PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: You will hear a radio programme about the Mystery of the Great Pyramids 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.

1. Among the dozens of inexplicable mysteries people have always regarded the Great Pyramids as the most challenging one.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

2. The first pyramid was used as a source of building material.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

3. The Bent pyramid was imperfect because it was not tall enough.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

4. The second of the “true” pyramids was twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

5. Egyptian pyramids were richly decorated.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear a text about someone’s skill to forecast the weather 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. The two travellers were scientists exploring the wild west of America.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

7. The region they travelled through was densely populated by local people.
   A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
8. The old Indian hunter lived in a forest hut.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

9. The two travellers were surprised by the ability of the Indian to forecast the weather in such detail for a few days ahead.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

10. It turned out that the old Indian was working as a weatherman for the local radio.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear a text about a nun’s unusual hobby 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. Sister “Internet” was expelled from the convent at the age of

12. Sister Maria was asked to leave the religious order because
A) she had spent too many years in solitary confinement. B) of her numerous arguments with the other nuns. C) she had too many friends on Facebook. D) her online social networking took a lot of her time.

13. The news of Sister Maria’s expulsion from the convent
A) was spread around by her fellow nuns at the convent. B) was first reported in The Telegraph newspaper. C) was long kept in secret by Sister Maria herself. D) resulted in an Internet campaign in her support.

14. For which of the following activities did Sister Maria NOT use the Internet while she was in the convent?

15. Sister Maria won an award for
A) installing the first computer at her convent. B) improving access to the archives of the convent. C) her excellent social networking skills. D) finally breaking free from the convent.
How do you react when you hear the words “road trip”? Do you get excited by the adventure of driving? Or do you immediately stretch into a yawn, anticipating the boredom of staring at the tail lights of the car in front of you for mile upon endless mile? Or, do your palms immediately begin to sweat as you dread the stress of relentless freeway traffic? About a third of drivers fall into the second category, according to a survey conducted by researchers at Newcastle University in the UK. And if you think aggressive drivers are the most dangerous on the road, you might consider the hazards posed by bored ones. The scientists found that boredom in their study subjects translated into riskier driving to make the on-road experience more exciting, leading them to have one and a half times more accidents than other drivers. Not surprisingly, these individuals were more likely to be young and less experienced behind the wheel.

Four types of drivers were found – those who were nervous, dangerous, young and bored, those who were enthusiastic, those who disliked driving, and those who were slow and safe. The young and bored drivers were generally more anxious behind the wheel. That nervous energy transformed into a need to match their heightened sense of excitement while on the road, something that they seemed only able to do by speeding or driving recklessly. In order to stimulate themselves, they tended to speed in urban areas and adopt other accident-prone behaviors.

The other group that tended to drive fast included the enthusiastic drivers who found driving was both challenge and pleasure, and were involved in the least number of accidents among the four groups. While the results aren't surprising, the study sheds light on why accidents occur. In many cases, it seems, the drivers feel under-stimulated, and are easily distracted by anything else but the road. Their mind wanders and they lose concentration. They are not responding in the same way as enthusiastic drivers are, and that could be a problem for road safety.

16. According to the survey, about 33 percent of drivers think driving is monotonous.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

17. Enthusiastic drivers are willing to take more risks.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

18. Bored drivers tend to drive carefully.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

19. Reckless drivers are typically quite experienced.
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

20. According to the survey, accidents occur when drivers feel stimulated.
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.

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer – a building contractor – of his plans to leave the house-building business to live a more leisurely life with his wife and enjoy his big family. He would miss the paycheck each week, but he wanted to retire. Though it was difficult, his family could make ends meet.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes, but over time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He became very careless and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work, his employer came to inspect the house. Then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, "This is your house... my gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we would do it much differently.

But, you cannot go back. You are the carpenter, and every day you hammer a nail, place a wooden board, or erect a wall. Someone once said, "Life is a do-it-yourself project."

Your attitude, and the choices you make today, help build the "house" you will live in tomorrow.

21. The carpenter decided to retire because
A) he had saved enough to spend the rest of his life in leisure.
B) his employer had not paid him regularly.
C) his family was not large and didn’t need much.
D) he wanted to spend more time with his wife and children.

22. The contractor was sorry because the carpenter
A) was having some heart problems.
B) was his favourite worker.
C) had promised to build one more house.
D) had been a good and loyal worker.

23. At the end of his career the carpenter
A) still worked in his usual way.
B) began to try out new building materials.
C) changed his work-style.
D) wanted to show the best of his craftsmanship.

24. The carpenter was shocked because
A) he had unknowingly punished himself.
B) the contractor never inspected the building site.
C) his employer was disappointed with his work.
D) the present he got was too small.
25. According to the narrator, life is like a  
A) nail knocked in the wall.  
B) house we slowly build.  
C) wall between birth and death.  
D) board we fix in its place.  

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.

“I’ve been having an identity crisis for years. Terri knows. Terri can tell you. But let me say this. If I could come back again in a different life, a different time and all, you know what? I’d like to come back as a knight. You were pretty safe wearing all that armor. It was all right being a knight until gunpowder and muskets and .22 pistols came along.”

“Herb would like to ride a white horse and carry a lance,” Terri said, and laughed.

“Carry a woman’s garter with you everywhere,” Laura said.

“Or just a woman,” I said.

“That’s right,” Herb said. “There you go. You know what’s what, don’t you, Nick?” he said.

“Also, you’d carry around their perfumed hankies with you wherever you rode. Did they have perfumed hankies in those days? It doesn’t matter. Some little forget-me-not. A token, a symbol, that’s what I’m trying to say. You needed some token to carry around with you in those days. Anyway, whatever, it was better in those days being a knight than a peasant,” Herb said.

“It’s always better,” Laura said.

“The peasants didn’t have it so good in those days,” Terri said.

“The peasants have never had it good,” Herb said. “But I guess even the knights were vessels to someone. Isn’t that the way it worked in those days? But, then, everyone is always a vessel to someone else. Isn’t that right? Terri? But what I liked about knights, besides their ladies, was that they had that suit of armor, you know, and they couldn’t get hurt very easily. No cars in those days, man. No drunk teen-agers to run over you.”

“Vassals,” I said. “They were called vassals, Doc, not vessels.”

“Vassals, vessels, ventricles, what’s the difference. Well, you knew what I meant anyway.”

“He’s just a humble doctor,” I said. “But sometimes knights suffocated in all that armor, Herb. They’d even have heart attacks if it got too hot and they were too tired and worn out. I read somewhere that they’d fall off their horses and not be able to get up because they were too tired to stand with all that armor on them. They got trampled by their own horses sometimes.”

“That’s terrible,” Herb said. “That’s a terrible image, Nicky. I guess they’d just lie there then and wait until someone, the enemy, came along and made a shish kebab out of them.”

“Some other vassal,” Terri said.

“That’s right, some other vassal,” Herb said. “There you have it. Some other vassal would come along and kill his fellow-knight in the name of love. Or whatever it was they fought over in those days. Same things we fight over these days, I guess,” Herb said.
26. Obviously Herb is
A) in the medical profession.
B) a man in financial crisis.
C) someone who has had a car accident.
D) None of the above.

27. The conversation suggests that
A) Nick is the narrator.
B) Terri wants to be a knight.
C) Laura thinks it is a good idea to carry a token.
D) Herb likes the guns of the knights.

28. Herb tends to romanticize the lives of knights mainly because
A) knights wore garters everywhere.
B) knights were safe in their armor.
C) knights were vassals.
D) the knight’s armor was bulletproof.

29. By saying “he is just a humble doctor” the narrator suggests that Herb is
A) not very well educated.
B) not knowledgeable of things outside his profession.
C) incompetent in his profession.
D) unpretentious in his desires.

30. The overall conclusion drawn by Herb is that
A) wounded knights waited to be given shish kebab.
B) peasants were better off than knights.
C) knights often died of heart attacks not in fights.
D) we share a lot with people of the past.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test
Directions: Read the text and the sentences 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.

Once upon a time the colors of the world started to quarrel. They all claimed they were the best, the most important, the most useful, man’s favorite.
GREEN said: “Clearly I am the most important. I am the sign of life and of hope. I was (31) _____ grass, trees, leaves – without me, all animals would die.”
BLUE interrupted: “Consider the sky and the sea. It is the water that is the (32) _____ of life and, drawn up by the clouds, forms the deep sea.”
YELLOW chuckled: “You are all so serious. I bring laughter, joy, and warmth into the world. The sun is yellow, the moon is yellow, the stars are yellow. Every time you look at a sunflower, the (33) _____ world starts to smile.”
ORANGE started next to (34) _____ her trumpet: “I am the color of health and strength. I
may be scarce, but I am precious for I (35) _____ the needs of human life. Think of carrots, pumpkins, oranges, and mangoes. I don’t (36) _____ all the time, but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset, my beauty is so striking that no one gives another thought to any of you.” RED could (37) _____ it no longer. He shouted out: “I am the ruler of all of you – I am blood – life’s blood! I am the color of danger and of bravery. I am the color of passion and of love, the red rose, and the poppy.” PURPLE rose up to his full height. “I am the color of royalty and power. Kings, chiefs, and bishops have always chosen me for I am the sign of authority and wisdom.” Finally, INDIGO spoke, much more quietly than all the others, but with just as much (38) _____: “I am the color of silence. You hardly notice me, but I represent thought and reflection, twilight and deep water.” And so the colors went on boasting, each convinced of his or her own (39) ______. Their quarreling became louder and louder. Suddenly there was a startling flash of bright lightening – thunder rolled and boomed. Rain started to (40) _____ down relentlessly. The colors crouched down in fear, drawing close to one another for comfort. In the midst of the clamor, rain began to speak: “You foolish colors, fighting amongst yourselves, each trying to (41) _____ the rest. Don’t you know that you were each made for a special purpose, unique and different? Join hands with one another and come to me. From now on, when it rains, each of you will stretch across the sky in a great bow of color as a (42) _____ that you can all live in peace. The RAINBOW symbolizes hope for tomorrow.”

31. A) chosen for B) elected as C) picked up D) sorted out
32. A) basement B) basics C) ground D) basis
33. A) total B) whole C) all D) overall
34. A) wind B) sound C) blow D) whistle
35. A) provide B) serve C) cater D) service
36. A) hang around B) hang on C) hang up D) hang in
37. A) hold B) keep C) stay D) stand
38. A) conclusion B) decision C) determination D) activity
39. A) highness B) superiority C) majesty D) majority
40. A) run B) go C) let D) pour
41. A) dominate B) empower C) win D) rule
42. A) souvenir B) remainder C) reminder D) memory
43. The amber color of traffic lights warns drivers _____ the possibility of pedestrians crossing.
   A) off B) of C) to D) for
44. The colors of autumn, such as orange, brown, yellow and red are _____ with Thanksgiving, while red and green are the colors of Christmas.
   A) united B) combined C) associated D) joined
45. The new phrase for people or companies who find ways to _____ electricity, fuel, or things that damage the environment is “going green.”
   A) cut back on B) cut up C) cut in on D) cut in

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. _____ only one text and three exercises for homework, we'll be ready in no time.
A) There has B) There have C) There is D) There are
47. The money for the two expeditions _____ by former students of our school who wish to remain anonymous.
A) was provided B) were provided C) have provided D) has provided
48. Can you imagine that? My girlfriend _____ for six hours non-stop at the disco last night.
A) danced B) was dancing C) has been dancing D) has danced
49. _____ the table while I decorate the dishes?
A) Will you lay B) Will you be laying C) Do you lay D) Are you laying
50. If the waiter _____ in such a hurry, he _____ give us more details about the menu.
A) hadn’t been … would B) isn’t … would
C) weren’t … would D) wasn’t … will

Section Three: Sentence Transformations
Directions: On your 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 think that wolves will never dare to come near any of the villages.
I don’t think ________________________________________________________________.
52. I haven’t asked my parents for money since I got a job.
The last time ____________________________________ before ______________________.
53. The customer immediately regretted not taking the shop-assistant’s advice and buying that cheap box of chocolates.
The customer wished _________________________________________________________.
54. It was so windy and cold that we couldn’t go sightseeing at all.
The weather was _____________________________ for us __________________________.
55. I am sure that it wasn’t a dog that attacked the sheep.
(Use a modal verb)
It ________________________________________________________________________.
56. It has been reported that the political situation in the country is gradually getting under control.
The political situation in the country ____________________________________________.
57. The witnesses are being interrogated at the moment.
The police __________________________________________________________________.
58. I know very little about gardening and so does my husband.
I don’t know __________________________________________ and __________________ my husband.
59. I don’t want to quarrel with my neighbours although I dislike them.
I’d rather __________________________________________ in spite of __________________________.
60. Despite the unfavourable economic circumstances, the company has made a great profit this year.
Although ________________________________________________________________.

PART FOUR: WRITING
1. Begin a diary-entry with: They got us! The two ticket inspectors closed up on our cheerful group from both ends of the bus just as we were discussing the inconveniences of public transport.
2. You are the parent of a teenager. Describe your son / daughter. How does he / she look like? What are his / her interests and friends? What are your relations with him / her? How do you imagine his / her future?

Успех с курсоветите за матура по английски с The Passionate Shepherd!
Ключ с верните отговори с точки

1. C 1 26. A 1
2. A 1 27. A 1
5. C 1 30. D 1
6. C 1 31. A 1
7. B 1 32. D 1
8. C 1 33. B 1
9. A 1 34. C 1
10. B 1 35. B 1
12. D 1 37. D 1
13. D 1 38. C 1
15. B 1 40. D 1
17. B 1 42. C 1
18. B 1 43. B 1
19. B 1 44. C 1
20. B 1 45. A 1
21. D 1 46. C 1
22. D 1 47. A 1
23. C 1 48. A 1
25. B 1 50. C 1

51. I don’t think (that) wolves will ever dare (to) come near any of the villages.

52. The last time I asked my parents for money was before I got (my)getting a job.

53. The customer wished (that) she / he had taken the shop-assistant’s advice and (that) (she / he) hadn’t bought that cheap box of chocolates.
54. The weather was too windy and cold for us to go sightseeing. / The weather was very windy and cold for us, so we didn’t go sightseeing.

55. It can’t / couldn’t have been a dog that attacked the sheep.

56. The political situation in the country has been reported to be gradually getting under control.

57. The police are interrogating the witnesses at the moment.

58. I don’t know much about gardening and neither does my husband.

59. I’d rather not quarrel with my neighbours in spite of (my)disliking / my dislike for / the fact that I dislike them.

60. Although the economic circumstances have been / are unfavourable, the company has made a great profit this year.

Успех с курсовете за матура по английски с The Passionate Shepherd!
The Mysteries of the Great Pyramids

There are dozens of mysteries that people cannot explain. Let’s take a look at one of those – the Great Pyramids, an issue that has always provided food for thought. The first pyramid to be built was the one called Step. It was probably the first large stone object anyway. Egyptians used to steal stones from the Step Pyramid to make other buildings. So currently, it is 198 feet tall. But it set the beginning of a whole string of strange pyramids. The second in the line was the Bent Pyramid. The reason for its name was that halfway through the construction process, the insides started to collapse so the angle dramatically changed. It is about 330 feet tall. Obviously you can’t expect to get a perfect pyramid at the first try. However, three “true” pyramids were built around 2467 B.C. at Giza. The first one was 471 feet tall. The second was very small compared to the other pyramids, only 215 feet. That’s not even as tall as the Statue of Liberty! Finally, the Great Pyramid was built. Originally 481 feet tall, it has worn away since. Each of its bricks is half as tall as an adult. The Great Pyramid has three small “queens’ pyramids” surrounding it. Their arrangement may have been inspired by the stars. Many people have theories about how the pyramids were built. One theory is that aliens built them. Another is that god-like creatures taught people how to build the pyramids. To this day, there has not been a real explanation about the pyramid construction.

Two men were travelling in a very wild part of America. They saw no modern houses and no traces of civilization for many days. What they saw were only a few huts made of wood or tents where Indians lived. One day they met an old Indian who was a hunter. He was very clever and knew everything about the forest and the animals living in it and many other things. He could also speak English quite well. They had a good long talk with him and then prepared to go on the road again. "Can you tell us what the weather will be like during the next few days?" one of the two travellers asked the Indian. "Oh, yes," he answered. "Rain is coming, and wind. Then there will be snow for a day or two, but then the sunshine will come again and the weather will be fine." "These old Indians seem to know more about Nature than we do today with all that science," said the man to his friend. Then he turned to the old Indian again. "Tell me," he asked, "how do you know all that?" The Indian answered: "I heard it over the radio."

For its millions of users all over the globe, Facebook is a fun and harmless way to make new friends and catch up with old ones. However, for the 56-year-old Spanish nun Maria Jesus Galan, her online activity on the social networking site ended up costing her job and her home. Sister Maria was asked to leave the religious order where she had lived in seclusion for 35 years because she spent too much time on the website, it has been reported. True to her nickname of 'Sister Internet', given to her by her fellow nuns, the nun herself first broke the news on her Facebook page, where she wrote: “Following disagreements over my online activity, I have now

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been officially asked to leave the convent.”
An online campaign attracting thousands of supporters is now under way, with fan pages springing up, demanding that she be allowed to return back into the convent. Sister Maria had almost 600 'friends' on Facebook at the time of her expulsion from the convent and listed her hobbies as 'reading, music, art and making friends', according to The Telegraph.
The 14th century convent in Toledo, where Sister 'Internet' used to live, first got a computer 10 years ago to lessen the need for nuns to enter the outside world. Sister Maria, who entered the order when she was 21 years old, told The Telegraph: “It enabled us do things such as banking online and saved us having to make trips into the city.” Notably, she also began digitising the convent's archives and made them accessible to the world – an activity for which she was praised and given an award, and through which she gained hundreds of friends on Facebook.
Now living at her mother's house, Sister Maria wants to use her new-found freedom to see the world. She posted on her Facebook page: “I would like to visit London and New York. Such things were impossible to even dream about when I was at the convent.”