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選擇題請在答案卡上作答，否則不予計分。

### I. Vocabulary (20%)

Choose the answer that best completes the sentence, and mark the corresponding letter A, B, C, or D on your answer card.

- PhD students with scholarships and grants in US universities were usually \_\_\_\_\_ to perform services in exchange, such as tutoring and lecturing.  
(A) risked (B) struck (C) motioned (D) obliged
- The chief executive of the company was forced to resign last summer over \_\_\_\_\_ about her expenses.  
(A) allegations (B) representations (C) propositions (D) contributions
- For the understanding of memory, and of knowledge in general, the \_\_\_\_\_ resemblance of images and sensations is of fundamental significance.  
(A) unwanted (B) terrible (C) recognizable (D) unfounded
- She \_\_\_\_\_ down by her window and wished, for the first time in her carefree young life, that she could be spared from the police arrest and inquisition.  
(A) pouted (B) cheered (C) cowered (D) strolled
- In her new book, Betty wrote a wonderful story about how she happened to come across the ancient \_\_\_\_\_ in the tomb of some old Indian whose mummy she unearthed on a trip to Central America.  
(A) eruptions (B) manuscripts (C) computers (D) space shuttles
- This was clearly no ordinary party of \_\_\_\_\_, but rather some nomad people who had been compelled from stress of circumstances to seek a new country.  
(A) immigrants (B) broadcasters (C) residents (D) magicians
- The hotel established a fixed rate for servants' wages, which were becoming recklessly \_\_\_\_\_ and increasingly unaffordable for the owner of the business to continue the business.  
(A) exorbitant (B) sustainable (C) valuable (D) predictable
- In those days there were many serious young men among the students who had come up to the university from the farms and the little towns scattered over the \_\_\_\_\_ settled state.  
(A) foggily (B) brotherly (C) friendly (D) thinly
- There was an ambiguity about this person's character--a stain upon her \_\_\_\_\_--yet none could tell exactly of what nature, although the city gossips, male and female, whispered the most atrocious surmises.  
(A) stiffness (B) reputation (C) appropriation (D) generosity
- Directly opposite to him came a queer one-horse \_\_\_\_\_, evidently rigged up by soldiers out of any available materials and looking like something between a cart, a cabriolet, and a caleche.  
(A) vehicle (B) automobile (C) convertible (D) tractor

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## II. Cloze (20%)

Read the following passages, choose the most appropriate answer for each blank, and mark the corresponding letter A, B, C, or D on your answer card.

Reading poetry is a good way to (11) time. It cleanses the mental palate and scrubs (12) the emotional cobwebs. Sonnets are particularly healthy because they challenge our judgment and (13) capacity, knocking us about – from triumph to tragedy; misery to humor – in the space of a few lines. You won't find the (14) or the tragic in your sonnet world, or the slow climaxes of the ode or elegy. But you will find a condensed drama of the movements of the heart as it trundles (15) life.

When I was much younger, before family responsibilities and faculty meetings, I did daily devotions in the (16) of the sonnet. I bought a large hardbound notebook with blank pages – the kind they use for sketching. Each morning, as I drank my coffee and planned my day, I (17) a sonnet from one of my favorite poets. I wrote it out, word for word, in the center of the page, and then wrote commentary (18) the edges. I drew lines between words that seemed to be related, added brackets, stars and circles, and tried to scribble in useful thoughts or questions. My daily sonnet became a form of training, like (19), or meditation. It focused my mind and challenged my emotions. I've never enjoyed poetry more. I recommend it as a daily (20).

11. (A) spend (B) clean (C) infect (D) taste
12. (A) for (B) with (C) on (D) away
13. (A) deliberate (B) cognitive (C) imagine (D) epidemic
14. (A) authentic (B) problematic (C) specific (D) sublime
15. (A) as (B) of (C) through (D) out
16. (A) religion (B) prison (C) population (D) factory
17. (A) sketched over (B) scratched out (C) pasted over (D) copied out
18. (A) for (B) around (C) in (D) with
19. (A) jogging (B) fishing (C) coughing (D) eating
20. (A) exemption (B) exception (C) exercise (D) exertion

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### III. Reading Comprehension (10%)

Read the following passage and choose the best answer to each question. Mark the corresponding letter A, B, C, or D on your answer card.

It was confusing. When the novel coronavirus hit the world in early 2020, Sweden of all countries chose to ignore the global consensus that favored lockdowns and severe restrictions. Better known for its interventionist welfare policies, Sweden suddenly seemed to have become a European version of Texas by putting individual liberty before the collective good. The liberal *New York Times* dubbed it a 'pariah state' and accused Swedish politicians and health officials of keeping Sweden open for economic reasons. At the other end of the political spectrum, Right-wing American radicals who demonstrated against government restrictions carried signs calling for their leaders to follow Sweden's example. Perplexing to all, the spectacle – or spectre – of a "libertarian welfare state" loomed.

This story is not new but a reversal of an old one. Traditionally, the Left has held up Sweden as a beacon of social solidarity, while the Right has lamented the lack of individual freedom. Now Dr Jekyll had turned into Mr Hyde – or maybe the other way around, depending on one's political inclinations. But was it really such a dramatic turnabout? There was always something simplistic about the presentations of Sweden in the United States and elsewhere as a model for egalitarianism and social engineering. Though a readymade for progressive politics, it has seldom been based on any deeper understanding of Swedish history and culture. Sweden has, it turns out, never been the socialist paradise some outsiders have imagined – nor is it the libertarian haven it has been made out to be today.

In reality, Sweden is *sui generis*. To understand Sweden, it is necessary to begin with the tug-of-war between two powerful human impulses: the desire for individual sovereignty and the unavoidable necessity of being part of society. To describe this condition, the 18th-century German philosopher Immanuel Kant coined a phrase that has since become a classic concept in social thought: *der ungesellige Geselligkeit*, "asocial sociability." We humans, he claimed, have an innate impulse to associate with our own kind. We must be part of a community, not merely to survive but in order to develop our innate abilities. But this requirement, both ethical and necessary, also elicits from the individual a kind of resistance that threatens to dissolve the community.

(excerpted from the *Aeon* magazine)

21. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Sweden's decision not to lock down the country during the pandemic can be understood through the desire for individual sovereignty and the unavoidable necessity of being part of society.

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- (B) Sweden was an outcast in the international community, which kept its country open for economic reasons.
- (C) Sweden has always been a European version of Texas that puts individual liberty before the collective good.
- (D) Sweden was the libertarian haven for American radicals who demonstrated against government restrictions.
22. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the first paragraph about Sweden's decision not to impose severe restrictions during the pandemic?
- (A) It caused Sweden's financial crisis.
- (B) It had turned into a "libertarian welfare state".
- (C) It was something other countries had not expected.
- (D) It became a model for Right-wing American radicals.
23. Which of the following can be inferred from the second paragraph?
- (A) Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are the two main figures that account for such a decision.
- (B) Sweden has never served as a model for progressive politics because of its egalitarianism and social engineering.
- (C) While well known for its interventionist welfare policies, Sweden has never been considered a socialist paradise.
- (D) A deeper understanding of Swedish history and culture is necessary to explain its pandemic solution.
24. What do the words *sui generis* in this passage most likely mean?
- (A) predictable
- (B) of its own kind
- (C) dramatic
- (D) simplistic
25. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
- (A) According to Immanuel Kant, humans have an innate desire to create chaos among one's own community.
- (B) Sweden's libertarian policies have been based on US political progressivism.
- (C) The political Left in the US has held up Sweden as a beacon of individual freedom, while the Right has lamented the lack of social solidarity.
- (D) Sweden's response to the pandemic crisis is unique in its balance between the freedom of individuals with the demands of the community.

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#### IV. Article Completion (20%)

##### Passage 1

For many parents, \_\_\_(26)\_\_\_ leaves them with little time to take care of their own wellbeing. This can result in “parental burnout”.

Although the exploration of parental burnout is relatively new, research has identified it as a prevalent issue across global communities and cultures. It's reported \_\_\_(27)\_\_\_, with the highest prevalence rates rising to 8% of parents in Poland, the United States and Belgium.

You could be forgiven for thinking there's a simple solution to this growing concern: \_\_\_(28)\_\_\_! But again, the reality can be far different.

##### Four signs of parental burnout

Parental burnout is not just a buzzword. It's \_\_\_(29)\_\_\_. It is characterized by four main symptoms for parents:

1. experiencing physical or emotional exhaustion – or both.
2. feeling shame about their parenting, or that they're not as good a parent as they used to be.
3. feeling overwhelmed or “fed up” with the role of being a parent.
4. \_\_\_(30)\_\_\_.

(excerpted and modified from *The Guardian*)

- (A) the reality of juggling the demands of caring responsibilities on their time, energy and resources
- (B) feeling emotionally disconnected from their children
- (C) a growing syndrome that results from chronic parenting stress
- (D) in countries around the world
- (E) relax and get some sleep

##### Passage 2

These days, \_\_\_(31)\_\_\_. Inflation, global warming and gun violence are on the rise. Bullies proliferate on social media. The 24/7 news cycle constantly blares distressing news, and people often face difficult personal or professional situations.

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About half of Americans said they experienced stress within the past day, according to a Gallup Poll survey from last October, a finding that was consistent for most of 2022. Personal finances and current political events were (32), a survey from CNN in partnership with the Kaiser Family Foundation found in October.

Yet, (33), said Richard Scrivener, a personal trainer and product development manager at London's Trainfitness, an education technology company. Stressing your muscles through weight training, for example, leads to beneficial changes. In addition, short-term stress in healthy people typically isn't a hazard. "But if stress is continuous, especially in older or unhealthy individuals, the long-term effects of the response to stress may lead to significant health issues," Scrivener said.

Luckily, (34). Keep a daily routine, get plenty of sleep, eat healthy foods, and limit your time following the news or engaging in social media, recommends the World Health Organization. It also helps to stay connected with others and to employ calming practices such as meditation and deep breathing.

Even though there are many ways to deal with stress, (35). According to Dr. Karmel Choi, a clinical psychologist, "[e]xercise is remarkably effective for managing psychological stress." Choi also observes that "[e]xercise doesn't remove what's causing the stress, but it can boost mood, reduce tension and improve sleep — all of which are impacted by stress — and ultimately this can support people to approach their challenges in a more balanced way."

(excerpted and modified from the CNN)

- (A) many people find it hard to relax
- (B) stress isn't inherently bad
- (C) major sources of stress for one-third or more of adults
- (D) the most successful tool is physical activity
- (E) there are many ways to combat stress

#### V. Composition (30%)

Please write an essay about your experience of learning a new skill. In this essay, please describe this experience and elaborate on the effect it has on your life.

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- 一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。
- 二、試題請隨卷繳交。