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SECTION A: LISTENING (50 points)

Part 1: Listen to the talk about Easter Island and fill in each gap with **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**. (10 points)

Easter Island is famous for its huge stone statues, believed to represent the (1) _____ of the island's early inhabitants. However, questions remain about how these heavy structures were transported without trees, as the island is now treeless. Evidence suggests that large numbers of (2) _____ once covered the island, providing materials for movement and daily life. Their disappearance may have been caused by human activity or by (3) _____, which ate the seeds and prevented regrowth. As trees vanished, strong winds damaged crops, and food sources declined, including seabirds hunted to extinction. Later, (4) _____ introduced by Europeans devastated the population. Although the exact cause of deforestation is unclear, it contributed greatly to the island's collapse, offering a warning about modern (5) _____.

Your answers

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 2: You will hear part of an interview with a dance critic about a modern ballet production involving animals. For questions 1- 5, listen and decide whether the statements are **TRUE (T)**, **FALSE (F)** or **NOT GIVEN (NG)**. (10 points)

- It appears that the function of the dogs in the ballet is to symbolize homeless people.
- Stan disapproves of the use of technology in dance.
- The way the dogs copied the actions of one character attracts the audience's interests.
- The behavior of an audience caused the lapse in mood during the performance Stan saw.
- The bond between the ballet and the technology made a deep impression on Stan.

Your answers

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 3: You will hear an interview with a writer called Barry Pagham, who writes crime novels. For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. (10 points)

1 What does Barry say about his first two published novels?

- A** They were more successful than he anticipated.
- B** They were useful in proving that he could write.
- C** It's a shame that they're no longer available to buy.
- D** It was a mistake to write an unfashionable type of novel.

2 Looking back, how does Barry view his decision to write his first crime novel?

- A** He accepts that he took a big risk.
- B** He wishes that he hadn't upset his publishers.
- C** He recognises that he behaved unprofessionally.
- D** He regrets putting himself under so much stress.

3 Barry tells the story of the arrest of an armed robber to illustrate

- A** how true to life his novels are.
- B** how dangerous his research can be.
- C** how seriously the police take his work.
- D** how unpredictably criminals can sometimes behave.

4 What does Barry say about the city where his novels are based?

- A** He makes it sound more exciting than it actually is.
- B** He regards it as an important element in the stories.
- C** He doesn't attempt to create a realistic picture of it.
- D** He's surprised that foreign readers want to visit it.

5 How would Barry feel about becoming a policeman?

- A** He suspects that he wouldn't be brave enough.
- B** He doubts whether he would have the patience.
- C** He's sure someone of his age wouldn't be accepted.
- D** He suggests that he wouldn't reject the idea completely.

Your answers

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Part 4. Complete the summary below using NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the recording.

How scientists are creating real-life invisibility cloaks

While invisibility is common in fiction, achieving it in reality requires manipulating (1) _____, which normally bounce off objects into our eyes. One method is to reflect them away, but this needs (2) _____ that are difficult to maintain. Absorbing light with ultra-black coatings helps, but does not truly make objects invisible.

Scientists are instead exploring (3) _____, the bending of light as it passes through materials of different densities. This natural effect has limits, but in labs, researchers have developed (4) _____ that manipulate light beyond nature's boundaries. John Pendry was key to this innovation, creating (5) _____, tiny structures capable of bending light in unprecedented ways.

These materials led to the discovery of (6) _____, marking a turning point in invisibility research. However, creating a true cloak is difficult because refraction treats each (7) _____ differently, making it hard to avoid distortion.

Some labs mimic natural illusions like a (8) _____, but such systems require extreme temperatures. Others use specially arranged (9) _____ to bend light, but these only work from precise angles. Digital cloaking methods using cameras still struggle with lag and (10) _____, limiting their effectiveness.

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)

1. They seemed compatible, but July's clinginess _____ him off.
A. wore B. switched C. shooed D. hacked
2. Now that the argument has _____, don't you dare try to stir things up again.
A. simmered down B. whiled away C. blown over D. died out
3. Having a Catholic upbringing, she has an _____ faith in God and his righteous teachings.
A. obeying B. unstinting C. abiding D. unyielding
4. With the current economic climate, giant corporations will soon swallow up budding _____.
A. ventures B. grassroots C. minnows D. conglomerates
5. The team pulled out their _____ and turned the tide of the battle completely, achieving a landslide victory.
A. trump card B. hidden blade C. best trick D. ace card
6. The cashier used a special marker to check for _____ before accepting large denominations of money from the customer.

A. phony notes

B. fake pennies

C. replicated currency

D. counterfeit bills

7. Despite the _____ of the evidence against him, the defendant maintained his innocence throughout the trial.

A. paucity

B. plethora

C. veracity

D. ambiguity

8. The _____ of the new law was met with fierce opposition from civil rights groups, who argued that it violated the privacy and dignity of citizens

A. enactment

B. amendment

C. revocation

D. ratification

9. The teacher was impressed by the student's _____ of the topic, as he demonstrated a deep understanding of the concepts and theories involved.

A. scope

B. range

C. capacity

D. grasp

10. The company decided to _____ its regional operations, citing low demand and high costs as the main reasons for the move.

A. curtail

B. expand

C. diversify

D. relocate

11. The author's latest novel is a _____ of genres, blending elements of science fiction, fantasy, and horror in a unique and captivating way.

A. distortion

B. contrast

C. fusion

D. deviation

12. The politician's speech contained _____ statements contradicting his previous claims and promises.

A. ambiguous

B. erroneous

C. inflammatory

D. inconsistent

13. The philosopher's argument was based on a _____ hypothesis that was not supported by any evidence or logic.

A. cogent

B. spurious

C. lucid

D. sound

14. After devouring his plate of lasagna, Mark asked for _____ to satisfy his hearty appetite.

A. a second helping

B. an initial taste

C. a fresh portion

D. an initial appetite

15. The seasoned traveler had explored _____ Europe, from the historic landmarks of Rome to the picturesque landscapes of Scotland

A. the height and distance of

B. the size and volume of

C. the length and breadth of

D. the depth and width of

16. Having been served dinner,

A. the problem was discussed by the members of the committee.

B. the committee members discussed the problem.

- C. it was discussed by the committee members the problem.
D. a discussion of the problem was made by the members of the committee.

17. The minister cheated his supporters out of the taxes, _____ they would never forgive him.

- A.** for that **B.** for which **C.** of that **D.** of which

18. The bank leader, along with her many closest associates, _____ a life sentence.

- A.** was receiving **B.** was to receive **C.** were to receive **D.** were receiving

19. Current policies _____, the government decided to try a new approach to the issues.

- A.** were abandoned **B.** be abandoned
C. being abandoned **D.** had been abandoned

20. _____ malevolent spirits wander the human realm is rooted in ancient folklore.

- A. The belief that B. It is believed that
C. To believe D. What is believed to be

Part 2. Read the sentences below and fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. **(10 points)**

1. Her _____ (**persist**) in pursuing her goals led to remarkable success.
2. The novel explores themes of _____ (**alien**) and identity in a foreign land.
3. His _____ (**skeptic**) about the proposal was evident from his questions.
4. The artist's style is characterized by its _____ (**abstract**) and complexity.
5. The lecture provided a _____ (**comprehend**) overview of quantum physics.
6. She handled the crisis with great _____ (**compose**) and efficiency.
7. The evidence was _____ (**dispute**) and convinced everyone of his in
8. Most common in the Northern Hemisphere, around 15% of the Northern Hemisphere or 11% of the global surface is _____ (**lay**) by permafrost.
9. The framework also explains how high-seed-yielding _____ (**herb**) perennials could be developed through selection, despite their rarity in natural ecosystems.

10. It was _____ (**roar**) amusing that this hot-shot chef couldn't even use a tomato slice.

Part 3. The passage below contains 5 mistakes. Identify the mistakes and write their correct forms in the space provided in the column on the right. (0) has been done as an example. (10 points)

Eye contact

American people might be looking **its** client in the eye to show that they are paying full attention, but if that client is from Japan or Korea, he might find the direct eye contact awkwardly. In parts of South America and Africa, prolonged eye contact could also be seen as challenging authority. In the Middle East, eye contact across genders are considered inappropriate, although eye contact within a gender could signify honesty and truthfulness.

Having an increased awareness of the possible differences in expectations and behaviour can help us avoid cases of miscommunicating, but it is vital that we also remember that cultural stereotypes can be detrimental to build good business relationships. Although national cultures could play a part in shaping the way we behave and think, we are also largely influenced by the region we come from, the communities we associate about, our age and gender, our corporate culture and our individual experiences of the world.

SECTION C. READING (60 points)

Part 1: For questions 1-10, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D to each of the following questions. (10 points)

There can be no (1) _____ that online shopping is of huge benefit to the consumer. Far from becoming (2) _____, online shoppers are very demanding. Overpriced merchants with poor services should beware. Gone are the days when stores could charge what they liked for goods and get away with it. The same, too, for shady manufacturers: smarter consumers know which products have a good (3) _____ and which do not, because online they now read not only the sales (4) _____ but also reviews from previous purchasers. And if customers are disappointed, a few (5) _____ of the mouse will take them to places where they can let the world know. Nowadays there is nothing more damning than a flood of negative comments on the internet.

However, the big boys, as always, are ahead of the game. Some companies are already adjusting their business models to take account of these trends. The stores run by Sony and Apple, for instance, are more like brand showrooms than shops. They are there for people to try

out (6) _____ and to ask questions to knowledgeable staff. Whether the products are ultimately bought online or offline is of secondary importance. Online traders must also adjust. Amazon, for one, is (7) _____ turning from being primarily a bookseller to becoming a (8) _____ retailer by letting other companies sell products on its site, rather like a marketplace. During America's Thanksgiving weekend last November, Amazon's sales of consumer electronics in the United States (9) _____ its book sales for the first time in its history. Other transformations in the retail business are (10) _____ to follow.

(Source: <https://www.clgranada.com/wp-content/uploads/CAE-OPEN-CLOZE>)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. A. query
proposal | B. examination | C. question | D. |
| 2. A. complacent
compassionate | B. dissatisfied | C. competent | D. |
| 3. A. distinction
reputation | B. resolution | C. opinion | D. |
| 4. A. bubble
blurb | B. message | C. blare | D. |
| 5. A. taps | B. clucks | C. clicks | D. prods |
| 6. A. devices
schemes | B. tools | C. emblems | D. |
| 7. A. mistakenly
secretly | B. rapidly | C. unreasonably | D. |
| 8. A. mass | B. block | C. lump | D. chunk |
| 9. A. receded
exceeded | B. excluded | C. repressed | D. |
| 10. A. tied
fastened | B. secured | C. bound | D. |

Your answers

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 2. Fill in each numbered blank with a suitable word to complete the following text (10 points)

Remote Work and the Future of Offices

Over the past decade, the trend toward remote work has steadily increased, but it was the COVID-19 pandemic **(1)** _____ drastically accelerated its adoption. Companies around the world were forced to

adapt to virtual collaboration tools, flexible schedules, and decentralized management. Now, several years after the initial shift, many organizations are debating whether to return to traditional offices, (2) _____ hybrid models, or go fully remote. Proponents of remote work cite increased productivity, lower operational costs, and improved work-life balance. However, critics warn (3) _____ decreased team cohesion, lack of mentorship opportunities, and the (4) _____ of boundaries between personal and professional life. Tech giants (5) _____ Google and Apple have proposed hybrid systems that combine in-office collaboration with the flexibility of remote days. Interestingly, some studies (6) _____ that remote work may not be universally beneficial. (7) _____ introverted and independent workers thrive, others struggle with motivation and loneliness. As organizations attempt to balance performance (8) _____ employee satisfaction, the future of workspaces seems to hinge on adaptability and employee autonomy. Ultimately, the ability to remain agile in the face of evolving expectations may determine (9) _____ companies succeed in retaining top talent or (10) _____ behind in the competition for skilled professionals.

Part 3. Read the following passages and choose the best answer for each for the questions below. (15 points)

The Geologic History of the Mediterranean

1. In 1970 geologists Kenneth J. Hsu and William B. F. Ryan were collecting research data while aboard the oceanographic research vessel Glomar Challenger. An objective of this particular cruise was to investigate the floor of the Mediterranean and to resolve questions about its geologic history. One question was related to evidence that the invertebrate fauna (animals without spines) of the Mediterranean had changed abruptly about 6 million years ago. Most of the older organisms were nearly wiped out, although a few hardy species survived. A few managed to migrate into the Atlantic. Somewhat later, the migrants returned, bringing new species with them. Why did the near extinction and migrations occur?

2. Another task for the Glomar Challenger's scientists was to try to determine the origin of the domelike masses buried deep beneath the Mediterranean seafloor. These structures had been detected years earlier by echo-sounding instruments, but they had never been penetrated in the course of drilling. Were they salt domes such as are common along the United States Gulf Coast, and if so, why should there have been so much solid crystalline salt beneath the floor of the Mediterranean?

3. With questions such as these clearly before them, the scientists aboard the Glomar Challenger proceeded to the Mediterranean to search for the answers. On August 23, 1970, they recovered a sample. The sample consisted of pebbles of hardened sediment that had once been soft, deep-sea mud, as well as granules of gypsum¹ and fragments of volcanic rock. **Not a single pebble was found that might have indicated that the pebbles came from the nearby continent.** In the days following, samples of solid gypsum were repeatedly brought on deck as drilling operations penetrated the seafloor. Furthermore, the gypsum was found to possess peculiarities of composition and structure that suggested it had formed on desert flats. Sediment above and below the gypsum layer contained tiny marine fossils, indicating open ocean conditions. As they drilled into the central and deepest part of the Mediterranean basin, the scientists took solid, shiny, crystalline salt from the core barrel. Interbedded with the salt were thin layers of what appeared to be windblown silt.

4. The time had come to formulate a hypothesis. The investigators theorized that about 20 million years ago, the Mediterranean was a broad seaway linked to the Atlantic by two narrow straits. Crustal movements closed the straits, and the landlocked Mediterranean began to evaporate. Increasing salinity caused by the evaporation resulted in the extermination of **scores** of invertebrate species. Only a few organisms especially tolerant of very salty conditions remained. As evaporation continued, the remaining brine (salt water) became so dense that the calcium sulfate of the hard layer was precipitated. In the central deeper part of the basin, the last of the brine evaporated to precipitate more soluble sodium chloride (salt). Later, under the weight of overlying sediments, this salt flowed plastically upward to form salt domes. Before this happened, however, the Mediterranean was a vast desert 3,000 meters deep. Then, about 5.5 million years ago came the deluge. **As a result of crustal adjustments and faulting, the Strait of Gibraltar, where the Mediterranean now connects to the Atlantic, opened, and water cascaded spectacularly back into the Mediterranean.** Turbulent waters tore into the hardened salt flats, broke them up, and ground them into the pebbles observed in the first sample taken by the Challenger. As the basin was refilled, normal marine organisms returned. Soon layers of oceanic ooze began to **accumulate** above the old hard layer.

5. The salt and gypsum, the faunal changes, and the unusual gravel provided abundant evidence that the Mediterranean was once a desert.

1. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 1 as a change that occurred in the fauna of the Mediterranean?
 - A. Most invertebrate species disappeared during a wave of extinctions.
 - B. A few hardy species wiped out many of the Mediterranean's invertebrates.
 - C. Some invertebrates migrated to the Atlantic Ocean.
 - D. New species of fauna populated the Mediterranean when the old migrants returned.
2. What does the author imply by saying "**Not a single pebble was found that might have indicated that the pebbles came from the nearby continent**"?
 - A. The most obvious explanation for the origin of the pebbles was not supported by the evidence.
 - B. The geologists did not find as many pebbles as they expected.
 - C. The geologists were looking for a particular kind of pebble.
 - D. The different pebbles could not have come from only one source.
3. Which TWO materials were discovered in the deepest part of the Mediterranean basin according to the passage?
 - A. Pebbles and volcanic rock
 - B. Gypsum and marine fossils
 - C. Crystalline salt and windblown silt
 - D. Hardened sediment and gypsum
4. What is the main purpose of paragraph 3 ?
 - A. To describe the physical evidence collected by Hsu and Ryan
 - B. To explain why some of the questions posed earlier in the passage could not be answered by the findings of the Glomar Challenger
 - C. To evaluate techniques used by Hsu and Ryan to explore the sea floor
 - D. To describe the most difficult problems faced by the Glomar Challenger expedition
5. According to paragraph 4, which of the following was responsible for the evaporation of the Mediterranean's waters?
 - A. The movements of Earth's crust
 - B. The accumulation of sediment layers

C. Changes in the water level of the Atlantic Ocean

D. Changes in Earth's temperature

6. The word "**scores**" in the passage is closest in meaning to

A. members B. large numbers C. populations D. different types

7. According to paragraph 4, what caused most invertebrate species in the Mediterranean to become extinct?

A. The evaporation of chemicals necessary for their survival

B. Crustal movements that connected the Mediterranean to the saltier Atlantic

C. The migration of new species through the narrow straits

D. Their inability to tolerate the increasing salt content of the Mediterranean

8. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 4 ? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

A The Strait of Gibraltar reopened when the Mediterranean and the Atlantic became connected and the cascades of water from one sea to the other caused crustal adjustments and faulting.

B The Mediterranean was dramatically refilled by water from the Atlantic when crustal adjustments and faulting opened the Strait of Gibraltar, the place where the two seas are joined.

C The cascades of water from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean were not as spectacular as the crustal adjustments and faulting that occurred when the Strait of Gibraltar was connected to those seas.

D As a result of crustal adjustments and faulting and the creation of the Strait of Gibraltar, the Atlantic and Mediterranean were connected and became a single sea with spectacular cascades of water between them.

9. Which is the closest meaning to the word "**accumulate**" in paragraph 4?

A. disappear

B. gather

C. disperse

D. erode

10. In paragraph 2 of the passage, there is a missing sentence. The paragraph is repeated below and shows four letters (A, B, C, and D) that indicate where the following sentence could be added.

Thus, scientists had information about the shape of the domes but not about their chemical composition and origin.

Where would the sentence best fit?

(A) Another task for the Glomar Challenger's scientists was to try to determine the origin of the domelike masses buried deep beneath the Mediterranean seafloor. **(B)** These structures had been detected years earlier by echo-sounding instruments, but they had never been penetrated in the course of drilling. **(C)** Were they salt domes such as are common along the United States Gulf Coast, and if so, why should there have been so much solid crystalline salt beneath the floor of the Mediterranean? **(D).**

A. Option A
D

B. Option B

C. Option C

D. Option

Your answers

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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Part 4. For questions 1-10, read the following passage and do the tasks that follow. (15 points).

The reading passage has six paragraphs, A-F.

Questions 1-5

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs A-F from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-ix, in boxes 1-5

List of Headings

- i. A legacy is established
- ii. Formal education unhelpful
- iii. An education in two parts
- iv. Branching out in new directions
- v. Childhood and family life
- vi. Change necessary to stay creative
- vii. Conflicted opinions over Davis' earlier work
- viii. Davis' unique style of trumpet playing
- ix. Personal and professional struggles

0. Paragraph A- v

1. Paragraph B

2. Paragraph C

3. Paragraph D

4. Paragraph E

5. Paragraph F

Miles Davis - Icon and iconoclast

An iconoclast is somebody who challenges traditional beliefs or customs

A At the age of thirteen, Miles Davis was given his first trumpet, lessons were arranged with a local trumpet player, and a musical odyssey began. These early lessons, paid for and supported by his father, had a profound effect on shaping Davis' signature sound. Whereas most trumpeters of the era favoured the use of vibrato (a wobbly quiver in pitch inflected in the instrument's tone), Davis was taught to play with a long, straight tone, a preference his instructor reportedly drilled into the young trumpeter with a rap on the knuckles every time Davis began using vibrato. This clear, distinctive style never left Davis. He continued playing with it for the rest of his career, once remarking, 'If I can't get that sound, I can't play anything.'

B Having graduated from high school in 1944, Davis moved to New York City, where he continued his musical education both in the clubs and in the classroom. His enrolment in the prestigious Julliard School of Music was short-lived, however – he soon dropped out, criticising what he perceived as an over-emphasis on the classical European repertoire and a neglect of jazz. Davis did later acknowledge, however, that this time at the school was invaluable in terms of developing his trumpet-playing technique and giving him a solid grounding in music theory. Much of his early training took place in the form of jam sessions and performances in the clubs of 52nd Street, where he played alongside both up-and-coming and established members of the jazz pantheon such as Coleman Hawkins, Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis, and Thelonious Monk.

C In the late 1940s, Davis collaborated with nine other instrumentalists, including a French horn and a tuba player, to produce *The Birth of Cool*, an album now renowned for the inchoate sounds of what would later become known as 'cool' jazz. In contrast to popular jazz styles of the day, which featured rapid, rollicking beats, shrieking vocals, and short, sharp horn blasts, Davis' album was the forerunner of a different kind of sound – thin, light horn-playing, hushed drums and a more restrained, formal arrangement. Although it received little acclaim at the time (the liner notes to one of Davis' later recordings call it a 'spectacular failure'), in hindsight *The Birth of Cool* has become recognised as a pivotal moment in jazz history, cementing – alongside his 1958 recording, *Kind of Blue* – Davis' legacy as one of the most innovative musicians of his era.

D Though Davis' trumpet playing may have sounded effortless and breezy, this ease rarely carried over into the rest of his life. The early 1950s, in particular, were a time of great personal turmoil. After returning from a stint in Paris, Davis suffered from prolonged depression, which he attributed to the unravelling of a number of relationships, including his romance with a French actress and some musical partnerships that ruptured as a result of creative disputes. Davis was also frustrated by his perception that he had been overlooked by the music critics, who were hailing the success of his collaborators and descendants in the 'cool' tradition, such as Gerry Mulligan and Dave Brubeck, but who afforded him little credit for introducing the cool sound in the first place.

E In the latter decades of his career, Davis broke out of exclusive jazz settings and began to diversify his output across a range of musical styles. In the 1960s, he was influenced by early funk performers such as Sly and the Family Stone, which then expanded into the jazz-rock fusion genre – of which he was a frontrunner – in the 1970s. Electronic recording effects and electric instruments were incorporated into his sound. By the 1980s, Davis was pushing the boundaries further, covering pop anthems such as Cyndi Lauper's Time After Time and Michael Jackson's Human Nature, dabbling in hip hop, and even appearing in some movies.

F Not everyone was supportive of Davis' change of tune. Compared to the recordings of his early career, universally applauded as linchpins of the jazz oeuvre, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis derided his fusion work as being 'not true jazz', and pianist Bill Evans denounced the 'corrupting influence' of record companies, noting that rock and pop 'draw wider audiences'. In the face of this criticism Davis remained defiant, commenting that his earlier recordings were part of a moment in time that he had no 'feel' for any more. He firmly believed that remaining stylistically inert would have hampered his ability to develop new ways of producing music. From this perspective, Davis' continual revamping of genre was not merely a rebellion, but an evolution, a necessary path that allowed him to release his full musical potential.

Questions 6-10

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in the passage?

For questions 6-10, write

Yes - if the statement agrees with the views of the writer

No - if the statement contradicts the views of the writer

Not Given - if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

6. According to Davis, studying at Julliard helped him to improve his musical abilities.
7. Playing in jazz clubs in New York was the best way to become famous.
8. The Birth of Cool featured music that was faster and louder than most jazz at the time.
9. Davis felt that his contribution to cool jazz had not been acknowledged.
10. Davis was a traditionalist who wanted to keep the jazz sound pure.

Part 5. You are going to read a text about five different metals. Match each of the following statements (1-10) with the correct paragraph (A-E). Each paragraph may be used more than once. (10 points)

Paragraphs:

- A. Indium
- B. Tantalum
- C. Vanadium
- D. Rhenium
- E. Hafnium

Statements:

1. This metal is extracted as a secondary product rather than being mined directly.
2. This metal plays a key role in enabling miniaturised modern technology due to its insulating properties.
3. The high cost of this metal causes uncertainty in an industry that depends on it.
4. Scientists are still unsure why some marine animals store this metal in their bodies.
5. This metal's unique resistance to extreme heat has made it essential in the aerospace industry.
6. There are concerns about the environmental or ethical implications of how this metal is sourced.
7. Despite being predicted long ago, this element was only discovered in the 20th century.
8. This metal may one day contribute to future computing technologies that are still in the research phase.
9. An extremely thin oxide layer makes this metal perfect for storing and releasing electrical charge.

10. This metal is increasingly viewed as strategically important for national technological competitiveness.

Magnificent Metals

A. Indium

This silvery-white metal has become indispensable in our digital age, though few people know its name. A key component in touch screens and flat-panel displays, indium tin oxide creates the transparent conducting surface that makes these devices possible. The metal's unusual property of "wetting" glass - adhering perfectly to its surface - makes it ideal for this purpose. Its low melting point and malleability also make it perfect for creating low-temperature solders used in delicate electronic components. While not particularly rare in the Earth's crust, indium is never found in pure form and is typically extracted as a byproduct of zinc mining. Current concerns about supply chain security have led to increased efforts to recycle indium from discarded electronics, though the process remains challenging due to the tiny amounts present in each device. The metal's price volatility has caused considerable anxiety in the electronics industry, with some manufacturers actively searching for alternatives.

B. Tantalum

Named after the Greek mythological figure Tantalus, this bluish-grey metal has properties that make it nearly irreplaceable in certain applications. Its extraordinary resistance to corrosion from most acids and its high melting point (3017°C) make it ideal for use in surgical implements and chemical processing equipment. Perhaps its most crucial role is in electronic capacitors, where its ability to form an extremely thin, electrically insulating oxide layer allows for the miniaturisation of electronic devices. However, tantalum's mining has become controversial, with some deposits located in conflict zones, leading to increased emphasis on ethical sourcing. The metal's high density and bio-compatibility have also made it valuable in medical implants, where it shows remarkable resistance to body fluids and a low rejection rate. Recent research suggests tantalum might play a crucial role in next-generation quantum computing devices, though these applications remain theoretical.

C. Vanadium

This silvery-grey metal might not be a household name, but its impact on modern infrastructure is profound. Most notably, vanadium's ability to form exceptionally strong alloys with iron has revolutionised steel production. Adding just 0.15% vanadium to steel creates an alloy 30% stronger than regular steel, making it crucial in construction and automotive applications. The metal's variable oxidation states also make it valuable in flow batteries, potentially solving one of renewable

energy's biggest challenges: large-scale energy storage. Interestingly, vanadium was discovered twice - first in Mexico and later in Sweden - due to its ability to mask its presence in compounds. Some sea creatures, particularly sea squirts, concentrate vanadium in their bodies for reasons that continue to puzzle scientists. Environmental concerns about vanadium mining have led to innovative bio-mining experiments using specially adapted bacteria.

D. Rhenium

One of the rarest stable elements in Earth's crust, rhenium's scarcity is matched only by its usefulness in specialized applications. Its extraordinarily high melting point (3186°C) and resistance to heat deformation make it crucial in jet engine components, where it allows turbine blades to operate at higher temperatures, increasing engine efficiency. Rhenium's unique properties also make it valuable as a catalyst in petroleum refining, where it helps produce high-octane gasoline. The metal was the last naturally occurring element to be discovered, and annual global production remains tiny - less than 50 tonnes. Despite its rarity, rhenium can be efficiently recycled from used engine components, helping to maintain a stable supply for critical applications. The aviation industry's push toward electric propulsion might eventually reduce demand for rhenium, though experts predict this shift is still decades away.

E. Hafnium

This shiny, silvery metal has become crucial in the semiconductor industry, though it remains virtually unknown to the public. Hafnium's high thermal stability and ability to form excellent electrical insulators make it essential in advanced computer chips, where it helps prevent electrical leakage at the nanoscale level. Found naturally occurring with zirconium, from which it is difficult to separate, hafnium also excels at absorbing neutrons, making it valuable in nuclear reactor control rods. The metal's high melting point (2233°C) and resistance to corrosion also make it useful in plasma cutting tools and super alloys. Interestingly, hafnium wasn't successfully isolated until 1923, despite being predicted by Mendeleev's periodic table decades earlier. The growing demand for smaller and more powerful processors has made hafnium increasingly strategic, with some countries declaring it a critical resource for national security.

Your answers

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
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SECTION D. WRITING (50 points)

Part 1. (20 points)

The table below gives the information about the amount of tax collected (as % of GDP) in five countries for 4 years between 1975 and 2005. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant. Write at least 150 words

Tax collected as % of GDP in five countries				
	1975	1985	1995	2005
Sweden	46%	47%	51%	70.1%
USA	25.1%	25.4%	27.1%	27.4%
Korea	15.1%	27%	26%	27.3%
Japan	15%	16%	23%	32.1%
Turkey	16.4%	15%	24%	27.4%

Part 2. Essay writing (30 points)

Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and will use up the world's resources. Do you agree or disagree? Express your opinion in an essay of about 250 words.