

ĐỀ TA_10 (Đề thi gồm 17 trang)	KỲ THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI LẦN THỨ XVII, NĂM 2026 ĐỀ THI MÔN: TIẾNG ANH - LỚP 10 Thời gian làm bài: 180 phút (không kể thời gian giao đề)
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SECTION A: LISTENING (50 points)

Part 1. Listen to two students, Peter and Mary, discussing their new eating plan and complete the sentences with NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

Weight loss plan by Peter and Mary

Peter admits he has gained weight because of his unhealthy (1) _____.

Soft drinks are considered particularly unhealthy due to their high (2) _____.

Pizza will only be allowed once every (3) _____.

On Saturdays, they will do light exercise by exploring local (4) _____.

The only item that will appear in every weekday meal is (5) _____.

Your answers:

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	

Part 2. Listen to a talk on solitary confinement and decide whether these statements are True (T) or False (F). Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

6. Spending some time alone can be beneficial, but forced isolation may lead to serious negative consequences.
7. The harmful psychological effects of isolation usually appear immediately and remain unchanged over time.
8. A lack of social interaction can weaken a person's ability to judge their own thoughts and perceptions accurately.
9. Establishing routines such as exercise or reading can completely prevent the negative impacts of long-term isolation.
10. Countries that focus more on humane prison systems tend to experience lower rates of prisoners returning to jail.

Your answers:

6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 3. Listen to an interview with the astronaut Charles Duke, who is talking about his trip to the moon, and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

11. How does Charles characterize his interest in space during childhood?
 - A. It was shaped by the early space race.
 - B. It existed, but lacked real intensity.
 - C. It developed into a long-term goal.
 - D. It was stronger than his interest in aviation.
12. What does Charles identify as the most challenging element of astronaut training?
 - A. Managing the stiffness of the inflated suit.
 - B. Spending extended hours inside simulation drills.
 - C. Learning to control lunar landing and lift-off procedures.
 - D. Adapting physically to the demands of surface practice.
13. Why did Charles withdraw from dangerous sports after selection?
 - A. He recognised the mission depended on his physical condition.
 - B. He was formally advised to minimise external risks.
 - C. He became more aware of his personal vulnerability.
 - D. He feared the programme might suddenly be cancelled.
14. What best describes Charles's emotional response once the spacecraft touched down?
 - A. Relief after a period of mounting tension.
 - B. Calm satisfaction at a task well executed.
 - C. Frustration about the delayed schedule.
 - D. Anxiety about the unstable terrain.
15. Why was it difficult for the astronauts to estimate the rock's dimensions?
 - A. The dark lunar sky distorted perception.
 - B. Their suits restricted peripheral vision.
 - C. The surrounding crater altered depth perception.
 - D. There were no familiar objects for comparison.

Your answers:

11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
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Part 4. Listen to an interview on a climate recap of 2025 and fill in the blanks with missing information. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS taken from the recording for each answer in the space provided. (20 points)

A recent climate report states that although global temperatures in 2025 were slightly lower than the previous year, it was still the (16) _____ year on record worldwide. Scientists also noted that this was the third consecutive year in which temperatures remained more than (17) _____ above pre-industrial levels.

According to climate researchers, current temperatures are measured against conditions before major human influence caused mainly by the burning of (18) _____. The findings are especially significant because nearly all countries agreed under the (19) _____ to limit global warming.

Despite political debate surrounding climate action, scientists emphasise that the scientific evidence remains (20) _____. Several independent studies have reached similar conclusions about recent temperature records.

Experts warn that in a warmer world, extreme weather events are likely to become more (21) _____ and intense, affecting both people and natural ecosystems. Limiting global warming requires countries to reduce overall (22) _____.

Individuals can also contribute by supporting leaders through the way they (23) _____, making ethical financial decisions, and choosing more (24) _____ businesses. In this way, everyone can do (25) _____ to help stabilize the climate.

Your answers:

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

SECTION B: LEXICO - GRAMMAR (40 points)

Part 1. Choose the best option A, B, C, or D to complete the following sentences and write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (20 points)

26. Although the theory seemed complicated at first, she eventually managed to _____ the underlying principles after several careful readings.

A. perceive B. grasp C. estimate D. infer

27. Before approving the new policy, the committee decided to _____ all possible consequences and consult external experts.

A. brood B. foresee C. deliberate D. stagger

28. He is currently _____ whether relocating abroad would advance his long-term career prospects.

- A. resolving B. envisaging C. contemplating D. determining
29. Without reliable data, much of the early research relied on _____ rather than solid scientific evidence.
- A. prognosis B. guesswork C. deduction D. estimation
30. Many board members resisted the restructuring plan, preferring to maintain the _____ rather than risk instability.
- A. framework B. hierarchy C. convention D. status quo
31. With rapid advances in technology, many once-popular devices quickly become _____ within just a few years.
- A. defunct B. obsolete C. antique D. primitive
32. The museum exhibition presents the development of aviation in _____ order, beginning with early balloon flights.
- A. successive B. historical C. chronological D. progressive
33. Thanks to the emergency team's _____ response, the situation was brought under control before it escalated further.
- A. prompt B. expedient C. precipitate D. perfunctory
34. The committee announced a _____ arrangement that would remain in place until a permanent policy could be agreed upon.
- A. provisional B. contemporary C. contingent D. transitional
35. After years of rigorous examinations, she finally entered the _____ and began working for the Ministry of Justice.
- A. civil service B. diplomatic corps
C. executive branch D. public office
36. The IT manager insisted that the minor software glitch be fixed immediately, warning that ignoring it could lead to serious system failures later. As she put it, "_____."
- A. where there's smoke there's fire B. necessity is the mother of invention
C. fortune favours the bold D. a stitch in time saves nine
37. Although the company rehired him after the scandal, many employees remained sceptical, arguing that someone with such a long history of dishonest behaviour was unlikely to reform because _____.
- A. the die is cast B. a leopard cannot change its spots
C. you reap what you sow D. actions speak louder than words
38. The luxury apartment includes every modern _____, from underfloor heating to automated lighting systems.
- A. accoutrement B. mod con C. apparatus D. implement
39. The board will announce the final decision next month; _____, the current regulations will remain in force.
- A. by the same token B. in the interim C. at length D. in due course
40. I haven't visited my hometown for _____; it must be nearly twenty years now.

- A. the elephant in the room B. the lion's share
C. a wild goose chase D. donkey's years
41. Had the data been interpreted more cautiously, the researchers _____ the conclusions that later proved controversial.
A. might not draw B. would not draw
C. might not have drawn D. would not have been drawing
42. Rarely _____ such widespread criticism from both the scientific community and the general public.
A. a policy has attracted B. has a policy attracted
C. a policy has been attracting D. has attracted a policy
43. The expedition leader insisted that the team would reach the summit _____, despite worsening weather conditions and dwindling supplies.
A. come what may B. when it may come
C. come as it may D. however may come
44. The committee is looking for a candidate with _____ demonstrated by previous leaders of the organisation.
A. some such vision as that B. such a vision that
C. some vision such that D. a vision such as
45. The archive contains several letters believed _____ written during the final months of the expedition, though their authenticity remains uncertain.
A. to be B. having been C. to have been D. being

Your answers:

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

Part 2. Give the correct form of each bracketed word in the following passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

46. After years of political scandal and broken promises, many voters became deeply _____ with the entire system. (ILLUSION)
47. Thanks to its innovative wing design, the new aircraft is significantly more _____ in turbulent conditions than earlier models. (MANOEUVRE)
48. Although the emotional impact of the disaster was obvious, its long-term economic consequences are far more difficult to _____. (QUANTITY)
49. The government has left itself open to _____ and ridicule after announcing the controversial policy. (MOCK)
50. Several promising startups collapsed after expanding _____ without securing stable funding. (MATURE)
51. His investment strategy proved remarkably _____, anticipating market trends years before they became obvious to others. (SEE)

52. Anthropologists have studied how prolonged contact between different societies can lead to the gradual _____ of minority groups. (CULTURE)
53. The striker scored a dramatic _____ in the final minutes of the match, ensuring that the tie would have to be decided in a replay. (EQUAL)
54. The research project was criticised for its _____ methodology, which lacked any clear theoretical framework. (HAZARD)
55. As social media has become almost _____ in the digital age, it now influences nearly every aspect of public discourse. (PRESENT)

Your answers:

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

Part 3. Read the following passage. Find 5 errors and correct them. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

1	Britain's chief medical adviser has warned that new weight-loss drugs are
2	unlikely to resolve the country's deepening obesity crisis on its own.
3	Speaking at a lecture in London, he cautioned that growing enthusiasm for
4	medications such as GLP-1 agonists risks distract attention from more
5	effective public-health strategies. The drugs, which include treatments
6	such as Wegovy and Mounjaro, have been widely promoted as a
7	breakthrough in tackling obesity. However, experts note that many users
8	experience unpleasant side effects, particularly gastrointestinal problems,
9	and weight frequently returns once treatment stop. There are nevertheless
10	concerns about possible complications, including pancreatitis and other
11	complications. He argued that governments should instead focus more
12	strongly on preventive measures, for example by restricting junk-food
13	advertising and encouraging companies to reduce sugar and fat in
14	processing products. Without such measures, he warned, policymakers
15	risk relying too heavily on medicines to address a problem that originates
16	in the wider food environment.

Your answers:

	Line	Mistake	Correction
56.			

57.			
58.			
59.			
60.			

SECTION C: READING (60 points)

Part 1. Choose the best answer A, B, C or D to fill in each blank in the following passage. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes. (10 points)

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco achieved worldwide fame almost immediately after its completion in 1937, not just because it was a technical masterpiece but also as a result of its elegant (61) _____. The eye-catching orange-red colour of the bridge also boosted its (62) _____.

Construction of the road bridge started in 1933. At the time, many people doubted whether it was technically possible to span the 1,600-metre-wide (63) _____ separating the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco Bay. But despite this, the project (64) _____ ahead. There is also a sidewalk for pedestrians on the bridge but it's quite a (65) _____ to walk across it. For a start, it is three kilometres long and 67 metres above sea level. In extreme weather conditions, the bridge can (66) _____ almost eight metres, which can make the crossing rather (67) _____.

The Golden Gate Bridge is at its most (68) _____ in the morning when it is often shrouded by mist. At night, it's also spectacular because the lighting makes it seem as if the towers are disappearing into the (69) _____.

The bridge has long since lost its (70) _____ of being the longest bridge but it is still one of the world's most famous landmarks.

(Source: CAE Practice Test 11: <https://engexam.info/cae-reading-and-use-of-english-practice-tests-printfriendly/cae-reading-and-use-of-english-practice-test-11-printable/>)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 61. A. formation | B. design | C. configuration | D. layout |
| 62. A. popularity | B. prestige | C. prominence | D. reputation |
| 63. A. canal | B. channel | C. strait | D. estuary |
| 64. A. proceeded | B. went | C. carried | D. advanced |
| 65. A. trial | B. challenge | C. undertaking | D. mission |
| 66. A. sway | B. oscillate | C. tilt | D. drift |
| 67. A. unpleasant | B. unsettled | C. insufferable | D. tedious |
| 68. A. enchanting | B. striking | C. polished | D. classy |
| 69. A. shadow | B. gloom | C. darkness | D. void |
| 70. A. title | B. record | C. reputation | D. distinction |

Your answers:

61.	62.	63.	64.	65.
66.	67.	68.	69.	70.

Part 2. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. Write your answers in the space provided. (10 points)

For decades, the mass-market paperback was a common sight in American supermarkets, airports, and train stations, often (71) _____ front and center near checkout counters to catch the eye of passing customers. Cheap, compact, and easy to carry, these books were frequently bought on the (72) _____ of the moment, offering an affordable way for people to enjoy reading without costing an arm and a leg. At a time when hardcover books were relatively expensive, this format helped (73) _____ the playing field, making literature (74) _____ reach of a much wider audience and playing a vital role in bringing books to the masses.

In recent years, however, the format has been on the (75) _____, with sales dropping off a cliff and publishers beginning to phase it (76) _____. One of the main reasons is the rise of (77) _____ reading, as ebooks and audiobooks allow readers to have a whole library at their fingertips and enjoy content anytime, anywhere. At the same time, changing attitudes toward books have also played a part. In the age of social media, books are no longer just for (78) _____ but also for display, and many readers want editions that stand out from the crowd. As a result, they tend to lean toward more (79) _____ appealing hardbacks or larger paperbacks. In this context, the once-popular mass-market paperback is gradually falling by the wayside, becoming less relevant in a world (80) _____ both convenience and appearance matter more than ever.

(Source: Adapted from *The Guardian*:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2026/feb/24/america-says-goodbye-paperback>)

Your answers:

71.	76.
72.	77.
73.	78.
74.	79.
75.	80.

Part 3. Read the passage and answer the questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 points)

Modern Western societies are built on a foundational belief: that freedom is intrinsically linked to choice. From the vast selection of cereals in the supermarket to the seemingly infinite library of films on a streaming service, we are told that an abundance of options

leads to greater well-being and empowerment. However, a growing body of psychological research suggests that this assumption might be flawed. In fact, it appears that an excess of choice can often lead not to liberation, but to anxiety and decision paralysis. This counter-intuitive phenomenon is known as the 'paradox of choice'.

The concept was popularised by American psychologist Barry Schwartz. His research demonstrates that while some choice is undoubtedly better than none, there is a critical point where the sheer volume of options becomes **overwhelming**, leading to cognitive overload.

When faced with too many alternatives, our brains struggle to effectively compare and contrast each one. The mental effort required to make a 'perfect' choice becomes so great that we may opt to make no choice at all.

A classic study illustrating this paradox involved a tasting booth for jam in a supermarket. On one day, shoppers were presented with a selection of 24 different jams. On another day, the selection was reduced to just six. While the larger display attracted more people to the booth, a significantly higher percentage of shoppers actually made a purchase when presented with the smaller, more manageable selection. The abundance of choice in the first scenario, while appealing at first glance, ultimately discouraged commitment.

This phenomenon has profound implications for our satisfaction with the choices we do make.

Schwartz argues that when we have too many options, we feel a greater pressure to maximise our decision, to find the absolute best. This raises our expectations to an often unrealistic level. Consequently, even if we make a good choice, we are more likely to feel a sense of post-decision regret. We are left wondering if one of the other hundred options might have been marginally better.

The modern digital world has amplified this paradox to an unprecedented degree. Dating apps present users with a seemingly endless stream of potential partners, which can undermine the desire to commit to any single one. E-commerce websites allow us to compare thousands of products, turning a simple purchase into hours of research and anxiety. We have more information and more options than ever before, but this doesn't necessarily translate into greater happiness.

So, what is the solution? It is not to eliminate choice, but to become more mindful of its effects. One strategy is to consciously limit our options. For example, when buying a new camera, one might decide to only research three reputable brands instead of trying to analyse every model on the market. Another approach is to embrace the idea of 'good enough'. Instead of striving for the 'best' possible option, we can learn to be satisfied with a choice that meets our core requirements.

In a culture that constantly tells us that more is better, it's **a radical act to seek out constraints**. Yet, by creating our own **'curated' selections** and letting go of the need to

maximise every decision, we can reduce the anxiety and regret that often accompany choice.

The paradox of choice teaches us a valuable lesson: true freedom might not be about having unlimited options, but about having the wisdom to be content with a good one.

(Source: <https://www.esl-lounge.com/student/advanced/cae-322-advanced-reading-multiple-choice-7.php>)

81. What is a commonly held belief in modern Western societies?

- A. Freedom is best achieved through limiting external influences
- B. A wide range of options enhances well-being
- C. People are generally overwhelmed by everyday decisions
- D. Simplicity leads to greater personal empowerment

82. The word “**overwhelming**” in paragraph 2 mostly means:

- A. emotionally distressing
- B. excessively abundant
- C. physically exhausting
- D. logically confusing

83. What was the key finding of the jam experiment?

- A. A limited range of options proved more conducive to a final purchase.
- B. Customers expressed greater satisfaction after choosing from the larger selection.
- C. The quality of the jam was the most important factor for customers.
- D. Customers spent more time deliberating when faced with the larger selection.

84. What can be inferred about people who try to “maximise” their decisions?

- A. They are more likely to feel satisfied with their outcomes
- B. They tend to avoid making decisions altogether
- C. They prefer to make quick and intuitive choices
- D. They may experience higher levels of regret

85. The example of dating apps is used to suggest that

- A. technology simplifies complex social interactions
- B. having many options reduces long-term commitment
- C. users prefer variety over meaningful connections
- D. relationships formed online are inherently unstable

86. Which of the following best explains why modern digital environments intensify the paradox of choice?

- A. They encourage users to make faster decisions without reflection
- B. They increase both the number of alternatives and the effort required to evaluate them
- C. They reduce the perceived importance of individual decisions
- D. They limit users’ ability to access reliable information

87. What strategy does the author suggest for making better decisions?

- A. Relying on expert recommendations exclusively
- B. Avoiding all forms of comparison
- C. Restricting the number of options considered

- D. Increasing the time spent evaluating alternatives
88. The author's tone towards the "paradox of choice" can best be described as:
- A. Dismissive of its relevance in modern life
- B. Neutral and purely descriptive
- C. Concerned but cautiously solution-oriented
- D. Enthusiastic about its benefits
89. The phrase "**a radical act to seek out constraints**" suggests that:
- A. limiting choices is widely accepted in society
- B. reducing options goes against cultural norms
- C. constraints are imposed by external authorities
- D. people naturally prefer fewer options
90. The phrase "**curated selections**" in the final paragraph mostly refers to:
- A. deliberately restricted sets of options assembled to simplify decision-making and reduce cognitive strain
- B. collections of items that have been professionally evaluated and ranked according to objective quality criteria
- C. selections shaped by the availability of numerous alternatives, often increasing uncertainty about decisions
- D. groups of choices that are randomly limited due to practical constraints such as time or availability

Your answers:

81.	82.	83.	84.	85.
86.	87.	88.	89.	90.

Part 4. Read the passage and answer the questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (15 points)

There was a bit of a fuss at a Tate Britain exhibition of modern art a few years ago. A woman was hurrying through the large room that housed an intriguing work entitled *Lights Going On and Off in a Gallery*, in which, yes, lights went on and off in a gallery. Suddenly the woman's necklace broke and the beads spilled over the floor. As we bent down to pick them up, one man said: 'Perhaps this is part of the installation.' Another replied: 'Surely that would make it performance art rather than an installation.' 'Or a happening,' said a third.

These are confusing times for the visual arts audience, which is growing rapidly. More and more of London's gallery space is being devoted to installations, so what we need is the answer to three simple questions. What is installation art? Why has it become so ubiquitous? And why is it so irritating?

First question first. What are installations? 'Installations', answers the *Thames and Hudson Dictionary of Art and Artists* with misplaced self-confidence, 'only exist as long

as they are installed.' Thanks for that. The dictionary continues more promisingly: installations are 'multi-media, multi-dimensional, and multi-form works which are created temporarily for a particular space or site either outdoors or indoors, in a museum or gallery'. As a first stab at a definition, this isn't bad. It rules out paintings, sculptures, frescoes and other intuitively noninstallational artworks. It also says that anything can be an installation so long as it has art status conferred on it, so the flashing fluorescent tube in your kitchen is not art because it hasn't got the nod from the gallery.

The only problem is that this definition is incomplete. In some cases, installations have been bought and moved out of the gallery for which they were intended and re-installed in a different context. Also, unlike looking at paintings or sculptures, you often need to move through or around installations to appreciate the full impact of the work. What this suggests is that we are barking up the wrong tree by trying to define installations. They do not all share a set of essential characteristics. Some will demand audience participation, some will be site-specific, some will be conceptual jokes involving only a light bulb.

Which brings us to the second question: why are there so many of them around at the moment? There have been installations since Marcel Duchamp put a urinal in a New York gallery in 1917 and called it art. This was the most resonant gesture in twentieth-century art, discrediting notions of taste, skill, and craftsmanship, and suggesting that everyone could be an artist. But why has the number of installations been going up so quickly?

American critic Hal Foster thinks he knows why installations are everywhere in modern art. He reckons that the key transformation in Western art since the 1960s has been a shift from what he calls a 'vertical' conception to a 'horizontal' one. Before then, painters were interested in painting, exploring their medium to its limits. They were vertical. Artists are now less interested in pushing a form such as painting or sculpture as far as it will go, and more in using their work as a terrain on which to evoke feelings or provoke reactions. True, photography, painting, or sculpture can do the same, but installations have proved most fruitful - perhaps because with installations there is less pressure to conform to the demands of a formal tradition and the artist can more easily explore what concerns them. Why are installations so irritating, then? Perhaps because in the many cases when craftsmanship is removed, art seems like the emperor's new clothes. Perhaps also because installation artists are frequently so bound up with the intellectual history of art and its various 'isms' that they forget that those who are not educated in this neither care nor understand.

But, ultimately, being irritating need not be a bad thing for a work of art since at least it compels engagement from the viewer. Take Martin Creed's *Lights Going On and Off* again. 'My work', says Martin Creed, 'is about fifty per cent what I make of it, and fifty per cent what people make of it. Meanings are made in people's heads - I can't control them.' Another example is *Double Bind*, Juan Muñoz's huge work at the Tate Modern gallery in London. A false mezzanine floor in the massive main exhibition hall is full of holes, some

real, some *trompe l'oeil*. A pair of lifts chillingly lit go up and down, heading nowhere. To get the full impact, and to go beyond mere illusionism, you need to go downstairs and look up through the holes. There are grey men living in rooms between the floorboards, installations within the installation. I don't necessarily understand or like all installation art, but I was moved by this. It's creepy and beautiful and strange, but ultimately you, the spectator, need to make an effort to get something out of it.

(Source: IELTS Masterclass, Unit 4, Reading)

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage?

In boxes on your answer sheet, write

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| YES | <i>if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer</i> |
| NO | <i>if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer</i> |
| NOT GIVEN | <i>if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this</i> |

91. The incident with the woman's necklace was intentionally designed as part of the exhibition.
92. The definition provided by the Thames and Hudson Dictionary is considered entirely accurate by the writer.
93. In certain cases, audiences need to change their position in relation to an installation artwork to fully grasp its meaning.
94. According to Hal Foster, contemporary artists are less concerned with mastering a single artistic medium than earlier artists were.
95. The writer believes that irritation caused by installation art prevents meaningful audience engagement.

Complete the summary below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

Write your answers in boxes on your answer sheet.

The rise of installation art can be traced back to early twentieth-century innovations, particularly when artists began to challenge traditional ideas of artistic value such as (96) _____, skill, and craftsmanship. According to Hal Foster, there has been a shift in artistic thinking from a (97) _____ conception to a more expansive approach in which artworks function as a space for evoking emotional or intellectual responses. Installations are especially effective in this regard because they are not constrained by (98) _____, allowing artists greater freedom to explore their concerns. However, installation art can be perceived as frustrating. One reason is that without visible craftsmanship, it may appear superficial, similar to the (99) _____. Furthermore, artists may be overly influenced by the (100) _____ of art, making their work inaccessible to those unfamiliar with various 'isms'.

Your answers:

91.	96.
92.	97.
93.	98.
94.	99.
95.	100.

Part 5. Read the passage and answer the questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided. (10 points)

A

In the field of human exploration, Sir Ranulph Fiennes's personal achievements are remarkable and his numerous expeditions to the North and South Poles have turned him into an iconic figure, the explorer's explorer. Now there are many amateurs that would follow in his footsteps. Adventure travel is one of the fastest growing sectors of the travel market. Offering trips to destinations including Mount Everest, Antarctica and the South Pole, tour companies can now provide access for those less tough to remote parts of the planet once considered the exclusive playgrounds of Fiennes and his peers.

B

This year, record numbers are expected at the base camp of Everest, in the hope of reaching the summit of the world's tallest peak. So, is the exploring game getting too easy? "Anyone who plans carefully could get to the South Pole if they're in relatively good condition and go at the right time of year," says Fiennes. "I would say the same of Mount Everest. If the weather's good and you take a reasonable guide, you should be able to get up even if you've never climbed before. However, there are still plenty of expeditions the majority of the public would not be able to do. Crossing the whole continent of Antarctica unsupported, for example, your troubles only really start at the South Pole. But the urge to go to far-flung regions is innate to man," Flennes continues, "and I think provided there is no ecological damage, this is fine. On Everest, though, there has been a dramatic impact in terms of litter."

C

But with specialist companies willing to deposit increasing numbers of tourists in even more remote locations, is exploring still a true test of character? "The challenge is what you make of it," says Fiennes. "In the wrong weather, you can have the most horrendous time on reasonably easy routes. But the ratio of accidents on Everest or at the South Pole is less than that on certain tourist routes, because you expect to be very cold and encounter crevasses and so you are naturally more cautious." Also lying behind the increasing numbers of extreme adventurers, says Fiennes, is the improved technology used for polar

equipment. "It's all a lot lighter now, less bulky. If you're inexperienced, that makes these journeys a lot more appealing."

D

Patrick Woodhead, whose young team reached the South Pole in 75 days, thinks the explorer community has a tendency to be overly reverential towards their discipline and claims his South Pole trek was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. However, last year, Fiennes published a biography of the original Antarctic explorer, Captain Robert Falcon Scott, and he feels there are those among modern explorers who remain ignorant of the debt they owe to Scott's pioneering spirit. "People today think we knew back then that Antarctica was a continent – we didn't. On his first expedition to Antarctica in 1902, Scott made an 800-mile journey when the furthest expedition previously had been 14 miles."

E

What is it that has driven explorers to the extremes of the Earth? "Explorers have always had a thousand different motives," Fiennes acknowledges. "If I'm asked myself, I am quite clear. It's my profession and how I make an income. There are people who aren't comfortable with that. I'm supposed to say "Because it's there to be conquered." I think some people still need this image of nobility." Such frankness has contributed to Fiennes's reputation for occasional haughtiness. On an expedition in 1971, he made the mistake of taking along a television crew. "It meant good publicity for future expeditions," he says, "but they deliberately set out with the aim of showing me up as a dictator."

F

Nevertheless, Fiennes has built his reputation on the only sort of accomplishment that matters among his peers – being first. "When Sir Edmund Hillary first scaled Everest, he used every aid at his disposal. The next "first" then has to be the person to do it without oxygen, then the first solo ascent and so on." So are there any true "firsts" left? "In part, it's the attitude of the individual," he says. "If something has been done, they will find their own firsts. Eventually, expeditions end up relying on gimmicks; for example, going to the South Pole on a motorbike, or a camel and so on."

G

In 1992, Fiennes completed his first archaeological expedition to find the lost city of Ubar in the deserts of Oman. He admits he found the detective work intriguing, albeit a challenge for a relative amateur, and believes the possibility of making similar discoveries may increasingly occupy his time in the future. While most men his age are thinking about retirement, his appetite for adventure appears undiminished. Last November, he and Mike Stroud became the first men to run seven marathons in seven countries in as many days. Is adventuring getting too easy? Not just yet.

(Source: Ready for CAE Workbook, Topic 1)

In which section are the following mentioned?

Fiennes's enthusiasm for a field beyond his usual expertise

101 _____

the suggestion that greater care is taken when conditions are more extreme 102_____

the significance explorers placed on pioneering accomplishments 103_____

a false assumption concerning the knowledge of past explorers 104_____

a personality trait of Fiennes's that has been unfairly singled out 105_____

the suggestion that his passion for exploration has not waned 106_____

the instinctive human desire to discover new territories 107_____

a downside of the rising popularity of adventure travel 108_____

what fundamentally motivates Fiennes to explore 109_____

the view that remote destinations were once accessible only to professionals 110_____

Your answers:

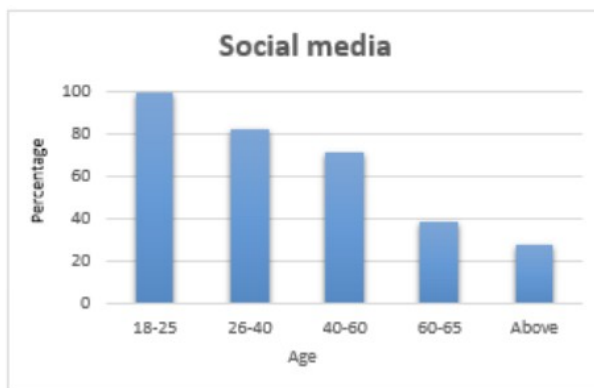
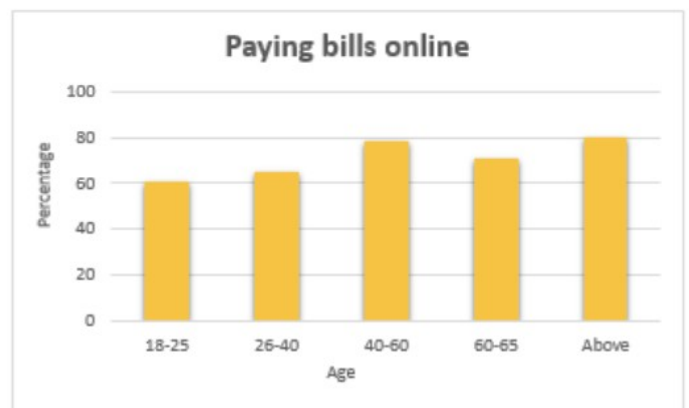
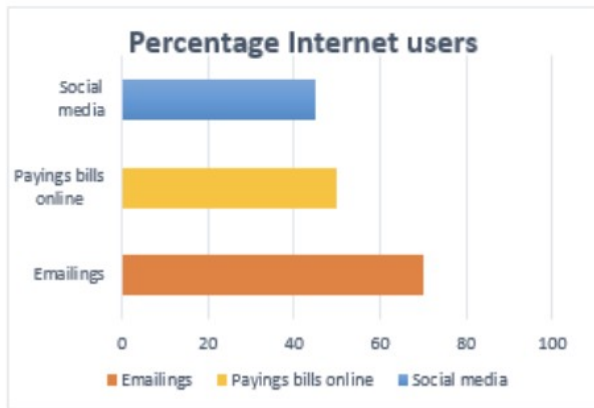
101.	102.	103.	104.	105.
106.	107.	108.	109.	110.

SECTION 4: WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. (20 points)

The charts below show the Internet use in different purposes in Australia in 2010 and 2011, and the percentage by users.

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



Part 2. (30 points)

Some people believe the purpose of education is to prepare people to be useful members of society. Others say that the purpose of education is to achieve personal ambitions. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

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.

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