

2023 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛题(C 类)

2023 National English Competition for College Students (Type C – Preliminary)

(Total: 150 marks Time: 120 minutes)

Part I Listening Comprehension (30 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **five** short conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, one question will be asked, and you have **fifteen seconds** to read the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

1. A. At the customs. B. In a restaurant. C. At an airport. D. In a hotel.
2. A. They are lining up for a health check-up.
 B. They are smoking in front of the building.
 C. They are protesting against banning smoking.
 D. They are having a meeting in the smoking area.
3. A. To attend a cycling race. B. To enter a bicycle company.
 C. To join in a cycling club. D. To open a bicycle store.
4. A. It's the company's regulation.
 B. It's his parents' requirement.
 C. It makes him feel more confident.
 D. It makes him look handsome.
5. A. His college major.
 B. His previous username.
 C. His girlfriend's name.
 D. His computer's brand.



Section B (10 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **two** long conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, there will be a **one-minute** pause. During the pause, read the questions and make your answers on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

Conversation One

*Listen to the conversation. Then read the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer according to what you hear. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

6. Why does the Council run the survey?
- A. To collect information for an annual report.
 - B. To see what kind of books their library has to buy.
 - C. To prepare for a grand book fair.
 - D. To find out what kind of readers their library serves.
7. What type of books does the man dislike?
- A. Mysteries.
 - B. Historical novels.
 - C. Nature and animals.
 - D. Science fiction.
8. When does the man need to pay the library?
- A. If he keeps the books for over a month.
 - B. If he stays in the library overnight.
 - C. If he rents out any video products.
 - D. If he copies documents in the library.
9. What does the man have to do before he rents out DVDs?
- A. Fill in an application form.
 - B. Leave a deposit.
 - C. Show his ID card.
 - D. Register online in advance.
10. What is the man probably going to do this weekend?
- A. Borrow some DVDs from the library.
 - B. Go to the bank for some cash.
 - C. Read a book he has just borrowed.
 - D. Log in the library website and register.

Conversation Two

*Listen to the conversation, and complete the sentences according to what you hear with **one** word for each blank. Then write the answers on the **answer sheet**.*

11. Cathy is introducing to Phil an article about how blogs start to revolutionize news _____ and journalism.
12. According to the conversation, the business of blogs has been turned on its head, from on-line diaries to being like small-scale _____ news agencies.
13. Cathy thinks that professional journalists are always telling incomplete stories to _____ the views of their employers.
14. Bloggers don't have to make their stories _____ and exciting because they don't try to sell their stories.
15. Phil says that he would rather read articles by _____ and experienced journalists than the true stories by bloggers.

Section C (5 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **five** short news items. Each item will be read only **once**. After each item, there will be a **fifteen-second** pause. During the pause, read the question and the **four** choices marked **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

16. Why do scientists try to freeze coral larvae?
 - A. To improve the quality of coral reefs.
 - B. To prolong the lives of coral.
 - C. To make them resistant to disease.
 - D. To use them later for rewilding.
17. What can we learn from the news report?
 - A. Experts have not yet found effective ways to deal with the problem of food waste.
 - B. ReFed is a charity that collects food for people suffering from starvation.
 - C. More money has been raised in the U.S. to solve the problem of food waste.
 - D. From 2023, no food waste can be placed in local waste areas in the US.
18. What is the satellite designed to do?
 - A. Monitor the radar stations worldwide.
 - B. Investigate the Earth's water.
 - C. Search for water on the Moon.
 - D. Test the advanced microwave radar technology.

19. What happened as a result of the severe drought in Kenya?

- A. Wild animals died in large numbers.
- B. Some UN officials were stuck in a village.
- C. People went hungry for lack of food.
- D. Many wild species were facing extinction.

20. What agreement did the countries reach at the UN meeting?

- A. Providing financial aid to poor countries for economic development.
- B. Establishing an organization to help poor countries train skilled workers.
- C. Setting up a fund to help poor countries deal with bad weather events.
- D. Enhancing the diplomatic role of poor countries in the United Nations.

Section D (10 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **one** monologue. The monologue will be read **twice**. After listening, answer the questions using **no more than five** words. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.*

- 21. What is the man's introduction focused on?
- 22. What is the first step for students to get a library card?
- 23. How much does it cost for a library member?
- 24. What's the reception's operation time on Fridays?
- 25. What must students do to renew books?



Part II Vocabulary & Grammar (15 marks)

*There are **15** incomplete sentences in this part. For each blank there are **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.*

26. Reading _____ the lines, I would say that the Government are more worried than they will admit.

- A. along
- B. among
- C. between
- D. behind

27. In the phenomenon of atomic fission, the nucleus is _____ two pieces of appropriately equal mass.

- A. combined with
- B. coinciding with
- C. fallen into
- D. split into

28. In education there should be a good _____ among the branches of knowledge that _____ effective thinking and wise judgment.

- A. assignment; develop into
- B. balance; contribute to
- C. combination; lead to
- D. distribution; grow into

29. When confronted with such questions, my mind goes _____, and I can hardly remember my own date of birth.
A. blank B. dim C. faint D. vain
30. Its charm and mild climate have made San Francisco, California, _____ city for both business and residences.
A. a crowded B. an appealing C. an appropriate D. a profitable
31. Respect for the law is the foundation of civilized society. _____ breaks it will be punished.
A. Whoever B. Who C. Person who D. No matter who
32. _____ students can study in the "hot majors", because the number of these "hot majors" _____ quite limited.
A. A few; should be B. Not many; are C. Only a few; is D. Quite a few; has been
33. _____ receiving financial support from family, community or the government is allowed, it is never admired.
A. As B. Although C. Lest D. Once
34. The sports meet, originally due to be held last Friday, was finally _____ because of the bad weather.
A. broken out B. called off C. set off D. worn out
35. One day I _____ a newspaper article about the retirement of an English professor at a nearby state college.
A. came across B. devoted to C. put forward D. set up
36. When snow _____ on top of a building during the winter, the _____ sometimes weakens the construction and occasionally causes the roof to collapse.
A. scatters; height B. melts; process C. falls; intensity D. accumulates; weight
37. Charles wasn't appointed chairman of the foundation, _____ not very popular with all its members.
A. being considered B. considering C. having considered D. to be considered
38. _____ people often desire different goals and objects, it is understandable that one person may find joy in repairing an automobile, _____ another may find joy in solving a math problem.
A. Although; so B. For; if C. Since; while D. When; however
39. — Don't you think a thirty-minute lunch break is too short?
— _____
— Yeah?
— I think thirty minutes is long enough for lunch.
A. Neither do I.
B. You are absolutely right.

C. That's what I'm trying to say.

D. Well, I'm not so sure about it.

40. — Hey, you look great. Have you been exercising?

— Yeah, every day for the last three months.

— Well, it must be so hard to exercise for so long.

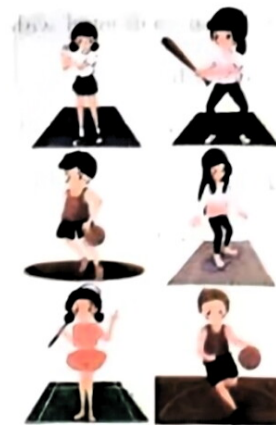
— It is, but I want to look good. And you know _____.

A. practice makes perfect

B. no pain, no gain

C. genius begins with diligence

D. time flies



Part III Cloze (10 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with the correct forms of 5 words or phrases out of the 7 given in the box. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

risk; event; light; function; harm; heavy; because of



Beer, wine, and whisky contain alcohol. Alcohol is a drug that slows down the body's central nervous system. When a person drinks, the alcohol moves quickly to the stomach and small intestine. 41. _____, the alcohol reaches the brain. It affects the way the brain works. The cerebrum is the control center of the brain. Just a small amount of alcohol affects

coordination and judgment, and people can't react to things as quickly as they could without alcohol.

The amount of alcohol in the bloodstream is called the blood alcohol concentration, or BAC. As BAC rises, the effects on the central nervous system increase.

Some people who drink abuse alcohol. That can lead to addiction. Alcoholics depend on alcohol. Some doctors think of alcoholism as a disease because, like a disease, it has symptoms and causes 42. _____ changes in body organs.

Alcohol abuse can damage the lining of the esophagus. The esophagus is the tube that connects the throat and the stomach. The stomach and the small intestine can be affected. 43. _____ drinkers can also

damage their kidneys and hearts. Many drinkers develop high blood pressure and heart disease. Alcohol damages or destroys liver cells. Scar tissue replaces healthy liver cells and the liver stops 44. _____, and the person dies.

Drinking alcohol and taking other drugs at the same time is even 45. _____. Even aspirin can change the way alcohol affects a person. Never mix alcohol with other drugs. Always remember that alcohol is a drug. Even one drink can cause changes in the body — and in the mind.

Section B (5 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in each blank with one word in one of the following three ways: according to the context, by using the correct form of the given word(s), or by using the given letter(s) of the word. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

The world would be a very different place if the elevator had not been invented. There would be few, if any, high-rise buildings because people would 46. ref_____ to climb all the stairs. By the time employees reached their offices on the top floors, it would be time to go home — if they were not too tired for the long walk down!

In about 230 B.C., the Greek scientist Archimedes developed the world's first elevator. It was a simple platform that could be pulled up and down with a rope. An elevator like this was used much later by twelfth-century priests who lived on a mountaintop at Metereo in Greece. Because they were 47. _____ (fright) of thieves, the priests had not built any stairs up the mountain. The only way up was by the elevator, which the priests operated from the top of the mountain. In the eighteenth century, a Frenchman named Villayer invented a "flying chair", which used a rope and a platform. However, it also used a counterweight in a shaft to balance the weight of the elevator. This was the first elevator shaft. A number of rich people had these flying chairs built in their homes, including Queen Anne of England at Windsor Castle and King Louis XVI of France at Versailles. 48. _____ (fortunate), Louis's daughter was so badly hurt when using one of these chairs that, in fear of being punished, Villayer disappeared.

The main problem for elevator designers was that 49. _____ humans or animals had to pull the ropes. This was not solved until the discovery of steam power. However, even steam-powered elevator were not always safe because they still used ropes, which sometimes broke. Then, in 1854, American inventor Elisha Otis came up with a way of preventing the elevator from falling if the ropes broke. There he designed and installed what he called the "safety hoist." the first elevator 50. _____ (equip) with an automatic safety device to prevent it from



falling if the lifting chain or rope broke. In 1857, he built an elevator in a large New York department store. Nowadays elevators use electricity and are completely safe.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (30 marks)

There are *three* passages in this part. Each passage is followed by several questions. Respond to the questions using information from the passage. Remember to write the answers on the *answer sheet*.

Section A (10 marks)

Questions 51 — 55 are based on the following passage.

What is digital? Roughly speaking, digital means using information recorded as a series of the numbers, zero and one. Digital technology brought about the digital revolution which has changed our way of life. LPs, or long-playing records, are rarely used any more. People love listening to music online, or CDs, instead of cassette tapes. Hundreds of thousands of pages can be stored on a single CD or in a microchip. More and more dictionaries are published on CDs instead of paper. Digital video cameras and e-books, or electronic books, are already on the market. Today, most people have their own e-mail addresses and cell phones. 51. _____

In a digital society, people can hardly live without the Internet. Almost all people become 'netizens' in a way. 52. _____ They explore a sea of multimedia information, go shopping, listen to music, watch videos, and even talk to each other using the computer.

At the same time, as people manage their lives by themselves, more and more netizens seek self-centered lifestyles. 53. _____ To make matters worse, they are under a lot of pressure to catch up with others in this modern competitive society.

Are you ready to survive in the digital world? You need three basic skills for your survival. First, you should be able to use computers and the Internet with ease. Being able to use computers is not a luxury, but a must. You'll not be able to survive without proper knowledge of computers and the Internet.

Second, you should be able to communicate with 'global villagers' in person or on the Internet without difficulty. In most cases, 'global villagers' communication is carried out in the international language, English. 54. _____



Third, you should have good 'human skills'. However fast the world may change, there is one thing which will never change: the human heart. Human beings cannot live by themselves. 55. _____ However diverse the society may become, family tradition and social

membership will remain important for your peace of mind and happiness.

In conclusion, you should do your best in developing these three essential skills. The better skills you have, the more successful you will be in meeting the challenges of the new era.

Questions 51 — 55

Choose from the sentences A — G the one which best fits each gap of 51 — 55. There are *two extra* sentences which you do not need to use.

- A. In the end, they are separated from each other and feel more lonely than before.
- B. Netizens can do almost anything by themselves in cyberspace.
- C. You should never provide your personal information in response to a request you never asked for over the Internet.
- D. Thanks to the digital revolution, people can now talk to computers in human languages.
- E. Human relationships will be considered more important as society gets more competitive.
- F. Matching the growing popularity of digital SLR cameras, online communities for camera users have become widespread as well.
- G. You'll fall behind without good English communication skills.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 56 — 60 are based on the following passage.

Have you ever thought about how your body works? Every day you make your body do lots of different actions, such as when you walk, talk, or dance. But at the same time, your body automatically does many other things that are essential for everyday life. For instance, when you blink or yawn or breathe, you don't have to think about what you are doing; your body simply carries out these tasks for you. You might think this is strange, but the latest houses are like this, too.

Now, thanks to the work of some far-sighted architects and designers, houses have become more 'intelligent'. It isn't quite true to say that houses are starting to think for themselves, but some modern homes are now using sophisticated technology to control many of the routine jobs that up to now have always been our responsibility.

For years, architects and builders have been trying to find ways to make houses more economical and comfortable to live in, as well as trying to reduce the amount of damage that houses do to the environment.



'Intelligent' housing seems to be the ideal solution. Clever use of building materials and techniques has brought us houses that are easier and cheaper to keep warm than traditional housing. Modern water systems, together with the recycling of washing water from bathrooms and kitchens, means that 'intelligent' houses use 30% less water than conventional homes.

'Intelligent' homes might look a little unusual from the outside. This is because the builders use a lot of glass and wood to make the walls. Some of the houses even have a grass roof because it's kinder to the atmosphere! But, inside, they are comfortable and bright. The technology, which is similar to that of your TV remote control, makes sure of this. There are always enough lights on in every room and the windows close when it starts to rain. The water is always at the correct temperature whenever you want to have a shower and the house doesn't allow you to use more water than you need. You can even use the close-circuit cameras to see what's happening in the garden.

Until recently, we have always had to think about everything we want our house to do. If we have wanted it to be warmer or cooler, lighter or darker, we have had to turn the heating or the lighting on or off. However, for some families already living in 'intelligent' houses, daily life has changed in many ways. They don't worry about turning off the light or locking the door before they go out. The house does all this for them. Families in 'intelligent' houses don't have to do as much work to keep their home clean and comfortable and the hi-tech kitchen means it isn't difficult to prepare family meals.

However, what happens, for example, if the computer systems that control everything in the house suddenly break down? What can we do if a computer virus somehow gets into the system and changes all the automatic programs? Designers are working on these and other problems, so 'intelligent' houses are still improving. Who knows, perhaps some designers are trying to create a house that can even do your homework!

Questions 56 — 60

Answer the following questions with the information given in the passage.

56. How do 'intelligent' houses differ from conventional homes?
57. What problems can 'intelligent' housing solve according to the passage?
58. Why do builders make a grass roof for the 'intelligent' house?

59. What changes are 'intelligent' house residents experiencing?

60. Why does the author compare 'intelligent' housing to our body?

Section C (10 marks)

Questions 61 — 65 are based on the following passage.

In gender stereotyping, certain widely held images of male and female behavior are applied to individuals. In other words, an individual male or female is presumed to be like what society expects a male or female to be. Long before social scientists began studying these stereotypes, societies had recognized them. Some famous female characters in history have rebelled against them. Gender stereotypes have changed slightly through history, but they have not disappeared.

One in-depth cross-cultural investigation examined the patterns of gender stereotypes in 25 different countries. In the study, approximately 5,000 men and women were asked to evaluate a list of adjectives typically used to describe men or women. Individuals were asked to designate the adjectives as having either a positive or negative meaning. Then, based on the responses of the men and women, the researchers examined all the male adjectives together and all the female adjectives together.

The researchers found differences among the responses from various countries. In general, there was a tendency to stereotype men more negatively. Specifically, the majority of countries rated 17 of the male adjectives as negative. In comparison, only 5 of the female adjectives were judged negative by participants in 19 countries.

Typical masculine adjectives related to one's ability to use tools, solve problems, or do work. An overall analysis of the data from the study revealed a clear tendency to describe females as passive, supportive, and altruistic.

The establishment of roles for boys and girls begins at the moment the sex of a child is determined. Parents decorate a baby's room before the child is born in blue for a boy or pink for a girl. They choose masculine wallpaper, toys, and clothes for boys, and feminine decorations, dolls, and dresses for girls. Researchers have found that within 24 hours of a child's birth, parents begin to describe boys and girls differently. As a result of such stereotyping by parents, children internalize appropriate roles and exhibit behavior suitable to their gender. Stereotypes are continually reinforced in pre-school years and



gender differences become obvious by the time children reach the age of five.

Parents have been observed to reward gender-appropriate play and punish gender-inappropriate play in their children. Stereotypes also seem to play a part in how children are punished both at home and in schools. Boys are more often punished by being hit while girls receive loud verbal punishment.

The negative results of gender stereotyping have been the focus of much educational research. Many researchers have claimed that stereotyping has led to fewer girls studying degrees related to math and science in university. Stereotypes have also been suggested as a contributing factor to boys being labeled as bad students in school more often than girls, thus leading to more boys than girls dropping out of high school. In both instances, stereotypes have been linked to critical choices boys and girls make in school which directly affect their futures.

Questions 61 — 65

Complete the summary below with information from the passage, using **no more than three words** for each blank.

Social scientists are interested in what research can reveal about the stereotypes people hold regarding 61. _____. In one experiment, the researchers asked people to evaluate adjectives as either 62. _____. The researchers interpreted the findings of the study as indicating 63. _____ across cultures to stereotype males more negatively than females. The stereotypes are 64. _____ from childhood by interactions with parents, teachers, and peers and linked to 65. _____ children make in school.

Part V Translation (15 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese. Write the answer on the **answer sheet**.

66. Chinese historians coined the term “Spring and Autumn Period” to refer to the first half of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty and the term “Warring States Period” for its second half respectively. Great changes took place during the Spring and Autumn Period and productive forces advanced at an unprecedented speed.



People's ability to understand and overcome nature increased rapidly and great achievements were made in culture and science. The Spring and Autumn Period was a time of great social transformation which produced great thinkers and educators such as Laozi and Confucius and military strategists such as Sun Wu. Their theories have had a profound impact on later generations. *The Book of Songs*, which was mostly completed during the Western Zhou Dynasty and the Spring and Autumn Period, is known for its great influence on Chinese literature.

Section B (10 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into English. Write the answer on the *answer sheet*.

67. 对年轻的创业者而言,要取得巨大成功,最重要也最难的,或许就是有个好创意。时刻留意并及时识别绝妙的新想法是关键。另一方面,有些年轻人似乎更多是依靠勤奋和坚持而非灵感获得成功。对任何年龄的企业家而言,重要的是要勇于冒险、相信自己、灵活变通、全力以赴。

Part VI IQ Test (10 marks)

There are five IQ Test questions in this part. Write the answers on the *answer sheet*.

68. What does the underlined phrase mean in Chinese?

A: I couldn't believe that happened!

B: I know. Are you going to say something?

A: No, I'm going to bite my tongue.

69. What is the next number?

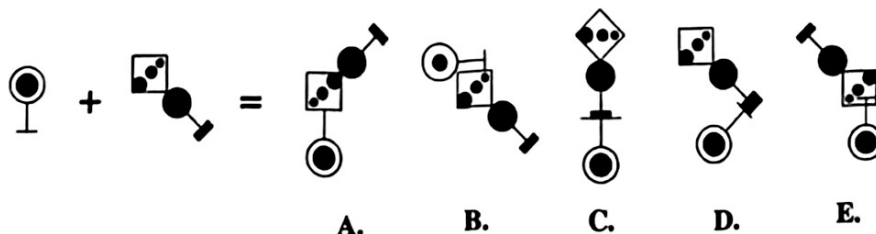
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70. At any gathering where more than two people are present, there will be at least two people who have exactly the same number of friends present. Is this true or false?
71. Can you solve the *rebus* (画谜) word problem illustrated below?

ME JUST YOU

72. Which pattern is made when the first two patterns are put together?



Part VII Error Correction (10 marks)

There are 10 errors altogether in the following passage. The errors are: missing words, unnecessary words and wrong words. Please correct them as follows: for a missing word, mark its position with the symbol “^” and write it; for an unnecessary word, cross it out with the symbol “\”; for a wrong word, underline it and write the correct word. An example of how to correct the error is provided below. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

For example:

One of my favorite writers are Charlotte Brontë. She was born in the early nineteenth century when women had far fewer opportunities ^{is} ^ they have now. She lived in a small village in Yorkshire and she took great pleasure in walking on the moors ^{than} where near her home.

Sam Russell is not your average baseball fan. He is die-hard Boston Red Sox fan. He has a season ticket and he arranged his work schedule so he does not miss a game. Sam also attends games dressing in the team's uniform, but his car is red. He has even lost some friends by choosing to watch Red Sox instead of go to their weddings. Is this healthy behavior?

Although Russell's case is extreme, being a sports fan can be healthy for you. According on a study at the University of Kansas in the USA, sports fans suffer from depression more than people who are not interested in sports. Sports fans also experience other effects from watch their team play. When their team wins, their own confidence and happiness increase, just like the athletes. Lose, on the other hand, always leads to some senses of disappointment.

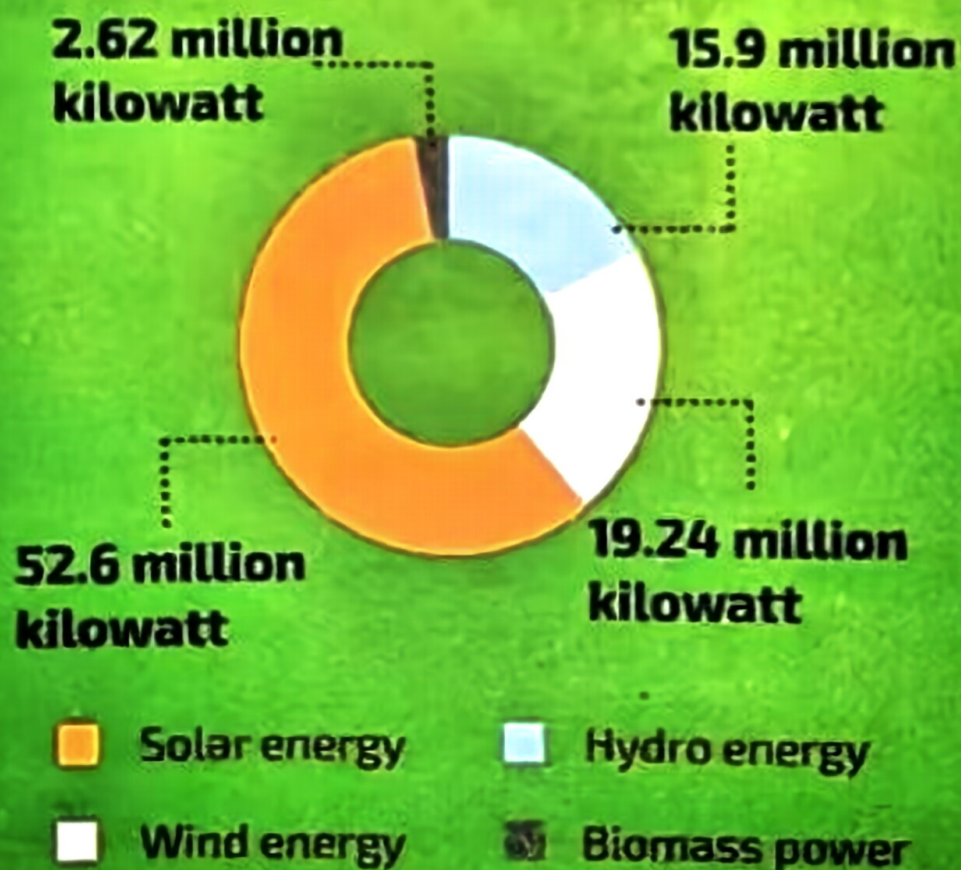
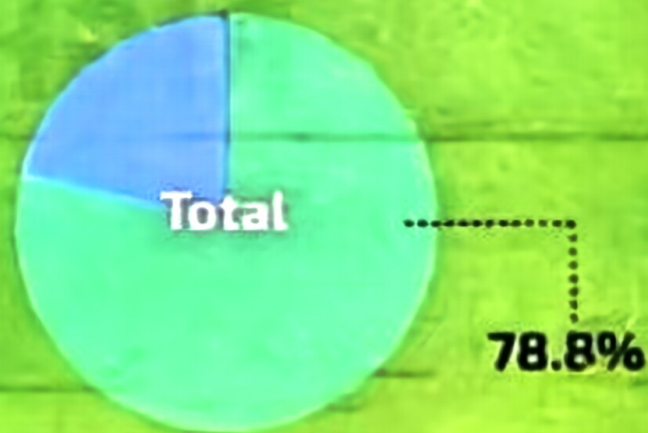
For Sam Russell, supporting Red Sox is not just a hobby; it is a way of life and the secret to his happiness.



73. _____
74. _____
75. _____
76. _____
77. _____
78. _____
79. _____
80. _____
81. _____
82. _____

Jan-Sept, 2022

**Newly installed renewable energy capacity :
90.36 million kilowatt**



Section B (20 marks)

84. Some people think TV commercials are helpful because they save consumers' time by providing information in a convenient way. However, some others think the majority of advertising is misleading and often convinces customers to purchase what they don't really need.

Do you believe that advertising is helpful or harmful to consumers?



Write a 180-word essay to express your opinions. Write the essay on the answer sheet.