

Multiple Choice 單選題共 50 題，每題 2 分，答錯不倒扣

Part I: Vocabulary and Grammar

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. In order to _____ the needs of guests with disabilities, the hotel provided wheelchair-accessible rooms.
(A) impede
(B) accommodate
(C) frustrate
(D) obstruct
2. The class is _____ mainly of Italian and French students.
(A) excluded
(B) released
(C) comprised
(D) breached
3. To improve efficiency, the company decided to _____ certain steps in the original production process that has too many steps.
(A) eliminate
(B) accept
(C) engage
(D) keep
4. To enhance user experience, the company chose to _____ the new customer feedback system seamlessly into their mobile app interface.
(A) separate
(B) integrate
(C) mismatch
(D) disjoin
5. As the job market became more competitive, what strategies did the company implement to _____ its top talent?
(A) retain
(B) liberate
(C) fire
(D) control
6. As a result of financial constraints and family obligations, the man was _____, unable to read or write even simple words.
(A) educated
(B) intelligent
(C) illiterate
(D) literate

科目 英文 類組別 A1/A2/A3/A4/810/814

共 12 頁 第 2 頁

7. As a result of my wife's frequent shopping sprees and disregard for our financial stability, she has _____ my savings to an alarming level.
- (A) raised
(B) depleted
(C) extended
(D) hoarded
8. Each entry in the prestigious art competition was _____ carefully by the judges, seeking perfection.
- (A) overlooked
(B) neglected
(C) misunderstood
(D) scrutinized
9. During their visit to the amusement park, the boy's friends _____ him into stealing snacks from the convenience store because he desired to impress them.
- (A) discouraged
(B) restrained
(C) coerced
(D) repressed
10. During the stormy night, her soothing words and comforting presence _____ her child's fear of the dark.
- (A) assuaged
(B) exacerbated
(C) ignored
(D) intensified
11. How many times has John _____ to the gym this month?
- (A) going
(B) went
(C) go
(D) been
12. If David had some extra money, he _____ travelling in Europe.
- (A) goes
(B) would go
(C) will go
(D) may go

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共 12 頁 第 3 頁

13. The scientist, _____ research on genetic mutations is groundbreaking, was awarded the Nobel Prize.
- (A) that
(B) who
(C) whose
(D) which
14. Mafuda _____ before her husband came back last night.
- (A) cooked
(B) had been cooking
(C) was cooking
(D) has cooked
15. I have a very important presentation tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. To make sure I'm well-prepared, I _____ my slides before 8 a.m. tomorrow.
- (A) may finish
(B) will have finished
(C) am finishing
(D) finish
16. The teacher _____ the students do extra homework to help them improve their skills. This additional practice is essential for reinforcing concepts learned in class and fostering independent study habits.
- (A) make
(B) been made
(C) makes
(D) making
17. James, who seldom takes sick leave, has been absent from work for two days ____ he caught a cold.
- (A) after
(B) since
(C) while
(D) before
18. In today's competitive market, where efficiency and sustainability are paramount, entrepreneurs often face challenges in optimizing energy consumption. As a result, entrepreneurs _____ rely on consultants to realize greater energy savings.
- (A) frequented
(B) frequent
(C) frequently
(D) frequency

19. It is essential that all parents need to ensure that their children are properly _____ when leaving for school each morning.
- (A) dresser
(B) dressed
(C) dresses
(D) to dress
20. Some business analysts make a prediction that the worldwide market for microchips _____ by 90 percent in the next decade.
- (A) grows
(B) growing
(C) has grown
(D) will grow

Part II: Cloze

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate word or phrase from the options provided.

Passage 1:

Since its release in 2009 with just 32 blocks, Minecraft has become one of the best-selling and most played video games, with over 300 million copies sold and 160 million monthly players. Created by Markus 'Notch' Persson and _____ (21) by Mojang, the game was initially almost called Cave Game. Early versions included crafting, Survival mode, and hostile mobs like Skeletons and Creepers. After two years in the development stage, Mojang announced that the full version of the game -version 1.0- would be released _____ (22) 18 November 2011. In 2014, Microsoft acquired Mojang and Minecraft for \$2.5 billion, _____ (23) Jens Bergensten took over as Chief Creative Officer. Minecraft's massive impact includes educational uses and a dedicated community of creative players. Celebrating its anniversary, Mojang announced 15 days of celebration from 15 to 29 May, _____ (24) free Character Creator items each day. Minecraft is also one of the most viewed games on YouTube, with over a trillion views. Lydia Winters, Minecraft's chief storyteller, _____ (25) the game's popularity to players' creative and diverse play styles.

Adapted from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48103684>

21. _____
- (A) developed (B) developing (C) development (D) developer
22. _____
- (A) on (B) at (C) between (D) by
23. _____
- (A) before (B) after (C) during (D) instead
24. _____
- (A) receiving (B) buying (C) gifting (D) selling
25. _____
- (A) blames (B) neglects (C) dismisses (D) attributes

科目 英文 類組別 A1/A2/A3/A4/810/814

共 12 頁 第 5 頁

Passage 2:

The world is at a critical juncture in managing the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI), _____ (26) senior experts like Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio, who underscore the urgent need for governments to enhance regulatory frameworks. As tech companies shift focus towards developing generalist AI systems capable of autonomous action, concerns mount over potential amplification of AI's impact, _____ (27) large-scale social harms and erosion of human control. Despite recent governance initiatives, experts _____ (28) that current responses remain inadequate. Recommendations emphasize the necessity for stricter safety regimes and increased funding for AI safety research, cautioning against unchecked advancement that could lead to societal destabilization and even the marginalization of humanity. As the global community _____ (29) at the AI Seoul summit, discourse surrounding AI safety and regulation takes center stage, _____ (30) a crucial moment in shaping the trajectory of AI development towards prioritizing innovation and ethical considerations.

Adapted from: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/article/2024/may/20/world-is-ill-prepared-for-breakthroughs-in-ai-say-experts>

26. _____

(A) regardless of (B) without (C) according to (D) in spite of

27. _____

(A) rejecting (B) including (C) accelerating (D) overlooking

28. _____

(A) argue (B) embrace (C) avoid (D) divorce

29. _____

(A) directs (B) manages (C) steers (D) hosts

30. _____

(A) marking (B) distorting (C) concealing (D) disregarding

Part III: Reading Comprehension*Questions 31~35 are based on the following reading.*

After a period of relative calm in recent weeks, storm activity in the US has once again intensified, with Kansas experiencing 100 mph winds and hail the size of tennis balls on Sunday. This surge in severe weather is characteristic of the busy storm season, particularly as late spring transitions into early summer, posing the greatest risk for tornadoes across the plains and Midwest regions. An approaching area of low pressure, coupled with abundant moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, is expected to maintain the threat of tornadoes and large hail across multiple states, with Tuesday potentially witnessing severe weather extending from Oklahoma to the Great Lakes. This weather pattern, driven by the **low-pressure system**, is forecasted to not only trigger a significant outbreak of severe weather across the US later in the week but also create a notable temperature contrast across North America. Eastern Canada and the northeastern US are anticipated to experience temperatures soaring 10°C above average, with cities like Ottawa and Detroit expecting daytime highs around 30°C by Wednesday. Conversely, western regions of Canada and the US will undergo a drastic temperature drop of nearly 20°C behind the cold front, as the central low-pressure system pulls colder air southward. Maximum temperatures in these areas are expected to struggle

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to reach double digits on Wednesday and Thursday before gradually returning to seasonal norms. Similar temperature fluctuations are anticipated in South America, with Brazil and Paraguay experiencing temperatures 6-8°C above average while Chile and Argentina brace for their first taste of winter. In Argentina, daytime highs may fail to reach double digits, with the city of Mendoza potentially seeing temperatures as low as 5°C on Friday, about 13°C below average. Cold conditions are expected to persist into the weekend and beyond, with little relief in sight.

Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/20/weather-tracker-tornado-and-hail-risk>

31. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Severe weather in Kansas every spring.
- (B) Storms and temperature changes in the Americas.
- (C) Tornadoes are the main concern in the US.
- (D) High temperatures in Canada.

32. What does the term "**low-pressure system**" most likely mean in the context of the passage?

- (A) A system that brings high temperatures and clear skies.
- (B) A weather pattern associated with stormy and severe weather conditions.
- (C) A mechanism for measuring atmospheric pressure.
- (D) A phenomenon causing unusually calm weather.

33. Which regions are expected to experience the most significant temperature increases?

- (A) Eastern Canada and the northeastern US.
- (B) Western regions of Canada and the US.
- (C) Brazil and Paraguay.
- (D) Chile and Argentina.

34. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the weather conditions in the western regions of Canada and the US by midweek?

- (A) They will experience unusually warm temperatures.
- (B) They will experience severe thunderstorms.
- (C) The weather will remain stable and unchanged.
- (D) They will face temperatures much colder than average.

35. What specific weather event is expected to pose the greatest risk across the plains and midwest regions of the US?

- (A) Heavy rainfall and flooding.
- (B) Heatwaves and droughts.
- (C) Tornadoes and large hail.
- (D) Snowstorms and blizzards.

Questions 36~40 are based on the following reading.

American educators and lawmakers are increasingly advocating for the complete prohibition of smartphone use by students in schools, driven by concerns about the detrimental effects of smartphone-related distractions on academic performance. (1) ■ Despite existing regulations in many U.S. schools aimed at curbing phone use during instructional time, educators struggle with enforcement due to the pervasive nature of smartphone distractions. Students often engage in activities like messaging, gaming, social media browsing, and online shopping, which disrupt classroom dynamics and detract from learning.

(2) ■ This sentiment is echoed by leaders and policymakers in several states, who advocate for either outright bans or the implementation of stricter measures to control smartphone use in educational settings. Some educators, like science teacher James Granger from Los Angeles, have proactively taken steps to address the issue by implementing policies requiring students to surrender their cellphones during class time. (3) ■

While momentum builds for the adoption of phone-free school environments, opposition emerges from various stakeholders, including students, parents, and some educators. Critics argue that such measures could impinge on students' **autonomy** and limit their ability to communicate during emergencies. Advocates for phone-free schools, such as Kim Whitman, emphasize the need for flexibility in policies to accommodate students with special educational and medical needs, highlighting the importance of a balanced approach to addressing smartphone usage in schools. (4) ■

Adapted from <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/us-educators-increasingly-urge-total-phone-bans-in-schools/7508214.html>

36. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Advocacy for banning smartphone use in schools due to academic concerns.
- (B) Challenges in enforcing existing rules on phone use in schools.
- (C) Increased funding for technological advancements in schools.
- (D) Opposition to phone-free school initiatives due to concerns about autonomy and communication.

37. Look at the four squares [■] in the passage. Where would the following sentence best fit? "*Recent studies have underscored the widespread prevalence of smartphone usage among young Americans, leading to a growing consensus among educators and experts that comprehensive bans may be necessary to effectively address the issue.*"

- (A) (1)
- (B) (2)
- (C) (3)
- (D) (4)

38. What is the closest meaning to “**autonomy**” in the final paragraph?

- (A) accommodation
- (B) flexibility
- (C) opposition
- (D) independence

39. What potential benefit of implementing phone-free school environments is mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Increasing academic challenges due to lack of access to technology
- (B) Reducing student independence and self-discipline
- (C) Enhancing communication during emergencies
- (D) Providing greater flexibility in educational policies

40. Based on the passage, what inference can be made about the current state of smartphone usage in schools?

- (A) Smartphone distractions are widespread, prompting calls for stricter measures.
- (B) Students have adapted to existing regulations on phone use.
- (C) Educators and lawmakers are indifferent to smartphone distractions.
- (D) Smartphone bans are universally implemented in schools.

Questions 41~45 are based on the following reading.

TSMC's Strategic Shift: A Global Training Hub for the Future of Semiconductor Industry

In a rapidly evolving semiconductor landscape, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), the world's largest chipmaker, has undertaken a significant transformation in its approach to talent development. Until a few years ago, TSMC relied on a simple buddy system to onboard new recruits, pairing them with senior engineers for guidance. However, the confluence of a global chip shortage, escalating geopolitical tensions, and heightened demand for advanced microchips propelled TSMC to establish a more robust training program.

Three years ago, amidst these challenges, TSMC inaugurated the Newcomer Training Center within Taichung's sprawling science park, marking a pivotal shift in its recruitment and training strategies. This state-of-the-art facility serves as the linchpin of TSMC's global expansion endeavors. In a sector governed by **Moore's Law**, emphasizing the doubling of transistors on microchips every two years, speed and efficiency are paramount. TSMC's clientele, which includes tech giants like Apple, Nvidia, and AMD, along with US President Joe Biden, who views TSMC as instrumental in bolstering American manufacturing, underscores the company's pivotal role in the industry.

Today, all new engineers, both local and international hires, undergo an intensive eight-week training program at the Newcomer Training Center. The systematic approach ensures rapid skill acquisition and lays a solid foundation for the engineers, aligning with TSMC's core value of efficiency. Moreover, TSMC's strategic vision extends beyond training; it aims to seed its facilities worldwide with skilled personnel trained at the center. This global talent deployment strategy underscores TSMC's commitment to meeting customer demands while nurturing local talent in its expansion ventures. Widely regarded as the linchpin of the semiconductor industry, TSMC produces an estimated 90% of the world's super-advanced semiconductor chips. To cater to burgeoning demand and strengthen its market presence, TSMC is embarking on an ambitious expansion journey, with new fabs underway in the United States, Japan, and Germany, in addition to its existing plants in Taiwan, China, and Washington state.

However, this growth trajectory is not without challenges. The industry faces a shortage of skilled talent, exacerbating the competition for semiconductor expertise globally. TSMC acknowledges talent scarcity as a significant hurdle and is proactively expanding its talent pool to meet evolving industry demands. While TSMC's expansion plans have sparked concerns about diminishing Taiwan's semiconductor dominance, company executives remain optimistic. They assert that Taiwan will remain the epicenter of cutting-edge semiconductor technology, while TSMC's global presence will enhance Taiwan's exposure and contribute to its continued growth as a semiconductor powerhouse. As TSMC continues to navigate the complex semiconductor landscape, its strategic investments in talent development and global expansion are poised to shape the future of the industry, ensuring its position at the forefront of technological innovation.

Adapted from <https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/22/tech/taiwan-tsmc-talent-shortage-training-center-intl-hnk/index.html>

41. What is the primary focus of the article about TSMC's strategic shift?

- A) The history of semiconductor manufacturing
- B) TSMC's investment in renewable energy
- C) TSMC's transition to a new leadership team
- D) TSMC's transformation in talent development and global expansion efforts

42. What does the term "**Moore's Law**" refer to, as mentioned in the article?

- A) The rate of chip fabrication in TSMC's plants
- B) The development of renewable energy sources in Taiwan
- C) The principle of training new recruits at TSMC
- D) The doubling of transistors on microchips every two years

43. Based on the information provided, why did TSMC establish the Newcomer Training Center in Taichung?

- A) To conduct research on renewable energy technologies
- B) To host international conferences on semiconductor manufacturing
- C) To provide intensive training for new recruits to work quickly
- D) To offer recreational facilities for employees

44. What are some of the challenges TSMC faces in its expansion efforts, as discussed in the article?

- A) A surplus of skilled talent in the semiconductor industry
- B) Difficulty in securing funding for new fabrication plants
- C) Geopolitical tensions affecting global operations
- D) Limited demand for advanced semiconductor chips

45. Based on the passage, why do you think TSMC's executives remain optimistic about the company's expansion plans despite concerns about diminishing Taiwan's semiconductor dominance?

- A) Because they believe Taiwan will continue to lead in cutting-edge semiconductor technology
- B) Because they anticipate a decline in global demand for semiconductor chips
- C) Because they plan to shift their focus to renewable energy projects
- D) Because they expect other countries to surpass Taiwan in semiconductor production

Questions 46~50 are based on the following reading.

Gene treatments are being credited with permitting several children born with deafness to hear again. Gene therapy is a medical treatment that aims to change a few of a patient's genes to cure a genetic disease. A small study recently published in *The Lancet* reported improvements in the hearing in five of six children who were treated in China. Around the same time, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the U.S. eastern state of Pennsylvania announced similar improvements in an 11-year-old boy treated there. And earlier, Chinese researchers published a study showing similar improvements in two other children.

The experimental methods, or therapies, target only one rare condition. But scientists say similar treatments could someday help many more children with other kinds of deafness caused by genes. Around the world, 34 million children have deafness or hearing loss. And information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says genes are responsible for up to 60 percent of cases. Deafness caused by genes is passed down from parents to children. It is called hereditary deafness. It is the latest condition scientists are targeting with gene therapy. Gene therapy is already approved to treat illnesses such as sickle cell disease and severe hemophilia.

Children with hereditary deafness often get a device called a cochlear implant that helps them hear sound. “No treatment could reverse hearing loss... That’s why we were always trying to develop a therapy,” said Zheng-Yi Chen of Boston’s Mass Eye and Ear, a treatment center for eye and ear problems. He is a writer of the study published in *The Lancet*. “We couldn’t be more happy or excited about the results.” The team recorded videos of patients. One shows a baby, who formerly could not hear at all, looking back in response to a doctor’s words six weeks after treatment. Another shows a little girl 13 weeks after treatment repeating father, mother, grandmother, sister, and “I love you.” All the children in the experiments have a condition that is believed to cause two to eight percent of hereditary deafness. It is caused by changes in a gene responsible for an inner ear protein called otoferlin, which helps hair cells send sound signals to the brain.

The researchers say that the one-time therapy gives a working copy of that gene to the inner ear during a medical operation. Most of the children were treated in one ear, although one child in the two-person study was treated in both ears. The study with six children took place at Fudan University in Shanghai. Dr. Yilai Shu helped lead the study and trained in Chen’s laboratory. Chen was involved in the research. Chinese science organizations and biotechnology company Shanghai Refreshgene Therapeutics helped provide financial support. Researchers observed the children for about six months. They do not know why the treatment did not work in one of them. But the five others, who were completely deaf, can now hear a normal discussion, the researchers said. Chen estimated they now hear at a level 60 percent to 70 percent of normal. The therapy caused no major side effects. Early results from other research have shown similar results.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals is a biotech company based in New York state. It announced in October that a child under two years old showed improvements six weeks after gene therapy. The results came from a study Regeneron did with support from Decibel Therapeutics, a company in Boston. Columbia University’s Dr. Lawrence Lustig is involved in the Regeneron study. He said although the children in these studies do not end up with very good hearing, “even a moderate hearing loss recovery in these kids is pretty astounding.” He added that many questions remain. They include how long the therapies will last and if hearing will continue to improve in the children. Some people question if gene therapy for deafness is ethical. Teresa Blankmeyer Burke is a professor who is deaf and who deals with medical ethics. She teaches at Gallaudet University, a university for deaf people in Washington, D.C. She said that there is no agreement about the need for gene therapy targeting deafness. She also pointed out that deafness does not cause severe or deadly illness. Blankmeyer Burke said that it is important to work with deaf community members about the importance of gene therapy. She added gene therapy is seen by many as a possible threat to “signing Deaf communities.” However, Chen said: “This is real proof showing gene therapy is working.” And he added, “It opens up the whole field.”

Adapted from <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/studies-gene-treatment-lets-children-deaf-at-birth-hear/7457451.html>

46. What is the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Gene therapy restores hearing for children with hereditary deafness.
 - (B) Advancements in semiconductor manufacturing technology.
 - (C) The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia pioneers gene therapy.
 - (D) Hereditary deafness impacts children worldwide.
47. Which of the following is a specific fact mentioned?
- (A) Gene therapy treats sickle cell disease and severe hemophilia.
 - (B) Philadelphia hospital treats 11-year-old for hereditary deafness.
 - (C) Gene treatments aid blind children to hear again.
 - (D) All children in the study regain normal hearing.
48. Which sentence summarizes the cause-and-effect relationship in this article?
- (A) "Deafness passes from parents to children through genes."
 - (B) "Gene therapy offers a permanent solution."
 - (C) "Worldwide, 34 million children suffer from deafness."
 - (D) "Gene treatments restore hearing in deaf children."
49. What fact is mentioned regarding improvements after gene therapy?
- (A) Therapy causes major side effects in some treated children.
 - (B) All children in the study achieve normal hearing.
 - (C) Philadelphia hospital sees hearing improvements in a 100-year-old.
 - (D) One child in the China study did not show improvement.
50. What implication can be drawn about the future of gene therapy for hereditary deafness?
- (A) Gene therapy can restore hearing to 100% normal levels.
 - (B) Gene therapy for deafness remains ethically debate.
 - (C) Hereditary deafness is minor compared to other disorders.
 - (D) Gene therapy remains limited to only a few genetic disorders.

---This is the end of the test---