I. Vocabulary: Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank (20%).
1. It is considered __________ to copy another person’s words or ideas and claim those words or ideas as your own.
   (A. hilarious  B. fragile  C. superstitious  D. unethical)
2. The young man stole the money from an old lady in a moment of __________.
   (A. aberration  B. conformity  C. anecdote  D. sanity)
3. Throughout Darrell Gulin’s life, he has made great effort to increase the well-being of humankind so he will be remembered for this __________
   (A. defendant  B. suspicion  C. philanthropy  D. fidelity)
4. After taking dictation in shorthand, John immediately __________ his notes on the word processor.
   (A. commiserated  B. obsessed  C. transcribed  D. presided)
5. Farmers who grow organic produce and meat don’t use __________ methods to fertilize, control weeds or prevent livestock disease.
   (A. conventional  B. voluntary  C. deliberate  D. demographic)
6. Paul made a __________ flower arrangement for the center of the table.
   (A. gourmet  B. symmetrical  C. absorbent  D. whisker)
7. The child was __________, having learned to read at four.
   (A. ingenious  B. precocious  C. compassionate  D. benovelent)
8. It is quite common for employers/companies to ask their employees to sign a __________ Agreement as a condition of employment.
   (A. malicious  B. heterogeneous  C. confidential  D. pathetic)
9. Before beginning our study of the novel, we read a __________ of it.
   (A. misnomer  B. synoposis  C. dearth  D. circumlocution)
10. The doctor gave Jessie some medicine to __________ her pain and she felt much better afterwards.
    (A. emulate  B. revive  C. agument  D. abate)
II. Grammar: Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank (20%)

1. I would never feel safe and comfortable on a plane if__________.
   (A. I know it’s the pilot’s maiden trip  B. I would know that it’s the pilot’s maiden trip
     C. I have known it’s the pilot’s maiden trip  D. I knew it’s the pilot’s maiden trip )

2. The police in charge of the investigation asked__________.
   (A. their names the four witness   B. the four witnesses of their names
     C. the four witnesses their names   D. to the two witnesses their names)

3. Andrea__________promoted soon. After all, her mother is the executive director.
   (A. is meaning to  B. is meant to get  C. is bounding to get  D. is bound to get)

4. The City Mayor was asked what__________ to do about the city crime and population.
   (A. he intended  B. intended he  C. did he intend  D. he did intend)

5. By the end of the seminar, there was still no real agreement __________the primary cause of the incident was.
   (A. as  B. what  C. as to what  D. what as to)

6. The salesman expected that he would present his product at the meeting, __________ time for him to show his slide presentation, and that prospective buyers would ask him questions.
   (A. that there is  B. that there will be  C. that there would be  D. that there can be)

7. Thunder occurs as __________ through air, causing the heated air to expand and collide with layers of cooler air.
   (A. an electrical charge passes  B. an electrical charge  C. the passing of an electrical charge
     D. passes an electrical charge)

8. World War II, which resulted in the death of over 70 million individuals, proved to be the deadliest conflict in human history, claiming nearly twice as many __________.
   (A. lives than would be killed in World War I  B. lives as World War I
     C. lives than those who were killed in World War I  D. lives than World War I)

9. According to a recent Sociology study, financial problems, combined with other serious social issues, __________.
   (A. ranks as one of the high causes of marital stress in Taiwan
     B. rank as one of the leading causes of marital stress in Taiwan
     C. ranks as one of the leading causes of marital stress in Taiwan
     D. rank as one of the most high causes of marital stress in Taiwan)

10. The writing of Ernest Hemingway has inspired and captivated numerous individuals, fundamentally __________ of man searching for absolute values in Mother Nature.
    (A. because it conveys the moving inner-journey
     B. because of their conveying the moving inner-journey
     C. due to that it conveys the moving inner-journey
     D. the reason that it conveys the moving inner-journey)
III. Reading comprehension (40%)

A. For questions 1-3

The word “budget” often implies something made cheaply, without concern for its quality. Budget airlines constantly fight against this perception. Budget airlines are no less safe than any other airlines. Budget airlines know that cutting corners on safety could completely ruin their business. Some of their cost-cutting measures even increase safety, such as the reliance on one type of aircraft across the fleet. One of the oldest budget carriers, Southwest, has never had a major crash or passenger fatality.

That’s not to say that all budget airlines are inherently safer than other airlines. Indonesian budget airlines Adam Air was shut down in 2008 due to safety concerns after a series of accidents. A DC-9 flown by budget airline ValuJet crashed in the Florida Everglades, killing everyone aboard in 1996. It should be noted that it wasn’t mechanical error or the pilot’s fault that brought down ValuJet Flight 592. Financial problems related to the crash drove ValuJet out of business and ValuJet was eventually forced to be merged with another airline.

Plane crashes happen. Most airlines suffer from safety problems and budget airlines aren’t more susceptible to them than other airlines. Therefore, all airlines including budget airlines endeavor to have flawless safety records rather than considering any compromise on safety in order to cut costs.

1. What is the best title for this article?
   A. budget airlines’ operating expenses
   B. flight experience via budget airlines
   C. budget airlines’ safety issue
   D. history of budget airlines

2. According to the passage, which of the following statement is TRUE?
   A. Adam Air is well-known for its zero failure.
   B. ValuJet’s uses only one kind of plane to cut its cost.
   C. The Southwest’s flight crashed due to the pilot’s fault.
   D. All passages died in the DC-9’s crash.

3. What does “susceptible” in Paragraph 3 mean?
   A. perfunctory
   B. vulnerable
   C. solicitous
   D. arbitrary
B. For questions 4-6

A study based on a year-long analysis of data from an extensive mobile phone network has produced interesting information that might be of use to epidemiologists and social scientists. The data, according to the researchers, might shed light, for example, on how diseases and information are transmitted through social networks.

Researchers ranked the link between a pair of phone users on the basis of the total time spent talking to each other. “Strong” links exist between members of a close social group. “Weak” links tend to be more long range and join individuals from different social groups.

The researchers observed a dramatically different effect when they removed links in the network in rank order, depending on whether they removed links starting with the strongest or with the weakest. To their surprise, removing the strong links first had little effect on the overall structure of the network. But removing weak links first split the network into a series of unconnected islands, with individual users linked to a small collection of other phone users.

Thus the researchers have hypothesized that the weak links (the more tenuous connections between individuals from different social groups) might be very important in maintaining wider social cohesion. If you lose contact with casual acquaintances you may fragment your social circle, but if you stop talking to your brother there might be less visible impact on the structure of your social network.

4. What is the passage mainly about?
   A. Information transmission through face-to-face contact is essential in modern society.
   B. The network between geographically distant members can predict how disease transmits.
   C. Phone-network patterns could be useful to social scientists.
   D. Links between family members would be likely to be disrupted by terminating “weak” links.

5. According to the passage, which of the following statement is TRUE about “weak links”?
   A. Removing weak links from the network causes no harm to your social circle.
   B. Weak links involve members of acquaintances belonging to different social circles.
   C. Weak links are less important than strong links.
   D. Weak links exist between individuals of a socially intimate group.

6. The author wrote the last sentence in order to ____.
   A. provide a practical illustration of the meaning of a strong link
   B. generalize the argument to make it more appealing
   C. summarize the usefulness of the current research
   D. make the ideas more specific to enhance the reader’s understanding
C. For questions 7-10

Although Vincent Van Gogh was one of the world’s most innovative artists and left behind hundreds of famous paintings, his first choice was not art. This sensitive young man wandered through life and worked in various places before he finally decided to become a painter at the age of 27. These early experiences combined with his family background were unlikely preparation for the eventual development of his artistic career.

Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853 in Zundert, a village in the south of the Netherlands. Van Gogh’s father was a preacher, or religious leader, in the Dutch Reformed Church. Vincent began attending the village school at the age of 8 and later went to a boarding school where he proved to be an excellent student of languages. However, at age 15, he suddenly returned home and never continued his education.

Instead, Van Gogh took a position as a trainee at the age of 16 at Goupil & Cie, an international art dealer with offices in the Hague. Four years later, he was transferred to the company’s London offices, where he developed a deep appreciation for the paintings and drawings he saw in the city’s museums. However, Van Gogh gradually began to lose interest in his work and became more and more focused on religion. This inhibited his ability to do a good job. The company he worked for sent him to Paris several times, but his job performance continued to get worse until they let him go in 1876. At this point, Van Gogh decided to become a minister like his father and he joined a boarding school outside of London as a teacher and assistant preacher.

A year later, Van Gogh gave in to his parents’ wishes to return to the Netherlands, but remained devoted to religion. Even though he did not have the required formal preparation, he started work as a minister for the poor. Finally, in 1880, he decided to combine his interest in religion with his desire to become a painter. He said, “To try to understand the real significance of what the great artists, the serious masters, tell us in their masterpieces, that leads to God; one man wrote or told it in a book; another, in a picture.” Living on a subsidy from his beloved brother Theo, Van Gogh managed to complete his first paintings in 1882 at the age of 29.

During the next six years, the artist spent time in the Netherlands, Belgium and Paris. Finally, in 1888, exhausted by the intensity of the art world in Paris, he moved to Arles in the South of France to recover. There, he entered the most productive two-year period of his life. The paintings from this period are full of aggressive brush work and bold colors. Although he was fighting serious depression at the time, Van Gogh produced an amazing number of beautiful paintings before he killed himself at the age of 37.

7. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

A. At this point, Van Gogh became increasingly interested in religion.
B. Van Gogh’s career as an art dealer was not a successful one.
C. Van Gogh learned to appreciate different styles of art while working in London.
D. Van Gogh’s experiences in London lead him to become a preacher.
8. In paragraph 3, what does “they let him go” mean?
A. They ended his employment with them.
B. They helped him return to the Netherlands.
C. They suggested that he go to England.
D. They allowed him to go back to his old job.

9. Van Gogh got his first job in London ____.
A. when he was 16 years old
B. after he sold his first painting
C. after he had visited Paris
D. when he was 20 years old

10. Van Gogh probably ____.
A. wanted to be a language teacher
B. enjoyed changing jobs all the time
C. suffered from some sort of mental illness
D. enjoyed working as an art dealer

D. For questions 11-15

Previous research studies suggest that children learn a language from their surroundings. Until the age of three, children tend to develop their language ability by mimicking the speech of their parents. Afterwards, peers begin to play a more influential role as models to be imitated in the process of language development. It is often observed that adults and older children tend to unconsciously use adjusted language to enhance communication with younger children, and such language is called caretaker speech.

Unlike many other types of speech, caretaker speech is often used unconsciously. In other words, most people, without further mental processing, modify their speech by reducing its syntactic complexity when speaking to young children in order to communicate with them effectively. [I] Caretakers speak with adults in one way and code-switch or use shorter and simpler words and sentences with young children. [II] In addition, they are commonly found to use “baby talk,” such as repeated syllable expressions “bye-bye,” “ma-ma,” and “da-da,” to facilitate understanding. [III] Some simplified sentences repeated in sing-song inflections are also quite usual in everyday communication between caretakers and small children. [IV] Caretaker speech allows young children to acquire language in an easier fashion. For instance, the simplified words and sentences help increase speech comprehension and repetitions reinforce further understanding. Caretakers adapt their speech in accordance with a child’s language acquisition development. As the child reaches about the age of two or three, caretakers will speak in a progressively more sophisticated manner.
11. Based on the first paragraph, children over the age of three ____.
   A. learn little from their surroundings
   B. are influenced by the language of those closer to their own age more and more
   C. are no longer influenced by their parents
   D. learn to respond to older people using modified language

12. The word **mimicking** in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to ____.
   A. delineating
   B. collating
   C. modeling
   D. reinforcing

13. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
   A. Caretakers often use baby talk unconsciously and repetitively with people around them.
   B. Caretaker code-switch to a more sophisticated language when speaking to other adults.
   C. Caretakers modify their speech in various ways to help young children acquire language.
   D. Caretakers tend to think further before they code-switch to a simplified language.

14. What does the pronoun **they** in paragraph 2 refer to?
   A. Children of age two or three
   B. Young children
   C. Adults
   D. Caretakers

15. In paragraph 2, where can the following sentence be placed?
   Examples of these are expressions such as “Where’s ma-ma?” or “Da-Da’s home?”
   A. [I]
   B. [II]
   C. [III]
   D. [IV]

E. For questions 16-20

   Coral reefs are the largest structures built by any living thing, including humans. As they lie under the surface of the water, most people don't realize that **they** are actually like huge mountains rising from the ocean floor. Recently many reefs have begun to suffer serious damage, and some can no longer support the wide variety of plants and other life forms they did in the past. The damage seems to come from three basic sources: direct physical destruction of the coral itself, pollution produced by humans, and the warming of ocean waters caused by climate change.
For centuries, limestone—one of the main elements found in coral—was used in the construction of houses and other types of buildings. Although it was available from other sources, limestone from coral was the usual choice in areas near an ocean. Coral is also used in jewelry making and to decorate fish tanks. Finally, some methods of fishing use explosions to break the coral reef apart. Although these practices are changing, much damage has already been done. For years, industrial pollution has had a negative effect on the world’s coral reefs. Recently, however, scientists have hypothesized that another category of pollution is also threatening the reefs’ survival. It appears the sunscreen that millions of swimmers use to protect their skin from the sun causes coral reefs to die. The chemicals in the sunscreen do not kill the creatures themselves. Instead, the chemicals cause the coral animals to push out the tiny brilliantly colored plants called algae that live inside their bodies. When this happens, the whole reef begins to die.

Officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have gathered information showing that climate change may be the biggest threat to conserving coral reefs worldwide. When the water gets too warm, the coral responds as if pollution is present—it forces the algae out. With the algae gone, the coral reef turns white, or “bleaches.” This is a sure sign that the coral is no longer a living thing.

16. What is the main idea of this passage?
A. The passage discusses how coral reefs can be saved.
B. The passage describes how climate change affects coral reefs.
C. The passage illustrates a variety of threats to coral reefs.
D. The passage evaluates the effects of pollution on coral reefs.

17. In paragraph 1, sentence 2, the word they refers to ____.
A. coral reefs
B. huge mountains
C. humans
D. most people

18. In paragraph 2, sentence 2, the word it refers to ____.
A. limestone
B. coral
C. the ocean
D. jewelry

19. According to the passage, which of the following statement is NOT true?
A. Coral reefs need algae to survive.
B. Limestone is one of the fundamental components of coral reefs.
C. Sunscreen has direct negative impact on the survival of coral reefs.
D. The warming of ocean water has caused serious damage on the coral reefs.
20. According to the passage, what happens when coral reefs die?
   A. They create a lot of pollution in the ocean.
   B. Other related life creatures disappear.
   C. They heat up their surrounding ocean water.
   D. The temperature of ocean water drops.

IV. Translation: For questions 1 and 2, translate the sentences into Chinese (10%). For questions 3 and 4, translate the sentences into English (10%).

1. World Health Organization claims that cancer kills millions of people worldwide every year. Although there is no cure or straightforward preventative, research has suggested that some foods and nutrients are closely associated with a lower risk of getting cancer and broccoli is an example.

2. Trust is vital in any relationship, be it personal or professional. Two effective ways of fostering mutual trust with employees are to allow them a bigger role in the decision-making process and demonstrate that you have faith in their abilities.

3. 我們認為下述真理是不言而喻的，人人生而平等，造物主賦予他們若干不可剝奪的權利，包括生命權、自由權和追求幸福的權利。（Barack Obama’s inauguration speech, 2013）

4. 近年來，政府倡導電池回收以減少廢電池的數量。因為電池含有一些重金屬及有毒化學成分，隨意丟棄可能造成土壤污染及水汙染。