

I. LISTENING (7.0 points)

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

Part 1. Listen to a conversation about Australia's social media ban 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 legislation passed by the Australian Senate is currently considered the most stringent of its kind globally.
2. Technology firms will face immediate financial penalties if they fail to implement the age restriction today.
3. According to Dr Fiona Scott, the decision-making process for the ban involved extensive dialogue with minors.
4. Children in France have successfully bypassed similar regulations by accessing unregulated platforms.
5. The Australian Prime Minister believes that the burden of proof for age verification should rest solely on parents.

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	M	for the Male Host;
	F	for Dr Fiona Scott;
	B	for Both of them.

6. The specific maximum fine of 32.5 million Australian dollars for non-compliant tech companies.
7. The necessity of protecting young people from the potential harms of social media platforms.
8. Detailed technical concerns regarding facial recognition and the collection of personal data.
9. The UK's "Online Safety Act" as an alternative model for establishing a digital duty of care.
10. The fundamental belief that the legal responsibility (onus) should be placed on tech

firms rather than users.

Your answer:

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

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

For questions 11 - 12, choose TWO letters from A-E to indicate TWO true statements about the nature of blood clotting. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. Blood clotting is an entirely detrimental process to the human body.
- B. Platelets change their physical form once they arrive at the site of a damaged vessel.
- C. The mesh-like structure created by platelets is designed to bypass blood cells.
- D. In the context of a stroke, the primary danger of a clot is its ability to block arterial flow.
- E. Platelets spontaneously form tentacles even when no injury is present in the arteries.

For questions 13 - 15, choose THREE letters from A-G to indicate THREE true statements about Ischemic strokes. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. An ischemic stroke is fundamentally caused by a ruptured blood vessel.
- B. Embolic strokes involve a clot that originates in one part of the body and migrates.
- C. The term "embolus" specifically describes a stationary clot within the brain.
- D. Thrombotic strokes are characterized by the gradual accumulation of cholesterol plaques.
- E. Both embolic and thrombotic strokes result in the narrowing or obstruction of arteries.
- F. Cholesterol plaques are beneficial as they strengthen the inner walls of the artery.
- G. A "thrombus" is defined as a blood clot that develops directly inside a blood vessel.

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

16. All of the following are characteristics of platelets' reaction to bleeding EXCEPT

- A. rushing immediately to the location of the damaged vessel
- B. sprouting tiny, octopus-like tentacles to latch onto the area
- C. weaving together to form a structure that traps blood cells
- D. dissolving cholesterol plaques to clear the pathway for blood flow

17. Which of the following is NOT true regarding Hemorrhagic strokes?

- A. They are triggered by the bursting or rupturing of a blood vessel.
- B. High blood pressure is identified as the primary risk factor for this type.
- C. They are generally less fatal compared to ischemic strokes.
- D. Significant mortality occurs within the first forty-eight hours post-stroke.

18. What is the approximate mortality rate of a hemorrhagic stroke within one year?

- A. 20%
- B. 30%
- C. 50%
- D. 75%

19. What is the main difference between an embolic stroke and a thrombotic stroke?

- A. The size of the blood vessel where the blockage occurs
- B. Whether the blood clot travels through the bloodstream or forms in situ

- C. The amount of cholesterol present in the person's diet
- D. The speed at which the platelets transform after an injury
- 20. The speaker mentions "blood pressure, cholesterol, and smoking" in order to
 - A. highlight the three different types of strokes discussed in the talk
 - B. list the specific symptoms one feels during a ruptured blood vessel
 - C. direct the audience to further resources on how to lower stroke risks
 - D. explain why hemorrhagic strokes have such a high mortality rate

Your answer:

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

Part 3. For questions 21 - 25, listen to part of a talk about electric cars, 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. Despite having no emissions during use, what aspects of electric vehicles raise difficult questions regarding their production?
- 22. What does the global shipping of raw materials for battery manufacturing result in?
- 23. During the refining of lithium, from what type of environment are billions of litres of water being lost?
- 24. In countries like China, what determines how environmentally friendly an electric vehicle actually is?
- 25. Beyond technological advancements, what does the speaker suggest we should reduce our reliance on?

Part 4. For questions 26 - 35, listen to part of a talk about the corporation Johnson & Johnson TWICE, and complete the following summary with no more than ONE word and/or A number taken from the recording for each space.

Corporate Values and Financial Standing

The guiding principles of J&J are enshrined in a mission statement known as "(26) _____", which was authored by Robert Wood Johnson II in 1943. This document emphasizes that customers, employees, and society should be prioritized over shareholders. Financially, J&J is a dominant force, holding a (27) _____ credit rating—a distinction shared with only one other American firm, Microsoft. In the previous year, the company's (28) _____ sector was its most significant, generating over half of its total sales.

Legal Controversies and Market Performance Despite its expressed values, J&J has been embroiled in numerous legal disputes. The company has faced litigation regarding antipsychotic drugs, opioids, and (29) _____ powder. These issues have resulted in a "legal (30) _____" that investors blame for the company's underperformance compared to pharmaceutical benchmarks. Recently, a significant legal victory occurred when a Supreme Court overturned a ruling based on an incorrect application of (31) _____ law.

Furthermore, the company has shifted its strategy from litigating to the end toward a greater readiness to (32) _____ claims.

Structural Reforms and Future Outlook To address its stagnant performance, J&J plans to undergo a major (33) _____ change by splitting into two distinct entities within two years. One firm will focus on consumer health, while the other will manage pharmaceuticals and medical devices. To remain competitive in the consumer market, the company recognizes that medical recommendations must be supplemented with modern (34) _____ to attract shoppers. Looking ahead, J&J aims to achieve (35) _____ billion dollars in annual drug sales by 2025, driven by a robust pipeline in oncology and new therapies.

Your answer:

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.*

Traditional education models are increasingly acknowledging the profound psychological needs of the child. The Montessori method is one such system boasting a powerful legacy spanning over a century, a fact well-documented in educational literature a powerful and enduring legacy spanning over a century. (36) _____. This setting is meticulously designed to allow children the freedom to explore, and choose their own activities, fostering genuine concentration and a sense of belonging. The underlying belief is that the child is the active agent in their own learning. Within this prepared context, the child develops an intense work cycle, enabling them to focus deeply on challenging tasks, (37) _____ that are fundamental to executive function and future academic success. By providing materials that offer immediate self-correction, the child is empowered to learn from their own mistakes without external judgment.

There is a common misconception that the Montessori classroom promotes anarchy or lack of structure because children choose their own work. (38) _____, often called a guide, is to observe and facilitate rather than lecture and control, allowing the child's inner teacher to emerge. The ultimate aim is not rote memorisation, but to foster internal discipline, empowering the child to develop mastery over their own will and concentration, a key psychological goal. These deep-seated intrinsic motivations are considered far more valuable than temporary external rewards. The concept of Sensitive Periods also dictates that learning opportunities are provided at the exact time a child is neurologically primed to receive them. (39) _____, the Montessori method ensures that every moment of natural absorption is fully capitalized upon, preventing wasted time or frustration. By

structuring the early years around these principles of independence and respect, (40)

(Adapted from <https://www.researchgate.net>)

36. A. The heart of the Montessori practice is that is known as the Prepared Environment
B. The heart of the Montessori practice is known as the Prepared Environment
C. What the heart of the Montessori practice is known is the Prepared Environment
D. The Prepared Environment is known by the heart of the Montessori practice.
37. A. thereby nurturing skills such as patience and cognitive persistence
B. thereby they nurture skill such as patience and cognitive persistence
C. that can nurture skills such as patience and cognitive persistence
D. nurturing to be the skills such as patience and cognitive persistence
38. A. Although the learning environment allows for a certain degree of choice in what the child learn and select during the free work period, they are adults
B. In spite of the environment might allow a certain degree of choice in what the child learns and selects during the free work period, the job of adults
C. Moreover, the environment would allow a certain degree of choice in what the child learns and selects during the free work period, they are adults
D. Conversely, while the environment allows a certain degree of choice in what the child learns and selects during the free work period, the role of adults
39. A. Capitalizing fully upon by the adult guide and observer as a biological imperative for learning
B. By capitalising on this biological imperative for learning at the perfect moment of readiness
C. In order to capitalize on such an imperative for learning at the perfect moment of readiness
D. It is fully capitalized upon by the adult guide and observer as a biological imperative for learning
40. A. An ever-changing world can prepare children to emerge as individuals fully capable of navigating different complex challenges.
B. children are prepared to emerge as individuals fully capable of navigating the complex challenges of an ever-changing world.
C. it is that children prepare for their emergence as individuals capable of navigating the complex challenges in the ever-changing world.
D. children are prepared for them to emerge as individuals and be fully capable of navigating the complex challenges of an ever-changing world.

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.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Aurora Tech Solutions is seeking an exceptionally talented and profoundly empathetic Senior UX/UI Designer.

This role is a pivotal opportunity for a (41) _____ professional to not only shape the visual aesthetic of our cutting-edge enterprise software solutions but, more critically, to (42) _____ sublime, intuitive, and highly effective user experiences that set new industry benchmarks.

Core Responsibilities

Key responsibilities include:

- Strategic UX Leadership: Conceptualizing and executing comprehensive user research and developing a (43) _____ to deeply understand user behaviors, needs, and pain points.
- Design & Prototyping Excellence: Translating complex requirements into digital interface solutions.
- System Ownership: Developing our scalable Design System to ensure consistency and efficiency.
- Cross-functional Collaboration: Serving as the principal design advocate.
- Impact & Influence: Be instrumental (44) _____ shaping our product strategy.

The Ideal Candidate Profile

- Education & Experience: A Bachelor’s degree in HCI, with a minimum of 5 years of UX/UI experience.
- Technical Acumen: Profound understanding of contemporary frontend technologies.
- Soft Skills: Exceptional written and verbal communication skills

If you are a design (45) _____ ready to define the future of interaction, we invite you to submit your CV and Portfolio!

41. A. seasonal B. seasoning C. seasoned D. in-season
42. A. orchestrate B. obliterate C. obfuscate D. overthrow
43. A. critical user journey mapping framework
 B. journey mapping critical user framework
 C. critical mapping framework user journey
 D. critical journey user mapping framework
44. A. by B. on C. at D. in
45. A. vagary B. virtuoso C. vexation D. velocity

(Adapted from <https://www.auroratechsolutions.com>)

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.

DEEP	CONFIRM	CRITICAL	PERCEPTION	RAPID
FACET	PRIORITY	MINE	LEAK	LOAD

Fake news has become a major challenge in the digital era, spreading (0) _____ through social media and influencing public opinion, politics, and even financial markets.

Misinformation can shape perceptions, deepen divisions, and (46) _____ trust in reliable sources. Cognitive biases, particularly (47) _____ bias, play a key role in its spread. People are more likely to believe information that aligns with their views, while repeated exposure to false claims increases their (48) _____ credibility. Social media algorithms amplify this problem by prioritizing engagement over accuracy, creating echo chambers that reinforce misinformation. The consequences are significant. Declining trust in the media fuels political polarisation, whereas scientific misinformation hampers public health efforts and climate policies. In finance, misleading news can manipulate markets and investments. Combating fake news requires a (49) _____ approach. Education in digital literacy is crucial to help individuals assess sources critically. Social media companies must enhance fact-checking and moderation. In an age of information (50) _____, critical thinking and responsible media consumption are essential tools in the fight against misinformation.

Your answer:

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

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

In Paris, urban farmers is trying a soil-free approach to agriculture that uses less space and fewer resources. Could it help cities face the threats to our food supplies? On top of a striking new exhibition hall in southern Paris, the world's largest urban rooftop farm started to bear fruit. Strawberries that are small, intensely flavoured and resplendently red sprout abundantly from large plastic tubes. Peer inside and you see the tubes are completely hollow, the roots of dozens of strawberry plants dangling down inside them. From identical vertical tubes nearby burst row upon row of lettuces; near those are aromatic herbs, such as basil, sage and peppermint. Opposite, in narrow, horizontal tray packed not with soil but with coconut fibre, grow cherry tomatoes, shiny aubergines and brightly coloured chards.

Pascal Hardy, an engineer and sustainable development consultant, began experimenting with vertical farming and aeroponic grown towers - as the soil-free plastic tubes are known - on his Paris apartment block roof five years ago. The urban rooftop space in the exhibition hall is somewhat bigger: 14,000 square metres and almost exactly the size of a couple of football pitches. Already, the team of young urban farmers who tend it have picked, in one day, 3,000 lettuces and 150 punnets of strawberries. "We're not ever, obviously, going to feed the whole city this way," cautions Hardy. "In the urban environment, you're working with very significant practical constraints, clearly, on which you can do and where.

Your answer:

0. <i>is → are</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.*

A Sydney-based study of 69 young people (56) _____ mental health care found almost a quarter showed disrupted body clocks that showed (57) _____ that looked like jet lag, despite not having travelled across time zones. The University of Sydney researchers suggest the finding could lead to new ways to treat and study mental health conditions such as depression and bipolar disorder. The study, led by Dr Joanne Carpenter and Professor Ian Hickie, is the first to look (58) _____ at three key measures of body clock regulation in people with mental ill-health rather than separately. “We analysed participants’ core body temperature, cortisol levels and melatonin levels, which play important roles in how our bodies manage the circadian (59) _____ – our 24-hour cycles which regulate things like wakefulness and sleep,” said Dr Carpenter.

Melatonin is a hormone that (60) _____ to our bodies that it’s time to sleep, while cortisol is a hormone that is found at its highest (61) _____ in the morning shortly after waking up. Our body temperature also goes through a daily cycle of rising and falling that is closely (62) _____ with sleep. “When we looked at these three measures in young people who presented to mental health services, we found that 23 percent of patients were experiencing a (63) _____ of physiological jet lag.” Dr Jacob Crouse, said these results could indicate new ways to (64) _____ mental health. “Our findings suggest we might need to think (65) _____ about what kinds of treatments we’re giving people with mood disorders, and whether we should be targeting body clocks as another option for managing these conditions.”

(Adapted from *Depression linked to ‘internal jet lag’, study finds* by www.sydney.edu.au)

Your answer:

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.*

0. _____

- A. Yet, beyond their aesthetic appeal, these structures reveal intricate strategies for survival in environments where water is scarce and temperatures fluctuate dramatically.
- B. The process begins with specialised tissues that expand rapidly after rainfall, storing water that sustains the plant through prolonged droughts.
- C. In recent years, scientists have increasingly turned their attention to desert plants, whose remarkable adaptations challenge conventional assumptions about biological resilience.
- D. As the stored water is gradually depleted, the plant reduces its metabolic activity, effectively entering a state of dormancy until favourable conditions return.

E. Consequently, what may appear to be lifeless vegetation is, in fact, a highly sophisticated system finely tuned to its surroundings.

F. One such adaptation is the development of thick, fleshy stems capable of retaining substantial amounts of moisture over extended periods.

G. This ability not only ensures survival but also allows these plants to thrive in ecosystems that would be inhospitable to less specialised species.

H. When the rains eventually arrive again, the cycle resumes, demonstrating a remarkable balance between conservation and regeneration.

(Adapted from *National Geographic Society*)

Your answer:

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

THE SOCIAL BRAIN HYPOTHESIS

A. The social brain hypothesis proposes that the evolution of large brains in primates, including humans, is primarily driven by the demands of complex social interactions rather than by ecological challenges alone. According to this view, individuals living in larger and more intricate social groups must develop enhanced cognitive capacities in order to track relationships, predict the behaviour of others, and maintain alliances. Language, deception, empathy, and cooperation are all seen as by-products of this increased social complexity. Rather than focusing solely on survival in a physical environment, this hypothesis shifts attention to survival within a social environment.

B. One of the central claims of the hypothesis is that there is a measurable correlation between group size and neocortex size across primate species. The neocortex, which is associated with higher-order thinking, tends to be proportionally larger in species that live in bigger groups. This relationship suggests that cognitive demands scale with the number of social connections an individual must manage. Each additional member of a group introduces new potential alliances, rivalries, and hierarchies, all of which must be navigated effectively. Consequently, brain expansion is interpreted as an adaptive response to social complexity.

C. However, the hypothesis has not gone unchallenged. Critics argue that correlation does not necessarily imply causation, and that ecological factors such as foraging strategies or environmental variability may also play a significant role in shaping brain size. Some researchers point out that species facing unpredictable environments may require greater cognitive flexibility, independent of social structure. Others question whether group size alone is an adequate proxy for social complexity, suggesting that the quality rather than the quantity of interactions may be more important.

D. Despite these criticisms, the social brain hypothesis remains influential because it offers a compelling framework for understanding the evolution of human intelligence. It integrates findings from neuroscience, anthropology, and behavioural ecology, providing a multidisciplinary perspective on cognition. Moreover, it highlights the importance of social relationships in shaping not only behaviour but also the underlying biological structures that support it. Whether or not it fully explains brain evolution, the hypothesis has significantly advanced the discussion by reframing intelligence as fundamentally social in nature

(Adapted from *Harvard lecture materials & cognitive science readings*)

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

- 73. The social brain hypothesis places greater importance on social factors than environmental ones.
- 74. People in smaller social groups do not need advanced cognitive abilities.
- 75. The passage states that neocortex size is influenced by genetic factors alone.
- 76. Some scientists believe that environmental conditions can influence brain size.
- 77. The passage states that the neocortex is responsible for emotional intelligence.
- 78. Critics argue that group size may not fully represent social complexity.
- 79. The hypothesis has completely replaced other explanations of brain evolution.

Your answer:

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

Which section?

- 80. points out that a mother's genetic stake in each child is the same
- 81. calls for a universal metric that weighs a recipient's gain against the donor's loss
- 82. mentions the framing of maternal behaviour in mechanistic, purpose-oriented terms
- 83. warns that an over-dispersed allocation of resources can undermine reproductive payoff
- 84. notes that unequal favouritism toward one child may diminish the prospects of the others
- 85. discusses the difficulty of representing varied maternal resources in a single evolutionary metric
- 86. mentions that in some species, mothers occasionally neglect their young for no particular reason
- 87. alludes to the fact that maternal input blends hands-on effort with an instructional aspect in tending offspring

Your answer:

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 RISE OF THE ALGORITHMIC SELF

[1] For centuries, the Western philosophical tradition has rested on the Cogito—René Descartes' famous assertion that "I think, therefore I am." This placed the individual's conscious mind at the center of the universe, as the ultimate source of authority and meaning. However, in the 21st century, this humanist foundation is being superseded by a new technological paradigm: the Algorithmic Self. In this view, the "I" is no longer a stable, internal essence, but a dynamic profile generated by the constant aggregation of data points. We are, in effect, becoming the sum of our digital traces, processed by invisible systems that claim to know us better than we know ourselves.

[2] The transition from humanism to "Dataism" is fueled by the unprecedented efficiency of predictive analytics. In the past, if you wanted to understand your health, your romantic

compatibility, or your career path, you relied on introspection or the counsel of wise elders. Today, we turn to wearable devices that monitor our heart rates, sleep cycles, and blood oxygen levels. These devices don't just record data; they interpret it. They tell us when we are stressed before we feel a headache, and they suggest exercise before we feel lethargic. The authority has shifted from the internal "feeling" to the external "calculation."

[3] This shift creates what sociologists call the "Quantified Self" movement. By reducing complex human experiences into discrete numerical values, we make ourselves legible to the global data grid. [I] From a Dataist perspective, a person's "true self" is not found in their silent meditations, but in the patterns of their browser history, their GPS coordinates, and their biometric responses. To the algorithm, your "desire" is not a mysterious spiritual longing; it is a high probability of a transaction, measured by the milliseconds you spent hovering over an image on a screen.

[4] Furthermore, this algorithmic gaze is transforming the nature of social institutions. Just as Harari noted that capitalism and communism are essentially data-processing systems, modern governance is becoming a form of "Algocracy"—rule by algorithms. In the legal system, predictive tools are used to assess the likelihood of recidivism among defendants. In the workplace, AI monitors employee productivity in real-time, optimizing human movement with the same cold logic used to manage a server farm. [II] The human element is increasingly seen as a source of "noise" or "bias" that must be filtered out by the objective purity of the machine.

[5] The most profound impact, however, is on human agency. In a world of infinite choices, we have become dependent on "Recommendation Engines" to navigate our lives. Whether it is what music to listen to, what news to read, or whom to date, we trust the algorithm to narrow down the field. While this reduces "choice overload," it also creates a feedback loop that narrows the human experience. [III] If an algorithm only suggests what it predicts you will like based on your past, the possibility of genuine serendipity or radical personal change is diminished. We become prisoners of our own data-driven shadows.

[6] Critics argue that this leads to a "de-skilling" of the human species. As we outsource our navigation to GPS, our memory to search engines, and our social judgment to rating systems, our innate cognitive faculties may begin to atrophy. We are like the passengers in a self-driving car: we enjoy the convenience of the journey, but we have forgotten how to steer, and more importantly, we have lost the ability to decide on a destination that wasn't already programmed into the map. [IV] The trade-off for the immense power of Dataism is a subtle, creeping docility.

[7] Ultimately, the religion of Dataism presents us with a Faustian bargain. It promises us immortality through digital preservation and perfect efficiency through algorithmic management. But in exchange, it demands that we renounce our status as sacred individuals and accept our role as mere "chips" in a global processor. As the boundary between the biological and the digital continues to dissolve, the challenge of the future will not be how to process more data, but how to remain "human" in a world that no longer recognizes the value of anything that cannot be computed.

(Adapted from *The Data-Driven Life* by Gary Wolf - *The New York Times*)

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

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

- A. To trace the historical evolution of Western philosophy from Descartes to the present.
- B. To contrast the traditional concept of individual identity with a modern, data-driven version.
- C. To argue that the "Cogito" remains the most relevant framework for understanding AI.
- D. To explain why data points are more reliable than conscious thought in defining the self.

89. What is the significance of the reference to "wearable devices" in paragraph 2?

- A. It highlights the medical superiority of modern technology over ancient wisdom.
- B. It illustrates the shift of decision-making authority from human intuition to external data.
- C. It suggests that humans are becoming physically dependent on silicon-based substrates.
- D. It proves that predictive analytics can eliminate the possibility of human illness.

90. In paragraph 3, the mention of "milliseconds spent hovering over an image" serves to:

- A. Criticize the addictive nature of social media interfaces.
- B. Demonstrate how spiritual longings can be quantified and monetized.
- C. Provide an example of how abstract human desires are redefined as concrete data.
- D. Show that algorithms are capable of feeling human emotions like desire.

91. The concept of "Algocracy" in paragraph 4 is presented as.....

- A. an idealistic solution to the inherent biases found in human legal systems.
- B. a system where human nuance is dismissed as an obstacle to machine efficiency.
- C. a collaborative model where AI and humans share governance equally.
- D. an inevitable evolution of democracy that ensures total social objectivity.

92. According to paragraph 5, what is the most likely consequence of relying on "Recommendation Engines"?

- A. A significant increase in the diversity of products and ideas people encounter.
- B. The total elimination of "choice overload" without any psychological cost.
- C. A narrowing of personal growth due to the absence of unexpected experiences.
- D. The development of a more sophisticated form of human agency and intuition.

93. The analogy of "passengers in a self-driving car" in paragraph 6 ultimately functions to:

- A. Warn against the physical dangers of trusting autonomous transportation.
- B. Predict a future where humans no longer need to learn any technical skills.
- C. Emphasize the loss of autonomy and direction in the pursuit of convenience.
- D. Encourage the reader to embrace the ease of an algorithmically-steered life.

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

"This digital shadow, however, often obscures the messy, non-linear reality of biological existence."

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

Your answer:

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.

The emergence of the Algorithmic Self represents a departure from the (95) _____ foundation of Western thought, which once prioritized conscious thought. In this new era, personal identity is no longer an internal essence but a (96) _____ constructed from digital traces. This transition is characterized by a move away from (97) _____ toward a reliance on external calculations provided by technology.

Furthermore, this trend extends to social governance, where the rise of (98) _____ suggests that human input is increasingly treated as mere (99) _____ to be eliminated by machines. While these systems offer efficiency, critics warn of a (100) _____ of the human species, as our innate abilities decline through a lack of use, eventually leading to a state of creeping docility.

Your answer:

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

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

THE PLASTIC MIND IN A DIGITAL WORLD

The concept of neuroplasticity—the brain's ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections throughout life—was once a radical idea. For decades, the scientific establishment believed that the adult brain was a fixed, physical apparatus, its pathways set like concrete after childhood. However, we now know that our habits of thought and the tools we use can literally reshape our mental anatomy.

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This process is governed by a simple but profound rule: "Neurons that fire together, wire together." When we repeat a task or an experience, the synaptic connections between the neurons involved become stronger and more numerous. Conversely, pathways that are not used begin to wither away. The brain does not distinguish between "good" habits and "bad" ones; it simply optimizes for what we do most often.

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The transition from a culture of deep reading to a culture of digital "skimming" is a prime example of this physiological shift. When we read a book, we practice focused attention and linear thinking. The brain builds circuits for long-term memory and conceptual synthesis. But when we go online, we enter an environment that encourages rapid-fire scrolling, multitasking, and constant interruption.

The reward system of the brain, fueled by dopamine, plays a crucial role here. Every new link, Every notification, and every "like" acts as a micro-reward. We are, in effect, training our brains to crave distraction. We are evolving from "deep divers" of information into "scuba divers" who zip across the surface but never stay in one place long enough to understand the depths.

Critics of this view argue that we are simply trading one set of skills for another. They suggest that while we might be losing the capacity for sustained focus, we are gaining a superior ability to process vast amounts of data quickly—a necessary trait for the modern world. However, this trade-off is not equal. The cost of this high-speed processing is the loss of "deep thinking"—the kind of contemplation that leads to original insight and wisdom.

Ultimately, the intellectual tools we use shape our "intellectual ethics." Just as the clock made us obsessed with time and the map changed our perception of space, the Internet is turning us into high-speed data processors who lack the patience for complexity. Our brains are becoming more efficient at finding information, but less capable of knowing what that information actually means.

Missing Paragraphs:

- A.** This efficiency, however, comes with a hidden price tag. As the brain becomes more adept at managing multiple streams of information, it becomes less capable of maintaining the "quiet" state required for empathy and self-reflection. We are becoming more machine-like in our cognitive speed, but less human in our emotional depth.
- B.** This adaptability means that the very tools we use to find, store, and share information can alter our neural circuitry. Every time we use a technology to assist our thinking, we are, in a sense, outsourcing a biological function to an external device. Over time, the brain begins to rely on that tool, and the natural capacity we once had starts to atrophy.
- C.** Paradoxically, the more information we have access to, the less we seem to be able to retain. The "bottleneck" of our working memory is easily overwhelmed by the sheer volume of digital stimuli. When the brain is busy managing the mechanics of navigation and clicking, it cannot effectively transfer information into our long-term memory "files."
- D.** This intellectual evolution is not merely a change in our behavior; it is a change in our biology. As we spend more time "power browsing," the circuits in our brain that handle multitasking are strengthened, while the circuits used for deep, solitary reading are weakened. We are physically losing the ability to be still and think.
- E.** Scientists have observed that even a few days of intensive internet use can change the way our prefrontal cortex functions. We are not just changing our minds; we are changing the physical architecture of the organ that creates the mind. This is the dark side of neuroplasticity: it can be as much a tool for regression as for progress.

F. Historically, the introduction of the printing press was met with similar fears. Many worried that the abundance of books would lead to a loss of memory or a decline in intellectual rigor. Yet, those fears proved largely unfounded, as the written word actually expanded our cognitive horizons.

G. However, unlike the printed page, the digital screen is designed to be distracting. It is a "multimedia" environment where text is constantly competing for our attention with images, sounds, and links. This constant shifting of focus prevents the brain from entering the state of "flow" necessary for deep intellectual work.

(Adapted from *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicholas Carr)

Your answer:

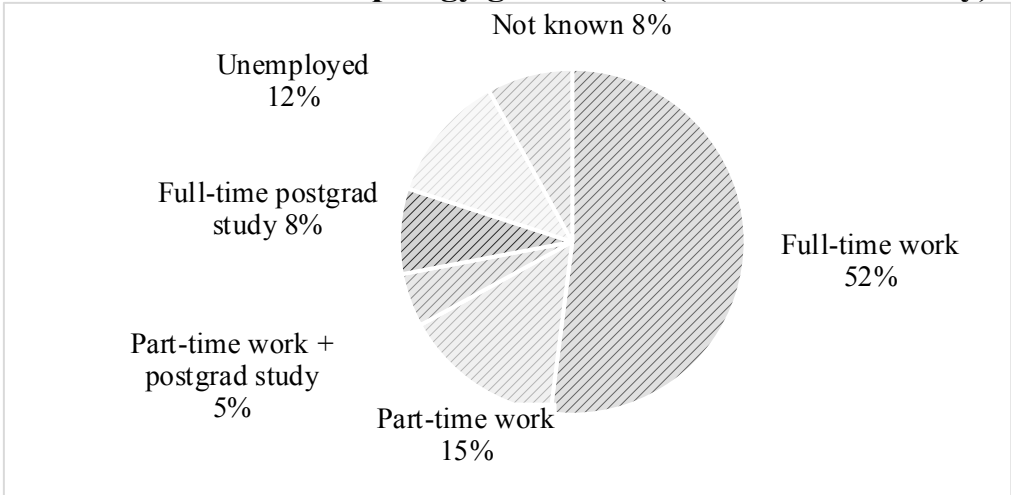
101.	102.	103.	104.	105.
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III. WRITING (5.0 points)

Part 1. The chart below shows what Anthropology graduates from one university did after finishing their undergraduate degree course. The table shows the salaries of the anthropologists in work after five years.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparison where relevant. You should write about 180 words.

Destination of Anthropology graduates (from one university)



Salaries of Anthropology graduates (after 5 years' work)

Type of employment	\$25,000 – 49,999	\$50,000 – 74,999	\$75,000 – 99,999	\$100,000+
Freelance consultants	5%	15%	40%	40%
Government sector	5%	15%	30%	50%
Private companies	10%	35%	25%	30%

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