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I.LISTENING

A. Listen to a talk about making difficult choices and choose the correct answer. You will listen to the recording TWICE. (4x1=4 pts.)

1. According to the speaker, what makes a choice difficult to make?
 - a. Because we fear the outcome
 - b. Because both choices have benefits
 - c. Because other people will be affected
 - d. Because we usually value the wrong things
2. What does the speaker recommend that makes making big decision easier?
 - a. Realize that small choices can be difficult as well
 - b. As for advice from someone who has been there
 - c. Never make big decisions on an empty stomach
 - d. Make your decision in a quiet place where it is easier to think
3. What big decision did the speaker need to make that she uses as an example?
 - a. Where to live
 - b. Who to marry
 - c. Where to work
 - d. What diet to choose
4. What is true about her decision?
 - a. She chose the wrong choice
 - b. She chose the right choice
 - c. She still doesn't know which was the right choice
 - d. She chose the wrong choice but switched back to the right choice

B. Listen to a recording about the Voynich Manuscript and choose the correct answer. You will listen to the recording TWICE. (8x1=8 pts.)

5. How many years old is the Voynich Manuscript?
 - a. 100
 - b. 400
 - c. 500
 - d. 600
6. Which of the following is drawn inside the book?
 - a. Animals
 - b. Plants
 - c. Cities
 - d. Soldiers
7. Who is the book named after?
 - a. A professor
 - b. A priest
 - c. A cryptologist
 - d. A bookseller
8. Where was the manuscript discovered?
 - a. Italy
 - b. Poland
 - c. Africa
 - d. Turkey
9. Who most likely produced the Voynich Manuscript?



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- a. Someone trying to trick a buyer
 - b. The person who 'discovered' it
 - c. A physician in Rome
 - d. Multiple people
10. What does the script used in the Voynich Manuscript contain?
- a. Only known letters and symbols
 - b. A mixture of Latin and Greek symbols
 - c. Many symbols unlike any known script
 - d. Signs which can be decoded by experts
11. What was the 'first breakthrough' scientists made in solving the mystery of the manuscript?
- a. Figuring out which city it came from
 - b. Figuring out the date it was made
 - c. Figuring out what material it was made of
 - d. Figuring out who handled it last
12. Which words were identified by language scientists?
- a. Words from astrology
 - b. Words that describe animals
 - c. Names for known people
 - d. Numbers

C. Listen to a recording about success and choose the correct answer. You will listen to the recording TWICE. (8x1=8 pts.)

13. What is the speaker's profession?
- a. Motivational speaker
 - b. Career Counselor
 - c. Financial Advisor
 - d. Economist
14. Why does the speaker say "Canadian group, undoubtedly"?
- a. He believes Canadians laugh a lot
 - b. He thinks Canadians remain positive in all circumstances
 - c. He believes Canadians listen well
 - d. He thinks Canadians participate well in talks
15. According to the speaker, why are people who want *good* jobs going to fail?
- a. People don't work hard enough any more
 - b. There are only bad jobs and great jobs left
 - c. Education doesn't prepare people any more
 - d. Good jobs are becoming more and more rare
16. Which of the following is a reason why people don't look for their passion?
- a. Their passion doesn't earn them enough money
 - b. They believe they truly don't have any great passion
 - c. They are afraid they'll look stupid if they don't have a passion
 - d. They listen to others rather than following their own heart
17. What can you infer about the speaker's opinion of the connection between luck and success?
- a. Only unintelligent people need to rely on chance
 - b. Luck plays a big role in success nowadays
 - c. There is no connection between luck and success
 - d. People who believe success relies on chance won't be successful
18. Which of the following is an excuse people use not to follow their dreams?
- a. They don't have the financial means



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- b. It is too late to start
 - c. They are not smart enough
 - d. They blame it on their family or friends
19. What do many people believe about people who follow their dreams?
- a. They are always happy
 - b. They are not normal
 - c. It is more difficult for them to build relationships
 - d. It is more difficult for them to make money
20. If you were to listen to the conclusion to this talk, what do you think would be the speaker's main point?
- a. Great careers are built by people following their passion
 - b. People must be willing to work really hard to have great careers
 - c. It doesn't matter whether you have a great career or not
 - d. In the end, it is up to each individual to take control of their own destiny



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D. Listen to a lecture about clouds and take notes below. You will listen to the recording TWICE. Following the listening, you will be given the questions. (question numbers 21-30). (10x1=10 pts.)

Luke Howard



Clouds





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II. READING (part 1)

Read the text and answer the questions according to the text.

- 1) In 2010, \$30 billion worth of fruits and vegetables were wasted by American retailers and shoppers in part because of the fact that they look bad. **That's a poor use of about 30% of the produce on the market, not to mention the water and energy required to grow and transport it, and the garbage space getting used up by rotting fruit.**
- 2) So what are those cosmetic problems? You've probably passed over a spotty apple in the grocery store, or accidentally sunk your thumb into a mushy patch on a tomato. These **blemishes** can doom produce to the trash can. But what are they anyway, and are they actually bad for you? Those spots are evidence of a battle between plants and microbes. Like humans, plants live with billions of fungi and bacteria. Some of these microbes are beneficial to the plant, fighting disease and helping it get nutrients. Others are pathogens, attacking the produce, still alive as it sits in a store display or your refrigerator and taking molecules they can use themselves.
- 3) The good news is they're almost never bad for you. These fungi and bacteria have spent millions of years developing strategies to overcome a plant's immune system. But healthy human immune systems are different enough that those strategies just don't work on us. So in a plant, what does this process look like? Microbes can reach plants in a number of ways, like getting onto it during watering. Under the right conditions, the microbes grow into large enough colonies to attack the outer layer of fruit or leaves. Their target: the delicious sugars and nutrients inside. This type of pathogen often makes spots. A group of bacteria drains the nutrients and color from the fruit's cells making that yellow halo. It then moves outward, leaving a black spot of dead cells in its wake. Each spot, which could contain hundreds of thousands of microbes, is actually caused by a combination of microbial attack and the fruit defending itself.
- 4) For example, the bacterial pathogen *Pseudomonas Syringae*. Once on a tomato, it enters the fruit and leaves, multiplies in the space between the cells, and produces toxins and proteins that allow it to hurt the plant's immune response. One toxin, coronatine, makes plants' cells open up, allowing bacteria to enter more freely. Coronatine also works to kill chlorophyll, the energy-producing part of the cell, which you can see as yellow spots. As the bacteria continue to feed and multiply, they start to kill off the plant cells.
- 5) That explains spots, but what about mushy blemishes? Those are usually caused when the fruit is attacked by microbes after it's detached from the plant. If the plant is wounded during transport, necrotic fungi can infiltrate through the wound, kill the cells, absorb their nutrients, and leave your food looking mushy or brown. Those spots in particular can taste pretty bad. You're eating dead tissue, after all. But you can usually save the rest of the fruit.
- 6) The non-mushy spots, like the ones you typically see on apples or tomatoes, are just on the surface and don't usually affect flavor. Of course, microbes that do make us sick, like *E. coli* and salmonella, can hitch a ride on vegetables, too. But because they're not plant pathogens, they don't typically cause spots. They just hang out invisibly on the surface. So it's washing fruit and veggies, not avoiding the spotty ones, that will help you avoid getting sick. So the next time you're at the grocery store, don't be afraid to pick up funny-looking fruit. Some stores will even give you a discount. Wash them well and store them properly, as some produce like apples and cabbages will keep in the fridge for weeks. The spotty ones may not be eye candy, but they're safe and just as delicious.

**microbes: small organisms we cannot see, like bacteria or fungi

Write the paragraph number where the answer to each question can be found:



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31. How can I prevent illness when eating fruits and vegetables? a. Paragraph 2
32. How can microbes enter into a fruit's cells? b. Paragraph 3
33. What are the microbes searching for in fruit? c. Paragraph 4
34. What changes the color of my fruit? d. Paragraph 5
e. Paragraph 6
35. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in the first paragraph?
a. In addition to one third of the America's fruits and vegetables being wasted, the resources involved in their growth and transportation, as well as garbage space is wasted
b. It is not worth talking about the other resources that are wasted, because they are much less important than the fact that we are wasting one third of our food
c. The produce that is grown and sold in the US accounts for one third of the country's resources, including water, transportation and garbage land
d. One third of the world's produce is being misused, and this is resulting in a waste of resources such as water, energy used in transportation and garbage space
36. Which word could most likely replace ***blemishes*** in the second paragraph?
a. Blanks
b. Diseases
c. Organisms
d. Imperfections
37. What is the author's purpose in writing this article?
a. To convince the reader to change their behavior
b. To inform the reader about facts
c. To weigh the advantages and disadvantages of something
d. To educate the reader about a serious problem
38. Which of the following explains why microbes that attack plants don't harm humans?
a. Humans usually wash their produce before eating it
b. Human immune systems are benefitted by these microbes
c. These microbes have only evolved the ability to attack plants effectively
d. Microbes that attack plants cannot get any benefit from attacking human cells
39. What is the difference between discolored spots and mushy brown spots on fruit?
a. The regular discolored spots don't taste as good
b. The mushy brown spots usually only occur after the fruit is taken from its tree
c. The mushy brown spots are more likely to be harmful to humans
d. The regular discolored spots are not typically caused by plant pathogens
40. What is a benefit, mentioned in the article, of spotty fruit?
a. It usually tastes better
b. It often lasts longer
c. It sometimes costs less
d. It can help the immune system

II. READING (part 2)

Read the text and answer the questions according to the text.



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Anybody who doesn't know much about nanotechnology should begin with geckos. These are the lizards that are probably the world's best climbers. Watching them climb upside down on a horizontal pane of glass, you realize that spiderman should really have been called geckoman. These guys outclimb spiders any day.

With perfect ease they can hang from a single toe, and they do so by pure **adhesion**, not by sticking a toe in a hole or by curling it round something they can grip. With all the toes on the glass scientists estimate that if the rest of the body were strong enough it could take the weight of a 100kg person suspended below it. Although each toe is equipped with a tiny hook-like claw at the end, these are of no use on the glass. What keeps them up there is the amazing structure of the skin of the toe.

Seen under the microscope each toe has around two million tiny hairs on its underside. Under the higher magnification of an electron microscope the end of each of these hairs is seen to split into hundreds of even tinier nano-hairs, which scientists have called spatulae. These hairs are so small that they are able to establish contact with the molecular structure of the surface the gecko is walking on. With that near-perfect contact the hairs are stuck to the surface by electromagnetic forces called van der Waals forces. **The molecules on the feet and on the surface have areas of slight positive or negative charge that attract each other like mini magnets when they get really close.**

Scientists have been working for over 15 years now to try to unlock the secrets of the stickiness of gecko toes and find a way to artificially reproduce the same structure of nano-hairs. The hypothesis at the moment is that if any material can be shaped into nano-hairs **they** will have the same properties as those on gecko toes, so scientists are looking for an alternative material with which to manufacture the stickiest synthetic surface ever.

This is one example of research in the field now known as nanotechnology. In this field, the technology being created can be measured in a few nanometres (one nanometre is a millionth of a millimetre). Interest in developing technology at this level was largely inspired by Richard Feynman at the beginning of the 1960s, but the 'nano' catchphrase was coined in the 1990s by Dr. Eric Drexler, who spurred scientists on through a series of speeches and a book entitled "Engines of Creation: The Coming Era of Nanotechnology".

The scientists working on the geckos envisage an enormously wide range of possible applications for the kind of adhesive nanotechnology that they will develop. The one that will make the biggest splash in the media will be the gloves and the boots that will allow rock-climbers to take their sport to hitherto undreamed of heights. But the technology could also be used in surgery to keep the edges of wounds together without the need for stitches. There will also be a huge potential in the manufacturing sector to stick millions of components together tighter than ever before without glues or screws.

41. What is the author's purpose in writing this article?
 - a. To offer an opinion on an advancing technology
 - b. To give an example of the benefits of nanotechnology
 - c. To discuss the wonders of an animal in nature
 - d. To inform the reader about the history of a technology
42. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **adhesion**?
 - a. Accuracy
 - b. Stickiness
 - c. Strength
 - d. Motivation
43. Which of the following is true about a Gecko's foot?
 - a. It is so strong because it can grip things so well
 - b. A 100 kg person can hang from it if it is fully attached
 - c. Its toes have many hairs that make it strong
 - d. It can attach to glass better than other surfaces



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44. How many hairs are attaching to the surface when a Gecko walks?
- Hundreds
 - Thousands
 - Millions
 - Hundreds of Millions
45. In which field could nanotechnology be applied, according to the author?
- Medicine
 - Transportation
 - Biology
 - Forensics
46. What is Dr. Eric Drexler credited with?
- Creating greater interest in developing nanotechnology
 - Putting nanotechnology in a new field of study
 - Making the biggest breakthrough in nanotechnology discovery
 - Using the word nanotechnology to describe the new technology
47. Which of the following best paraphrases the underlined sentence in paragraph 3?
- When getting close, either positive or negative forces act to magnetize the feet and surface of a walking Gecko.
 - The feet and surface are attracted like magnets because of positive or negative charges of interacting molecules when they get close.
 - Like magnets, the feet and surface are attracted due to positive or negative charges that exist between the molecules when they get close.
 - The attraction between feet and surfaces is caused by a magnetic force of positive and negative forces.
48. What does they refer to in the fourth paragraph?
- Scientists
 - Moments
 - Materials
 - Geckos

II. READING (part 3)

Read the text and answer the questions according to the text.

Throughout history, women have felt the pressure to conform to their society's definition of beauty. Standards of beauty often reflect cultural values and beliefs, and women have gone to great lengths to meet these ideals. At times, women have had to take extreme measures to live up to these standards at the cost of their own well-being.

One of the most striking examples is the Chinese practice of foot binding. For centuries, small feet were considered very attractive and ladylike, and the Chinese believed they made a woman's movements more feminine and dainty. In order to attain such a coveted feature, it was common practice for young girls to break and bind their toes with the intention of shrinking their feet—a process that kept them in excruciating pain for months. Foot binding was practiced for over a millennium, until the Chinese government officially outlawed the practice in 1911.

According to the legend, foot binding began when an ancient Chinese emperor's dancer bound her feet to suggest the shape of a new moon or a flower. The emperor was impressed with her "lotus dance," and other women emulated the practice until it spread across the country. (Bound feet were also known as lotus flowers.)

Yet the Chinese foot binding tradition officially dates back to the Tang Dynasty. It gained popularity with the rise of neo-Confucianism and a hierarchical system of subservience. Scholars who



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reinterpreted ancient Confucian thought believed they discovered a "lost" philosophy focusing on nature, training the mind, and cultivating discipline. In neo-Confucianism, the subjects of a kingdom were expected to serve their rulers (who were considered mothers and fathers of the country) and in turn, wives were expected to defer to their husbands, sons to fathers, and the weak to the powerful.

Zhu-Xi, an influential scholar of neo-Confucianism, contributed to the acceptance of foot binding in China. According to Zhu-Xi, the practice reflected purity and discipline. He introduced it in Fujian as a way of spreading Chinese culture and teaching about the proper way for men and women to interact.

Another factor that led to the popularity of foot binding was women's decreased involvement in civic life during the Song dynasty between 960-1279. During this period, a woman's most important task was considered giving birth to sons. Women didn't participate in politics and were infrequently seen on the streets, in comparison with the previous Tang dynasty. Some historians suggest that the diminished status of women during the Song Dynasty made foot binding more socially acceptable.

Binding usually began when a girl was between the ages of four and seven. First the foot was soaked in hot water and the toenails clipped. Then came the painful part: the four small toes were broken, and the foot was bandaged tightly with the toes turned under toward the bottom of the foot. (It was believed that young bones were soft, which is why binding started early.) In order for the girl to maintain her balance, the big toe was left unturned. Every few days, the foot was unwrapped and then wrapped again even tighter, until the foot shrunk to about four inches long. The arches were also broken, which caused the foot to contract even more. The entire process could take three years or longer, and it was so debilitating that young girls from wealthy families would often receive a servant to care for her personal needs, carry her when her feet hurt, and look after her on sleepless nights when the pain was unbearable.

Foot binding wasn't just painful. It could also be dangerous. Complications included ulcerations and gangrene, and infections caused by ingrown toenails or lack of circulation from tight bindings. Sometimes toes even fell off—though this was considered a good thing because it meant the feet could be wrapped even tighter. Bound feet also had a foul odor and left many young women hardly able to walk. Sadly, it's estimated that up to 10 percent of girls died in the process of foot binding.

Even if mothers could have objected to putting their daughters through such a tremendously painful process, social pressure likely made them willing practitioners of foot binding. Virtuous women were prized according to the tenets of Neo-Confucianism, and foot binding was the ultimate symbol of a woman's purity and discipline. The ability to withstand foot binding reflected a woman's character, and her attractiveness was revealed not in her face or body, but in her feet. A girl learned that her family's reputation was linked to the binding of her feet early in life. In fact, the process was so crucial to a woman's status in China that a girl with natural, unbound feet had limited marriage prospects, while girls with tiny, well-bound feet increased their chances of marrying into a good family and moving up in society.

Not all Chinese practiced foot binding. It was less common among peasants and in poor communities because women were needed to work in the fields. Mongols, Hakka and Tibetans living in Chinese territory didn't bind their feet at all. In Manchu province, foot binding was outlawed. Yet because the **hobble** associated with bound feet was considered attractive, a special type of "flower bowl" shoe was invented in Manchu to give women the same swaying small steps. The shoe sat on a high platform made of wood or had a small central pedestal.

By the 20th century, both native Chinese and Christian missionaries were calling the practice of foot binding into question. Anti-foot binding reformers created natural-foot societies for members who promised not to bind their daughter's feet, or not let their sons marry women with bound feet. Many women's rights groups attacked the practice because of the suffering it caused women. Educated Chinese felt that the practice made them seem uncivilized to the rest of the world. Yet even after the government banned the practice in the early 20th century, some girls continued to bind their feet because it was such a long-held status symbol and a way for a woman to marry into money.



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Today, few women with bound feet are still alive. The tiny, intricately decorated special shoes made for bound feet will be all that remains of the painful practice.

49. How did women in China bind their feet?
- They broke their toes and wrapped the feet tightly
 - They wrapped their toes together with bandages
 - They broke their big toe and wrapped it under the foot
 - They broke their toes and arches but did not wrap them
50. What does the author mostly describe in the passage?
- The rising popularity of neo-Confucianism
 - The practice of foot binding and its effects
 - How the bones in the feet naturally grow
 - Why women accept painful beauty procedures
51. In China, having bound feet was a marker of wealth and status. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?
- “Although the practice was promoted as a way to increase health and fertility, foot binding was clearly detrimental to a woman’s well-being.”
 - “Virtuous women were prized according to the tenets of Neo-Confucianism, and foot binding was the ultimate symbol of a woman’s purity and discipline.”
 - “According to the legend, foot binding began when an ancient Chinese emperor’s dancer bound her feet to suggest the shape of a new moon or a flower.”
 - “Girls with tiny, well-bound feet increased their chances of marrying into a good family and moving up in society.”
52. What is a probable reason for why women’s feet were always concealed?
- Because women’s feet were considered dirty
 - Because only a woman’s husband could see her feet
 - To preserve the illusion of ideal beauty
 - Because men did not like to look at feet
53. What does **hobble** mean as used in the passage?
- To walk quickly and purposefully
 - To walk unsteadily or with difficulty
 - To glide forward smoothly
 - To move in a quick, jumping motion
54. Which of the following is true about how foot binding affected women’s health?
- It increased blood flow to the feet
 - It caused feet to smell bad
 - It didn’t allow muscles in the feet to grow
 - It caused women to have to take medicine
55. Why did only the wealthier classes practice foot binding?
- Medical bills were expensive
 - Only the rich could afford servants to look after their daughters
 - Wealthy women didn’t need to work
 - Wealthier people were educated about the benefits of foot binding
56. Who were likely the first people to advocate for the stopping of the practice of foot binding?
- The government
 - The general public
 - The poor working class
 - The women who already bound their feet
57. What percentage of women died because of foot binding?
- None of them
 - About a tenth of them
 - About half of them
 - All of them
58. Which of the following is a primary reason why foot binding was accepted in society?
- Women did not have a strong voice in the government
 - Technology allowed women to have mobility without walking
 - The economy provided financial means for women not to work
 - Pop culture caused people to think bound feet looked like flowers



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59. What reason might a mother use to justify binding her daughter's feet?
- She will not have to work a day in her life
 - She will earn herself a higher position in the government
 - She will be able to marry into a better family
 - She will be fined or jailed for not following the law, if she doesn't
60. Which of the following girls would most likely have her feet bound for the *first time*?
- A baby who has just turned one
 - A three year old
 - A five year old
 - An eight year old

