

2023 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛题(D 类)

2023 National English Competition for College Students (Type D – 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.



☒ B.



C.



D.

2. ☒ Undergraduate parking allowed.

B. Postgraduate parking allowed.

C. Only staff parking allowed.

D. No student parking allowed.

3. ☒ It will be more efficient to get the work done.

B. The project is so complicated.

C. They can make good use of their advantages.

D. It will be much better to collaborate.

4. A. A geological sample.

☒ B. Some unknown fish.

C. Some samples of a rare plant.

D. Several amazing rocks.

5. A. The teachers are inadequately prepared.

☒ B. It has remained the same for too long.

C. Pupils no longer find it enjoyable.

D. It is not sufficiently varied.

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.*

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. What is Mark going to briefly talk about?

☒ A. Promotion of new products.

B. A new strategy for pricing.

C. Management of large companies.

D. A suggestion for setting sales targets.

7. According to the woman, air tickets are cheapest if ____.

☒ A. they are for weekends travel

B. they are booked well in advance

C. they are non-refundable

D. they are for group travel

8. What does Mark think revenue management is?

☒ A. It's interesting.

B. It's complicated.

C. It's reasonable.

D. It's time-consuming.

9. The airline companies' revenue management is intended to ____.

A. attract more passengers

B. fly more airplanes

☒ C. improve their service

D. benefit the passengers

10. What are two reasons for the new approach to pricing?

A. Marketing policies and law changes.

☒ B. Law changes and computer programs.

- C. Needs analysis and computer programs.
- D. Computer programs and marketing policies.

Conversation Two

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

11. The arguments are supported by _____ in this version of Alex's essay.
12. Alex read some other essays and tried to use a similar _____ for the structure.
13. There are too many ~~too~~ ^{path are passengers} points of view in Alex's essay.
14. The professor suggests that Alex's paragraphs should be _____.
15. In academic books, paragraphs are occasionally much too _____.

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. How many artificial intelligence talents will China demand by 2025?
 A. 5 million. ☒ B. 10 million. C. 25 million. D. 30 million.
17. Why will the Paris 2024 Olympic Games choose Phrygian caps as mascots?
 A. They have a prominent place in French society.
☒ B. They are a symbol of revolution and freedom, of striving.
 C. They can be seen everywhere in France.
 D. They reflect the artists' unique personification.
18. Which of the following **isn't true** of the 2023 national postgraduate entrance exam?
☒ A. Test-takers were 170,000 more than last year.
 B. 4.74 million test-takers took part in the entrance exam.
 C. The annual increase of 3.7 percent was considered the lowest in years.
 D. More students chose less famous universities instead of well-known ones.

19. What has been found about giraffes in the news item?
- A. China has more giraffes than any other country.
 - B. Female giraffes usually live longer than male ones.
 - C. Their strong skull and strong neck bones help them get food.
 - ☒ D. Their long necks are helpful for competitions between males.
20. What is the aim of Africa's Great Green Wall?
- A. To offer more jobs for the local people.
 - B. To build an 8,000-kilometer-long forest.
 - ☒ C. To improve the environment in the local area.
 - D. To fulfil the task the United Nations has assigned.

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 do the engravings show in Namibia?
22. What is the single largest problem faced by people who manage the sites?
23. When you go to a site, how can you learn things?
24. Why can't you camp on a site if you go on your own?
25. What is prohibited when you enjoy the rock art on the field trip?

Part II Vocabulary & Grammar (15 marks)

*There are **15** incomplete sentences in this section. 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. It is important to set yourself clear _____ so you know what you are aiming for.
- A. objects ☒ B. goals C. decisions D. opportunities
27. He decided to buy a really expensive painting by a famous Renaissance painter and not a(n) _____.
- A. imitation ☒ B. adaption C. production D. composition

28. The man was put into an isolation ward because the disease was highly _____.
☒ A. infectious B. destructive C. severe D. massive
29. My first job was to arrange the files into _____ order from the oldest to the most recent.
 A. alphabetical B. chronological C. numerical ☒ D. historical
30. Realizing that raising citizens' cultural confidence plays a vital role, the government has taken a series of measures to build more museums and make them more _____ to the public.
 A. reasonable B. responsible C. applicable ☒ D. accessible
31. The government should do more to help the _____ to find a job.
 A. denied B. excessive ☒ C. unemployed D. insecure
32. My new fridge has a little screen on the outside that _____ the internal and external temperature.
☒ A. displays B. designs C. devises D. discovers
33. _____, I believe that banning smokers from public places is a very good idea.
 A. Clearly B. Fortunately C. Justifiably ☒ D. Personally
34. Dina asked the hotel receptionist to give her a wake-up call; _____, she overslept and missed her flight.
 A. therefore B. consequently ☒ C. nevertheless D. likewise
35. When I surf the Internet I often _____. Before I know it, quite a few hours have gone by.
 A. take my time B. lose track of time
☒ C. control time D. make poor use of time
36. Let's wait until the music _____ before we announce the big news.
 A. dies down B. cuts down C. sets down ☒ D. closes down
37. This is the third year _____ that a female has been chosen to manage the club.
☒ A. in procession B. in success C. in process D. in succession
38. It can take _____ time for people to get used to the new system.
 A. long ☒ B. a long C. so long D. too long
39. —_____ You look a bit like you need a vacation.
 —Actually, I think I just need to sleep for a week. I've been studying way too hard.
 —You should take a week off and go lie on a beach somewhere!
- A. Where did you go last weekend?
 B. How is your study going?
 C. How was your day trip to the Great Wall?
☒ D. Why did you stay up late last night?

40. —My doctor has suggested that I try music therapy to reduce my pain.

—Really? _____

—At the hospital or at a private clinic.

A. Do you think music therapy will work?

B. Who does music therapy for you?

✓ C. Where can you get music therapy?

D. How come you believe in music therapy?



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. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

rather than; slow; require; run out; manufacture; rapid; turn on



CO₂ plays a critical role in maintaining the balance in the Earth's atmosphere and the air that we breathe. It is also a waste product of the fossil fuels that almost every person on the planet uses for transport and other energy (41) manufacture because we create CO₂ every time we drive a car, cook a meal or turn on a light, and because the gas lasts around a century in the atmosphere, the proportion of CO₂ in the atmosphere is (42) rapid increasing.

The best evidence indicates that we need to reduce CO₂ emissions by 70 percent by 2050. If you own a four-wheel-drive car and replace it with a hybrid car, or a smaller standard-fuel car, you can achieve a reduction of that magnitude in a day (43) _____ half a century. Unfortunately, our past history of change is considerably slower than this. Samuel Bowser first invented the petrol pump in 1885 but it wasn't until 1988 that all new cars (44) slow in the UK were required to use unleaded petrol only.

Not only do fossil fuels pose an environmental hazard but there is also a pressing need to find an alternative energy source that is renewable. Opinions as to how much oil remains vary considerably. Some say that the Earth has produced only 18 per cent of its potential yield of oil; others say supplies may (45) _____ as early as 2015. Many countries are exploring alternative energy sources such as solar energy or wind power.

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**.



"Leisure activity isn't just for fun," says a University of Florida (UF) psychologist who has developed a scale that classifies hobbies based on needs they satisfy in people. The scale can help people find more personal (46) _____ (fulfil^{ed}) by giving them insight into what they really like. "The surprising thing is that activities you might think are very different have similar effects (47) for people," said Howard E. A. Tinsley, a UF psychology professor who developed the measurement. "Probably no one would consider acting to have the same characteristics as roller-skating or playing baseball, but men and women who act as a hobby report feeling an intense sense of (48) belonging to a group, much the same way others do in playing sports."

And activities providing the (49) _____ (strong^{en}) sense of competition are not sports, but card, arcade and computer games, he found. Participating in soccer satisfies our desire for a sense of team, and coin collecting and baking fulfil our need for "creativity". "With so many people in jobs they don't care for, leisure is a prized aspect of people's lives," Tinsley said. "Yet it's not something psychologists really study. Economists tell us how much money people spend skiing, but nobody explains why skiing really appeals to people. Or how one activity relates to another, perhaps in (50) _____ (expect^{ation}) ways," Tinsley said. "Fishing, generally considered more of an outdoor recreational activity, for example, is a form of self-expression like stamp collecting, because it gives people the opportunity to express some aspect of their personality by doing something completely different from their daily routine," he said.



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 to 55 are based on the following passage.

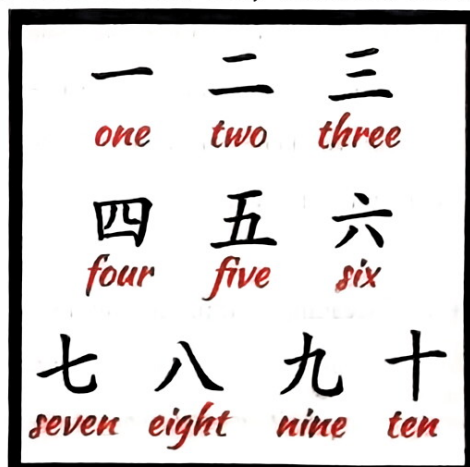


One of the first skills a child will learn upon entering school is how to write their names and the other alphabet letters. It is a learned skill that requires knowledge of words, *fine motor skills* (精细动作), and memory. (51) B However, writing didn't always exist in alphabet form as we know it today. In fact, there was a time when it didn't exist at all.

(52) F Hieroglyphics looked like pictures. Some pictures would represent objects. For example, if the word was a bird, then the picture would

be a bird. These are called pictograms. However, hieroglyphics weren't limited to pictograms. Some pictures could represent a sound. For example, in some cases, a picture of a bird functioned as the sound "a". It was a very complicated form of writing. There are totally more than 700 pictures or symbols—many more than the 26 letters in the English alphabet. In addition, there was no punctuation. To make things more difficult, hieroglyphics could be written from left to right, right to left, or even from top to bottom. Because hieroglyphic writing had such a complex written form, it took many years of practice to master it. Most Egyptians at that time couldn't read or write. Writing was a highly learned skill that only the government writers or the priests knew how to do it.

Like the ancient Egyptians, the ancient Chinese also developed a writing system based on pictograms from around the period of 1500 BC. Like some hieroglyphics, the first Chinese characters looked like the word they were meant to represent. For example, the word *sun* was a visual image of the sun. Also, like hieroglyphics, the Chinese characters weren't limited to pictograms. Other characters were created to represent concepts. They didn't necessarily look like the word itself. In fact, many characters are a combination of two or more characters. For example, the character combination of *sun* and *moon* means *bright*. In this way, each character combination has a unique meaning. Chinese speakers had to learn characters from thousands of unique pictures to be able to read and write the language. This makes Chinese one of the most difficult languages even today. The form of the pictograms used in ancient Chinese writing has changed and now only makes up a small percentage of the Chinese characters. (53) D





Pictograms, like those used in ancient Egyptian and Chinese writing, are still used in today's world. For example, anywhere you may travel, a sign that shows a simple figure of a man or woman is sufficient to communicate which restroom is for women and which is for men. In addition, you can find no-smoking pictograms almost anywhere you go. (54) A
These are used to communicate feelings or other thoughts.

Though the invention of writing started with the use of pictograms, hieroglyphics aren't written in Egypt anymore and ancient Chinese pictograms have changed. In addition, writing has evolved and most modern languages now use an alphabet system. (55) E

Questions 51 to 55

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

- ☒ A. Still, pictograms remain the most basic form of written language communication and are still in use today.
- ☒ B. Writing is the act or skill of putting words or ideas down for others to read.
- ☒ C. The ancient Egyptians created hieroglyphics, the first form of writing, around 3500 BC.
- ☒ D. These days, young people are also making more use of pictograms in emails and text messages in the form of emojis.
- E. However, it is still considered one of the longest-lasting writing systems that exists today because of its ancient roots.
- F. The invention of writing came from a need to keep track of information, history, and money.
- G. Along with reading, it is one of the most basic skills needed for all academics.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 56 to 60 are based on the following passage.

Throughout history, people have thought of the ocean as a diverse and limitless source of food. Yet today there are clear signs that the oceans have a limit. Most of the big fish in our oceans are now gone. One major factor is overfishing. People are taking so many fish from the sea that species cannot replace themselves. How did this problem start? And what is the future for fish?

Source of the Problem

For centuries, local fishermen caught only enough fish for themselves and their communities. However, in the mid-20th century, people around the world became interested in making protein-rich foods, such as fish, cheaper and more available. In response to this, governments gave money and other help to the fishing industry.

As a result, the fishing industry grew. Large commercial fishing companies began catching enormous quantities of fish for profit and selling them to worldwide markets. They started using new fishing technologies that made fishing easier. These technologies included sonar to locate fish, and dragging large nets along the ocean floor. Modern technology allows commercial fishermen to catch many more fish than local fishermen can.



Rise of the Little Fish



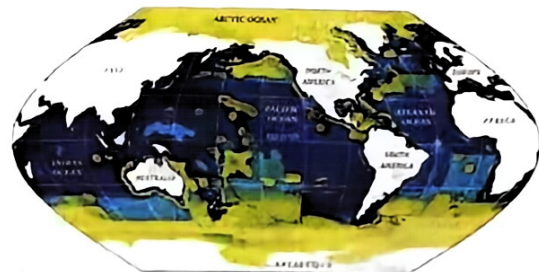
In 2003, a scientific report estimated that only 10 percent remained of the large ocean fish populations that existed before commercial fishing began. Specifically, commercial fishing has greatly reduced the number of large *predatory* (捕食性的) fish, such as cod and tuna. Today, there are plenty of fish in the sea, but they're mostly just the little ones. Small fish, such as sardines and anchovies, have more than doubled in number—largely because there are not enough big fish to eat them.

This trend is a problem because ecosystems need predators to be stable. Predators are necessary to (weed out sick and weak individuals.) Without this weeding out, or survival of the fittest, ecosystems become less stable. As a result, fish are less able to survive difficulties such as pollution, environmental change, or changes in the food supply.

A Future for Fish?

A study published in 2006 in the journal *Science* made a prediction: If we continue to overfish the oceans, most of the fish that we catch now—from tuna to sardines—will largely disappear by 2050. However, the researchers say (we can prevent this situation) if we restore the ocean's biodiversity.

Scientists say there are a few ways we can do this. First, (commercial fishing companies need to catch fewer fish.) This will increase the number of large predatory fish. Another way to improve the biodiversity of the oceans is to (develop aquaculture—fish farming.) Growing fish on farms means we can rely less on wild-caught fish. This gives species the opportunities to restore themselves. In addition, we can make good



choices about what we eat. For example, we can stop eating the fish that are most in danger. If we are careful today, we can still look forward to a future with fish.

Questions 56 to 60

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

56. What mainly accounts for the disappearance of most of the big fish in the oceans? _____
57. Why can commercial fishing companies catch more fish than local fishermen can?
58. What do ocean ecosystems need to remain stable?
59. What might happen by 2050 if fishing continues at the current rate?
60. How can we restore the ocean's biodiversity?

Section C (10 marks)

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

A life without cars would be hard for most people to imagine. Karl Benz invented the modern car in 1879. About a hundred years later, cars had become available in nearly every country. In the US, 95 percent of all families have at least one car. In fact, driving a car is an important stage toward becoming an adult for US teenagers. At the age of 16 or 18, many teenagers will attend driving schools and get their driver's license; it is their ticket to freedom.



Cars are now making steps toward their own kind of freedom; that is, freedom from people. The desire to make a self-driving car began in the 1930s. However, it is not easy to build the technology for a self-driving car that is not only intelligent but also safe. Sensors, GPS, ⁶¹~~computer programs~~ these are all technologies a self-driving car needs to be able to drive on roads. The goal is to build the car to have artificial intelligence so that it thinks and drives like a human. First, the car should know where it is. Second, the car should be able to sense people, other cars, and objects around it. Third, the car should be able to predict what a nearby person or object might do next. Then it must be able to respond accordingly by adjusting its speed or moving away from the object.



In recent years, the technology for a self-driving car has reached the point for testing on public roads. In fact, Google began testing its self-driving car in 2009. In addition, the state of Nevada issued the first license for a driverless car in 2012. As of 2017, more than a dozen

US states allow for self-driving cars to be tested on public roads, and Google's self-driving cars have already driven more than 1.5 million miles.



Public opinion of self-driving cars is mixed at best. A self-driving car has clear advantages. For example, riding in a car would no longer be limited by age or ability.⁶² A child under the age of 16 would be able to ride in a self-driving car alone with no need for a license. A blind person could rely on a self-driving car to go from one place to another. In addition, most crashes are due to people making mistakes. Many accidents are caused by such problems as people using the phone while driving, falling asleep, or driving while drunk to name a few. With a self-driving car, people would not need to worry about such situations on the road.

However, there are also serious concerns when it comes to self-driving cars. First, the technology is still far from perfect. A self-driving car relies only on its sensors, GPS, and computer programs to work properly. If any of these were to break or be used for purposes other than they are intended, the ⁶³safety and security of the rider as well as other people on the road could be put at risk. Drivers may not trust or want to give up complete control to a self-driving car. Another concern is that self-driving cars will probably be too expensive for the average family to afford. In addition, there would be a serious loss of most driving-related jobs. Finally, some drivers see driving as more than just a means to get from one place to another. Driving brings a sense of freedom and pleasure that many drivers might not want to let go of. Self-driving cars look to be a part of the near future, but how much of a role they will play can only be determined by time.

Questions 61 to 65

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



As life improves, cars have been available nearly in every family. In recent years, especially, by using artificial intelligence, that is, sensors, GPS and (61) _____, self-driving cars have begun to spring up. Riding in a car is no longer limited by (62) _____, and it can also avoid many accidents caused by people's mistaken behaviors. However, every coin has two sides. The technology of self-driving hasn't come to perfection. The (63) _____ of the rider and other people on the road will be threatened if the technologies are used (64) _____. And self-driving cars also lead to a serious loss of most driving-related jobs, and drivers lose a sense of (65) _____. Good or not, the time will tell.

Part V Translation (15 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese. Remember to write the answer on the **answer sheet**.

66. Nowadays we often hear the word “sustainable” being used a great deal in academic journals and periodicals. Environmentalists in particular insist that any development should be sustainable. They argue that sustainable practices have great benefits for us and can have a significant impact on the future of our planet. However, the word “sustainable” needs to be clearly defined. Sustainable development consists in exploiting our natural resources without destroying them.

Section B (10 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into English. Remember to write the answer on the **answer sheet**.

67. 中国是公认的四大文明古国之一，其有记载的历史和文化可以追溯到 5000 年前。中国的饮食历史、茶传统、诗歌和艺术、医药、戏剧和节日只是中国丰富的文化多样性的众多方面中的一部分。对于中国这样一个历史悠久的国家来说，不同地区的民族和习俗差异巨大是很自然的。无论走到哪儿，你都会体验到传统、习俗和遗产的独特结合。



Part VI IQ Test (10 marks)

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

68. Do you really think we can sell our cars in Japan? It's like carrying coals to Newcastle.

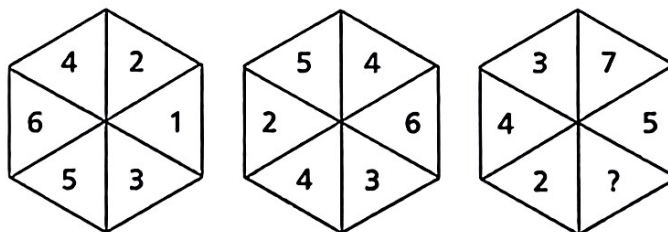
What is the Chinese meaning of the underlined phrase?

69. Which word in brackets is most opposite in meaning to the word in capitals?

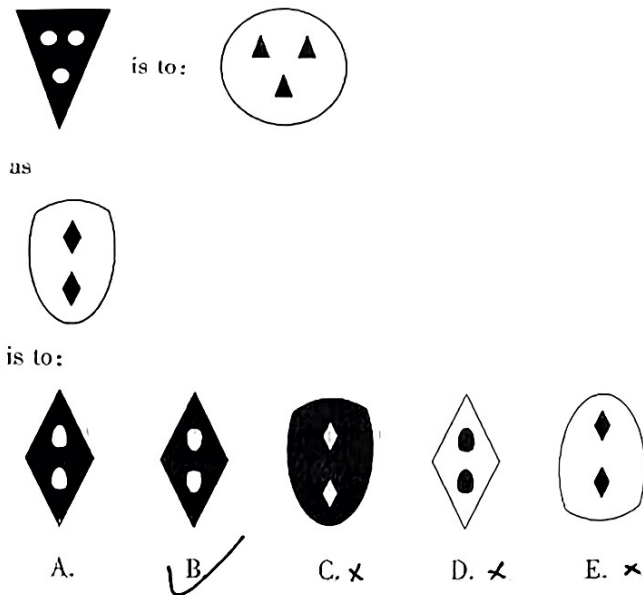
INDIGENT (rich, peaceful, eager, powerful)

70. What number should replace the question mark? 

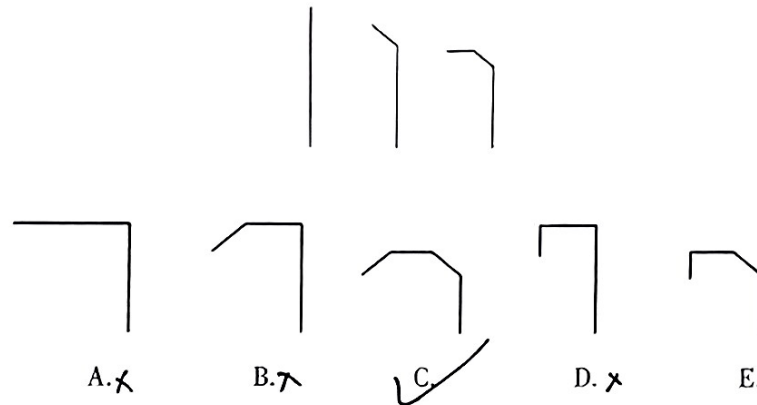
Indigent



71.



72. Which option below continues the given sequence?



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 ^ they have now. She lived in a small village in Yorkshire and she took great pleasure in walking on the moors ~~where~~ near her home.

When radio took off in the 1920s, its effect was revolutionary. Yet a few years early, when Marconi was working on transmitting messages from the land to ships at sea, history recorded his sense of disappointing at the fact that the messages could be picked anywhere. He had envisioned something similar to a privately telephone conversation, only over a wireless network.

At first, there was no plan in place for broadcast radio, but its popularity booms. People no longer had to go out to hear music or wait days to hear news. Radio was both entertaining and informed and, although the advent of cinema and television brief threatened its existence, radio adapted and prospered alongside the new development. Even today, many million of listeners remain very fond the medium.

To a large extent, the Internet now covers our need to be informed, entertained and in a contact with one another, so the survival of radio in its present form is by any means guaranteed.

73. _____

74. in

75. private

76. listen

77. informing

78. _____

79. _____

80. _____

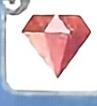
81. _____

82. some

Part VIII Writing (30 marks)

Section A (10 marks)

83. All jobs can be stressful, but some jobs are much more stressful than others. Below are some high- and low-stress jobs in America, along with their annual median salaries.

HIGH- AND LOW-STRESS JOBS			
6 MOST STRESSFUL JOBS		6 LEAST STRESSFUL JOBS	
1  Military Personnel \$41,998	4  Newspaper Reporter \$36,000	1  University Professor \$62,050	4  Dietician \$53,250
2  Firefighter \$45,250	5  Taxi Driver \$22,440	2  Seamstress/ Tailor \$25,850	5  Hair Stylist \$22,500
3  Commercial Airline Pilot \$92,060	6  Police Officer \$55,010	3  Jeweler \$35,170	6  Librarian \$54,500

Write a report in 80–100 words based on the information above.

Section B (20 marks)

84. Nowadays a lot of people find it difficult to write letters and even think it unnecessary to write letters.

Letter writing is a dying art.



What is your view on this? Write an essay in at least 120 words on the answer sheet.