

Admission/Placement Examination 2012/2013 – ENGLISH (Paper 1)

I. Reading Comprehension (40 marks)

Passage 1

In one way of thinking, failure is a part of life. In another way, failure may be a way towards success. The “spider story” is often told. Robert Bruce, leader of the Scots in the 13th century, was hiding in a cave from the English. He watched a spider spinning a web (蜘蛛織網). The spider tried to reach across a rough place in the rock. He tried six times without success. On the seventh time he made it and went on to spin his web. Bruce is said to have taken heart and to have gone on to defeat the English... Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, made hundreds of models that failed before he found the right way to make one.

So what? First, always think about your failure. What caused it? Were conditions right? Were you in top form yourself? What can you change so things will go right next time?

Second, is the goal (目標) you’re trying to reach the right one? Try to do some thinking about what your real goals may be. Think about his question, “If I do succeed in this, where will it get me?” This may help you prevent failure in things you shouldn’t be doing anyway.

The third thing to bear in mind about failure is that it’s a part of life. Learn to “live with yourself” even though you may have failed. Remember, “You can’t win them all.”

1. This passage deals with two sides of failure. In paragraph 1, the author talks mainly about _____.
A. the value of failure B. how people would fail
C. famous failures D. the cause of failure
2. The underlined phrase “made it” means _____.
A. succeeded B. failed
C. gave D. got
3. The lesson the spider taught Robert Bruce seems _____.
A. useless B. straightforward
C. sorrowful D. deep
4. The author tells you to do all things EXCEPT _____.
A. The think about the cause of your failure
B. to check out whether your goals are right for you
C. to consider failure as a part or life
D. to bear in mind that you will never fail in your life
5. Which of the following is NOT true?
A. Bruce and Edison were successful examples.
B. Failure may be regarded as a way toward success.
C. Edison learned a lot from the lesson the spider taught Robert Bruce.
D. One may often raise a question whether his goals are worth attempting.

Passage 2

People bury treasure to stop other people from taking it. They choose a quiet place, dig a deep hole and bury the treasure in it. Then they make a map of where the treasure is or write down other clues that will help them or someone else to find it again.

In Britain a few years ago, a writer wrote about some treasure that he had buried. He put clues in the story to help readers find it. Thousands of people hunted for the treasure. They dug holes all over Britain, hoping to find it.

One of the most popular adventure stories ever written is Robert Louis Stephenson’s ‘Treasured Island’, an exciting story about a young boy, Jim Hawkins, who is captured by pirates and later finds some buried treasure.

Then there is the true story about a man who had to travel overseas for a year. He did not trust banks, so he buried his life savings in a park. Then he went away. On his return, he went straight to the park. But the park was no longer there. In its place there was a huge building.

And then there was the man who buried his savings, all in bank notes, in a waterproof (防水的) bag. When he dug it up years later, there was nothing left. Worms and insects had eaten the bag and everything in it.

And of course, these are stories about people who bury things and either forget where they have buried them or lose the map.

Although it is true that people sometimes lose their money because a bank fails, banks are still the safest place to keep our savings and treasures.

C. Max

D. Max's boss

4. Why did Gleason call the director over and smile at him? Because Gleason _____.
- A. thought his wonderful idea was accepted by the latter
 - B. succeeded in hitting upon a wonderful idea.
 - C. was confident about his work the next day
 - D. appreciated the latter's way of directing films
5. The most suitable title for the passage is _____.
- A. Directing Film
 - B. The Art of Film Directing
 - C. A Wonderful Experience
 - D. Working with Film Stars

Passage 4

In the late 1960s, many people in North America turned their attention to environmental problems, and new steel-and-glass skyscrapers (摩天大樓) were widely blamed. Ecologists (生態學者) pointed out that many tall buildings in a city often cause transportation and parking problems.

Skyscrapers are also wasteful consumers of electricity. In one recent year, 17 million square feet of skyscraper office space in New York City raised the highest daily demand for electricity by 120,000 kilowatts—enough to supply the entire city of Albany for a day.

Glass-walled (玻璃幕牆) skyscrapers can be especially wasteful. The heat loss (or gain) through a wall of half-inch glass is more than ten times that through a traditional wall filled with insulation board (隔熱板). To reduce the burden on heating and air-conditioning equipment, builders of skyscrapers have begun to use double-glazed panels of glass (雙層玻璃板), and reflective glasses covered with a layer of silver or gold mirror that reduce the unpleasant bright light as well as heat gain. However, glass-walled skyscrapers raise the temperature of the surrounding air and affect neighboring buildings.

Skyscrapers put a heavy burden on a city's public facilities, too. If fully occupied, the former two World Trade Center towers in New York City would alone produce 2.25 million gallons of waste water each year—as much as a city the size of Stamford, which has a population of more than 109,000.

Skyscrapers also influence television reception, block bird flyways, and affect air traffic. In Boston in the late 1960s, some people even feared that shadows from skyscrapers would kill the grass on Boston Common (波士頓公園).

Still, people continue to build skyscrapers for all the reasons that they have always built them—personal ambition, a sense of pride, and the desire of owners to have the largest possible amount of space for rent.

1. The main purpose of the passage is to _____.
- A. explain various building structures
 - B. compare skyscrapers with other modern buildings
 - C. discuss the advantages and disadvantages of skyscrapers
 - D. describe skyscrapers and their influence on the environment
2. According to the passage, what is one disadvantage of skyscrapers that have glass walls?
- A. Construction time is increased.
 - B. The surrounding air is heated.
 - C. The building materials are very expensive.
 - D. Such buildings lead to climate change.
3. According to the passage, which aspect of skyscrapers were some residents of Boston worried about in the late 1960's?
- A. The influence on air traffic.
 - B. The harmful effects on the city's plants.
 - C. The poor reception of radio and TV signals.
 - D. The removal of trees and grass from building sites.
4. Which of the following groups would the skyscraper issue concern most?
- A. College students.
 - B. Television viewers.
 - C. Environmentalists.
 - D. Electrical engineers.
5. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
- A. The skyscrapers first appeared in the late 1960s.
 - B. Where there are skyscrapers, television reception is poorer.
 - C. The former two World Trade Center towers are skyscrapers.
 - D. Skyscrapers provide more usable space than other buildings.

IIa. Vocabulary and Grammar (30marks)

Choose the answer that best completes each sentence

1. _____ Jeremy Shu-How Lin is _____ American professional basketball player.
A. A, a B. /, an C. The, an D. /, the
2. The medicine works more effectively _____ you drink some hot water after taking it.
A. as B. until C. if D. although
3. This is their flashlight. Please give _____ back to _____.
A. it, it B. them, it C. it, them D. them, their
4. The first heart transplant _____ on December 3, 1967 by Dr. Christian Barnard in Cape Town, South Africa.
A. performed B. was performed
C. had been performed D. had performed
5. If she wants to catch the train, she _____ hurry up!
A. was B. should have C. had better D. would
6. Little _____ about her own safety, though she was in great danger herself.
A. Rose did care B. did Rose care C. Rose does care D. does Rose care
7. If you have any questions, _____ your hand and I'll try to help you.
A. raise B. rise C. put D. take
8. According to the information on this page, items bought before 1940 _____ more than items made after that year.
A. cause B. causes C. cost D. costs
9. "Be quiet and let me _____ the football match!"
A. look B. see C. watch D. stare
10. My friend showed me around the town, _____ was very kind of him.
A. it B. that C. where D. which
11. There _____ many photographs and graphs in this book _____ help the teachers in introductory courses.
A. are, that B. is, that C. are, which D. is, which
12. Is there anybody in your family _____ you disagree strongly?
A. with which B. with whom C. from which D. from whom
13. _____ he didn't like her, he invited her out.
A. However B. Although C. Because D. For
14. There were three books on my table. One is here. Where are _____?
A. the other B. the others C. another D. one another
15. Almost everybody fails _____ on the first try.
A. to pass that test B. to have passed that test
C. pass that test D. passing that test
16. _____ in 1939, the Borne Bridge is one of the many grand projects of the Depression era.
A. Completed B. Completes C. Completing D. Complete
17. Excuse me, can you tell me where the museum is?
A. You have to know the ropes. B. It's at the end of this street.
C. Why do I have to tell you? D. You can buy a ticket at the gate.

18. In the past, man had to travel for days on foot or on the back of animals _____ horses or mules.
 A. just as B. like as C. for example D. such as
19. Though he can no longer see in his left eye, his eyesight in his right eye _____.
 A. is amazing B. is amazed
 C. sees amazing D. sees amazed
20. What kind of work do you think you will _____ in the future?
 A. apply B. apply to
 C. apply for D. apply at
21. His sister left home in 1998, and _____ since.
 A. had not been heard of B. has not been heard of
 C. had not heard of D. has not heard of
22. I really regretted my mistake. It was one that I _____.
 A. mustn't make B. ought not to be making
 C. had not to make D. ought not to have made
23. The officer explained to me _____ he stopped the car.
 A. what B. that C. which D. why
24. You won't be able to describe the picture _____ you look at it _____.
 A. unless, careful B. unless, carefully
 C. if, careful D. if, carefully
25. He speaks _____ English _____ French.
 A. neither, and B. neither, or C. either, nor D. neither, nor
26. They love English weather, ___?
 A. aren't they B. are they C. don't they D. did they
27. _____ the TOEFL exam in June, we took a sham exam in April.
 A. To prepare for B. Prepare for C. Preparing for D. Prepared for
28. If I had known I'd hurt him so much, I _____ that.
 A. mustn't have said B. wouldn't have said
 C. couldn't have said D. shouldn't have said
29. This is _____ scenery I have ever seen.
 A. beautiful B. more beautiful C. the most beautiful D. most beautifully
30. What is your busiest day of the week?
 A. In the morning. B. Every day.
 C. Tuesday. D. Last week

IIb. Cloze (10 marks)

Although international travel is usually an 1 and pleasant experience, travelers should take steps to ensure that their health does not 2 either from their time in the air or from their time abroad.

Before you go, check with your doctor or local travel clinic 3 injections are necessary for the areas you are traveling to. 4 sufficient time to have these injections before you leave because they may take time to become 5. Be sure that the information on health is up-to-date. Check on the Internet if you are not sure. Don't go to bed late the day 6 you fly.

Your body has a natural daily sleep 7. It takes time to 8 to a new time zone. There are many different effects of jet lag (时差): you may not be able to sleep, you may not want to eat or you may feel sick and tired. You may not be able to concentrate for some days after you arrive.

There are several things you can do to 9 the effects of jet lag:

- Do your best to relax during the flight;
- Sleep as much as you can on the flight. Use a mild sleeping pill if necessary;
- Drink as much water as you can;
- Don't drink alcohol and caffeine;
- Take mild sleeping pills 10 the first few days in the new time zone if you need them.

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|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | A. excite | B. exciting | C. excited | D. excitement |
| 2. | A. save | B. suffer | C. serve | D. surf |
| 3. | A. / | B. that | C. which | D. where |
| 4. | A. Let | B. Ask | C. Do | D. Allow |
| 5. | A. efficient | B. effective | C. active | D. productive |
| 6. | A. before | B. after | C. which | D. when |
| 7. | A. partner | B. pattern | C. function | D. model |
| 8. | A. adjust | B. adopt | C. admit | D. adhere |
| 9. | A. short | B. shorten | C. less | D. lessen |
| 10. | A. at | B. of | C. with | D. for |

III. Composition (20 marks)

Write an essay of about 150 words on **ONE** of the following topics.

1. Do you think gay marriage should be legalized (合法化)? Why or why not? Please explain.
2. Write about a book that has special significance (意义) for you.