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FINAL EXAM

**1**

1.1.    Read carefully the following text:

There are more than 7,100 languages in use around the world, with Chinese, Spanish and English being the most widely spoken. Despite the high placing of English, around 75% of the world's population doesn't speak a word of the language, so it might seem surprising that more than half of all content on the Internet is in English. One of the reasons for English being so common is that it had a head start when the Internet was created. Developed in the UK and the US, it was only natural that much of the original content for the Internet was written in English. It also helped that both of these countries were quick to get large numbers of people online, ensuring that English would continue to be the favoured language as the Internet grew in size.

1.2.  Based on the previous content, select the choice that is false.

a.  Approximately 75% of the world's population does not speak English at all.
b.  Most contents on the Internet are in English because the Internet was created in English-speaking countries.
c.  Most contents on the Internet are in English because English is the most widely spoken language around the world.
d.  Among the 7,100 languages used around the world, Chinese, Spanish and English have the larger number of speakers

**2**

2.1 Read the following text.

More than any other technology, the Internet has encouraged the invention of new words. Sometimes these words are created by expanding the definition of existing words. A 'virus' used to be something that made you sick, but today it's a destructive programme that spreads itself across the Internet. The word 'wireless' was originally used for radio communication, but today it refers to wireless Internet. These words all had similar definitions in the past, but they have been given a new twist and are used to refer to virtual activities.

2.2   Based on the previous paragraph, select the choice that is true.

a.  The Internet has had a damaging influence on the English language in the past decades.
b.  The English language vocabulary has been undermined by the introduction of the Internet.
c.  Some of the Internet concepts have been created by adding new meanings to old terms.
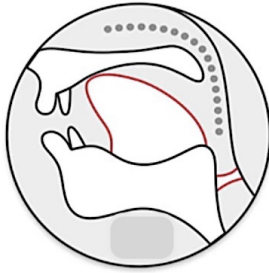d.  The expansion of meaning is not a legitimate way of building new vocabulary.

**3**

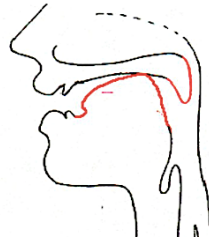     3.1 Read carefully the following paragraph:

     In English there are bilabial, labiodental and interdental sounds depending on what parts of the mouth are used when they are articulated. Bilabial sounds are pronounced using both lips; labiodental sounds are articulated using the lower lip and the upper teeth, and interdental sounds are produced by putting the tip of the tongue between the upper and the lower teeth. 678

     3.2  Analyse the figures below and identify the one that represents the last sound of the word **song.**
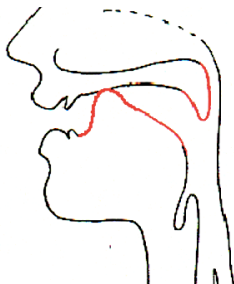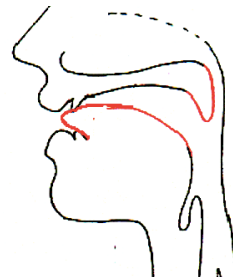
**a.**

**b.**



**c.**

**d**.



**4**

     Read the text below:

     English has a sound defined as *glottal fricative*, which is produced in the glottis (thus glottal) in a kind of friction (thus fricative). This is the first sound in the words **h**ome, **h**igh, **h**ello. When Italians speak English, they often ignore the [h] sound maybe because Italian does not have it in its phonemic system. However, failing to pronounce [h] may lead to misunderstandings since some words carry different meanings depending on the presence or absence of [h], for example **h**eart/art, **h**ate/eight, **h**all/all, **h**i/eye.

     Based on the content, select the choice that is false.

a.   The [h] sound in words such as **h**ello is described in phonetics as a glottal sound.
b.   Italians often fail to pronounce [h] at the beginning of words in English.
c.   Failing to pronounce [h] at the beginning of an English word may lead to misinterpretations.
d.   The pronunciation of [h] at the beginning of a word is not compulsory in Standard English.

**5**

Read the following information:

The vast majority of native English speakers worldwide, including most speakers in America, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, India and Pakistan, pronounce every written [r]. These are known as 'rhotic' speakers. On the other hand, English varieties that follow the silent [r] rule are known as 'non-rhotic', and these include most dialects in England, Wales, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Since most native speakers of English worldwide are rhotic, and rhoticity doesn't tend to cause any problems in comprehension, there is no particular reason for learners of English as a second language to follow the silent [r] rule. If, however, the learner is aiming for a standard Great Britain English pronunciation, the rule needs to be learnt and practised.

According to the previous text, select the statement that is true:

a. English learners who want to sound British should exercise their [r] sounds in order to make them silent.
b. English learners must be trained in the pronunciation of every written [r] sound; otherwise they might cause problems in comprehension.
c. English students must learn and practice the silent [r] sound since this is the pronunciation of the vast majority of English native speakers.
d. Among the English varieties of the world, there is a prevalence of non-rhotic speakers.

**6**

The morphology of regular verbs in English is quite basic. For example, there are only two tenses in the indicative mode that can be differentiated by the presence of a suffix: present tense adds -s at the end of the verb when the subject is the third person singular (she/he, it). Preterit, on the other hand, adds -ed/-en. To form the simple future tense instead, English has to resort to additional words called auxiliaries (shall/will).

According to the above over-simplified rule, identify the correct sentence:

a. A small herd of semi-wild horses have been released into a new large grazing area of 500 acres.
b. A small herd of semi-wild horses shall be released into a new large grazing area of 500 acres.
c. A small herd of semi-wild horses were released into a new large grazing area of 500 acres.
d. A small herd of semi-wild horses was released into a new large grazing area of 500 acres.

**7**

In English, a noun can be preceded by a group of adjectives, which must be expressed in the following order: quantity, opinion, size, physical quality, shape, age, colour, origin, material, type and purpose.

According to this rule, select the sentence with the appropriate order of adjectives:

a. Rose was a tall, thin, beautiful, young, black-haired, Scottish woman.
b. Rose was a beautiful, Scottish, tall, thin, young, black-haired woman.
c. Rose was a beautiful, tall, thin, young, black-haired, Scottish woman.
d. Rose was a beautiful, tall, thin, black-haired, young, Scottish woman.

**8**

A phrasal verb in English is a verb like _pick up_, _turn on_ or _get on with_. These verbs consist of a **basic verb + another word or words**. The two or three words that make up a phrasal verb form a short "phrase" --which is why we call them "phrasal verbs".

In the following paragraph you will be given the meaning of a very common phrasal verb. After reading it, identify the phrase that best completes the bolded sentence.

Phrasal verb: <u>fade away</u>
Meaning: to slowly become weaker, softer or dimmer

**The sound of voices slowly faded away as the boat**

    a.   came closer and closer.
    b.   drifted further down the river.
    c.   approached our coasts.
    d.   suddenly sank.


**9**

An idiom is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. For example, Italian's way of wishing luck to a person is often expressed with the **idiom** "_in bocca al lupo_".

In the following paragraph you will be given the meaning of a very common idiom. After reading it, identify the phrase that best completes the bolded sentence.


Idiom: <u>can of worms</u>
Meaning: Metaphorically speaking, to open a <u>can of worms</u> is to examine or attempt to solve some problem, only to inadvertently complicate it and create even more trouble.


**The investigators knew that examining the company's books might open a can of worms. They suspected there'd be**

    a.   evidence of serious wrongdoings.
    b.   a huge number of  parasites.
    c.   nothing seriously incorrect.
    d.   a library infestation.


**10**

In linguistics, the informal term _false friends_ refers to pairs of words in two languages (or in two dialects of the same language) that look and/or sound the same but have different meanings. For example, _largo_ and _large_ in Italian and English have a similar written form, but very different meanings.  _Large_ in English means _ampio_, _alto_ in Italian, whereas _largo_ in Italian means _wide_ in English. Other common false friends in English for Italian speakers are: currently, actually, eventually, cold, vacancy, morbid, estate, patent, etc.

According to the previous information, select the best meaning for the following sentence:

**"The Oriental Pearl" is without doubt an ugly restaurant, but actually serves the best Chinese food in town.**

  a. *The Oriental Pearl* is nowadays the best Chinese restaurant in town, whereas in the past it served poor-quality food.
  b. *The Oriental Pearl* is not only decorated with poor taste, but the presentation of food is not very high quality either.
  c. *The Oriental Pearl*, in spite of being unattractive is in fact the best Chinese restaurant in town.
  d. *The Oriental Pearl* used to serve good-quality Chinese food in the past, which compensated for its unattractive decoration.

**11**

"Text" is a term used in linguistics to refer to any passage spoken or written, of whatever length, that does form a unified whole.

According to the above definition, select below which one can be described as a text:

  a. An autographed copy of Picasso's Guernica.
  b. An Instagram post of the Thames river.
  c. A photogram of the movie Casablanca.
  d. A spinach artichoke lasagna recipe.

**12**

A graduate thesis and a scientific paper are similar in many ways; for example, they both make use of a very formal style and they both try to present their arguments in the most objective way possible.

According to the above statement, which of the following statements is false:

  a. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers, you should stay away from words like "I", "me", "my", "myself".
  b. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers you must prefer common, colloquial language style.
  c. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers you must avoid the use of jargon or non-standard speech.
  d. When writing graduate theses and scientific papers you should not use contractions, such as *isn't* and *shouldn't*.

**13**

An abstract is defined as a brief summary of a research article, thesis, review, conference proceeding, or any in-depth analysis of a particular subject. It is often used to help the reader quickly ascertain the paper's purpose.

According to the above assertion, which of the following elements must not be included in an abstract:

a. The overall purpose of the study and the research problems investigated.
b. The basic design and research methods of your study.
c. Acknowledgments to the institutions that have contributed to the development of the study.
d. Major findings obtained and a summary of your interpretations and conclusions.

**14**

A Curriculum Vitae (CV) is a standard document that gives details of your work experience, education, and background. It also gives your full name and contact details.

Not so many years ago, it was common for CVs to include an applicant's photograph, marital status, gender, religion or date of birth. Those days are long gone thanks to the introduction of recent anti-discrimination laws and changing attitudes in society.

According to the above paragraph, select the true statement below:

a. When writing a CV you should include information about your faith so that your future employer knows what to expect about your religious leaves.
b. When writing a CV you should include the most updated photography of yourself so that your future employer knows how you look like at present.
c. Currently, a CV must include the marital status of the applicant in order to calculate his/her monthly income.
d. Nowadays, age is not included as relevant information on your CV in order to prevent ageism in the selection process.

**15**

Many scientific papers fail to usefully communicate research work to their audience. They focus on the authors instead of on the readers by failing to clarify the motivation for the work or by including unnecessary details. Or they try to impress the readers rather than to inform them. As a result, they are interesting to or understandable by only a small set of highly specialised readers. Effective scientific papers, in contrast, are interesting and useful to many readers, including newcomers to the field.

Based on the above paragraph, select the true statement below:

a. Specifying your motivations in a scientific paper is considered personal information; therefore, it is not recommended in scientific writing.
b. In order to reach a bigger audience you need to include as many details as possible about your research.
c. Failing to clarify the motivation for your research is an obstacle for a good communication with your readers.
d. To succeed in effectively communicating research work you need to impress the audience with your knowledge about the research subject.