

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)

(Đề thi gồm 18 trang)

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 radio about the damage of Typhoon Yagi in Vietnam and Thailand *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. Typhoon Yagi was the strongest storm to hit Asia in recent years.
2. The bridge collapse near Hanoi resulted in more fatalities than survivors.
3. Flooding in Chiang Rai had previously affected the city centre before 1981.
4. Experts believe that climate change is the only reason for the severity of the disaster.
5. Financial aid has already been fully delivered to all affected regions in Vietnam.

You will hear two colleagues, Tina and Harry, taking about the problems of traffic congestion in their city. For questions 6-10, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree.

Write: T for Tina,

H for Harry,

B for Both, where they agree,

6. Personal experience suggests that the new bus-lane system has been ineffective in reducing traffic congestion.
7. The bus-lane system may eventually encourage increased use of the buses.
8. People resent the idea of losing the freedom that the motor car represents.
9. Problems of traffic congestion actually restrict certain types of personal freedom.
10. By organising our everyday lives better, we would all cut down on car journeys.

Your answers:

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

Part 2. Listen to a talk and do the tasks that follow.

For questions 11-12, choose TWO letters from A-E to indicate TWO true statements about educational skills were shown in the video of children doing origami. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. solving problems
- B. following instructions
- C. working cooperatively
- D. learning through play
- E. developing hand-eye coordination

For questions 13-15, choose THREE letters from A-G to indicate THREE true statements about the comments students make about each of the children in the video. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. Origami was seen as unimportant.
- B. The children listened carefully to instructions.
- C. The task was done in groups.
- D. Origami can improve fine motor skills.
- E. Sid stayed disruptive throughout.
- F. Naomi tried harder to make the best one.
- G. Zara understood the task immediately.

For questions 16-20, write 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 makes the king cheetah different from other cheetahs?

- A. the length of its tail
- B. the pattern on its coat
- C. the width of its stripes
- D. the colour of its spots

17. What did Alice find surprising about her discovery in Botswana?

- A. the number of animals she found
- B. how long it took to find anything
- C. the area where it happened
- D. how hard it was to identify the animal

18. Alice believes that the king cheetah has undergone mutation in order to:

- A. protect itself against a new enemy
- B. prevent the species from dying out
- C. hunt more effectively
- D. live in different surroundings

19. Alice explains that the pattern on the king cheetah's coat is:

- A. perfectly symmetrical
- B. frightening to predators
- C. difficult to describe
- D. deceptive at first sight

20. The person who made the comment about the camera people felt that:

- A. we should only trust what we see on films
- B. there is nothing new to find in the world
- C. adventurers should record their findings
- D. it is best to look at nature on television

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 *US–Venezuela Tensions Escalate*, *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 kind of action has Donald Trump been threatening Venezuela with?

22. What type of pressure is the U.S. increasing on Nicolás Maduro besides military measures?

23. What does Maduro call the alleged U.S. threat in terms of international law?

24. What kind of warfare is described as increasing in the situation?

25. What type of protests has Maria Kina Mashado called for internationally?

Part 4. For questions 26- 35, listen to a news report about *Facebook TWICE* and answer each of the following questions with *NO MORE THAN ONE WORD* taken from the recording. Write your answers in the corresponding spaces provided.

Reading is not biologically innate. A (26) _____ brain can process speech and vision but lacks an inherent reading mechanism. From an (27) _____ perspective, literacy is too recent to be neurologically specialized.

Thus, reading depends on integrating existing systems, including visual and (28) _____ functions. Early scripts such as Egyptian (29) _____ represent the origins of written communication and gradually evolved into modern forms.

Neurologically, reading activates all cortical (30) _____ and reshapes neural connectivity. Writing systems also influence cognition differently. Chinese, for instance, is (31) _____ and relies heavily on visual processing.

This distinction was later (32) _____ by clinical evidence. A bilingual individual who suffered a (33) _____ lost Chinese literacy but retained English, demonstrating that brain organization (34) _____ linguistic structure.

Finally, reading elicits embodied responses, involving the anterior (35) _____, which is linked to emotion and physical sensation.

Your answers:

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

II. READING (8.0 points)

II.1. LANGUAGE IN USE (3.0 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.*

Was the curse of the mummy real? Though the death of Lord Carnarvon seemed mysterious, it was probably more the result of bad hygiene than a curse, (36) _____

Dr. Robert Prichard, a medical examiner for the state of California. “His mosquito bite became infected from a dirty shaving razor, and he developed sepsis, or blood poisoning,” Dr. Prichard believes. As for the deaths of the others involved in the opening of King Tutankhamen’s tomb, there is nothing mysterious there either, researchers say. The British Medical Journal looked at all the evidence concerning forty-four of the people who were associated with the excavation. They concluded that statistically, (37) _____ of those people died than any other population sample.

Still, research in microbiology suggests that although there is no mummy’s curse, there may be real health dangers associated with opening tombs like those in the Valley of the Kings. The old tombs were sealed so tightly that the insides may have become anaerobic,

(38) _____. When this happens, certain bacteria grow in the oxygen-free environment that could not ordinarily survive and which can be harmful if inhaled. Other types of organisms like molds and fungi could also be present, some of which can cause serious health problems. For these reasons, modern archaeologists, (39) _____, wear protective filter masks and gloves khi entering a tomb for the first time.

Finally, it has been suggested that the punitive inscription engraved on the entrance to King Tutankhamun's tomb was an invention of a young British newspaper reporter. The real inscription, it is reported, is (40) _____ protecting the dead than with inflicting punishment.

(Adapted from Reading for the Real World)

36. A. according to the contention by B. in accordance with what is contended by
C. as is the contention of D. insofar as it is contended by

37. A. no more significant a number B. not a more significant number
C. a no more significant number D. no significantly more number

38. A. a state of affairs where air is precluded from entry
B. being a condition which precludes air from entering
C. a condition by which air was precluded to enter
D. the circumstance where air has been precluded entering

39. A. in stark contrast to their 1920s equivalents
B. as a marked departure from their 1920s counterparts
C. by way of contradiction to their 1920s precursors
D. in a sharp divergence with their 1920s antecedents

40. A. considerably less concerned with B. infinitely more preoccupied in
C. substantially rather concerned with D. far more concerned with

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 corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The rise of generative AI has ignited a (41)_____ debate over the sanctity of human creativity. While some herald these tools as a democratizing force, others fear they will lead to a (42)_____ of artistic value. Critics argue that AI-generated content, though technically proficient, lacks the "ontological depth" that only human experience can provide. They contend that art is not merely an output but a process of (43)_____ labor, fraught with emotional struggle.

Furthermore, the legal landscape remains (44)_____ as courts grapple with copyright infringements. As AI models are trained on vast datasets of existing human work, many artists feel their intellectual property has been hijacked. To navigate this new era, creators must (45)_____ and find ways to integrate technology without losing their unique voice, ensuring that AI remains a tool rather than a replacement.

(Adapted from "AI machines aren't 'hallucinating'. But their makers are", The Guardian)

41.

A. burgeoning

B. blistering

C. flickering

D. staggering
42.

A. dilution

B. distillation

C. dispersion

D. dissipation
43.

A. painstaking

B. grueling

C. taxing

D. strenuous
44.

A. in a fog

B. in the dark

C. in flux

D. in the red
45.

A. stem the tide

B. roll with the punches

C. bite the bullet

D. burn the candle at both ends

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.*

RESONATE	AMPLIFY	PERCEIVE	PARTICULAR	BID
SOLACE	METER	TEMPORAL	DICTATE	PULSE

The phenomenon of "Earworms"—those transitional musical fragments that loop (0) **unbidden** (BID) in the mind – remains a fascinating intersection of neurology and musicology. While often dismissed as mere cognitive itch, research suggests they are far from (46) _____; rather, they represent a complex (47) _____ of the brain’s auditory cortex. These internal loops are frequently triggered by (48) _____ features within a song, such as an unusual syncopation or a repetitive (49) _____ cadence. Interestingly, the (50) _____ of these melodic fragments often aligns with the individual's current emotional state, acting as a homeostatic mechanism to regulate mood through internal acoustic feedback.

(Adapted from "Music on the Mind" – Scientific American, 2024)

Your answers:

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

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

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, a cornerstone of linguistic relativity, (0) posit that the language we speak largely determines the way we perceive the world. For decades, this theory was dismissed as a mere conjecture, but recent studies in cognitive science have brought it back to the fore. It is now understood that our mother tongue does not just provide labels for pre-existing concepts; it actively shapes the very neural pathways through which we process reality. To ignore the profound impact of language on cognition is to miss the wood for the trees, as even the most "objective" thoughts are filtered through a linguistic lens. Many skeptics still take exception with the idea of linguistic determinism, fearing it implies a lack of cognitive agency. They argue that if our thoughts are "imprisoned" by grammar, the human creativity would be severely stifled. However, this perspective overlooks the inherent fluid of language itself. Language is not a static cage but a dynamic tool that evolves in tandem with human experience. By expanding our vocabulary, we do not just add new words to our mental dictionary; we open up new vistas of understanding that were previously unattainable.

(Adapted from "Scientific American" – Mind & Brain Edition)

Your answers:

0. <i>posit</i> → <i>posits</i>	51.	52.
53.	54.	55.

II.2. READING COMPREHENSION (5.0 points)

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

Recent psychological research has begun to shed (56) _____ on the profound impact of 'awe'—that overwhelming sense of wonder inspired by something vast or beyond our immediate understanding. Unlike more fleeting emotions, awe appears to possess a (57) _____ transformative power, capable of recalibrating our perception of time and self. When individuals experience awe, whether by gazing at the star-studded firmament or witnessing a (58) _____ act of altruism, they often report a phenomenon known as 'the small self.' In this state, one's personal concerns and anxieties seem to (59) _____ into insignificance against the backdrop of something much larger.

Interestingly, this sense of diminished self-importance does not lead to feelings of worthlessness; (60) _____, it fosters a greater sense of connectivity with the

collective. Awe-struck participants in various studies have demonstrated a (61) _____ increased inclination towards prosocial behavior, such as generosity and cooperation. Researchers posit that by momentarily (62) _____ our ego-driven focus, awe allows us to prioritize the needs of the community. Moreover, because awe challenges our existing mental structures, it (63) _____ us to adjust our 'mental maps' of the world, thereby enhancing cognitive flexibility. As we (64) _____ with the vastness of the unknown, we become more open to new information, making awe not just a spiritual experience, (65) _____ a powerful catalyst for both social cohesion and intellectual growth.

(Adapted from Awe, the Small Self, and Prosocial Behavior – Paul Piff, 2015)

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 answer (A-H) in the corresponding numbered boxes provide. The first one, (0), has been done as an example.

- A.** This diffusion of responsibility occurs because each individual assumes that someone else has already called for help or is better qualified to intervene.
- B.** Contrary to what intuition might suggest, the larger the crowd, the less likely any single person is to offer assistance to a victim in distress.
- C.** Known as the "Bystander Effect," this psychological phenomenon was first extensively studied following a notorious 1964 murder case in New York City.
- D.** Furthermore, when we see others remaining calm or inactive, we tend to interpret the situation as non-emergency, a state known as pluralistic ignorance.
- E.** Human behavior in emergency situations is often dictated by a complex interplay between social cues and a shared sense of accountability.
- F.** Once the initial shock of the incident subsided, researchers began conducting controlled experiments to understand why dozens of witnesses had failed to act.
- G.** Therefore, breaking this cycle of inaction requires one to overcome the powerful instinct to conform to the surrounding crowd's passivity.
- H.** These studies consistently revealed that the presence of others creates a psychological barrier, effectively diluting the felt necessity to take action.

(Adapted from Psychology Today: Understanding the Social Psychology of the Bystander Effect)

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.

Life on Mars?

Terraforming may sound like something out of science fiction, but some believe it is possible to turn that fiction into fact.

As plans are slowly being drawn up for the first manned mission to Mars, many space travel sceptics are asking one vital question: why go there? Mars is a barren, desolate planet, and with its thin atmosphere and bitterly cold climate, it would appear to be completely unsuitable for human life. Above all, it is a very distant place, and getting there would be an enormous challenge. However, the planet might just hold the key to long-term human survival. With the Earth's population currently at more than seven billion and climbing, we may eventually be forced to look elsewhere in the solar system for somewhere to live. It is just possible that, contrary to photographic evidence, Mars may be more promising than it appears.

Today, Mars is a viciously cold, dry place. However, it does have some things in common with our own planet. For example, it has a daily rotation rate of 24 hours 37 minutes, compared with 23 hours 56 minutes on Earth. It also has an axial tilt of 24 degrees, which is just half a degree more than Earth's, and a gravitational pull one third of Earth's. Furthermore, it holds many of the elements that are required to support life, including carbon and oxygen (in the form of carbon dioxide), nitrogen, and frozen water at its polar ice caps. In fact, if you were to travel back in time several billion years, you would notice some remarkable parallels between the atmosphere on Earth then and Mars today. Back then, Earth was also a lifeless planet until photosynthetic bacteria developed and began to produce enough oxygen to allow for the development of animal and plant life. Our atmosphere also consisted entirely of carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

It comes as no surprise to learn, therefore, that some scientists believe the same process which turned Earth's atmosphere from mostly carbon dioxide into breathable air could be repeated on Mars, but by using technology rather than by letting nature and evolution take its natural course. Terraforming, as this process is known, would initially create a greenhouse effect that would heat the planet, which in turn would create other conditions necessary to provide a suitable living environment for plants and animals. However, it would be a highly challenging undertaking, and the process of terraforming the entire planet into an Earth-like habitat could still take many thousands of years.

Three terraforming methods have been suggested, with the first already under development, albeit for a different purpose. At present, the American space agency NASA is working on a system that will use large mirrors to capture the sun's radiation. This radiation will be used to propel spacecraft through space, removing the need for heavy and expensive

rocket fuel. With a few changes, it might be possible to use similar mirrors to reflect the sun's radiation and heat the surface of Mars. Aimed at the planet from a distance of two hundred thousand miles, these enormous mirrors would raise the surface temperature by a few degrees. If they were concentrated on the polar ice caps, they would provide enough heat to melt the polar ice caps and release the carbon dioxide that is believed to be trapped there. Gradually, as the temperature rose, greenhouse gases would be released, and this would create a form of Martian global warming, the first stage in making the planet sustainable for life.

The second method would be to set up greenhouse gas factories in order to raise the temperature of the planet. It is generally accepted that greenhouse gases produced by heavy industry are raising the Earth's temperature. Therefore, by building hundreds of greenhouse gas emitting factories on Mars, a similar effect could be achieved. Carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases would be pumped into the Martian atmosphere. The same factories would then produce oxygen by mimicking the natural process of plant photosynthesis: they would inhale the carbon dioxide they produce, and then emit oxygen. The process could be accelerated by 'sowing' the planet's surface with photosynthetic bacteria, which would increase the rate at which oxygen is produced. Eventually, there would be enough oxygen on the planet for humans to breathe using only special apparatus similar to that used by mountain climbers.

The third, and by far the most extreme, method has been proposed by space scientists Robert Zubrin and Christopher McKay. They believe that it would be possible to produce greenhouse gases and water by firing large, ammonia-bearing asteroids at the planet. Each asteroid would weigh about ten billion tons and would be powered by rocket engines which would move it towards Mars at around 10,000 miles per second. The energy produced by one asteroid slamming into Mars' surface, say Zubrin and McKay, would raise the temperature of the planet by three degrees Celsius and melt about one thousand billion tons of ice at the polar caps. They believe it would take many of these asteroids, and at least fifty years, in order to create a temperate climate and enough water to cover a quarter of the planet's surface.

Terraforming Mars, if it is ever attempted, will be neither cheap nor easy. And it certainly won't be quick. Although optimists like Zubrin and McKay say it could be achieved in five or six decades, the reality is that terraforming is more likely to take hundreds or even thousands of years. Furthermore, it will stretch human ingenuity to its limits and will require levels of will and commitment that have rarely been seen before. The challenge of developing a habitable environment and bringing life to the cold, dry world of Mars is fraught with challenges, but it might just be one that saves the human race.

(Adapted from ieltsreading.info)

For questions 73-78, 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. Pictures of Mars suggest it might make a good place for people to settle.
74. Modern Mars and ancient Earth looked remarkably similar.
75. One method of terraforming could involve adapting technology that is already under development.
76. Greenhouse gas factories would provide enough oxygen for people to breathe without special equipment.
77. The water produced by the asteroid impacts would be primarily concentrated at the Martian polar caps.
78. Terraforming Mars would be an extreme test of human skill and intelligence.

Your answers:

73.	74.	75.	76.	77.	78.
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For questions 79-82, choose the correct letter, A, B, C, or D. Write the letter A, B, C, or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

79. Which one of these factors suggests that Mars might be a good place for people to settle?
- A. It is not too far from Earth.
- B. It has no other life forms living there.
- C. It has a cool, dry climate.
- D. It has some similarities with Earth.
80. The first step in terraforming Mars would be to
- A. make the planet warmer.
- B. create a breathable atmosphere.
- C. find a suitable source of water.
- D. create a habitat for living organisms.
81. Special factories on Mars could be used to
- A. control the level of greenhouse gases.
- B. absorb excess levels of carbon dioxide.
- C. produce oxygen in a manner similar to plants.
- D. help grow essential bacteria.
82. What is the writer's main purpose in the passage?
- A. To explain why we need to terraform Mars.
- B. To illustrate the three processes required to terraform a planet like Mars.

- C. To consider how and why Mars might be terraformed.
D. To demonstrate how straightforward it would be to terraform a planet.

Your answers:

79.	80.	81.	82.
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For questions 83-87, complete the summary using a word A-I from the box. Write the letter A-I in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

One method of terraforming Mars would be to 83. _____ asteroids at the planet. Rockets attached to an enormous asteroid would propel it towards Mars, taking ten years to 84. _____ the enormous distances required. The asteroid would 85. _____ the planet with incredible force and 86. _____ enough energy to 87. _____ the planet's temperature. The result would be a temperate climate and lots of water from melting ice caps.

A. cover	B. create	C. hit	D. increase	E. land
F. drive	G. power	H. rise	I. shoot	

Your answers:

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

Boring buildings

There could be more than an economic or nostalgic price to impersonal retail and high-rise construction; boring architecture may take an emotional toll on the people forced to live with it.

A A growing body of research in cognitive science illuminates the physical and mental toll bland cityscapes take on residents. Generally, these researchers argue that humans are healthier when they live surrounded by variety or work in well- designed, unique spaces, rather than unattractive, generic ones. Urban policy professor Justin Hollander and architect Ann Sussman review scientific data to help architects and urban planners understand how, exactly, people respond to their built surroundings, particularly at work. People, they argue, function best in intricate settings, not 'big, blank, boxy offices'.

B Indeed, that's what Colin Ellard, a neuroscientist at the University of Waterloo in Canada, has found in his work. Five years ago, Ellard became interested in a certain building - the gigantic Whole Foods Market 'plopped into' a notoriously textured part of lower Manhattan in New York. Ellard partnered with the Guggenheim Museum to analyze what happens when someone walks out of a tiny neighborhood restaurant and encounters a full city block with nothing but 'the long, blank facade of the Whole Foods Market' building.

In 2011, Ellard led small groups on Lower East Side walks to measure the effect of the urban environment on them. Participants recorded their response to questions at each stopping point and wore sensors that measured skin conductance, a response to emotional excitement. Passing the monolithic Whole Foods Market, people's state of arousal plummeted. Physiologically, Ellard explained, they were bored. To describe this place, they used words like 'bland' and 'passionless'. In contrast, one block east at the other test site - a 'lively sea of restaurants with lots of open doors and windows' - people measured high levels of excitement, and they listed words like 'lively', and 'socializing'. Ellard explains that the main objective of urban design should be to produce some kind of novelty or change every few seconds; otherwise, we become cognitively disengaged.

C The trick, it seems, is to design a world that excites but doesn't overload our faculties with a constant barrage of information. We are, as animals, programmed to respond to thrill,' said professor Brendan Walker. In Walker's 'thrill laboratory' at the University of Nottingham in the UK, devices measure heart rate and skin conductance to see how people respond to adrenaline-producing experiences such as a roller-coaster ride. A thrilling encounter moves us quickly from a state of equilibrium to a desirable 'disorientation'. 'Humans want a certain element of turmoil or confusion,' he said. 'Complexity is thrilling whether in an amusement park or architecture.'

D Psychologists have found that awe-inspiring moments can potentially improve our well-being. One study conducted by Melanie Rudd, Kathleen Vohs and Jennifer Aaker of Stanford University in the US showed that the feeling of 'awe' can make people more patient and less materialistic. In an experiment, the researchers showed students 60-second clips of waterfalls, whales, or astronauts in space. After only a minute of virtual images, those who said they were awed also felt less pressed for time. And in another variation, people made hypothetical choices between physical and experiential goods of equal monetary value. Those who had just 'felt awe' were more likely to choose an experience over a possession, a choice that is linked with greater satisfaction in the long run. In other words, a visual buzz - whether architectural or natural - might have the ability to change our frame of mind, making modern-day life more satisfying and interactive.

E It's important to note, however, that architectural boredom isn't about how pristine a street is. People often confuse successful architecture with whether an area looks pleasant. On the contrary, when it comes to city buildings, people often focus too narrowly on aesthetics, said Charles Montgomery, author of *Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design*. Some of the happiest blocks in New York City, he argues, are 'kind of ugly and messy'.

In 2014, Montgomery's Happy City lab conducted an experiment in which he found a strong correlation between messier blocks and pro-social behavior. Montgomery sent researchers, posing as lost tourists, to places he coded as either 'active' or 'inactive' facades. He concluded that the former had a high level of interest, that is they were messy, while the latter had no special features such as long warehouse blocks. Pedestrians at active sites were nearly five times more likely to offer assistance than at inactive ones. Of those who assisted, seven times as many at the active site offered use of their phone.

Fortunately, it's not necessarily a dichotomy - new architecture can achieve the optimal level of cacophony and beauty. Take the 2006 Hearst Tower in midtown Manhattan. Designed by architect Norman Foster, Hearst Tower is a glass-and-steel skyscraper, 40 stories of which are designed in a triangular pattern, differing in style from the 1920s Art Deco base. From the outside, the facade jolts city dwellers from their daily commutes, while energizing employees who enter it each morning. For many who walk by, Hearst Tower's design may not be the easiest to understand; it's both sleek and old. The top looks like it traveled from the future. Inside, workers travel upon diagonal escalators, up a three-story water sculpture, through the tower's historic atrium, flooded with light. Few New Yorkers who pass by would find this building boring. And they're likely to be happier - maybe even nicer to each other - because of it.

For questions 88-92, choose from the sections (A-F). The sections may be selected more than once. Write the letter A-F in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- 88. a description of a building that has a positive effect
- 89. a reference to architecture affecting people's performance in their jobs
- 90. examples of the intensity of people's reactions in two urban settings
- 91. details of a study where seeing certain pictures reduced people's stress
- 92. claims about feelings experienced in response to both architecture and leisure settings

Your answers:

88.	89.	90.	91.	92.
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For questions 93-97, choose from the list A-D. Match each statement with the correct researcher. Write the letter A, B, C or D in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

You may use any letter more than once.

- 93. The aim of good city planning is to provide variety in architecture.
- 94. People in untidy areas were way more helpful.
- 95. People who had recently felt amazed, placed less importance on material goods.
- 96. 'Attractive' places are not necessarily the most enjoyable places to be.
- 97. One particular building failed to provide visual stimulation.

List of Researchers

A Colin Ellard

B Brendan Walker

C Rudd, Vohs and Aakar

D Charles Montgomery

Your answers:

93.	94.	95.	96.	97.
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For question 98-100, complete the summary below. Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided

Hearst Tower

Norman Foster's Hearst Tower was built in 2008. The 40-storey modern triangular-patterned building is made of glass and steel contrasting with the base which is in the style of the 1920s. The sight of the building's **98.**_____ has a striking impact on commuters and employees. Some passers-by may find the building's design confusing, as it mixes old and new elements. Inside the tower **99.**_____ carry employees up past a large water sculpture in the light-filled **100.**_____.

Your answers:

98.	99.	100.
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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.*

Malnutrition and children's learning

The impact of malnutrition on children's learning is not simply that they are tired and unable to concentrate in class because they have not eaten enough on a given day. Malnutrition in the first 1,000 days – from the start of a woman's pregnancy until her child's second birthday – has a devastating impact on children's future potential. It restricts their cognitive development, means they are more likely to be sick and miss out on school, and reduces their ability to learn.

101

The impact is not just on academic achievement. Malnutrition is associated with children having lower self-esteem, self-confidence and career aspirations. Malnourished children not

only face direct damage to their bodies and minds, but are less confident to learn and aspire to change the situation they were born into.

102

Children who are malnourished go on to earn 20% less as adults than the children who are well nourished.⁸ But there is some evidence that the difference could be even larger – one study has estimated this earning deficit for malnourished children at 66%.

103

This report presents new estimates of malnutrition's effect on GDP. By extrapolating a 20% reduction in earnings to a global level, this report shows that today's malnutrition could cost the global economy as much as \$125 billion when today's children reach working age in 2030.

104

The IMF has predicted that seven of the ten fastestgrowing economies in the next five years will be in Africa.¹² Meanwhile, economists have identified the 'Next 11' countries – those that have the potential for stellar economic growth in the next decade. A common theme in each of these countries is the potential provided by their demographic structures.

105

But if we fail to make that investment the consequences could be catastrophic. Not only would that leave a future public health disaster – with a huge burden placed on health systems by a generation of people left more susceptible to disease by malnutrition – but also an economic crisis. If countries are not able to take advantage of the opportunities presented by demographic changes, then in 50–60 years' time they will be left with a large cohort of elderly dependents without having generated the resources to care for them.

(Adapted from Save the Children, 2013)

Missing paragraphs:

A. This in turn means that malnutrition can act as a big barrier to economic growth. Estimates suggest that in low- and middle-income countries, the impact of malnutrition could decrease GDP by between 2% and 11%. This is partly a result of its impacts on educational development – as well as on physical productivity and health.

B. Beyond these biological and economic factors, the role of school-based feeding programs cannot be overlooked. Providing a nutritious meal during the school day has been shown to improve short-term concentration and attendance rates. Many local governments have therefore prioritized "lunch-box" initiatives to ensure that children have the immediate energy required to engage with the daily curriculum effectively.

C. This 1,000-day window is a critical time for structural brain development. Good maternal nutrition is essential: pregnant or breastfeeding mothers who can't access the right nutrients

are more likely to have children with compromised brain development and who suffer from poor cognitive performance. And once the child is born, nutrition continues to play a key role in ensuring the brain develops properly. But the effects of malnutrition on a child's cognitive development and education go beyond the biology of the brain. A child's nutritional status can impact on the experiences and stimulation that children receive. Parents sometimes treat a malnourished boy or girl differently because they are small, and this child is also more likely to miss school and key learning opportunities due to illness.

D. But to capitalise on the demographic dividend, developing countries must invest now in the health and skills of their future workforce. Investments made now in proven nutrition interventions could increase opportunities for millions of children to become more healthy and productive members of society. The next generation of children in developing countries could fuel improved innovation, prosperity and job creation.

E. In addition to individual health, global food price volatility remains a significant challenge for developing nations. When the cost of basic staples rises, families are often forced to switch to cheaper, less nutritious calorie sources. This environmental factor creates a cycle of food insecurity that international aid agencies struggle to break, despite increased funding for agricultural technology.

F. Investments in the potential of future generations are more important than ever before. With mortality rates falling rapidly but fertility rates declining at a lower rate, developing countries will experience an increase in the size of their working-age population in the next few decades. Many countries will have two people of working age for every dependent. This presents them with a critical window of opportunity to boost economic development, known as the 'demographic dividend'.

G. In the longer term, malnutrition can have a big impact on earnings when children reach adulthood. The effects of malnutrition on physical stature, the ability to do physical work, and on cognitive development, can lock children into poverty and entrench inequalities.

Your answers:

101.	102.	103.	104.	105.
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III. WRITING (5.0 points)

Part 1. *The charts below show the transition in Vietnam's energy sector and its environmental impact between 2018 and 2023.*

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

Table 1: Share of Electricity Generation by Source in Vietnam

Energy Source	2018	2020	2022	2023
Coal	48%	50%	39%	46%
Hydropower	37%	30%	35%	29%
Solar & Wind	< 1%	9%	14%	16%
Other	14%	11%	12%	9%

Table 2: Total CO2 Emissions from the Power Sector and GDP Growth

(Unit: Million tonnes for CO2; Annual % for GDP)

Year	CO2 Emissions (MtCO2)	GDP Growth Rate (%)
2018	125	+ 7.08
2019	148	+ 7.02
2020	142	+ 2.91
2021	139	+ 2.58
2022	132	+ 8.02
2023	145	+ 5.05

*(Adapted from Ember's Yearly Electricity Data (2024),
IEA World Energy Outlook, and Vietnam General Statistics Office)*

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

"Self-care" is commonly used to describe the practice of protecting one's own well-being and happiness, particularly during periods of high stress.

Some argue that prioritizing self-care is a vital necessity for young people to maintain mental health and prevent burnout. Many others maintain that the term is frequently misused as an excuse to avoid challenges and hard work, leading to a lack of resilience in the modern world.

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

Họ và tên người ra đề:

1. Đỗ Nguyễn Tường Linh – 0763155625

2. Nguyễn Phước Hào – 0905540418