

PILOT TEST FOR ENGLISH

Part I - READING

In this section, you will read 5 texts. For each text answer the questions by choosing the correct answer a), b), c) or d). Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Do not write on the test booklet.

The polar regions are where you learn most quickly that survival is a matter of physics. If you want to keep the body warm, you burn fuel in it. If you want to keep moving as well, you have to burn even more fuel. People who want to lose weight, slimmers, talk a lot about the calories they don't want to consume. Polar travelers talk even more seriously about the calories they have to consume just to keep alive. For them, the human body is a machine, and like any other machine, it has to be kept well-oiled if it is to work.

1. In what way do the polar regions illustrate that survival is a matter of physics?
 - a) The temperature makes you feel cold.
 - b) Different sources of fuel burn in different ways.
 - c) Layers of warm clothing are essential.
 - d) Food plays a fundamental role.
2. What do polar travelers and slimmers have in common?
 - a) They have similar tastes in food.
 - b) They recognize the body is a machine.
 - c) They pay attention to the calories in the food.
 - d) They realize the need to keep the body in good shape.

Just as optical fibers have transformed communication, they are also revolutionizing medicine. These ultra-thin, flexible fibers have opened a window into the living tissues of the body. By inserting optical fibers through natural openings or small incisions and moving them inside the body, doctors can look into the lungs, intestines, heart, and other areas that were formerly inaccessible to them.

The fiber-optics system is called a fiberscope, which consists of two bundles of fibers. One, illuminating bundle, carries light to the tissues. It is coupled to a high-intensity light source. Light enters the cores of the high-purity silicon glass and travels along the fibers. A lens at the end of the bundle collects the light and focuses in into the other bundle, the imagining bundle. Each fiber in the bundle transmits only a tiny fraction of the total image. The reconstructed image can be viewed on a television screen.

3. What is the main subject of the passage?
 - a) A revolution in communication
 - b) The invention of optical fibers
 - c) New surgical techniques
 - d) The role of optical fibers in medicine

4. The author says that optical fibers have opened a window in medicine to indicate that the use of optical fibers
 - a) has enabled scientists to make amazing discoveries
 - b) sometimes requires a surgical incision
 - c) allows doctors to see inside the body without major surgery
 - d) has been unknown to the general public until recently
5. What is the purpose of the illuminating bundle?
 - a) To carry light into the body.
 - b) To collect and focus light.
 - c) To reconstruct images.
 - d) To perform surgery inside the body.

Clipper ships were the swiftest sailing ships that were ever put to sea and the most beautiful. These ships had their days of glory in the 1840s and 1850s. The first were built in Baltimore, but most were constructed in the shipyards of New England. It was Chinese tea that brought them into existence. Tea loses its flavor quickly when stored in the hold of a vessel, and merchants were willing to pay top prices for fast delivery. American shipbuilders designed clippers to fill this need. Then came the California Gold Rush of 1849, when clippers took gold seekers from the East Coast to the West by way of Cape Horn. They required an experienced captain and a large crew.

Clippers were built for speed, and considerations of large carrying capacity and economical operation were sacrificed for this purpose. They were long and thin hulls with large sails to capture the power of the winds. However, by 1860, the age of the clippers was over, as American investors focused on railroads and the newer and faster steamships.

6. What is the author's main purpose in writing?
 - a) To describe the tea trade in the 1840s.
 - b) To contrast clipper ships and other ships.
 - c) To discuss 19th century shipbuilding techniques.
 - d) To provide a brief history of clipper ships.
7. According to the passage, where were the majority of clipper ships built?
 - a) California
 - b) Baltimore
 - c) New England
 - d) Great Britain
8. How did the California Gold Rush affect clipper ships?
 - a) It encouraged the development of railroads, which competed with the clippers.
 - b) The newly discovered gold was used to finance the construction of new ships.
 - c) It stimulated the demand for tea on the West Coast.
 - d) People wanting to participate in the Gold Rush were passengers on these ships.
9. Which of the following considerations was most important to the owners of clippers?
 - a) Maximum speed.
 - b) Reduced operating costs.
 - c) Increased cargo capacity.

d) Small crews.

For centuries, sky watchers have reported seeing mysterious flashes of light on the surface of the moon. Modern astronomers have observed the same phenomenon, but no one has been able to satisfactorily explain how or why the moon sporadically sparks. However, researchers now believe they have found the cause.

Researchers have examined the chemical content of the moon rocks retrieved by astronauts during the Apollo missions and have found that they contain volatile gases such as helium, hydrogen, and argon. The researchers suggest that electrons freed when the rock cracks, may ignite these gases. Indeed, lunar rock samples, when fractured in the lab, throw off sparks.

The flashes are more often seen at the borders between sunlight and shade on the moon, where the surface is either intensely heated or cooled. A sudden change in temperature may cause thermal cracking. Another possibility is that meteors may strike the rocks and cause them to crack. Finally, lunar rocks may be fractured by seismic events, in other words, by tiny moonquakes.

10. What is the general purpose of this passage?
 - a) To reject a possible explanation for a phenomenon.
 - b) To offer examples of a phenomenon.
 - c) To conduct and explain an experiment
 - d) To describe a phenomenon and offer possible explanations

11. According to the passage, how long have people been aware of the mysterious lights on the moon?
 - a) For the last ten years
 - b) Since the Apollo moon missions
 - c) For hundreds of years
 - d) For thousands of years

12. The theory that moon rocks give off sparks when they crack is supported by
 - a) A telescopic study of the moon
 - b) Experiments conducted by astronauts
 - c) Observations made centuries ago
 - d) An analysis of rocks from the moon

13. Which of the following situations is an example of 'thermal cracking' as described in the passage?
 - a) A dam breaks when water rises behind it.
 - b) A stone cracks open because of the pressure of tree roots.
 - c) A cool glass breaks when it is filled with boiling water.
 - d) An ice cube melts in the heat of the sun.

Just inside the walls of Florence stands a factory where silk is hand-woven on machines that date back to the fifteenth century. The factory, successful at the height of silk production in the eighteenth century, was almost unknown in the twentieth century until it was rescued about seven years ago by the Marchese Pucci, whose name has for so long been associated with beautiful and luxurious silks. Once again, the factory is producing some of the most beautiful and expensive hand-woven silks in the world. Expensive they may be, but these silks are very strong, and the quality and colors are such that the cloth woven here will last at least one lifetime – probably several.

14. What is special about the silk factory described in the passage?
- a) It has been famous since the eighteenth century.
 - b) It uses very old machines.
 - c) It was closed for 200 years.
 - d) It has always been owned by the Pucci family.
15. The silk that is woven there is
- a) Cheap and strong
 - b) Expensive and long-lasting
 - c) Cheap and colorful
 - d) Delicate and long-lasting

Part II – GRAMMAR and VOCABULARY

Choose the one correct answer a, b, c, or d. Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Do not write on the test booklet.

16. During the Cold War NATO ... a clear threat from the East.
- a. faced
 - b. faces
 - c. is facing
 - d. has faced
17. Throughout NATO history, the transatlantic link ... to the political, economic, and military ties between North America and Europe.
- a. is referring
 - b. has referred
 - c. will refer
 - d. is going to refer
18. I'll call you up as soon as I ... home.
- a. will arrive
 - b. am arriving
 - c. arrived
 - d. arrive

19. Much to his surprise, she came ... than usual.
a. earlier
b. early
c. the most early
d. more early

20. Their house is ... in the whole neighbourhood.
a. the bigger
b. more big
c. the biggest
d. the most big

21. I'm not sure what I'm going to do this weekend. I ... go to a movie.
a. can
b. would
c. might
d. I'll be able to

22. You ... obey the rules if you want to win.
a. can
b. must
c. have
d. had to

23. I went to the library because I needed ... for my report on education.
a. informations
b. information
c. the information
d. many information

24. If I ... you, I would think it over before making a decision.
a. be
b. am
c. were
d. was

25. If you ... my advice you wouldn't have any trouble.
a. have taken
b. took
c. had taken
d. were taking

Find the opposite of the underlined word. Mark a, b, c or d.

26. I forgot about your party.
a. reminded
b. remembered
c. looked for
d. looked into

27. She's tall and thin.
- a. skinny
 - b. nice
 - c. funny
 - d. fat

Choose the correct word that completes the following sentences. Mark a, b, c or d:

28. Neither the terrible weather nor the dreadful mortar firings could ... our troops from repelling the enemy.
- a. suspend
 - b. deter
 - c. restrict
 - d. urge

29. We did not have much money, but fortunately the hotel room was incredibly
- a. crowded
 - b. inexpensive
 - c. costly
 - d. large

30. She doesn't have any brothers or sisters. She's ... child.
- a. a unique
 - b. a single
 - c. a lonely
 - d. an only

Choose the word that means the same as the boldfaced one. Mark a, b, c, or d:

31. That is a **speedy** car!
- a. expensive
 - b. fast
 - c. modern
 - d. splendid

32. For further details please refer to the **following** page.
- a. prior
 - b. next
 - c. last
 - d. first

33. I wonder what's **going on** in that house.
- a. moving
 - b. happening
 - c. continuing
 - d. working

34. The new Strategic Concept will recommit NATO members to the transatlantic **link**.
- a. a single ring of a chain
 - b. something which connects two other parts
 - c. a chain

d. a system of connections

35. This concept will also **assess** the current and future security environment.

a. gather

b. evaluate

c. defend

d. state

Part III - WRITING

For questions 36 through 39, select the one correct sentence a), b), c) or d).

36. a) 1987 was he promoted in to the rank of colonel.
b) The rank of colonel to he was promoted in 1987.
c) Colonel of the rank was he promoted to in 1987.
d) In 1987 he was promoted to the rank of colonel.
37. a) The at moment is the General's office in the captain.
b) The General's office is the captain at the moment in.
c) The captain at the moment the General's office is in.
d) The captain is in the General's office at the moment.
38. a) Were wounded three men in the accident.
b) The three men wounded were in accident.
c) Three men were wounded in the accident.
d) The Accident three men wounded were in.
39. a) The training basic unit in the infantry the battalion is.
b) The battalion is the basic training unit in the infantry.
c) In the infantry is the basic training unit the battalion.
d) The basic unit the training is the battalion in infantry.

Items 40 through 45 form a letter. Arrange the following items to make up this letter.

40. Please confirm that you still need the books and I'll place the order. If there is anything else I can do for you, let me know and I'll be happy to help you.
41. It must have got lost in the mail. Anyway, I understand that you need me to buy some books for you. I checked on the Internet and I found out that it takes them two weeks to deliver the books after the order is placed.
42. Dear Susan,
43. If it takes to weeks for the books to get to me, it will probably take one more week for me to send them to you. Is this too late for you to receive the books? I'm asking because your letter is so old.
44. Bye for now,
45. I only received your letter yesterday. It is very strange because I saw that you sent it over a month ago.

You have 90 min to complete the test.

Key

Part I - READING

1. d	9. a
2. c	10. d
3. d	11. c
4. c	12. d
5. a	13. c
6. d	14. b
7. c	15. b
8. d	

Part II – GRAMMAR and VOCABULARY

16. a	26. b
17. b	27. d
18. d	28. b
19. a	29. b
20. c	30. d
21. c	31. b
22. b	32. b
23. b	33. b
24. c	34. c
25. b	35. b

Part III – WRITING

36. d	42
37. d	45
38. c	41
39. b	43
	40
	44