PARAGRAPH COMPLETION TESTS

Paragraph Completion Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 4

25 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
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Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 25

1. This year, oil exporters could haul in $700 billion from selling oil to foreigners. This includes not only the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but also Russia and Norway, the world's second- and third-biggest earners. _____. In real terms, this is almost double their dollar surpluses in 1974 and 1980 when Russia's hard-currency exports were tiny.

A) The IMF estimates that oil exporters' current-account surplus could reach $400 billion, more than four times as much as in 2002

B) Relative to their economies, the oil producers' current-account surpluses are far bigger than China's

C) The combined current-account surplus of China and other Asian emerging economies is put at only $188 billion this year

D) The rise in oil prices represents a big redistribution of income from those who buy oil to those who produce it

E) If oil exporters spend their bonanza, they import more from other countries and thus help to maintain global demand

2. “Information wants to be free,” according to a celebrated aphorism from the early days of the internet. _____. As search-engine firms and others unveil plans to place books online, publishers fear that the services may end up devouring their business, either by bypassing them or because the initiatives threaten to make their copyrights redundant.

A) The cost of digitising a book can be as low as 10 cents per page, and as much as $100 per book

B) Yet this ethos has been creating new headaches recently

C) For readers, the idea of being able to access the knowledge on a single device seems a benefit of mythic proportions

D) A digitisation initiative dating back to the 1970s currently boasts over 17,000 books in around 45 languages

E) This summer, European nations backed a “digital library” plan to place literary works online

3. Across the Himalayas, there is what seismologists call a “slip deficit”—a lack of earthquakes to release the stress that is known to be accumulating. _____. Nevertheless, Roger Bilham, of the University of Colorado, says it is doubtful that the Kashmir quake released more than one-tenth of the cumulative energy stored there. Furthermore, in the past half-century, the Himalayan region has seen fewer powerful earthquakes than might be predicted from historical records.

A) Nevertheless, Kashmir is seismically active on both sides of the border, with many regular, though less damaging, quakes

B) In recent years, Pakistan has not suffered as greatly from earthquakes as its neighbours in the Himalayas

C) The Kashmir quake was in just such a region, where a great earthquake was overdue

D) Its biggest earthquakes in living memory occurred in Quetta in 1935, with 30,000 deaths

E) In 2002 in the Astore region, 100 km north of Muzaffarabad, large earthquakes made about 16,000 people homeless

4. Two years after the end of the first world war, America passed the Jones Act. _____. The war had convinced lawmakers of the need to foster a home-grown fleet for use in times of conflict or national emergency. In 1944, while a more modern war still raged in Europe, governments meeting in Chicago took inspiration from the Jones Act while laying down the regulations that would govern international air transport. These were crafted to safeguard the vital strategic role of each country’s “flag carrying” national airline.

A) This restricted the shipping of goods between home ports to American-owned vessels

B) This is the latest in a series of attempts in recent years to unpick the anti-competitive measures that were put in place in Chicago

C) And restrictions on foreign ownership of airlines, in the name of national security, have prevented the competition that has preserved the vitality of other industries

D) On Monday November 14th, a new round of “open skies” negotiations is set to begin between Europe and America

E) For decades, arcane rules on routes and frequencies have distorted the market for aviation

5. Benjamin Franklin, one of America's founding fathers, wrote that "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." _____. What precisely are the essential liberties which, when given up, make a liberal society unworthy of the name? In Franklin's own country, as well as in Britain, Australia and elsewhere, these questions are proving particularly vexing to policymakers trying to deal with terrorism.

A) The Pentagon issued new guidelines on prisoner interrogations, in an implicit response to the abuses at Baghdad's prison

B) Some of the government's other proposals are perhaps even more controversial than detention without charge

C) He presaged an argument that is raging almost two and a half centuries later

D) Ministers had argued that 14 days' detention without charge was too short to assess lots of complex and classified evidence

E) Britain's prime minister, Blair, announced that "the rules of the game are changing" and proposed new security measures to Parliament

6. For more than two weeks, France has been gripped by unrest that began in one suburb north-east of Paris, later spreading around the capital's periphery and to scores of cities across the country. In scenes that have rocked the country and are broadcast nightly on television, more than 6,000 vehicles have been set alight in nearly 300 towns; over 1,500 people have been arrested; one man has died. By Monday November 14th, the violence had subsided in many of the worst-hit areas, though incidents were still being reported across the country; on Sunday night, more than 280 vehicles were torched and 115 people arrested. _____.

A) Across the road, riot police face a group of hooded youngsters outside the treeless estate of Les Tarterets

B) This rapid domino effect reflects two broader failings and two policy problems

C) The bleak high-rise estates that encircle the French capital have long been neglected in more ways than one

D) It is the worst social turmoil the country has seen since the student-led unrest of 1968, and the government has appeared powerless to contain it

E) Physically removed from the elegant tree-lined boulevards of central Paris, they house a population that is poor, jobless, and, mostly, of north African origin

7. In recent weeks, the world's public health officials have been afflicted with a sort of pandemic of meetings about bird flu. _____. Plans were hatched for how best to respond to the threat from a virus that is threatening poultry around the world and which, it is feared, may trigger a pandemic of human flu.

A) In the short term, international agencies such as the WHO, the FAO and the OIE say they need about $80m to respond

B) Much of this culminated, this week, in a meeting of officials from nations at the headquarters of the WHO in Geneva

C) Everyone seems to agree that the best strategy for dealing with the threat of a human pandemic is to control flu in birds

D) Countries such as Japan have reacted quickly to eliminate outbreaks of highly pathogenic bird flu

E) It is increasingly clear that the world's richer nations will have to pay for these countries to raise their capacity in these areas

8. The airlines are constantly pressing the manufacturers to produce large and medium-sized aircraft that can fly anywhere in the world non-stop. Gradually they are getting what they want, particularly with the latest Boeing and Airbus 250-300 seaters on the way. _____. If flights like that become common, Emirates, with its giant planes and global hub, would be flying in the face of conventional wisdom.

A) That is why there is strong interest in some of the upcoming airline orders from the ones that Boeing hopes will come its way

B) The airlines are expected to opt for large wide-bodied jets such as the latest version of Boeing's 777 preferred by Emirates

C) The key thing about these new sub-jumbos is that they are designed mainly for short regional hops between neighbouring hubs

D) A Boeing 777 has taken off from Hong Kong to fly to London, covering 20,300 kilometres and flying for 23 hours, to set a new record

E) In particular, Emirates has ordered no fewer than 45 of Airbus's A380, with operating costs promised to be 15-20% lower than today's 747s

9. One of the more interesting ideas to emerge from America's soul-searching after the turn-of-the-century corporate scandals is that its leading business schools may have neglected to teach students about the moral dimension of being a CEO. _____. Harvard, Stanford and others have since scrambled to introduce business ethics classes.

A) Instead, they focus on management mainly as a science of numbers

B) Unlike most of the finger-waggers who berate CEOs these days, Mr Hindery has been one himself

C) The book recounts how Disney bullied Miramax into dropping "Fahrenheit 9/11", a controversial Michael Moore documentary

D) On the positive side, they argued that CEOs should have tried to make a difference to society beyond making a return for shareholders

E) Realistically, it is boards of directors and large shareholders who have the power

10. _____. Iraq's former ruling minority had many reasons to dislike the document's contents—the federal system split the country, they said, and allowed oil revenues to be distributed unevenly to benefit the Shia—and now they have reason to contest its legitimacy. Even before the election, some American and British officials said they were dreading this kind of result, which could stoke rather than pacify the insurgency.

A) Sunnis wanted to put forward various proposals at a national reconciliation conference sponsored by the Arab League

B) However, opportunities still exist to bring the Sunnis into the political process

C) Iraq now has a constitution supported by large majorities of two of the three main ethnic groups, the Shia Arabs and the Kurds, but rejected by the third, the Sunni Arabs

D) The adoption of the constitution and December's elections brought an end to the succession of short-lived transitional governments

E) As a result in a last-minute deal aimed at getting the Sunnis on board, the constitutional drafters added a mechanism to review and amend the constitution in the first half of the new year

11. Insomnia is a common problem in the United States, affecting a large number of adults and becoming more frequent with age. There seems to be a treatment for the condition. _____. Although improvements in sleep appear to be related to quality of life, the relationship between quality of life and successful treatment of insomnia has been difficult to ascertain.

A) It is cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) that has been shown to be effective for insomnia

B) Additional outcome measures were response to other aspects of the measures of sleep quality

C) Patients were randomized to therapy or placebo

D) Studies indicate that insomnia is common worldwide

E) The study outcome has been a change from baseline score

12. Like most students, Emily was juggling a full schedule of classes. But in the middle of her junior year, she became overwhelmed by her normal routine. She rarely went out. "Even though my eating habits hadn't changed, I kept gaining weight," says Emily, now a 30-year-old retail analyst. At first, she chalked it up to the winter blues. _____.

A) Her doctor prescribed a recipe, and within a few weeks her energy levels improved

B) A butterfly-shaped gland in her neck has occurred

C) Most women aren't diagnosed as easily as Emily

D) And then she met Adrian, her husband for the next 20 years

E) But then a routine test at her yearly checkup showed something different: hypothyroidism

13. During the earliest stages of life, when an embryo consists of fewer than a dozen or so cells, _____. Each embryonic cell is, in the jargon of biologists, totipotent: It has the ability to give rise to cells that make up the eyes, the liver, the brain, or any other part of an adult animal. Yet as an embryo develops, cells lose this ability.

A) scientists have dismissed this idea of nuclear equivalency

B) does a nucleus retain the know-how to construct an entire organism?

C) the genes inside every nucleus have their fullest potential

D) this gradual specialization of cells poses a provocative question

E) most experts irreversibly alter their DNA

14. Jane Addams was a peacemaker even when she was criticized for her views. She taught, wrote, and lectured about peace both nationally and internationally. Before World War I, Addams was probably the most beloved woman in America. In a newspaper poll that asked, "Who among our contemporaries are of the most value to the community?" _____.

A) But she never changed her mind

B) Addams was second, after Thomas Edison

C) Addams's reputation gradually was restored during the last years of her life

D) When she opposed America’s involvement in WW I, newspapers called her a traitor

E) Have you ever believed she was right about something?

15. _____. Even as a young man, Patrick Henry had that kind of influence in the American Colonies. Born in 1736, Henry, a natural leader and a brilliant speaker, believed in individual rights and independence from the British government. As a young lawyer, he astonished his courtroom audience in 1763 with an eloquent defence based on the idea of natural rights, the political theory that humans are born with certain inalienable rights.

A) With the war against Britain looming, Henry proclaimed, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

B) The idea of natural rights is central to the Declaration of Independence

C) As the first governor of Virginia, Henry continued to have a profound influence on the development of the new nation

D) Have you ever heard someone speak so passionately that the speech moved you to do something?

E) Known as the Bill of Rights, they guarantee certain freedoms, such as the freedom of speech and religion

16. Business diversity is associated with walking trips. Having four or more different types of businesses in a neighbourhood significantly increased the number of walking trips among residents. This is probably true because of added convenience. _____.

A) A greater number of four-way intersections was also associated with more walking

B) The effects of housing density had been mixed

C) Neighbourhood age and block length aren't associated with walking

D) Residents are able to accomplish multiple routine errands in a single walking trip and thus may drive less

E) Children living in close-knit neighbourhoods are less likely to be overweight than children who don't

17. Midsize organizations producing live performances face the most serious financial strain. Either they will have to become larger and more prestigious—which many lack the resources to do—or they will have to cut their budgets and become more community-oriented, using local talent to keep costs down. _____.

A) These trends could also have affected the quality of performing arts in the future

B) Firstly the public that attends live performances has remained stable

C) Those that are not able to adapt may disappear

D) The population purchasing recorded performances had been growing

E) The young are comfortable with entertainment delivered by the Internet

18. One problem with the Big Bang theory is explaining how the stars and galaxies were formed. _____. Gravity alone cannot cause this in a smooth universe, and so something had to supply the initial gravity that allowed galaxies to form. Physicists suggest that dark matter WIMPs (weakly interacting massive particles) accomplished this task. Since WIMPs only affect ordinary matter gravitationally, physicists say this dark matter could be the seed of galactic formation.

A) Gravity is strong enough to stop the expansion eventually and pull everything back to a single point.

B) If matter initially was distributed evenly in all directions, what caused it to clump together in some regions and form stars and galaxies?

C) Then, a great explosion resulted in the universe being formed

D) However, the gravity of the galaxies seen in this image is strong enough to contain the glowing hot gas.

E) The Big Bang theory tries to explain how the universe was formed

19. Magic is used to overcome evil and help the good. Moreover, it is portrayed as a positive element to be used in our daily life. _____. This de-emphasizes issues that can be resolved through human willpower and effort. In this case, there is the possibility of believing in sorcery's power, and thereby being drawn into helplessness and pessimism.

A) As a result, they use their father's cars without permission and lie to cover up incidents

B) Thus, all daily behaviours are associated with magic

C) There had been a new wave of increasing violence in children's films, books and toys

D) Children, to whom we one day will hand over the future, can be saved only in this way

E) However, it is implied that black magic is used for murder and death

20. _____. Some plants, such as cactus, are able to store large amounts of water in their leaves or stems. After a rainfall, these plants absorb a large supply of water to last until the next rain. Other plants, such as the mesquite, have extraordinarily deep root systems that allow them to obtain water from far below the desert's arid surface.

A) Most people think of deserts as dry, flat areas with little vegetation and little or no rainfall

B) Desert plants have a variety of mechanisms for obtaining the water needed for survival

C) Many deserts have varied geographical formations ranging from soft, rolling hills

D) Deserts are dry, flat areas with few plants which need no water

E) Many kinds of vegetation can survive with little water

21. Although science and technology have never been humanity's first need, it is wrong to reject them in favour of some idealistic philosophies. _____. What is more important here is who controls science and what goals they are serving. In the hands of a few irresponsible individuals, science might make the world into hell, whereas no one has ever been hurt by a gun in the hands of an angel. Science and technology are desirable as long as they serve human values, bring peace and happiness, contribute to international harmony, and help solve humanity's material and spiritual problems.

A) We must praise scientific research and the outcomes of technological innovation

B) If they move away from these goals, the world is better off without them

C) At most, doing so would be a utopia

D) Since the Renaissance, humanity has designed amazing innovations

E) We cannot comprehend the advantages and disadvantages of such a world

22. In English, there are many different kinds of expressions that people use to give a name to anything whose name is unknown or momentarily forgotten. The word gadget is one such word. _____. In everyday use, the word has a more general meaning. Other words are also used to give a name to something unnamed or unknown, and these words tend to be somewhat imaginative.

A) It was first used by British sailors in the 1850s and probably comes from French

B) Some words are used to name something when the name is not known

C) Not all words in every language are original

D) The word “Geomorphology” includes the surface of the earth

E) English language has some troublesome words difficult to be pronounced

23. Blood plasma is a clear, almost colourless liquid. It consists of blood from which the red and white blood cells have been removed. It differs in several important ways from whole blood. To begin with, plasma can be mixed from all donors and doesn’t have to be from the right blood group, as whole blood does. _____.

A) Blood cells have been taken out of blood plasma

B) Most patients are transfused with blood plasma

C) So, there are huge differences between plasma and whole blood

D) Apart from that, whole blood can’t be dried and stored, while plasma can

E) The plasma portion of the blood is generally more important to the patient than other parts of whole blood

24. Penguins are the most highly specialized of all birds for marine life. They swim entirely by means of their flipperlike wings, using their webbed feet as rudders. Their stiff feathers serve as insulation and are waterproof when oiled. Since their legs are set far back on their bodies, they waddle awkwardly on land and often travel by sliding on their bellies over the ice as they migrate, sometimes great distances. Underwater they can swim up to 25 miles (40.3 km) per hour as they pursue the fish, squid, and shrimp that form their diet. _____. This results in weight losses of up to 75 lb (33.8 kg) during the two-month incubation period.

A) The largest penguins, the emperor and the king, stand 3-4 ft (91.5-122 cm) tall

B) Penguins are highly gregarious, and colonies can reach a population density of half a million birds

C) They do not eat while on land, subsisting on a layer of fat under the skin

D) There are 17 species of penguins, 10 of which are considered endangered or threatened

E) Their chief enemies are the leopard seal, killer whale, and skua gull

25. Singapore possesses all the ingredients for traffic disaster. The island city-state has a large population, a limited land area, booming economic growth and one of the highest automobile densities in the world. _____. Yet, Singapore’s traffic moves smoothly. Much of the explanation lies in sound urban planning and an effective mass-transit system.

A) All Singaporean citizens face two extra charges or taxes when buying a car

B) The Singaporean government doesn’t care about the air pollution caused by traffic

C) Despite all efforts, car sales in Singapore increased in 1991

D) Singaporeans are sympathetic to the government’s goal of keeping traffic moving

E) In other rapidly growing Asian metropolises, like Bangkok, such conditions have created bumper-to-bumper traffic in the streets

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