

I. [A] Questions (1)–(5) below each contain a set of five words. The five words in each set are missing the same pair of letters. Choose the correct pair from the list (1–9) in the box below them to insert into the underlined space, and mark the appropriate number on your answer sheet.

- (1) to__ent ga__ent fo__ula se__on a__or
 (2) e__er wor__ly se__om so__ier go__en
 (3) ca__ule ecli__e cor__e colla__e ela__e
 (4) bri__ten frei__t sli__tly ei__ty ou__t
 (5) a__e ya__t s__olar me__anic an__or

1. ch	2. gh	3. gn	4. ld	5. lm
6. mn	7. ps	8. rm	9. rn	

[B] For questions (6)–(10), choose one of the verbs (1–5) from the box below them to place in front of each of the four sets of words to form the most natural-sounding phrase. **All choices must be used.**

- (6) an application a claim a complaint a report
 (7) a bath a household a campaign a company
 (8) a commitment a condition an obligation an expectation
 (9) a duty a trick a role a task
 (10) business electricity music oneself

1. conduct	2. file	3. fulfil	4. perform	5. run
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II. Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

My Unusual Classmate

Anza appeared in my life one day in my first-grade composition class and immediately impressed me because she was very bad. In that class we were all a little recalcitrant₍₁₁₎ from time to time, but only when the teacher, Ms. Olivia, couldn't see us. Then we would pass notes or make faces at one another. Anza, on the other hand, was always bad. Not a week after she'd first turned up in our classroom, she started digging out the contents of her glue stick with a mechanical pencil and lobbing₍₁₂₎ the sticky bits at us. I was hit twice in the hair and once on the sleeve of my favorite blouse, while others were struck elsewhere. Everyone was grousing₍₁₃₎ about the situation. In response, Ms. Olivia shouted, as she knew how to do, in a voice like a needle, long and pointed, petrifying₍₁₄₎ us. In her stentorian₍₁₅₎ tone, she told us to settle down now, but Anza didn't stop and didn't even seem frightened; she just kept throwing pieces of glue stick in random directions, without a care in the world. Finally, Ms. Olivia, who had been writing on the blackboard, turned to see what had caused such a ruckus₍₁₆₎ and saw Anza making a mess of her desk. Our teacher was a tall woman, and she seemed very old to us. She began accosting₍₁₇₎ Anza, and then something unexpected happened. Ms. Olivia employed a locution₍₁₈₎ that was totally unfamiliar to the rest of us, but that Anza seemed to understand perfectly. To this day, I don't know what our teacher said to her, but whatever it was, it made Anza put away her pencil and her glue stick and instantly become demure₍₁₉₎. She cleaned off her desk, sat up straight, and after that applied herself with great assiduity₍₂₀₎ to the day's lesson.

If you looked up the basic forms of the underlined words (11) — (20) in a dictionary, you would find the following definitions (0 — 9). In each case, decide which definition matches the underlined word and mark that number on your answer sheet. All choices must be used.

0. a particular form of expression or idiom; a style of speech or expression
1. to approach and speak to; to confront boldly
2. very loud or powerful
3. constant or close attention; consistent application of effort
4. to convert into stone or a stony substance; to scare stiff; to frighten deeply
5. to throw heavily or clumsily; to fire at a high angle
6. a sudden noise or excited movement; a fuss
7. reserved or modest in manner; quiet and well behaved
8. resisting authority or control; hard to deal with or manage
9. to complain angrily; to moan

III. *In the dialogue that follows, words have been removed and replaced by spaces numbered (21)—(30). From the boxed lists [A] and [B] on the next page, choose the most appropriate phrase to fill in each of the **underlined bracketed numbers** and the **boxed bracketed numbers**, respectively. All choices must be used; the choices should be made to produce the most natural conversation overall.*

[Situation: Ken Seng has fallen asleep in the recovery area outside the hot spring at a resort, and a member of the staff wakes him and then takes him to his massage appointment.]

Staff: Mr. Seng? Please, this way. Come with me. It's time for your massage treatment.

Ken: I'm sorry, but I'm a bit confused. Where am I?

Staff: No problem. You're just outside the hot spring. You remember the hot spring, right? You fell asleep in the recovery area, (21) . It happens to many of our guests. You must've been really tired.

Ken: Is that what that place is? The hot spring? I thought it was a meditation room, but when I went inside it was so hot and steamy. So, tell me, does all this go back a long time?

Staff: Yes, the people of this area have used hot springs for thousands of years. This facility was established here over two hundred years ago.

Ken: So, are we in Gunma or Nagano?

Staff: You really don't know much about this resort, do you? If you don't mind me saying so.

Ken: This whole thing was my wife's idea. It's been crazy at work lately. I promised her we'd spend the weekend together, and then she made me get in the car and started driving. I fell asleep while we were heading into the mountains, (26) , we were here.

Staff: It sounds like she is, in fact, (27) . It's not easy to get a reservation here. We take them a year in advance, and still there is an extensive waiting list.

Ken: I don't know, (28) seems like a lot of trouble. (22) . Just so we can sweat and have back massages.

[They leave the recovery area and continue their conversation as they enter the massage treatment room.]

Staff: It involves so much more than that. By the way, do you mind if I apply this healing mud before I begin your massage?

Ken: Sure, I won't move a muscle. (23) .

Staff: For instance, tomorrow you'll have a chance to talk to a sleep expert, (29), if you're interested. You'll also get a report from one of our sleep specialists on your resting habits at the end of your stay.

Ken: You mean staff members are watching us while we sleep?

Staff: Only monitoring your breathing and heartbeat. It was all in the agreement you signed when you registered. Don't forget, (30).

Ken: (24) , I guess, but I'm still not totally convinced. After all, this is all new to me.

Staff: (25) . You won't be disappointed.

[A] *To fill in each of the **underlined** bracketed numbers, that is (21) — (25) , choose the most appropriate phrase from the list below:*

1. Go for it
2. If you say so
3. Nothing to worry about
4. Plus the expense
5. Trust us

[B] *To fill in each of the **boxed** bracketed numbers, that is (26) — (30), choose the most appropriate phrase from the list below:*

1. and I'd very much recommend that
2. and when I woke up
3. coming all this way
4. looking after you quite well
5. this is all for your own good

IV. *The sequence of questions below, numbered (31)–(38), are those asked by an interviewer, Katie Underwood, talking in 2023 to Afghanistan-born female Judo athlete Nigara Shaheen, who competed in the Tokyo Olympics held in 2021 as part of the Refugee¹ Olympic Team, and was in Canada preparing for the Paris Games of 2024. Shaheen's responses that follow have been rearranged and numbered (1–8). Choose the number of the response that most appropriately follows each question to produce the most natural conversation overall, and mark that number on your answer sheet. All numbers must be used.*

(Interviewer: Katie Underwood)

- (31) Your parents fled the civil war in Afghanistan in 1993, when you were a baby. What have you been told about that experience?
- (32) How did you all adjust to that new life in Pakistan?
- (33) What led you to take up judo?
- (34) What is it about judo that appealed to you?
- (35) The Olympics are the world's largest display of national pride. You're competing under the refugee flag. Does that alter the experience for you somehow?
- (36) You're going to be fighting athletes whose home countries are relatively politically stable. They haven't had to deal with the things you have. Do you ever think about how one's past can impact present performance?
- (37) Some refugees here in Toronto are sleeping in the streets. As a refugee yourself, how do you feel when you see how that situation is being handled?
- (38) How so?

(Interviewee: Nigara Shaheen)

1. My Olympic dream was to represent Afghanistan, which didn't come true. I remember during the opening ceremonies in Tokyo, the refugee team was in the front and the Afghanistan one was behind us. I couldn't look back. I felt empty. There were my people, wearing our traditional clothes, and I couldn't be a part of it. At the same time, I am a refugee, since I grew up in Pakistan, and in that way, that banner represents me more. Those carrying it feel a responsibility. They're representing the millions of people who have been forced to flee their countries of birth.

¹ A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, oppression, or natural disaster.

2. Well, my coach used to say, "Keep falling and falling and falling and then you will be a *judoka*." It doesn't matter how many times you get knocked down in life, as long as you get back up — that's always stuck in my mind. Also, people also think it's aggressive, but in judo you learn how to use your opponents' strength against them. That's something I always liked about it.
3. If people go to the same gym, train together and they're in close physical contact, they naturally begin to bond. That's what happened to me. I know many refugees don't have the financial means to pay for their kids to join a sports club; they're struggling just to pay for food. But if I get the chance to start my own *dojo*, I'll get funding so it's free for refugees to come.
4. I will say: it could be better. At the same time, just speaking for myself, coming here meant getting so many opportunities that I'd never had in my life. When I train now, I know I won't be harassed. There won't be bombs or guns firing. I'm grateful for that peace. What concerns me with respect to the refugees is integration. I think sports can be a tool for that.
5. My family is pretty educated, but we had little savings. First, we lived in a house with 15 of our relatives, but then my mom started teaching, which allowed us to rent our own place. It was very hot there, so I had a lot of skin problems and fevers as a baby. My mom showered my skin in cold water, but I ended up becoming sick from it. A relative who lived with us back then is always surprised when he sees me now. He's like, "How did *you* get so fit?"
6. After attacks by Islamic rebels, my mom left Kabul with the four of us kids. My dad was trapped and hid at his office, but met up with us a day later. We traveled by car to a Pakistani border town. From there, we walked through the mountains over two days and two nights. My eldest sister was 13 at that point, and my mom stayed awake all night to make sure no one assaulted us.
7. Sure. When I grew up, my diet wasn't as good. We didn't have good doctors. That might have affected my body, but it's not something that affects me mentally. All of that aside, I got to this stage. That keeps me motivated — knowing I've walked a harsh path and I'm still here.
8. The thing is, harassment was pretty normal in Pakistan. One day, I was coming home from school and an old man yelled at me and pushed me down. My mom said, "You won't always be able to defend yourself using only words; you'll need to stand up for yourself physically as well." After that, I started doing karate and then later judo.

(Adapted from an interview between Katie Underwood and Nigara Shaheen.)

V. Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

[A] Play is the work of childhood, and all young mammals¹ have the same job: to wire up their brains by playing vigorously and often. Hundreds of studies on young rats, monkeys, and humans show that young mammals want to play, need to play, and come out socially, mentally, and emotionally underdeveloped when they are deprived of play. Indeed, through play, young mammals learn the skills they will need to be successful as adults, and they learn in the way that their brains like best: from repeated activity with feedback from success and failure in a low-risk environment. So, for example, kittens will awkwardly play-attack a piece of string because it looks like a mouse's tail.

[B] Very young children awkwardly run around and climb up, over, or into anything they can, until they become skilled at moving around a (Q. 40) natural environment. With those (Q. 40) skills mastered, they move on to more advanced multiplayer hunter-hunted games, such as cops-and-robbers and hide-and-seek. As they get older still, wordplay — as in gossip, teasing, and joking around — gives them an advanced course in the use of indirect language, and (Q. 40) relationship repair when something they said fails to produce the (Q. 40) response. Over time, they develop the (Q. 40) skills necessary for life in a democratic society, including self-governing, (Q. 40) decision making, and accepting the outcome when you lose a contest.

[C] (See Q. 41)

[D] A key feature of free play is that mistakes are generally not very costly. Everyone is awkward at first, and everyone makes mistakes every day. Gradually, from trial and error, and with direct feedback from playmates, elementary school students become ready to take on the greater social complexity of junior high school. It's not homework that gets them ready, nor is it classes on handling their emotions. Such adult-led lessons may provide useful information, but information doesn't do much to shape a developing brain. Play does. In short, experience, not information, is the key to emotional development. It is in unmonitored, child-led play where children best learn to (see Q. 42) minor injuries, (see Q. 42) their emotions, (see Q. 42) other children's emotions, (see Q. 42) turns, (see Q. 42) conflicts, and (see Q. 42) fair. Children are motivated to acquire these skills because they want to be included in group play and keep the fun going.

¹ Warm-blooded animals that generally give birth to live babies, such as monkeys, cows, dogs, and humans.

(39) *In paragraph [A], the main point being expressed is:*

1. When it comes to play, humans and other animals are not so different.
2. Play is common to all animals, including humans.
3. Mammals alone of all animals like and require play.
4. When cats play with string, they are really practicing hunting.
5. Play is an essential element in mammals' development into adulthood.

(40) *In paragraph [B], six adjectives have been removed. From the list below, choose the option that correctly reflects the original order that these words appeared in and mark the number on your answer sheet.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 0. basic, instant, desired, complex, social, joint | 5. desired, instant, social, joint, basic, complex |
| 1. social, joint, instant, desired, complex, basic | 6. social, complex, basic, joint, desired, instant |
| 2. joint, instant, complex, desired, basic, social | 7. complex, basic, instant, desired, social, joint |
| 3. complex, desired, basic, instant, joint, social | 8. joint, complex, desired, instant, basic, social |
| 4. basic, social, desired, joint, instant, complex | 9. desired, basic, complex, social, joint, instant |

(41) *The sentences in paragraph [C] have been rearranged alphabetically and numbered ①—⑤ below. From the list that follows, choose the option that best reflects the logical flow of the original and mark the number on your answer sheet.*

- ① Adults, you see, usually can't stop themselves from directing and protecting.
- ② Children can only learn how to not get hurt in situations where it is possible to get hurt, such as wrestling with a friend, or having a pretend sword fight.
- ③ Physical play, outdoors and with other children of mixed ages, is the healthiest, most natural, most beneficial sort of play.
- ④ Play with some degree of physical risk is essential because it teaches children how to look after themselves and each other.
- ⑤ When parents, teachers, and coaches get involved, it becomes less free, less playful, and less beneficial.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. ②, ③, ④, ①, ⑤ | 4. ③, ⑤, ④, ②, ① |
| 2. ②, ①, ④, ⑤, ③ | 5. ④, ①, ③, ②, ⑤ |
| 3. ③, ④, ②, ⑤, ① | 6. ④, ⑤, ①, ③, ② |

(42) *In paragraph [D], in the eighth sentence, six verbs have been removed. From the list below, choose the option that correctly reflects the original order that these words appeared in and mark the number on your answer sheet.*

1. handle, bear, play, read, resolve, take
2. play, resolve, handle, read, bear, take
3. read, take, bear, resolve, play, handle
4. resolve, bear, handle, take, read, play
5. take, read, handle, play, bear, resolve
6. bear, handle, read, take, resolve, play

- [E] I would emphasize the contrast between the “play-based childhood” of the past and the “phone-based childhood” of today. A play-based childhood is one in which kids spend the majority of their free time playing with friends in the real world: physically present, real time, one-to-one or one-to-several, and in groups or communities where there is some cost to join or leave so people invest in relationships. This is how childhood was among hunter-gatherers, which means that human childhood evolved during a long period in which brain development “expected” an enormous amount of free play. Significantly, in 1959 the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child included play as a basic human right.
- [F] In contrast, today some teenagers are spending the majority of their waking hours on their phones and other screens, sitting alone watching YouTube videos on automatic play or scrolling through endless feeds and posts on Instagram, TikTok, and other apps. These actions carried out on devices generally have the typical features of the virtual world: not taking place at the same time, one-to-many, and done either alone or in virtual groups that are easy to join and easy to leave. With young people posting and commenting on social media sites, they are now experiencing a “phone-based childhood” instead of a “play-based childhood.”
- [G] Even if the content on these sites could somehow be filtered effectively to remove obviously harmful material, the irresistibly appealing design of these platforms reduces the time available for face-to-face play in the real world. The reduction is so severe that we might refer to smartphones and tablets in the hands of children as “experience blockers.” Of course, a smartphone opens up worlds of new possible experiences, including video games (which are forms of play) and virtual long-distance friendships. But this happens at the cost of reducing the kinds of experiences that humans have evolved for and that they must have in abundance to become socially capable adults.
- [H] Even for kids who never post anything, spending time on social media sites can still be harmful because the enormous amount of time taken away from everything else in life. Perhaps not surprisingly, surveys show that unstructured time with friends dropped suddenly in the exact years that teenagers moved from basic mobile phones to smartphones — the early 2010s. We see a generation moving away from the real world and into the virtual, due to the combination of smartphones, social media, multiplayer video games, and high-speed wireless internet.

- (43) *In paragraph [E], which of the following ideas is expressed?*
1. The United Nations thinks that receiving an education is a basic human right.
 2. Hunter-gatherers invested more in parent-child relationships than people today do.
 3. Children's play today is very different in nature and form compared to in the past.
 4. Some communities charge money for people to join or leave them.
 5. Children today expect to have more playtime compared to children in previous decades.
- (44) *In paragraph [F], which of the following is **not** given as a common feature of phone-based play among certain teenagers today?*
1. It is undertaken on one's own.
 2. It is conducted on social media.
 3. It does not take place in person, face-to-face.
 4. It is done at the expense of sleep.
 5. It consumes a considerable amount of their days.
- (45) *The main point being expressed in paragraph [G] is that:*
1. Humans are not sufficiently evolved to use smartphones and tablets responsibly.
 2. The root problem with social media is that it deprives people of real-life experiences.
 3. Thanks to virtual reality people can play both in the real world and the virtual world.
 4. Blocking harmful social media sites can save children from having bad experiences.
 5. Smartphones and tablets make long-distance relationships possible.
- (46) *In paragraph [H], the author emphasizes the connection between:*
1. those kids who have posted things on social media and those kids who have not.
 2. the rise of social media sites and an increase in online surveys.
 3. the virtual world of basic mobile phones and the real world of smartphones.
 4. teenagers moving back home more and an increase in phone use.
 5. the year 2010 and the birth of a new generation.
 6. free time spent with friends decreasing and smartphones becoming available.
- (47) *Looking at the text as a whole (that is, paragraphs [A]—[H]), which of the following opinions is **not** held by the author?*
1. Opportunities for gaining real-life experience are decreasing as use of smartphones is increasing.
 2. It is beneficial for play to involve some element of risk or cost related to making mistakes.
 3. Online play certainly has some benefits, but these come at the price of real-world play.
 4. The internet has replaced the playground as the principal place where bullying takes place.
 5. Playing is not simply a fun activity but is fundamental to how people develop as social animals.
 6. Children's experience of play today is very different from that of past generations of children.
- (48) *Which of the following titles best reflects the content of the text?*
1. Empty Playgrounds: The Impact of Screen Time on Childhood Development
 2. Evolutionary Playgrounds: The Fascinating Science behind Childhood Games
 3. Social Media Hide and Seek: Playgrounds in the Digital Age
 4. Self-governing Playgrounds: Childhood Development and Democracy
 5. Virtual Playgrounds: Parenting Strategies to Cope with Social Media