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	系所別：文學系碩士班、自然醫學研究所、歐洲研究所、 亞太研究所、傳播管理學系碩士班	科目編號：A1-18-18
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Choose the most appropriate answer or give a brief answer to the questions: (each 5%; 每題五分)

There is a theory of evolution that suggests future generations of human beings will have larger rear ends and increased nearsightedness. It is based on the idea that the current generation, children of the Information Age, spends so much time sitting in front of a computer screen that corresponding genes likely will be altered and passed on to offspring. This is an era of greater access and availability, but most importantly, of instant communication, anytime, anywhere. The latest technology has spawned a new society and a new sub-culture, one that disregards the boundaries of race and class. These are the people who engage in online chatting. Not only has the Internet allowed users to work and shop from home, but it also has allowed users to socialize without ever leaving the house. One of the beauties of online socializing is its convenience. Simply by running a search on the computer, a person can produce a list of hundreds of people with whom to chat, all with the qualities requested. In olden times, if one person wanted to meet another, he would have to take the awkward step of approaching the stranger and introducing himself. Even then, it could take several minutes of conversation to determine whether the two had anything in common. Shyness isn't a problem for online chatters because they don't have to deal with a stranger face to face. Typing is as easy as talking, but it gives you time to think about what you want to say. It allows you to project any image of yourself that you want, and you can tell the other person anything about yourself that you want. It's easier to open up to someone you can't see, to share your secrets and to feel a connection to an invisible person.

1. This passage is mainly about _____.

(A) information technology (B) the art of chatting (C) a theory of evolution (D) socializing online

2. "Corresponding" in line 2 means _____.

(A) related (B) communicating (C) disagreeing (D) exchanging

3. The biggest difference between past and present chatters is that _____.

(A) present chatters have to meet each other in person (B) past chatters need to socialize in a club or café (C) past chatters can find many interesting people to chat with in a short time (D) present chatters are all very shy

4. "Open up" in the last line means _____.

(A) conceal (B) convert (C) confide (D) congregate

5. You forgot where the car was parked at the airport yesterday. You missed your mother-in-law's birthday last week. The name of that old boyfriend or girlfriend is on the tip of your tongue—but what is it? Your memory is atrocious. Or so you think. But common sense tells us that forgetfulness is vital to a healthy brain by clearing our minds of decaying memorabilia, and, increasingly, so does science. Today, a small band of scientists is trying to discover how and why the brain chooses to erase certain memories. Their aim isn't to increase our ability to remember, nor are they researching some kind of evil memory-erasing pill. What does interest them is the prospect of helping people get rid of the unwanted memories that, researchers are discovering, can contribute to mental illnesses such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. If they succeed, the benefits won't just be confined to clinics. Even in mentally healthy people, being unable to forget past events can dull the mind and generate misery. There is no stronger evidence of this than the life of Solomon Shereshevski, the world's most celebrated mnemonist. Studied for thirty years by Russian psychologist Aleksandr Luria, Shereshevski spent much of his professional life performing amazing feats of memory for paying audiences. He could memorize strings of numbers just by looking at them for a few seconds, recalling them with stunning accuracy months or even years later, and reciting them backwards or forwards.

5. The topic discussed in this passage is about _____.

(A) forgetfulness (B) how to increase our ability to remember (C) how to develop memory-erasing pills (D) mental illnesses

6. "On the tip of your tongue" in line 2 means _____.

(A) about to eat something (B) almost able to say something (C) about to spit something (D) almost ready to make a sound

7. That forgetfulness is vital to a healthy brain is verified by _____.

(A) pure common sense (B) legends (C) pure speculations (D) scientific discoveries

8. "Mnemonist" in line 8 means one who _____.

(A) is very easy to forget (B) has an amazing ability to recite (C) has a talent to memorize things (D) is a professional performer

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III. In a remote area of the Sierra Madre in northern Mexico, an indigenous group of people called the Tarahumaras live in almost total isolation. Aside from owning some cooking utensils and farming equipment, the Tarahumaras exist much as they did before the Spanish arrived in the 1660s. They live in caves or in huts made of stone and wood, and they eat what little they can grow on the dry, rugged land. Ten years ago, linguist James Copeland entered the world of the Tarahumaras to study their language and culture. Since then, he has been visiting the Tarahumaras three or four times a year, sometimes spending as much as a month with them. Part of his strategy when he embarked on this lifetime project was to learn to speak Tarahumara so that he could deal directly with the people. Learning Tarahumara is no easy task since it is not a written language. "There are no language police," Copeland says. "Children are seldom corrected by their parents. They learn by observation of speech in context and by imitation." Copeland acquired the language through his frequent exposure to it and by analyzing the grammar. His linguistics skills and mastery of German, Spanish, French, and Russian, plus a partial knowledge of some twenty other languages, also helped. Drawing on his research, Copeland plans to produce a Tarahumara grammar book in English and perhaps one in Spanish. He is putting together a bibliography of all the linguistic research conducted so far on the Uto-Aztecan languages, the group of thirty indigenous tongues to which Tarahumara belongs.

9. According to this passage, life of the Tarahumaras is _____.
- (A) easy (B) hard (C) luxurious (D) colorful
10. The Tarahumaras are a(n) _____ people.
- (A) nomadic (B) civilized (C) agricultural (D) industrialized
11. Tarahumara is a(n) _____ language.
- (A) spoken (B) written (C) easy (D) isolated
12. The main purpose of James Copeland's living with the Tarahumaras is to learn their _____.
- (A) lifestyle (B) ancient history (C) arts and crafts (D) language

IV. The American continents were peopled as a result of two long-continuing immigration movements, the first from Asia, and the second from Europe and Africa. The first movement began probably 25,000 years ago when Siberian tribes, in search of new hunting grounds or of refuge from pursuing enemies, crossed over the Bering Strait to Alaska. By 1492, ten to twenty million people, mistakenly called Indians by Christopher Columbus, inhabited the Americas. They developed their own aboriginal cultures, which ranged from the simple to the complex, from those of the primitive tribes to the brilliant civilizations of the Aztecs, the Incas, and the Mayas. But their technological development had lagged behind that of Europe and Asia. The second migration to the Americas began with the expansion of Europe at the start of the modern period in the 16th century. In 1492, Columbus persuaded the king and queen of Spain to finance his voyage. He believed that by sailing west from Europe, he could reach the Far East. He never succeeded, instead he landed on one of the Bahama Islands in the Caribbean Sea and "discovered" the New World. Based on Columbus's discovery, the Spanish king could claim the territory in the Americas. Later Spain conquered the new land, established a huge empire and grabbed enormous wealth from the Indians. In 1497, an Italian sailor, John Cabot who was in the service of the English king, arrived in today's Canada and the English king claimed that the whole of the territory of North America belonged to England. Enforcing this claim, the Englishmen began to establish permanent settlements in North America by the beginning of the 17th century.

13. According to this passage, the aboriginal peoples of the Americas originate from _____.
- (A) Europe (B) Africa (C) Asia (D) India
14. The American Indians were mistakenly named because Columbus thought that he had _____.
- (A) discovered the New World (B) landed on India (C) conquered the primitive tribes (D) established a huge empire
15. Which of the following statements is true?
- (A) The Siberian tribes came to the Americas to conquer their enemies. (B) The aboriginal cultures were all very simple. (C) The technological development of the American tribes before the 15th century was far more advanced than that of Europe and Asia. (D) The Spanish king gave Columbus money to travel to the Americas.
16. The Englishmen began to establish permanent settlements in North America in the 17th century because they wanted to _____.
- (A) effect their claim to the territory (B) conquer the new land (C) drive away the Spanish settlers (D) fight the Indians

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V. Both men and women are living longer these days in the industrialized countries. However, women, on the average, live longer. In general, they can expect to live six or seven years more than men. The reasons for this are both biological and cultural. One important biological factor that helps women live longer is the difference in hormones between men and women. Hormones are chemicals which are produced by the body to control various body functions. Between the ages of about 12 and 50, women produce hormones that are involved in fertility. These hormones also have a positive effect on the heart and the blood flow. In fact, women are less likely to have high blood pressure or to die from heart attacks. The female hormones also help the body to defend itself against some kinds of infections. This means that women generally get sick less often and less seriously than men. Women are also helped by their female genes. Scientists are still not exactly sure how genes influence aging, but they believe that they do. Some think that a woman's body cells have a tendency to age more slowly than a man's. The cultural context can also influence life expectancy for men and women. For example, women generally smoke cigarettes less than men. They also drink less alcohol on average. Both have been proven to cause many health problems and to shorten lives. Another factor that has influenced the lives of women is the lack of stress. Stress is well known to shorten lives. Until recently, women who worked were usually in less responsible and less stressful positions. But the social habits of women are changing. Young women are smoking and drinking more than women used to. More women are working and holding more responsible positions. These changes may mean that the cultural context will no longer help women live healthier lives. However, the other, biological factors in life expectancy remain unchanged.

17. The topic of this passage is about _____.

- (A) life expectancy of men (B) why women live longer (C) female hormones (D) what causes health problems

18. How many factors are listed in the passage to explain the topic?

- (A) two (B) three (C) four (D) five

19. How do female hormones help women live healthier lives?

20. What are the changes which keep women from living healthier lives?