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| **SỞ GIÁO DỤC & ĐÀO TẠO** **TỈNH BÌNH DƯƠNG** **TRƯỜNG THPT CHUYÊN HÙNG VƯƠNG****ĐỀ ĐỀ XUẤT** *(Đề thi gồm 18 trang)* | **KỲ KIỂM TRA CHẤT LƯỢNG CÁC** **ĐỘI TUYỂN HSG** **NĂM HỌC 2022-2023** **MÔN: TIẾNG ANH – KHỐI 10***Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút* *(Không kể thời gian giao đề)* |

**I. LISTENING (50 POINTS)**

**Part 1. You will hear a woman talking about her visit to South Africa. For questions 1-5, complete the sentences with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS. (10 pts)**

**South Africa**

Harriet was keen to visit South Africa because her grandfather spent their childhood there.

The reason she went so South Africa originally was to attend some 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Company called 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helped her organise the trip.

The 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the first surprising thing about the country.

Harriet says that cheetahs were the animals that she most enjoyed seeing at the safari park.

She made a stop to visit 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the east coast.

She suggests April as a good month to visit the country.

Harriet uses the word 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to describe how she felt after the holiday.

***Your answers:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1.  | 4.  |
| 2.  | 5.  |
| 3.  |  |

**Part 2. You will hear part of an interview with a writer. For questions 6-10, choose the answer (А, В, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. (10 pts)**

6. What was Jessica writing about at first?

A. travelling tips for young people B. teenage film reviews

C. humorous poetry D. local news outtakes

7. According to Jessica, what is the most challenging aspect of writing?

A. finding the right words to share her ideas

B. being in a hurry to travel to different places

C. the pressure to have work done on time

D. quickly familiarizing yourself with the place

8. What is most enjoyable about her work?

A. the chance to see all kinds of places B. meeting all the different people

C. the joy of completing an article D. keeping in touch with her fellow writers

9. Apart from writing, what other experience does Jessica have?

A. promoting consumer goods B. selling make-up goods

C. working as a tour guide D. working at an airline company

10. What does Jessica advice to other aspiring travel writers?

A. develop your own original style of writing

B. find a place that few people have written about before

C. find a different angle to approach your topic from

D. write with a specific type of reader in mind

**Your answer:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10.  |

**Part 3. For questions 11-15, listen to a talk about the Swiss education system and decide these statements are true (T), false (F) or not Given (NG). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 pts)**

The Swiss education system offers many different possibilities for a professional career.

11. Learners can learn all the essentials of a profession in the apprenticeship composed of a theoretical part and a practical part.

12. A federal vocational baccalaureate can’t be completed while learners are in the second years of their apprenticeship, then they can continue their studies at a higher education institution.

13. The degree courses are geared towards occupational practices so that an internship plays an important part in the degree.

To be able to study at a university or a federal Technical University, you need either a general baccalaureate or an equivalent education. Both universities and federal technical universities teach mainly theory analysis related skills and scientific methodology.

14. Either a general baccalaureate or an equivalent education has to be taken if students study at a university or a federal Technical University where theory analysis related skills are mainly taught instead of scientific methodology.

15. The flexible education system enables learners to specialize further a different course or school during the course.

**Your answer:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11. | 12. | 13. | 14. | 15.  |

**Part 4. For questions from 16-25. Listen to information about lab-grown meat. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (20 pts)**

For all of human history, eating meat has meant (16) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But the scientists say that's no longer necessary. They produce meat by(17) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from an animal's body, and its meat is grown in large (18) \_\_\_\_\_\_ tanks resembling a brewery.

UPSIDE will debut with a textured chicken product, which tastes very similar to (19) \_\_\_\_\_\_ and is made from over 99% chicken cells.

As NPR reported last fall, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave UPSIDE a greenlight, signaling its (20) \_\_\_\_\_\_ is safe to eat.

“Consumers are now one giant step closer to enjoying the meat they love without compromise," Friedrich says. It’s different from the traditional animal food production which has a big (20) \_\_\_\_\_\_. He tracks investments in protein alternatives and says there are more than 150 companies working to bring cultivated meat and seafood to market. Some are working on beef. He says global demand for meat is expected to (21) \_\_\_\_\_\_ by 2050.

Proponents say the (22) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is more sustainable and can be produced without antibiotics, and without producing methane emissions linked to animal agriculture. It remains to be seen whether cultivated meat production can lower (23) \_\_\_\_\_\_ from producing meat. Now that cultivated meat is approved for sale, it is no longer (24) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. People will get a chance to taste it.

Climate scientists have warned that to slow global warming, agriculture must change.

***Your answers:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 16. | 21. |
| 17. | 22. |
| 18. | 23. |
| 19. | 24. |
| 20. | 25. |

**II. LEXICO - GRAMMAR (40 POINTS)**

**Part 1. For questions 26-45, choose one of the words marked A, B, C, or D which best completes each of the following sentences. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (20 pts)**

26. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the most serious flu epidemic in years, the World Health Organization is warning the public to do an inoculation now.

A. With Europe facing B. With Europe to face

C. With Europe faced D. With Europe faces

27. She made a £500 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and agreed to pay the balance within six months.

A. debt burden B. bank statement C. lump sum D. down payment

28. Palair Airlines offers excellent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entertainment, with the latest movies and music.

A. on-flight B. during-flight C. in-flight D. over-flight

29. I overslept this morning and caught the last bus to school by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the hair of my head B. the skin of my teeth

C. the nail of my finger D. the skin of my heels

30. The rain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ down slowly under his coat collar, making him feel thoroughly damp and miserable.

A. crept B. waded C. trickled D. teemed

31. Primary education has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ underfunded in this area of the country for many years now, and it is about time something was done about it.

A. seriously B. deeply C. highly D. remarkably

32. Nobody, even the best doctors, expected Frank’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be so quick and successful after so evere an accident.

A. renewal B. resumption C. recuperation D. remuneration

33. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ show him throughout the course, which really depressed him.

A. Not one grain of encouragement did she

B. Not one grain of encouragement she did

C. One grain of encouragement did she not

D. One grain of encouragement not she did

34. Fiona stood up, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ down her skirt and began to address the audience.

A. smoothed B. got C. tied D. dolled

35. In a situation like this, there are no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rules. You just have to use your own discretion.

A. clear and cut B. hard and fast C. up-and-coming D. out-and-out

36. That sneaky real estate agent conned me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ selling her my house for a lot less than it was worth.

A. out B. on C. at D. into

37. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the youngest mountain climber got lost with the rest of his team when his walkie-talkie malfunctioned.

A. To put it down to luck B. By a stroke of luck

C. Be it lucky or not D. As luck would have it

38. In our regular meetings, my supervisor and I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our ideas off each other till we find something that we all like.

A. bounce B. cream C. check D. give

39. We were all on a \_\_\_\_\_\_-edge until the very end of the “The Man with the Golden Gun” film.

A. razor B. knife C. cliff D. chair

40. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ chair the meeting.

A. John was decided to B. It was decided that John should

C. There was decided that John should D. John had been decided to

41. Susie is kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ traveler who will probably never settle down in one place.

 A. habitual B. intrepid C. inveterate D. weary

42. This government is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of higher taxation by introducing new benefits for employees at the same time.

A. eating humble pie B. spilling the beans

C. sweetening the pill D. selling like hot cakes

43. The threat of a general strike can only be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through government intervention.

A. averted B. converted C. subverted D. diverted

44. We were all in \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the fact that the new manager was our old friend Duncan.

A. surprise B. shock C. awe D. amazement

45. I felt a bit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and seemed to have more aches and pains than usual.

 A. out of sorts B. on the mend C. over the worst D. under the fevers

***Your answers:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 26. | 27. | 28. | 29. | 30. |
| 31. | 32. | 33. | 34. | 35. |
| 36. | 37. | 38. | 39. | 40. |
| 41. | 42. | 43. | 44. | 45. |

**Part 2. For questions 46-55, fill each gap with the correct form of the words in brackets. Write your answer in the boxes provided. (10 pts)**

46. The company’s publishing operations include business and consumer \_\_\_\_\_\_. (PERIOD)

47. Yesterday the company \_\_\_\_\_\_ a soaring 28 percent rise in profits for the year to December. (VEIL)

48. Such changes are \_\_\_\_\_\_ to even the best-trained eye. (PERCEIVE)

49. As soon as the meeting began, however, \_\_\_\_\_\_ differences emerged. (RECONCILE)

50. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a catastrophe of \_\_\_\_\_\_ dimensions for the whole world. (PRECEDE)

51. Her legs were \_\_\_\_\_\_ by the very high heels which she wore. (LONG)

52. School officials hope the \_\_\_\_\_\_ project can help both the teenagers and retired people. (GENERATE)

53. Farmers are discouraged from applying \_\_\_\_\_\_ chemicals nowadays. (INSECT)

54. Our \_\_\_\_\_\_ trip covers everything during your trip abroad apart from travel insurance. (INCLUDE)

55. Not only large cities but also \_\_\_\_\_\_ places have been badly affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. (FLING)

***Your answers:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 46. | 47.  | 48.  | 49.  | 50.  |
| 51.  | 52.  | 53.  | 54.  | 55.  |

**Part 3. For questions 56-65, complete each of the following sentences with suitable preposition(s) or particle(s). Write your answer in the boxes provided. (10 pts)**

56. The concert is only three days away but their preparations are still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sixes and sevens.

57. The concert was excellent; there were lots of well-known songs with some new ones thrown in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ good measure.

58. Strictly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the record, his work is below standard.

59. I’d love to drive over to see you but my car has been acting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recently.

60. He is looking for a job and he is willing to do anything \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reason.

61. Even though the police went \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the evidence many times, they didn’t find anything.

62. As the shop didn’t accept credit cards, I had to pay \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cash.

63. Frank is a very mean person. He finds it very difficult to part \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his money.

64. The company pulled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ despite the economic crisis.

65. When Mr. Spendthrift ran out of money, he fell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on his mother for help.

***Your answers:***

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

**III. READING (60 POINTS)**

**Part 1. For questions 66-75, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.(15 pts)**

Although the earth was formed about 4,500 million years ago, human beings have inhabited it for less than half a million years. Within this time, population has increased hugely and people have had a vast (66) \_\_\_\_\_\_ upon the earth. They have long been able to (67) \_\_\_\_\_\_ the forces of nature to use. Now, with modern technology, they have the power to alter the balance of life on earth.

Reports back from the first astronauts helped dispel the dangerous (68) \_\_\_\_\_\_ that the world had no boundaries and had limitless resources. (69) \_\_\_\_\_\_, acologists have shown that all forms of life on earth are interconnected, so it (70) \_\_\_\_\_\_ that all human activities have an effect on the natural environment.

In recent years, people have been putting the environment under stress. As a result, certain (71) \_\_\_\_\_\_ materials such as timber, water and minerals are beginning to (72) \_\_\_\_\_\_ short. Pollution and the (73) \_\_\_\_\_\_ of waste are already critical issues, and the state of the environment is fast becoming the most pressing problem (74) \_\_\_\_\_\_ us all. The way we respond to the challenge will have a profound effect on the earth and its life support systems.

However, despite all these threats, there are (75) \_\_\_\_\_\_ signs. Over the past few decades, the growth in population has been more than matched by food production, indicating that we should be able to feed ourselves for some time yet.

66. A. imprint B. indication C. impression D. impact

67. A. put B. make C. place D. stand

68. A. jugement B. notion C. reflection D. concept

69. A. However B. Likewise C. Moreover D. Otherwise

70. A. results B. follows C. complies D. develops

71. A. raw B. coarse C. crude D. rough

72. A. turn B. come C. go D. run

73. A. disposal B. displacement C. disposition D. dismissal

74. A. encountering B. opposing C. confronting D. meeting

75. A. stimulating B. welcoming C. satisfying D. reassuring

***Your answers***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 66.  | 67.  | 68.  | 69.  | 70.  |
| 71.  | 72.  | 73.  | 74.  | 75.  |

**Part 2. For questions 76-85, fill each gap in the passage below with ONE appropriate word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 pts)**

Are you one of those people who toss and turn all night, unable to (76) \_\_\_\_\_\_ to sleep? Although many people who have sleeping problems, either chronic or occasional, automatically reach for the sleeping tablets when they see a difficult night (77) \_\_\_\_\_\_ of them, there a number of so-called “folk” remedies which are not only cheap but also much safer in the long run. Most people have tried having a hot drink such as milk or one of a number of commercially available herbal infusions before going to bed, but there are other, (78) \_\_\_\_\_\_ well-known remedies, which can help you on your way to a restful night’s sleeo. One usual but effective technique involves not warmth, (79) \_\_\_\_\_\_ you might think, but cold. Before going to bed, run very cold water for several minutes over your forearms and legs from the knee (80) \_\_\_\_\_\_, then dry yourself quickly and hop into bed. You will find yourself feeling totally relaxed and drowsy. Take a large apple, wash it and eat it slowly, (81) \_\_\_\_\_\_ particular care to chew the peel thoroughly. Chewing is not only relaxing in (82) \_\_\_\_\_\_, but the peel of the apple contains a ntural substance (83) \_\_\_\_\_\_ induces relaxation. Meditation, stretching, walking and (84) \_\_\_\_\_\_ reading are also effective for many people. Clearl, there are many ways to avoid pillpopping route and to enjoy a good night’s sleep. Then again, if all (85) \_\_\_\_\_\_ fails, you could always try counting sheep!

***Your answers:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 76. | 77. | 78. | 79. | 80. |
| 81. | 82. | 83. | 84. | 85. |

**Part 3. For questions 86-95, read the following passage and choose the best answer to each question. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 pts)**

**Rising Sea Levels**

Perhaps the most pervasive climatic effect of global warming is rapid escalation of ice melt. Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, portions of the South American Andes, and the Himalayas will very likely lose most of their glacial ice within the next two decades, affecting local water resources. Glacial ice continues its retreat in Alaska. NASA scientists determined that Greenland's ice sheet is thinning by about 1 m per year. The additional meltwater, especially from continental ice masses and glaciers, is adding to a rise in sea level worldwide. Satellite remote sensing is monitoring global sea level, sea ice, and continental ice. Worldwide measurements confirm that sea level rose during the last century.

Surrounding the margins of Antarctica, and constituting about 11% of its surface area, are numerous ice shelves, especially where sheltering inlets or bays exist. Covering many thousands of square kilometres, these ice shelves extend over the sea while still attached to continental ice. The loss of these ice shelves does not significantly raise sea level, for they already displace seawater. The concern is for the possible surge of grounded continental ice that the ice shelves hold back from the sea.

Although ice shelves constantly break up to produce icebergs, some large sections have recently broken free. In 1998 an iceberg (150 km by 35 km) broke off the Ronne Ice Shelf, southeast of the Antarctic Peninsula. In March 2000 an iceberg tagged B-15 broke off the Ross Ice Shelf (some 900 longitude west of the Antarctic Peninsula), measuring 300 km by 40 km. Since 1993, six ice shelves have disintegrated in Antarctica. About 8000 km of ice shelf are gone, changing maps, freeing up islands to circumnavigation, and creating thousands of icebergs. The Larsen Ice Shelf, along the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, has been retreating slowly for years. Larsen-A suddenly disintegrated in 1995. In only 35 days in early 2002, Larsen-B collapsed into icebergs. This ice loss is likely a result of the 2.5°C temperature increase in the region in the last 50 years. In response to the increasing warmth, the Antarctic Peninsula is sporting new vegetation growth, previously not seen **there**.

A loss of polar ice mass, augmented by melting of alpine and mountain glaciers (which experienced more than a 30% decrease in overall ice mass during the last century) will affect sea-level rise. The IPCC assessment states that "between one-third to one-half of the existing mountain glacier mass could disappear over the next hundred years." Also, "there is **conclusive** evidence for a worldwide recession of mountain glaciers ... This is among the clearest and best evidence for a change in energy balance at the Earth's surface since the end of the 19th century."

**[A.]** Sea-level rise must be expressed as a range of values that are under constant reassessment. **[B.]** The 2001 IPCC forecast for global mean sea-level rise this century, given regional variations, is from 0.11-0.88 m. **[C.]** The median value of 0.48 m is two to four times the rate of previous increase. These increases would continue beyond 2100 even if greenhouse gas concentrations are stabilized. **[D.]**

The Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, has kept ocean temperature records since 1916. Significant temperature increases are being recorded to depths of more than 300 m as ocean temperature records are set. Even the warming of the ocean itself will contribute about 25% of sea­level rise, simply because of thermal expansion of the water. In addition, any change in ocean temperature has a profound effect on weather and, indirectly, on agriculture and soil moisture. **In fact, the ocean system appears to have delayed some surface global warming during the past century through absorption of excess atmospheric neat.**

A quick survey of world coastlines shows that even a moderate rise could bring changes of unparalleled proportions. At stake are the river deltas, lowland coastal farming valleys, and low-lying mainland areas, all contending with high water, high tides, and higher storm surges. Particularly tragic social and economic consequences will affect small island states - being able to adjust within their present country boundaries, disruption of biological systems, loss of biodiversity, reduction in water resources, among the impacts. There could be both internal and international migration of affected human populations, spread over decades, as people move away from coastal flooding from the sea-level rise.

86. There is more new plant life in Antarctica recently because \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the mountain glaciers have melted

B. the land masses have split into islands

C. the icebergs have broken into smaller pieces

D. the temperature has risen by a few degrees

87. It may be inferred from this passage that icebergs are formed \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. by a drop in ocean temperatures B. when an ice shelf breaks free

C. from intensely cold islands D. if mountain glaciers melt

88. The word ***‘there’*** in paragraph 3 refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. polar ice mass in the last 50 years B. the temperature increase

C. new vegetation growth D. in the Antarctic Peninsula

89. The author explains the loss of polar and glacial ice by \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. stating an educated opinion B. referring to data in a study

C. comparing sea levels worldwide D. presenting his research

90. The word ***‘conclusive’*** in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. definite B. independent C. unique D. valuable

91. Why does the author mention the Scripps Institute of Oceanography?

A. The location near the coast endangers the Scripps facility.

B. Research at Scripps indicates that the ocean is getting warmer.

C. One-quarter of the rising sea levels has been recorded at Scripps.

D. Records at Scripps have been kept for nearly one hundred years.

92. Which of the sentences below best expresses the information in the bolded statement in the passage?

A. Global warming on the surface of the planet may have been retarded during the last hundred years because heat in the atmosphere was absorbed by the oceans.

B. Global warming on the surface of the ocean was greater than it was on the rest of the planet during the past century because of heat in the atmosphere.

C. Too much heat in the atmosphere has caused global warming on the surface of the planet for the past hundred years in spite of the moderation caused by the oceans.

D. There is less heat being absorbed by the oceans now than there was a hundred years ago before the atmosphere began to experience global warming.

93. Why will people move away from the coastlines in the future?

A. It will be too warm for them to live there.

B. The coastlines will have too much vegetation.

C. Flooding will destroy the coastal areas.

D. No agricultural crops will be grown on the coasts.

94. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects the author's opinion about rising sea levels?

A. Sea levels would rise without global warming. B. Rising sea levels can be reversed.

C. The results of rising sea levels will be serious. D. Sea levels are rising because of new glaciers.

95. Look at the four squares [.] that show where the following sentence could be inserted in the passage.

***During the last century, sea level rose 10-20 cm; a rate 10 times higher than the average rate during the last 3000 years***

Where could the sentence best be added?

A. [A.] B. [B.] C. [C.] D. [D.]

***Your answer***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 86.  | 87.  | 88.  | 89.  | 90.  |
| 91. | 92. | 93. | 94. | 95. |

**Part 4. For questions 96-105, read the text and do the tasks followed. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 pts)**

**Examining the Placebo Effect**

***The fact that taking a fake drug can powerfully improve some people's health - the so-called placebo effect - was long considered an embarrassment to the serious practice of pharmacology, but now things have changed.***

Several years ago, Merck, a global pharmaceutical company, was falling behind its rivals in sales. To make matters worse, patents on five blockbuster drugs were about to expire, which would allow cheaper generic products to flood the market. In interviews with the press. Edward Scolnick. Merck's Research Director presented his plan to restore the firm to pre-eminence. Key to his strategy was expanding the company’s reach into the antidepressant, market, where Merck had trailed behind, while competitors like Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline had created some of the best-selling drugs in the world. “To remain dominant in the future,” he told one media company, "we need to dominate the central nervous system.”

His plan hinged on the success of an experimental anti-depressant codenamed MK-869. Still, in clinical trials, it was a new kind of medication that exploited brain chemistry in innovative ways to promote feelings of well-being. The drug tested extremely well early on, with minimal side effects. Behind the scenes, however, MK-869 was starting to unravel. True, many test subjects treated with the medication felt their hopelessness and anxiety lift. But so did nearly the same number who took a placebo, a look-alike pill made of milk sugar or another inert substance given to groups of volunteers in subsequent clinical trials to gauge the effectiveness of the real drug by comparison. Ultimately, Merck's venture into the anti-depressant market failed. In the jargon of the industry, the trials crossed the "futility boundary".

MK-869 has not been the only much-awaited medical breakthrough to be undone in recent years by the placebo effect. And it's not only trials of new drugs that are crossing the futility boundary. Some products that have been on the market for decades are faltering in more recent follow-up tests It's not that the old medications are getting weaker, drug developers say. It's as if the placebo effect is somehow getting stronger. The fact that an increasing number of medications are unable to beat sugar pills has thrown the industry into crisis. The stakes could hardly be higher. To win FDA approval, a new medication must beat placebo in at least two authenticated trials. In today’s economy, the fate of a well-established company can hang on the outcome of a handful of tests.

Why are fake pills suddenly overwhelming promising new drugs and established medicines alike? The reasons are only just beginning to be understood. A network of independent researchers is doggedly uncovering the inner workings and potential applications of the placebo effect A psychiatrist. William Potter, who knew that some patients really do seem to get healthier for reasons that have more to do with a doctor's empathy than with the contents of a pill, was baffled by the fact that drugs he had been prescribing for years seemed to be struggling to prove their effectiveness Thinking that a crucial factor may have been overlooked, Potter combed through his company’s database of published and unpublished trials—including those that had been kept secret because of high placebo response. His team aggregated the findings from decades of anti-depressant trials, looking for patterns and trying to see what was changing over time. What they found challenged some of the industry’s basic assumptions about its drug-vetting process. Assumption number one was that if a trial were managed correctly, a medication would perform as well or badly in a Phoenix hospital as in a Bangalore clinic. Potter discovered, however, that geographic location alone could determine the outcome. By the late 1990s, for example, the anti-anxiety drug Diazepam was still beating placebo in France and Belgium. But when the drug was tested in the U.S, it was likely to fail. Conversely, a similar drug, Prozac, performed better in America than it did in western Europe and South Africa. It was an unsettling prospect FDA approval could hinge on where the company chose to conduct a trial. Mistaken assumption number two was that the standard tests used to gauge volunteers' improvement in trials yielded consistent results. Potter and his colleagues discovered that ratings by trial observers varied significantly from one testing site to another. It was like finding out that the judges in a tight race each had a different idea about the placement of the finish line.

After some coercion by Potter and others, the National Institute of Health (NIH) focused on the issue in 2000, hosting a three-day conference in Washington, and this conference launched a new wave of placebo research in academic laboratories in the U.S. and Italy that would make significant progress toward solving the mystery of what was happening in clinical trials.

In one study last year. Harvard Medical School researcher Ted Kaptchuk devised a clever strategy for testing his volunteers’ response to varying levels of therapeutic ritual. The study focused on a common but painful medical condition that costs more than $40 billion a year worldwide to treat. First, the volunteers were placed randomly in one of three groups. One group was simply put on a waiting list; researchers know that some patients get better just because they sign up for a trial. Another group received placebo treatment from a clinician who declined to engage in small talk. Volunteers in the third group got the same fake treatment from a clinician who asked them questions about symptoms, outlined the causes of the illness, and displayed optimism about their condition.

Not surprisingly, the health of those in the third group improved most. In fact, just by participating in the trial, volunteers in this high-interaction group got as much relief as did people taking the two leading prescription drugs for the condition. And the benefits of their “bogus” treatment persisted for weeks afterwards, contrary to the belief—widespread in the pharmaceutical industry- that the placebo response is short-lived.

Studies like this open the door to hybrid treatment strategies that exploit the placebo effect to make real drugs safer and more effective. As Potter says, “To really do the best for your patients, you want the best placebo response plus the best drug response'', adapted from Wired Magazine.

**Questions 96 - 100**

***Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage? For questions 96-100, choose:***

***TRUE*** *if the statement agrees with the information*

***FALSE*** *if the statement contradicts the information*

***NOT GIVEN*** *if there is no information on this*

***Write your answers in the corresponding numbered box provided.***

96. These days, a small number of unsuccessful test results can ruin a well-established drugs company.

97. William Potter’s research included trial results from a range of drugs companies.

98. Some medical conditions are more easily treated by a placebo than others.

99. The effects of a placebo can last longer than previously thought

100. Kaptchuk’s research highlights the fact that combined drug and placebo treatments should be avoided

**Questions 101 - 105**

***For questions 100 - 105, Complete the summary, using the list of words, A-O, below. Write the correct letter, A-O in the corresponding numbered box provided***

As a result of concerns about increasing (101) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the drugs industry, the pharmaceutical company Merck decided to increase its (102) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the anti-depressant market. The development of the drug MK-869 was seen as the way forward. Initially, MK-869 had some (103) \_\_\_\_\_\_, but later trials revealed a different picture. Although key (104) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ could be treated with the drug, a sugar pill was proving equally effective. In the end, the (105) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indicated that it was pointless continuing with the development of the drug.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A. doubt | B. activity | C. prices | D. symptoms | E. patients |
| F. risk | G. success | H. test subject | I. cheating | J. tests |
| K. diseases | L. clinicians | M. exaggeration | N. figures | O. competition |

**Your answer**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 96.  | 97.  | 98.  | 99.  | 100.  |
| 101.  | 102.  | 103.  | 104.  | 105.  |

**IV. WRITING (50 POINTS)**

**Part 1. The bar chart shows the number of children in two different age groups in an average class in different countries. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. (20 pts)**



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**Part 2.** **Write an essay of 250 words about this topic. (30 pts)**

**Online education is very popular nowadays. Some people say that it is of great benefit while others think it brings more harm than good. To what extent do you agree with the statement? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**The end**