

## Appendix A: Placement Test on Language Proficiency

*Instructions: 1. choose the most appropriate options.*

*2. write down your answers on the answer card.*

All human beings and animals need air to survive. Without air human beings would all die. \_\_\_1\_\_\_, plants need air to live. They use sunlight and the carbon dioxide in air to make food, and then \_\_\_2\_\_\_ oxygen. We all breathe the air that surrounds the Earth. The air is made up \_\_\_3\_\_\_ gases: around 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, and 1% carbon dioxide, other gases, and water vapor. Because air is so basic to life, it is very important to keep the air clean by reducing or \_\_\_4\_\_\_ air pollution. Today, air pollution causes several serious problems worldwide, one of \_\_\_5\_\_\_ is acid rain. Acid rain is caused by chemicals that are \_\_\_6\_\_\_ into the air and cause rain \_\_\_7\_\_\_ more acidic than usual. Acid rain can do great damage to people, animals, and plants. It is also \_\_\_8\_\_\_ to water in lakes, often killing plants and fish that live there.

1. (A) Firstly (B) Generally (C) Continuously (D) Similarly
2. (A) give off (B) make up (C) pass out (D) turn into
3. (A) in (B) of (C) by (D) on
4. (A) expending (B) increasing (C) preventing (D) softening
5. (A) them (B) which (C) those (D) that
6. (A) released (B) exploded (C) decreased (D) manufactured
7. (A) be (B) been (C) being (D) to be
8. (A) polluted (B) beneficial (C) harmful (D) damaged

People have different opinions about the dangers of children using the Internet. Some people think that it is a good way for children to find out about things, and that \_\_\_9\_\_\_ in this way also helps children to get used to technology. Others, \_\_\_10\_\_\_, feel that children should not be allowed to explore the Internet on their \_\_\_11\_\_\_. They argue that unlike films and television, \_\_\_12\_\_\_ are carefully controlled so that parents can decide what they will let their children \_\_\_13\_\_\_, information on the Internet is open to anyone, so children may be exposed to materials that are not appropriate for them.

9. (A) learn (B) learns (C) learned (D) learning
10. (A) however (B) therefore (C) by the way (D) as a result
11. (A) self (B) own (C) thing (D) way
12. (A) those (B) these (C) which (D) what

13. (A) smell (B) taste (C) dress (D) watch

Yoga, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, has become popular among young females in big cities. “Nowadays 14 are feeling more pressure,” says Jennifer Park, a yoga teacher, “and yoga is a very good sport to balance the 15 and problems of everyday life in the city.” 16 a recent survey, nine out of ten people who exercise yoga are females. The reason is that women tend to know more consciously about their bodies than men 17. “In yoga it is important to know your body,” Jennifer agrees with the survey, “and women are very much body 18. That could be one of the reasons that women are 19 interested in studying yoga.” Regular yoga exercises emphasize 20 breathing and reducing stress. 21 there are more and more young females asking for power yoga classes. In those classes, one will focus all the attention on more flexible gestures to improve muscle strength.

14. (A) problems (B) programs (C) people (D) tourists

15. (A) stress (B) class (C) diets (D) exercises

16. (A) As a matter (B) According to (C) In spite of (D) In order to

17. (A) are (B) have (C) get (D) do

18. (A) conscious (B) rude (C) hated (D) easy-going

19. (A) less (B) little (C) more (D) fewer

20. (A) in (B) at (C) of (D) on

21. (A) For (B) But (C) Or (D) If

Music is a powerful thing. When played properly, some music can have positive effects on learning and attitude. One way that music can make learning easier is by teaching people abstract reasoning and learning strategies. When learning music, people visualize the task in their head, and therefore exercise the same abstract skills that engineers, chess players, and high-level mathematicians use. Moreover, instruction in music skills and appreciation provides a wealth of learning strategies that help to develop children’s analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating skills. Another important aspect that music can have on learning for people of all ages is attitude. The highly repetitive structure of music helps children learn to trust themselves and enhance their self-confidence and sense of accomplishment. Thus, their attitude toward learning is dramatically increased. In addition to increasing positive attitude, listening to pleasant music in the background may ease the strain of an activity. Notice that when people listen to music in the background, it is very important that they listen to the music they are familiar and comfortable with. So in order for music to help us think, learn, and work, we need to know what kind of music to listen to.

22. The passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) how music helps when people work and learn
  - (B) the importance of music to children and engineers
  - (C) the different structures of music
  - (D) how people learn to listen to music
23. According to the passage, which of the following functions of music is NOT mentioned?
- (A) Helping people to relax.
  - (B) Improving people's attitude.
  - (C) Helping people fall asleep.
  - (D) Improving people's confidence.
24. We can conclude from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) people of all ages love different types of music
  - (B) it is important for us to teach children the right attitude
  - (C) people of all ages develop different learning strategies
  - (D) it is important for us to choose the right music to listen to
25. In line 5, the phrase "a wealth of" is closest in meaning to "\_\_\_\_\_."
- (A) a lot of something useful
  - (B) a lot of something secret
  - (C) people full of interest
  - (D) people who are rich
26. We may infer from the passage that the next paragraph will most likely be \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) the learning strategies children need
  - (B) the effects of different types of music
  - (C) the workplaces where music should be played
  - (D) the jobs that demand abstract reasoning skills

Nature is full of examples of cycles. The seasons come and go in a cycle of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The days move in cycles of day and night. And all living things live, grow, and die in cycles. For example, a sapling grows tall and strong. Then, one spring, the tree blossoms. These flowers later turn into fruit or other types of seeds. When these seeds fall, they land on the ground. The seeds can then grow. If the seeds get enough sunlight and rain, they will become young trees. As the trees blossom, the cycle repeats itself.

Rain also occurs in cycles. Water evaporates from the oceans and rises into the sky. This means that the ocean water is warmed by the sun and some of it rises into the air. When enough water has gathered together, big rain clouds form. The clouds

will release or drop the water. The rain falls on land and ocean alike. When the rain falls on land, the ground soaks up some of it. If a lot of rain falls, the runoff flows into streams, rivers, and lakes. This water, in turn, flows into the oceans. When some of this water evaporates into the air, the cycle repeats itself.

27. This passage is mainly about ?

(A) the growth of trees (B) the cycles of nature (C) the falling of the rain (D) the seasons of the year

28. The underlined word sapling in this passage most likely refers to “\_\_\_\_\_.”

(A) young tree (B) small child (C) growing cycle (D) living thing

29. The underlined word evaporates in this passage most likely means “\_\_\_\_\_.”

(A) falls (B) melts (C) turns from air into water (D) rises from water into air

30. Based on the passage, what happens right after a tree blossoms?

(A) A new tree grows. (B) The tree dies. (C) The flowers turn into seeds. (D) The seeds fall to the ground.

31. Based on the passage, what is one effect of evaporation?

(A) The oceans rise. (B) Big rain clouds form. (C) Trees blossom. (D) The skies become clear.

Euthanasia (安樂死) is the practice of ending the life of a person who is hopelessly ill. It is commonly called mercy killing or painless death. It is an issue causing heated debate. Many people are opposed to euthanasia for four reasons. First, they argue that no matter how you look at it, euthanasia is killing or suicide and thus is wrong and immoral. The second reason is that there is always the possibility of a wrong diagnosis. Doctors are not flawless, and even the best of them makes mistakes. In addition, there is always the chance that some new pain-killing medicine or even a cure is just around the corner. The most important reason to oppose euthanasia, for many, is the risk of abuse. They are afraid that criminals or bad people may use euthanasia to serve their evil purposes. However, there is the other side of the issue. A large number of people support euthanasia. One common argument for euthanasia is that patients with incurable diseases should not be forced to continue living if they are in great pain and cannot bear this constantly. The second reason is that staying in a hospital for a long time often causes a financial and emotional burden on the family. Incurably ill patients often worry about the hardship and misery that will fall on their families. Moreover, incurable patients often find their lives meaningless. Even if they are alive, they can only lie in bed. For many, this is living death, and they would rather choose to die with dignity. Finally, proponents believe that keeping dying patients alive on life-support systems is cruel and senseless, for it causes great suffering to both the patients and their families, and places great burdens on the

community. Therefore, supporters believe, doctors should have the right to end the life of a terminally ill patient with the permission of the patient or the family.

32. What is the main topic of the passage?
- (A) Definition and classification of euthanasia.
  - (B) Euthanasia as an issue over which opinions are divided.
  - (C) Arguments which are against euthanasia.
  - (D) Anti-euthanasia groups and anti-euthanasia campaign.
33. In which course would this reading be assigned?
- (A) Physical Chemistry.
  - (B) Industrial Control.
  - (C) Social Science.
  - (D) Public Relations.
34. Which of the following would the opponents of euthanasia most probably agree with?
- (A) A condition regarded as incurable at one time may later respond to treatment.
  - (B) Physicians should be allowed to end the life of a patient with an incurable disease.
  - (C) Keeping incurable patients alive on life-support systems is cruel.
  - (D) There is no risk of abuse if euthanasia is legalized.
35. Which of the following mentioned in the passage is in favor of euthanasia?
- (A) Euthanasia is morally wrong.
  - (B) Criminals may resort to euthanasia to gain their evil purposes.
  - (C) Euthanasia enables people with incurable diseases to die with dignity.
  - (D) Even competent doctors cannot avoid making mistakes in making diagnoses.
36. Which of the following would the supporters of euthanasia most probably agree with?
- (A) Doctors should use all means to keep a terminal patient alive.
  - (B) Keeping incurably ill patients alive at any cost is not sensible.
  - (C) Doctors assisting patients with incurable diseases to end their lives should be accused of murder.
  - (D) Terminal patients should not be allowed to end their lives because they are unable to make rational decisions.

ENERGIE STUDIO, a friendly health club, is offering a special promotional price to celebrate its eighth anniversary. You can now become a member for the price of only NT\$3,688 a year and get unlimited use of the studio's facilities and equipment. Located within walking distance from the Chietan MRT, ENERGIE STUDIO provides quality exercise equipment to fitness enthusiasts and beginners alike. There

are over 50 kinds of health and exercise equipment imported from Europe. You can customize your workouts for the best results possible with our full selection of health equipment. After your workout, relax in the men's or women's steam or sauna facilities. A 12-step facial and weight loss program is also offered. ENERGIE STUDIO has experienced fitness instructors to provide professional aerobic classes. The instructors can design a realistic exercise program to suit each individual's lifestyle.

37. ENERGIE STUDIO is most likely a
- (A) newspaper advertisement
  - (B) radio program
  - (C) fitness center
  - (D) beauty saloon
38. Which of the following is NOT true about Energie Studio?
- (A) It is close to public transportation.
  - (B) It has very good exercise equipment.
  - (C) It started its business 8 years ago.
  - (D) It welcomes only professional athletes.
39. All of the following are main attractions of Energie Studio EXCEPT
- (A) special promotional price
  - (B) limited use of the equipment
  - (C) convenience of transportation
  - (D) facilities to relax the body after exercising
40. About how much does one have to pay per month to become a member?
- (A) NT\$8,000 (B) NT\$3,000 (C) NT\$500 (D) NT\$300

## Appendix B: A Reading Comprehension Test

### Version 1: Passages with presence of conjunctions

*Instruction: 1. Choose the most appropriate option*

*2. Write down your answers in the answer card.*

A. Opened in 1872, Yellowstone National Park was the first national park in the world. It is about a fourth the size of Taiwan and covers parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho in the United States. Thousands of years ago, this area was a wasteland. A volcano nearby poured rivers of lava (岩漿) onto the land and killed all living things. After the fire went out, life returned. But then thick glaciers (冰河) came, and the land was deserted once again. But as always, plants and animals returned. There are several great sights that you shouldn't miss if you visit Yellowstone National Park. For example, at Mammoth Hot Spring, you can see boiling water coming from underground. Also, tiny underwater plants have colored the limestone (石灰岩) pools different shades of brown, orange, red and green. Then there is Old Faithful, the famous geyser (間歇泉) that shoots boiling water 150 feet into the air every 80 minutes. So, what are you waiting for? Go and have a walk through the grassy fields of Yellowstone and see all the various wonders of this special park. You won't regret it for a second.

1. In this passage, what is the writer's main purpose?
  - (A) To introduce the top ten national parks in the United States.
  - (B) To introduce the history and scenery of Yellowstone National Park.
  - (C) To explain how fire and ice shape land over a long period of time.
  - (D) To prove that Yellowstone National Park is much smaller than Taiwan.
2. Which of the following descriptions is FALSE?
  - (A) Yellowstone was shaped by fire and ice several times.
  - (B) Old Faithful shoots boiling water every hour.
  - (C) Yellowstone National Park used to be a wasteland.
  - (D) Yellowstone covers parts of three states in the U.S.
3. Visitors will NOT see \_\_\_\_\_ in Yellowstone.
 

(A) many natural wonders	(B) a limestone pool with many colors
(C) a geyser shooting boiling water	(D) people hurt and kill animals
4. What makes the limestone pools colorful?
 

(A) The boiling water.	(B) The geyser.
(C) The underwater plants.	(D) The lava.

B. Cancer is one of the most frightening diseases that we may face. But scientists

believe that most kinds of cancer are related to your personal life style. This means that you can reduce your risk of getting cancer by making some simple changes in the way we live. The most important thing to do is stop smoking. If you don't smoke, don't start. Smoking is the number one cause of cancer. Secondly, modify your diet by reducing the amount of fat you eat and by increasing the amount of vegetables and high fiber food in your diet. In addition, it is important that you do not drink too much alcohol and you try to keep your weight down. Finally, avoid too much sun. Do not stay outside during the middle of the day if you can help it. Remember, adopting a few healthy habits now can help you to enjoy a long and happy life.

5. What is the main idea of this article?
    - (A) Cancer is a terrible and frightening disease.
    - (B) It is important to eat healthy food.
    - (C) A few healthy habits can help you to avoid cancer.
    - (D) Cancer is usually caused by smoking.
  6. Which of the following is not suggested in this article?
    - (A) To eat more vegetables.
    - (B) Not to smoke.
    - (C) To eat more fat.
    - (D) Not to stay under the sun at noon.
  7. What habit is most likely to cause cancer?
    - (A) Smoking.
    - (B) Drinking alcohol.
    - (C) Eating meat.
    - (D) Staying outside all day.
  8. Which statement does the writer intend to infer?
    - (A) Fiber food is fattening.
    - (B) Fat people are more likely to get cancer.
    - (C) Sun is always good for our health.
    - (D) Changing your life style can completely avoid danger of cancer.
- C. Have you heard of the Devil's Triangle? This triangle is made up of part of the Atlantic Ocean and the sky above it. It is located between Bermuda and the southeast coast of the U.S. It is also called the Bermuda Triangle, the Mystery Triangle, and the Triangle of Death. According to some people, very mysterious things happen here. These people say that these mysterious happenings are caused by the devil or by being from outer space. It is true that many ships and planes have disappeared in this region. This fact, however, is not surprising. There is a lot of traffic here. Ships and planes going between the United States and Africa, Europe, and South America all pass through. In addition, the weather can change very quickly. Dangerous storms start with little warning. Finally, the Gulf Stream runs through the Triangle. This mighty ocean current can cause very large waves, again with little warning. Although the Bermuda Triangle can be dangerous, its

dangers can be explained by science.

9. The Gulf Stream\_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) can cause large waves                      (B) can carry ships away  
(C) can cause dangerous storms              (D) does not go through the Triangle

10. How many scientific reasons does the author give for ships disappearing in the Triangle?

- (A) Three    (B) Four  
(C) Five    (D) None

11. According to the author, it can be dangerous to fly through the Triangle because of \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) the Gulf Stream                              (B) the number of ships  
(C) dangerous storms                            (D) large waves

12. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- (A) The danger of Bermuda Triangle cannot be explained by science.  
(B) Not many ships and planes disappeared in Bermuda Triangle.  
(C) Devil's Triangle covers part of the Atlantic Ocean.  
(D) Ships going between the US and Asia will pass through the Triangle of Death.

D. Many different cultures and languages can be found in Taiwan. There are Han Chinese, Fukienese and several other native groups. One of the larger and more influential cultures, however, is the Hakka. The Hakkas make up about fifteen percent of Taiwan's population. They are originally from southern China but have different traditions and speak a different language because they used to live far away from places with large populations. Although many Hakkas have begun living and working with the rest of the Taiwanese population, they traditionally like to live in places with hills and mountains. This is because they need large areas of land to do their work, which is farming. The word "Hakka" means "Guest People" because they have lived in many places in China over the years. Many Hakkas moved to Taiwan about 400 years ago because of its fertile soil, space and beautiful environment.

13. Where did the Hakkas come from originally?

- (A) Southern Taiwan.                              (B) Southern China.  
(C) Hakka.    (D) Hsinchu.

14. What is the best title for this passage?

- (A) A brief history of the Hakka  
(B) Cultures and languages found in Taiwan.  
(C) What does "Hakka" mean?  
(D) The origin of Hakka.

15. What kind of work do the Hakkas traditionally do?  
(A) Selling things. (B) Fishing.  
(C) Farming. (D) Dancing.
16. Which of the following statement is TRUE?  
(A) The Hakka used to live in the places with large populations  
(B) The Hakkas need only small areas of land to do their work.  
(C) Many Hakkas moved to Taiwan for its nice environment.  
(D) Not many cultures are found in Taiwan.
- E. Hiking can be very enjoyable but also dangerous at times. Taiwan is home to a number of poisonous snakes, some of them deadly. As long as you follow a few simple safety rules, you and your friends can go ahead and still have a safe and fun experience. First of all, be aware of when might be walking into a snake's territory. For example, most snakes like grassy areas or places near the water. In addition, snakes are most dangerous when they are surprised or scared. Tying bells to your shoes or bringing along with you a walking stick, which slightly shakes the ground as it hits, will let snakes know you are coming and give them a chance to get out of the way. If, nevertheless, you or a friend ends up getting bitten, get to a hospital as soon as possible.
17. What should you do if you are in a grassy area or a place near the water?  
(A) Run away as fast as you can. (B) Go to a hospital as soon as you can.  
(C) Watch out for snakes. (D) Surprise a snake.
18. Snakes are most dangerous when they are \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) bored (B) hungry  
(C) tired (D) surprised
19. Snakes may be scared away by the sound of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) dogs (B) bells (C) bees (D) water
20. What is the best title for the passage?  
(A) Hiking and snakes (B) The benefits of hiking.  
(C) The danger of snakes (D) Ways of enjoying hiking.

## Appendix C: A Reading Comprehension Test

### Version 2: Passages with absence of conjunctions

*Instructions: 1. Choose the most appropriate option.*

*2. Write down your answers on the answer card.*

A. Have you heard of the Devil’s Triangle? This triangle is made up of part of the Atlantic Ocean and the sky above it. It is located between Bermuda and the southeast coast of the U.S. It is also called the Bermuda Triangle, the Mystery Triangle, and the Triangle of Death. According to some people, very mysterious things happen here. These people say that these mysterious happenings are caused by the devil or by being from outer space. It is true that many ships and planes have disappeared in this region. This fact is not surprising. There is a lot of traffic here. Ships and planes going between the United States and Africa, Europe, and South America all pass through. The weather can change very quickly. Dangerous storms start with little warning. The Gulf Stream runs through the Triangle. This mighty ocean current can cause very large waves, again with little warning. The Bermuda Triangle can be dangerous. Its dangers can be explained by science.

1. How many scientific reasons does the author give for ships disappearing in the Triangle?
 

(A) Three	(B) Four
(C) Five	(D) None
2. The Gulf Stream\_\_\_\_\_.
 

(A) can cause large waves	(B) can cause dangerous storms
(C) can carry ships away	(D) does not go through the Triangle
3. According to the author, it can be dangerous to fly through the Triangle because of \_\_\_\_\_.
 

(A) the Gulf Stream	(B) large waves
(C) dangerous storms	(D) the number of ships
4. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
  - (A) Ships going between the US and Asia will pass through the Triangle of Death.
  - (B) Not many ships and planes disappeared in Bermuda Triangle.
  - (C) Devil’s Triangle covers part of the Atlantic Ocean.
  - (D) The danger of Bermuda Triangle cannot be explained by science.

B. Hiking can be very enjoyable. It can be dangerous at times. Taiwan is home to a

number of poisonous snakes, some of them deadly. As long as you follow a few simple safety rules, you and your friends can go ahead and still have a safe and fun experience. Be aware of when might be walking into a snake's territory. Most snakes like grassy areas or places near the water. Snakes are most dangerous as they are surprised or scared. Tying bells to your shoes or bringing along with you a walking stick, which slightly shakes the ground as it hits, will let snakes know you are coming and give them a chance to get out of the way. If you or a friend ends up getting bitten, get to a hospital as soon as possible.

5. What should you do if you are in a grassy area or a place near the water?
 

(A) Surprise a snake.	(B) Go to a hospital as soon as you can.
(C) Watch out for snakes.	(D) Run away as fast as you can.
6. Snakes are most dangerous when they are \_\_\_\_\_.
 

(A) bored	(B) hungry
(C) tired	(D) surprised
7. Snakes may be scared away by the sound of \_\_\_\_\_.
 

(A) dogs	(B) bees	(C) bells	(D) water
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8. What is the best title for the passage?
 

(A) The benefits of hiking.	(B) Hiking and snakes
(C) The danger of snakes	(D) Ways of enjoying hiking.

C. Opened in 1872, Yellowstone National Park was the first national park in the world. It is about a fourth the size of Taiwan and covers parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho in the United States. Thousands of years ago, this area was a wasteland. A volcano nearby poured rivers of lava (岩漿) onto the land and killed all living things. The fire went out. Life returned. Thick glaciers (冰河) came. The land was deserted once again. A long time passed. Plants and animals returned. There are several great sights that you shouldn't miss if you visit Yellowstone National Park. At Mammoth Hot Spring, you can see boiling water coming from underground. Tiny underwater plants have colored the limestone (石灰岩) pools different shades of brown, orange, red and green. There is Old Faithful, the famous geyser (間歇泉) that shoots boiling water 150 feet into the air every 80 minutes. What are you waiting for? Go and have a walk through the grassy fields of Yellowstone and see all the various wonders of this special park. You won't regret it for a second.

9. In this passage, what is the writer's main purpose?
 

(A) To introduce the history and scenery of Yellowstone National Park.	(B) To explain how fire and ice shape land over a long period of time.
(C) To introduce the top ten national parks in the United States.	(D) To prove that Yellowstone National Park is much smaller than Taiwan.

10. Visitors will NOT see \_\_\_\_\_ in Yellowstone.
- (A) many natural wonders                      (B) a limestone pool with many colors  
(C) a geyser shooting boiling water      (D) people hurt and kill animals
11. What makes the limestone pools colorful?
- (A) The boiling water.    (B) The geyser.  
(C) The underwater plants.    (D) The lava.
12. Which of the following descriptions is FALSE?
- (A) Yellowstone covers parts of three states in the U.S.  
(B) Old Faithful shoots boiling water every hour.  
(C) Yellowstone National Park used to be a wasteland.  
(D) Yellowstone was shaped by fire and ice several times.
- D. Many different cultures and languages can be found in Taiwan. There are Han Chinese, Fukienese and several other native groups. One of the larger and more influential cultures is the Hakka. The Hakkas make up about fifteen percent of Taiwan's population. They are originally from southern China. They have different traditions and speak a different language. They used to live far away from places with large populations. Many Hakkas have begun living and working with the rest of the Taiwanese population. They traditionally like to live in places with hills and mountains. This is because they need large areas of land to do their work, which is farming. The word "Hakka" means "Guest People." They have lived in many places in China over the years. Many Hakkas moved to Taiwan about 400 years ago due to its fertile soil, space and beautiful environment.
13. Where did the Hakkas come from originally?
- (A) Hsinchu.    (B) Southern China.  
(C) Hakka.    (D) Southern Taiwan.
14. What is the best title for this passage?
- (A) A brief history of the Hakka  
(B) Cultures and languages found in Taiwan.  
(C) What does "Hakka" mean?  
(D) The origin of Hakka.
15. What kind of work do the Hakkas traditionally do?
- (A) Selling things.    (B) Fishing.  
(C) Dancing.    (D) Farming.
16. Which of the following statement is TRUE?
- (A) Not many cultures are found in Taiwan.  
(B) The Hakka used to live in the places with large populations  
(C) The Hakkas need only small areas of land to do their work.  
(D) Many Hakkas moved to Taiwan for its nice environment.

E. Cancer is one of the most frightening diseases that we may face. Scientists believe that most kinds of cancer are related to your personal life style. This means that you can reduce your risk of getting cancer by making some simple changes in the way we live. The most important thing to do is stop smoking. If you don't smoke, don't start. Smoking is the number one cause of cancer. Modify your diet by reducing the amount of fat you eat and by increasing the amount of vegetables and high fiber food in your diet. It is important that you do not drink too much alcohol and you try to keep your weight down. Avoid too much sun. Do not stay outside during the middle of the day if you can help it. Remember, adopting a few healthy habits now can help you to enjoy a long and happy life.

17. What is the main idea of this article?

- (A) Cancer is a terrible and frightening disease.
- (B) It is important to eat healthy food.
- (C) Cancer is usually caused by smoking.
- (D) A few healthy habits can help you to avoid cancer.

18. Which of the following is not suggested in this article?

- (A) Not to stay under the sun at noon.
- (B) Not to smoke.
- (C) To eat more fat.
- (D) To eat more vegetables.

19. What habit is most likely to cause cancer?

- (A) Eating meat.
- (B) Drinking alcohol.
- (C) Smoking.
- (D) Staying outside all day.

20. Which statement does the writer intend to infer?

- (A) Fiber food is fattening.
- (B) Sun is always good for our health.
- (C) Fat people are more likely to get cancer.
- (D) Changing your life style can completely avoid danger of cancer.

## Appendix D: A Cloze Test on Comprehension of Conjunctions

*Instructions: 1. Choose the most appropriate option.*

*2. Write down your answers on the answer card.*

A. There are many mental methods to make our memory stronger. Repeating things—like grocery lists and appointments—aloud will make us remember them more. Recalling numbers is also a mental exercise. This is how it works: \_\_\_1\_\_\_, write down a 10-digit number, and then try memorizing the digits one at a time. Use this technique often by trying to memorize phone, credit card and personal identification numbers. Another effective brain workout is to concentrate on our surroundings. \_\_\_2\_\_\_, we can sit down in our kitchen and try to recall and write down the contents of our bedroom. Focusing on one thing for a time can benefit our memory.

(    ) 1. (A) first            (B) however            (C) for example            (D) therefore

(    ) 2. (A) first            (B) however            (C) for example            (D) therefore

B. Many people always leave things undone that are supposed to be done on time. \_\_\_3\_\_\_, they felt weak, useless, and helpless. One of the common causes of procrastination is poor time management. There are a few simple rules you can follow. \_\_\_4\_\_\_, it is important to set your goals and learn to see the different between important and urgent tasks. Know and respect your priorities. \_\_\_5\_\_\_ plan actions to achieve your goals. When making your schedule, add time for unexpected events, \_\_\_6\_\_\_ things may take longer than you think; avoid over-planning. Optimize your working environment and protect yourself from all kinds of interruptions. If you reason for procrastinating is a fear of difficult or large projects, break tasks into smaller pieces.

(    ) 3. (A) First of all            (B) On the contrary (C) Besides            (D) As a result

(    ) 4. (A) First of all            (B) On the contrary (C) Besides            (D) As a result

(    ) 5. (A) Then                    (B) Nevertheless    (C) Besides            (D) Because

(    ) 6. (A) then                    (B) while                    (C) besides            (D) because

C. Taiwan's northern regions have a lot splendid natural sights and attractions to offer the curious travelers. \_\_\_7\_\_\_, located near the mouth of the Tamshui River, the town of Tamshui was once a major port, \_\_\_8\_\_\_ now is mostly a tourist attraction with cozy little cafés, the lovely Fishing Wharf and a large number of

shopping alleys. It has become a weekend get-away spot from the crowded Taipei. There are several historically significant buildings in Tamshui. The most famous is Fort San Domingo. Tamshui is small enough to see in a few hours. \_\_\_9\_\_\_ most people who go there make sure they don't leave \_\_\_10\_\_\_ after the sun has sunk.

- ( ) 7. (A) Finally (B) However (C) For example (D) Therefore  
 ( ) 8. (A) until (B) but (C) besides (D) because  
 ( ) 9. (A) Then (B) But (C) Also (D) Thus  
 ( ) 10. (A) until (B) but (C) and (D) because

D. Robots are helpful in many fields. They are designed to do work that is tiring or boring. \_\_\_11\_\_\_, they have to lift heavy objects in the factory or screw in bolts in an assembly plant. \_\_\_12\_\_\_, they are also used to handle dangerous materials or do their tasks under the sea or in outer space because they are not afraid of being hurt at all. \_\_\_13\_\_\_ they never complain or become sick, they can make ideal workers. \_\_\_14\_\_\_, it is a matter of course that intelligent employers would like to hire such easily-controlled "workers" rather than some ill-tempered human workers. Some people say jokingly if robots are wise enough to complain, they will no longer make good housekeepers. \_\_\_15\_\_\_ one thing is for sure: we will be able to live a much easier and more comfortable life with the help of robots.

- ( ) 11. (A) At last (B) However (C) For example (D) Therefore  
 ( ) 12. (A) Finally (B) However (C) Furthermore (D) As a result  
 ( ) 13. (A) When (B) Although (C) As well as (D) Since  
 ( ) 14. (A) In the end (B) However (C) Furthermore (D) Therefore  
 ( ) 15. (A) Then (B) But (C) Also (D) Thus

E. Some people feel that television is bad for children. They feel that there are too many programs about crime and violence, and that even educational programs don't help a child's education. Children simply watch too much television, and \_\_\_16\_\_\_ they don't do a lot of other things that are important for their education. Preschool children need to learn to speak their language and communicate with anyone. \_\_\_17\_\_\_ elementary school children watch television, they read a lot less. Because of this, they don't learn to read and write as quickly at school.

- ( ) 16. (A) at last (B) although (C) also (D) therefore  
 ( ) 17. (A) When (B) Although (C) In addition to (D) Because

F. If we need to generalize about the life of old people in Taiwan, we can say that they lead a lonely life. Many of them live alone \_\_\_18\_\_\_ they are either widowed

or divorced. A deep sense of separation from others and \_\_19\_\_ a sense of isolation make them very sad. Under these circumstances, they feel that they are living in a hostile environment where others pay little attention to them. \_\_20\_\_, old people can reestablish their role in society by taking part in community activities and making friends with others. If they are willing to try, they will no longer feel isolated.

- ( ) 18. (A) until (B) but (C) besides (D) because  
 ( ) 19. (A) finally (B) instead (C) besides (D) therefore  
 ( ) 20. (A) Finally (B) However (C) For example (D) Therefore

G. Most of us have the experience of meeting friends and can immediately judge what kind of people we meet are the way they act. Usually there are two kinds of people. Some are very shy and sensitive, \_\_22\_\_ others are confident of themselves. Shy people are regarded as anxious and self-conscious. They are always concerned about their own appearance and actions, afraid of being criticized. They need constant praise from other people to make sure of themselves. \_\_23\_\_, people with confidence have high self-esteem and self-assurance. They don't need compliment or encouragement from others and they consider criticism a suggestion for improvement. Now see what kind of people you are. If you are unlucky to be the shy people, you'd better overcome your shyness with determined and patient effort to build your own-self-confidence. Remember to be patient!

- ( ) 21. (A) and then (B) while (C) and also (D) because  
 ( ) 22. (A) First of all (B) On the contrary (C) Besides (D) As a result

H. Different poses of yoga examine different aspects of the body: breathing, the senses and the soul. The aim of the different poses is to relax and focus individual areas of the body and soul as well as to encourage a feeling of peace. The poses reflect nature, such as imitating trees, snakes and eagles. Certain poses are to build up strength and to help achieve a clear mind. \_\_24\_\_, sitting and lying poses are meant to focus you on the present, regulate your breathing and help you feel relaxed. There are hundreds of majority of people, as they require a significant level of strength. \_\_25\_\_, a very difficult pose does not mean it is any better than any of the easier poses. In fact, the best poses are usually simple ones.

- ( ) 23. (A) At last (B) However (C) For example (D) Therefore  
 ( ) 24. (A) At last (B) However (C) For example (D) Therefore

**Appendix E:****Sources of passages in the reading comprehension tests and the cloze test**

- (1) Hsieh, C. (Ed.). (2007). *Four in One--Skill Tester*. Taipei: AMC.
- (2) Liu, L., Tobin, J., & Green, E. (2005). *Classroom 3 in 1 Reading Assessment Tests*:  
Classroom Publications Ltd.
- (3) Liu, Y. (Ed.). (2007). *English Master Three in One--Reading Comprehension,  
Cloze, and Grammar*. Taipei: Lungteng.
- (4) Yuda (Ed.). (2007). *Simulated Tests 20*. Taichung: Yuda.