

SECTION I. LISTENING (5.0 points)

PART 1. Listen to a conversation ONCE and do the tasks that follow.

Adapted from Practice Tests CPE 2 Express Publishing – Test 4, Part 4

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.

- Asperger's syndrome is shaped more by upbringing than by innate factors.
- Asperger's tends to present primarily as difficulty with social integration.
- Schools have increasingly prioritised interventions for autism.
- In the workplace, individuals with Asperger's may be compromised by a focus on detail.
- Individuals with Asperger's often feel at ease through rational thinking.

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 Simon
L for Liz
or **B** for Both

- Asperger's often comes across as more intricate than classic autism.
- People with Asperger's tend to have a harder time fitting in socially.
- Those on the autism spectrum don't necessarily need to fall in line with social norms.
- Individuals with autism may not slot neatly into every workplace setting.
- Many people with Asperger's naturally gravitate toward structured, methodical work.

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

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

Adapted from How are Ghana's batmen hunting for pandemic clues? – BBC News

For questions 11 – 12, choose TWO letters from A – E to indicate TWO true statements about studies into bats. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Choose **TWO** letters, A–E.

Which **TWO** reasons explain why bats are being studied more closely in recent years?

- They are implicated in cross-species infection reaching human populations.
- They have been regarded as a key factor in the emergence of COVID-19.
- They are capable of harbouring a wide range of pathogens asymptomatic.
- During gestation, they exhibit resistance to antimicrobial agents.
- They can be readily secured and handled under controlled conditions.

For questions 13 – 15, choose THREE letters from A – G to indicate THREE true statements about human relationships with bats. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Choose **THREE** letters, A–G.

What **THREE** statements are true regarding relationships between human and bats?

- Human development has destabilized bats' natural living environments.
- Bats are excessively sourced as a form of bushmeat.
- Human activity interferes with bats' behavioral patterns.
- The capture of bats for consumption has recently been prohibited.
- Bats hold a notable place within longstanding cultural practices.
- The trade in bat meat has been transmitted across generations.
- Encounters between humans and bats are becoming increasingly common.

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

- What is the main objective of the Ghana-based study?
 - exploring bat-human contact patterns
 - analysing pathogens and drug resistance in bats
 - assessing environmental disease on bat populations
 - examining bats' multiplication within a set gene pool
- Why are bushmeat markets seen as critical points?
 - They sustain traditional practices
 - They intensify human-animal proximity
 - They expand informal economies
 - They attract scientific attention
- What characterises the bushmeat trade?
 - cultural continuity with economic reliance
 - rapid post-pandemic expansion
 - increasing institutional control
 - gradual social and cultural recognition
- What is implied about current bat research?

- A. Bats are inherently at risk
C. It favors studies of certain pathogenic strands
20. How do researchers approach bushmeat practices?
A. They call for immediate prohibition
C. They promote economic alternatives
- B. It is expanding rapidly worldwide
D. It requires high-safety conditions
- B. They stress contextual understanding
D. They treat it as the main outbreak cause

16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
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PART 3. For questions 21 – 25, listen to part of a talk about the world's largest machines 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.

Adapted from What does the world's largest machine do? - Henry Richardson (Ted-Ed)

- What key elements make up a power grid system?
- What mechanisms enable energy sources to be utilized effectively?
- What prompts Kansas's wind energy being discarded?
- How are wind and solar energy typically described as demerit?
- What emerging innovation could improve the efficiency of electricity usage?

21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
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PART 4. For questions 26 – 35, listen to part of a talk about physics TWICE, and complete the following summary with no more than ONE word and/or A number taken from the recording for each space. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Adapted from Don't fall into the determinism trap. Everything is, in fact, random | Lee Cronin (Big Think)

- From the Big Bang, the cosmos unfolds, giving rise to matter, stars, galaxies, planets, and, ultimately, life.
- Random processes may be harnessed by selection, and the cosmos functions on 26. _____, as shown by 27. _____.
- Objects in the cosmos bubble up from 28. _____, a random field whose evolution is driven by duplication _____ and selection.
- Evolution happens when copies survive by tapping into 29. _____ given by the universe's intrinsic unpredictability. The only reason the cosmos looks even vaguely settled is down to 30. _____ is because of the evolution it has experienced.
- The emergence of what seems to be random is just the system ironing itself out through 31. _____; on the other hand, random events are completely unrelated to and unaffected by 32. _____.
- Like tossing a 33. _____ that progressively favors 34. _____ as time goes on, the more something is decided, the less random it becomes.
- Results are uniformly distributed in a random system, showing that randomization is easier than anticipated; molecules fizzle out or suddenly take off.
- Simple molecules may expand and adapt thanks to replication, which is the cornerstone to 35. complexity.

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

SECTION 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.

Memory and imagination are two of the most central features of human cognition – (36) _____. Yet they are not simply stored or replayed as static records. Events and experiences are not preserved as fixed objects in the mind. They are dynamic, reconstructed, or often reshaped. This is not the case with mechanical recording systems. Human memory and imagination are perceived, interpreted, and reassembled as meaningful narratives – and this holds true across cultures and historical periods. It is just (37) _____.

Memory and imagination are not processed first as neutral data and then later given meaning. (38) _____, and only afterwards do we become aware of them as structured recollections. However, this does not align with how cognition actually works, despite our intuitive assumptions. The act of remembering, for instance, often occurs alongside interpretation, rather than after it. We recall not only what happened but also what it signifies (39) _____. Similarly, imagination does not simply generate images; it constructs scenarios infused with intention and expectation. This is especially evident when individuals anticipate future events, as they project meaning onto possibilities. (40) _____ what cognitive scientists have termed “predictive processing,” through which the brain continuously generates and updates models of the world.

- A. two faculties rooted in the structure of cognition itself
C. two ways of dividing the core processes of cognition

B. two of the most basic divisions of cognition itself
D. two times as much as the basic elements of cognition
- A. that modern individuals tend to overlook
C. that it is unnoticed in modern contexts

B. what is rarely acknowledged by individuals
D. whatever comes into modern awareness
- A. We would only process them as data if cognition were entirely objective
B. That would only be the case if we processed information without interpretation
C. Our cognition would treat them as neutral inputs in each instance
D. Only when we process them neutrally can cognition be objective
- A. as quickly as we register the events themselves
C. just as fast as or faster than we recall the events

B. faster than our recognition of the events themselves
D. the fastest possible in our recognition of the events

40. A. This mechanism, as it is described by cognitive scientists
 B. In view of the mechanism of what cognitive scientists describe
 C. Mechanistically, due to what cognitive scientists have described
 D. This is because of the mechanism that cognitive scientists have described

YOUR ANSWER

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.

I walked into that café thinking it was just another low-key spot to sit down and maybe get some work done, but the whole place was aggressively 41. _____ in a way that felt almost intentional, like they were trying to distract you from how average everything else was. The walls were screaming neon, the playlists were jumping genres every five minutes, and the staff—nice enough, but clearly trained to 42. _____ some kind of forced enthusiasm—kept circling tables like they were in a soft-sales competition. It wasn't bad, exactly, but it had that curated chaos vibe that makes you question whether you're supposed to enjoy it or just tolerate it.

Then this whole situation unfolded near the counter, and suddenly everyone was watching like it was some live drama. One guy, already 43. _____ about a missing order, was going on and on, mixing up details, exaggerating timelines, making it sound like a full-blown injustice rather than a simple mix-up. And before anyone could properly step in, another customer tried to 44. _____ the attention of the manager by jumping in mid-argument, which only made things messier. It turned into this layered misunderstanding where nobody was entirely wrong, but nobody was actually listening either.

What made it worse was how the staff handled it—one of them clearly 45. _____ when asked directly about the mistake, not outright lying but bending the narrative just enough to avoid taking responsibility. You could tell they were trying to smooth things over, but it had the opposite effect; people notice that kind of hesitation. In the end, everything got resolved in a technical sense, but the mood didn't recover. It just lingered there, slightly off, like everyone had collectively agreed not to push it further but also not to forget it.

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|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. A. flashy | B. gaudy | C. jazzy | D. ritzy |
| 2. A. hone in on | B. iron out | C. ward off | D. drum up |
| 3. A. in the ascendant | B. in full cry | C. on the march | D. beyond reproach |
| 4. A. plunder | B. haul | C. snatch | D. loot |
| 5. A. vituperated | B. prevaricated | C. abvolated | D. incarcerated |

YOUR ANSWER

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

- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|---------|--------|
| • HAIR | • ARTICLE | • COMMAND | • ELECT | • GENE |
| • ARGUE | • CHEEK | • CONDITION | • FACT | • VOTE |

In recent surveys, researchers note the 46. _____ of public expectations about digital services, which makes simple summaries difficult. A minor policy note triggered a wrongful apprehension online when a journalist added a 47. _____ remark that some readers mistook as official guidance. During a local 48. _____, candidates avoided 49. _____ the city council's plans, choosing instead to explain how administrative disconnection affects smaller civic groups. Analysts studying bureaucratic disarticulation point out that service gaps become obvious only when residents queue outside buildings lacking well-ventilated waiting areas. When a student group introduced a rebuttal about the funding model, officials responded in a 50. _____ tone, emphasising that the proposal was still under review and that community feedback, even when critical, helps clarify practical constraints in modern governance.

46.	47.	48.	49.	50.
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PART 4. The passage below contains FIVE grammatical mistakes. For questions 51 – 55, UNDERLINE the mistakes and WRITE THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the numbered boxes provided. The first one has been done as an example.

I caught up with a colleague the other day, and she was telling me about a project she recently took on that, frankly, sounded far more complicated than it should have been. Walking into the situation, she was not clear regarding the expectations, and there were less people involved than she had anticipated, which only made things worse. What struck me most was how she described her team: they enjoy data analysis, brainstorming solutions, and implementing strategies on the fly, which, in practice, should have worked. A number of issues were raised during the first week alone, but no one seemed willing to address them directly. She mentioned the budget constraints only briefly, but it was obvious they were central to the whole problem. Rarely she had encountered such resistance from management, especially from someone who works like a department head but refuses to take responsibility as one. Being that the deadlines were unrealistic, the whole plan began to unravel quite quickly. And honestly, if I were her, I would have pushed back much earlier rather than trying to fix everything myself.

<i>caught up → was catching up</i>	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.
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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..

Laziness is often treated as a personal flaw, but in 56. _____ cases it is a misreading of deeper mechanisms. What people label as "57. _____ lazy" is frequently a response to cognitive overload, unclear goals, or poorly structured environments. When a task 58. _____ a defined endpoint or immediate feedback, the brain struggles to allocate effort efficiently, so it defaults 59. _____ low – cost activities. This is not a moral failure; it is an efficiency calculation.

Another overlooked aspect is that avoidance can signal misalignment 60. _____ than weakness. If someone consistently postpones a task, it may indicate that the task does not match their skills, values, or current mental state. For example, repetitive or ambiguous work tends to produce more avoidance than structured, meaningful tasks. In that sense, "laziness" can function as a diagnostic tool, pointing to design flaws in how work is assigned 61. or approached.

There is also a physiological dimension. Chronic fatigue, poor sleep, and even mild nutritional deficits reduce executive function, making sustained effort feel disproportionately difficult. What 62. _____ to be indifference is often reduced capacity. This explains why people can be highly disciplined in one context and seemingly inactive in 63. _____.

Finally, a moderate degree of inactivity can be adaptive. Periods of reduced effort 64. _____ for mental consolidation and problem incubation. Many solutions emerge not during intense work, but during disengagement. The problem is not laziness 65. _____, but the inability to distinguish between restorative pause and persistent avoidance.

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

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

- A. In many households, it has gradually become almost second nature for individuals to download entire music albums from unofficial sources, as they lean toward what is quick and free, often brushing aside legal concerns and treating the act as a harmless shortcut rather than a serious issue.
- B. As a result, users increasingly rely on unstable streaming sites that are filled with pop-up ads and poor-quality playback, yet they still put up with these drawbacks because the content remains accessible at no cost.
- C. As this behaviour becomes more normalised, a similar pattern emerges in the way some users begin to hold onto large collections of cracked software, relying on these versions to get around subscription fees that they consider unnecessarily high.
- D. At the same time, the widespread availability of step-by-step online guides that explain how to bypass paywalls makes it even easier for users, including those with minimal technical knowledge, to access restricted material without much effort.
- E. Before long, this tendency extends into online interactions, where links to pirated films are quietly passed around within small, private groups, with participants making an effort to keep things low-profile and avoid drawing attention.
- F. In response to this growing demand, piracy websites continue to resurface under new identities, switching domains and shifting servers whenever they are taken down, thereby maintaining their presence despite ongoing attempts at regulation.
- G. Over time, these repeated practices contribute to a broader shift in mindset, in which paying for digital entertainment gradually loses its appeal, as free access through unofficial channels starts to feel like the more practical option.
- H. Ultimately, the practice extends beyond the online environment, as pirated content continues to circulate through informal means, with individuals passing around USB drives or sharing files directly, thereby sustaining the cycle in everyday settings.

A	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.
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PART 3. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow.

THE TREASURE OF PRIAM AND THE MASK OF AGAMEMNON

A

There is a long tradition of amateurs in the field of archaeology who are often as fanatical as the professional: breaking into the tombs of the pharaohs; letting light into a darkness over 4,000 years old; trekking through jungle and swamp for weeks on end to follow up rumours of cities lost and reclaimed by nature; deciphering the hieroglyphic intricacies of forgotten languages belonging to citizens and civilisations long – buried. Heinrich Schliemann was one of these and, like many of them, was driven by an obsession that was to rule his life. Schliemann had read and reread the stories of Homer, The Iliad and The Odyssey, while he was working in his business in Germany. The story of the ten – year Trojan War, fought over the divine beauty of Helen ('the face that launched a thousand ships') and the homesick wanderings and adventures of Odysseus and his men, who had to use all their wits and courage to stay alive, filled his head with a magical vision. He began to form an idea, one that experts scoffed at as pure fantasy.

B

Schliemann asserted that the places, events and people described in the epic tales were more than just myths and legends. He was sure that they had some original basis in fact, no matter how much elaboration and distortion had been laid on top afterwards. His dream was to unearth the legendary city of Troy, home to King Priam and his son, Paris, abductor of the incomparable Helen. The success of his business allowed Schliemann to retire early and pursue his dream, and the year 1870 found him in Hissarlik, Asia Minor (present – day Turkey), excavating a 'tell'. This was a huge mound, much like a hill, created over millennia by the successive building and razing of mud brick houses, and reaching up to 100 feet in height. He began to strike different layers denoting separate cities, going back hundreds of years each time. In 1873, he hit the ninth layer, which contained a considerable hoard of treasure. This he claimed to have belonged to Priam, and he was sure he had reached his goal; he was certain he was looking at the remains of Troy.

C

Schliemann excavated several other sites related to this time in Greek history, the most famous being a shaft grave at Mycenae, on the Argos plain in Greece. This was the site of the citadel which supposedly belonged to Agamemnon, King of Argos and commander of the Greek force during the Trojan War. In 1876, Schliemann entered a grave containing a number of bodies, jewellery, drinking vessels and weapons. Five of the corpses wore death masks made of beaten gold; removing one (resembling a bearded man) Schliemann glimpsed the face for a second before it crumbled to dust. In an excited conversation, Schliemann uttered his famous words, 'I have gazed upon the face of Agamemnon!' Later investigations into his two significant finds told a rather different story. In all probability, the treasure found at Troy was not Priam's (it is now believed that Priam's Troy formed the seventh layer Schliemann went through), and the gold death mask was dated some hundreds of years before the reign of Agamemnon.

D

Schliemann was attacked by critics, who said that this style of excavation was more like a child's at the seaside than that of a serious scholar. In his overenthusiasm and haste he had done irreparable damage, tearing his way down through layers of history to satisfy his thirst for the glory of a big discovery. It cannot be denied that Schliemann's methods left a lot to be desired and were more akin to the grave robbing of the Egyptian pyramids than the painstaking brush – and – trowel work of modern archaeology. It should be noted, however, that the critics that condemned his methods had also ridiculed his theory in the first place, leaving him with little choice but to try things his own way. His establishing the connection between myth and reality has proved extremely important in the fields of archaeology and social anthropology, among others. He also achieved something that perhaps few people do in their lifetime; he fulfilled his dream, and found the site of the famed Troy, ancient city of legend and history.

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.

In which section are the following mentioned?

- 73. the conviction that despite embellishment, a legend was based on factual events
- 74. Schliemann's uncovering an object causing irreparable damage
- 75. embarking on an expedition to find a lost civilisation, based on hearsay
- 76. contemporaries condemning Schliemann's methodology
- 77. financial security enabling an amateur to fulfil his dreams
- 78. Schliemann's assertions subsequently being proved incorrect
- 79. the rejection of Schliemann's theories resulting in unorthodox techniques

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.

- 80. Those outside formal archaeological training are often presumed to demonstrate less commitment than professionals.
- 81. Non-professional archaeological work can involve both physical endurance and demanding intellectual effort.
- 82. Schliemann's sustained engagement with The Iliad and The Odyssey appears to have shaped his belief in a historical basis for myth.
- 83. When first proposed, Schliemann's theory was largely viewed as a credible interpretation of the past.
- 84. Schliemann argued that mythological narratives, despite alteration, retain an underlying factual basis.
- 85. Later research confirmed Schliemann's identification of both the correct Troy layer and the ownership of the artefacts.
- 86. Critics linked significant damage to Schliemann's preference for speed over careful excavation.
- 87. Despite its limitations, Schliemann's work influenced scholarly views on the relationship between myth and history.

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

SUPER HUMANS

Sit down with an anthropologist to talk about the nature of humans, and you are likely to hear this pearl of wisdom: "Well, you have to remember that 99 percent of human history was spent on the open savanna in small bands of hunter-gatherers." It's a classic scientific cliché, and it's true. Indeed, those millions of ancestral years produced many of our hallmark traits - upright walking and big brains, for instance. Of course, those useful evolutionary innovations come at a price: aching backs from our bipedal stance and existential despair from our large, self- contemplative cerebral cortex.

Compounding the challenges of those trade-offs, the world we have invented is dramatically different from the one to which our bodies and minds are adapted. Have your dinner delivered to you instead of chasing it down on foot; log in to Facebook to interact with your nearest and dearest instead of spending most of the day with them. But this is where the utility of the anthropologist's cliché for explaining the human condition ends.

The reason for this mismatch between the setting we evolved to live in and the situations we encounter in our modern era derives from another defining characteristic of our kind, arguably the most important one: our impulse to push beyond the limitations evolution imposed on us by developing tools to make us faster, smarter and longer-lived. Science is one such tool - an invention that requires us to break out of our Stone Age seeing-is-believing mindset so that we can clearly see the next hurdle we have to overcome, be it a pandemic flu or climate change. You could call it the ultimate expression of humanity's singular drive to aspire to be better than we are. To understand how natural selection moulded us into the unique primates we have become, let us return to the ancestral savanna. There the sun was hotter and nutritious plant foods were scarcer. In response, our predecessors lost their hair and their molars dwindled as they abandoned a tough vegetarian diet for one focused in part on meat from grassland grazers. Meanwhile, the selective demands of food scarcities sculpted our distant forebears into having a body that was extremely thrifty and good at storing calories. Now, having inherited that same metabolism, we hunt and gather burgers as diabetes becomes a worldwide scourge. Or consider how our immune systems evolved in a world where one hardly ever encountered someone carrying a novel pathogen. Today, if you sneeze near someone in an airport, your rhinovirus could be set free 12 time zones away by the next day.

As regards behavior, our abilities abound. We can follow extraordinarily complex scenarios of social interaction and figure out if a social contract has been violated. And we are peerless when it comes to facial recognition: we even have an area of the cortex in the fusiform gyrus that specializes in this activity.

The selective advantages of evolving a highly social brain are obvious. It paved the way for us to finetune our capabilities for reading one another's mental states, to excel at social manipulation and to deceive and attract mates and supporters. Among Americans, the extent of social intelligence in youth is a better predictor of adult success in the occupational world than are academic scores. Indeed, when it comes to social intelligence in primates, humans reign supreme. The social brain hypothesis of primate evolution is built on the fact that across primate species the percentage of the brain devoted to the neocortex correlates with the average size of the social group of that species. This correlation is more dramatic in humans than in any other primate species.

[A] The fact that we have created this world proves a point - namely, that it is in our nature to be unconstrained by our nature. [B] Science is one of the strangest, newest domains where we challenge our hominid limits. It also tests our sense of what is the norm, what counts as better than well and it challenges our sense of who we are. [C] Thanks to science, human life expectancy keeps extending, our average height increases, our intelligence test scores improve and we eventually break every world record. [D] But when it comes to humans becoming, on average, smarter, taller and better at athletics, there is a problem: Who cares about the average? As individuals, we want to be better than other individuals. Our brain is invidious, comparative and more interested in contrasts, a state that begins with sensory systems that do not normally tell us about the quality of a stimulus but instead about the quality relative to the stimuli around it.

Building on this comparative tendency, perceptual systems are organised to encode contrast rather than absolute magnitude. In vision, for instance, luminance and colour are registered relative to surrounding stimuli, which is why identical shades appear different depending on context. The same principle extends beyond sensation into evaluation: judgments of income, status or attractiveness are anchored not to fixed standards but to local reference groups. Psychophysics formalised this relationship in laws describing proportional rather than absolute change detection, and behavioural research has shown that shifting comparison sets can systematically alter satisfaction, risk preference and decision thresholds. In modern environments saturated with information, these relative coding mechanisms are continuously engaged, recalibrating expectations as baselines drift.

Neurobiologically, these processes recruit distributed circuits linking sensory cortices with valuation systems in the prefrontal cortex and striatum. Dopaminergic pathways encode prediction errors—deviations between expected and received outcomes—thereby updating future expectations and reinforcing behaviours that yield comparatively better results. The same circuitry underlies reward learning in domains as diverse as food acquisition, social approval and monetary gain. Importantly, these systems are sensitive to variance within the environment; greater inequality in observed outcomes amplifies comparative processing, which in turn can heighten motivation or, conversely, dissatisfaction. Hormonal modulators such as cortisol and testosterone further interact with these neural systems, influencing responses to competition, hierarchy and social threat.

Culturally, institutions have evolved that both harness and intensify comparative cognition. Educational grading, performance metrics, league tables and social media feedback systems all operationalise relative evaluation. Digital platforms, in particular, provide continuous, quantifiable indicators of social standing—followers, likes, shares—creating high-frequency comparison loops. Cross-cultural studies indicate that while the underlying cognitive architecture is species-typical, its expression varies with norms: collectivist contexts may emphasise relational standing within groups, whereas individualist contexts foreground personal ranking. Developmentally, sensitivity to comparison emerges early, with children adjusting effort and preferences in response to peer performance, and persists across the lifespan.

At a population level, the interaction between ancient comparative mechanisms and modern abundance produces characteristic outcomes. Public health patterns reflect a metabolism tuned for scarcity operating in caloric surplus, while psychosocial outcomes reflect comparison-intensive environments where reference points are unstable. Epidemiological data link relative deprivation—position within a distribution rather than absolute resources—to health indicators, including stress-related morbidity. At the same time, technological and scientific advances continue to shift absolute baselines in longevity, cognition and physical performance. The resulting condition is one in which absolute improvements coexist with persistent comparative pressures, as adaptive systems designed for small-group variability are applied to large, interconnected societies with rapidly changing standards.

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. According to the writer, the anthropological cliché to explain the nature of mankind
 A. needs some slight modifications. B. requires little analysis.
 C. should be considered paradoxical. D. is limited in scope.
89. Humankind will only be able to use science to progress if
 A. Ethical considerations are ignored. B. we discard an outdated approach to acquiring knowledge.
 C. our drive to eliminate barriers continues. D. the philosophy we adopt can be widely understood.
90. Our ancient ancestors lived in a world where
 A. the necessity to hunt for food led to good health. B. it was vitally important to have a balanced diet.
 C. isolation allowed them to develop immunity from disease. D. their restricted movement protected them from illness.
91. Having a highly social brain
 A. allows us to create groups with more members. B. prevents us from being misunderstood.
 C. causes us to be more devious. D. helps us to read other people's minds.
92. The way we tend to think
 A. forces us to overlook our shortcomings. B. has enhanced our understanding of sense perception.
 C. distorts our perception of the notion of average. D. makes us less likely to be concerned with absolutes.
93. Which of the following square brackets [A], [B], [C], or [D] best indicates where in the paragraph the sentence **"We are no strangers to going out of bounds."** can be inserted?
 A. [A] B. [B] C. [C] D. [D]
94. It can be inferred from the passage that
 A. there are no limits to human capabilities. B. we will be able to adapt to harsh environments.
 C. humankind's evolutionary path will not be smooth. D. our knowledge of the past is crucial to our future.

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.

Human cognition tends to evaluate experiences through comparison rather than fixed standards, giving priority to differences across contexts instead of 95. _____ measures. These evaluations extend beyond perception into decision-making and 96. _____, and are continually shaped by feedback systems embedded in technology and social environments, amplified by 97. _____, social metrics, and institutional structures.

Across societies, this shared mental framework guides behavior as individuals align themselves with prevailing expectations. In increasingly 98. _____ settings, where information and benchmarks are constantly shifting, improvements in living conditions often 99. _____ persistent psychological strain, including feelings associated with 100. _____.

95. absolute	96. valuation	97. digital platforms	98. modern	99. coexist with	100. relative deprivation
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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.

Adapted from Fowler Reading Proficiency

SUSPECT HELD OVER MURDER OF FOSSEY

The mystery surrounding the brutal murder of Dian Fossey, the world – renowned American naturalist who worked with rare and endangered mountain gorillas, may finally be solved more than 15 years after she was hacked to death in the African rainforest. The FBI will apply this week to interview a man the Belgian police have detained in connection with the 1994 Rwandan genocide. He is also suspected of being the mastermind behind Fossey's death.

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An intruder had broken into her two – room corrugated shack and her skull had been split open by blows with a machete. Her last diary entry read: 'When you realise the value of all life, you dwell less on what is past and concentrate on the preservation of the future.' The Rwandan authorities quickly arrested an employee of the camp, who apparently committed suicide in prison.

102. _____

Those who knew him found the case against him preposterous. They were convinced the Rwandans were looking for a western scapegoat for a murder they had themselves ordered because Fossey had become an irritation to them. The investigation had been conducted amateurishly and diplomats believed the Rwandan tracker said to have hanged himself in his cell had been killed to keep him from talking.

103. _____

The finger of suspicion among diplomats pointed almost from the start at Protais Zigiranyirazo. But because his sister was married to the then president, Juvenal Habyarimana, he was virtually above the law.

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For years the FBI found this prime suspect untouchable. All this changed last Thursday when Zigiranyirazo was arrested in Belgium. He will appear in a Brussels court tomorrow on an extradition warrant from the international war crimes tribunal for Rwanda, which was set up to punish the perpetrators of the genocide.

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At the time of Fossey's death, he was the powerful governor of the province in north – west Rwanda where she had been working for 18 years to study and save the mountain gorillas. He was a member of the Akazu, the president's inner circle. When the president was assassinated in 1994 it was the Akazu that unleashed the slaughter. In three months, about 800,000 people, mostly from the Tutsi minority of Rwanda, were murdered on its orders.

Missing paragraphs

- A Fossey's work in Rwanda was portrayed by Sigourney Weaver in the film *Gorillas in the Mist* while in the country today Zigiranyirazo is near the top of the wanted list for the actions of his death squads during the genocide.
- B The most obvious suspects were local poachers and smugglers but the plot to kill Fossey was almost certainly planned at a high level, as diplomats indicated at the time. She had campaigned relentlessly to halt poaching and gold smuggling, and opposed opening up the gorillas' sanctuaries to tourism, fearing this would destroy their habitat.
- C Travelling on false French identity papers, he had arrived in Belgium from Kenya, where he had been living for several years. When the Belgian authorities detained him as an illegal immigrant he applied for political asylum. But once his real identity became clear, they notified the chief prosecutor at the war crimes tribunal, and the FBI.
- D Her body was discovered on December 27, 1985, at Karisoke, her remote research station 3,000 m up in the mist – shrouded Virunga mountains along Rwanda's border with Uganda and the Congo.
- E Zigiranyirazo was allegedly involved in illegal trading in endangered species and gold smuggling out of the Congo. Diplomats believe Fossey was about to expose him.
- F Some months later Wayne McGuire, Fossey's American research assistant, was tipped off by the US embassy that he was about to be arrested. He fled to America and was sentenced to death in his absence by the Rwandans for her murder.

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SECTION III. WRITING (5.0 points)

PART 1. Read the following extract and use your own words to summarise it. Your summary should be between 120 and 150 words.

The tables show how many international students study in Canada and the United States by country of origin. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.

Canada

Country of Origin	2002	2003	Change
China	5,400	7,850	+45%
The USA	5,000	5,450	+9%
India	2,100	2,835	+35%
Total	59,870	70,004	+17%

USA

Country of Origin	2002	2003	Change
China	110,000	116,600	+6%
The USA	200,000	182,000	-9%
India	31,000	33,170	+7%
Total	581,600	592,230	+2%

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

"Productivity culture" (tracking habits, optimizing time, side hustles) is psychologically harmful rather than beneficial

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Provide specific reasons and examples to support your answer.