



第十三届“叶圣陶杯”国际青少年英语大赛

省级初赛试题（高中组）

总分：100 分

I. Read the following sentences and choose the best from A. B. C. D. (each 4 scores, all 60 scores)

1. They will hold a conference to discuss the effects of pollution _____ the people's health in this area.

A. in B. on C. at D. with

2. —Is that the document you were looking for earlier?

—Yes, it is. It was _____ under a pile of papers on my desk. I really need to be more organized.

A. dyed B. peeled C. buried D. honored

3. The _____ cultures of Egypt always attract me. I will pay a visit to the Pyramids of Giza one day.

A. amazed B. mysterious C. magician D. mystery

4. By the time Ken arrived at the classroom, the teacher _____ for thirty minutes already.

A. is lecturing B. has lectured C. has been lecturing D. had been lecturing

5. _____ alone in the dark, the little girl wailed and screamed for help.

A. Leaving B. Left C. To leave D. Having left

6. Though it rained heavily, they decided to _____ and continue their hike.

A. brave the elements B. kill two birds with one stone
C. have a frog in their throat D. throw the baby out with the bathwater

7. At an amazing Chinese art festival, there were different stands _____ artists could demonstrate their skills and teach the visitors.

A. why B. that C. when D. where

8. _____ Shanghai has a relatively small land area, it has a huge population.

A. Although B. But C. Despite D. However

9. Sandy's mother suffered from Amnesia. She looked at her daughter with cold eyes as if she



_____ a stranger.

- A.was B.were C.is D.be

10.Drunk driving, causing great damage _____ a high rate in traffic accident, is a major concern, _____ we each should pay special attention to.

- A.in; that B.in; which C.at; one D.at; that

11.Daisy felt _____ on the day _____ she saw her best friend off at the airport.

- A.sad; when B.sadly; when C.sad; that D.sadly; that

12._____ Larry is, he has to stay up to finish his homework.

- A.Tired as B.Tired although C.As tired D.Although tired

13._____ is in the early morning that you can enjoy the fresh air and listen to the birds singing in the trees.

- A.What B.Whether C.That D.It

14.The following are ten movies _____ over and over again.

- A.worthy to watch B.worthy being watched
C.worth watching D.worth being watched

15.John can no longer stay in this country, and _____ Jack.

- A.so can B.neither can C.too can't D.either can't

II.Read the following passages and choose the best from A. B. C. D. (each 4 scores, all 40 scores)

A

Are you the kind of person who hates school? Or are you more like Michael Nicholson, who can't stop learning? He has 30 degrees including 22 master's and a doctor's! If you're also crazy about studying, you might be a philomath—a person who loves to learn and study. The word comes from Greek with “phil” meaning “a lover of” and “math” meaning “learning”.

Humans are all philomaths in a way—our brain is born with curiosity. We want to learn and understand, partly to make sense of the world but also because of something called neoteny. This is a term that refers to the *juvenile* (年幼的) characteristics of some animals, including humans, being kept into adulthood. One of these characteristics is *neuroplasticity*



(神经可塑性), which helps our brains stay **flexible**—this gives us the ability to learn throughout our lives. Many animals which are genetically close to us, like *primates* (灵长类), can't do this and only learn during their youth.

★ Lots of people remember their school days as being boring or even meaningless. Why is it? Scientists have suggested that if an idea is too difficult or dull, it becomes harder to connect old and new ideas together. If that's the case, we lose interest and take in less information. This experience of education at school may lead to people avoiding learning opportunities in later life.

So, don't let a bad educational experience prevent you learning something new as an adult. We are lifelong learners by nature, so take advantage of your biology and discover your inner philomath. Who knows what you could achieve?

16. Michael Nicholson is mentioned in paragraph 1 to _____.

A. raise a question B. give an example C. make comparison D. list numbers

17. The underlined word "flexible" in paragraph 2 probably means _____.

A. active B. calm C. clear D. awake

18. Which of the following can be put in ★ ?

A. So school education is important.

B. And being a philomath is difficult.

C. And children would try hard at school.

D. But for every person who loves learning, there are plenty who can't stand it

19. According to the passage, every person _____.

A. hates school

B. is born to be curious

C. avoids learning chances

D. has a bad educational experience

20. The writer's writing purpose is to _____.

A. remind us the importance of learning

B. describe what a philomath is like

C. encourage us to be a lifelong learner



D.explain how a philomath develops

B

In Spain, the *siesta* (午睡) isn't just a nap; it's a cultural institution, deeply woven into the fabric of daily life. From its historical roots to its modern-day practice, the siesta holds a special place in Spanish society. Dating back to ancient civilizations, this midday break has evolved over centuries, shaped by factors like climate, agriculture, and *societal norms* (社会准则).

Ancient civilizations like the Romans and Greeks are believed to have embraced midday naps to escape the heat and *replenish* (补充) their energy. Over time, this practice became rooted in Mediterranean cultures, including Spain. Factors like Spain's warm climate and *agrarian* (农耕的) lifestyle played a big role in shaping the siesta tradition. Farmers needed a break from *toiling* (劳作) under the sun, and the midday heat made resting a necessity.

There were plentiful references to the siesta in Spanish literature, art, and folklore. From paintings depicting people dozing under shady trees to stories of characters enjoying a midday rest, the siesta has been celebrated and romanticized throughout history.

The siesta isn't just a nap; it's a chance to unwind and connect with friends and family. It's a time to enjoy a leisurely meal, take a stroll, or simply relax under the warm sun. The siesta reflects Spain's laid-back approach to life and its emphasis on work-life balance. It's a reminder to *prioritize* (优先考虑) rest and relaxation among the hustle and *bustle* (忙碌) of modern life. In a culture that values family, community, and enjoying the simple pleasures, the siesta is more than just a tradition — it's a reflection of deeper cultural values.

As the world speeds up, the traditional siesta faces some hurdles. With the rise of 24/7 industries and flexible work arrangements, the traditional siesta *clashes* (冲突) with modern work schedules. Many businesses now operate around the clock, leaving little room for midday breaks. Meanwhile, in today's competitive market, businesses are under pressure to maximize productivity and efficiency. Some see the siesta as a luxury they can't afford, deciding to keep operations running non-stop to stay ahead.

As Spain evolves, so do its cultural practices. Younger generations may view the siesta differently from their ancestors, prioritizing different aspects of work-life balance.



21. According to the passage, what brought the tradition of siesta in Spain into existence?

- A. Literary influence and artistic trends.
- B. Urban development and business needs.
- C. Religious customs and royal orders.
- D. Hot climate and hard agricultural life.

22. What does the underlined word “unwind” mean in the fourth paragraph?

- A. Sleep.
- B. Liberate.
- C. Refresh.
- D. Sunbathe.

23. What can we infer from the passage?

- A. It is challenging for the tradition of siesta to survive.
- B. The practice of siesta is expensive for many people.
- C. Working schedules are beneficial to midday breaks.
- D. The operation of businesses leaves much time for siesta.

24. What is the main focus of the passage?

- A. The health benefits of taking naps.
- B. How ancient Romans invented the siesta.
- C. Why modern Spain should abandon the siesta.
- D. The cultural importance and evolution of the siesta in Spain.

25. How does the author view the siesta tradition?

- A. As a practice only useful for farmers.
- B. As unimportant to modern Spanish society.
- C. As an outdated habit that reduces productivity.
- D. As a valuable cultural practice reflecting life balance.