PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: You will hear a text about the Royal Couple’s visit to Canada twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 4 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.

1. The narrator
   A) worked for a local newspaper in Quebec.
   B) joined the Royal tour in Quebec.
   C) had been invited by the Queen to the Royal Yacht.
   D) was one of many journalists covering the tour.

2. The Royal Couple were to visit a small town in Quebec because
   A) the newsmen had organised a party there.
   B) a great tragedy had happened there.
   C) a storm had drowned all the fishermen from the region.
   D) bad weather prevented them from continuing their tour.

3. The narrator was chosen to take pictures of the event because
   A) the Queen froze in front of other newsmen’s cameras.
   B) he had sent ten pictures of her to Buckingham Palace.
   C) the Queen had liked one of his pictures very much.
   D) his pictures were always published on the front page of his paper.

4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
   A) The photographer wanted to take a picture of Prince Philip comforting the widow of a dead fisherman.
   B) The cottage of the widow was very small, poor and dimly lit by candles only, as the town was blacked out.
   C) The photographer stepped back in order to take a full-size picture of Prince Philip and the widow.
   D) The photographer stepped on the Queen’s toes because he could not see in the poor light of the candles.

5. When the narrator stepped on Queen Elizabeth’s foot
   A) he did not realise what had happened for quite some time.
   B) Queen Elizabeth screamed out in shock and pain.
   C) Prince Philip pushed him off the Queen’s foot.
   D) he was immediately thrown out of the cottage.

Directions: You will hear a text about Christo’s Wrapping Art twice. Before you listen to it, you have 1 minute to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 3 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing
among A, B or C. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.

6. Christo and Jeanne-Claude met all the costs for their art projects themselves.
   A) True.          B) False.          C) No information in the text.

7. Both Christo and Jeanne-Claude studied fine art at university.
   A) True.          B) False.          C) No information in the text.

8. Most of Christo and Jeanne-Claude’s wrapping art installations are short-lived.
   A) True.          B) False.          C) No information in the text.

9. Christo’s wrappings were meant to change the life style of the local people dramatically.
   A) True.          B) False.          C) No information in the text.

10. Only Christo's preparatory drawings for the packaging projects are now displayed in museum exhibitions.
    A) True.          B) False.          C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear a text about a Talkative Tortoise twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 4 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.

11. The King whose adviser was Buddha
    A) did not mean to talk so much.  
    B) looked for means not to talk.  
    C) had no opportunity to talk.  
    D) gave others no chance to talk.

12. The two young ducks
    A) invited the tortoise to their home.  
    B) lived in a pond in the Himalayas.  
    C) came to feed the tortoise.  
    D) said the pond was delightful.

13. The two young ducks offered the tortoise to
    A) show him how to hold his tongue.  
    B) find him a flying stick.  
    C) bite some villagers.  
    D) carry him up the mountain.

14. The tortoise fell because
    A) he wanted to help the king.  
    B) some people angered him.  
    C) the wild ducks flew too fast.  
    D) the stick split in the air.
15. Buddha helped the King by
A) seizing every opportunity to lecture him.
B) introducing him to some chatter-boxes.
C) making him see the dangers of his weakness.
D) becoming a man of few words.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION
Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or C, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Higgs boson

The Higgs boson or Higgs particle is a theoretical elementary particle predicted to exist by the Standard Model of particle physics. Experiments to detect the Higgs boson have been carried out for decades now. Confirmation that the Higgs boson exists would be monumental since it would finally prove the existence of the Higgs field, which is the Standard Model’s explanation of why some fundamental particles have mass when ‘naïve’ theory says they should all be massless, and - linked to this - why the weak force has a much shorter range than the electromagnetic force. Its discovery would also finally validate the Standard Model, guide other theories and discoveries in particle physics, and – as with other fundamental discoveries of the past – over time lead to major developments in new technology.

The importance of the search for the Higgs boson led to the construction of one of the most expensive and complex experimental facilities to date, the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland, which is able to create and study Higgs bosons and other related questions. On 4 July 2012, two separate experimental teams of physicists at the Large Hadron Collider announced that they had each independently confirmed the existence of a previously unknown particle, which they suspect is the Higgs boson, and whose behaviour closely matches that of a Standard Model Higgs boson. However, contrary to widespread misreporting, the new particle is still being studied to learn whether it is indeed the Higgs boson or not.

The Higgs boson is named after Peter Higgs, one of six physicists who, in 1964, proposed the mechanism that suggested the existence of such a particle. In mainstream media the Higgs boson is often referred to as the "God particle", from a 1993 book on the topic; but this nickname is strongly disliked by many physicists, who regard it as inappropriate.

16. The Standard Model attempts to clarify why some elementary particles have mass and others don’t.
   A) True.   B) False.   C) No information in the text.

17. The discovery of the Higgs boson is expected to result in significant scientific and technological advancement.
   A) True.   B) False.   C) No information in the text.

18. It is now certain that the unknown particle discovered by the physicists at CERN in July 2012 is the Higgs boson.
   A) True.   B) False.   C) No information in the text.
19. Apart from his theoretical work as a physicist, Peter Higgs also contributed to the design of the Large Hadron Collider.
   A) True.            B) False.            C) No information in the text.

20. “The God particle” is a nickname for the Higgs boson which physicists often like to use.
   A) True.            B) False.            C) No information in the text.

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

David Blaine – America’s illusionist and endurance artist

David Blaine was born on April 4, 1973 in Brooklyn, New York. He is of Puerto Rican and Russian Jewish background and grew up in New Jersey. Blaine first became interested in magic at age 4 after he saw a street magician perform card tricks. David’s mother, Patrice White, strongly encouraged his new interest. Blaine frequently says that she has always been an important influence on his life.

In his teens, Blaine caught the acting bug and frequently commuted from New Jersey into New York City to attend acting classes and auditions, managing to land some work in commercials and on the soaps. At this time he also made his name performing magic tricks on the street and filming his volunteers’ reactions. The most dazzling of his street tricks was his levitation illusion, in which he appeared to magically raise himself up to two feet above the ground. Hoping to drum up interest in his act, David sent a tape of his street performances to ABC. The response was encouraging to say the least: Blaine was given a million dollar contract to produce David Blaine: Street Magic in 1997, which was followed by David Blaine: Magic Man in 1999. Meanwhile, David Blaine attended some personal celebrity functions. He performed tricks for Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert DeNiro and Al Pacino. Word about his skills as an illusionist soon began to spread.

In 1999, Blaine also performed his first endurance stunt, during which he spent one week buried inside a glass coffin on the West Side of Manhattan, and in 2000, he followed with Frozen in Time in which he was frozen into a block of ice for 72 hours in New York’s Times Square. In 2003, Blaine spent 44 days without food, sealed inside a transparent glass box suspended 30 feet above ground on the bank of the River Thames in London. This stunt gained worldwide media coverage, and thousands gathered at the site to witness his release.

In 2002, Random House published David Blaine's Mysterious Stranger: A Book of Magic. Part autobiography, part history of magic, and part armchair treasure hunt, the book also includes instructions on how to perform card tricks and illusions. Editing director Bruce Tracy explains: “David Blaine is the most exciting and creative magician since Houdini, and now, readers have the opportunity to enjoy Blaine's unique book about magic, and they can participate by testing their own ability to discover and interpret clues.”

21. David was raised by his mother single-handedly.
   A) True.            B) False.            C) No information in the text.

22. Before becoming a professional illusionist and endurance artist, David Blaine had some other paying jobs.
   A) True.            B) False.            C) No information in the text.
23. David Blaine first became popular as a performer of street and close-up magic.
   A) True.          B) False.         C) No information in the text.

24. With his endurance stunts David Blaine has set and broken several world records.
   A) True.          B) False.         C) No information in the text.

25. David Blaine’s book is about the life of his childhood hero, the magician Harry Houdini.
   A) True.          B) False.         C) No information in the text.

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Musician James Blake thinks he knows what will happen when his second album is released tomorrow: the majority of us will download it for free. “And why wouldn’t you?” The 24-year-old Londoner accepts digital piracy as a plain fact of his industry, which is so deeply rooted that it’s hardly worth his battle to eradicate it. “My label [Universal] is hoping that on 8 April you’ll do the right thing and click the ‘Buy’ button,” he says. “I’m starting not to care, to be honest. Things are changing.”

Two years ago Blake released a self-titled album of delicate electronic music that was sad and stirring and a great critical success, eventually nominated for the 2011 Mercury prize. About to release a follow-up, Overgrown, Blake might have arrived to meet me full of pushy enthusiasm, standard for an artist on the eve of a launch. Quite the opposite. Blake drinks coffee and indulges in that great British pleasure: the relaxing, recreational moan about life.

As a result of a promotional tour for his first album, Blake felt he came across as overly serious in the music press. As a one-time dubstep DJ who’d made a tender album with a piercing, trembly vocal at its forefront, Blake spent most of his interviews answering questions about whether he’d betrayed his club roots. “There were fans expecting something,” he says now. “And what I gave them, a lot of them didn’t want.”

“There was a feeling that what I wanted to do for a living wasn’t going to lead to a reliable salary; it was just something I should do in my own time. As a musician at heart, you hear that and immediately rebel.” He thinks there’s a tendency in British education to hobby-ise creative talents. “We were being told that music is something you do in the meantime. Then you go and get your engineering degree.”

He planned to be a professional pianist – skillful and improvisational like his hero, 40s jazz man Art Tatum – and enrolled to study music at Goldsmiths University in south London. The course, looking back, was a disappointment. “I felt I was in the wrong boat.”

26. James Blake thinks that digital piracy is
   A) dishonest.          B) very worrying.    C) inexcusable.     D) inevitable.

27. Before the release of Overgrown, Blake
   A) complained about life in general.    B) felt overexcited about his work.   
   C) promoted his new work in an expected way. 
   D) seemed sad and behaved extravagantly.
28. Some of Blake’s fans felt that the first album
A) was far too serious.
B) was true to the roots of Dubstep.
C) was typical of his style.
D) wasn’t what they had expected.

29. Blake believes that making music
A) doesn’t provide a stable income.
B) should be taken more seriously.
C) should be treated as a hobby.
D) isn’t as serious as engineering.

30. Blake feels that
A) he did wrong to change his career.
B) he should be a professional pianist.
C) he didn’t fit in well at university.
D) he hasn’t fulfilled his dreams yet.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH
Section One: Cloze Test
Directions: Read the text below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits the gap, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

The end of the world hype

The end of the Mayan calendar may have let loose a torrent of predictions that the world is about to end - but this morning (31) ……… believers were few and far between in towns regarded as safe zones from the impending apocalypse.

Indigenous people in Mexico and Central America are celebrating the winter solstice and the end of the Mayan calendar or, for doomsday enthusiasts, the end of the world. But in the French town of Bugarach and the Turkish village of Sirince, which doomsayers say will offer (32) ……… from the approaching catastrophe, the streets were (33) ……… not with new age mystics but with crowds of disappointed journalists.

“To me it sounds like some deception invented by the media. People have been stocking on wine, (34) ……… in case, so I guess it will be one huge party tomorrow to finish it (35)………,” one Turkish villager said.

It is not only among ordinary people that this opinion is shared. Friends and colleagues of Professor Coe, a cornerstone of the 2012 end-of-the-world phenomenon and one of the world's (36) ……… experts on the Mayan civilisation, say he never meant to forecast an apocalypse when he announced the end of the Mayan calendar.

NASA, scientists all over the world and other experts on Maya culture have also dismissed the idea of disaster (37) ………., but media rumours and the internet fascination with the subject have put the spotlight on the ancient heart of the Mayan civilization.

At the same time, for the business-minded, every crisis is an opportunity. And so it is (38) ……… to be for the Mayan nations of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras which are aiming to cash in on the end of world hype.

Between them, these four countries expect almost a million extra (39) ……… this week thanks to a series of special programmes to mark the end of a 5,125-year cycle of the Mayan calendar on Friday.
The events - (40) ………, among other things, rituals, concerts, conferences and fireworks - will take place at 39 ancient (41) ………. State presidents will attend some of these festivities. (42) ……… other places, the start of the new era will be marked by night surfing competitions and pyramid building.

Controversial as it was, the end of the world hype did a lot of good besides the psychological damage it caused to doomsday enthusiasts.

31. A) realistic B) authentic C) original D) true
32. A) cover B) shelter C) hiding D) rescue
33. A) stuffed B) full C) crammed D) poured
34. A) merely B) only C) simply D) just
35. A) up B) over C) on D) down
36. A) utmost B) foremost C) forefront D) uppermost
37. A) stringing B) stroking C) striking D) stinging
38. A) proving B) turning C) confirming D) happening
39. A) attendants B) audiences C) comers D) visitors
40. A) involving B) including C) consisting D) containing

41. A) sides B) sightings C) sites D) sidings
42. A) On B) With C) At D) To

43. In the …….. sense, evolution is merely change which is all-pervasive; galaxies, languages, and political systems all evolve.
   A. broadest B. vastest C. largest D. biggest

44. American Indians used to carry …….. strings of clamshells to use as money, which they called wampum.
   A. off B. out C. on D. around

45. The …….. of the clock on the back of the $100 bill are set at approximately 4:10.
   A. pointers B. lines C. hands D. leads

Section Two: Sentence Completion
Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the letter A, B, C or D of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

46. The children were so hungry that they couldn’t help _____ all the sandwiches.
   A) to eat B) eat C) eating D) to eating

47. This is my umbrella. _____ over there, by the front door.
   A) Your’s B) Your one’s C) Yours D) Yours one’s

48. I’ll not go to that party, if it will make you feel _____.
   A) more happy B) more happily C) happily D) happier

49. Who _____ my Coke? There’s less than half a bottle left.
   A) has drunk B) has been drinking C) was drinking D) drank

50. I always have _____ at my brother-in-law’s garage.
   A) my car serviced B) serviced my car C) my car’s service D) my car servicing
Section Three: Sentence Transformations

Directions: On your answer sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.

51. I haven’t been to the cinema for six months.
The last time I ______________________ ago.

52. Without a key we won’t be able to get into the house.
We won’t be able to get into the house unless ______________________

53. I couldn’t bear the noise any longer.
I couldn’t put _______________________

54. I’d prefer you to wear smart clothes to work.
I’d rather you ______________________

55. I didn’t have enough money on me, so I didn’t take a taxi.
If ________________________________, I would have taken a taxi. –

56. ‘Did he bring the book back?’ I asked.
I didn’t know ______________________

57. They couldn’t use the car because the garage was servicing it.
The car ______________________ because it __________

58. We are not really sure he started the fire.
He ______________________ but we are not sure. (use a modal verb)

59. People believe he escaped with the money.
He is believed ______________________ with the money.

60. ‘You should go for a walk every day,’ the doctor said.
The doctor recommended he ______________________ a walk.

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition in standard English of about 160-170 words on ONE of the following topics, marking the topic you have chosen on the sheet:

1. Do you think you are a good daughter/son? State your reasons. Give examples.

2. Tell about the last time you made someone smile. When and where did it happen? Who was the person? What was it about?

Mind that in case of indecent language, plagiarism, identical texts or if your composition is under 80 words or totally irrelevant to the chosen topic it will get 0 points.
PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION
Directions: You will hear a text about the Royal Couple’s visit to Canada twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 4 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.

It happened in Quebec. I was a reporter-photographer for the Toronto Star in the middle of a Royal Tour across Canada and I followed them wherever they went. One morning the entire party of newsmen accompanying Queen Elizabeth the Second and Prince Philip across Canada was suddenly redirected to a small town in Quebec. The town had just lost most of its fathers and sons to a storm which had drowned 81 of the town’s fishermen.

Just a day or two before I had taken a photograph of the Queen and Prince Philip on the Royal Yacht Britannia. It had run across the front page of the Toronto Star and pleased Her Majesty, so she ordered ten copies sent to Buckingham Palace. The Queen didn’t photograph well (she froze at the sight of cameras) but she loved my picture.

And so I had been chosen as the pool photographer and allowed alone into the small cottage in which Prince Philip and his wife, the Queen of England, were now consoling a woman who had lost her husband and two sons in the storm. The pictures I took inside would be shared with all my colleagues from the other media.

It was a very small house. Inside was the Royal Couple, the sorrowful widow and the Chief of Police of the small town. The town had lost its electricity from the storm. The room was poorly lit by a couple of candles. It was very dramatic.

Inside, I saw Prince Philip standing over the widow. He seemed very upset: bent over her, he was holding her head as she cried. It was a good picture and I wanted it to be my first.

Prince Philip was very tall and I was stepping back to include his full body in the picture when it happened.

I felt something crunch under my right heel. I looked down and saw a pink silk shoe, the kind that only very wealthy women wear. What was it doing in this poor cottage It was under my right heel. The shoe was attached to a trembling leg. The leg ran up my side and seemed attached to my hip.

I looked down in horror and saw Queen Elizabeth, shaking in pain, her mouth open in shock: her Royal Majesty was trying not to scream.

I didn’t know what to do. I was transfixed in horror.

‘Get off the Queen’s foot!’ yelled Prince Philip.

I awoke from my paralysis and removed my foot. The wrong one. Now I had all my weight on the Queen’s foot.

‘Oh my!’ she gasped.

I stepped off.

Instantly Prince Philip and the Police Chief ran to my side. They rushed me to the front door, opened it and threw me out into the crowd of shocked newsmen waiting outside.
Christo’s Wrapping Art

Christo is best known for producing enormous packing projects: he wraps parks, buildings, and entire outdoor landscapes. On these projects he worked together with his wife Jeanne-Claude for many years. The two accepted no sponsors: they paid with their own funds raised through selling Christo's extraordinary preparatory drawings to collectors and dealers.

Christo (Hristo Javashev) was born in Bulgaria on 13 June 1935 and attended the Fine Arts Academy of Sofia and Vienna. His wife, Jeanne-Claude, was born on the very same date in Morocco. She graduated in Latin and philosophy and said she became an artist out of love for Christo. They first met in Paris in October 1958 and have collaborated on various wrapping art projects for over 40 years. Wrapping historic structures in silvery fabric and blue cable became a famous tradition for Christo and Jeanne-Claude: landscape projects in the USA, Japan, and Australia and urban projects such as the Pont-Neuf bridge in Paris or the Reichstag building in Berlin established them as the most extraordinary artist couple of the age.

Believing that people should have intense and memorable experiences of art outside the institution of the museum, Christo typically creates temporary wrappings – generally lasting several weeks – on a vast scale. Borrowing land, structures, and buildings used and built by the public, he momentarily intervenes in the local population’s daily rhythm in order to create ‘gentle disturbances’ intended to re-focus citizens’ impressions and re-examine routines. Christo challenges the viewer to accurately remember the concealed object (while at the same time setting his imagination free) and thus gives it the notion of uniqueness because it is inaccessible.

Christo’s works have now been included in museum exhibitions in the United States, Australia, Europe and Israel, and are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Tate Gallery in London, and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.
Directions: You will hear a text about a Talkative Tortoise twice. Before you listen to it, you have 2 minutes to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have 4 minutes to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among A, B, C or D. Then you will hear the text again and will have 1 minute to check your answers.

The Talkative Tortoise

THE future Buddha was once born in a minister's family. When he grew up, he became the king's adviser. This king was so talkative that others had no opportunity to speak. The future Buddha wanted to cure the king’s talkativeness, so he looked for some means to do so.

At that time, in a pond in the Himalayas, lived a tortoise. Two young wild ducks, who came to feed there, made friends with him. One day, they said to the tortoise:

"The place where we live, at the Golden Cave on the Mount Beautiful in the Himalaya country, is a delightful spot. Will you come there with us?"

"But how can I get there?"

"We can take you, if you can only hold your tongue, and say nothing to anybody."

"Oh! that I can do. Take me with you."

"Fine," said they and asked the tortoise to bite a stick and hold on to it during the flight. Then they took the two ends, and flew up into the air.

At the sight of that, some villagers shouted, "Look, two wild ducks are carrying a tortoise on a stick!"

The tortoise wanted to say, "If my friends choose to carry me, what is that to you, you fools!" So just as he was over the king's palace, he let go of the stick to say the words, fell in the open courtyard, and split into two!

At that time the king was taking a walk with the future Buddha. He looked at the dead tortoise in amazement, "How did this tortoise fall here?"

The future Buddha immediately seized the opportunity and explained how the tortoise’s inability to hold his tongue had cost him his life. "Those who are called chatter-boxes, people whose words have no end, come to a sad ending like this", added Buddha.

The king exclaimed, "Are you speaking of me?"

Buddha spoke openly, "O great king! Whoever talks beyond measure meets with some mishap like this."

From then on, the king became a man of few words.
ВАРИАНТ № 2

Ключ с верните отговори

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<tr>
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Възможни варианти:

Задачите от 51 до 60 включително се оценяват с 0 – 2 точки. Не се санкционират правописни и пунктуационни грешки, които не водят до нарушаване на комуникацията.

51. *The last time I went to/was at the cinema was 6 months ago*
52. *We won’t be able to get into the house unless we have a key.*
53. *I couldn’t put up with the noise any longer.*
54. *I’d rather you wore smart clothes to work.*
55. *If I had had enough money on me, I would have taken a taxi.*
56. *I didn’t know whether/if he had brought the book back (or not).*
57. *The car couldn’t be used because it was being serviced.*
58. *He could/might have started the fire but we are not sure.*
59. *He is believed to have escaped/run off with the money.*
60. *The doctor recommended he (should) go for a walk every day.*

Критерии за оценяване на писмения текст:

1. Съдържание и логическа последователност на изложението – 0 – 5т.
2. Спазване на зададения обем и формат – 0 – 3т.
3. Спазване на граматическите норми и правила – 0 – 8т.
4. Правилна и точна употреба на лексиката – 0 – 8т.
5. Богатство на изразните средства – 0 – 4т.
6. Правопис – 0 – 2т. (Не се санкционират пунктуационни грешки, които не пречат на разбирането.)

При плагиатство, идентични текстове, текст под 80 думи или пълно несъответствие на текста с избраната тема се присъждат 0 точки.