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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。
- Despite repeated warnings, the company continued its _____ use of personal data.
(A) judicious (B) meticulous (C) reckless (D) prudent
 - The professor's explanation was so _____ that even first-year students could follow the argument easily.
(A) obscure (B) lucid (C) prolix (D) equivocal
 - Her research proposal was rejected because it lacked a clear _____ and methodological justification.
(A) premise (B) digression (C) ventilation (D) apparel
 - His remarks were carefully worded to _____ public criticism without engaging with the substance of the complaint.
(A) deflect (B) provoke (C) operationalize (D) fabricate
 - After hours of intense discussion, the committee reached a decision that was _____.
(A) impromptu (B) unanimous (C) immoderate (D) excessive
 - Throughout the article, the author adopts a tone that is _____, carefully avoiding emotional language.
(A) irrevocable (B) effusive (C) dispassionate (D) incendiary
 - Without sufficient evidence, the claim remains largely _____.
(A) corroborated (B) authenticated (C) speculative (D) determinative
 - The private school mainly serves _____ families who can afford high tuition and extensive extracurricular programs.
(A) negligible (B) ubiquitous (C) unsightly (D) affluent
 - To encourage honest feedback, the university guaranteed that the evaluation forms would remain _____.
(A) deceptive (B) anonymous (C) alleged (D) duplicitous
 - The committee rejected the proposal as _____ because its claims were internally contradictory: it promised "zero cost" and "instant results" at the same time.
(A) deep-rooted (B) ingrained (C) preposterous (D) brilliant
 - The government introduced new water-saving policies to _____ the impact of the drought on agriculture.
(A) scorch (B) mitigate (C) induce (D) overestimate
 - The budget meeting quickly turned tense when departments argued over the _____ of limited research funds.
(A) allocation (B) coalition (C) enunciation (D) ornamentation
 - After years of not speaking, the two colleagues finally _____ during a project that forced them to collaborate again.

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(A) evaporated (B) conceived (C) embarked (D) reconciled

14. Although the work was demanding, the contract proved _____ due to high royalties and long-term licensing rights.

(A) lucrative (B) dappled (C) stagnant (D) adverse

15. When pressed for details about the data leak, the spokesperson tried to _____ the question by shifting to safer topics.

(A) encompass (B) evade (C) laud (D) resign

II. Grammar (20%): In each of the following sentences, there is a blank where a word, phrase or clause is omitted. Choose for each blank the most appropriate answer, and mark its corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) on the answer card.

16. Many residents objected to _____ a highway through the protected wetlands.

(A) build (B) building (C) to build (D) built

17. All personal data must be processed _____ the university's privacy policy.

(A) in accordance with (B) in contrast to (C) by virtue of (D) in exchange for

18. I wish I _____ more carefully before I sent that email to the entire department.

(A) would check (B) had checked (C) could have checked (D) have checked

19. The committee requested that every applicant _____ a writing sample with the application.

(A) submits (B) submitted (C) submit (D) has submitted

20. Before the final decision is made, the department chair invited all faculty members to _____ on the proposed curriculum changes.

(A) weigh in (B) weigh at (C) weigh out (D) weigh over

21. _____ had the meeting begun when several participants raised objections.

(A) No longer (B) No later (C) No more (D) No sooner

22. Hardly _____ to explain the sudden change in policy.

(A) has anything been offered (B) anything has offered (C) has been anything offered
(D) anything was offered

23. _____ the evidence been stronger, the conclusion would have been more convincing.

(A) Had (B) Were (C) Should (D) If

24. No account was given as to _____ the discrepancy had arisen.

(A) what (B) how (C) which (D) that

25. The speaker paused repeatedly, lest the audience _____ her remarks.

(A) misinterpret (B) misinterpreted (C) would misinterpret (D) had misinterpreted

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III. Reading Comprehension (20%): Choose the most appropriate answer, and mark its corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) on the answer card.

Passage 1

Stingless bees from the Amazon have become the first insects to be granted legal rights anywhere in the world, in a breakthrough supporters hope will be a catalyst for similar moves to protect bees elsewhere. It means that across a broad swathe of the Peruvian Amazon, the rainforest's long-overlooked native bees – which, unlike their cousins the European honeybees, have no sting – now have the right to exist and to flourish.

Cultivated by Indigenous peoples since pre-Columbian times, stingless bees are thought to be key rainforest pollinators, sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. But they are faced with a deadly confluence of climate change, deforestation and pesticides, as well as competition from European bees, and scientists and campaigners have been racing against time to get stingless bees on international conservation red lists.

Constanza Prieto, Latin American director at the Earth Law Center, who was part of the campaign, said: “This ordinance marks a turning point in our relationship with nature: it makes stingless bees visible, recognizes them as rights-bearing subjects, and affirms their essential role in preserving ecosystems.”

Espinoza, a chemical biologist, first started researching the bees in 2020, after a colleague asked her to conduct an analysis of their honey, which was being used during the pandemic in Indigenous communities where treatments for Covid were in short supply. She was stunned by the findings. “I was seeing hundreds of medicinal molecules, like molecules that are known to have some sort of biological medicinal property,” Espinoza recalled. “And the variety was also really wild – these molecules have been known to have anti-inflammatory effects or antiviral, antibacterial, antioxidant, even anti-cancer.”

From this point, researchers have also highlighted the wider ecological role of stingless bees. Dr César Delgado described them as primary pollinators in the Amazon, contributing not only to plant reproduction but also to biodiversity, forest conservation, and global food security. However, research has revealed an additional and serious threat to their survival.

In the 1950s, a scientific experiment in Brazil aimed at producing a honeybee better suited to tropical conditions resulted in the Africanized honeybee, a more aggressive variety. These bees have since spread widely and are now outcompeting stingless bees in their natural habitats. During fieldwork in southern Peru, researchers documented particularly strong competition between the two species, based on accounts from Indigenous community members.

One such case was reported in Satipo, a municipality that later became the first to grant legal rights to stingless bees. Under the new ordinance, the bees are granted the right to exist and thrive, to maintain healthy populations, to live in a clean and stable environment, and to be legally represented when they are threatened or harmed. A second municipality, Nauta, soon passed a similar ordinance.

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<Excerpt adapted from “Stingless bees from the Amazon granted legal rights in world first”, by Damien Gayle, *The Guardian*, 29 December 2025.>

26. According to the passage, stingless bees are important to the Amazon ecosystem primarily because they function as key pollinators, which means they:
- (A) generate biologically active compounds used in traditional medicine
 - (B) regulate climatic conditions through forest conservation
 - (C) facilitate plant reproduction and sustain biodiversity
 - (D) limit the spread of competing insect species
27. Which combination of threats to stingless bees is mentioned in the passage?
- (A) Overharvesting, drought, and habitat fragmentation
 - (B) Climate change, deforestation, pesticides, and competition
 - (C) Rapid urbanization, pollution, and disease
 - (D) Flourishing tourism, farming, and infrastructure development
28. In the passage, the reference to ‘hundreds of medicinal molecules’ primarily serves to highlight:
- (A) the increasing commercial value of stingless bee honey
 - (B) the scientific complexity and medicinal potential of the honey
 - (C) the difficulty of analyzing natural substances
 - (D) the critical shortage of medical treatments during the pandemic
29. Why are Africanized honeybees mentioned in the passage?
- (A) They were introduced to increase honey production safely
 - (B) They are protected under the same ordinances and environmental rules
 - (C) They have begun outcompeting stingless bees in their habitats
 - (D) They are native to the Peruvian Amazon
30. What rights were granted to stingless bees under the new ordinances?
- (A) Ownership of forest land and agricultural resources
 - (B) Protection only within designated reserves
 - (C) The right to exist, thrive, and be legally represented
 - (D) Exemption from environmental regulations

Passage 2

For several weeks, Geoff Perlman, a 61-year-old tech executive in Texas, has been testing a free trial of Tesla’s newest “Full Self-Driving” (FSD) software while driving around Austin. He says the system can manage tricky lane shifts and park in crowded lots more smoothly than many human drivers. Perlman is even considering paying roughly \$8,000 to add the feature permanently, partly because he thinks it could help his 89-year-old father-in-law continue driving with less strain. Yet Perlman draws a firm line: he will not text while the software is active. In his

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view, looking down at a phone while traveling at highway speed remains reckless, no matter how capable the car appears.

Tesla's chief executive and public face, Elon Musk, has signaled a looser position. Speaking to investors, Musk suggested Tesla would "allow" texting while driving, and later replied online that it could be acceptable depending on surrounding traffic. Tesla did not clarify how such a policy would work in practice. Safety advocates argue that even implying phone use is permissible risks normalizing illegal behavior, especially because Tesla's systems still require driver supervision. Tesla offers "Autopilot" for lane centering and a more advanced FSD package that can navigate, park, and even summon the vehicle, but both are marketed as supervised systems—creating a tension with laws that prohibit texting behind the wheel.

Musk counters that many drivers text anyway, and that using driver-assistance could reduce harm compared with texting without it. Tesla points to internal statistics suggesting fewer serious crashes when FSD features are engaged. Critics respond that such claims are hard to evaluate without independent access to the data and a clear comparison baseline. Regulators, meanwhile, continue investigating reports of erratic behavior—such as sudden braking or failures to follow basic traffic rules—and have pressured Tesla to adjust naming and monitoring, reflecting concern that drivers may overtrust the technology.

The debate unfolds as competition intensifies. Rival firms have faced their own safety scrutiny, yet Waymo operates large fleets of driverless taxis and is expanding. Tesla has begun running driverless robotaxi tests in Texas, boosting investor confidence, but some observers warn that pushing ahead too quickly is a high-stakes gamble: if real-world incidents accumulate, public trust and regulatory approval may evaporate.

31. Which statement best captures Perlman's attitude toward FSD?
- (A) He rejects it as unreliable and refuses to use it.
 - (B) He is impressed but still insists on staying fully attentive.
 - (C) He is confident in it and texts freely while driving on highways.
 - (D) He believes it eliminates the need for driver attention.
32. Which option best describes Elon Musk's stance as presented in the passage?
- (A) Texting should remain banned until cars are fully autonomous under independent certification.
 - (B) Tesla will prohibit phone use by disabling FSD whenever a phone is detected.
 - (C) Texting may be acceptable in certain conditions while FSD is operating.
 - (D) Texting is safe because FSD removes legal responsibility from the driver.
33. Safety advocates are most concerned that Musk's remarks will:
- (A) encourage drivers to ignore laws and overestimate the system's autonomy
 - (B) discourage public transit use and normalize routine phone distraction
 - (C) pressure regulators to ease oversight and accelerate market approval
 - (D) deflect corporate accountability and reassign blame to software engineers

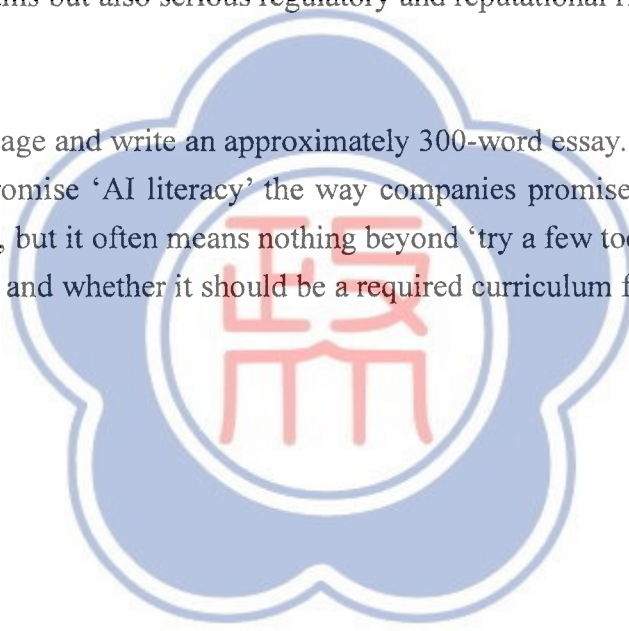
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34. Why do critics question Tesla's safety claims?
- (A) Tesla's data show more crashes when FSD is used appropriately.
 - (B) Regulators have banned Tesla from testing in the US.
 - (C) The data are not independently verifiable and lack clear baselines.
 - (D) Rival firms refuse to publish their safety statistics.
35. The phrase 'a high-stakes gamble' most nearly implies that Tesla's strategy:
- (A) could be expensive yet still deliver only limited practical benefits
 - (B) could lose momentum yet still continue despite overseas competition
 - (C) could cut prices yet still fail to address core safety concerns
 - (D) could bring big gains but also serious regulatory and reputational risks

IV. Essay (30%):

Read the following passage and write an approximately 300-word essay.

"Universities rush to promise 'AI literacy' the way companies promise 'innovation.' The phrase sounds modern and responsible, but it often means nothing beyond 'try a few tools.'" Explain what you think "AI literacy" should include and whether it should be a required curriculum for university students.



備註	<p>一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。</p> <p>二、試題請隨卷繳交。</p>
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