

**Reading Comprehension: Choose the MOST appropriate answer.**

**I. London (30%)**

London is a city which 1 tenaciously to its past, yet, 2 energetically into the future. Greater London was a Roman fortification on the northern banks of the river Thames. Throughout the middle ages, 3 and plagues took their toll. But London endured.

Commanding the southeast corner of the city on the banks of the Thames stands the 4 tower of London. From the tower of London, another famous landmark 5 above the river, the Tower Bridge.

St. Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt by Christopher Wren after the great fire in 1666. Visitors here may walk on the 6 platform for a bird's eye view of London. The Latin scripture on Wren's epitaph 7 St. Paul's Cathedral as his crowning achievement.

In St. James Park, area workers can relax in the lush English style gardens and 8 ponds. Yet, the city's nightlife glows in nearby Soho. This once rundown neighborhood is now 9 and home to plush restaurants, pubs, and boutiques, not without a touch of 10.

For shoppers, London is a universal fashion capital, display a 11 of styles for every personality and budget. On Bond Street, shops display 12 gems. Each Saturday, on Portobello Road, pitchmen 13 everything from sterling silver tea services to antique clocks and handmade clothing.

The village of Stratford upon Avon is a living 14 to William Shakespeare. The bard has left an 15 mark on this once tiny market town.

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|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. invades      | B. clings     | C. evokes       | D. endures        |
| 2. A. fortifies    | B. withdraws  | C. surges       | D. rumbles        |
| 3. A. catastrophes | B. conquerors | C. agonies      | D. obligations    |
| 4. A. gothic       | B. ethereal   | C. gold         | D. grim           |
| 5. A. dissolves    | B. executes   | C. looms        | D. scaffolds      |
| 6. A. precarious   | B. memorial   | C. regimental   | D. constitutional |
| 7. A. befits       | B. requests   | C. remains      | D. commemorates   |
| 8. A. whispering   | B. pomp       | C. tranquil     | D. dynamic        |
| 9. A. indulged     | B. revamped   | C. immortalized | D. flocked        |
| 10. A. monolith    | B. homage     | C. cornucopia   | D. decadence      |
| 11. A. cornucopia  | B. various    | C. multiple     | D. credibility    |
| 12. A. thriving    | B. glory      | C. dazzling     | D. neon           |
| 13. A. ranger      | B. hawk       | C. indulge      | D. lecture        |
| 14. A. epic        | B. homage     | C. replica      | D. aristocrat     |
| 15. A. indelible   | B. outrageous | C. observatory  | D. sterling       |

## 2. Personality—nature or nurture?(10%)

The nature/nurture question is not a new one. Its 16 go back at least several hundred years. Researchers nowadays are studying 17 twins to answer the nature/nurture question. Studies of twins indicate that 18 (biology) plays a significant role in determining personal characteristics and behavior.

Some researchers try to discover the 19 of behavioral characteristics—that is, the degree to which a trait is due to genes instead of environment. And they have 20 some startling conclusions.

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|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 16. A. personalities | B. originate    | C. ancestors   | D. roots       |
| 17. A. identical     | B. married      | C. anxious     | D. behavioral  |
| 18. A. blank slate   | B. environment  | C. genetics    | D. education   |
| 19. A. fidelity      | B. heritability | C. reliability | D. flexibility |
| 20. A. arrived       | B. extinguished | C. reached     | D. combined    |

Read the following piece of news and choose the MOST appropriate answer.

### I. (10%) "A Singular Woman"

At home, Mei-ling preserved the same balance, sometimes scrambling over the ruins of heavily bombed Chongqing—China's wartime capital—to tend the wounded, sometimes burnishing Chiang's image with her social poise. It was Mei-ling's great and abiding gift to remain equally at home with the silvery pleasantries of the social world and with the adamant realities of the political. That powerful combination, fired by an implacable distrust of communism, enabled her to remain a central figure in Chiang's government even after the Nationalists were driven to Taiwan when the Communists triumphed in 1949. Upon the 1975 death of her husband, who in 1978 was succeeded as President by her stepson Chiang Ching-kuo, Mei-ling returned to the U.S. She twice served as Taiwan's unofficial spokeswoman in rebuffing China's reunification overtures and spent most her final years in a Manhattan apartment at Gracie Square. It seems only right that she died in the land where she had enjoyed her greatest moments and won her most fervent admirers.

21. Which sentence constitutes the most appropriate summary for the above passage?
- (a). The author cannot agree with Sung Mei-ling's poise of preserving balance in politics.
  - (b). Sung Mei-ling preserved a sense of balance because she is good at gymnastics.
  - (c). The author implied that the most outstanding achievement of Madame Chiang may happen upon the foreign soil.
  - (d). Taiwan do not admit Sung Mei-ling's status in official diplomatic negotiations.
22. Why was Madame Chiang "unofficial" in rebuffing China's reunification overtures?
- (a). Because China did not choose her as an equivalent in the reunification talks.
  - (b). Because Madame Chiang has no official title at the moment.
  - (c). Because Taiwan cannot agree with her style of silvery pleasantries.
  - (d). Because she is too old to be designated as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

23. Which is right among the following statements?

- (a). Taiwan is excluded from the international society as a punishment of our rebuffing China's reunification overtures.
  - (b). According to suggestions given by the author of this eulogy, Taiwan should follow Madame Chiang's diplomatic strategies.
  - (c). Madame Chiang is skillful in maintaining balance in all various kinds of power struggle and circumstances.
  - (d). Madame Chiang's great and abiding ability is to maintain balance on the uneven bar.
24. Which of the following choices is NOT synonymous with "scramble"?

- (a). mix
- (b). blend
- (c). combine
- (d). scrap

25. Which of the following statements is WRONG?

- (a). With the help from Madame Chiang, Taiwan twice turned down China's offer of reunification.
- (b). With her elegant social poise and eloquence in English, Madame is helpful to her husband.
- (c). With or without her astonishing title, she is never attentive to the poor and the wounded.
- (d). Her powerful combination of characteristics leads her to be a politician of neutrality.

## II. (10%) "A Flower Made of Steel"

The Father Prior of that temple took a piece of brick and rubbed it against a stone hour after hour, day after day, and week after week. The little acolyte sometimes cast his eyes around to see what the old Father Prior was doing. . . . So one day the young acolyte said to him. "Father Prior, what are you doing day after day rubbing this brick on the stone?" The Father Prior replied, "I am trying to make a mirror out of this brick." The young acolyte said, "But it is impossible to make a mirror out of a brick, Father Prior." "Yes," said the Father Prior, "and it is just as impossible for you to acquire grace by doing nothing except murmur 'Amita-Buddha' all day long."

26. What is the function of the above story to the whole speech?

- (a). Madame Chiang is quoting this story to raise an exotic atmosphere of her speech.
- (b). Madame Chiang is so cynical that she believes in no grace and peace in mind.
- (c). Madame Chiang is critical against the U.S.'s stand in Japanese imperial invasion into China.
- (d). Madame Chiang is good at memorizing ancient Chinese allegories.

27. Which of the following choices is most suitable for the explanation of "acolyte"?

- (a). Someone who rent the farm and return crops as compensate for the rent.
- (b). Someone who helps a priest at a religious ceremony.
- (c). Someone who charge religious service.
- (d). Someone who do voluntary works to teach the uneducated and poor people.

28. Which of the following choices is NOT synonymous with "rub"?

- (a). polish

- (b). burnish
- (c). scrub
- (d). ruffle

29. Which of the following statements is true?

- (a). The father prior is capable of rubbing the brick into a mirror only if he is insistent enough.
- (b). The story of the rubbing-mirror-pavilion indicates that ideals without action will never succeed.
- (c). This story is cynical because it denies the importance of being earnest.
- (d). This story implies the importance of creative thinking.

30. Why is this story important in Madame Chiang's speech at U.S. Congress?

- (a). Madame Chiang tried to highlight the rich tradition of her country.
- (b). Madame Chiang attempted to ask for help without losing her dignity.
- (c). Madame Chiang successfully showed off her talent of eloquence in speech through this story.
- (d). Madame Chiang allures her listeners with a mysterious and exotic Chinese legend.

**Fill in the blanks (14%)**

bewilder	begrudge	captive	dispose	expedition
initiative	pedestrian	possessor	propose	self-absorbed

We don't have to 31 other people's financial success. It is our own fault that we are not the 32 of a big fortune, and it is our lack of 33, or perhaps our contentment with a 34 portfolio, that keeps us out of the billion-dollar club.

You should 35 (=arrange) of your time well; don't just fool around. Undertake some 36 and explore the world. Don't be a(n) 37 (=unable to escape) resident in your own ivory tower.

**Translation (6%)**

38. A while back, American *Demographics* magazine pawed through some statistics and discovered that rich people do find ways to dispose of income.

39. Money buys a little security. A lot of people in the middle class have a very loose grip on financial stability.

**Reading Comprehension (20%): Choose the most appropriate answer.**

**"I want a life"**

40. Who is the writer of this essay:

- A. Judy Brady
- B. George Plimpton
- C. Mark Twain
- D. Edward R. Murrow

41. This essay talk about:

- A. love
- B. How to clean house



