

SỞ GD - ĐT

ĐỀ THI KHẢO SÁT CHỌN ĐỘI TUYỂN HỌC SINH GIỎI

TRƯỜNG THPT NGUYỄN SIÊU

NĂM HỌC 2025-2026

Môn: TIẾNG ANH 12

(Đề gồm có 12 trang)

Thời gian làm bài: **90 phút** (Không tính thời gian giao đề)

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions from 1 to 20.

Question 1: Could I pick your _____ on the subject before the meeting?

A. brains

B. head

C. intellect

D. mind

Question 2: The new research findings are _____ than the earlier studies, offering a more nuanced understanding of cultural identity.

A. far more conclusive

B. as much conclusive

C. much conclusively

D. far more conclusively

Question 3: That's weird he didn't agree to lend you his bike, isn't he the type of person who would give you _____ off his back?

A. the coat

B. the shoes

C. the bag

D. the shirt

Question 4: Jacob said that he was a passionate, _____ inexperienced, climber.

A. consequently

B. although

C. albeit

D. despite

Question 5: It is high time that senior students in high school _____ themselves thoroughly for the forthcoming university entrance examination.

A. applied

B. apply

C. be applied

D. applies

Question 6: When she puts her mind to it, she is always capable of _____ sarcasm.

A. sharpening

B. biting

C. slicing

D. striking

Question 7: He can speak French but _____ it in public, and almost never when on diplomatic duty.

A. not once does he use

B. rarely he uses

C. seldom does he use

D. scarcely does he uses

Question 8: Incoherence, or word _____, refers to speech that is unconnected and conveys no meaning to the listener.

A. salad

B. blend

C. roll

D. soup

Question 9: The doctor insisted that his patient _____.

A. did not work too hard for three months

B. to take some vacation for three months

C. take it easy inside of three months

D. takes it easy inside of three months

Question 10: You should be _____ ashamed of yourself for what you have done.

A. thoroughly

B. hopelessly

C. entirely

D. earnestly

Question 11: We should have taken more care when booking our accommodation; we did it _____ and it wasn't very good.

A. on the go

B. on the run

C. on the fly

D. on the firing line

Question 12: Investigators have not yet _____ the possibility that he was being blackmailed.

A. dug around

B. ruled out

C. boiled down to

D. thrived on

Question 13: I think I understand the nuts and _____ of the operation.

A. crews B. hammer **C. bolts** D. nail

Question 14: It was an extremely hostile article which cast _____ on the conduct of the entire cabinet.

A. criticism **B. aspersions** C. disapproval D. abuse

Question 15: It is possible to stay overnight here although there is no guest house _____.

A. at that **B. as such** C. in itself D. for that

Question 16: _____, I haven't seen Catherine all day.

A. Coming to think of it B. Coming to think of it
C. To come to think of it **D. Come to think of it**

Question 17: They _____ a two-month tour of the US with a party in Washington.

A. set forth B. brought off C. came up with **D. kicked off**

Question 18: Several of the advertising hoardings had been _____ by anti-exist slogans.

A. deleted B. mutilated C. erased **D. defaced**

Question 19: Thanks for listening to me complain about my boss. I just needed to _____.

A. cry my heart out **B. get this off my chest**
C. face the music D. stick my neck out

Question 20: Unlike his friends who also rose to stardom when they were still teenagers, Andy didn't have any _____ but became even more modest.

A. airs and graces B. beer and skittles C. cock and bull D. nudge and wink

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the correct word or phrase that best fits each the numbered blanks from 21 to 30.

United Parcel Service (UPS) believes that its employees should give the firm a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. The package delivery firm seems willing to give more than a fair day's pay. But in (21) _____, UPS expects maximum output from its employees. Since 1920s, the firm's industrial engineers have been studying every detail of every task (22) _____ by most UPS employees. From their studies have come time and motion standards that (23) _____ how those tasks are performed and how long they should take. Drivers, for example, are expected to walk to a customer's door at a speed of exactly three feet per second. They are told to knock (24) _____. Work engineers are (25) _____ riding with drivers, timing everything from stops at traffic lights, wait at customers' doorway, stairway climbs, to coffee break. And they are not (26) _____ to pointing out the occasional inefficiency. Additionally, supervisors ride with the least good drivers, noting how they work and constantly (27) _____ them until their work is up to standard. The (28) _____ of all this engineering work is efficiency, and UPS has been called one of the most efficient companies anywhere. It's also a highly profitable company. Most drivers take the regimentation in stride: many show (29) _____ in meeting the UPS standards each day. Others, however, feel that they are constantly being pushed, and that it is impossible for them to relax at work. UPS officials claim that the standards provide accountability. And, they say, (30) _____ should feel less tired at the end of the day.

Question 21: A. fact **B. return** C. exchange D. short

Question 22: **A. performed** B. accepted C. hold D. made

Question 23: **A. govern** B. tell C. indicate D. demonstrate

Question 24:

- A. as soon as they get there, rather than waste time looking for a doorbell
B. as soon as they get there, rather than wasting time look for a doorbell
C. as soon as they get there, rather than waste time to looking for a doorbell
D. as soon as they get there, rather than wasting time to look for a doorbell

Question 25: A. chronically B. constructively C. continually D. consistently

Question 26: A. averse B. intimate C. brave D. impolite

Question 27: A. criticizing B. scolding C. encouraging D. correcting

Question 28: A. task B. object C. reason D. job

Question 29: A. pride B. passion C. interest D. pleasure

Question 30:

- A. employees who work according to UPS standards
B. employees work according to UPS standards
C. employees who worked according to UPS standards
D. employees who works according to UPS standards

Read the following advertisement and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 31 to 35.

GREENPEACE – GIVING THE EARTH A VOICE

Who We Are

Greenpeace is an international, non-profit organization with offices in over 40 countries across Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific. Its headquarters is located in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Every office adapts its agenda to the unique needs of its region, while global representatives meet each year to address urgent environmental challenges. We create change through peaceful, creative, non-violent actions to protect the environment and (31) _____.

Our Key Areas of Action

1. Nuclear & Chemical Safety

- Opposing nuclear weapons and tests.
- Fighting against toxic chemical pollution.

2. Genetically Engineered Foods

- Warning about (32) _____ biological risks.
- Publishing resources like the True Food Guide to help consumers make safe choices.

3. Oceans & Marine Life

- Campaigning against destructive fishing practices.
- Protecting endangered species.

4. Climate Change Awareness

- (33) _____ communities worldwide, Greenpeace also raises awareness about the dangers of climate change.

5. Ancient Forest Protection

- Defending the last remaining old-growth forests.
- Supporting indigenous communities, like the Maisin of Papua New Guinea, in their fight against destructive logging.

Why It Matters

- * Over 80% of the world's forests are already gone.
- * Oceans and wildlife are (34) _____ severe threat.
- * Pollution and climate change affect every community.

Join Us!

Together, we can defend our planet and ensure a sustainable future.

- Joining Greenpeace means actively (35) _____ to environmental protection.
- Visit: www.greenpeace.org

(Adapted from: Reading for the Real World)

Question 31:

A. hold polluters accountable

B. keep polluters accountable

C. take polluters responsible

D. make polluters liable

Question 32: A. irreversibly B. reversible

C. irreversible

D. irreversion

Question 33: A. Educate B. Educated

C. Educating

D. Having educated

Question 34: A. against B. at

C. of

D. under

Question 35: A. contribute

B. contributing

C. contributed

D. to contribute

Read the following leaflet and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the option that best fits each of the numbered blanks from 36 to 40.

HOW TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL STEM CAREER

There is no uniform way to enter a STEM career, but following these steps can help lead you along the right path

Step 1: Consider Your Interests and Goals

There are hundreds of career possibilities under the umbrella of STEM. Some students may choose engineering, while (36) _____ may be more interested in biology or technology.

Step 2: Earn a Relevant Degree

Keep in mind that most STEM careers require at least a bachelor's degree. You should also plan your studies (37) _____ industry expectations so that you are prepared for the job market.

Step 3: Gain Hands-On Experience

Internships and apprenticeships allow you to (38) _____ practical skills that cannot be fully learned in classrooms. Many engineering professions also require work under professional supervision before certification can be obtained.

Step 4: Improve Your Skill Set

Continuing education programs can (39) _____ career advancement opportunities. In fact, certificate programs and microcredentials are highly valued, and in many companies, employees are sponsored for additional training courses.

Step 5: Stay Motivated

Pursuing a STEM career can be demanding. To succeed, you need to make a strong (40) _____ to lifelong learning and perseverance. Remember that success does not come overnight, and in many cases, you may have to learn the hard way that "Rome wasn't built in a day."

(Adapted from: www.bestcolleges.com)

- Question 36: A. another **B. others** C. the other D. each
- Question 37: **A. in accordance with** B. in alignment to
C. in pursuit of D. irrespective of
- Question 38: A. harness B. assimilate C. attain **D. Acquire**
- Question 39: A. lay down B. give rise to **C. bring about** D. work towards
- Question 40: **A. commitment** B. adherence C. allegiance D. difference

Read the following passage about the launch of Viet Nam Today channel and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 41 to 48.

Viet Nam is ready for its close-up. On September 7, Vietnam Today, the country's first international English-language television channel, will officially go live — opening a fresh window for global audiences to experience the nation beyond the headlines. **Promising more than just pretty pictures and travel clips, the channel aims to reshape perceptions by presenting a vivid, contemporary and objective view of modern Việt Nam** — from its cultural heritage to its fast-evolving digital economy. Broadcasting 24/7, Vietnam Today will deliver content across television and digital platforms with multi-language subtitles tailored for each region it reaches. With a focus on quality and accessibility, the channel hopes to meet the growing demand for trustworthy, engaging coverage of Việt Nam's transformation.

Launched by national broadcaster Việt Nam Television (VTV), the channel will feature a diverse lineup: politics and current affairs in Vietnam 360 and The Point, business news in Daily Biz and culture and tourism through Culture Mosaic and Amazing Vietnam. Other shows will explore innovation, digital transformation and environmental issues. "It will be a connecting platform to promote the national brand and image to the world," Đỗ Đức Hoàng, deputy general director of VTV, said. "Through this, Vietnam Today contributes to expanding international cooperation, creating a bridge between Việt Nam and the global community and affirming the country's position and **prestige** in the international arena."

The channel aims to serve a wide international audience: policymakers and researchers seeking reliable data, investors eyeing new opportunities, tourists planning their next destination and members of the Vietnamese diaspora eager to stay connected to their homeland. Vietnam Today is designed to **challenge outdated stereotypes**. The channel will present Việt Nam as a peaceful, forward-looking and stable nation — one that proudly preserves its traditions while embracing innovation and global integration. With content grounded in accurate information and creative communication, VTV says the new service will reflect Việt Nam's values and **its** people — youthful, resilient and ready to engage with the world.

Programming will be available across platforms including OTT (over-the-top) applications and DTT (digital terrestrial television) networks, with initial audiences in the Americas, Europe, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Starting in 2026, VTV plans to expand distribution through global partnerships and television service providers, aligning with Việt Nam's foreign policy goals. Distribution will be adapted to suit regional broadcasting methods — from satellite and cable to IPTV, OTT, and programme exchange — to ensure content is easily and effectively delivered to viewers across borders. In the age of digital diplomacy, Vietnam Today marks a timely and strategic step for the country, placing Việt Nam's story in its own voice on the global stage — a story of resilience, culture and connection.

(Adapted from: <https://vietnamnews.vn/life-style>)

Question 41: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 1?

“Promising more than just pretty pictures and travel clips, the channel aims to reshape perceptions by presenting a vivid, contemporary and objective view of modern Việt Nam”

A. The channel will broadcast travel shows and scenic documentaries to attract tourists and foreigners

B. The channel intends to change global views of Vietnam by offering a realistic and modern portrayal.

C. The main goal of the channel is to highlight Vietnam’s history rather than its present-day progress.

D. The channel promises to broadcast objective news but still relies heavily on outdated stereotypes.

Question 42: Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned as a purpose of Vietnam Today?

A. To promote Vietnam’s image abroad.

B. To provide useful data for researchers and policymakers.

C. To replace other local Vietnamese channels.

D. To connect Vietnam with the global community.

Question 43: The phrase “**challenge outdated stereotypes**” in paragraph 3 could best be replaced by _____

A. confront entrenched misconceptions

B. endorse prevailing assumptions

C. perpetuate conventional wisdom

D. reinforce traditional preconceptions

Question 44: The word “**prestige**” in paragraph 2 is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to _____.

A. eminence

B. obscurity

C. distinction

D. renown

Question 45: The word “**its**” in paragraph 3 refers to _____.

A. audience

B. Vietnam Today

C. VTV

D. Vietnam

Question 46: Which of the following is **TRUE** according to the passage?

A. Vietnam Today will broadcast nationwide during its initial five-year stage.

B. The channel will show both domestic politics and international business programs.

C. Programming will be offered solely in English, without subtitles in other languages

D. Distribution will exclude cooperation with international media service providers.

Question 47: In which paragraph does the writer emphasize Vietnam Today’s role in diplomacy and international strategy?

A. Paragraph 1

B. Paragraph 2

C. Paragraph 3

D. Paragraph 4

Question 48: In which paragraph does the writer describe the channel’s target audiences such as investors, tourists, and diaspora?

A. Paragraph 1

B. Paragraph 2

C. Paragraph 3

D. Paragraph 4

Read the following passage about understanding Climate change through Proxy records and mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the best answer to each of the following questions from 49 to 58.

One of the biggest challenges in determining whether recent climate events reflect human impact is understanding the natural variability of the climate. We know that over the course of history, the climate has undergone significant changes without human intervention. The global climate system is also incredibly complex, with many interconnected factors, which means it can fluctuate in unpredictable ways. To accurately assess whether recent climatic changes stem from natural processes or anthropogenic factors, it is essential to first **delineate** the extent to which the climate can naturally vary.

Unfortunately, instrumental climate records only cover about a century, which is too short to provide a reliable measure of long-term climate variability. However, when we look at longer timescales, we see clear evidence of slow shifts between different climate regimes. To go further back in time and build a clearer picture of past climate fluctuations, scientists turn to proxy records.

Proxy records are derived from substances whose physical and chemical properties change in response to **prevailing** climatic conditions during the time of their deposition. These substances - like ice cores, ocean sediments, and tree rings - form layers, often annually, providing a continuous record of changes over hundreds or even thousands of years. (I) By analyzing **these records**, scientists can infer past temperatures, rainfall patterns, and other climate-related data. (II) For example, temperature reconstructions have been made from Greenland ice cores, sediments from European lakes, and ice cores from both Peru and Antarctica. (III) While these records generally show global temperature variations, they also reveal significant regional differences, indicating that climate patterns can vary across different parts of the world. (IV)

These proxy records clearly show that the climate has experienced considerable natural variability over periods longer than a few thousand years. At the same time, the relative stability of the climate over the last 10,000 years - known as the Holocene period - stands out.

By offering a glimpse into the climate's natural variability, proxy records provide an invaluable benchmark for understanding how natural processes have historically interacted to shape the global climate. These processes include chaotic atmospheric shifts, the erratic behavior of ocean currents, and variations in land surfaces, ice, and snow cover. Additionally, the proxy data capture fluctuations resulting from volcanic and solar activity, as well as the potential contribution of human influences.

To better understand how these processes interact, scientists use computer models to simulate global climate patterns. While these models are useful, they can only capture part of the complexity of the climate system and often provide a limited view of natural variability. In fact, studies suggest that current climate models show much less variability than what is observed in proxy data, indicating that these models may not fully reflect the range of natural climate fluctuations.

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

Question 49: The word “**delineate**” in paragraph 1 is **CLOSEST** in meaning to _____.

- A. identify a clear line or distinction made
- B. complicate the situation for clear insight
- C. conclude with a firm resolution or decision
- D. establish clear parameters for evaluation

Question 50: All of the following statements are false **EXCEPT** _____.

- A. Proxy records are useful for short-term climate studies
- B. Climate models show less variability than proxy data
- C. Instrumental records span several millennia of data
- D. The climate has undergone notable changes through time

Question 51: Which of the following best summarizes paragraph 3?

- A. The recent changes in global climate are mainly caused by human activities rather than natural variability.
- B. Since climate records are limited in length, scientists rely on proxy data like ice cores and sediments to understand long-term climate changes.
- C. The complexity of the climate system makes it impossible to distinguish between natural and human-

induced climate variations.

D. Climate fluctuations are unpredictable, but modern technology has allowed scientists to reconstruct past global temperatures with complete accuracy.

Question 52: Which of the following is **NOT** mentioned in the text?

- A. The role of ice ages in climate shifts
- B. The impact of human activity on climate
- C. The benefits of using climate computer models
- D. The significance of volcanic eruptions on climate

Question 53: The phrase “**these records**” in paragraph 3 refers to _____.

- A. instrumental climate records used for studies
- B. proxy records derived from natural substances
- C. climate models that simulate weather patterns
- D. historical records kept by scientists over time

Question 54: In which position of paragraph 3 can the following sentence be added?

These records are essential for reconstructing climate history, as they encapsulate key climatic information over extensive periods.

- A. (I)
- B. (II)
- C. (III)
- D. (IV)

Question 55: The word “**prevailing**” in paragraph 3 is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to _____.

- A. customary
- B. orthodox
- C. dominant
- D. ephemeral

Question 56: What can be inferred about the relationship between proxy records and climate change?

- A. Proxy records are less reliable than instrumental ones
- B. Proxy records provide insights into climate variability
- C. Understanding climate change requires historical data
- D. Climate models are more accurate than proxy records

Question 57: Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 5?

- A. Proxy records conceal important insights into how natural processes have influenced and shaped past climate conditions over time.
- B. By highlighting natural invaluable variability, proxy records become essential tools for gaining a better understanding of historical climate interactions.
- C. The insights gained from proxy records are worthless for comprehending the way natural processes have historically shaped the global climate system.
- D. Proxy records are invaluable resources that illustrate the natural variability of climate and help us understand the interactions among natural processes.

Question 58: Which of the following best summarizes the reading passage?

- A. The complexity of the climate system limits our understanding of its variability and its implications
- B. The recent changes observed in climate conditions are primarily attributed to various human activities and influences
- C. Instrumental climate records provide extensive and detailed data for the analysis of climate trends over shorter time frames
- D. Proxy records serve as crucial tools for understanding and analyzing long-term climate patterns over history

Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct arrangement of the sentences to make a

meaningful paragraph/ letter/ dialogue in each of the following questions from 59 to 63.

Question 59:

- a. In light of this restructuring, we will be contacting all employees individually to arrange a meeting with each of you to discuss your position and future plans.
- b. Although we have yet to finalise the details of these changes, we can guarantee that there will be no redundancies and we will try to match your skills with the most appropriate job.
- c. Dear colleagues, further to recent discussions with the management team, it has now been decided to restructure the company.
- d. As you know, over the past two years the company has grown considerably but, along with higher turnover, there has also been increased employee turnover.
- e. In fact, we expect these changes to offer more opportunities for you to utilise your skills more effectively and for personal development.
- f. It is therefore obvious that we need to make some major changes in order to retain our most valuable asset – our employees.

g. Yours sincerely, Mel Jackman

A. c - e - d - a - b - f - g

B. c - d - f - b - e - a - g

C. c - d - b - e - f - a - g

D. c - a - f - b - d - e - g

Question 60:

- a. In my opinion, you could definitely be a great interior designer.
- b. It's nice to hear from you. How is it going?
- c. Let me know what you decide to do. I think we should meet up over the holidays.
- d. I'm so happy that you're doing well and enjoying your new home in Canada.
- e. I'd be happy to give you some advice on your career.
- f. However, as an interior designer, you could have some really difficult clients who don't know what they want or find it hard to keep up with the newest trends and popular styles.

A. b-d-e-a-f-c

B. b-d-f-a-c-e

C. c-e-a-f-b-d

D. f-b-e-c-d-a

Question 61:

- a. It provides a calm environment where students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of various subjects. With shelves stocked with books ranging from classic literature to modern scientific research, it supports the curriculum and enhances students' knowledge base.
- b. Here, students learn to research, analyze information critically, and develop a lifelong passion for reading.
- c. The school library serves as a central hub for learning and exploration, essential for academic success.
- d. Regular activities such as book clubs and reading sessions promote a community of readers and learners.
- e. The guidance of knowledgeable librarians ensures that students find materials that are both challenging and enriching.
- f. The library also offers digital resources like e-books and online journals, making learning accessible and interactive.
- g. All things mentioned above make the school library not just a place for academic study but a haven for personal growth and discovery.

A. c-d-b-a-f-e-f

B. c-f-d-a-b-e-g

C. c-b-f-d-a-e-g

D. c-a-f-d-b-e-g

Question 62:

- a. Sounds good! Now let's decide on a social issue. Is the top problem facing teens today peer pressure, body shaming, or bullying?
- b. Well, bullying, peer pressure, and body shaming, for instance, are major problems among teenagers today although many people don't feel comfortable talking about them.
- c. Hmm. I think this time we should focus on a problem teens struggle with every day because this won't be a big campaign. However, we'll try to use your ideas for another project, Mai.
- d. I agree with you. Hmm... so Mark, what do you think? Should we focus our campaign on a general social issue or one affecting mainly teens?
- e. Can you give us some examples?
- f. I think it's bullying because it's very common today, and ...

A. f-d-a-e-b-c

B. b-e-d-a-c-f

C. b-d-e-a-f-c

D. e-b-d-c-a-f

Question 63:

- a. Moreover, there are concerns about privacy and security.
- b. While home robots offer convenience and assistance with household tasks, they also come with several disadvantages.
- c. Last but not least, the reliance on technology for everyday tasks may lead to a loss of traditional skills and knowledge related to household chores.
- d. Home robots collect data about users' habits and routines, which raises potential risks of unauthorised access or misuse of personal information.
- e. In conclusion, while home robots offer convenience, their disadvantages include decreased physical activity, privacy concerns, financial barriers, and potential loss of traditional skills.
- f. Firstly, reliance on home robots may lead to decreased physical activity and interaction among family members, as individuals may delegate tasks to the robot rather than performing them themselves.
- g. Besides, the initial cost of purchasing and maintaining home robots can be prohibitive for many households, making them inaccessible to lower-income families.

A. b-f-g-d-a-c-e

B. b-f-d-a-g-c-e

C. b-f-a-d-g-c-e

D. b-f-d-g-c-a-e

Mark the letter A, B, C or D on your answer sheet to indicate the sentence that is closest in meaning to each of the following sentences from 64 to 67.

Question 64: Everyone has something from their past that they would rather keep themselves.

- A. Everyone has something from their past that they want to forget about.
- B. Everyone has done something wrong in their life that they wish they hadn't done.
- C. Some people are not keen on revealing anything about their past.

D. All people have something from their past that they prefer not to share with others.

Question 65: News producers don't always demonstrate what they are capable of unless they are under the stressful conditions of a live broadcast.

A. Because of the pressure it involves, a live broadcast may be the best environment for news producers to show off their skills.

B. Some news producers are unable to demonstrate their abilities to the fullest when they feel pressured during live broadcast.

C. News producers don't always do their best work during a live broadcast, as they lack the skills to do

their job.

D. In a live broadcast, news producers who otherwise appear quite capable may prove to be ineffective.

Question 66: There won't be peace in the conflict if both sides do not really desire it.

A. It is only both sides actually want the conflict to end peacefully that it will happen.

B. As both sides in the conflict apparently desire peace, it is likely that there will be peace soon.

C. The main problem in the conflict seems to be that neither side really desires peace.

D. There has been a lot of fighting in the conflict because both sides seem to want it that way.

Question 67: Providing that strict building codes have been followed, it is not particularly dangerous to live in an earthquake zone.

A. Living in an earthquake zone has no risk because strict building rules have been stuck to.

B. If tight building regulations had been followed, the risk of living in this earthquake zone would be small.

C. It is fairly safe to live in an earthquake region if the buildings have been built according to tight regulations.

D. Strict building regulations have been followed; otherwise, it would be very dangerous to live in this earth zone.

Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the sentence that best combines each pair of sentences in the following questions from 68 to 71.

Question 68: He had been told countless times that his research lacked empirical grounding. He refused to adjust his methodology.

A. Much as he had been told countless times that his research lacked empirical grounding, he refused to adjust his methodology.

B. Told countless times that his research lacked empirical grounding, he nevertheless saw no need to adjust his methodology.

C. Despite having adjusted his methodology, he kept claiming his research had empirical grounding.

D. Not only had he refused to adjust his methodology, but he also accepted that his research lacked empirical grounding.

Question 69: Her lecture was so densely packed with subtle arguments that most students struggled to keep track. This made it acclaimed among experts.

A. So densely packed with subtle arguments was her lecture that, acclaimed among experts though it became, most students struggled to keep track.

B. Her lecture was acclaimed among experts because it was too dense for students to keep track.

C. Acclaimed among experts was her lecture, for most students struggled to keep track of the subtle arguments.

D. Although acclaimed among experts, her lecture was dense enough for most students to struggle following.

Question 70: He invested heavily in renewable-energy startups. He wanted to diversify his portfolio and promote sustainable development.

A. Not only did he invest heavily in renewable-energy startups, but also diversified his portfolio and promoted sustainable development.

B. By investing heavily in renewable-energy startups, he aimed not merely to diversify his portfolio but also to promote sustainable development.

C. He invested heavily in renewable-energy startups so that he diversified his portfolio and promoted sustainable development.

D. Investing heavily in renewable-energy startups, he both diversified his portfolio and sustainable development was promoted.

Question 71: She didn't get the scholarship. That fact discouraged her from pursuing further studies abroad.

A. Discouraged from pursuing further studies abroad was because she didn't get the scholarship.

B. Not getting the scholarship which discouraged her from pursuing further studies abroad.

C. What discouraged her from pursuing further studies abroad it was that she didn't get the scholarship.

D. It was not getting the scholarship that discouraged her from pursuing further studies abroad.

Logical thinking and problem solving:

Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions from 72 to 80.

Question 72: Which of the following statements about a book can be a fact?

A. The book is a thrilling page-turner.

B. The book was published in 2018.

C. The book has the most beautiful cover.

D. The book is the author's most inspiring work.

Question 73: You're at a community garden and notice that the leaves of the tomato plants are wilting in the afternoon, even though you watered them in the morning. What is the likely cause?

A. The plants need more sunlight.

B. The soil isn't retaining moisture well enough.

C. The plants have a disease that causes wilting.

D. The tomatoes need less water than you're giving them.

Question 74: Which of the following situations best exemplifies "caution" where someone takes care in order to avoid danger or mistakes?

A. James takes on the role of team leader in a new project. He makes a plan, conducts thorough research, and assigns tasks to team members before running the project.

B. James misses the deadlines which he is assigned to complete in 2 days. He apologizes and assures me that he will fulfill the task as soon as possible.

C. James refuses to undertake new tasks because he will take a holiday.

D. James joins a new project team to work with many experts from other companies. He tries his best to cooperate with them but nobody cares about him.

Question 75: A school plans to implement an AI-based monitoring system to improve safety. However, the administration worries about privacy issues. What is the most logical first step before deployment?

A. Install the system immediately to test its efficiency.

B. Consult teachers only, as they supervise students daily.

C. Conduct a risk-benefit analysis with all relevant stakeholders.

D. Reduce the number of cameras to avoid privacy complaints.

Question 76: Mary is responsible for completing the budget report for the next team meeting on December 25, but she seems to be slightly behind of schedule. She asks her manager to give her three more days to finish the report. What would be the best response for her manager in this situation?

Mary: Can you give me three more days to complete the report?

The manager: __.

- A. That's a good idea! Let's do it.
- B. The report is not informative enough for the meeting.
- C. Well, I think you used to be a good employee in this company.
- D. I understand, Mary. Let's set a new deadline of December 22.

Question 77: Which of the following situations best illustrates **"foresight"**, meaning the ability to anticipate future problems and prepare for them?

A. Anna buys extra server storage and schedules automatic backups after noticing the company's data volume is rapidly increasing.

B. Anna submits her report right before the deadline because she enjoys the pressure of working last-minute.

C. Anna refuses to attend meetings because she believes they waste her time.

D. Anna volunteers to present the quarterly revenue results even though she has not reviewed the figures.

Question 78: Which of the following situations best demonstrates **"analytical reasoning"**, the ability to break down complex information to solve a problem?

A. Lily chooses a random solution because she doesn't want to spend time evaluating details.

B. Lily gets discouraged after one failed attempt and stops investigating.

C. Lily copies another team's solution without checking whether it applies to her case.

D. Lily studies patterns in customer complaints and groups them into categories to find the root cause.

Question 79: Which of the following situations best represents **"risk assessment"**, meaning carefully evaluating potential negative outcomes before taking action?

A. Mark invests all his savings in a new business without analyzing market trends.

B. Mark immediately declines a job offer because it is in a different city.

C. Mark reviews financial reports, industry forecasts, and competitor performance before deciding whether to expand his company.

D. Mark chooses the cheapest supplier without checking product quality.

Question 80: Consider these statements about a local restaurant. Which one is an opinion?

A. The restaurant opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 10 p.m.

B. The chef has over 20 years of culinary experience.

C. The food served here is the most delicious in the city.

D. The restaurant seats 80 customers.

---THE END---