of aesthetic lives at the expense of authentic desires.
- B. The cultivation of a healthy psychosocial environment via targeted content.
- C. The outsourcing of critical decisions to global navigation systems.
- D. A perpetual craving for novelty that promotes superficial information scanning.

92. Why was the term "**symbolic misery**" mentioned in paragraph 5?

- A. To highlight the despair caused by the loss of physical craftsmanship.
- B. To detail the psychological mechanisms algorithms use to short-circuit logic.

- C. To describe a condition where corporate motives homogenize human experiences.
- D. To emphasize economic inequalities driven by the digital attention economy.

93. The extended discussion of the digital attention economy in paragraph 6 ultimately functions to _____.

- A. advocate for a pedagogical pivot to accommodate fragmented digital stimuli
- B. illustrate a cognitive shift that jeopardizes complex cultural legacies
- C. demonstrate how the proletarianization of social skills cannibalizes philosophical reflection
- D. outline a therapeutic framework to redesign digital infrastructures

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

Such a deliberate subversion of our neurological limits ensures that profitability is continuously prioritized over psychological well-being.

- A. [I]
- B. [II]
- C. [III]
- D. [IV]

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. (6 points)

The contemporary technological landscape is actively driving a catastrophic cognitive decline among users. By habitually offloading critical mental processes and navigational skills to digital platforms, humans are fundamentally experiencing the (95) _____ of their essential capabilities. This pervasive disempowerment is deliberately exacerbated by the underlying architecture of surveillance capitalism. These systems artificially bypass the organic cultivation of (96) _____ even fully realized.

Consequently, users are systematically trapped in an impoverished psychological condition, wherein their personal choices and aesthetic lives are monotonously synchronized by the (97) _____ of monopolistic tech entities. This mass commercial synchronization ultimately triggers a severe deficit in cognitive endurance. It replaces immersive contemplation with a frantic, unquenchable craving for constant (98) _____, a state explicitly engineered to maximize digital engagement. Ultimately, the ascendancy of (99) _____, explicitly promoted by the attention economy, severely threatens the intergenerational transmission of cultural heritage and the very (100) _____ of civilized society.

Your answers:

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

Part 5. In the passage below, five paragraphs have been removed from the extract. 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)

Grains, such as wheat, oat, and rice, have been systematically grown for about 10,000 years. They weren't just another addition to humans' nutrition, but the cornerstone of our civilisation. For all we know, the Natufian culture was the first to benefit from the Agricultural Revolution.

101	
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Wheat's astounding ability to flourish in a wide variety of climates and altitudes and, mainly, the opportunity to maintain the seeds for long periods of time were the elements that rendered farming the new super-weapon, not only for human survival, but also for civilisation at large.

102	
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Therefore, for the past ten millennia, wheat has been the basic human food. There have gradually emerged some new kinds and varieties of wheat coming from natural breeding, as well as from human intervention, since farmers chose to sow seeds with better characteristics. The first cultivated wheat, and "father" of all types of wheat, is einkorn.

103	
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These were mainly the types of wheat grown by humankind up until the 50's and 60's. Then, a staggering scientific intervention was made, which led to the varieties of dwarf and semi-dwarf wheat. The scientist responsible for this development was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. His name is Norman Borlaug (1914-2009).

104	
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Gradually, the vast golden wheat fields, almost as tall as a human being, were replaced with the short champions of the labs. Compared to the old traditional varieties, the new ones had yields 8 times higher per acre! Which farmer could resist the temptation of adopting the new varieties? After the 70's, the hundreds of new modified varieties spread fast all around the world, and nowadays they account for almost 99% of the global wheat production. In other words, the wheat we consume today is not the same as the one ancient Greeks and the peoples in the Bible ate, nor as the one our grandmothers consumed when they were young! The "poison" in the case of hybridisation doesn't lie in the process, but in the "dosage" and the way in which it is administered.

105	
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Aren't you suspicious of the coincidence that the world epidemic of obesity coincides with the world domination of modern wheat? There was an abundance of food before the 70's. Not everybody had expensive cars and television sets, but almost everybody in

Europe and the US could eat to their heart's content. Why weren't people so corpulent? It has been proven that modern wheat is connected, to a greater or lesser extent, it is one of the basic causes of childhood and adult obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, depression, mental problems, arthritis, and generally inflammations in the body, premature ageing, and much more.

Missing paragraphs

A. All great civilisations were based on a specific grain. The Babylonians and Egyptians relied on wheat, the Chinese on rice, the Inca, the Maya, and the Aztecs on corn. Roughly speaking, nowadays, America is premised on corn, Asia on rice, and wheat reigns supreme almost everywhere and, although it comes second to corn in terms of world annual production, this is due to the use of corn for animal food.

B. A little later came from natural breeding tetraploid wheats, such as emmer and durum, then from yet another natural breeding came hexaploid wheats, like spelt and aestivum, which is the most widespread today.

C. The Natufians were groups of hunter-gatherers, who lived in the Fertile Crescent or the Near East. It was growing the land that enabled them to permanently settle in a particular place. They were probably the first group of people whose culture obviated the need to constantly move about, and it must have been the first time that the notion of free time had found its expression, since those tribes no longer needed to devote all their time to their survival.

D. Furthermore, the shift towards organic farming in recent decades highlights a growing consumer demand for pesticide-free produce. While this method yields significantly smaller crops compared to conventional industrial farming, proponents argue that it helps restore soil vitality and reduces the environmental footprint of agriculture. Several local governments are now offering subsidies to encourage farmers to transition back to these chemical-free methods, though the initial financial risk remains a major deterrent for many.

E. A hybridisation made by nature or a farmer, is tested hard in the natural environment, and survives can prove beneficial. Yet, when you systematically make 6,000 hybridisations to create plants that stand no chance of surviving in nature unless they are empowered with the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, then you have probably created something dangerous. This genetic modification due to hybridisations is so serious that we had better call it mistreatment.

F. Grains provide various essential vitamins and minerals that are vital for maintaining energy levels throughout the day, which is why they have always been highly valued by farmers and consumers alike.

G. For a decade, Borlaug conducted rigorous experiments in Mexico for the purposes of improving wheat, and increasing its production and resistance to diseases. That is why he made 6,000 breedings, until he created the aestivum variety, which is a semi-dwarf

wheat. This seed was like a dwarf in size, but a giant in production. It was a real wonder of productivity.

Your answers:

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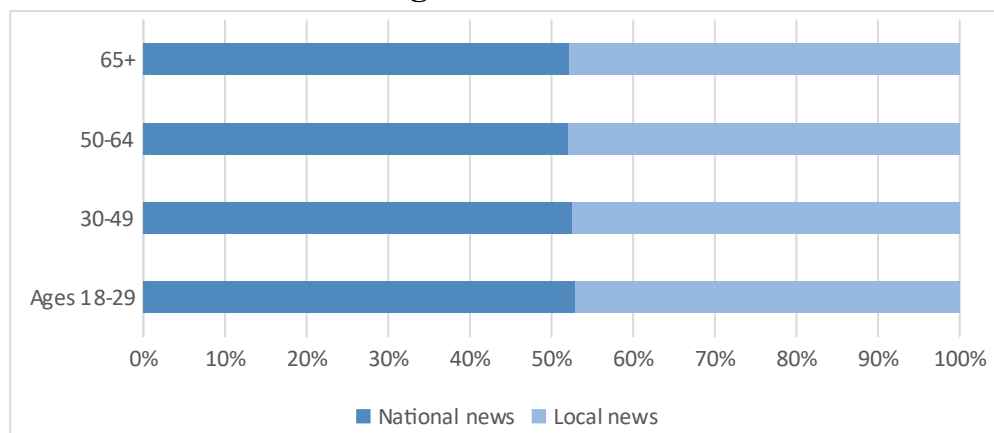
III. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. *The charts below give information on the proportion of adults accessing news by age groups in the United States in 2025.*

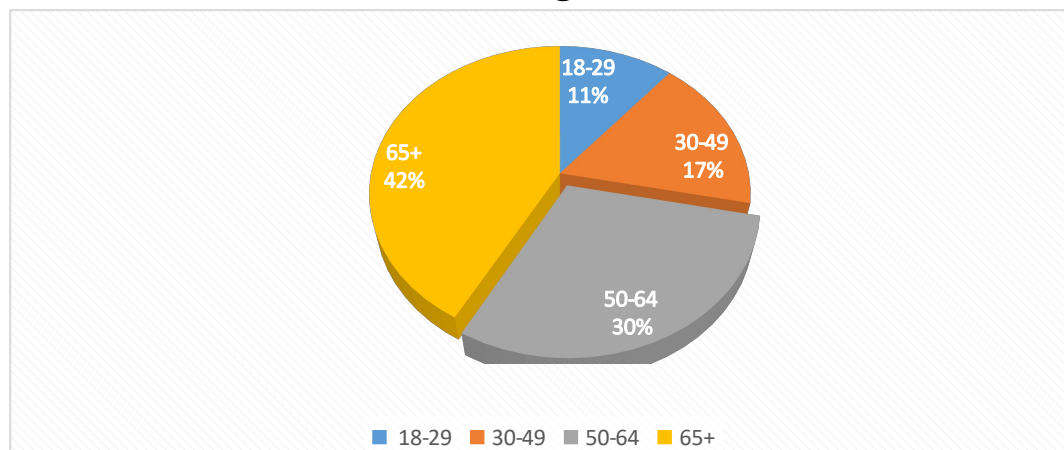
Summarize the information by selecting and repairing the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Following local and national news



Seeking out news



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

Some argue that "healing culture" represents a positive shift in society, encouraging individuals to prioritize mental health, practice self-care, and foster a more empathetic community. On the other hand, others think that the misuse of "healing" labels may create a "fragile generation" that avoids reality and wastes financial resources on superficial services that offer no substantive psychological value. Another line of thought warns that this phenomenon is being over-commercialized.

[illegible]

Họ và tên thí sinh:
Số báo danh:

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