

## Vocabulary and Grammar

### Variant 1

Choose the word or the phrase A, B, C or D, which completes each sentence correctly.

- Mr Jackson needs a \_\_\_\_\_ of the report first thing Monday morning.
  - print
  - image
  - copy
  - reproduction
- I found a wonderful Persian rug in the \_\_\_\_\_ market the other day.
  - archaic
  - old
  - antique
  - antiquated
- The computer course \_\_\_\_\_ of ten two-hour \_\_\_\_\_ lessons over six months.
  - composes
  - consists
  - makes up
  - contains
- The lecture was so boring that I had a very difficult time paying \_\_\_\_\_ and almost fell asleep.
  - interest
  - notice
  - warning
  - attention
- Authorities are investigating the \_\_\_\_\_ of the fire.
  - reason
  - cause
  - manner
  - way
- This shop has everything \_\_\_\_\_ from exotic spices to designer clothes.
  - stocking
  - ranging
  - extending
  - varying
- He was \_\_\_\_\_ to the amount of money he could spend on holiday.
  - limited
  - fixed
  - bounded
  - set
- Please, \_\_\_\_\_ once in your life, try not to be late tomorrow.
  - by
  - at
  - upon
  - for
- Of course, I \_\_\_\_\_ you! We went to school together, didn't we?
  - consider

- B. see
  - C. recognise
  - D. hold
10. His \_\_\_\_\_ of confidence resulted in him not getting the job.
- A. losing
  - B. failure
  - C. missing
  - D. lack
11. I heard a loud bang and the \_\_\_\_\_ thing I knew, police were everywhere.
- A. future
  - B. following
  - C. after
  - D. next
12. Please \_\_\_\_\_ me to cancel my dentist's appointment on Tuesday.
- A. remind
  - B. remember
  - C. retain
  - D. recall

**2. Identify the one underlined word or phrase (A, B, C, or D) that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.**

13. On <sup>(A)</sup> the floor of the Pacific Ocean <sup>(B)</sup> is hundreds of <sup>(C)</sup> flat-topped mountains <sup>(D)</sup> more than a mile beneath sea level.
14. <sup>(A)</sup> The community of Bethesda, Maryland, was <sup>(B)</sup> previous <sup>(C)</sup> known <sup>(D)</sup> as Darcy's Store.
15. Irving Berlin <sup>(A)</sup> wrote "Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning" <sup>(B)</sup> while serving in <sup>(C)</sup> a U.S. Army <sup>(D)</sup> during World War I.
16. Benny Goodman was <sup>(A)</sup> equally talented as both a jazz <sup>(B)</sup> performer <sup>(C)</sup> as well as a <sup>(D)</sup> classical musician.
17. Sirius, the Dog Star, is <sup>(A)</sup> the most brightest star in the sky with <sup>(B)</sup> an absolute magnitude about <sup>(C)</sup> twenty-three times <sup>(D)</sup> that of the Sun.

**3. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.**

18. Some economists now suggest that home equity loans are merely a new trap to push consumers beyond \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they can afford
  - B. they can afford it
  - C. what is affordable
  - D. able to afford
19. \_\_\_\_\_ tea plant are small and white.
- A. The
  - B. On the
  - C. Having flowers the
  - D. The flowers of the
20. During free fall, \_\_\_\_\_ up to a full minute, a skydiver will fall at a constant speed of 120 m.p.h.
- A. it is
  - B. which is
  - C. being
  - D. is

21. \_\_\_\_\_, early approaches for coping with workplace stress dealt with the problem only after its symptoms had appeared.
- A. Although well-intending
  - B. Although it is a good intention
  - C. Although a good intention
  - D. Although well-intended
22. The economic background of labour legislation will not be mentioned in this course, \_\_\_\_\_be treated.
- A. trade unionism will not
  - B. nor trade unionism will
  - C. nor will trade unionism
  - D. neither trade unionism will

## Variant 2

Choose the word or the phrase A, B, C or D, which completes each sentence correctly.

1. Ben has just bought a house, so he can't \_\_\_\_\_ to go on holiday this year.
  - A. suggest
  - B. afford
  - C. cost
  - D. budget
2. She cut the cake into eight \_\_\_\_\_ after she had blown out the candles.
  - A. parts
  - B. figures
  - C. portions
  - D. sizes
3. The Smiths have their piano tuned on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis.
  - A. right
  - B. normal
  - C. regular
  - D. proper
4. I called the plumber to get a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ on how much a new shower would cost.
  - A. estimate
  - B. guess
  - C. number
  - D. count
5. We would never have guessed who had \_\_\_\_\_ the crime.
  - A. caused
  - B. had
  - C. done
  - D. committed
6. During the festival, the streets were \_\_\_\_\_ with people from all over the world.
  - A. congested
  - B. occupied
  - C. full
  - D. crowded
7. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ of looking at life that is very refreshing.
  - A. method
  - B. mean

- C. way  
D. plan
8. James has had an argument \_\_\_\_\_ Tina and is not speaking to her.  
A. in  
B. by  
C. of  
D. with
9. My morning \_\_\_\_\_ never changes - I wake up, take a shower, have a cup of coffee and go to work.  
A. practice  
B. routine  
C. custom  
D. time
10. I'll never be \_\_\_\_\_ to understand what she saw in him!  
A. capable  
B. possible  
C. able  
D. probable
11. The hotel \_\_\_\_\_ free accommodation for children under the age of ten.  
A. does  
B. provides  
C. assists  
D. makes
12. Air pollution has \_\_\_\_\_ to an increase in breathing disorders.  
A. directed  
B. brought  
C. led  
D. guided

**2. Identify the one underlined word or phrase (A, B, C, or D) that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.**

13. The United States has <sup>(A)</sup> import <sup>(B)</sup> all carpet wools in recent years <sup>(C)</sup> because domestic wools are <sup>(D)</sup> too fine and soft for carpets.
14. Banks <sup>(A)</sup> are rushing to merge because consolidations <sup>(B)</sup> enable them to slash <sup>(C)</sup> theirs costs <sup>(D)</sup> and expand.
15. <sup>(A)</sup> That water has a very high specific heat <sup>(B)</sup> means that without a large temperature change water can <sup>(C)</sup> add or lose a large <sup>(D)</sup> number of heat.
16. Killer whales <sup>(A)</sup> tend <sup>(B)</sup> to wander in family clusters that hunt, play, and <sup>(C)</sup> resting <sup>(D)</sup> together.
17. Sapphires <sup>(A)</sup> weighing <sup>(B)</sup> as much as <sup>(C)</sup> two pounds have on occasion <sup>(D)</sup> mined.

**3. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.**

18. In 1858, the site \_\_\_\_\_ was to become the city of Denver was settled as a way station for outfitting gold prospectors.  
A. it  
B. of it  
C. what  
D. of what
19. \_\_\_\_\_ squeezed, the orange juice in a one-cup serving provides twice the minimum daily requirement for vitamin C.  
A. It is freshly  
B. If freshly  
C. You freshly

- D.** If it freshly
20. The major cause \_\_\_\_\_ the pull of the Moon on the Earth.
- A.** the ocean tides are
  - B.** of ocean tides is
  - C.** of the tides in the ocean
  - D.** the oceans' tides
21. The Sun's gravity severely distorted the path of the comet \_\_\_\_\_ entered its wildly erratic orbit around Jupiter.
- A.** it
  - B.** when
  - C.** after the comet came into it
  - D.** once the comet
22. \_\_\_\_\_ creation of such a community was a desirable step, the requisite political upheaval had to be accepted.
- A.** Since the
  - B.** The
  - C.** Later, the
  - D.** It was the

### Variant 3

Choose the word or the phrase **A, B, C** or **D**, which completes each sentence correctly.

1. The company will \_\_\_\_\_ a new line of cosmetics onto the market this autumn.
  - A. put
  - B. bring
  - C. introduce
  - D. commence
2. Don't worry! The instructions are very \_\_\_\_\_ to follow.
  - A. natural
  - B. ordinary
  - C. casual
  - D. easy
3. Even though my grandfather is 87 years old, he's as \_\_\_\_\_ as a fiddle.
  - A. healthy
  - B. happy
  - C. fit
  - D. slim
4. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the chance to visit the Museum of Fine Arts when you're in town.
  - A. miss
  - B. omit
  - C. forget
  - D. lose
5. How long was it before you \_\_\_\_\_ that your purse was missing?
  - A. viewed
  - B. noticed
  - C. faced
  - D. witnessed
6. If you have an alibi, it will \_\_\_\_\_ that you were nowhere near the scene of the crime.
  - A. clear
  - B. say
  - C. find

- D. prove
7. Alison \_\_\_\_\_ most of her pocket money on cosmetics.
- throws
  - exploits
  - spends
  - buys
8. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ her own business when she was only 29 years old.
- did up
  - made out
  - brought on
  - set up
9. The only reason why he \_\_\_\_\_ the crash was because he was wearing his seatbelt.
- saved
  - endured
  - lasted
  - survived
10. One of the most \_\_\_\_\_ rules of tennis is to always keep your eye on the ball.
- basic
  - weighty
  - significant
  - extreme
11. I'm sorry, but without the \_\_\_\_\_ the shop will not be able to give you a refund.
- recipe
  - prescription
  - receipt
  - formula
12. The only \_\_\_\_\_. of living in a fiat is that it is cheaper than living in a house.
- gain
  - advantage
  - plus
  - asset

**2. Identify the one underlined word or phrase (A B, C, or D) that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.**

13. Segregation in <sup>(A)</sup>public schools <sup>(B)</sup>was declare <sup>(C)</sup>unconstitutional by the Supreme Court <sup>(D)</sup>in 1954.
14. It is proving less <sup>(A)</sup>costly and more <sup>(B)</sup>profitably for drugmakers <sup>(C)</sup>to market <sup>(D)</sup>directly to patients.
15. J. H. Pratt used <sup>(A)</sup>group therapy <sup>(B)</sup>early in this century <sup>(C)</sup>when he brought tuberculosis patients together to discuss <sup>(D)</sup>its disease.
16. <sup>(A)</sup>No longer <sup>(B)</sup>satisfied with <sup>(C)</sup>the emphasis of the Denishawn School, Martha Graham <sup>(D)</sup>has moved to the staff of the Eastman School in 1925.
17. On <sup>(A)</sup>the rim of the Kilauea volcano in the <sup>(B)</sup>Hawaiian Islands <sup>(C)</sup>are a hotel <sup>(D)</sup>called the Volcano Hotel.

**3. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.**

18. The Model T car, introduced in 1908, \_\_\_\_\_ \$850.
- the price was
  - a price of
  - to be priced at
  - was priced at
19. The prisoners were prevented from speaking to reporters because \_\_\_\_\_.
- not wanting the story in the papers

- B. the story in the papers the superintendent did not want
  - C. the public to hear the story
  - D. the superintendent did not want the story in the papers
20. Scientists are now beginning to conduct experiments on \_\_\_\_\_ trigger different sorts of health risks.
- A. noise pollution can
  - B. how noise pollution can
  - C. that noise pollution
  - D. how noise pollution
21. \_\_\_\_\_ in the first draft of the budget will not necessarily be in the final draft.
- A. Although it appears
  - B. It appears
  - C. What appears
  - D. Despite its appearance
22. Individual differences in brain-wave activity may shed light on why some people are more prone to emotional stress disorders \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. that others are
  - B. and others are
  - C. others are
  - D. than are others

#### **Variant 4**

**Choose the word or the phrase A, B, C or D, which completes each sentence correctly.**

1. The total \_\_\_\_\_ of money needed for this project is over one million pounds.
  - A. mass
  - B. number
  - C. amount
  - D. bulk
2. Mrs. James had difficulty in controlling the class, \_\_\_\_\_ though she was an experienced teacher.
  - A. indeed
  - B. just
  - C. even
  - D. exactly
3. There are many ways \_\_\_\_\_ which you can make food tasty and attractive to children.
  - A. over
  - B. in
  - C. of
  - D. among
4. Jim Perkins was \_\_\_\_\_ to be the only suitable candidate for the job.
  - A. imagined
  - B. hoped
  - C. designed
  - D. considered
5. He walked slowly although he was \_\_\_\_\_ late for his appointment.
  - A. extremely
  - B. ultra
  - C. highly
  - D. intensely
6. Frieda is always \_\_\_\_\_ a very warm welcome whenever she visits her cousins.
  - A. saved
  - B. reserved

- C. performed  
D. guaranteed
7. The increase of traffic in cities has resulted \_\_\_\_\_ more people suffering from breathing problems.  
A. of  
B. at  
C. in  
D. to
8. The man was eventually \_\_\_\_\_ by the police to come out of his hiding place.  
A. persuaded  
B. arranged  
C. suggested  
D. let
9. Your work falls well \_\_\_\_\_ the required standard.  
A. under  
B. short  
C. below  
D. lower
10. Jane's \_\_\_\_\_ told her that something had happened to her twin sister.  
A. affinity  
B. aptitude  
C. intuition  
D. flair
11. "You can always be \_\_\_\_\_ of our support" my parents told me when I left home.  
A. count  
B. sure  
C. depend  
D. rely
12. For a long time, he has been \_\_\_\_\_ by bad luck.  
A. dogged  
B. bugged  
C. doomed  
D. haunted

**2. Identify the one underlined word or phrase (A, B, C, or D) that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.**

13. Because of the flourish with <sup>(A)</sup> which John Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence, <sup>(B)</sup> his name <sup>(C)</sup> become <sup>(D)</sup> synonymous with signature.
14. William Hart was an <sup>(A)</sup> act <sup>(B)</sup> best known for <sup>(C)</sup> his roles <sup>(D)</sup> as western heroes in silent films.
15. <sup>(A)</sup> During the 1960s the Berkeley campus of the University of California <sup>(B)</sup> came to national attention as a <sup>(C)</sup> result its radical <sup>(D)</sup> political activity.
16. <sup>(A)</sup> Artist Gutzon Borglum designed the Mount Rushmore Memorial and worked on <sup>(B)</sup> project from 1925 <sup>(C)</sup> until <sup>(D)</sup> his death in 1941.
17. <sup>(A)</sup> Like snakes, lizards can <sup>(B)</sup> be found on all <sup>(C)</sup> others continents <sup>(D)</sup> except Antarctica.

**3. Decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.**

18. A computerized map of the motorways using information gathered by sensors embedded in the pavement \_\_\_\_\_ on a local cable channel during rush hours.  
A. airs  
B. airing  
C. air  
D. to air



19. The president of the United States appoints the cabinet members, \_\_\_\_\_ appointments are subject to Senate approval.
- their
  - with their
  - because their
  - but their
20. Like Thomas Berger's fictional character Little Big Man, Lauderdale managed to find himself where \_\_\_\_\_ of important events took place.
- it was an extraordinary number
  - there was an extraordinary number
  - an extraordinary number
  - an extraordinary number existed
21. \_\_\_\_\_ behind government secrecy for nearly half a century, the Hanford plant in central Washington produced plutonium for the nuclear weapons.
- It is hidden
  - Hidden
  - Which is hidden
  - The plant is hiding
22. Since an immediate change was needed on an emergency basis, \_\_\_\_\_ by the governor to curtail railway expenditure.
- so it was proposed
  - was proposed
  - because of the proposal
  - it was proposed

Keys Vocabulary & Grammar	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 4
1	C	B	C	C
2	C	C	D	C
3	B	C	C	B
4	D	A	A	D
5	B	D	B	A
6	B	D	D	D
7	A	C	C	C
8	D	D	D	A
9	C	B	D	C
10	D	C	A	C
11	D	B	C	B
12	A	C	B	A
13	B	A	B	C
14	B	D	B	A
15	C	D	D	C
16	C	C	D	B
17	A	D	C	C
18	C	D	D	A
19	D	B	D	D
20	B	D	B	C
21	D	A	C	B
22	C	B	D	D

## Reading

### Variant 1

#### TEXT I

Read an article about noise. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

#### Noise: traveller's enemy or traveller's friend?

'Passport, boarding pass, phone...' As my taxi zips towards the airport, suddenly a cord of panic pulls tight around my chest. I thrust my hand into one compartment of my handbag, then another. It's not anywhere. My mouth opens, and the words, 'Driver, turn around! Now!' almost spring out. But I swallow them. We're halfway to the airport, and I'm already running late. Surely I can survive one trip without my supply of foam earplugs?

I'm a generally good traveller except for one thing that undoes me every time: noise. Ask me about my absolute worst travel experiences, and I'll tell you the story about that night I spent in a cheap hotel that also happens to be the venue for the most popular Saturday night disco in the area. Elsewhere, there were the chickens that always began crowing at 2 a.m. at a rural retreat (no one, I guess, informed them that they shouldn't get going until dawn). And there was also the deeply discounted hotel room with 'swimming pool view' that I was so pleased with myself for finding. The swimming pool, it turned out, was under renovation. Actively. With power drills. Directly below my window.

In my ideal traveller's world I'd control the volume of everything, like a music producer at a giant mixing board. There would be no blasting television sets hanging above public squares or embedded in taxi seats, no cheesy songs playing in the shops. Loud noise would be completely absent. Everywhere. But no traveller can remain in a perfectly controlled sonic bubble. Not when we're moving through a world in which what constitutes noise has so many different interpretations, including whether noise is ever a bad thing. For sound is relative: one person's noise is another person's music, or expression of happiness.

On one of the first extended trips I ever took, I travelled to an island for Carnival, which is basically like deciding to pitch your tent inside a dance hall for three weeks. At any hour, different kinds of music would float through the air and, without warning, straight into my ear. Neighbours shouted to each other over the din, then turned up the volume on their radios. It was a non-stop celebration, during which I got very little sleep. It was fabulous. The thing is, the noise that wraps a city in Carnival happiness is more than just noise: it's the sound of a human community. To block it out is to risk missing something really fundamental about a place - and the reassuring feeling of being part of something larger than yourself. Noise brings people together. I've learnt this over and over in my travels, but it hasn't been an easy lesson to accept.

I struggle against my instinct to isolate myself in a cocoon of silence. I really don't want to cut myself off from the thrill of human noise. But I don't want to go crazy, either. Nowadays, unwanted - and largely non-human - sounds push and shove travellers from all directions. Cars, subways, construction, jet engines: their clamour seems omnipresent. Yet instead of lowering the volume of everyday living, we seem to layer noise upon noise. The hotel bar jacks up its techno music to counteract the babble in the lobby. The traveller walking along traffic-choked streets retreats into her iPod.

On the plane, I press my foam earplug deep into my ear. As it slowly expands to fill my ear canal, I savour the journey into the bliss of noiselessness. Thank goodness the convenience store at the airport stocks one of travel's most essential items. The headache-inducing whine of the jet engines magically fades away, and I'm once again the master of my private sonic world. To appreciate the comfort of noise, you also need the comfort of silence. I'll unplug when I get to where I'm going.

23. What is the writer doing in the first paragraph?

- A demonstrating how well organised she is
- B explaining why she is in a particular situation

- C describing something that often happens to her
- D showing how important something is to her

24. What do the writer's worst travel experiences tell us about her?

- A She is annoyed when the facilities advertised are not available.
- B She is willing to stay in places that are not particularly luxurious.
- C She tries to plan ahead in order to avoid certain situations.
- D She finds unusual locations especially attractive.

25. What does the writer say about her 'ideal traveller's world'?

- A She realises it isn't actually the best way to travel.
- B She wishes she didn't have to share it with others.
- C She travels in the hope of finding it one day.
- D She knows other people wouldn't like it.

26. How does the writer feel in the final paragraph?

- A relieved she will not have to hear any noise at her destination
- B grateful to know she can find earplugs wherever she goes
- C pleased she can decide for herself whether to hear things or not
- D glad to be able to choose what music she'll listen to on the flight

## TEXT II

Read the article below about the Hollywood sign in the United States of America.

Choose the best sentence to fill each of the gaps.

For each gap 27–32, mark one letter (A–G).

Do not use any letter more than once.

### The sign on a hill

At the top of a hill called Mount Lee in Los Angeles on the west coast of the USA is a very famous sign, recognisable to people around the world. My job is to look after this sign. It says *Hollywood* and that's of course the place where films have been made for over a hundred years. The first film was made there in 1907 and by 1912, at least 15 independent studios could be found making films around town.

The film industry continued to grow and the name Hollywood, which by the 1920s represented not just a city but also an industry and a lifestyle, was made official when the 'Hollywoodland' sign was erected in 1923. It was only supposed to last about a year. (27) \_\_\_\_\_. But it wasn't always. It started out as a massive billboard advertising an upscale suburban development called Hollywoodland.

In the 1940s, TV started to become popular and some Hollywood film studios closed, but then TV companies moved in and took them over. At this point, the city of Los Angeles decided to renovate the sign. The letters spelling 'land' were removed and the rest was repaired. Modern Hollywood was born. The letters in the sign weren't straight and still aren't. (28) \_\_\_\_\_. They follow the shape of Mount Lee and this is part of their fame.

I am responsible for maintaining and protecting the sign. (29) \_\_\_\_\_. When I first arrived in 1989, security was pretty low-tech – we put up a fence around the sign to stop trespassers messing with it. But people just jumped over the fence. The back of the sign was black with graffiti – there was barbed wire across it, but they still got through. So I decided to improve the effectiveness of the security.

Now we have motion-detectors and cameras. Everything goes via the internet to a dedicated surveillance team watching various structures around the city. (30) \_\_\_\_\_. But they can get a closer look on one of my regular tours.

It's also important to protect the sign's image as it's used in loads of adverts and news pieces. There's a simple rule about how the sign can be used. (31) \_\_\_\_\_. However, it mostly comes down to the look. To take a different example, if you used 'Hollywood' in the name of your company it would depend what the word looked like,

whether it was just spelled out or whether the image of the sign itself was used.

People call up with the most ridiculous ideas. They want to light the sign, paint it pink, or cover it in something to promote their product. You'll get a really enthusiastic marketing executive call up, terribly excited because they think they're the first person to think of this or that idea. **(32)** \_\_\_\_\_. That's because we don't like to change the image and we hope it will have the same significance for generations to come.

- A Even so, people still try to climb over the barrier, mostly innocent tourists surprised that you can't walk right up to the sign.
- B They mostly get turned down.
- C If one of them ever fell down I would have to put it back up at exactly the same angle.
- D We used to have real problems.
- E Things have changed a lot since then.
- F It's still there, of course, and is a symbol of the entertainment world.
- G If the purpose is commercial – to promote something – payment has to be made.

## Variant 2

### TEXT I

**Read an article about a traveller called Colleen Kinder, who has visited the hottest place in the world. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

#### **A journey to the hottest place on earth**

*Colleen Kinder travels with her father to the Danakii desert in Africa.*

No one travels alone to the hottest place on earth. You need, for starters, a driver and a Jeep stocked with water and four days of non-perishable food. There are no places to lodge or dine in this desert, so you'll need space for beds and someone who knows how to cook. And finally, because a journey like this costs many thousands of dollars, you'll need some fellow travelers to split the bill – the sort of people who like to fry themselves on vacation.

My father is the easiest recruit. Dad, who naps best roasting in the afternoon sun, is a lover of extreme heat. He's also an extreme traveler, drawn to the fringes of places, all the countries where no one vacations. From my father, I've inherited both tendencies: I'm known for getting bright pink sunburns, and also for stalking the edges of maps. The Danakii desert lies on the fringes of several countries, which claim a sliver of this sweltering, low-lying desert, named the cruelest place on earth. I don't have to mention this to my father – not the endless salt flats, lakes the bright color of mouthwash, or camels by the thousands. When Dad starts calling this desert 'the frying pan', I know he's in.

We enlist three more people and in Mekele, the starting place for our voyage, we merge with four others. We fill five Jeeps and have nothing in common but a love of travel, and a willingness to sweat for it. The Jeeps plunge down mountains for hours. The heat, of course, is brutal. I remind myself this is just a warm-up. The real heat won't strike until we reach the sizzling edge of the frying pan, an uninhabited region, roughly 130 meters below sea level, called Dallol, which holds the record for the highest average annual temperature: 94 degrees.

As we continue, sand gives way to salt, and soon we're in a landscape of white crystals glinting in the fresh morning light. The ground is miraculously flat. Our driver, who has been battling fine sand, cannot resist the urge to go for it. We surge ahead of the other cars in what looks like a Jeep race across some frozen lake. Suddenly, in the pure white expanse, a huge brown mound appears. We're ordered by our guides to find a full liter of bottled water, and to bring it with us up the lumpy brown mountain.

At the summit, I find my travel mates standing in a kind of silent daydream. Astonished, they crouch down beside pale green toadstools – mineral formations whose glossy tabletops are smooth as marble. The hottest place on earth is an assault of color: yellow and deep rust, pea green and purple. Some of the formations look like coral reefs, others like egg shells, air-blown from the hot breath of the earth below. Everyone wanders off alone, crunching over the earth, heads down, staring at the ground and shaking their heads.

I know the ground is hot – you can even hear water boiling underground. Everywhere we step, things break and splinter. Just when I work up the nerve to step with force, the purple ground collapses beneath my foot. The sneaker I pull back out is covered in bright yellow stuff. You start to think: we really shouldn't be here. This desert wasn't built to handle a human intrusion, and the human body certainly wasn't built to handle this desert.

Back in the Jeeps, blazing towards the white horizon, I look down at my sneakers. The fluorescent yellow stuff has faded into neutral dirt, like that was all just some fever dream up there, a place we made right up.

**23.** What point does the writer make in the first paragraph?

- A** Planning for a trip in the desert is straightforward.
- B** High temperatures can cause problems for travellers.
- C** Travelling individually in the desert is unwise.
- D** The expense of desert travel puts many people off.

**24.** What does the writer say about her father in the second paragraph?

- A** He's passed on his love of travelling in remote places to his daughter.
- B** He misses having company when he goes to unusual places.
- C** He prefers to research places for himself than listen to others.
- D** He likes to plan every detail of a journey by studying maps.

**25.** What does the writer suggest about her fellow travellers in paragraph five?

- A** They find it difficult to look at the brightness of the colours.
- B** They are disappointed by some of the things they see.
- C** Their surroundings are impossible to make sense of.
- D** They are unable to take their eyes off the scene in front of them.

**26.** How does the writer feel as she is walking around on her own?

- A** shocked by the fact that the ground is so soft
- B** afraid that she might never find her way out of the place
- C** worried that she is going to hurt herself
- D** uncertain about whether she is doing the right thing

## TEXT II

**Read the article below about a teacher called Chris Searle.**

**Choose the best sentence to fill each of the gaps.**

**For each gap 27–32, mark one letter (A–G).**

**Do not use any letter more than once.**

### Stepney Words

Chris Searle started teaching at Sir John Cass Secondary School in Stepney, East London, in 1970. This particular job had appealed to him partly because he knew the area. More importantly, he had done his postgraduate thesis on an East End poet, Isaac Rosenberg, and saw this part of London as 'a very poetical place'.

Searle had only just qualified but certain progressive ideas about education were already settling in his head.

**(27)** \_\_\_\_\_ Some of the governors and teachers were ex-army or had a church background; gowns were worn and canes were used to punish trouble-makers if necessary. Stepney was a poor area and the rest of the staff

saw no hope for their pupils. However, to Chris Searle, these under-achieving teenagers were the ‘sons and daughters of the poet Rosenberg’ and poetry was the key that would unlock their potential.

**(28)** \_\_\_\_\_ The short verses they wrote were sad and often bitter, with the East End shown as a place of no hope. To some of the staff at Sir John Cass, Searle’s approach was alarming. Here was a teacher in his early twenties using the school as a laboratory for radical theories of education, and encouraging pupils to speak out. His classroom was noisy and lots of the girls had crushes on him. He saw pupils after school too, as he ran a half-price film club and lived in Stepney, unlike most of his fellow-teachers, who fled each night to the suburbs.

Despite the negative attitudes of colleagues, Searle continued to focus on poetry. He persuaded a photographer, Ron McCormick, to bring his portraits of East London into class and with these visual images, the poems got better and better. **(29)** \_\_\_\_\_ The school governors, who thought these poems were too ‘gloomy’, had ordered Searle not to go ahead with the collection, but by March 1971, *Stepney Words* was out, paid for by Searle and parents. Extracts were even printed in the Sun newspaper.

Searle’s ‘enemies’ (his own word) now made their move. One lunchtime in late May, the head called Searle in and fired him, instructing him not to come in after the end of the month. **(30)** \_\_\_\_\_ Zeinaida de la Cruz, a strong-willed 16-year-old girl from Gibraltar, took charge: ‘We arranged for people to tell each class. Immediately, everyone wanted to take action.’

When asked recently why they had all taken such a strong line on the sacking, she explained: ‘It just didn’t seem fair that a teacher everyone liked was being thrown out.’ She remembers walking into the offices of a local newspaper after school to tell them what was going on. **(31)** \_\_\_\_\_ Searle walked nervously to the school the next morning and found some 800 children standing outside the gates in the rain, where they stayed all day. Thanks to Zeinaida, the journalists came along too. There was also a sympathy walk-out by the cleaning ladies, who made their feelings known by refusing to wipe the ‘Don’t sack Searle’ graffiti off the school walls.

Other schools joined in and the next day there was a march to Trafalgar Square, in the centre of London. Searle stayed away, not wanting to be seen as their leader, but he did not let the matter rest from then on. **(32)** \_\_\_\_\_ He also fought his dismissal through the union. In May 1973, the government education secretary, Margaret Thatcher, ruled that Searle should be reinstated at the school. However, ignored by other staff and denied a class of his own, he decided to leave the school for good in July 1974. Searle has continued to teach, however, and has worked in many different countries around the world. He has also published his own poetry.

- A His class heard the news the same afternoon.
- B However, many pupils had seen their own parents on strike picket lines, so they did.
- C Searle contacted a local printer to arrange for their publication.
- D They called the national press, which transformed the protest into a major event.
- E These views were not shared by the school, which, although quite new, was run very traditionally.
- F Although banned from the school, he managed to publish a second *Stepney Words* later that year.
- G So he made them read it and write it, believing that in this way, his pupils would make sense of their lives and their surroundings.

### Variant 3

#### TEXT I

Read an article below. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

#### A walk in the midday sun

*When the heat is on, walkers need to be on their guard*

Hot weather makes your heart pump harder, and if you’re not very fit, you start to understand why the majority

of mountain rescue statistics are made up from summer walkers suffering heart attacks. Heat exhaustion is quite easy to get when you're making a great physical effort. It happens where your body can't produce enough sweat to keep you cool.

The answer is to keep up your water intake. It's a good idea to drink a pint of water for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit every 24 hours. So, if the temperature is in the 70s, and you are doing a five-hour walk, you'll need a minimum of around one and a half pints of water. It's vital that you don't wait until you develop a raging thirst before you stop for a drink – keep taking regular swigs from your water bottle.

Many walkers flavour their water with fruit juice, which makes it a lot more palatable. You could even use one of the isotonic drinks made for athletes, which replace the body's salts lost through sweating. Powders such as Dioralyte, which you may have in the house as a treatment for diarrhoea, will do the job just as well, as its main aim is also effective rehydration.

Given that evaporation is your body's cooling mechanism, you can help things along with an external application of water. Soaking your hat with water is a great way to cool the head, though if the sun is beating down, it will probably dry off almost immediately. Better still, then, if you can plunge into a river or the sea fully-clothed. And if that's not possible, then at least take off your boots and socks and paddle in a cool stream.

Walking in the heat increases the rate at which your feet swell, which can lead to them feeling tight in your boots. Cool water from a stream reduces any swelling and helps general foot comfort. At the same time, you can check out your feet for signs of blisters. Extra sweating makes the skin softer and increases the chance of blisters forming, in the same way as when water leaks into your boots and gets to your feet.

As for what clothing you wear, this should be lightweight and reasonably loose-fitting. Tight clothing will feel uncomfortable and may even lead to the formation of an irritating rash known as 'prickly heat' on your skin. The answer, if this does develop, is to try and stay cool as much as possible. Do this by either keeping in the shade, or washing the affected area with cold water, but without soap. But prevention is by far the best approach, so keep your clothing light.

It's understandable to want to remove any extraneous clothing when it's extremely hot, but it doesn't really make much sense to take off T-shirts. The sun's rays can be quite strong, and shoulders are always very sensitive to sunburn. This is the worst place to be red and sore when you are wearing a heavy rucksack on your back. Wearing shorts can also create problems for walkers, as the backs of the legs can catch the sun very easily.

In fact, those days when an apparently harmless breeze is blowing can be the most deceptive. It might not feel so hot, so you probably won't notice the damage being done so soon. As on every other day then, a good strong sun cream should therefore be applied to any skin which is exposed. Make the most of the summer, but treat the sun with the respect it deserves.

**23.** The writer says that hot weather

- A** is the main cause of heart attacks.
- B** ensures that mountain walkers stay fit.
- C** requires walkers to have frequent drinks.
- D** is the worst type of weather for mountain walking.

**24.** What does the writer say about 'Dioralyte'?

- A** It helps to reduce sweating.
- B** It prevents the loss of body salts.
- C** It will prevent you getting diarrhoea.
- D** It works in the same way as an isotonic drink.

**25.** According to the writer, it is better to wear loose-fitting clothing because

- A** it keeps you cool.
- B** it is usually very light.

- C it lasts longer than tight-fitting clothing.
- D it is less likely to create problems for your skin.

26. According to the writer, when are walkers particularly at risk from the effects of the sun?

- A if their sun cream is not strong enough
- B when they are unaware of the heat
- C if they have suffered an injury
- D when there is a strong wind

## TEXT II

Read the article below about detecting crime.

Choose the best sentence to fill each of the gaps.

For each gap 27–32, mark one letter (A–G).

Do not use any letter more than once.

### The Professionals

When it comes to fighting crime, it is science which is king. Sherlock Holmes was right to spend his time examining every footprint and strand of hair in his search for the criminal. Today, though, things have moved on and; scientists have a wider range of techniques at their disposal.

Modern scientists believe that it is impossible for someone to commit a crime without leaving something behind or taking something away with them. (27) \_\_\_\_\_ They may take the form of fingerprints, hairs, and fibres from clothing, tiny traces of chemicals, documents, bullets or fragments of glass. This evidence is collected and studied by forensic scientists.

Science is applied to crime-fighting now more than ever before. (28) \_\_\_\_\_ In addition, old techniques are constantly being improved so that they can be applied to smaller and smaller traces of materials.

Not all evidence carries the same weight of proof. A fingerprint offers definite identification of a person's presence at the scene of a crime. (29) \_\_\_\_\_ Even if an item does not offer enough proof to stand up in a court of law, it can still assist the police in focusing their enquiries in a certain direction.

Fingerprints have been used to help identify criminals for almost 100 years. (30) \_\_\_\_\_ In most cases it works very well, but sometimes, different methods are needed.

Forensic scientists can now use a small portable laser to look for fingerprints. The scientist 'paints' the scene of the crime with the laser beam. As it sweeps across doors, walls and furniture, any fingerprints present glow because they are fluorescent.

An even more recent technique is called DNA profiling. (31) \_\_\_\_\_ Each contains a unique code, the genetic code that determines what we look like and how we develop. The code takes the form of long strings of molecules called DNA, and no two people have identical DNA unless they are identical twins. A technique for reading genetic codes was developed in the 1980s. DNA profiling, or genetic fingerprinting, was rapidly taken up by the police and forensic scientists as a way of linking suspected criminals with their crimes.

The process of making a DNA profile may begin with a scrap of stained clothing found at the scene of the crime. (32) \_\_\_\_\_ With a good sample that is rich in DNA, the chance of two people producing the same genetic fingerprint is only one in 2.7 million, which is good enough for a court of law.

- A In that time, many new scientific research methods have been developed, although the traditional way of dusting surfaces for fingerprints is still used most of the time.
- B The human body is composed of millions of microscopic cells.
- C However, a footprint may only suggest that someone was there.



- D On the other hand, certain scientists specialise in gathering evidence from the scene of the crime.
- E As people find new ways to cover their tracks, scientists develop new techniques for linking suspects with their crimes and proving if they are guilty or innocent.
- F A tuft of hair or spots of blood or saliva can be used too.
- G If these traces of evidence can be found, they may provide the proof needed to bring the criminal to justice that is, take them to court.

#### Variant 4

#### TEXT I

Read an article about travel. Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

#### The experience of travelling

I have just returned from a long weekend break in Lisbon, to enjoy the southern European weather. From a base in the old town which forms the heart of the city, I tested my calves on long uphill walks to districts that qualify the Portuguese capital as European city, according to the people who write travel reviews on the internet. I ate poorly in tourist traps and exquisitely at the hands of genius chefs. I took in the central monuments and the hidden wonders in the industrial part of the Lisbon shoreline. I covered a good few kilometres, I can tell you, as you would in most large cultural towns.

Lisbon is a great city that is really open to tourists, and I like it enough to return soon. I felt refreshed and pleased not to have to think about work. But did I learn much or emerge an improved person? No. On my travels, I rarely do, and I am not sure that anyone does. The more of the world I see, the less confident I am that there is anything innately educational about travel. It is worth doing because it is fun. Travel is for the senses, not the character. Fun is a good enough reason to do anything, as long as we do not kid ourselves that something more profound is at work.

The most frequent travellers I know are not wiser or smarter than anyone else. At worst, travel can make people a bit too sure of themselves. They tend to rely all the time on personal anecdote: whatever they saw of a place represents the truth. They tend to under-rate the character formation that takes place at home: the quarrels, the disappointments, the mistakes learned from. And our culture tends to encourage them in their misbeliefs.

Imagine you are an employer staring, at two job applications that are identical in all respects save one. Candidate A spent a gap year between school and university seeing the world – funded, incidentally, by Mum and Dad. Candidate B spent the same year stacking shelves in a local supermarket. One of the hopefuls showed self-reliance, commitment, cooperation and a certain grown-upness. The other is Candidate A. Yet ours is still a world that rewards the gap-year wanderer with the big well-paid job, a world where ‘well-travelled’ is still a synonym for ‘clever’.

In a sense, travel is kind of hangover from a time when few people went abroad, and when little knowledge about the wider world was available to those who did *not* go abroad. The effect was that people who had done a couple of international trips could feel they’d done a great thing: they felt more cultural and intellectual. That era of travel ended in the mid-1990s when the internet was born. We can now not just read in detail about anywhere on earth, but instantly see videos of it with high-definition clarity. Our potential to be surprised or educated by a visit to a place has diminished. I would go as far as to say that anyone who is consistently discovering’ things on their travels is uncurious when at home and not perceptive when abroad.

In the modern world, the only way to learn much more about a place than you could remotely, is to live there for a sustained period, paying taxes and using local services. Mere travel is no great source of insight, which leaves just one reason to do it: fun. That’s more than enough. I enjoy travel, including the bits many people hate. I enjoy the boring atmosphere of airports, the anonymity of hotel rooms where there are no distractions, the useful isolation of long-haul flights. If I could afford it, I would go on regular London-to-Sydney trips just to finish long

and interesting books in one sitting. But precisely because I take so much pleasure from travel, I can see through any attempt to cover it in virtue.

**23.** The writer says that internet reviewers seem to rate Lisbon highly on the basis of

- A** the unusual layout of the city
- B** the wonderful cuisine available there.
- C** how pleasant (easy) it is get around on foot.
- D** the areas of interest away from the city centre.

**24.** What point is the writer making in the second paragraph?

- A** We can't expect travel to be continually enjoyable.
- B** We shouldn't pretend that travelling is a deep experience.
- C** We can't expect a place to feel the same when we revisit it.
- D** We shouldn't see holidays as a chance to escape from ordinary life.

**25.** The writer implies that students who travel around the world on gap years

- A** should stay at university if they want to be considered clever.
- B** are wrong to assume that employers will be impressed.
- C** would be better off earning some money at home.
- D** usually end up in lower paid jobs.

**26.** In the final paragraph, what part of travel does the writer enjoy personally?

- A** the feeling of living somewhere different for a long time
- B** the thought that it makes him a nicer person
- C** the opportunity to be alone and undisturbed
- D** the sense of being as far from home as possible

## TEXT II

**Read the article in which a woman talks about her childhood.**

**Choose the best sentence to fill each of the gaps.**

**For each gap 27–32, mark one letter (A–G).**

**Do not use any letter more than once.**

### **Growing up in the countryside**

*Comedian Jo Brand recalls an idyllic childhood.*

In 1962, when I was four we moved from Clapham in south London to Kent Back then it was all fields and apple orchards. For the first couple of years we lived on a modern estate, full of typical, boring three-bedroom houses with square lawns, a fence and a garden shed. But compared to Clapham it was idyllic and we virtually skipped to school.

For us children, the excitement of moving to Kent was to do with being close to rabbits, foxes and different kinds of birds. We were always on the lookout for injured animals we could take care of. One day my father ran over a badger on his way home from work. **(27)** \_\_\_\_\_

Dad knew he shouldn't leave him in agony. For some reason he had a garden spade in his car boot. He took it out and tried to kill the badger by hitting him on the head. **(28)** \_\_\_\_\_ My father had the city person's disease around animals, which means you can't bear to be cruel even when you're trying to be kind. A farmer came along, took the spade and with one blow put the badger out of his misery.

During the summer holidays after my first year at primary school, I was playing with my brothers, Matt and Bill,

in the garden when we found an injured hare. **(29)** \_\_\_\_\_ A cardboard box was found, and an appointment made at the vet, who said the hare had broken his leg. He put it in a splint and told us what to feed him and how to care for him.

By this time, the three of us had named the hare Harold, He was put into a rabbit hutch in the garden and we fought over whose turn it was to feed him dandelion leaves. After a couple of weeks we were allowed to take the splint off and he started to hop about the garden. I thought he'd stay with us and be our pet. **(30)** \_\_\_\_\_

The three of us started shrieking and I started crying. Although it happened quickly, in my memory, it's like that bit in slow motion from the film Chariots of Fire, when they're all training on the beach. **(31)** \_\_\_\_\_ She caught Harold in mid-air with one hand on each leg, and landed in next-door's garden.

He stayed for another week or so. **(32)** \_\_\_\_\_ Midway through my first week back at school, I came home and he was gone. It was a huge tragedy.

- H** But he didn't have the heart to do it.
- I** There's even music playing in my head as I picture my mother starting to run, then hurdling over the fence.
- J** So we called out to Mum, who was busy in the kitchen, and asked her to help.
- K** My mother took pity on him, placed him in a box and took him straight to the vet.
- L** He got out of the car and saw he was badly hurt but still alive.
- M** Then our parents told us that wild animals don't want to stay cooped up in a hutch like a pet.
- N** But one evening, while we were playing with him, he made a bid for freedom and dashed off towards the fence.

Reading (keys)	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 4
23	D	C	C	D
24	B	A	D	B
25	A	D	D	C
26	C	D	B	C
27	F	E	G	E
28	C	G	E	A
29	D	C	C	C
30	A	A	A	G
31	G	D	B	B
32	B	F	F	F

### Listening

#### Variant 1

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about an activity they do during their leisure time. For questions 33-37, choose from the list (A-H) one disadvantage of the activity that the speaker mentions.

Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

- A** The activity can be expensive. **33.** Speaker 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- B** There is a danger of getting hurt. **34.** Speaker 2 \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>C</b> A good fitness level is needed.         | <b>35.</b> Speaker 3 ____ |
| <b>D</b> It can be very time-consuming.          | <b>36.</b> Speaker 4 ____ |
| <b>E</b> People take competitions too seriously. | <b>37.</b> Speaker 5 ____ |
| <b>F</b> You have to buy a lot of equipment.     |                           |
| <b>G</b> It's too mentally challenging.          |                           |
| <b>H</b> Men and women are treated differently.  |                           |

**Variant 2**

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about moving to another country. For questions 33-37, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says.

Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>A</b> I was very disappointed by the whole experience.       | <b>33.</b> Speaker 1 ____ |
| <b>B</b> I was interested in discovering new things.            | <b>34.</b> Speaker 2 ____ |
| <b>C</b> I was surprised by the number of English people there. | <b>35.</b> Speaker 3 ____ |
| <b>D</b> I thought the cost of living was OK.                   | <b>36.</b> Speaker 4 ____ |
| <b>E</b> I found it hard to adapt to the change of routine.     | <b>37.</b> Speaker 5 ____ |
| <b>F</b> Communication was sometimes difficult.                 |                           |
| <b>G</b> I was concerned about losing my old friends.           |                           |
| <b>H</b> I missed my family a lot.                              |                           |

**Variant 3**

You will hear five short extracts in which people criticise the computer they use when travelling. For questions 33-37, choose from the list (A-H) the criticism each speaker makes of their computer.

Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>A</b> The sound quality is poor.                      | <b>33.</b> Speaker 1 ____ |
| <b>B</b> The battery runs out too quickly.               | <b>34.</b> Speaker 2 ____ |
| <b>C</b> Some applications run slowly on it.             | <b>35.</b> Speaker 3 ____ |
| <b>D</b> The keyboard is difficult to use.               | <b>36.</b> Speaker 4 ____ |
| <b>E</b> The screen is too small.                        | <b>37.</b> Speaker 5 ____ |
| <b>F</b> It looks unattractive.                          |                           |
| <b>G</b> It is difficult to connect it to other devices. |                           |
| <b>H</b> It is too heavy to carry easily.                |                           |

**Variant 4**

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about how they got their current jobs. For questions 33-37, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says.

Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A</b> I'd done some unpaid work experience at the company | <b>33.</b> Speaker 1 {1:SHORTANSWER_C:=C} |
|  | <b>34.</b> Speaker 2 ____                 |

- B** I saw an advertisement on a careers website.                      **35.** Speaker 3 \_\_\_\_
- C** I had a contact who worked at the company.                         **36.** Speaker 4 \_\_\_\_
- D** I heard about it from a friend.     **37.** Speaker 5 \_\_\_\_
- E** I was lucky with a phone call.
- F** I approached the boss face to face.
- G** I was promoted from a previous position.
- H** I found out about the company through social media.

Listening (keys)	Variant 1	Variant 2	Variant 3	Variant 4
33. (Speaker 1)	G	C	F	C
34. (Speaker 2)	B	B	E	G
35. (Speaker 3)	E	E	G	E
36. (Speaker 4)	D	D	D	D
37. (Speaker 5)	F	A	C	F