International Olympiad on English Language & Literature

Segment: Grade 11-12

Test on Reading Skill

Name: _____ _____

Country: _____ Signature of the participant

Institute: _____

Email: _____

_____

Signature of the invigilator

Rules and Regulations:

1. You have to be present in the examination hall well before the commencement of the test.
2. You will not be permitted to enter the examination hall 30 minutes after the commencement of the test.
3. You will not be permitted to leave the examination hall until after 30 minutes of commencement of the test.
4. If you have any paper/chit with you, surrender them to the invigilator now.
5. All are multiple-choice questions.
6. Please use a BLACK ball point pen to mark your answers. DO NOT use pencil.
    - Choose the MOST appropriate answer.
    - Darken the circle corresponding to the answer of your choice. An example:

Question	**Answer**
The shape of the Earth is _____ (A) Spherical (B) Spheroidal (C) Ovoid (D) Ellipsoidal	A B C D ○ ● ○ ○

    - Marks will not be awarded if more than one answer is chosen.
    - Your answer must be given only in the answer sheet (overleaf).
    - **Answers given anywhere else will not be evaluated.**
7. Please DO NOT tear out or add any sheet from/to the question paper.
8. Please enter your Registration No. and affix your signature on the answer sheet before starting to answer the questions.

Read the following passage and answer the questions marked 1 to 7:

The term 'Ice Age' may give a wrong impression. The epoch that geologists know as the Pleistocene and that spanned the 1.5 to 2.0 million years prior to the current geologic epoch was not one long continuous glaciation, but a period of oscillating climate with ice advances punctuated by times of interglacial climate not very different from the climate experienced not. Ice Scandinavia reached southward to Central Europe. And beyond the margins of the ice sheets, climatic oscillations affected most of the rest of the world; for example, in the deserts, periods of wetter conditions (pluvial) contrasted with drier, interpluvial periods. Although the time involved is so short, about 0.04 percent of the total age of the earth, the amount of attention devoted to the Pleistocene has been incredibly large, probably because of its immediacy, and because the epoch largely coincides with the appearance on Earth oh humans and their immediate ancestors.

There is no reliable way of dating much of the Ice Age, Geological dates are usually obtained by using the rates of decay of various radioactive elements found in minerals. Some of these rates are suitable for very old rocks but involve increasing errors when used for young rocks; others are suitable for very young rocks and errors increase rapidly in older rocks. Most of the Ice Age spans a period of time for which no element has an appropriate decay rate.

Nevertheless, researchers of the Pleistocene epoch have developed all sorts of more or less fanciful model schemes of how they would have arranged the Ice Age had they been in charge of the event. For example. (line 18) An early classification of Alpine glaciation suggested the existence there of four glaciations, named the Gunz, Mindel, Riss, and Wrum. This succession was based orimarily on a series of deposits and events not directly related to glacial and interglacial periods, rather than on the more usual modern method of studying biological remains found in interglacial beds themselves interstratified within glacial deposits. Yet this succession was forced willy-nilly onto the glaciated parts of Northern Europe, where there are partial successions of true glacial ground moraines and interglacial deposits, with hopes of ultimately piecing them together to provide a complete Pleistocene succession. Eradication of the Alpine nomenclature is still proven a Herculean task.

There is no conclusive evidence about the relative length, complexity, and temperatures of the various glacial and interglacial periods. We do not know whether we live in a postglacial period or an interglacial period. The chill truth seems to be that we are already past the optimum climate of postglacial time. Studies of certain fossil distributions and of the pollen of certain temperate plants suggest decreases of a degree or two in both summer and winter temperatures and, therefore, that we may be in the declining climatic phase leading to glaciation and extinction.

1. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with
    a) Searching for accurate method of dating the Pleistocene epoch.
    b) Discussing problems involved in providing an accurate picture of the Pleistocene epoch.
    c) Declaring opposition of the use of the term "Ice Age" for the Pleistocene epoch.
    d) Criticizing fanciful schemes about what happened in the Pleistocene epoch.
    e) Refuting the idea that there is no way to tell if we are now living in an Ice Age.
2. The 'wrong impression' in the very first line of the passage to which the author refers is the idea that the
    a) Climate of the Pleistocene epoch was not very different from the climate we are now experiencing.
    b) Climate of the Pleistocene epoch was composed of periods of violent storms.
    c) Pleistocene epoch consisted of very wet, cold periods mixed with very dry, hot periods.

d) Pleistocene epoch comprised one period of continuous glaciation during which Northern Europe was covered with ice sheets.
e) Pleistocene epoch had no long periods during which much of the Earth was covered by ice.

3. According to the passage, one of the reasons for the deficiencies of the 'early classification of the Alpine glaciation' in lines 18 and 19 is that it was
    a) Derived from evidence that was only tangentially related to times of actual glaciation.
    b) Based primarily on fossil remains rather than on actual living organisms.
    c) An abstract, imaginative scheme of how the period might have been structured.
    d) Based on unmethodical examinations of randomly chosen glacial biological remains.
    e) Derived from evidence that had been haphazardly gathered from glacial deposits and inaccurately evaluated.
4. Which of the following does the passage imply about the 'early classification of the Alpine glaciation' (lines 18-19)?
    a) It should not have been applied as widely as it was.
    b) It represents the best possible scientific practice, given the tools available at that time.
    c) It was a valuable tool, in its time, for measuring the length of the four periods of glaciation.
    d) It could be useful, but only as a general guide to the events of the Pleistocene epoch.
    e) It does not shed ant light on the methods used at the time for investigating periods of glaciation.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that an important result of producing an accurate chronology of events of the Pleistocene epoch would be a
    a) Clearer idea of the origin of the Earth
    b) Clearer picture of the Earth during the time that humans developed
    c) Clearer understanding of the reasons for the existence of deserts
    d) More detailed understanding of how radioactive dating of mineral works
    e) Firmer understanding of how the northern polar ice cap developed
6. The author refers to deserts primarily in order to
    a) Illustrate the idea that an interglacial period is marked by oscillations of wet and dry periods.
    b) Illustrate the idea that what happened in the deserts during the Ice Age has far-reaching effects on the ice sheets of Central and Northern Europe.
    c) Illustrate the idea that the effects of the Ice Age's climatic variations extended beyond the areas of Ice Age.
    d) Support the view that during the Ice Age sheets of ice covered some of the deserts of the world.
    e) Support the view that we are probably living in a postglacial period.
7. The author would regard the idea that we are living in an interglacial period as
    a) Unimportant
    b) Unscientific
    c) Self-evident
    d) Plausible
    e) Absurd

Read the following passage and answer the questions marked 8, 9, 10 and 11:

Echolocating bat emits sounds in patterns- characteristics of each species- that contain both frequency-modulated (FM) and constant-frequency (CF) signals. (Line 2) The broadband FM signals and the narrowband CF signals travel out a target, reflect from it, and return to the hunting bat. In this process of transmission and reflection, the sounds are changed, and the changes in the echoes enable the bat to perceive features of the target.

(Line 6) The FM signals report information about target characteristics that modify the timing and the fine frequency structure, or spectrum, or echoes- for example, the target's size, shape, texture, surface structure, and direction in space. Because of the narrow bandwidth, CF signals portray only the target's presence and, in the case of some bat species, its motion relative to the bat's. Responding to changes in the CF echo's frequency, bats of some species correct in flight for the direction and velocity of their moving prey.

8. According to the passage, the information provided to the bat by CF echoes differs from that provided by FM echoes in which of the following ways?
    a) Only CF echoes alert the bat of moving targets.
    b) Only CF echoes identify the range of widely spaced targets.
    c) Only CF echoes report the target's presence of the bat.
    d) In some species, CF echoes enable that bat to judge whether it is closing in on its target.
    e) In some species, CF echoes enable the bat to discriminate the size of its target and the direction in which the target is moving.
9. According to the passage, the configuration of the target is reported to the echolocating bat by changes in the
    a) Echo spectrum of CF signals
    b) Echo spectrum of FM signals
    c) Direction and velocity of the FM echoes
    d) Delay between transmission and reflection of the CF signals
    e) Relative frequencies of the FM and the CF echoes
10. The author presents the information concerning bat sonar in a manner that could be best described as
    a) Argumentative
    b) Commendatory
    c) Critical
    d) Disbelieving
    e) Objective
11. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
    a) A fact is stated, a process is outlined, and specific details of the process is described.
    b) A fact is stated, and examples suggesting that a distinction needs correction are considered.
    c) A fact is stated, a theory is presented to explain that fact, and additional facts are introduced to validate the theory.
    d) A fact is stated, and two theories are compared in light of their explanations of this fact.
    e) A fact is stated, a process is described, and examples of still-another process are illustrated in detail.

Read the following passage and answer the questions from 12-19:

Traditionally, pollination by wind has been viewed as a reproductive process marked by random events in which the vagaries of the wind are compensated for by the generation of vast quantities of pollen, so (line 3) that the ultimate production of new seeds is assured at the expense of producing much more pollen than is actually used. Because the potential hazards pollen grains are subject to as they are transported over long distances are enormous, wind-pollinated plants have, un the view above, (line 5) compensated for the ensuing loss of pollen through happenstance by virtue of producing an amount of pollen that is one to three orders of magnitude greater than the amount produced by species pollinated by insects.

(Line 9) However, a number of features that are characteristic of wind-pollinated plants reduce pollen waste. For example, many wind-pollinated species fail to release pollen when wind seeds are low or when humid conditions prevail. Recent studies suggest another way in which species compensate for (line 12) the

inefficiency of wind pollination. These studies suggest that species frequently take advantage of the physics of pollen motion by generating specific aerodynamic environments within the immediate vicinity of their female reproductive organs. It is the morphology of these organs that dictates the pattern of airflow disturbances through which pollen must travel. The speed and direction of the airflow disturbances can combine with the physical properties of a species' pollen to produce a (line 17) species-specific pattern of pollen collision on the surfaces of female reproductive organs. Provided that these surfaces are strategically located, the consequences of this combination can significantly increase the pollen-capture efficiency of a female reproductive organ.

A critical question that remains to be answered is whether the morphological attributes of the female reproductive organs of wind-pollinated species are evolutionary adaptations of wind pollination or are (line 22) merely fortuitous. A complete resolution of the question is as yet impossible since adaptation must be evaluated for each species within its own unique functional context. However, it must be said that, while evidence of such evolutionary adaptations does exist in some species, one must be careful (line 25) about attributing morphology adaptation. For example, the spiral arrangement of scale-bract complexes on ovule-bearing pine cones, where the female reproductive organs of conifers are located, is important to the production of airflow patterns that spiral over the cone's surfaces, thereby passing airborne pollen from one scale to the next. However, these patterns cannot be viewed as an adaptation to wind pollination because the spiral arrangement occurs in a number of non-wind-pollinated plant lineages and is regarded as a characteristic of vascular plants, of which conifers are only one kind, as a (line 31) whole. Therefore, the spiral arrangement is not likely to be the result of a direct adaptation to wind pollination.

12. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with discussing
    a) The current debate on whether the morphological attributes of wind-pollinated plants are evolutionary adaptations.
    b) The kind of airflow patterns that permit wind-pollinated plants to capture pollen most efficiently.
    c) The way in which the reproductive processes of wind-pollinated plants are controlled by random events.
    d) A recently proposed explanation of a way in which wind-pollinated plants reduce pollen waste.
    e) A specific morphological attribute that permits one species of wind-pollinated plant to capture pollen.
13. The author suggests that explanations of wind pollination that emphasize the production of vast quantities of pollen to compensate for the randomness of the pollination process are
    a) Debatable and misleading
    b) Ingenious and convincing
    c) Accurate but incomplete
    d) Intriguing but controversial
    e) Plausible but unverifiable
14. According to the passage, the 'aerodynamic environments', mentioned in the line 13, when they are produced, are primarily determined by the
    a) Presence of insects near the plant
    b) Physical properties of the plant's pollen
    c) Shape of the plant's female reproductive organs
    d) Amount of pollen generated by the plant
    e) Number of seeds produced by the plant
15. According to the passage, true statements about the release of pollen by wind-pollinated plants include which of the following?

I) The release can be affected by certain environmental factors.
II) The amount of pollen released increases on a rainy day.
III) Pollen is sometimes not released by plants when there is little wind.

Which of the above statements is/are true for question no. 15?

a) II only
b) III only
c) I and II only
d) I and III only
e) I, II and III

16. The passage suggests that the recent studies cited in lines 11-13 have not done which of the following?
    a) Made any distinctions between different species of wind-pollinated plants.
    b) Considered the physical properties of the pollen that is produced by wind-pollinated plants.
    c) Indicated the general range within which plant-generated airflow disturbances are apt to occur.
    d) Included investigations of the physics of pollen motion and its relationship to the efficient capture of pollen by the female reproduction organs of wind-pollinated plants.
    e) Demonstrated that the morphological attributes of the female reproductive organs of wind-pollinated plants are usually evolutionary adaptations of wind pollination.
17. It can be inferred from the passage that the claim that the spiral arrangement of scale-bract complexes on an ovule-bearing pine cone is an adaptation to wind pollination would be more convincing if which of the following were true?
    a) Such an arrangement occurred only in wind-pollinated plants.
    b) Such an arrangement occurred in vascular plants as a whole.
    c) Such an arrangement could be shown to be beneficial to the pollen release.
    d) The number of bracts could be shown to have increased over time.
    e) The airflow patterns over the cone's surfaces could be shown to be produce by such arrangements.
18. Which of the following, if known, is likely to have been the kind of evidence used to support the view described in the first paragraph?
    a) Wind speeds need not to be very low for wind-pollinated plants to fail to release pollen.
    b) The female reproductive organs of plants often have a sticky surface that allows them to trap airborne pollen systematically.
    c) Grasses, as well as conifers, generate specific aerodynamic environments within the immediate vicinity of their reproductive organs.
    d) Rain showers often wash airborne pollen out of the air before it ever reaches an appropriate plant.
    e) The density and size of an airborne pollen grain are of equal importance in determining whether that grain will be captured by a plant.

Read the following passage and answer the questions marked 19-21:

Simone de Beauvoir's work greatly influenced Betty Friedan's- indeed, made it possible. Why, then, was it Friedan who became the prophet of women's emancipation in the United States? Political conditions, as well as, a certain anti-intellectual bias, prepared Americans and the American media to better receive Friedan's deradicalized and highly pragmatic *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, than Beauvoir's theoretical reading of women's situation in *The Second Sex*. In 1953 when *The Second Sex* first appeared in translation in the United States, the country had entered the silent, fearful fortress of the anticommunist McCarthy years (1950-1954), and Beauvoir was suspected of Marxist sympathies. Even *The Nation*, a

generally liberal magazine, warned its readers against the 'certain political learnings' of the author. Open acknowledgement of the existence of women's oppression was too radical for the United States in the fifties, and Beauvoir's conclusion, that change in women's economic condition, though insufficient by itself, 'remains the basic factor' in improving women's situation, was particularly unacceptable.

19. According to the passage, one difference between *The Feminine Mystique* and *The Second Sex* is that Friedan's book
    a) Rejects the idea that women are oppressed
    b) Provides a primarily theoretical analysis of women's lives
    c) Does not reflect the political beliefs of its author
    d) Suggests that women's economic condition has no impact on their status
    e) Concentrates in the practical aspects of the question of women's emancipation
20. The author quotes from *The Nation* most probably in order to
    a) Modify an earlier assertion
    b) Point out a possible exception to her argument
    c) Illustrate her central point
    d) Clarify the meaning of a term
    e) Cite an expert opinion
21. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is not a factor in the explanation of why *The Feminine Mystique* was received more positively in the United States than *The Second Sex*?
    a) By 1963 political conditions in the United States had changed.
    b) Friedan's book was less intellectual and abstract than Beauvoir's.
    c) Readers did not recognize the powerful influence of Beauvoir's book on Friedan's ideas.
    d) Friedan's approach to the issue of women's emancipation was less radical than Beauvoir's.
    e) American readers were more willing to consider the problem of oppression of women in the sixties than they had been in the fifties.
22. According to the passage, Beauvoir's book asserted that the status of women
    a) Is the outcome of political oppression.
    b) Is inherently tied to their economic condition.
    c) Can be best improved under a communist government.
    d) Is a theoretical, rather than a pragmatic issue.
    e) Is a critical area of discussion in Marxist economic theory.
23. Ironically, Carver's precision in sketching lives on the edge of despair ensures that his stories will sometimes read too narrowly, much as Dicken's social-reformer role once caused his broader concerns to be _____.
    a) Ignored
    b) Reinforced
    c) Contradicted
    d) Diminished
    e) Diversified
24. The demise of the rigorous academic curriculum in high school resulted, in part, from the progressive rhetoric that _____ the study of subjects previously thought _____ as part of school learning.
    a) Advocated, necessary
    b) Enhanced, indispensable
    c) Restricted, impractical
    d) Undermined, popular

e) Sanctioned, inappropriate

25. While some see in practical jokes a wish for mastery in miniature over a world that seems very _____, others believe that the jokes' purpose is to disrupt, by reducing all transactions to _____.
    a) Dubious, confusion
    b) Disorderly, symmetry
    c) Harmonious, dissonance
    d) Unruly, chaos
    e) Turbulent, uniformity