

ĐỀ ĐỀ XUẤT (Đề thi gồm 15 trang)		KỶ THI HỌC SINH GIỎI CÁC TRƯỜNG THPT CHUYÊN KHU VỰC DUYÊN HẢI VÀ ĐỒNG BẰNG BẮC BỘ LẦN THỨ XII, NĂM 2026 ĐỀ THI MÔN: TIẾNG ANH LỚP 11 Thời gian: 150 phút (Không kể thời gian giao đề) Ngày thi: (Thí sinh làm bài trực tiếp vào đề)		
Điểm		Giám khảo 1	Giám khảo 2	Số phách
Bảng số	Bảng chữ			

HƯỚNG DẪN PHẦN THI NGHE HIỂU

- Bài nghe gồm 4 phần, mỗi phần được nghe 2 lần, mỗi lần cách nhau 30 giây, mở đầu và kết thúc mỗi phần nghe có tín hiệu.
- Mở đầu và kết thúc bài nghe có tín hiệu nhạc. Thí sinh có 3 phút để hoàn chỉnh bài trước tín hiệu nhạc kết thúc bài nghe.
- Mọi hướng dẫn cho thí sinh (bằng tiếng Anh) đã có trong bài nghe.

SECTION A. LISTENING (50)

Exercise 1. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about cities they have visited. You will hear the recording ONCE. While you listen, you must complete both tasks. (10 x 1 pt. = 10 pts.)

TASK ONE. For questions 1-5, choose from the list (A-H) why each speaker visited the city. A for an interview B as part of a holiday C to see friends D for a conference E to show it to others F to see it again C to see a particular building H for research purposes Speaker 1. 1. _____ Speaker 2. 2. _____ Speaker 3. 3. _____ Speaker 4. 4. _____ Speaker 5. 5. _____	TASK TWO. For questions 6-10, choose each speaker's opinion of the city from the list (A-H). A friendly B ugly C exciting D overcrowded E too big F well-organised G frightening H overrated Speaker 1. 6. _____ Speaker 2. 7. _____ Speaker 3. 8. _____ Speaker 4. 9. _____ Speaker 5. 10. _____
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Exercise 2. Matching Information (5 x 2pts. = 10 pts.)

What does Jack tell his tutor about each of the following course options?

- A. He'll definitely do it.
- B. He may or may not do it.

C. He won't do it.

Write the correct letter, A, B or C next to questions 6- 10. You may choose any letter more than once.

- 11. _____ Media Studies
- 12. _____ Women and Power
- 13. _____ Culture and Society
- 14. _____ Identity and Popular Culture
- 15. _____ Introduction to Cultural Theory

Exercise 3. You will hear part of an interview with Miriam Baker, a psychologist, about how social media has changed self-expression. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. (5 x 2pts. = 10pts.)

16. According to Miriam, what is the main reason people feel the need to create perfect images of their lives on social media?

- A. They are hoping to attract more friends.
- B. They want their lives to seem more exciting.
- C. They are in need of validation.
- D. They have very unhappy lives.

17. In Miriam's view, the average user of social media is

- A. driven and only interested in self-gratification.
- B. lonely and looking for meaningful connections.
- C. curious and concerned with their surroundings.
- D. volatile and confused about what they want.

18. When discussing her own experience with social media, Miriam reveals

- A. her unexpected pleasure at the response.
- B. her desire to engage with it more.
- C. her worry of becoming addicted.
- D. her anxiety of not being accepted.

19. Miriam compares media in the past with social media today to

- A. highlight the reduction in consumption.
- B. focus on the differing subject matter.
- C. explain the difference in the audience.
- D. illustrate the variety of content.

20. What advice does Miriam give about combating 'Digital Narcissism'?

- A. Be true to who you really are.
- B. Try to post more meaningful content.
- C. Focus on others and not yourself.
- D. Do things that increase your self-esteem

Exercise 4. Gap Filling: Fill in each blank no more than 3 words. (10 x 2pts. = 20 pts.)

THE FUTURE OF THE METAVERSE

What is the metaverse?

The metaverse is a vast interconnected virtual space that is created by the 21. _____ of augmented reality, virtual reality and the Internet.

The metaverse is not merely a technological concept, but potentially a 22. _____.

Elements of the metaverse

Virtual reality: immerses the user in a 23. _____ environment that simulates reality through the use of interactive devices.

Augmented reality: allows users to 24. _____ digital content onto our tangible surroundings thereby blurring the lines between physical and virtual realities.

The Internet: can be considered as a 25. _____ that connects platforms together.

Blockchain and Decentralization: make the space highly secure as no single entity has control over the entire chain.

The technical infrastructure of the metaverse

Spatial computing: serves as the 26. _____ that enables digital systems to understand and respond to the physical world, creating a more immersive and intuitive user experience.

Interoperability: ensures a seamless and unified experience by integrating 27. _____.

Artificial Intelligence: enables virtual environments to adapt and respond to user behavior in real-time by means of 28. _____.

User experience in the metaverse

The creation of individual avatar: is more than just making a 29. _____ but an exploration and self-expression trip through a dynamic virtual world.

Engaging with the metaverse: includes exploring virtual landscapes, meeting other avatars or even participating in a virtual economy.

Conclusion

The metaverse is not just a technological revolution but serves as a 30. _____ as well, allowing people to interact with the world.

II. READING (100 pts.)

II.1. Language in Use (35 pts.)

Exercise 1. Guided Cloze (10 x 1.5pts. = 15 pts.)

These days in business, people have to face many challenging questions when designing and implementing new projects in undeveloped areas of the countryside. One issue which has to be faced is whether it is possible to introduce new technology without destroying the local environment.

Economic (1) _____ and environmental conservation are often seen as natural enemies. It is unfortunate that in the past this has often been true, and it has been necessary to choose between (2) _____ the project or protecting the environment. However, by taking environmental considerations (3) _____ at an early stage in a project, companies can significantly reduce any impact on local plants and animals.

For example, in southern Africa, a company called CEL was asked to put up 410 km of a power transmission line without disturbing the rare birds which inhabit that area. The project was carried out with (4) _____ disturbance last summer. What may surprise many business people is the fact that this consideration for local wildlife did not in any way (5) _____ down the project. Indeed, the necessary advance planning (6) _____ with local knowledge and advanced technology, (7) _____ that the project was actually completed ahead of schedule. CEL was contracted to finish the job by October and (8) _____ to do so two months earlier.

CEL is one of those companies which (9) _____ to the principle of environmental conservation. Many other companies have yet to be (10) _____ of the importance of balancing the needs of people with those of the environment. However, it may be the only realistic way forward.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. A. development | B. progression | C. rise | D. increase |
| 2. A. running | B. dealing | C. controlling | D. leading |
| 3. A. deeply | B. gravely | C. seriously | D. severely |
| 4. A. bare | B. smallest | C. least | D. minimal |
| 5. A. turn | B. slow | C. speed | D. hold |
| 6. A. tied | B. combined | C. added | D. related |
| 7. A. led | B. caused | C. resulted | D. meant |
| 8. A. managed | B. succeeded | C. achieved | D. fulfilled |
| 9. A. promised | B. persuaded | C. convicted | D. committed |
| 10. A. argued | B. convinced | C. urged | D. impressed |

Exercise 2. Fill in each blank with an appropriate word form (5 x 2 pts. = 10 pts.)

The English Premier League has often been seen as a vehicle for the 1. _____ (**PEACE**) of rivalries, channeling fierce competition into structured matches that captivate millions. Clubs with 2.

_____ (**FALTER**) commitment to excellence 3. _____ (**FAIL**) deliver performances that keep fans on the edge of their seats week after week. Certain fixtures are 4.

_____ (**MARK**) as season-defining, with derbies and title clashes carrying weight far beyond

the ninety minutes of play. Managers, too, are known for their 5. _____ (RANGE) tactical creativity, experimenting with bold strategies that can turn the tide of a campaign.

Exercise 3. Error Correction: Write down the lines of the errors and correct them. (5 x 2 pts. = 10 pts.):

On social media, Stanley collectors show off shelves of their rainbow-hue, stainless steel treasures or gush over stickers and silicone doohickies to accessorize their favorite cups. Even those fortunate enough to avoid the hype have likely seen enough of these jumbo hydration totems in the wild to grasp the cultural moment that is footed. The Stanley 1913 brand has been around for more than a century, so in recent years the company has expanded its signature line of humble green workaday drink into a limitless array of colors, designs and collaborations that are so popular they incite near-violence. The insatiable FOMO need to own a Stanley cup comes from savvy marketing. When eyeing a brand revamp in 2020, Stanley's global president Terence Reilly specifically chose women as potential new consumer base. Then, with a new palette of colors and designs, the company relied on trusted influencers on social media to get the word out. The strategy worked, as Stanley cups gained rabid popularity for its candy-like array of colors and its ability to keep beverages hot and cold for long periods of time. Those cups are so simple, so necessary, maybe the key to why they're also the subject of so many consumer fantasies. The habitual meets the aspirational when social media posts adding a shiny, new Stanley cup to a lifestyle marked by clean, responsible, well-hydrated order, making us crave for it even more.	Your Answers: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
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II.2. Reading Comprehension (65 pts.)

Exercise 1. Open Cloze Test (10 x 1.5 pts. = 15 pts.): Fill in each blank with an appropriate word

Manga culture in Japan is often described as a double-edged 1. _____, both a demanding industry and a boundless source of creativity. Publishers sometimes find themselves up against the 2. _____, struggling to keep pace with voracious readers who devour new releases like there's no tomorrow. Fans who dive headfirst into the stories often find themselves hooked, unable to let sleeping dogs lie until the next 3. _____ arrives. Mangaka frequently go the extra 4. _____, pouring heart and soul into their work. Publishers, too, must keep their fingers on the 5. _____ of shifting tastes, lest they miss the boat. Rare editions are snapped up in the blink of an eye, with collectors paying through the nose to secure them. Conventions are a hive of activity, where enthusiasts let their 6. _____ down and spend money like water. Cosplayers often steal someone's 7. _____, dazzling crowds with costumes that are second to none. Critics who once turned up their noses at manga now eat 8. _____ pie, acknowledging its global impact. For Japan, manga has become the jewel in the 9. _____ of its cultural exports. The manga culture proves that it is not just a flash in the 10. _____ but a force that continues to go from strength to strength.

Exercise 2. Read the following passage and do the following task (13 x 1 pt. = 13 pts.)

Found only in the Deep South of America, longleaf pine woodlands have dwindled to about 3 percent of their former range, but new efforts are under way to restore them.

The beauty and the biodiversity of the longleaf pine forest are well-kept secrets, even in its native South. Yet it is among the richest ecosystems in North America, rivaling tallgrass prairies and the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest in the number of species it shelters. And like those two other disappearing wildlife habitats, longleaf is also critically endangered.

In longleaf pine forests, trees grow widely scattered, creating an open, parklike environment, more like a savanna than a forest. The trees are not so dense as to block the sun. This openness creates a forest floor that is

among the most diverse in the world, where plants such as many-flowered grass pinks, trumpet pitcher plants, Venus flytraps, lavender ladies and pineland bog-buttons grow. As many as 50 different species of wildflowers, shrubs, grasses and ferns have been cataloged in just a single square meter.

Once, nearly 92 million acres of longleaf forest flourished from Virginia to Texas, the only place in the world where it is found. By the turn of the 21st century, however, virtually all of it had been logged, paved or farmed into oblivion. Only about 3 percent of the original range still supports longleaf forest, and only about 10,000 acres of that is uncut old-growth—the rest is forest that has regrown after cutting. An estimated 100,000 of those acres are still vanishing every year. However, a quiet movement to reverse this trend is rippling across the region. Governments, private organizations (including NWF) and individual conservationists are looking for ways to protect and preserve the remaining longleaf and to plant new forests for future generations.

Figuring out how to bring back the piney woods also will allow biologists to help the plants and animals that depend on this habitat. Nearly two-thirds of the declining, threatened or endangered species in the southeastern United States are associated with longleaf. The outright destruction of longleaf is only part of their story, says Mark Danaher, the biologist for South Carolina's Francis Marion National Forest. He says the demise of these animals and plants also is tied to a lack of fire, which once swept through the southern forests on a regular basis. "Fire is absolutely critical for this ecosystem and for the species that depend on it," says Danaher.

Name just about any species that occurs in longleaf and you can find a connection to fire. Bachman's sparrow is a secretive bird with a beautiful song that echoes across the longleaf flatwoods. It tucks its nest on the ground beneath clumps of wiregrass and little bluestem in the open under-story. But once fire has been absent for several years, and a tangle of shrubs starts to grow, the sparrows disappear. Gopher tortoises, the only native land tortoises east of the Mississippi, are also abundant in longleaf. A keystone species for these forests, its burrows provide homes and safety to more than 300 species of vertebrates and invertebrates ranging from eastern diamond-back rattlesnakes to gopher frogs. If fire is suppressed, however, the tortoises are choked out. "If we lose fire," says Bob Mitchell, an ecologist at the Jones Center, "we lose wildlife."

Without fire, we also lose longleaf. Fire knocks back the oaks and other hardwoods that can grow up to overwhelm longleaf forests. "They are fire forests," Mitchell says. "They evolved in the lightning capital of the eastern United States." And it wasn't only lightning strikes that set the forest aflame. "Native Americans also lit fires to keep the forest open," Mitchell says. "So did the early pioneers. They helped create the longleaf pine forests that we know today."

Fire also changes how nutrients flow throughout longleaf ecosystems, in ways we are just beginning to understand. For example, researchers have discovered that frequent fires provide extra calcium, which is critical for egg production, to endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. Frances James, a retired avian ecologist from Florida State University, has studied these small black-and-white birds for more than two decades in Florida's sprawling Apalachicola National Forest. When she realized female woodpeckers laid larger clutches in the first breeding season after their territories were burned, she and her colleagues went searching for answers. "We learned calcium is stashed away in woody shrubs when the forest is not burned," James says. "But when there is a fire, a pulse of calcium moves down into the soil and up into the longleaf." Eventually, this calcium makes its way up the food chain to a tree-dwelling species of ant, which is the red-cockaded's favorite food. The result: more calcium for the birds, which leads to more eggs, more young and more woodpeckers.

Today, fire is used as a vital management tool for preserving both longleaf and its wildlife. Most of these fires are prescribed burns, deliberately set with a drip torch. Although the public often opposes any type of fire – and the smoke that goes with it – these frequent, low-intensity burns reduce the risk of catastrophic

conflagrations. "Forests are going to burn," says Amadou Diop, NWF's southern forests restoration manager. "It's just a question of when. With prescribed burns, we can pick the time and the place."

Diop is spearheading a new NWF effort to restore longleaf. "It's a species we need to go back to," he says. Educating landowners about the advantages of growing longleaf is part of the program, he adds, which will soon be under way in nine southern states. "Right now, most longleaf is on public land," says Jerry McCollum, president of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. "Private land is where we need to work," he adds, pointing out that more than 90 percent of the acreage within the historic range of longleaf falls under this category.

Interest among private landowners is growing throughout the South, but restoring longleaf is not an easy task. The herbaceous layer – the understory of wiregrasses and other plants – also needs to be recreated. In areas where the land has not been chewed up by farming, but converted to loblolly or slash pine plantations, the seed bank of the longleaf forest usually remains viable beneath the soil. In time, this original vegetation can be coaxed back. Where agriculture has destroyed the seeds, however, wiregrass must be replanted. Right now, the expense is prohibitive, but researchers are searching for low-cost solutions.

Bringing back longleaf is not for the short-sighted, however. Few of us will be alive when the pines being planted today become mature forests in 70 to 80 years. But that is not stopping longleaf enthusiasts. "Today, it's getting hard to find longleaf seedlings to buy," one of the private landowners says. "Everyone wants them. Longleaf is in a resurgence."

Questions 1 – 5: Complete the notes below. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

Forest fire ensures that:

- Birds can locate their nests in the 1. _____
- The burrows of a species of 2. _____ provide homes to many other animals.
- Hardwoods such as 3. _____ can grow and outnumber long-leaf trees.

Apart from fires lit by lightning:

- Fires are created by 4. _____ and settlers.
- Fires deliberately lit are called 5. _____.

Questions 6 – 9: Complete the flow-chart below. Choose ONE WORD ONLY from the passage for each answer.

How to increase the number of cockaded woodpeckers

Calcium stored in (6). _____



Shrubs are burned



Calcium released into (7). _____



Travel up to the leaves



(8) _____ are eaten



The number of (9) _____ increases



More cockaded woodpeckers

Questions 10 – 13: Do the statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage ? Write TRUE (T) if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE (F) if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN (NG) if there is no information on this

10. _____ The sparse distribution of longleaf pine trees leads to one of the most diversity of species.
11. _____ It is easier to restore forests converted to farms than forests converted to plantations.
12. _____ The cost to restore forest is increasing recently.
13. _____ Few can live to see the replanted forest reach its maturity

Exercise 3. Rearrange the paragraph into the correct order. (7 x 1 pt. = 7 pts.)

THE ORIGINS OF THE UNIVERSE

A powerful conviction for me is the idea that as we converge on the moment of creation, the constituents and laws of the universe become ever simpler. A useful analogy here is life itself, or, more simply, a single human being. Each of us is a vastly complex entity, assembled from many different tissues and capable of countless behaviours and thoughts.

1.

Cosmology is showing us that this complexity flowed from a deep simplicity as matter metamorphosed through a series of phase transitions. Travel back in time through those phase transitions, and we see an ever-greater simplicity and symmetry, with the fusion of the fundamental forces of nature and the transformation of particles to ever-more fundamental components.

2.

Go back further still. What was there before the big bang? What was there before time began? Facing this question challenges our faith in the power of science to find explanations of nature. The existence of a singularity — in this case the given, unique state from which the universe emerged — is anathema to science, because it is beyond explanation.

3.

Cosmologists have long struggled to avoid this bad dream by seeking explanations of the universe that avoid the necessity of a beginning. Einstein, remember, refused to believe the implication of his own equations — that the universe is expanding and therefore must have had a beginning — and invented the cosmological constant to avoid it. Only when Einstein saw Hubble's observations of an expanding universe could he bring himself to believe his equations.

4.

Stephen Hawking and J B Hartle tried to resolve the challenge differently, by arguing the singularity out of existence. Flowing from an attempt at a theory of quantum gravity, they agreed that time is finite, but without a beginning. Think of the surface of a sphere. The surface is finite, but it has no beginning or end — you can trace your finger over it continuously, perhaps finishing up where you began. Suppose the universe is a sphere of space time. Travel around the surface, and again you may finish up where you started both in space and time.

5.

We simply do not know yet whether there was a beginning of the universe, and so the origin of space-time remains in terra incognita. No question is more fundamental, whether cast in scientific or theological terms. My conviction

is that science will continue to move ever closer to the moment of creation, facilitated by the ever-greater simplicity we find there. Some physicists argue that matter is ultimately reducible to pointlike objects with certain intrinsic properties.

6.	
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To an engineer, the difference between nothing and practically nothing might be close enough. To a scientist, such a difference, however miniscule, would be everything. We might find ourselves experiencing Jarrow's bad dream, facing a final question: Why? "Why questions are not amenable to scientific inquiry and will always reside within philosophy and theology, which may provide solace if not material explication.

7.	
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The list of cosmic coincidences required for our existence in the universe is long, moving Stephen Hawking to remark that, "the odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the big bang are enormous." Princeton physicist Freeman Dyson went further, and said: "The more I examine the universe and the details of its architecture, the more evidence I find that the universe in some sense must have known we were coming." This concatenation of coincidences required for our presence in this universe has been termed the anthropic principle. In fact, it is merely a statement of the, obvious: Had things been different, we would not exist.

Missed paragraphs

A. This, of course, requires time travel, in violation of Mach's principle. But the world of quantum mechanics, with its uncertainty principle, is an alien place in which otherworldly things can happen. It is so foreign a place that it may even be beyond human understanding.

B. But what if the universe we see were the only one possible, the product of a singular initial state shaped by singular laws of nature? It is clear that the minutest variation in the value of a series of fundamental properties of the universe would have resulted in no universe at all, or at least a very alien universe. For instance, if the strong nuclear force had been slightly weaker, the universe would have been composed of hydrogen only. An expansion more rapid by one part in a million would have excluded the formation of stars and planets.

C. Trace that person back through his or her life, back beyond birth to the moment of fertilisation of a single ovum by a single sperm. The individual becomes ever simpler, ultimately encapsulated as information encoded in DNA. The development that gradually transforms a DNA code into a mature individual is an unfolding, a complexification, as the information in the DNA is translated and manifested through many stages of life. So, I believe, it is with the universe. We can see how very complex the universe is now, and we are part of that complexity.

D. Others argue that fundamental particles are extraordinarily tiny strings that vibrate to produce their properties. Either way, it is possible to envisage creation of the universe from almost nothing — not nothing, but practically nothing. Almost creation ex nihilo, but not quite. That would be a great intellectual achievement, but it may still leave us with a limit to how far scientific inquiry can go, finishing with a description of the singularity, but not an explanation of it.

E. For many proponents of the steady state theory, one of its attractions was its provision that the universe had no beginning and no end, and therefore required no explanation of what existed before time = 0. It was known as the perfect cosmological principle.

F. There can be no answer to why such a state existed. Is this, then, where scientific explanation breaks down and God takes over, the artificer of that singularity, that initial simplicity? The astrophysicist Robert Jastrow described such a prospect as the scientist's nightmare: "He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

G. Various COBE team members and other cosmologists were on TV, radio talk shows, and in newspapers for several days. The publicity and tremendous public interest provided a unique opportunity to discuss science with a very large audience and to promote the power of human endeavour in pursuing the mysteries of nature.

H. Go back further and we reach a point when the universe was nearly an infinitely tiny, infinitely dense concentration of energy. This increasing simplicity and symmetry of the universe as we near the point of creation gives me hope that we can understand the universe using the powers of reason and philosophy. The universe would then be comprehensible, as Einstein had yearned.

Exercise 4. Read the passage and answer the following questions (10 x 1.5 pts. = 15 pts.)

Woods the Second

The resemblance is uncanny; the aura, unmistakable; as Cheyenne strides confidently up the fairway, there is no mistaking it; this is a Woods alright; the same eyes, elevated cheek bones and toothy grin; were it not for the long hair, you'd almost be forgiven for mistaking her profile for that of her legendary uncle, Tiger - in his prime. Tiger's father Earl is to thank not only for gifting his son to golf, then, but also, now it seems, instilling the same love of the game in his grandniece, who, when barely old enough to walk, he placed a club in the hand of and began to teach. It is as though history is repeating itself here; is another member of the Woods family about to take the world of golf by storm?

Well, if Cheyenne, now 21, has anything to do with it, don't be surprised. There may barely be enough room for one Tiger in the family, but this particular tigress won't stop until she has at least secured a small portion of the spotlight for herself. And, rest assured, the eyes of the golfing world are monitoring her progress with a keen sense of curiosity - mainly because the story, were it to unfold in the manner in which she hopes it will, is one that even Hollywood couldn't script.

It is almost inconceivable that another Woods could venture into the golfing world after Tiger — besides, is anyone else worthy or capable of carrying on the tradition of golfing supremacy synonymous with the Woods name? Tiger has monopolised the scoreboards of the U.S. Tour for so long; how does one follow that? And in the wake of his achievements, the pressure on Cheyenne must be immense, which might, perhaps, explain her poor debutant showing, when she missed the cut in her first tournament as a professional at the LPGA Championship earlier this year. Surely her every stroke is encumbered by the burden of responsibility that comes with trying to carry on the Woods' tradition.

At any rate, one somehow suspects Tiger is less than ready to pass on the baton just yet. Indeed, one wonders how he might feel about having another Woods out there competing in his arena. But perhaps, in light of his rather ignominious fall from grace in recent years following the release of the **lurid** details of his private life and the extent of his unfaithfulness to his ex-wife, he might well welcome the distraction Cheyenne creates. It may even make it easier for him to rebuild his game with the minimum of fuss and attention, away from the spotlight, as the wounded Tiger bides his time until he is ready to pounce again — and signs are that he will soon have the majors back within his sights, so that may not be very long at all now.

As for what Cheyenne thinks about all this newfound attention in her life, well, she is determined to be herself and is unlikely to be content to remain in Tiger's shadow; that much is sure. And while she may not emulate

her illustrious uncle's trophy haul, nor come to dominate the sport as he did, she seems, at least, determined to give a good showing, and should her budding golfing career fall short of expectations, it will not have been for the want of trying because, from watching her on the practice ground during tournaments, it is clear that the famous Woods' work ethic has certainly rubbed off.

In truth, only the media will pitch these two against one another though - purely for dramatic value, as I am perhaps guilty of having done here. The reality is that Woods is none too bothered by what his young niece is up to, and, in fact, he likes to support her as and when he can, offering her advice on aspects of her game whenever the two cross paths, which, these days, with the busy tour schedule, is very seldom indeed. Similarly, Cheyenne is very keen not to be compared to her uncle, stating that 'not everyone can be Tiger Woods.' Indeed, her down-to-earth mentality and easy way with people are proof of this in one respect at least, for these attributes that went missing from the gene pool when her uncle was being brought into the world are qualities that she herself has in abundance.

Is Cheyenne likely to do for women's golf what Tiger did for men's during the 90s? [A] Well, while not completely beyond the realms of possibility, you would have to say probably not. Are we likely to see the raucous crowds chant her name as she stalks the middle of the fairway on the final hole of a major championship for the umpteenth time, ready to pounce and claim another spectacular glory, constantly reaffirming her status alongside the near-superhuman elite of professional sport? Well, as she **made no bones about** declaring pretty forthrightly herself, not everyone can be Tiger Woods... [B] She is her own person, and whatever type of career she forges in the end, it will have been forged in her own way, make no mistake about that. [C] In truth, the early signs are that she will hardly set the world alight, but then, how can you dismiss a player with that unmistakably Woods-esque glint in the eye. [D] She will probably hate me for saying this, but Cheyenne Woods very definitely has the eye of the Tiger, and, with that in her arsenal, anything could happen...

1. Based on the information provided in the opening paragraph, it is clear

- A. that Cheyenne Woods has developed features strikingly similar to the way her uncle looks today.
- B. that both Cheyenne Woods and her uncle have the same family member to thank for introducing them to the game of golf.
- C. that three generations of the Woods family shared very similar physical features in their youth.
- D. that both Cheyenne and Tiger Woods feel deeply grateful to Tiger's father Earl for his role in introducing them to the game of golf.

2. Of the pressure Cheyenne Woods is under,

- A. the writer suggests this may have been a factor which contributed to the poor manner in which she kicked off her professional career.
- B. the writer feels that it is lessened by the sheer scale of the achievements of Tiger, as no one could realistically expect her to emulate him.
- C. the writer suggests that she coped admirably with it at the LPGA Championship earlier in the year, considering the fact that she was just a debutant.
- D. the writer suggests that she has openly admitted that she is severely encumbered by the burden of trying to follow in her uncle's footsteps.

3. The word '**lurid**' in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| A. embarrassing | B. sensational |
| C. sordid | D. fabricated |

4. What does the writer NOT imply about Cheyenne's uncle, Tiger Woods?

- A. He may be relieved that Cheyenne is taking some of the attention away from him.

- But, then, Cheyenne isn't and harbours no desire to be her uncle anyway.**
Where would this sentence fit best?
- [A] [B] [C] [D]

A. So far, the evidence points to a strong likelihood that Cheyenne will be an extremely successful golfer.

B. Although it seems unlikely that Cheyenne will emulate her uncle, it would be a mistake to completely discount someone with such a good pedigree.

C. Cheyenne is an unpredictable and volatile player and anything could happen as far as her future in the game of golf is concerned.

D. Cheyenne has high expectations of herself and is pretty forthright about declaring her intentions.

Against the Grain

In *Against the Grain*, A Deep History of the Earliest States, James C. Scott contributes to his longstanding intellectual project of re-evaluating the role of the state in political thought by looking at the development of the early agrarian states to challenge narratives of progress founded on state formation. While acknowledging that a number of objections can be raised against the historical claims of the book, Alex Sager praises it for encouraging

vital critical interrogation of the supposed inevitability and neutrality of state institutions today. He is not a primitivist, advocating a return to hunting and gathering. And given that these objections are obvious, he must be up to something else. *Against the Grain* invites us to critically appraise our institutions. The rise of the state and its appetite for natural resources - central to fuelling state-centric conceptions of development or progress - continues to be devastating for indigenous peoples and uncontacted tribes. The continued bias toward sedentary lifestyles parallels the 'determined resistance by mobile peoples everywhere to permanent settlement, even under relatively favorable circumstance'. State persecution of nomads continues today, targeting mobile groups such as the Roma and the UK traveller community as well as refugees and other migrants. *Against the Grain* does not call for the rejection of the state, but rather its re-examination. In this, it brilliantly succeeds.

(B) Good Reads

In *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States*, James C. Scott, a professor of political science at Yale, presents a plausible contender for the most important piece of technology in the history of man. It is a technology so old that it predates Homo sapiens and instead should be credited to our ancestor Homo erectus. That technology is fire. We have used it in two crucial, defining ways. The first and the most obvious of these is cooking. As Richard Wrangham has argued in his book *Catching Fire*, our ability to cook allows us to extract more energy from the food we eat, and also to eat a far wider range of foods. Our closest animal relative, the chimpanzee, has a colon three times as large as ours, because its diet of raw food is so much harder to digest. The extra caloric value we get from cooked food allowed us to develop our big brains, something that was not believed to be the case till recent research, which absorb roughly a fifth of the energy we consume, as opposed to less than a tenth for most mammals' brains. That difference is what has made us the dominant species on the planet.

(C) London Book Review

When our ancestors began to control fire, most likely somewhere in Africa around 400,000 years ago, the planet was set on a new course. We have little idea and even less evidence of how early humans made fire, but perhaps they carried around smouldering bundles of leaves from forest fires, or captured the sparks thrown off when chipping stone or rubbing sticks together. However it happened, the human control of fire made an indelible mark on the earth's ecosystems, and marked the beginning of the Anthropocene - the epoch in which humans have had a significant impact on the planet. According to Scott in *Against the Grain*, the period of early states was the Golden Age for the barbarians. They could prey on a state as if it were just another resource for hunting or harvesting. In Scott's picture, the barbarians and the city-states were entirely dependent on each other for their existence. They rose and fell together: the Huns and the Romans; the 'Sea People' and the Egyptians. And for the vast part of recorded history the majority of people lived in the barbarian world. Scott's view is that the barbarian Golden Age ended as recently as four hundred years ago, when the power of the state finally became overwhelming, partly due to the invention of durable gunpowder. Which is, of course, a means to make fire sparked by flint - a return to the 'moment' 400,000 years earlier which marked the beginning not of the steady rise of civilisation, but rather the muddled and messy affair that is the human past.

(D) Yale University Press

An account of all the new and surprising evidence now available for the beginnings of the earliest civilizations that contradict the standard narrative 'Why did humans abandon hunting and gathering for sedentary communities dependent on livestock and cereal grains, and governed by precursors of today's states?' Most people believe that plant and animal domestication allowed humans, finally, to settle down and form agricultural villages, towns, and states, which made possible civilization, law, public order, and a presumably secure way of living. But archaeological and historical evidence challenges this narrative. The first agrarian states, says James C. Scott in *Against the Grain*, were born of accumulations of domestications: first fire, then plants, livestock, subjects of the state, captives, and finally women in the patriarchal family; all of which can be viewed as a way of gaining control over reproduction. Scott explores why we avoided sedentism and plow agriculture, the advantages of mobile

subsistence, the unforeseeable disease epidemics arising from crowding plants, animals, and grain, and why all early states are based on millets and cereal grains and unfree labor. He also discusses the 'barbarians' who long evaded state control, as a way of understanding continuing tension between states and non-subject peoples.

Which text

1. _____ negates mentioning the effect new evidence has on previously held convictions?
2. _____ says that the book welcomes an evaluation of established systems?
3. _____ indicates that recently discovered evidence had been unexpected?
4. _____ gives an approximation as to the dissolution of nomadism?
5. _____ gives examples of a symbiotic relationship between tribes?
6. _____ speculates as to the creation of a natural element?
7. _____ tells of an ongoing reassessment?
8. _____ relates Scotts assertion that nomadic peoples flourished amongst early established communities?
9. _____ speaks of modern day ill-treatment?
10. _____ compares a part of human anatomy with that of a close cousin?

III. WRITING (50 pts.)

Exercise 1. Read the following extract and use your own words to summarize it. Your summary should be between 100 and 120 words. (20 pts.)

Might you be hypervigilant? A sombre question

Hypervigilance means – usefully – more than just worried or anxious; it denotes a condition of basic terror at the constituents of existence, an ongoing relentless probing at every apparent positive in search of signs of peril, pain, cruelty and malevolence. Any moment of the week, the hypervigilant person will be concerned with something – an email they sent, a meeting they have been called to, a news item, a frosty colleague – but this rotating litany of panics disguises the chronic nature of their condition. As soon as one worry is solved, it is not just that another will arise, another must do so in order to fit in with a fundamentally precarious sense of the nature of reality.

What lies behind hypervigilance is almost always the past. If it's hysterical, as the caustic expression has it, it's historical. The catastrophe the hypervigilant fear will happen has already happened – and yet has been forgotten or not adequately reflected upon, casting a shadow across the entirety of a life. Every new day must be another crucible of fear so long as we lack any accurate sense of what once frightened us out of our conscious selves.

The reason why the state is so hard to diagnose is that the mind furiously insists that every problem it is dealing with in the here and now must be the sole and legitimate cause of our distress. If only we weren't facing this problem at work or at home, with friends or online, we would be fine, our minds tell us. What we thereby miss is the bizarre-sounding truth that we aren't principally worrying due to any local cause but on account of an all-encompassing archaic necessity.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Exercise 2. Essay Writing (30 pts.)

Some people say that the increasing business and cultural contact between countries is a positive development. However, others think many countries will lose their national identities as a result. Write an essay of at least 250 words to discuss both views and give your opinion.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

THE END