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**I. Vocabulary (30%):** Please choose the word that best completes each sentence below and write its corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) on the answer card.

選擇題請在答案卡上作答，否則不予計分。

1. Bicycles are \_\_\_\_\_ in this town. Wherever you go, you can see one riding a bicycle.  
(A) ubiquitous (B) anonymous (C) dangerous (D) preposterous
2. The website of this school is under \_\_\_\_\_. Computer engineers are working on it.  
(A) destruction (B) construction (C) depletion (D) destitution
3. Samuel is a \_\_\_\_\_ salesperson. He can easily persuade customers to buy clothes in his store.  
(A) pitiable (B) dishonest (C) skillful (D) abandoned
4. She has been working \_\_\_\_\_ for three months, because she needs to take a potentially life-changing exam in March.  
(A) haphazardly (B) angrily (C) carelessly (D) diligently
5. The actor tries to \_\_\_\_\_ difficult questions during a press conference. He does not answer the questions directly.  
(A) promote (B) evade (C) congratulate (D) consist
6. This paragraph appears \_\_\_\_\_ in your essay. It is unnecessary to put this paragraph in your essay. I suggest that you delete it.  
(A) transparent (B) brilliant (C) redundant (D) wealthy
7. In this country, nursing used to be a profession \_\_\_\_\_ by women. Almost all nurses were women. But now we can see many male nurses.  
(A) revised (B) transported (C) reduced (D) dominated
8. This high school is very \_\_\_\_\_. Believing that they can benefit a lot from studying there, many students consider it their top choice.  
(A) disgraceful (B) prestigious (C) immoral (D) administrative
9. Rubbish is \_\_\_\_\_. It makes an otherwise beautiful place look very ugly.  
(A) underdeveloped (B) unfair (C) unanimous (D) unsightly

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10. We have been lagging behind our competitors. But if we work harder, we can \_\_\_\_\_ and outperform them in due course.

- (A) overtake                      (B) overestimate                      (C) overdose                      (D) overdraw

11. Extreme weather has created a humanitarian \_\_\_\_\_ in this region. Many people have no food to eat and no clean water to drink.

- (A) coalition                      (B) alliance                      (C) crisis                      (D) duration

12. She is always ready to \_\_\_\_\_ new technology. She is never afraid of learning how to operate new machines.

- (A) ridicule                      (B) despise                      (C) displace                      (D) embrace

13. Workers in this factory go on \_\_\_\_\_ to protest against unfair treatment. They decide not to work until their complaint is properly addressed by their employers.

- (A) stroke                      (B) stew                      (C) strike                      (D) strict

14. These two countries have signed a \_\_\_\_\_ peace treaty. They both agree that they should put an end to the devastating war.

- (A) unilateral                      (B) bilateral                      (C) crippling                      (D) irrelevant

15. Children are especially \_\_\_\_\_ to this disease. Their immune systems are not strong enough to protect them from this disease.

- (A) persistent                      (B) deplorable                      (C) edible                      (D) vulnerable

**II. Grammar. For each of the following questions, please select the most appropriate answer. (20%)**

16. Identify the correct sentence:

- (A) The teacher suggested that the student would submit his assignment early.  
(B) I wish I know how to solve this equation.  
(C) Were she to accept the offer, it would change her life.  
(D) If he will come tomorrow, we can discuss the project.

17. Identify the correct sentence:

- (A) Having completed the project, the deadline was extended.  
(B) While walking to school, a dog barked at me.

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- (C) To win the competition, practice is essential.  
(D) Having been delayed by traffic, he arrived late.

18. Identify the correct sentence:

- (A) By the time he arrived, the show already ended.  
(B) If I knew the answer, I would have told you.  
(C) The team has been practicing for two hours when it started raining.  
(D) By next year, she will have completed her degree.

19. Identify the correct sentence:

- (A) He accused her for stealing his phone.  
(B) She insisted to join the meeting despite her illness.  
(C) They succeeded in persuading the board to reconsider.  
(D) He is addicted with video games.

20. Identify the correct sentence:

- (A) She likes dancing, singing, and to paint.  
(B) He is not only talented but also hardworking.  
(C) They are either going to the movies or stay home.  
(D) The report is neither accurate nor clarity.

21. Choose the correct sentence:

- (A) Let's meet at six o'clock, shall we?  
(B) Let's meet at six o'clock, will we?  
(C) Let's meet at six o'clock, can we?  
(D) Let's meet at six o'clock, won't we?

22. Choose the correct sentence:

- (A) The teacher demanded that he submitted his assignment.  
(B) John, along with his friends, is coming.  
(C) Had he been there, he would know the truth.  
(D) He acted as if he would be the winner.

23. Identify the error:

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No sooner the bell rang than the students ran out.

- (A) No
- (B) the bell rang
- (C) than
- (D) ran out

24. Identify the error:

Despite the players complained about the rain and some fans left early, the match continued.

- (A) Despite
- (B) about
- (C) some
- (D) continued

25. Identify the error:

The more chances he has at dealing with significant matters, the less patience he has for trial issues.

- (A) chances
- (B) dealing with
- (C) the less
- (D) trial

**III. Reading comprehension (20%): Please choose the most appropriate answer and mark the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) on the answer card.**

**Passage 1**

Why does Ohtani Shohei, a Japanese baseball star, pick up litter after games? Why do Japanese people queue so politely, and wait for green lights before crossing the road? Why, in short, is Japan so orderly? Some say the answer lies in its primary schools.

As the final bell rings, a flurry of six- and seven-year-olds dash out of class at Minami Ikebukuro Primary School in Tokyo: hats on, water bottles flying. Four girls are left behind; it's their turn to clean up. They pull child-sized brooms from a cupboard and get to work. Four brushes knock together as they gather paper shreds and dirt. "It always gets dusty here," says Mariya, pointing to grooves in the floor. The others rush over to help. By cleaning, children learn not to make a mess in the first place, says Kohashiguchi Megumi, the teacher. They also learn to be egalitarian: no, "Oh the caretaker will clean it up later."

Japan's educational method dates back to centuries. During the feudal Edo period (1603-1868), the samurai class

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set up schools to train literate, ethical warriors. Schools in temples trained the peasants; this may be where the practice of kids cleaning classrooms began. Schools in Japan today still strive to build character. They stress discipline and responsibility to others, says Nakano Koichi, a political scientist. Group harmony trumps individualism. Authority is important. Rules are internalised, so that scolding is unnecessary.

The social context in which Japanese schools operate is in many ways like the West: Japan, too, is a rich, liberal democracy. But in some ways it is different. Whereas Americans want their children to be leaders and win competitions, Japanese parents place greater value on their offspring getting along with others, surveys find. Relationships with mothers are especially close in Japan. Most kids share their mother's bed until they are ten. Research reveals Japanese mothers typically anticipate their children's needs, whereas American mothers wait for requests.

In the 1970s and 80s scholars looked to Japan for ideas about how to improve kids' test scores. Now, foreign visitors are more interested in how Japanese schools promote character. Countries from Mongolia to Malaysia have talked to Japan's government about this, says Sugita Hiroshi, a former education official now at Kokugakuin University. Since 2014 Singapore has made students clean their classrooms.

excerpted and modified from *The Economist*

<https://www.economist.com/>

26. According to this article, what do children learn when they clean their classrooms?

- (A) They learn to help their classmates.
- (B) They learn not to make a mess.
- (C) They learn to respect the caretaker and to think that cleaning the classrooms is their duty.
- (D) All of the above

27. According to this article, why is scolding often unnecessary in Japanese schools?

- (A) Because many Japanese students are afraid of punishment
- (B) Because many Japanese teachers are kind
- (C) Because many Japanese students have already considered following rules an essential part of their belief system
- (D) Because many Japanese teachers consider scolding ineffective

28. According to this article, what is the possible reason why Singapore requires its students to clean their classrooms?

- (A) Because Singapore wants to build up the moral character of its students

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- (B) Because Singapore wants to improve the academic performance of its students  
(C) Because Singapore is interested in international trade  
(D) Because Singapore wants to distance itself from Mongolia

29. According to this article, which of the following statement is true?

- (A) Parents in Japan encourage their children to become leaders.  
(B) Parents in America emphasizes the ability of their children to interact with others harmoniously.  
(C) Japanese mothers know what their children need before they express it.  
(D) Children in America tend to have close relationships with their mothers.

30. What is the best title for this article?

- (A) Japanese Economic Prosperity  
(B) Japanese Democracy  
(C) The Japanese Art of Child-Rearing  
(D) A Famous Japanese Baseball Player

## Passage 2

I research and write about happiness, so every year before Jan. 1, I ask people, “What resolutions will you make this year?” With reliable frequency, people tell me, “I want to read more.” Perhaps that’s not surprising. Most of us have the sense that reading is good for us—like getting enough sleep or eating more vegetables. And it’s absolutely true. Research shows that reading benefits mental health, gives us more empathy for others, mitigates stress, sharpens memory, helps us learn, and increases our tolerance for uncertainty (particularly useful these days). One study even showed that reading books helps us live longer.

But, to be honest, while I’m gratified to know that my favorite activity is good for me, I don’t really care that it’s healthy. I read because it’s fun. To me, reading is more fun than practically anything else. It’s like listening to music or hiking—the benefits are great, but that’s not why I do it. I’ve played hooky from work to finish a novel (Stephen King’s *The Stand*). I’ve given 12 friends a copy of the same book (Christopher Alexander’s *A Pattern Language*). I’ve re-read the same novel 10 times, understanding it differently every time (Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*). I’ve picked up one novel by an author, then raced to read everything else that writer published (Octavia Butler’s *Wild Seed*). My favorite thing to do on a Saturday or Sunday is to binge-read for hours. So, from a happiness-boosting perspective, it’s both healthful and enjoyable to resolve to try to read more, but “I want to read more” isn’t an effective way to frame that resolution. I love to read, and even someone like me benefits from setting habits around reading. So what’s a better way to tackle that aim? Reading for at least 25 minutes every day in 2025 is the answer.

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We're more likely to keep our resolutions when they're concrete and measurable. "No screens 6:00-9:00 p.m." works better than "reduce my screen time." Also—and this may seem counterintuitive—it's often easier to keep a resolution when we do an action every day than when we do it sometimes. Habits form best when we do an activity often and consistently, so by reading for 25 minutes each day, we're more likely to make it a habit. Committing to doing something every day also eliminates the decision fatigue of asking ourselves, "Today or tomorrow?" "Do I deserve a day off?" "I'm traveling, do I have to do it?" Like brushing our teeth, reading can become a daily activity that doesn't spark any internal debate or procrastination.

An observation I've made over the years is that something that can be done at *any* time is often done at *no* time. By committing to 25 minutes of reading every single day for the year of 2025, we can make reading a regular habit. How many other ways can we reap so many extraordinary benefits—while also indulging in one of life's greatest pleasures?

excerpted and modified from *Time* <https://time.com>

31. What is the main idea of this article?

- (A) How to use social media appropriately
- (B) How to write about happiness
- (C) How to develop a habit of reading regularly
- (D) How to purchase a good book

32. According to this article, in what ways can we benefit from reading?

- (A) Reading isolates us from other people.
- (B) Reading gives us strong bodies.
- (C) Reading gives us the ability to endure uncertainty.
- (D) All of the above

33. What does the underlined word "spark" mean in this article?

- (A) to prevent something from happening
- (B) to cause something to start
- (C) to deny something
- (D) to investigate something

34. Which of the following statements about the author's reading experience is true?

- (A) The author reads books because reading is a healthy activity.

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- (B) The author never reads the same book again.  
(C) The author does not read on a Saturday.  
(D) The author has read everything written by Octavia Butler.

35. Which of the following statements about keeping resolutions is true?

- (A) A vague resolution is better than a concrete one.  
(B) Repeating the same action everyday does not help us keep our resolution.  
(C) If you can do a thing at any time, it is likely that you will never do it.  
(D) None of the above

#### IV. Essay. (30%)

Some scientists have contended that we should NOT explore the possibility of contacting intelligent life forms on other planets. Write an approximately 300-word essay divided into two paragraphs. In the first paragraph, discuss the possible reasons why they advocate for this position. In the second paragraph, state whether you agree with this position and provide your reasoning.



備 註	一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。 二、試題請隨卷繳交。
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