SỞ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TỈNH THÁI NGUYÊN

Đề chính thức

Đề thi gồm: 100 câu, 14 trang

THI CHỌN HỌC SINH GIỎI DỰ THI CẤP TỈNH
LỚP 12 NĂM HỌC 2025 – 2026

Môn: Tiếng Anh
Thời gian làm bài: 150 phút (không kể thời gian phát đề)
Ngày thi: 25/11/2025

ĐIỂM		Giám khảo 1 (Họ tên, chữ ký)	Giám khảo 2 (Họ tên, chữ ký)	SỐ PHÁCH (Do chủ tịch Hội đồng chấm thi ghi)
(Bằng số)	(Bằng chữ)			

Chú ý: - Thí sinh không được sử dụng tài liệu, kể cả từ điển.
- Thí sinh làm bài trực tiếp vào đề thi này.
- Giám thị không được giải thích gì thêm.

SECTION I. LISTENING (20 points)

Hướng dẫn phần thi nghe hiểu:

- Nội dung nghe gồm 2 phần, mỗi phần thí sinh được nghe 2 lần, đĩa CD tự chạy 2 lần.
- Mở đầu và kết thúc phần nghe có tín hiệu nhạc.
- Hướng dẫn làm bài chi tiết cho thí sinh (bằng tiếng Anh) đã có trong bài nghe.

Part 1. Questions 1-14. You will hear a piece of news about soil. Listen carefully and complete the passage below. Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each blank.

Why soil is one of the most amazing things on earth

Contrary to the perception of soil as lifeless, it is estimated that a single gram of soil may harbor up to (1) _____distinct species of microorganisms. In fact, a mere teaspoon of soil contains a greater number of microorganisms than the total human population on Earth. Nevertheless, much of the subterranean biome remains (2) _____to us, and humans have thus far characterized only a (3) _____ of the life forms inhabiting this complex environment.

Millions of years of (4) _____competition have driven microorganisms to produce antibiotic compounds, which form the basis of many of the antibiotics we use. We literally make (5) _____from our soil.

One of the most special creatures living in soil is the earthworm, which creates (6) _____, acting as lungs in the soil, creating space for plant roots to grow. Under the soil, webs of fungal threads are vast and (7) _____. Plants and fungi trade nutrients, creating what is known as a mutually beneficial relationship in an ecosystem which is (8) _____.

Soil takes centuries to form yet can be destroyed almost instantly by (9) _____, urbanization, landslides, erosion, to name but a few. Some soil is unimaginably ancient, with the oldest being (10) _____years old in South Africa.

Due to gradual pedogenesis, soil protection is critical, yet to little avail, partly attributed to (11) _____ which releases carbon 50-100 times faster than soils can regenerate. Across Europe, (12) _____of soils are degraded, and UK croplands lost over 10% of stored soil carbon in fewer than 30 years after the late 1970s.

Despite its pivotal function in water filtration, flood mitigation, atmospheric regulation, biodiversity, and global nutrient cycles, soil is poorly protected and (13) _____. There, however, remain countless secrets beneath our feet, reflecting the (14) _____of the soil itself.

Your answers:

1.	6.	11.
2.	7.	12.
3.	8.	13.

4.	9.	14.
5.	10.	

Part 2. Questions 15-20. Listen to an interview with two trainee teachers, called Amy and John, about students using smartphones in school and write A, B, C or D in the numbered boxes provided to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions according to what you hear.

15. Amy would like schools to teach students _____.
A. to be aware of advertising on smartphones
B. about the effects of overuse of smartphones
C. how to avoid being distracted by smartphones
D. to decide for themselves when to use smartphones

16. Amy and John both say that some parents _____.
A. aren't consistent in applying rules about using smartphones
B. buy smartphones for quite young children
C. fail to set a good example of smartphone use
D. don't know which sites their children use on their smartphones

17. John approves of students using smartphones in class in order to _____.
A. take photos of their work
B. look up information
C. record a conversation
D. use the calculator

18. What happened when smartphones were banned in one school?
A. The police spent less time on smartphone thefts.
B. Teachers spent more time on the content of lessons.
C. Students soon accepted the situation.
D. Most parents welcomed the decision.

19. John mentions workplaces to point out that company rules regarding smartphone use _____.
A. vary according to the type of work done
B. should be reviewed regularly
C. are difficult to enforce
D. acknowledge that phones are valuable tools

20. What does Amy conclude about the debate on the topic of using smart phones in school?
A. It shows parents and teachers hold very different views from each other.
B. It is being used to hide more serious matters.
C. It reflects significant changes in society.
D. It will soon seem outdated.

Your answers:

15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.

SECTION II: LEXICO - GRAMMAR (25 points)

Part 1. Questions 21-30. Choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D to each of the following questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

21. The recycling scheme _____ to be implemented this month. However, there were serious financial setbacks.
A. is going B. was going C. is certain D. were

22. Strange as it _____, I'm not the least bit hurt by his tactless remarks.
A. may seem B. will seem C. seemed D. may have seemed

23. ___ that the government is concerned about future epidemics, practical measures have been implemented.
A. Considering B. As C. For as D. As far as

24. After killing some wild geese, the poachers are now facing legal _____.
A. methods B. techniques C. procedures D. proceedings

25. It was the middle of the winter and the room was chilly so I turned the heating up a _____.
A. nick B. notch C. stitch D. snick

26. Parts of the mountain road have been washed _____after the floods.
A. through B. off C. away D. out

27. I'm not a serious investor, but I like to _____in the stock market.

A. splash B. splatter C. paddle D. dabble

28. It is believed that _____students will pass the exam with flying colors.

A. each and every B. each one of the C. all of D. every

29. In order to recover from the sadness, he threw himself into a _____of activities.

A. cycle B. cyclone C. typhoon D. hurricane

30. They've been working hard on the project for a month, so they decide to go out and _____.

A. face the music B. steal the show

C. read between the lines D. paint the town red

Your answers:

21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.

Part 2. Questions 31-40. Complete the following passage by supplying the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

Power napping is an effective and under-used tool. It is a quick, intense sleep which (31) _____improves alertness. These naps are especially useful for those whose sleep is constrained by a (32) ____schedule; for example, members of small children or travelling business (33) _____ _____. However, the conditions must be right and patience is required for maximum effect.

Power naps should be short, between ten and twenty-five minutes, to prevent (34) ____on awakening. Some people believe it is impossible to fall asleep in such a short time, but (35) _____shows that it is simply a matter of practice. At the (36) _____, it is more important to relax for a while than actually fall asleep.

Power napping is not a good idea if you find it difficult to wake up at the (37) time or have problems sleeping at night after a power nap in the day. The kind of dozing that can (38) ____ a sensation of overwhelming (39) _____is not a true power nap, but a desperate attempt to compensate for a poor sleep routine.

DRAMA DEMAND EXECUTE

ORIENTATE ACQUIRE OUT

DESIGN COMPANY SLEEP

However, with practice, you will find that power naps can lead to a welcome (40) _____of your performance when you need it most. **ENHANCE**

Your answers:

31.	32.	33.
34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.
40.		

Part 3. Questions 41-45. There are FIVE mistakes in the following passage, except for the example. Identify and correct them. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Line	
1	Volcanoes threaten the lives of 500 ***millions*** people, but scientists still know so little about them. If we consider that mankind first recorded a volcanic eruption in a wall painting dated back more than 9,000 years, we still treat them with extraordinary complacency. While it is true that scientists now understand how much of the different types work, they still don't
5	understand all the factors that ultimately lead to the eruption itself. Despite technological advances, they can't even predict, closer than to within a few hours or days, when a volcano is going to erupt, and so can they forecast its behavior. Even if we could isolate all the forces that could conceitedly trigger an eruption, we would still have difficulty in understanding the signals in advance.
10	A volcano's history of eruptions, the pattern of underlying earthquakes, ground deformation and the escape of various oxide gases are all indicative in future eruptive activity, but are not always easy to read early enough for appropriate steps to be taken.

Your answers:

	Line …	ERRORS	CORRECTIONS
0.	***1***	***millions***	***million***
41.			
42.			
43.			
44.			
45.			

SECTION III. READING (30 points)

Part 1. Questions 46-53. Read the passage below and decide which answer A, B, C or D best fits each space. Write the letter A, B, C or D in the numbered boxes provided.

Smart shoes

Smart shoes that adjust their size throughout the day could soon be available. A prototype has already been produced and a commercial (46) _____may be in production within a few years. The shoe contains sensors that constantly check the amount of room left in it. If the foot has become too large, a tiny valve opens and the shoe (47) _____ slightly. The entire control system is about 5mm square and is located inside the shoe. This radical shoe meets a need because the volume of the (48) _____foot can change by as much as 8% during the course of the day. The system is able to learn about the wearer's feet and (49) ____up a picture of the size of his or her feet throughout the day. It will allow the shoes to change in size by up to 8% so that they always fit (50) _____. They are obviously more comfortable and less likely to cause blisters. From an athlete's point of view, they can help improve (51) _____a little, and that is why the first use for the system is likely to be in a sports shoe.

Eventually, this system will find a (52) _____in many other household items, from beds that automatically change to fit the person sleeping in them, to power tools that (53) _____themselves to the user's hand for better grip.

46. A. assortment	B. version	C. style	D. variety
47. A. amplifies	B. develops	C. expands	D. increases
48. A. general	B. usual	C. medium	D. average
49. A. build	B. pick	C. grow	D. set
50. A. absolutely	B. completely	C. exactly	D. totally
51. A. achievement	B. performance	C. success	D. winning
52. A. function	B. part	C. way	D. place
53. A. shape	B. change	C. respond	D. convert

Your answers:

46.	47.	48.	49.
50.	51.	52.	53.

Part 2. Questions 54-60. Fill each of the following numbered blanks with ONE suitable word and write your answers in the corresponding boxes provided below the passage.

The discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953 gave rise to the field of modern molecular biology. The DNA molecule, (54) _____the code of life in conveniently packaged sequences called genes, scientifically proved that only genetic characteristics such as eye color and to some extent behavioral traits were (55) _____. Talents or skills, in other words, were irrelevant. The possibility that they could play a role in heredity had been completely ruled out. However, a diverse group of scientists is now (56) _____up with convincing evidence to suggest that inheritance may not be quite so cut- and-dried as classical geneticists would have us believe. This idea is called epigenetics.

Epigenetics is the idea that, in terms of inheritance, the gene has a 'biological memory' of an experience. A person could be exposed to trauma in their external environment that changes how or when a gene is expressed (57) _____altering the DNA sequence or genes themselves. This change could then exist for four or five generations, maybe more. Studies carried out in the 1980s, for example, indicated that if food was limited at a key point in a grandparent's life, it could epigenetically affect how long their grandchildren (58) _____. Another study found that people who had been exposed to something really appalling in their life, such as living through a terrible war, showed a marker of a stress hormone, cortisol, in their saliva. It was then discovered that many of their children already had abnormally

high levels of cortisol in (59) _____. From this finding, it could be deduced that their children inherited vulnerability.

The implications of epigenetic changes to DNA are significant and are completely at (60) _____with traditional genetics, generating heated debates. Although scientists still have yet to figure out exactly how epigenetic inheritance occurs, it may be that our legacy to future generations is greater than we ever imagined.

Your answers:

54.	55.	56.	57.
58.	59.	60.	

Part 3. Read the following passage and do the tasks that follow. Questions 61-67

The reading passage has seven paragraphs, A-G.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below. Write the correct number, i-viii, in the numbered boxes provided.

List of Headings

i ii A period in cold conditions before the technology is

iii assessed Marketing issues lead to failure

iv v Good and bad aspects of steam technology are passed on A

vi possible solution to the issues of today

vii Further improvements lead to commercial orders

viii Positive publicity at last for this quiet, clean, fast vehicle A disappointing outcome for customers

A better option than the steam car arises

61 Paragraph **A**
62 Paragraph **B**
63 Paragraph **C**
64 Paragraph **D**
65 Paragraph **E**
66 Paragraph **F**
67 Paragraph **G**

Your answers:

61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.

The steam car

The successes and failures of the Doble brothers and their steam cars

A When primitive automobiles first began to appear in the 1800s, their engines were based on steam power. Steam had already enjoyed a long and successful career in the railways, so it was only natural that the technology evolved into a miniaturized version which was separate from the trains. But these early cars inherited steam's weaknesses along with its strengths. The boilers had to be lit by hand, and they required about twenty minutes to build up pressure before they could be driven. Furthermore, their water reservoirs only lasted for about thirty miles before needing replenishment. Despite such shortcomings, these newly designed self-propelled carriages offered quick transportation, and by the early 1900s it was not uncommon to see such machines shuttling wealthy citizens around town.

B But the glory days of steam cars were few. A new technology called the Internal Combustion Engine soon appeared, which offered the ability to drive down the road just moments after starting up. At first, these noisy gasoline cars were unpopular because they were more complicated to operate and they had difficult hand-crank starters, which were known to break arms when the engines backfired. But in 1912 General Motors introduced the electric starter, and over the following few years steam power was gradually phased out.

C Even as the market was declining, four brothers made one last effort to rekindle the technology. Between 1906 and 1909, while still attending high school, Abner Doble and his three brothers built their first steam car in their parents' basement. It comprised parts taken from a wrecked early steam car but reconfigured to drive an engine of their own design. Though it did not run well, the Doble brothers went on to build a second and third prototype in the following years. Though the Doble boys' third prototype, nicknamed the Model B, still lacked the convenience of an internal combustion engine, it drew the attention of automobile trade magazines due to its numerous improvements over previous steam cars. The Model B proved to be superior to

gasoline automobiles in many ways. Its high-pressure steam drove the engine pistons in virtual silence, in contrast to clattering gas engines which emitted the aroma of burned hydrocarbons. Perhaps most impressively, the Model B was amazingly swift.

It could accelerate from zero to sixty miles per hour in just fifteen seconds, a feat described as 'remarkable acceleration' by Automobile magazine in 1914.

D The following year Abner Doble drove the Model B from Massachusetts to Detroit in order to seek investment in his automobile design, which he used to open the General Engineering Company. He and his brothers immediately began working on the Model C, which was intended to expand upon the innovations of the Model B. The brothers added features such as a key-based ignition in the cabin, eliminating the need for the operator to manually ignite the boiler. With these enhancements, the Dobles' new car company promised a steam vehicle which would provide all of the convenience of a gasoline car, but with much greater speed, much simpler driving controls, and a virtually silent powerplant. By the following April, the General Engineering Company had received 5,390 deposits for Doble Detroits, which were scheduled for delivery in early 1918.

E Later that year Abner Doble delivered unhappy news to those eagerly awaiting the delivery of their modern new cars. Those buyers who received the handful of completed cars complained that the vehicles were sluggish and erratic, sometimes going in reverse when they should go forward. The new engine design, though innovative, was still plagued with serious glitches.

F The brothers made one final attempt to produce a viable steam automobile. In early 1924, the Doble brothers shipped a Model E to New York City to be road-tested by the Automobile Club of America. After sitting overnight in freezing temperatures, the car was pushed out into the road and left to sit for over an hour in the frosty morning air. At the turn of the key, the boiler lit and reached its operating pressure inside of forty seconds. As they drove the test vehicle further, they found that its evenly distributed weight lent it surprisingly good handling, even though it was so heavy. As the new Doble steamer was further developed and tested, its maximum speed was pushed to over a hundred miles per hour, and it achieved about fifteen miles per gallon of kerosene with negligible emissions.

G Sadly, the Dobles' brilliant steam car never was a financial success. Priced at around $18,000 in 1924, it was popular only among the very wealthy. Plus, it is said that no two Model Es were quite the same, because Abner Doble tinkered endlessly with the design. By the time the company folded in 1931, fewer than fifty of the amazing Model E steam cars had been produced. For his whole career, until his death in 1961, Abner Doble remained adamant that steam-powered automobiles were at least equal to gasoline cars, if not superior. Given the evidence, he may have been right. Many of the Model E Dobles which have survived are still in good working condition, some having been driven over half a million miles with only normal maintenance. Astonishingly, an unmodified Doble Model E runs clean enough to pass the emissions laws in California today, and they are pretty strict. It is true that the technology poses some difficult problems, but you cannot help but wonder how efficient a steam car might be with the benefit of modern materials and computers. Under the current pressure to improve automotive performance and reduce emissions, it is not unthinkable that the steam car may rise again.

Questions 68-70. Complete the summary below.

Choose ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in numbered boxes provided.

The Model E

The Model E was road-tested in 1924 by the Automobile Club of America. They found it easy to drive, despite its weight, and it impressed the spectators. A later version of the Model E raised its (68) , while keeping its emissions extremely low.

The steam car was too expensive for many people and its design was constantly being altered. Under (69) _____ cars were produced before the company went out of business. However, even today, there are Model Es on the road in the US. They are straightforward to maintain, and they satisfy California's (70) _____emissions laws. Perhaps today's technology and materials would help us revive the steam car.

Your answers:

68.	69.	70.

Part 4. Questions 71-75. Read the passage and choose the best answer A, B, C or D to each of the questions. Write your answers in the corresponding numbered boxes provided.

Many primates live in an organized troop in which all ages and both sexes are included, and in which members always move compactly together as a stable social unit. There is a ranking hierarchy among troop males, although the strictness with which the hierarchy is enforced varies. The ranking relationship is recognized among them and the hierarchy functions to ameliorate conflict. The highest- ranking male or males

defend, control, and lead the troop; the strong social bond among members and their safety is maintained.

On the other hand, chimpanzees lack a stable social troop. Even members of a regional population, who are acquainted with each other, rarely move en masse but move in temporarily formed parties that usually consist of less than ten animals. Such parties maintain associative and friendly contact through their rich vocal and behavioral communication. Chimpanzee society ensures that the free and independent movement of each individual is based on highly developed individuality without the restriction of either territoriality or hierarchy. On the other hand, a chimpanzee enjoys the benefits of group life in that it can avoid the enemy and find fruits with less effort.

Although there is a loose dominant and subordinate relationship among individuals, chimpanzees are rarely placed under the restraint of the ranking hierarchy. The rigidly organized troop characteristic of most primates must be an adaptation for avoiding enemies like man and carnivores and for defense against these enemies. In this context, a group of monkeys is more likely to survive than a single individual. The group provides a social mechanism for survival. Females and young monkeys, especially a female with a baby, must be protected by others. As their food, fruits, nuts, leaves, and some kinds of insects, is scattered in a wide area in the natural habitat, a dominant animal does not control the entire food source, nor does a subordinate animal starve when the former is satiated. An important problem in the rigid hierarchical social organization is that each animal must adjust its movements and behaviors to those of the troop. A rigidly organized troop cannot be maintained when individuals do not subordinate their personal desires for the good of troop unity or solidarity. The flexible social organization of the chimpanzee may be one resolution of this problem. This kind of social organization may be one of the original factors raising individuality to the level of personality. Chimpanzees have not rejected group life, but they have rejected individual uniformity and the pressure of a dominance hierarchy.

That a number of experienced big males can serve as leader, appropriately coping with critical situations, and that followers can appropriately react to a leader's behavior, prove that chimpanzee society is not a simple chaotic gathering but a developed society based on highly developed psychological processes and individuality. The identity of fellow chimpanzees is formed in the mind of those chimpanzees who utilize the same range. The size of the regional population must be restricted by the upper limit of members that an animal can identify and have friendly relations with.

Another factor restricting population size must be environmental conditions, that is, the volume and the distribution of food and shelter and the geophysical condition of the habitat. The latter may influence the moving pattern, moving range, and the grouping pattern of each individual and group of individuals. Chimpanzees form regional populations even in continuous habitats such as those found in the Budongo Forest.

71. In many primate troops, the social hierarchy consists of _____.

A. females only
B. males only
C. males of all ages
D. both males and females of all ages

72. According to the passage, primate societies are _____.

A. flexible
B. extremely competitive
C. dominated by adult males
D. frequently in conflict with each other

73. The author believes that primates establish strong bonds within a troop in order to _____.

A. protect the members of the troop
B. facilitate food gathering
C. keep other troops from encroaching on their territory
D. establish loyalty to the group

74. Unlike other primates, chimpanzees _____.

A. lack a strict hierarchy within their troops
B. are not bound to troops
C. are hostile to chimpanzees from alien populations
D. share the raising of their young

75. The author compares chimpanzees to other primates mainly to emphasize the point that _____.

A. great variations in behavior exist among primates of different species
B. all primates have man as their common enemy
C. primate behavior is well understood
D. chimpanzees are different

Your answers:

71.	72.	73.	74.	75.

SECTION IV. WRITING (25 points)

Part 1. Questions 76-80. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN.

76. There's a lot of money depending on the success of this venture. **STAKE**

→ I've _____in this venture.

77. I don't mind which flavour ice cream you choose. **SAME**

→ It's _____which flavour ice cream you choose.

78. We can't expect any of the staff to remember all the security codes. **EXPECTED**

→ None of the staff _____all the security codes.

79. Don't tell me the answer – it's coming to me! **TONGUE**

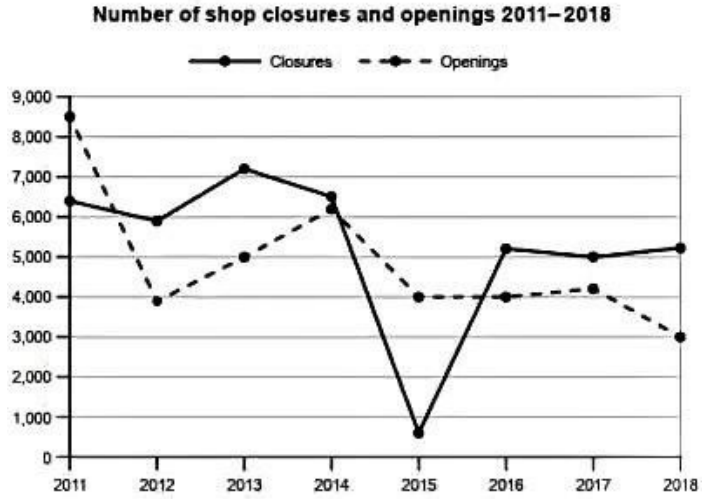
→ The answer _____- don't tell me!

80. It's hard not to smile when she does her silly walk. **STRAIGHT**

→ It's hard _____when she does her silly walk.

Part 2. Questions 81-88: The graph below shows the number of shops that closed and the number of new shops that opened in one country between 2011 and 2018.

Write about 150 words to summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Part 3. Questions 89-100. Write an essay of about 200-250 words on the following topic.

Nowadays, many people rely on the Internet for medical advice instead of consulting qualified healthcare professionals. Why is this happening? Do you think it is a positive or negative development? Use reasons and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience to support your answer.

ĐÁP ÁN ĐỀ NGHỊ

ĐỀ CHỌN HSG DỰ THI CẤP TỈNH LỚP 12 THÁI NGUYÊN 2025-2026

SECTION I. LISTENING

1. 50,000	**6.** breathing holes	**11.** intensive farming
2. alien	**7.** intricate	**12.** 60-70%
3. tiny fraction	**8.** interconnected	**13.** regulated
4. evolutionary	**9.** (chemical) contamination	**14.** untapped potential
5. medicine	**10.** 3 billion	

15. D. to decide for themselves when to use smartphones

16. C. fail to set a good example of smartphone use
17. B. look up information

SECTION II.

21. B. was going
22. A. may seem

23. A. Considering
24. D. proceedings
25. B. notch

31. dramatically

32. demanding
33. executives

34. disorientation
35. acquisition

41. Line 2: dated => dating

42. Line 4: much => many
43. Line 7: so => nor/neither

SECTION III. READING

46. B. version
47. C. expands

18. **C.** Students soon accepted the situation.
19. A. vary according to the type of work done
20. C. It reflects significant changes in society.

26. C. away
27. D. dabble

28. B. each one of the
29. C. typhoon

30. D. paint the town red

36. outset

37. designated
38. accompany

39. sleepiness
40. enhancement

44. Line 8: conceitedly => conceivably

45. Line 11: in => of
48. D. average
49. A. build
50. C. exactly

51. B. performance

54. carrying
55. inherited
56. coming

57. without

52. **D.** place

53. A. shape

58. lived
59. infancy
60. odds
61. iii. Good and bad aspects of steam technology are passed on
62. viii. A better option than the steam car arises

63. vi. Positive publicity at last for this quiet, clean, fast vehicle
64. v. Further improvements lead to commercial orders
65. vii. A disappointing outcome for customers

66. i. A period in cold conditions before the technology is assessed
67. iv. A possible solution to the issues of today
68. speed
69. 50 **70.** strict

71. B. males only

72. C. dominated by adult males

73. A. protect the members of the troop

SECTION IV.

76. got a lot of money at stake
77. all the same to me

78. can be expected to remember

74. **B.** are not bound to troops
75. D. chimpanzees are different

79. is on the tip of my tongue
80. to keep a straight face