

Mã đề thi: Đề Anh_11 <i>(Đề thi gồm 23 trang)</i>	KỲ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI LẦN THỨ XVII, NĂM 2026 ĐỀ THI MÔN: TIẾNG ANH - LỚP 11 Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút (không kể thời gian giao đề)
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I. LISTENING (5.0 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 petflation 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.

- Escalating expenses for pet food, snacks, and veterinary care are placing a strain on pet owners.
- The rising cost of pet care has become a widely-discussed topic among social media users worldwide.
- Specialty stores are likely to gain popularity among pet owners looking to purchase their pet food.
- Financial pressures may lead pet-owning households to reconsider non-essential veterinary services.
- Consumers are shifting toward more economical choices to optimize value amid rising financial strain.

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 **T** for Taylor Bowley;
 C for Dr. Courtney Campbell,
 B for Both of the guests.

- The notion of pets as unintended victims and indicators of economic instability
- The personal gratification derived from successive experiences of pet ownership
- The profound emotional attachment between pets and their owners
- The affordability-driven purchasing behaviour among pet owners
- The compounding financial burden of delayed veterinary care

Your answers:

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

Part 2. Listen to a talk about cloud seeding ONCE and do the tasks that follow.

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

- A. Clouds are composed of tiny liquid droplets or ice particles suspended in the atmosphere.
- B. Water vapor in clouds attaches to other water molecules and removes airborne particles.
- C. Cloud droplets naturally coalesce into condensation nuclei whenever they come into contact.
- D. Water droplets that are super-cooled and large enough can fall directly as precipitation.
- E. Cloud droplets commonly remain in liquid form even when temperatures drop below 0°C.

For questions 13 – 15, choose THREE letters from A-G to indicate THREE true statements about how cloud seeding works. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

- A. Seeding agents delivered via aircraft-mounted pyrotechnic flares condense into ice crystals.
- B. Silver iodide causes water droplets to accumulate moisture in the air and develop into hail.
- C. Water droplets adhere to seeding agents, forming heavy ice crystals that fall as precipitation.
- D. Ice crystals grow by absorbing vapor released from shrinking droplets induced by silver iodide.
- E. Seeding agents stimulate the collision and clustering among ice crystals inside the cloud.
- F. Silver iodide facilitates ice formation by assembling hexagonal ice particles within the cloud.
- G. Silver iodide serves as an ice nucleating agent as it closely resembles ice in crystal structure.

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. Which of the following is NOT a benefit that cloud seeding brings to organizations?
 A. Mitigating damage claims that insurance firms have to handle
 B. Ensuring favorable conditions for viticulture to yield quality crops
 C. Safeguarding wineries' vineyards against hail-induced damage
 D. Augmenting water runoff in spring for hydropower production
17. Cloud seeding projects are projected to produce an extra _____ meters of rain in the sunny season.
 A. 1.5 to 4.5 B. 50 to 125 C. 0.05 to 0.125 D. 150 to 450
18. All of the following are mentioned as comparable technologies in generating more surface and ground water EXCEPT _____.
 A. saline water treatment B. aquifer replenishment
 C. hydraulic infrastructure D. groundwater extraction
19. What is the fundamental role of cloud seeding as a meteorological technique?
 A. Robust solution to low humidity in fire-prone regions
 B. Swift resolution of long dry spell and water scarcity
 C. First-line measure for suppressing wildfire outbreaks
 D. Precautionary measure against precipitation deficit
20. The data provided by the World Meteorological Organization was mentioned in order to _____.
 A. underscore global interest in weather modification and investment in cloud seeding
 B. validate the efficacy of cloud seeding in altering precipitation across different regions
 C. highlight the phenomenal success of cloud seeding as a meteorological intervention
 D. illustrate the skepticism about the reliability and validity of cloud seeding techniques

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 bloomers TWICE and answer each of the following questions with no more than THREE words taken from the recording. Write your answers in the corresponding spaces provided.

21. Which items are mentioned besides crinolines, hoop skirts and corsets as part of the female restrictive attire?

22. How is the newly introduced style of trousers that prompted Amelia Bloomer to publicly endorse it described?

23. What word does Amelia Bloomer use to describe the public reaction she unintentionally provoked?

24. In which social and political campaign for women's rights did Amelia Bloomer assume a leading role?

25. What phrase is used by the speaker to refer to the enduring impact of bloomers in modern times?

Part 4. For questions 26 – 35, listen to part of a talk about crab evolution TWICE, and complete the following summary with no more than THREE words taken from the recording for each space. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Approximately 10 million years ago, an ancient king crab relative named *Paralomas dubodeorum* inhabited waters near modern-day New Zealand. This creature had such physical characteristics as a roughly baseball-sized body and a(n) (26) _____, though scientists know little else about it. Notwithstanding its crab-like appearance, *Paralomas* belongs to (27) _____ called *Anamura*, which comprises a number of false crab species.

The phenomenon of non-crabs evolving into crab-like configurations has occurred repeatedly throughout history, commencing with the earliest (28) _____ from the late Devonian period. These primeval creatures, such as *Palaeopalaemon*, likely dwelled on the seafloor and possessed (29) _____ for feeding on soft sediments.

The split between true and false crabs dated back around 260 million years ago, with ancient true crabs like *Eoprosopon* displaying certain uncrab-like features—namely, a somewhat extended abdomen and (30) _____. The transformation process, termed ‘carcinization’ in 1916, involves the lobster-like tail gradually shortening until it (31) _____ beneath the body. It has been suggested that crab-shaped species outcompeted their (32) _____ in exploiting diverse habitats more effectively. The crab-like form enables various flexible movements whereas lobster-shaped animals face greater limitations, merely capable of swimming, (33) _____.

Interestingly, some crustaceans later lost their crab shape through ‘decarcinization’, as seen in *Calichimera perplexa*, which featured large eyes not positioned (34) _____. This countertrend aside, ‘carcinization’ represents an intriguing example of convergent evolution

driven by advantages in (35) _____, allowing crabs to thrive across marine, freshwater, and terrestrial environments worldwide.

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.*

Time was, when Metaphysic was the queen of all the sciences; and, if we take the will for the deed, she certainly deserves, (36) _____, this title of honour. Now, it is the fashion of the time to heap contempt and scorn upon her. At first, her government, under the administration of the dogmatists, was an absolute despotism. But, (37) _____, her empire gradually broke up, and intestine wars introduced the reign of anarchy; while the sceptics, like nomadic tribes, who hate a permanent habitation and settled mode of living, attacked from time to time those who had organized themselves into civil communities. But their number was, very happily, small; and thus they could not entirely put a stop to the exertions of those who persisted in raising new edifices, although on no settled or uniform plan.

In recent times the hope (38) _____, and the legitimacy of her claims established by a kind of physiology of the human understanding — that of the celebrated Locke. But it was found that — although it was affirmed that this so-called queen (39) _____, a circumstance which necessarily brought suspicion on her claims — as this genealogy was incorrect, she persisted in the advancement of her claims to sovereignty. Thus metaphysics necessarily fell back into the antiquated and rotten constitution of dogmatism, and again became obnoxious to the contempt from which efforts had been made to save it. At present, as all methods, according to the general persuasion, have been tried in vain, (40) _____ — the mother of chaos and night in the scientific world, but at the same time the source of, or at least the prelude to, the re-creation and reinstallation of a science, when it has fallen into confusion, obscurity, and disuse from ill directed effort.

(Adapted from *Critique of Pure Reason* by Immanuel Kant)

36. A. so far as regards the high importance of her object-matter
B. notwithstanding the significance imputed to her object-matter
C. inasmuch as the empirical warrant issued on her object-matter
D. vis-à-vis the rigid dogma associated with her object-matter
37. A. legislative traces of the ancient barbaric rule being shown to continue
B. though continued with traces of the ancient barbaric rule by the legislative
C. as the legislative continued to show traces of the ancient barbaric rule
D. continuing traces of the ancient barbaric rule shown by the legislative
38. A. dawned upon us of seeing those disputes settled
B. for settling those disputes had been dawned upon us
C. dawned upon us was to see those disputes be settled
D. that those disputes be settled had dawned upon us
39. A. had been referred to as the descendant of higher sources than common experience
B. would have yet to descend into common experience as well as any higher sources
C. was supposed to descend upon common experience rather than any higher source
D. could not refer her descent to any higher source than that of common experience
40. A. there reigns nought but weariness and complete indifferentism
B. yet nought reigns weariness and complete indifferentism there
C. weariness and complete indifferentism yet nought reigns there
D. but there reigns nought weariness and complete indifferentism

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.

Art is innately political; it innovatively synchronizes life into abstractive, embodied, and (41) _____ forms to both create and share meanings, values, beliefs, and political ethics. Art gives us a perceptible image or sets of images to perceive evocative messages sourced from the social and cultural milieu in which the artist is embedded and which (42) _____ from which the transactions of political, cultural, and social identity issues are produced. As Judith Butler once noted, the processing of seeing images is itself never (43) _____ of preemptive sociopolitical biases. When the field of vision is tainted by the schema of identity politics, the processes of viewing the end product is always steeped in the ideological impurities of the context that produces these images.

Indeed, art generates the ideas of heroism, virtue, nobility, and cultural fantasies that we have come to suppose are intrinsic to human moral and cultural essence. These ideas are

crucial to political rituals; they grant us a shorthand way of grasping complex materials. However, politics also pushes us to (44) _____ the artistic images with which we discourse with the world to evoke, to provoke, to conscientize, to resist, and to conjure ideal images of the world while we condemn the (45) _____ aspects of the real.

(Adapted from *Art, Creativity, and Politics in Africa and the Diaspora*)

41. A. cerebral B. ornamental C. visceral D. didactic
 42. A. derives the basis B. constitutes the fabric
 C. forms the stock D. anchors the frame
 43. A. devoid B. exempt C. shorn D. purged
 44. A. decode B. placate C. intuit D. allay
 45. A. conspicuous B. gratuitous C. insalubrious D. punctilious

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.

DIALECT	HOLD	NATURE	STALL	PROPER
CARE	JUNCTURE	OLIGARCH	MARGINS	CERTAIN

Meritocracy, long (0) _____ as a neutral and just principle, reveals itself under scrutiny to be a powerful ideological tool that masks structural inequality, legitimizes privilege, and stifles collective struggle. Rather than opening pathways to opportunity, the ideology of merit (46) _____ existing class hierarchies, displacing systemic critique with individual blame. The myth of meritocracy not only conceals the violence of capitalism but reinforces it through institutions like schools, universities, and workplaces that are designed to reward compliance. Within education, the language of merit has become a weapon—used to justify the exploitation of (47) _____ faculty, alienate students from their own potential, and commodify learning itself. It obscures the historical and material conditions that shape outcomes, framing success as earned and failure as deserved.

The ideology of meritocracy functions not as a path toward equality, but as a mechanism for legitimizing inequality and the reproduction of class formation. By presenting privilege as earned and poverty as deserved, meritocracy shifts the blame for systemic injustice onto individuals, thereby (48) _____ collective action and maintaining the dominance of the ruling class. When meritocracy goes unchecked, it not only obstructs democracy but serves as a gateway to (49) _____. As such, the project of unveiling and

transforming meritocracy is not merely a matter of critique—it is a revolutionary imperative. To transform the world, people must first critically recognize the causes of their oppression. Spontaneous protest is insufficient without political consciousness and organization. Together, these thinkers offer a coherent path forward, toward a (50) _____, collective, and intentional process of transformation that brings theory and practice into an inseparable alliance.

(Adapted from *Unveiling the Myth of Meritocracy* by Antonia Darder)

Your answers:

0. <i>upheld</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 THEIR CORRECT FORMS in the numbered boxes provided as the example (0).

“Treatonomics” — a consumer trend that (0) cover spending on ‘everyday luxuries’ to larger, life-confirming experiences — is booming as people look for a mood boost in ongoing unsettling economic times. Spending on small-item ‘pick-me-ups’ is a well-established recession-resistant trend, with consumers often turning to purchases of modest personal items such as make-up, perfume and candles — or even collective rubber ducks or Labubu dolls — for a morale boost when times are hard or uncertain. It’s no wonder then, that the consumer trend has long been seen as a bellwether for how consumers feel about the wider economic backdrop, which is currently typified as inflationary pressures, persistently high interest rates and concerns over growth and jobs.

The phenomenon is not new; the “lipstick effect” — the theory that lipstick sales increase during economic downturns — has been around for almost a century, for instance. First documented during the Great Depression in the 1930s, the term had a renaissance in the 2000s when Leonard Lauder, former chairman of makeup brand Estée Lauder, noticed a spike in sale after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The Covid-19 pandemic, and a re-evaluation of personal wellbeing and what takes for an enriching and memorable life, has spurred the trend of treatonomics with consumers willing to make everyday sacrifices in order to have “experiences,” particularly one-off events such as spending \$200 or more for a ticket to a Taylor Swift concert or the Oasis reunion tour.

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

Your answers:

0. <i>cover</i> → <i>covers</i>	51.	52.
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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.*

There are a number of competing conceptions of human dignity taking their meaning (56) _____ the cosmological, anthropological, or political context in which human dignity is used. Human dignity can denote the special elevation of the human (57) _____, the special potentiality associated with rational humanity, or the basic entitlements of each individual. There are, by extension, dramatically different normative (58) _____ to which the concept can be put. It is connected, variously, to ideas of sanctity, autonomy, personhood, flourishing, and self-respect, and human dignity produces, at different (59) _____, strict prohibitions and empowerment of the individual. It can also, potentially, be used to express the core commitments of liberal political philosophy as well as precisely those duty-based obligations to self and (60) _____ that communitarian philosophers consider to be systematically neglected by liberal political philosophy.

As a consequence of these antagonistic currents of (61) _____, philosophical analysis of human dignity cannot be separated from wider debates in moral, political, and legal philosophy. (62) _____ can a certain level of selective reconstruction be avoided. The genealogy of the concept has been (63) _____, tendentiously, through the whole history of Western, and sometimes non-Western, philosophical thought; such genealogies are not always illuminating at a conceptual level. More specifically, it is a desideratum of philosophical (64) _____ of human dignity that the concept can be shown to have sufficient clarity to make a useful contribution to modern philosophical debate. It can be suggested that human dignity represents a claim about human status that is intended to have a unifying (65) _____ on our ethical, legal and political practices.

(Adapted from *the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*)

Your answers:

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

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

- A. Surrealism originated in the late 1910s and early '20s as a literary movement that experimented with a new mode of expression called automatic writing, or automatism, which sought to release the unbridled imagination of the subconscious.
- B. Surrealist poets were at first reluctant to align themselves with visual artists because they believed that the laborious processes of painting, drawing, and sculpting were at odds with the spontaneity of uninhibited expression.
- C. Officially consecrated in Paris in 1924 with the publication of the *Manifesto of Surrealism* by the poet and critic André Breton, Surrealism became an international intellectual and political movement.
- D. The cerebral and irrational tenets of Surrealism find their ancestry in the clever and whimsical disregard for tradition fostered by Dadaism a decade earlier.
- E. In 1925, Breton substantiated his support for visual expression by reproducing the works of artists such as Picasso in the journal *La Révolution Surréaliste* and organizing exhibitions that prominently featured painting and drawing.
- F. Using Freudian methods of free association, their poetry and prose drew upon the private world of the mind, traditionally restricted by reason and societal limitations, to produce surprising, unexpected imagery.
- G. Breton, a trained psychiatrist, along with French poets Louis Aragon, Paul Éluard, and Philippe Soupault, were influenced by the psychological theories and dream studies of Sigmund Freud and the political ideas of Karl Marx.
- H. However, Breton and his followers did not altogether ignore visual art, rather they held high regard for artists such as Giorgio de Chirico, Pablo Picasso, Francis Picabia, and Marcel Duchamp because of the analytic, provocative, and erotic qualities of their work.

(Adapted from <https://www.metmuseum.org/essays/surrealism>)

Your answers:

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

- A. Universalism is at the root of modern human rights law. Simply put, universalism holds that there is an underlying human unity which entitles all individuals, regardless of their cultural or regional antecedents, to certain basic minimal rights, known as human rights. Traditionally, universalists have based their support for universal human rights on three major jurisprudential theories: the natural law theory, the theory of rationalism, and the theory of positivism (Dworkin 1978). More recently, other theories such as, for example, the human capabilities theory have been proposed to provide philosophical

foundations for the universality of human rights (Nussbaum 1993; Sen 1993; Rawls 1971).

- B.** Natural law has its roots in the ancient Stoic philosophy but was more fully developed by Thomas Aquinas. The natural law theory emphasizes ethical dimensions of the law. It asserts that individuals have certain inalienable rights of the highest order granted to all individuals by God or Providence and that human-made laws are just only insofar as they do not conflict with the eternal natural laws governing the universe (Weinreb 1987). The natural law philosophy is well illustrated in *Antigone*, a classical Greek tragedy by Sophocles. When Antigone was prevented by the local *polis* law from burying her brother, she did so anyway, claiming that her actions were in accordance with a higher, albeit unwritten, law and that this unwritten natural law superseded the man-made *polis* law. Unfortunately, it is difficult to justify universal human rights based on the natural law theory in a world with a profound cultural and religious diversity, with little, if any, agreement among major cultures and religions about the very existence of a higher order law and its mandates, and in a world plagued by doubts about the existence of any universal moral or ethical norms.
- C.** Rationalism, a closely related concept, is a theory of universal laws based on a belief in the universal human capacity to reason and think rationally (Donnelly 1989). Rationalism replaces the divine origins of universal human rights found in the natural law theory with the idea that human rights are held by each human being, in an individual capacity, due to the universal capacity of all humans to think rationally. Both rationalism and natural law theory are often combined in the modern human rights discourse and take the form of claims that universal human rights exist independent of culture, ideology, or value systems. In this view, universal human rights are a class of rights each individual possesses by virtue of being a human. They are the rights of final resort, typically invoked when all else has been tried and has failed, and are therefore moral and ethical rights of the highest order. They are also extracultural and are meant to challenge and change the existing norms, practices, and institutions and to subvert oppressive customs (Donnelly 1989, 1990). Both rationalism and natural law ideals are expressed in the American Declaration of Independence, which proclaims: "[w]e hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" (Declaration of Independence, para. 1 U.S. 1776). Various schools of thought, including cultural relativism, deconstructionism, interpretivism, and postmodernism, dispute the validity of the rationalist approach by arguing that rationalism is merely a reflection of Western culture and it therefore fails to reflect the diversity of human experience.

- D.** Positivism, on the other hand, justifies the existence of universal human rights by noting the worldwide acceptance and ratification of human rights instruments. According to positivists, universal human rights norms have been created by and are embodied in the international treaties and customary international law (Higgins 1994). Positivists observe that cultural differences notwithstanding, all Western and non-Western nations have signed and ratified the vast majority of human rights treaties and agreements, a fact which attests to the worldwide acceptance of the human rights principles set forth in these treaties and agreements. This uniform worldwide acceptance provides, therefore, a legitimate basis for adherence to such universal human rights and other standards underlying these treaties and agreements. Positivists also observe that the source of human rights lies not in individual cultures but rather in international law which gave rise to the idea of universal rights. Consequently, positivists claim that human rights cannot be withdrawn by any domestic legal system and must take priority over the conflicting norms of different domestic systems. Although positivism provides a sound legal justification for universality of human rights, it does so primarily for individuals living in modern nation-states. Unfortunately, positivism fails to justify universal rights for indigenous peoples, many of whom were forcefully annexed into modern states and many of whom deny that modern states have a moral or legal authority to represent them in the international arena.
- E.** The capabilities theory and related approaches look at the quality of life of various groups and individuals and ask whether individuals in a given culture live as decent a life as they are capable of living (Sen 1993). This approach focuses on the question of what it means to be human. It evaluates various subgroups within the society and compares them against each other in order to detect structural inequalities. The capabilities theorists look for commonalities among cultures, religions, and philosophical traditions, as well as commonalities among men and women, and use those commonalities to argue that all individuals must have at least some minimum rights necessary for human functioning (Nussbaum 1993). Although the capabilities theory represents a very thoughtful attempt at justifying universal human rights, its primary weakness lies in its failure to adequately account for the fact that certain significant differences among cultures just cannot be reconciled by looking for commonalities or points of agreements among these cultures.
- F.** Since most attempts to provide solid philosophical foundations for the universality of human rights have not been entirely successful, the universal foundations of international human rights are subject to numerous empirical and theoretical attacks, primarily from the various proponents of cultural relativism. Until recently, the international legal community has uniformly subscribed to the view that human rights

should be universal and that the international human rights regime created by the United Nations, as well as by other regional human rights systems, should be enforced evenhandedly, irrespective of differences in cultural customs and religions. If human rights were to have different meaning to Western and non-Western countries, the whole system of human rights law would be rendered meaningless. Consequently, the international community has shown reluctance to defer to "culture" in cases of conflict between international human rights and cultural values. In fact, international human rights law mandates that the states must combat culture-based violence, especially if such violence is being disguised as a religious or a cultural practice (United Nations Human Rights Commission 1989). The current international law embodies, therefore, a collective affirmation by the world community of the fundamental unity of the human race.

(Adapted from *In the Name of Culture: Cultural Relativism and the Abuse of the Individual*)

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 quintessence of universalism lies in the postulate that a primordial human unity mandates a set of indispensable prerogatives for all.
74. Natural law theory stipulates that secular statutes are vitiated should they transgress against transcendental or immutable principles.
75. Thomas Aquinas was the pioneer who conceptualized the initial framework of Stoic natural law.
76. Rationalism posits that human rights are conferred upon individuals by a hegemonic entity based on their cognitive prowess.
77. Detractors of rationalism contend that the framework is inherently parochial, reflecting a specifically Western epistemology.
78. Positivism predicates its validity on the empirical corroboration of international covenants rather than metaphysical abstraction.
79. Indigenous populations unanimously regard international treaties as the most efficacious safeguard for their idiosyncratic cultural heritage.

Your answers:

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

Which section _____?

80. identifies a specific demographic for whom a particular jurisprudential framework proves analytically deficient
81. invokes a canonical literary work to elucidate the historical manifestation of an abstract philosophical tenet
82. enumerates the tripartite traditional foundations of jurisprudence that underpin the doctrine of universalism
83. articulates the view that human rights are intended to subvert and dismantle atavistic or oppressive social constructs
84. concedes that the pursuit of intercultural congruence is insufficient to reconcile profound ideological schisms
85. characterizes certain entitlements as remedies of last resort, to be invoked only when conventional mechanisms prove abortive
86. observes that the global legal order is increasingly disinclined to grant deference to "culture" as a justification for normative breaches
87. alludes to the transition from theocentric origins to human cogitation as the primary locus for justifying universal rights

Your answers:

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

ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE AT CASTERBRIDGE

1. The Ring at Casterbridge was merely the local name of one of the finest Roman Amphitheatres, if not the very finest, remaining in Britain. Casterbridge announced old Rome in every street, alley, and precinct. It looked Roman, bespoke the art of Rome, concealed dead men of Rome. [I] It was impossible to dig more than a foot or two deep about the town fields and gardens without coming upon some tall soldier or other of the Empire, who had lain there in his silent unobtrusive rest for a space of fifteen hundred years. He was mostly found lying on his side, in an oval scoop in the chalk, like a chicken in its shell; his knees drawn up to his chest; sometimes with the remains of his spear against his arm; a fibula or brooch of bronze on his breast or forehead; an urn at his knees, a jar at his throat, a bottle at his mouth; and mystified conjecture pouring down upon him from the eyes of Casterbridge street boys and men, who had turned a moment to gaze at the familiar spectacle as they passed by.
2. Imaginative inhabitants, who would have felt an unpleasantness at the discovery of a comparatively modern skeleton in their gardens, were quite unmoved by these hoary shapes. [II] They had lived so long ago, their time was so unlike the present, their hopes

and motives were so widely removed from ours, that between them and the living there seemed to stretch a gulf too wide for even a spirit to pass.

3. The Amphitheatre was a huge circular enclosure, with a notch at opposite extremities of its diameter north and south. It was to Casterbridge what the ruined Coliseum is to modern Rome, and was nearly of the same magnitude. The dusk of evening was the proper hour at which a true impression of this suggestive place could be received. Standing in the middle of the arena at that time there by degrees became apparent its real vastness, which a cursory view from the summit at noon-day was apt to obscure. Melancholy, impressive, lonely, yet accessible from every part of the town, the historic circle was the frequent spot for appointments of a furtive kind. [III] But one kind of appointment - in itself the most common of any - seldom had place in the Amphitheatre: that of happy lovers.
4. Why, seeing that it was pre-eminently an airy, accessible, and sequestered spot for interviews, the cheerfulness of those occurrences never took kindly to the soil of the ruin, would be a curious inquiry. Perhaps it was because its associations had about them something sinister. Its history proved that. Apart from the sanguinary nature of the games originally played therein, such incidents attached to its past as these: that for scores of years the town-gallows had stood at one corner; that in 1705 a woman who had murdered her husband was half-strangled and then burnt there in the presence of ten thousand spectators. Tradition reports that at a certain stage of the burning her heart burst and leapt out of her body, to the terror of them all, and that not one of those ten thousand people ever cared particularly for hot roast after that. In addition to these old tragedies, pugilistic encounters almost to the death had come off down to recent dates in that secluded arena, entirely invisible to the outside world save by climbing to the top of the enclosure, which few townspeople in the daily round of their lives ever took the trouble to do. So that, though close to the turnpike-road, crimes might be perpetrated there unseen at mid-day.
5. Some boys had latterly tried to impart gaiety to the ruin by using the central arena as a cricket-ground. But the game usually languished for the aforesaid reason - the dismal privacy which the earthen circle enforced, shutting out every appreciative passer's vision, every commendatory remark from outsiders - everything, except the sky; and to play at games in such circumstances was like acting to an empty house. Possibly, too, the boys were timid, for some old people said that at certain moments in the summer time, in broad daylight, persons sitting with a book or dozing in the arena had, on lifting their eyes, beheld the slopes lined with a gazing legion of Hadrian's soldiery as if watching the gladiatorial combat; and had heard the roar of their excited voices; that the scene would remain but a moment, like a lightning flash, and then disappear.

6. It was related that there still remained under the south entrance excavated cells for the reception of the wild animals and athletes who took part in the games. [IV] The arena was still smooth and circular, as if used for its original purpose not so very long ago. The sloping pathways by which spectators had ascended to their seats were pathways yet. But the whole was grown over with grass, which now, at the end of summer, was bearded with withered bents that formed waves under the brush of the wind, returning to the attentive ear aeolian modulations, and detaining for moments the flying globes of thistledown.

(Adapted from *The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy)

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. Why was the term ‘**suggestive place**’ utilized to describe the amphitheatre?
- A. To emphasize that its real size could not be appreciated at a glance.
 - B. To indicate that the amphitheatre was full of historical associations.
 - C. To denote that its structural design served to hold mysterious meetings.
 - D. To imply that the amphitheatre was best appreciated in the evening.
89. The ‘**curious enquiry**’ is presented as a reference to a quest to account for _____.
- A. the absence of light-hearted romantic meetings in the amphitheatre
 - B. the cogent reason why interviews never took place in the amphitheatre
 - C. the sinister associations evoked by the ambience of the amphitheatre
 - D. the factors contributing to the ruinous conditions of the amphitheatre
90. What was one explanation as to why the boys had forsaken playing cricket in the Amphitheatre?
- A. The confined physical space that failed to accommodate the game
 - B. The absence of spectators or passers-by to applaud their efforts
 - C. The boys’ apprehension about being caught playing in the arena
 - D. The overexposure to extreme weather conditions in the summer
91. What is the author’s primary purpose in the passage?
- A. To account for the unique atmosphere of the Amphitheatre
 - B. To chronicle the historical development of the Amphitheatre
 - C. To expound on the cultural significance of one Roman relic
 - D. To explicate the uses to which Roman historical sites are put
92. The account of the woman’s partial strangulation and burning ultimately functions to _____.
- A. illustrate one reason for the unsavoury reputation of the place
 - B. accentuate the blood-thirsty nature of the former occupants
 - C. supplement the fictional narrative plot with realistic elements

- D. portray the magnitude of the gulf between past and present
93. What is the most likely implication about the general attitude of Casterbridge residents to the Roman past?
- A. The inhabitants of Casterbridge showed a keen appreciation for the art of the Romans.
 B. Casterbridge residents harbored doubts about the spirits of the buried Roman soldiers.
 C. The inhabitants of Casterbridge felt far removed from the concerns of the Romans.
 D. Casterbridge residents were awe-struck by the enduring legacy of Roman civilization.
94. Where in the passage does the following sentence best fit?

Intrigues were arranged there; tentative meetings were there experimented after divisions and feuds.

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

Your answers:

88.	89.	90.	91.	92.	93.	94.
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For questions 95 – 100, complete the summary with no more than TWO words taken from the passage for each space. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

The Roman amphitheatre in Casterbridge, a structure of considerable historical significance, is characterized by a pervasive ancient presence. Remnants of Roman soldiers were frequently unearthed in the surrounding area, often arousing (95) _____ among passing townspeople. These ancient burials, however, met with the indifference of local inhabitants due to the vast temporal and cultural distance from contemporary life.

The amphitheatre itself, a vast circular structure, served as a venue for clandestine meetings yet conspicuously avoided associations with happy lovers—a pattern likely explained by its history of (96) _____ entertainments, including public executions and (97) _____ that continued into more recent times.

Despite occasional modern attempts to introduce (98) _____ through recreation, the site retained an atmosphere of somber isolation, amplified by local legends of ghostly Roman legions. Physical evidence of its original function persists in the form of (99) _____, while the overgrown arena itself remains a space wherein the wind interacts with the withered vegetation, (100) _____ transient natural elements.

Your answers:

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

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

HOW BLUE LIGHT KILLS SUPERBUGS

Photomedicine offers a promising new avenue of treatment to combat the crisis of antibiotic resistance

Bacteria may be among the simplest life forms, but they're increasingly outsmarting the drugs designed to curtail them. Take MRSA, a bug that causes staph infections. This bacterium can infect even the tiniest wounds, forming pockets of pus and stubborn skin infections. In worse cases, it can infiltrate the body, turning a scrape into sepsis. Sticking to surfaces in glue-like biofilms and hitching rides on unwashed hands, it tends to afflict vulnerable patients in hospitals.

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That's why Gelfand has been exploring a new approach to tackling MRSA and other superbugs: blue light. Picture a device that looks something like a bandage made of silicone. Its active ingredient is not an antibiotic or other drug, but tiny LEDs embedded in the silicone that shine at specific wavelengths. Gelfand developed the device alongside Laisa Negri, an HMS research fellow in dermatology, and colleagues at the Wellman Center for Photomedicine at Mass General, the world's largest academic research center focused on the effects of light on human biology.

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Light can exert powerful effects on living things. It's a form of energy that acts like a wave as it moves through space and behaves like particles when it interacts with matter, delivering energy in small bursts. A light's wavelength, the distance between the peaks of its waves, determines how we perceive its color, as well as how much energy each particle, or photon, carries.

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Earlier in his career at the Wellman Center, where he has been an investigator for 20 years, Dai explored using UV light to fight drug-resistant microbes. But as he became frustrated by its side effects, he came across research on the use of blue light to treat acne by curtailing pimple-causing microbes. Blue light sits closer than UV to the low-energy end of the electromagnetic spectrum and is not directly absorbed by cells' DNA. Dai decided to investigate whether and how blue light might combat wound-infecting bacteria that antibiotics struggle to kill.

Dai went on to conduct dozens of NIH-funded studies pitting blue light against a range of microbes. He demonstrated its effectiveness against *Acinetobacter baumannii*, for example, a superbug notorious for infecting combat-related wounds in soldiers, as well as fungal pathogens that thrive alongside bacteria in sticky biofilms. Along the way, he used clever tools — like fluorescent molecules that can glow inside bacteria and stains that reveal damaged DNA — to help elucidate how blue light harms bacteria.

What makes this process so interesting, Dai says, is that it appears less likely than antibiotic drugs to induce resistance. Traditional antibiotics tend to exploit a precise mechanism in the bacteria, like a single enzyme or cellular process. The drugs wipe out most of the bugs, sparing only those that might have a small genetic mutation that helps them withstand its mechanism of action. As those survivors multiply, the antibiotic loses effectiveness. In contrast, the reactive oxygen molecules generated by blue light damage many processes and parts of cells at once. There's no simple way for microbes to evolve an escape route. Dai has even conducted experiments exposing bacterial communities to repeated rounds of light to try to induce resistance, but he found no evidence that the effectiveness of the treatment waned over time.

(Adapted from <https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/how-blue-light-kills-superbugs>)

Missing paragraphs:

- A. Those photons interact with matter in different ways depending on how energetic they are. Ultraviolet light, for example, can damage cells' DNA. That makes UV very effective at killing bacteria and treating skin infections, says Tianhong Dai, an HMS associate professor of dermatology at Mass General. But UV exposure also damages DNA in human cells, which can lead to harmful side effects like cancer.
- B. The new tool is based on more than a decade of Wellman Center research in preclinical models revealing that blue light can curtail even the most stubborn bacterial pathogens. If proven viable in people, the approach could add a rare new option to a shrinking arsenal of defenses against drug-resistant infections.
- C. He's learned that blue light exploits a convenient vulnerability found in many microbes: high levels of specific molecules, called porphyrins, that carry out key functions. These molecules happen to absorb light very strongly in the blue range of wavelengths. When light hits the porphyrins, they get "excited," says Dai, triggering reactions that release bursts of reactive oxygen species into cells. Those highly reactive oxygen molecules crack the cells' membranes, break their DNA, and oxidize proteins and lipids. Damage piles up until the cells die.

- D.** Other devices being developed by HMS scientists could soon follow. Some even deliver the treatment to places light typically doesn't reach. For example, Dai and colleagues have been developing an ear tube embedded with a tiny glowing laser that could one day be used to combat the bacterial biofilms that cause recurrent ear infections in children who receive the tubes. At Mass General, orthopedic surgeons created an optical fiber with the potential to illuminate spaces inside the body, like around joint implants, to stop drug-resistant infections.
- E.** In one of his first studies on antimicrobial blue light, published in 2013, Dai and colleagues beamed blue light on MRSA cells in a petri dish before zooming in on those cells using a powerful microscopic camera. Through the lens, they saw something of an apocalyptic landscape: broken cell debris, cracked cell walls, and mangled insides. The light had seemingly shattered the bacteria. They tested the light on MRSA-infected skin abrasions in mice and were the first to demonstrate that blue light could halt the growth of the drug-resistant microbe in an animal model.
- F.** Still, some studies have suggested that higher doses of blue light can affect human cells' energy levels or their ability to cope with oxidative stress. And Dai has found that different bacteria have different levels and types of porphyrins, which makes some bugs more susceptible than others to the treatment. "We'll need to find therapeutic windows that are safe to humans while effectively killing different pathogens," he says, noting that this is true of any drug, including standard antibiotics.
- G.** What's even more menacing about this microbe, though, is its status as a so-called superbug: a pathogen that has evolved resistance to antibiotics. Since the development of penicillin ushered in the "antibiotic era" in the mid-20th century, says Jeffrey Gelfand, an HMS professor of medicine, part-time, at Massachusetts General Hospital, the overzealous use of these drugs "has led to many, many different mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance," making wounds infected with microbes like MRSA increasingly tough to treat. Some experts predict that, by 2050, drug-resistant pathogens could kill more people than cancer.

Your answers:

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

Part 1. *The table below provides information about the proportions of income adults and children spent on 4 common items in the UK in 1998.*

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

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

Artistic expression has increasingly taken forms that many audiences perceive as provocative, impolite, or even offensive, particularly in the work of contemporary singers and artists.

While some contend that such developments represent a natural progression in art and should therefore be embraced without criticism, others argue that these expressions risk undermining social norms and public sensibilities.

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

[illegible]

[illegible]

(You may write overleaf if you need more space.)

Great appreciation to authors of published works of which adaptations have been made in this test paper!

That is the end of the written test. Good luck!