

SECTION A: LISTENING (50 points)

- The listening section is in **FOUR** parts. You will hear each part **TWICE**. At the beginning of each part, 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. You will hear part of a talk about different positions. For questions 1-5, complete the notes below. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

Position	Place	Notes
1_____	Parkview Hotel	Speak foreign languages Have a valid 2_____
General Assistant	Lakeside Hotel	Include 3_____
		Pay is low
		Free 4_____
		Issue a certificate
Catering Assistant	Hotel 98	Wear 5_____
		Night shift work
		Travel outside the city

Part 2. You will hear a talk about the Sidekick Notepad. For questions 6-10, decide whether the following statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG). Write T, F, or NG in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

6. The Sidekick Notepad has been tested on thousands of users' different desktop setups to ensure it fits well in front of the keyboard.
7. Writing on the Sidekick's dot grid is especially helpful for people who have very neat and professional handwriting.
8. The sturdy cover of the Sidekick Notepad is mainly intended to protect it from damage during travel in a bag.
9. The speaker mentions that the Sidekick Notepad has already been used successfully in some highly secure government or military meetings.
10. The Cortex Company produces the Sidekick Notepad using completely automated machinery in their London workshop.

Part 3. You will hear part of a radio interview with an economist. For questions 11-15, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

11. According to the Fawcett Society,

- A. women would need to work into their eighties to earn as much money as men.
- B. good qualifications aren't necessarily rewarded with high wages.
- C. women will never earn as much as men.
- D. more women have degrees than men.

12. What is said about careers advice in schools?

- A. It has been improved but it is still inadequate.
- B. It is now quite good for girls but boys are being neglected.
- C. There is no advice for girls that are ambitious.
- D. Girls are always encouraged not to be ambitious.

13. According to Jim,

- A. women are to blame for not insisting on higher wages.
- B. new government policies have solved most of the problems.
- C. there is nothing more the government can do.
- D. women shouldn't necessarily be encouraged to change their choice of career.

14. What does the 'stuffed shirt' policy mean?

- A. Women are being forced to choose between family commitments and work.
- B. Only men can have part-time senior positions.
- C. Women don't get the opportunity to train for high-powered jobs.
- D. No woman can have a senior position.

15. Jim seems to believe that

- A. women should stay at home and look after their children.
- B. women now earn as much money as men in the workplace.
- C. women have been disadvantaged by outdated work ethics.
- D. having children will soon be an advantage for working women.

Part 4. You will listen to part of a talk about AI in architecture. For questions 16-25, complete the summary by writing NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS in each gap. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (20 points)

AI in Architectural Design

Historically, many designers resisted new technology because they felt that digital tools might destroy the (16) _____ of the creative process. While early computer software was restricted to doing tasks that were (17) _____ in nature, modern artificial intelligence is different. New programs are described as (18) _____ because they can find trends in data to produce original work. In the past, people only worried about computers doing (19) _____ work, but now machines can think and learn like humans.

When using AI for visual designs, being (20) _____ can actually be helpful during the early stages of a project. However, getting the right result usually involves a significant amount of (21) _____. Even though AI is useful for early ideas, it still struggles to evaluate (22) _____ or create functional plans without help. In one famous case, a company used AI to help create (23) _____ for a large office, but humans still had to make the final choices. Most experts agree that AI cannot easily copy human (24) _____. Furthermore, tasks that involve managing (25) _____ and empathy are likely to remain the responsibility of people for the foreseeable future.

SECTION B: LEXICO-GRAMMAR (40 points)

Part 1. For questions 26-55, choose the best option A, B, C, or D to complete the following sentences. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (30 points)

26. The acoustics of the renovated concert hall _____ universally praised by musicians and critics alike since it reopened.

- A. is B. have been C. has been D. was

27. _____, overlooking the sprawling metropolis below.

- A. On the summit of the hill perched the majestic temple
B. Perched on the summit of the hill the majestic temple stood
C. On the summit of the hill did the majestic temple perch
D. Perching the majestic temple on the summit of the hill

28. _____ that the audience listened in absolute silence.

- A. So spellbinding the performance was B. Such a spellbinding performance it was
C. So spellbinding was the performance D. Such spellbinding performance was it

29. _____, the expedition team decided to postpone their ascent to the summit.

- A. Approaching the blizzard B. The blizzard having been approached
C. With the blizzard approaching D. The blizzard approached

30. I would rather you _____ the confidential documents without my explicit permission yesterday.

- A. not have shared B. hadn't shared C. didn't share D. wouldn't share

31. "Do you mind if I turn up the heating?" – "I'd really rather you _____."

- A. didn't B. don't C. not D. hadn't

32. _____ you been in my shoes, how would you have handled the dispute?

- A. Should B. If C. Had D. Provided

33. The board of directors may reject the proposal, _____ the entire project will have to be scrapped.

- A. in which case B. by which time C. for which reason D. on which account

34. It is of utmost importance that the new safety protocol _____ rigorously by all staff members.

- A. would be followed B. is followed C. will be followed D. be followed
35. The ancient ruins _____ continuously inhabited for over three millennia before their eventual abandonment.
- A. are believed to be B. are believed to have been
C. believed to be D. have been believed to be
36. Winning the local election was a _____ victory for him, as his reputation had been completely destroyed during the campaign.
- A. bare B. shallow C. blank D. hollow
37. Because of his family connections, he had the inside _____ on the new development project before it was announced to the public.
- A. lan B. track C. path D. route
38. The rebel forces finally decided to _____ their arms and negotiate a peace treaty with the government.
- A. lay down B. give up C. hand over D. put off
39. His blatant disregard for the rules is _____ to insubordination and will not be tolerated in this company.
- A. tantamount B. parallel C. equivalent D. corresponding
40. We had a rocky start, but we are definitely out of the _____ now and making good progress on the assignment.
- A. weeds B. bushes C. shadows D. woods
41. The thought of walking through the abandoned graveyard at midnight gave me the _____.
- A. cold feet B. heebie-jeebies C. chills D. hiccups
42. The lawyer successfully argued that the defendant's youth and lack of prior convictions were _____ factors that should reduce his sentence.
- A. mitigating B. moderating C. soothing D. appeasing
43. The controversial new tax policy proved to be a _____ of contention among the coalition members.
- A. seed B. root C. bone D. point
44. I was in _____ about whether to accept the lucrative job offer or stay at my current company where I felt comfortable.
- A. two minds B. half a mind C. a predicament D. double thoughts
45. The disgraced CEO was forced to _____ control of the company he had founded after the financial scandal went public.
- A. abdicate B. renounce C. relinquish D. abandon
46. The raw recruits were _____ to a grueling fitness regime before being officially accepted into the elite military unit.
- A. subjected B. submitted C. surrendered D. subordinated

47. The unexpected discovery of a new oil reserve was a massive _____ to the country's struggling economy.

- A. surge B. prop C. blast D. boon

48. The politician was heavily criticized in the press for continually pandering _____ the whims of the wealthy elite.

- A. at B. for C. with D. to

49. The manager's sudden resignation came completely out of the _____, surprising everyone in the office.

- A. blue B. red C. dark D. black

50. As the head of the department, she is always in the _____ line when things go wrong and upper management demands answers.

- A. firing B. shooting C. attacking D. combat

51. He has an unfortunate _____ for arriving late to important meetings, which severely undermines his professionalism.

- A. habit B. routine C. tendency D. custom

52. He is a scholar of the highest _____, having published dozens of groundbreaking papers in his field.

- A. water B. order C. degree D. level

53. As the storm _____, the rescue teams were finally able to dispatch helicopters to the stranded hikers.

- A. died away B. passed over C. backed down D. eased off

54. The team made a _____ effort to finish the project ahead of schedule, staying late into the night for an entire week.

- A. combined B. joined C. concerted D. unified

55. It is incredibly easy to feel taken for _____ when your hard work is consistently ignored by your superiors.

- A. granted B. sure C. certain D. given

Part 2. For questions 56-65, fill each gap with the correct form of the word in brackets. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (10 points)

56. The fact that Reginald is the size of a small horse and Pearl is as small as an apple didn't stop them from getting along _____. [FAME]

57. This damage to wildlife can have a/an _____ effect to damage the entire ecosystem. [TRICKLE]

58. The days of being a/an _____ and voiceless member of the pack are over — this is our time to shine as bright as the sun and step into the limelight. [FLOWER]

59. Where evidence is _____, and a delay might result in it being lost, it may be seized and retained. [TIME]

60. Most students are under the _____ that passive input—watching, listening, reading—is where learning happens and practice is simply a check on that knowledge. [CONCEIVE]
61. Last year’s scores were the _____ against which progress was gauged this year. [LINE]
62. Having a place for all your belongings is a/an _____ organizing rule if your goal is to have a totally tidy home. [NEGOTIATE]
63. The whole play gets elevated to a certain pitch, but does not get _____. [WORK]
64. Ticket sales are bound to be read as a/an _____ for the box office. [WETHER]
65. The event is soon _____ when the local police chief shows up with a few questions for the wedding party. [TRACK]

SECTION C: READING (60 points)

Part 1. For questions 66-75, read the following passage and decide which option (A, B, C, or D) best fits each gap. Write your answers in corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (15 points)

The roots of English literature can be (66)_____ to Germanic tribes who invaded Britain in the 5th century. These people had no written language but learned the Latin alphabet from Romans on the British Isles. Using this (67)_____, they were able to document epic poems; previously only memorized, recited, and passed down (68)_____ generations.

In 1066, England was conquered by the Normans from France, and elements of French and Latin (69)_____ the English language. Nearly 300 years (70) _____, Geoffrey Chaucer emerged. Chaucer is considered the “Father of English Literature.” His most famous work, a collection of stories called The Canterbury Tales, helped (71)_____ vernacular English – English as it was spoken – (72)_____ the French and Latin that were used by the royal court.

The 16th century saw the rise of lyric poetry, which is poetry that (73)_____ personal feelings and emotions. Lyric poetry reached its (74)_____ with the work of William Shakespeare, who, in addition to writing poetry, also wrote plays (75 _____ today.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 66. A. found | B. traced | C. located | D. followed |
| 67. A. sign | B. symbol | C. system | D. character |
| 68. A. via | B. past | C. into | D. through |
| 69. A. spoke | B. arrived | C. entered | D. intruded |
| 70. A. next | B. later | C. more | D. again |
| 71. A. popularizing | B. popularity of | C. to popularize | D. the popularity |
| 72. A. as for | B. even though | C. besides which | D. as opposed to |
| 73. A. speaks | B. phrases | C. signifies | D. expresses |
| 74. A. rise | B. height | C. top | D. importance |

75. A. are still performing that
C. still are performing that

B. that are still performed
D. have still performed that

Part 2. For questions 76-85, fill each of the blanks with ONE suitable word. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (15 points)

In comparison (76) _____ white chocolate, dark chocolate has a range of health benefits. The healing properties of chocolate (77) _____ attributed to polyphenols and flavonols, powerful antioxidants defending body cells and combating (78) _____ number of diseases. Several scientific studies (79) _____ shown that the consumption of dark chocolate can lower blood pressure, restore flexibility to arteries and facilitate the easy flow of blood. Eating dark chocolate regularly is also said to have positive effects on the brain (80) _____ as improving memory and strengthening thinking skills. Additionally, as dark chocolate can increase the production of happy hormones in the body, it can improve our mood. (81) _____ the great health benefits dark chocolate has, there are some disadvantages to (82) _____. Cocoa beans contain caffeine, so the darker the chocolate is, the higher (83) _____ level of caffeine is. Caffeine may trigger headaches or hinder someone's ability to sleep. Also, (84) _____ though dark chocolate tastes bitter, it still contains processed sugar, which is unhealthy. Finally, chocolate is one of the (85) _____ commonly craved foods as it is a highly addictive combination of sugar and fat.

Part 3. For questions 86-95, read the following passage and circle the best answer to each of the following questions. Write your answers in corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet. (15 points)

Certain animals have an intuitive awareness of quantities. They know without analysis the difference between a number of objects and a smaller number. In his book *The Natural History of Selbourne* (1786), the naturalist Gilbert White tells how he surreptitiously removed one egg a day from a plover's nest, and how the mother laid another egg each day to make up for the missing one. He noted that other species of birds ignore the absence of a single egg but abandon their nests if more than one egg has been removed. It has also been noted by naturalists that a certain type of wasp always provides five—never four, never six—caterpillars for each of their eggs so that their young have something to eat when the eggs hatch. Research has also shown that both mice and pigeons can be taught to distinguish between odd and even numbers of food pieces.

These and similar accounts have led some people to **infer** that creatures other than humans can actually count. They also point to dogs that have been taught to respond to numerical questions with the correct number of barks, or to horses that seem to solve arithmetic problems by stomping their hooves the proper number of times.

Animals respond to quantities only when they are connected to survival as a species—as in the case of the eggs—or survival as individuals—as in the case of food. There is no transfer to other situations or from concrete reality to the abstract notion of numbers. Animals can “count” only when the objects are present and only when the numbers involved are small—no more than seven or eight. In lab experiments, animals trained to “count” one kind of object were unable to count any other type. The objects, not the numbers, are what interest them. Animals’ admittedly remarkable achievements simply do not amount to evidence of counting, nor do they reveal more than innate instincts, refined by the genes of successive generations, or the results of clever, careful conditioning by trainers.

86. The author begins the passage by describing animals’ awareness of quantities primarily in order to _____.

- A. argue that animals possess advanced mathematical abilities comparable to humans
- B. introduce observations that appear to suggest animals can count
- C. demonstrate that naturalists have exaggerated animals’ cognitive abilities
- D. show that animals rely entirely on instinct rather than reasoning

87. Why does the author describe the experiment involving the plover’s eggs?

- A. To illustrate a case in which birds deliberately deceive predators
- B. To show how naturalists manipulate animals in laboratory conditions
- C. To provide an example suggesting that some animals notice changes in quantity
- D. To demonstrate that birds rely more on smell than sight when protecting eggs

88. The example of the wasp providing five caterpillars for its eggs suggests that _____.

- A. insects can perform simple arithmetic operations
- B. animals sometimes behave in ways that appear to reflect awareness of numbers
- C. insects are more intelligent than vertebrates
- D. naturalists have misinterpreted insect behavior

89. What inference can be drawn from the discussion of dogs and horses responding to numerical cues?

- A. These animals have mastered abstract mathematical reasoning.
- B. Their behavior may lead observers to mistakenly believe they can count.
- C. Such animals rely primarily on auditory signals rather than visual ones.
- D. They possess cognitive abilities superior to those of birds and insects.

90. The word “**infer**” in paragraph 2 most nearly means _____.

- A. conclude from evidence
- B. criticize openly
- C. investigate carefully
- D. report inaccurately

91. The author’s tone toward the claim that animals can actually count is best described as _____.

- A. enthusiastic
- B. skeptical
- C. indifferent
- D. humorous

92. According to the passage, animals respond to quantities mainly when _____.

- A. numbers are explained to them through training
 - B. the quantities are connected to survival or food
 - C. they are exposed to unfamiliar environments
 - D. the objects involved are visually distinctive
93. What does the passage suggest about animals trained in laboratory experiments?
- A. Their apparent counting ability is limited to specific trained contexts.
 - B. Their abilities demonstrate genuine understanding of numbers.
 - C. They quickly learn to apply counting skills to unfamiliar situations.
 - D. They perform better with larger numerical quantities.
94. The statement that “**the objects, not the numbers, are what interest them**” implies that animals _____.
- A. lack the ability to perceive differences in quantity
 - B. are unable to learn through conditioning
 - C. prefer visual information to auditory signals
 - D. focus on concrete items rather than abstract concepts
95. By concluding that animals’ achievements “**do not amount to evidence of counting**,” the author suggests that _____.
- A. most experiments involving animals have been conducted incorrectly
 - B. scientists have underestimated the mathematical potential of animals
 - C. animals’ behavior can be explained by instinct or training rather than numerical reasoning
 - D. animals are incapable of learning any complex behaviors

Part 4. For questions 96-105, read the passage and do the following tasks. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes on your answer sheet. (15 points)

Rebranding Art Museums

A study of the reopened National Gallery of Victoria

As anyone with even a passing interest in cultural institutions will know, art museums are adapting to keep up with changes in society. Do any of these newly developed spaces indicate a fundamental shift in the ways we engage with art at the beginning of the twenty-first century? The answer is a qualified Yes - and also, it must be said, No. A clear sense of this can be gained by considering the 2003 redevelopment of the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) in Melbourne, Australia’s second-largest city, in the light of the aspirations embodied in the original building that served as its template. The first building was considered a thoroughly modern museum when it opened to the public in 1968. We should not forget that it was not all bad; there were certainly innovative aspects that one must credit to the vision and insight of the architect, Roy Grounds. For one thing, the 1968 building signaled a strong sense of engagement both in its design and layout.

It was set apart from traditional notions of art museums, and over the years, this idea has been questioned and superseded by the growing impetus towards an alternative model of the museum - one that engages the public in more open-ended ways. The layout of its galleries was designed to facilitate the rapid and efficient circulation of visitors. It also contained a series of greatly expanded temporary exhibition galleries and a vast Great Hall, which represented an unprecedented emphasis on the ancillary roles of corporate functions and public performances in the contemporary museum.

This last feature might have seemed excessive to some, yet how wise it has proven over the years as museums have come to place increasing emphasis on corporate sponsorship and the need to generate additional funds via room hire. Furthermore, the Great Hall has, for forty years, provided an area for children to roam at large before being escorted through the much less spatially accommodating galleries themselves. As an unintimidating introduction to the lifelong rigors of visiting art museums, its impact on attendance cannot be overestimated.

At the same time, other aspects of the 1968 NGV have not withstood the test of time so well. Foremost among these are the huge expanse of the exterior's windowless wall and the surrounding moat, which creates a rather unwelcoming expression of the institution.

With these considerations in mind, Mario Bellini's redeveloped NGV opened in 2003, and his design reflects what the new, improved, twenty-first-century global museum feels it should be emphasizing to its visitors. Here, the institution's energies are focused not so much on the technical subtleties of how to design the galleries themselves, but rather on presenting to the public a spectacular image of the museum itself as a welcoming yet efficient facilitator of social interaction, popular entertainment, and public knowledge. All of this is certainly impressive, but where has the art gone? We are not allowed to see the exhibitions until we have completed the necessary inductions. We are greeted by a hugely expanded cloakroom, screening off our vision to the right, followed by a large visitor information office leading to the ticket booths. Above us is the café, and to our left, we cannot escape the NGV shop, set alongside the exit.

And what of the redesigned galleries themselves? In fact, they represent a wonderfully elegant reframing of the permanent collections in ways that should offer first-time visitors and seasoned members alike many new avenues for engagement in the years to come. But herein lies the conundrum posed by the NGV renovation and by the global sweep of new museum projects more generally. The mainstay elements of a permanent collection can become all too easily lost in the increased prominence that these rebranding exercises tend to place on the more glamorously spectacular aspects of the institution itself.

At its most extreme, this results in the construction of new buildings that supplant the artworks inside them, becoming the major attractions themselves.

These challenges are most keenly felt in the area of the temporary exhibition. Entrance to the NGV permanent collection is now free, so the NGV needs something to keep the paying public coming back. The answer lies in the international ‘blockbuster’ exhibition. For example, The Impressionists netted a total of 380,000 visitors, making it one of the most popular exhibitions in Australian history. There has also been, it needs to be said, a commendable attempt to leaven the international masterpieces with selected highlights from the permanent collection. Overall, though, the prevalence of these ‘rental’ blockbusters cannot help but introduce a certain ‘off-the-rack’ feeling to the institution’s exhibition program.

More importantly, they narrow the options for other worthy but less glamorous projects, and they take energy away from the curators’ potential to do further work on and around the permanent collection itself.

Yet the show must go on, and shows can’t exist without the public. Even the most adroit organization, as the NGV assuredly is, needs to be able to juggle numerous, often conflicting priorities:

- The need to advance scholarship versus the imperative of access.
- The need to introduce audiences to new areas versus the necessity of luring them in with instant brand recognition.

Nobody said it was going to be easy, and the effect of too much innovation in museums can be disastrous.

For questions 96 – 100, 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 on your answer sheet.

96. When it opened in 1968, the original National Gallery of Victoria was widely regarded as a modern museum building.

97. Roy Grounds designed the NGV to resemble traditional European art museums.

98. The Great Hall has contributed to the museum’s ability to generate income through corporate events.

99. In the 2003 redevelopment, Mario Bellini focused primarily on improving the technical design of the gallery spaces.

100. The NGV’s ‘Impressionists’ exhibition attracted more visitors than any other exhibition previously held in Australia.

For questions 101 – 105, read the summary and fill in each space with NO MORE THAN ONE WORD taken from the passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided on your answer sheet.

The National Gallery of Victoria first opened in 1968 and was designed by architect Roy Grounds. Its design encouraged efficient visitor movement through the **(101)** _____ and included a large area known as the Great Hall, which could host public events and

performances. However, some aspects of the building later became unpopular, particularly the large windowless exterior wall and the surrounding (102) _____, which gave the museum an unwelcoming appearance.

In 2003, the museum was redeveloped by Mario Bellini. His design aimed to present the institution as a space that promotes social interaction and public (103) _____ rather than focusing solely on the display of artworks. Nevertheless, the writer suggests that the increasing emphasis on the museum's image and visitor facilities can sometimes overshadow the importance of the permanent (104) _____.

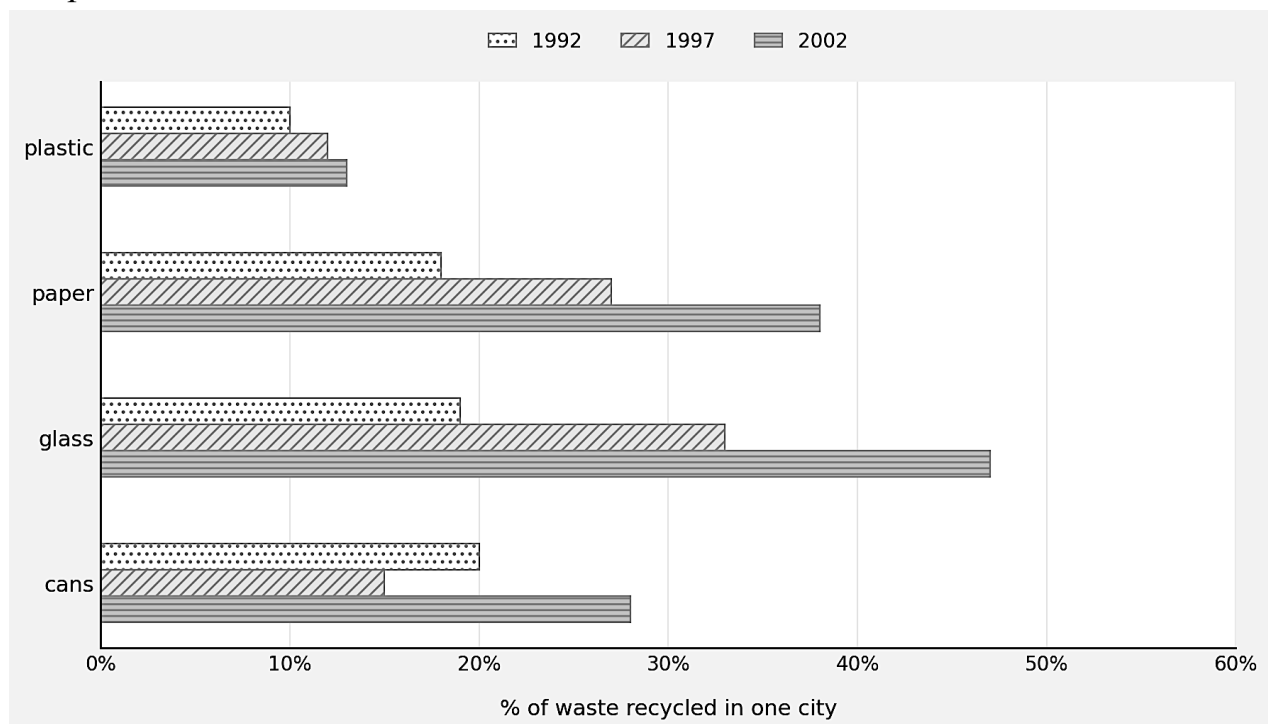
To attract visitors who must now pay for special exhibitions, the NGV frequently organizes large international shows known as 'blockbusters.' Although these exhibitions attract large audiences, the writer argues that relying too heavily on them may limit opportunities for less glamorous but more (105) _____ projects.

D. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. (20 points)

The chart below shows the percentages of different types of household waste that were recycled in one city between 1992 and 2002.

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



Part 2: (30 points)

Intelligence is frequently cited as the most important attribute of effective leaders. However, history suggests that highly intelligent leaders can still fail without ethical judgement, emotional awareness, or the ability to inspire collective action.

In your view, should intelligence be considered the defining trait of leadership, or is leadership primarily shaped by other qualities?

Write an essay of about 300 words to answer the above question. Give reasons and include any relevant examples and explanations to support your answer. Write your answer on your answer sheet.

Họ và tên thí sinh: *Số báo danh:*

Lưu ý: - Thí sinh **không** được sử dụng tài liệu.
- Cán bộ coi thi **không** giải thích gì thêm.