**UNIVERSITY OF DEFENCE**

**LANGUAGE CENTRE**

**TEST VLP**

**TASK A**

***For sentences 1-20 choose one correct option A, B, C, or D and mark it on your answer sheet as shown in the example. Please, do not write into the test booklet.***

***Example:***

***For many young people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in one of the school teams is very important****.*

1. *having*
2. *taking*
3. *putting*
4. *being*

**A B C D**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1. My car has broken down, so I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to work these days.**

1. am walking
2. have walked
3. used to walk
4. walked

**2. Doesn’t this room look better? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ some posters up on the walls.**

1. I’ve been putting
2. I had put
3. I put
4. I’ve put

**3. If I’d known you weren’t coming, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

1. I wouldn’t be very upset
2. I would like to know why
3. I wouldn’t go to so much trouble.
4. I wouldn’t have gone to so much trouble

**4. When you lived in London, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by bus?**

1. will you travel
2. did you used to travel
3. did you use to travel
4. have you travelled

**5. As I drove south, I could see that the old road \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

1. was rebuilding
2. was rebuilt
3. was being rebuilt
4. is being rebuilt

**6. I can’t believe it, Inspector. You mean that Smith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ money from the till all this time!**

1. stole
2. has stolen
3. had stolen
4. has been stealing

**7. I’d rather you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ TV while I’m reading.**

1. don’t watch
2. didn’t watch
3. wouldn’t watch
4. hadn’t watched

**8. That \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Nick that you saw.**

1. can’t have been
2. shouldn’t have been
3. couldn’t be
4. must be

**9. Not until it was too late \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to call Steven.**

1. I forgot
2. did I forget
3. I remembered
4. did I remember

**10. It has been announced that for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ third consecutive month there has been**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rise in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ number of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people unemployed.**

1. the / the / a / -
2. a / the / - / the
3. the / a / the / -
4. - / a / the / the

**11. The army spokesperson stressed that all troops patrolling the streets had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to issue clear warnings before firing any shots.**

1. denied
2. ordered
3. announced
4. forbidden

**12. Someone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must have picked it up by mistake.**

1. obviously
2. currently
3. fortunately
4. needlessly

**13. Diane showed a complete disregard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her own safety.**

1. with
2. to
3. for
4. on

**14. You’d be hard-pushed to find a more comfortable drive – the superb suspension**

**system \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an easy ride over bumpy roads.**

1. makes out
2. makes off
3. makes for
4. makes up

**15. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I agree with what you’re saying, but I’m not sure about your last point.**

1. Nonetheless
2. Although
3. On the contrary
4. On the whole

**16. This is presumably why members of Parliament \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for so long the efforts of the BBC to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parliamentary matters on television.**

1. prevented / circulate
2. checked / beam
3. defied / spread
4. resisted / broadcast

**17. A report on the notorious Fiveways School, visited recently by government safety \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, was published yesterday.**

1. executives
2. inspectors
3. controllers
4. examiners

**18. Soon I found myself \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for my comfortable bed, a hot chocolate, and a warm bath.**

1. desiring
2. yearning
3. dreaming
4. craving

**19. Many people bought their phones for emergencies, but it gradually took over their lives, to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ where it seems they can barely live without it.**

1. point
2. mark
3. spot
4. position

**20. In most countries, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ penalty has been abolished.**

1. capital
2. death
3. execution
4. corporal

**TASK B**

***Read the following texts and choose one correct option A, B, C, or D. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.***

21. From a sports article

The 29th season of Major League Soccer (MLS) is set to be one of the most significant in the history of the North American league. 2024 will be the first full season of Lionel Messi in MLS. While many still pinch themselves to check that Messi being in MLS is not a dream, others are not so enthused. Some fans of the other 28 MLS teams are beginning to tire of the constant focus on Messi and Miami at the expense of their sides. Some even went as far as selling their tickets for their team’s game against Messi’s Miami at the end of last season. Their frustrations are understandable. Inter Miami were one of the worst teams in MLS in 2023, yet coverage of them often overshadowed that of better teams.

**What is a source of frustration for some fans of other MLS teams, according to the text?**

A) The lack of attention given to Inter Miami.

B) The dominance of Inter Miami in the league.

C) The constant focus on Lionel Messi and Inter Miami.

D) The absence of coverage on the performances of other teams.

22. From an article about the U.S.

The Louisiana Purchase proved to be one of the shrewdest business pacts in the entire history of the United States. The purchase doubled the area of the country and provided territory from which fourteen new states were created either wholly or in part. It also gave us control over the mouth of the Mississippi River and opened up the way to foreign trade. Prior to the purchase, the waterway had been blocked by the Spanish, probably with the approval of Napoleon. The land that was bought was rich in timber, minerals, and natural resources of many kinds. Finally, the cost of the transaction was unbelievably low; the total of $15 million amounted to about four cents an acre.

**Which statement best expresses the MAIN idea of the article?**

A) The Louisiana Purchase was a very good business deal for the U.S.

B) The land bought by the Louisiana Purchase was rich in minerals.

C) The land bought by the Louisiana Purchase was very cheap.

D) Most Americans were very pleased with the purchase.

23. From an environmental report

The Dutch government thought it was being environmentally friendly by subsidising imports of palm oil to be used as a biofuel. A report by the global conservation charity Wetlands International (WI) proved otherwise. The findings of WI’s research are startling. The drainage and burning of peat lands in Indonesia to make way for palm oil crops causes vast amounts of CO2 to be released. As a result of the degradation of these carbon-storing habitats, Indonesia has become the third largest carbon emitter in the world – only the US and China are worse.

**The report by the WI stated that the production of biofuel from palm oil \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

A) helped to preserve peat lands

B) enlarged carbon-storing habitats

C) caused serious environmental problems

D) proved to be environmentally friendly

24. From a health magazine

While many countries experience rising obesity levels, those who are overweight struggle with fatphobia. Here, Ellen Murray describes her own experiences.

I’ve been overweight for as long as I can remember. Even during my pre-school years, I felt a sense of shame about it. It wasn’t that people were unkind or critical. But my mum, who is also fat, was constantly stressing about her own looks and self-worth, so I became aware that she considered being fat undesirable. The school I attended had a strict anti-bullying policy, so nobody was mean or rude, but in some ways that was worse. Since nobody ever stated out loud that I was fatter than the other kids, I felt as if people were tiptoeing around me rather than accepting who I was.

**What did Ellen find difficult about being overweight as a young child?**

A) Her mother was overly concerned about Ellen’s appearance.

B) She felt undesirable in comparison to the other children.

C) People avoided talking to her naturally about her weight.

D) She was often bullied as a result of her weight.

25. From a lifestyle magazine

From an aerial photograph, you would think that Melwick would have plenty of peaceful outdoor spaces. After all, its harbour location offers lots of walkways and open plazas, and Great Park is well-known for its stunning trees and botanical gardens, which are just as spectacular in real life as in pictures. Unfortunately, these spaces are always heaving with visitors greedy for the best picture with the statues and memorials, so trying to relax there will make you stressed and irritated. Your best option is to get on a ferry or cable car at a quiet time of day. Then, you can watch the city drift past in peace.

**What is the main issue with trying to enjoy the outdoor spaces in Melwick, as described in the text?**

A) Limited access to sidewalks

B) Overcrowding due to tourists taking selfies

C) Lack of greenery

D) Inadequate ferry and cable car services

26. From a science magazine

Scientists have revealed a new, remarkably complete fossil – a 16ft (5m)-long aquatic reptile from the Triassic period. The creature dates back 240 million years and has been dubbed a “dragon” because of its extremely long neck. This spectacular new fossil has allowed scientists to see the full anatomy of this bizarre prehistoric beast.

It had flipper-like limbs and its neck is longer than its body and tail combined. The researchers speculated that a “long, bendy and flexible neck”, with its 32 separate vertebrae, might have provided a hunting advantage – allowing Dinocephalosaurus orientalis to search for food in crevices under the water.

**What feature of the newly discovered aquatic reptile has led scientists to link it to a mythical creature?**

A) Its remarkably complete fossil structure.

B) Its peculiar anatomical features.

C) Its remarkable adaptation for underwater hunting.

D) Its elongated neck, surpassing the length of both its body and tail combined.

27. From an article about addictions

Cryptocurrency trading has become very popular. By buying and selling different currencies, traders can make huge profits. However, trading addiction is becoming increasingly common. Compared to traditional gambling, cryptocurrency trading is seen as socially acceptable. It’s something that smart but adventurous people do. And whereas a lot of gamblers play alone or against other people, trading is social. But this leads to a herd mentality, where people stop thinking things through for themselves. The companies make lots of information available to educate people about the risks of trading. It’s far easier, though, to act on a friend’s tip-off or hunch. All this means that people don’t realize that they are on a slippery slope until it’s gone too far.

**What does the article say about people trading cryptocurrencies together in groups?**

A) They tend not to consider their decisions thoroughly.

B) They learn and share more information and make better choices.

C) They are given special tips by the trading companies.

D) They become more socially accepted by their peers.

28. From an interview

Daniel Radcliffe, who played Harry Potter in the eight films, has recently been reading memes featuring him in his famous role and has only just realized that many people considered him cool. At the time, he felt as insecure as anyone that age. The English actor says that although he now has a successful acting career, he always finds the early Harry Potter movies difficult to watch because he admits he wasn’t very good at acting. The young actors received coaching in singing and dancing on set, but never any acting training in all the time they were on set, so he feels his early films are very one-dimensional. Daniel says he never particularly wanted an acting career but fell into the job. In fact, in an early interview, Daniel told viewers that he wanted to be a professional wrestler!

**What realization has Radcliffe recently had about his portrayal of Harry Potter?**

A) He wishes he had received more coaching in singing and dancing on set.

B) He feels insecure about his acting abilities during the early Harry Potter movies.

C) He believes he was always considered cool by many people.

D) He regrets not pursuing a career in professional wrestling instead of acting.

29. From an economic magazine

Kshitiz Sharma, from the School of Film Making at Whistling Woods International, says India has plenty of young people with technical skills like engineering. What is lacking, he says, are courses which teach a “deep understanding” of filmmaking and the artistic side of visual effects (VFX). But that shortfall is being aided by new VFX courses offered by universities and other institutions.

While India has, for the last two years, had the fastest economic growth of any major economy, it is still at the lower end of the middle-income countries. So, it might not be easy to find the money for visual effects courses and the expensive hardware and software needed for training. VFX and animation courses are not easy on pocket.

**According to Kshitiz Sharma, what is India in need of?**

A) Courses focusing on the technical aspects of filmmaking.

B) Opportunities for practical training in visual effects.

C) Courses teaching a proper insight in filmmaking and also the art of it.

D) Access to affordable hardware and software for VFX training.

30. From a science magazine

Drought is an increasing problem in our warming world. Consequently, people are looking at cloud seeding to solve the problem. Cloud seeding is a method of encouraging precipitation by distributing small particles of silver iodide into clouds. As cloud seeding is expensive and its effectiveness tenuous, its usefulness is still a matter of opinion.

University of Colorado researcher Katja Friedrich says cloud seeding can’t end drought. However, it can be beneficial, provided it occurs alongside other water conservation strategies. Arlen Huggins, a cloud-seeding expert, is of the same mind. Increasing precipitation through cloud seeding would significantly benefit the economy in the large water basin where he works. Still, for that to happen, the water would need to be captured and stored effectively.

**Both Katja Friedrich and Arlen Huggins agree that cloud seeding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

A) costs too much for it to be economically viable

B) is only effective if water is conserved well

C) can help both the economy and the environment

D) has little benefit for preventing droughts

**TASK C**

***Read the following text and complete its summary below. Use only one word for each gap and write your answers on the answer sheet.***

**Learning to Walk**

These days the feet of a typical city dweller rarely encounter terrain any more uneven than a crack in the pavement. Podiatrist Charles Brantingham and physiologist Bruce Beekman believed that walking continuously on flat floors, sidewalks and streets concentrates forces on just a few areas of the foot. As a result, these surfaces are likely to be far more conducive to chronic stress syndromes than natural surfaces, where the foot meets the ground in a wide variety of orientations. They understood that the anatomy of the foot parallels that of the human hand and that modern lifestyles waste all this potential flexibility.

Brantingham and Beekman became convinced that the damage could be rectified by making people wobble. To test their ideas, they got 65 factory workers to try standing on a variable terrain floor – spongy mats with varying degrees of resistance across the surface. Even if people were wobbling slightly, it activated a host of muscles in their legs. The muscle action prevented the pooling of blood in their feet and legs, reducing the stress on the heart and circulation. Earlier this year this idea was revived when other researchers in the US announced findings from a similar experiment with people over 60. John Fisher and colleagues at the Oregon Research Institute in Eugene designed a mat intended to replicate the effect of walking on cobblestones.

In tests funded by the National Institute of Aging, people showed marked improvements in mobility, and even a significant reduction in blood pressure after only three weeks. Footstimulating activity really is a useful nonpharmacological approach for preventing or controlling hypertension of older adults, the researchers believe. They are not alone in recognising the benefits of cobblestones. Reflexologists believe that pressure applied to particular spots on the foot connects directly to particular organs of the body and somehow enhances their function.

And there is one more option. A new shoe on the market claims to transform flat, hard, artificial surfaces into something like uneven ground. “These shoes have an unbelievable effect,” says Benno Nigg, an exercise scientist at Calgary University in Canada. Known as the Masai Barefoot Technology, the shoes have rounded soles that cause you to rock slightly when you stand still, exercising the small muscles around the ankle that are responsible for stability.

Some of these options may not appeal to all consumers but there is always a far simpler alternative. Even a few hours spent in the countryside could help alleviate a sufferer’s aches and pains, and would require only the spending of time.

**Summary**

In their research, Brantingham and Beekman looked at the complex physical **31\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the foot and noted that the surfaces of modem environments restrict its movement. They invented a mat which they tried out on factory workers. Whenever the workers walked on it, the different levels of **32\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in the mat would encourage greater muscle action. In turn, this lessened the effect of stress on the cardiovascular system.

Similar research was undertaken by John Fisher and colleagues in Oregon. As a result of their findings, they decided to market cobblestone-resembling **33\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to the elderly as a means of dealing with hypertension. Reflexologists claim that by manipulating specific parts of the feet, the performance of certain **34\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** will also improve. Finally, Benno Nigg at Calgary University believes that specially shaped **35\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on shoes should give health benefits.

**TASK D**

***Read the following text and answer the questions below. Do not use more than four words for each answer and write your answers on the answer sheet.***

**London swaying footbridge**

A new footbridge across the Thames opened to the public on 10 June 2000. Up to 100,000 people crossed it that day with up to 2000 people on the bridge at any one time. At first, the bridge was still. Then it began to sway just slightly. Then, almost from one moment to the next, when large groups of people were crossing, the wobble intensified. This movement became sufficiently large for people to stop walking to retain their balance and sometimes to hold onto the hand rails for support. It was decided immediately to limit the number of people on the bridge, but even so it raised concern for public safety and on 12 June the bridge was closed until the problem could be solved.

The embarrassed engineers found the videotape which showed the center span swaying about 3 inches side to side every second. The pedestrians played a key role. As the structure began moving, pedestrians adjusted their gait to the same lateral rhythm as the bridge. The adjusted footsteps magnified the motion – just like when four people all stand up in a small boat at the same time. As more pedestrians locked into the same rhythm, the increasing oscillations led to the dramatic swaying captured on film.

An immediate research program was launched by the bridge’s engineering designers Ove Arup, supported by a number of universities and research organization in order to design a method of reducing the movements. The University of Southampton and the Imperial College ran some laboratory test involving people walking on various surfaces. Results of these tests provided some information, however, their limitations were clear and it was felt that the only way to replicate properly the precise conditions of the Millennium Bridge was to carry out crowd tests on the bridge deck itself. These tests done by the Arup engineers could incorporate factors not possible in the laboratory tests. The first of these was carried out with 100 people in July 2000.  The results of these tests were used to refine the load model for the pedestrians. A second series of crowd tests was carried out on the bridge to further validate the design assumptions and to load test a prototype damper installation.

Engineers fixed the Millennium Bridge’s swaying issues by retrofitting the structure with 37 energy dissipating dampers to control the horizontal movement, and another 52 inertial dampers to control the vertical movement. The bridge hasn’t had a significant wobble problem since it reopened in February 2002.

**Questions**

1. What caused the bridge to be closed after only two days?
2. What led to the increased swaying of the bridge?
3. Why weren’t the lab tests sufficient?
4. What did the second series of the crowd tests aim to verify?
5. What helped to stop the bridge from moving sideways?

**TASK E**

***Read the following text and choose one of the options A, B, C, or D which best suits the text. Mark your choice on your answer sheet.***

**Top ten fears survey**

Ask most people for their Top Ten fears, and you’ll be sure to find *being burgled* fairly high on the list. An informal survey I **\_\_\_41.\_\_\_** among friends at a party last week revealed that eight of them had had their homes broken into more than twice, and two had been burgled five times. To put the record **\_\_\_42.\_\_\_**, none of my friends owns valuable paintings or a sideboard full of family silverware. Three of them are students, in fact.

The most typical burglary, it seems, **\_\_\_43.\_\_\_** the theft of easily transportable items – the television, the DVD player, even food from the freezer. This may have something to do with the fact that the **\_\_\_44.\_\_\_** burglar who is in his (or her) late teens probably wouldn’t know what to do with a Picasso, **\_\_\_45.\_\_\_** selling a router or a computer is a much easier matter. They are perhaps not so much professional criminals, as hard-up young people who need a few pounds and some excitement. Not that this makes having your house **\_\_\_46.\_\_\_** upside down and your favourite things stolen any easier to **\_\_\_47.\_\_\_**.

In most cases, the police have no luck **\_\_\_48.\_\_\_** any of the stolen goods. Unless there is definite evidence, they are probably unable to do anything at all. And alarms or special locks don’t **\_\_\_49.\_\_\_** to help either. The only advice my friends could **\_\_\_50.\_\_\_** was ‘Never live on the ground floor’ and ‘Keep two or three very fierce dogs’.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** |
| 41 | called up | held with | set about | carried out |
| 42 | straight | right | correct | steady |
| 43 | means | involves | affects | covers |
| 44 | mean | medium | average | middle |
| 45 | whereas | as yet | much as | as soon as |
| 46 | put | turned | stood | pulled |
| 47 | submit | receive | accept | admit |
| 48 | taking | making | trapping | recovering |
| 49 | sound | look | show | seem |
| 50 | come up with | make do with | go through with | get off with |