# ENGLISH

**This section contains 22 questions.** The time allotted is 20 minutes.

The following section contains three types of questions: Sentence Completion, Restatement and Reading Comprehension. Each question is followed by four possible responses. Choose the response **which best answers the question** and mark its number in the appropriate place on the answer sheet.

#### Sentence Completions (Questions 1-8)

This part consists of sentences with a word or words missing in each. For each question, choose the answer **which best completes the sentence**.

- **1.** There has been a decline in the population of honey bees \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) at the moment
  - (2) long ago
  - (3) someday soon
  - (4) in recent years
- **2.** Byron Nicholai is a popular Alaskan singer whose songs feature a \_\_\_\_\_ of words from English and his native Yup'ik.
  - (1) scene
  - (2) crack
  - (3) blend
  - (4) rate

**3.** The Gifu region in central Japan was \_\_\_\_\_ by the Great Earthquake of 1891.

- (1) enlightened
- (2) intercepted
- (3) certified
- (4) devastated
- **4.** Once common across Europe and Asia, the Eurasian beaver was nearly \_\_\_\_\_ by hunting in the nineteenth century.
  - (1) wiped out
  - (2) held back
  - (3) shown off
  - (4) counted on

5. The leaves of the dragon's blood tree collect \_\_\_\_\_ from the air, enabling the tree to survive in places where there is little water.

- (1) pollution
- (2) emphasis
- (3) applause
- (4) moisture

C כל הזכויות שמורות למרכז ארצי לבחינות ולהערכה (ע״ר) 🔘

**6.** In November 2014, construction workers digging up a road in Iceland's Thingvellir National Park \_\_\_\_\_ paving stones from a road built in 1907.

- (1) unearthed
- (2) disgraced
- (3) convicted
- (4) outweighed
- 7. Reviews of the 1995 film adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic novel *The Scarlet Letter* were unfavorable, describing it as \_\_\_\_\_ at best.
  - (1) omniscient
  - (2) jubilant
  - (3) arbitrary
  - (4) mediocre
- **8.** In September 2012, the German government <u>—</u> media reports that it planned to stop using the Euro as the national currency, claiming they were absurd.
  - (1) dismissed
  - (2) imposed
  - (3) obtained
  - (4) accommodated



#### *Restatements* (Questions 9-12)

This part consists of several sentences, each followed by four possible ways of restating the main idea of that sentence in different words. For each question, choose the one restatement **which best expresses the meaning of the original sentence**.

- **9.** Every year, a hundred million monarch butterflies from across eastern North America converge on Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, where they spend the winter.
  - (1) A hundred million monarch butterflies come from all over eastern North America each year to Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve for the winter.
  - (2) Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve was created as a winter habitat for the hundred million monarch butterflies of eastern North America.
  - (3) During the winter, Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve is home to a hundred million monarch butterflies, most of them from eastern North America.
  - (4) Each year, a hundred million monarch butterflies arrive at Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve after spending the winter in eastern North America.

- **10.** Brain cells that have died from old age, injury or disease cannot be regenerated or so it was long assumed, until research began to indicate otherwise.
  - (1) For many years, people thought that once brain cells died, they did not grow back; however, studies have begun to show that this is not the case.
  - (2) Studies now suggest that old age, injury and disease cause brain cells to deteriorate much more quickly than was previously believed.
  - (3) Recent research supports what has long been believed brain cells that have died cannot be regenerated.
  - (4) Until research began to indicate otherwise, it was commonly assumed that brain cells damaged by old age, injury or disease could be repaired.
- **11.** Given that the information regarding the final days of American author Edgar Allan Poe is fragmentary and contradictory, it is hard to imagine that there will ever be a completely satisfactory answer as to what caused his death.
  - (1) The way in which Poe died will probably never be fully explained because the facts available are incomplete and inconsistent.
  - (2) Recently discovered details about Poe's last days are being pieced together into a credible and persuasive theory about his death.
  - (3) There is little consensus about the circumstances surrounding Poe's death.
  - (4) The cause of Poe's death will remain a mystery until more is known about his final days.
- **12.** Delivered in the waning months of the US Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural speech was notable for its brevity and its dispirited tone.
  - (1) In the midst of the US Civil War, Lincoln gave his second inaugural speech, which was inspiring but restrained.
  - (2) Towards the end of the US Civil War, Lincoln delivered his second inaugural speech, which was strikingly short and somber.
  - (3) In his second inaugural speech, Lincoln displayed the same courage and vision that had proven vital during the US Civil War.
  - (4) Lincoln's second inaugural speech, delivered shortly after the US Civil War, is remembered for its simplicity and its hopeful message.



#### Reading Comprehension

This part consists of two passages, each followed by several related questions. For each question, choose the most appropriate answer based on the text.

*Text I* (Questions 13-17)

According to researchers, habits account for about 40 percent of our behaviors on (1)any given day. Understanding the nature of habits and learning how to form beneficial ones or change harmful ones is essential in life. For many people, however, creating new behavior patterns is an almost impossible task. The key to success lies in something called the habit loop. (5)

Put briefly, a habit loop consists of a cue, a routine and a reward. In his best-selling book The Power of Habit, Charles Duhigg gives teeth brushing as an example. He explains that waking up in the morning with film on one's teeth is the cue that leads people to go through the routine of brushing their teeth, thereby yielding the reward of a (10)clean and fresh feeling in their mouth. Research shows that it was the fresh taste of a new mint-flavored toothpaste called Pepsodent, in addition to the desire to remove the layer of plaque that gathers on teeth, that gave rise to the widespread practice of teeth brushing in the United States at the beginning of the 20th century. Customers claimed that they began looking forward to the cool and tingling sensation created by the toothpaste. The habit loop took hold and there was soon a soaring demand for (15)Pepsodent and other mint-flavored toothpastes.

In order to create a new habit or get rid of an old one it is necessary not just to identify a cue, a routine and a reward, but also to cultivate a craving that drives the loop. Duhigg explains that the reason people fail in their attempt to turn a new behavior into a set habit is that a one-time reward is not enough. Only when a behavior is repeated – and

rewarded – a number of times does the brain begin anticipating the reward. Once the

## Questions

(20)



(1) compare the characteristics of beneficial and harmful habits

new routine has become automatic, a habit has been established.

- (2) explain the brain's role in establishing cues, routines and rewards
- (3) present an example of a habit loop that is difficult to change
- (4) discuss how habits are formed and how to change them

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אין להעתיק או להפיץ בחינה זו או קטעים ממנה בכל צורה ובכל אמצעי, או ללמדה – כולה או חלקים ממנה – בלא אישור בכתב מהמרכז הארצי לבחינות ולהערכה.

- 14. The main purpose of the second paragraph is to -
  - (1) explain why teeth brushing is a beneficial habit
  - (2) give an example of a habit loop
  - (3) discuss the differences between cues, routines and rewards
  - (4) present Charles Duhigg's book The Power of Habit

15. In line 17, "an old one" could best be replaced by -

- (1) an essential routine
- (2) a repeated reward
- (3) a bad habit
- (4) a failed attempt

**16.** Which of the following is an example of a habit loop?

- (1) paying your rent  $\rightarrow$  buying a new sofa  $\rightarrow$  saving money
- (2) waking up in the morning  $\rightarrow$  eating a healthy breakfast  $\rightarrow$  going to bed early
- (3) coming home from work → watching your favorite TV show → taking the dog for a walk
- (4) seeing your phone battery is low → charging the phone battery → being able to use your phone
- 17. According to the text, a habit is -
  - (1) a routine that cannot be changed
  - (2) an automatic behavior
  - (3) a craving with a one-time reward
  - (4) a reward in itself

*Text II* (Questions 18-22)

- (1) Medieval Italian scholar Leonardo Fibonacci (c. 1170-1240) ranks among the foremost mathematicians of all time. One of his most significant contributions to the field of mathematics was the dissemination of the Hindu-Arabic number system, based on the digits zero to nine (0-9), which is used all over the world today.
- (5) Fibonacci first encountered Hindu-Arabic numerals when, as a child, he spent several years in North Africa with his family. Years later, he traveled widely in the Mediterranean world, delving further into the Hindu-Arabic number system and discovering its advantages over the Roman number system then in use in Europe. In 1202, after returning to his native Pisa, he published the *Liber abaci* (Book of
  (10) Calculation), the first work to introduce Hindu-Arabic numerals to Europe. Fibonacci's text demonstrated the usefulness of these numbers for practical, everyday arithmetic purposes such as money changing and the conversion of weights and measures. The book, which also discusses subjects such as geometry, algebra, and theoretical mathematics, drew the attention of leading scholars throughout Europe.
- (15) Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, who was deeply interested in the arts and sciences, found the *Liber abaci* intriguing and asked to meet its author. For several years afterward, Fibonacci corresponded with the emperor and court scholars, exploring mathematical problems and their solutions. When Fibonacci published his most innovative work, the *Liber quadratorum* (Book of Square Numbers) in 1225, he
- (20) dedicated it to the emperor. Although the *Liber quadratorum* was Fibonacci's most sophisticated achievement and constituted a major contribution to the field of mathematics, the *Liber abaci* is broader in scope and was ultimately a more influential work.

### Questions

18. According to the text, the Hindu-Arabic number system -

- (1) is related to the Roman number system
- (2) uses ten different digits
- (3) was actually developed by Europeans
- (4) is no longer in use

- 19. According to the second paragraph, Fibonacci -
  - (1) dreamed of becoming a mathematician as a young boy
  - (2) learned of the Hindu-Arabic numeral system in North Africa
  - (3) was the first European scholar to write about practical and theoretical mathematics
  - (4) became familiar with the Roman numeral system during his travels
- 20. It can be inferred from the second paragraph that the Liber abaci -
  - (1) is based on what Fibonacci learned in his travels
  - (2) demonstrates how to combine the Hindu-Arabic number system with the Roman number system
  - (3) is devoted entirely to practical arithmetic
  - (4) presents the advantages and disadvantages of the Hindu-Arabic number system
- 21. According to the last paragraph, the Liber quadratorum -
  - (1) was Fibonacci's most famous work
  - (2) covers fewer subjects than the Liber abaci
  - (3) took a long time to write
  - (4) was not only about mathematics
- 22. The last paragraph does <u>not</u> mention -
  - (1) Fibonacci's most innovative work
  - (2) Frederick II's intellectual interests
  - (3) Fibonacci's relationship with other scholars
  - (4) Frederick II's response to the Liber quadratorum