



SELEZIONE PUBBLICA, PER TITOLI ED ESAMI, PER L'ASSUNZIONE CON CONTRATTO DI LAVORO SUBORDINATO A TEMPO INDETERMINATO IN REGIME DI TEMPO PIENO (36 ORE SETTIMANALI) DI N.1 UNITA' DI PERSONALE CATEGORIA D1 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI PRESSO IL CENTRO DI SUPPORTO PER L'APPRENDIMENTO DELLE LINGUE DELL'UNIVERSITA' POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE (O.D. n. 448 del 25.11.2020).

PROVA PRE-SELETTIVA – 19 MAGGIO 2021

FOGLIO DELLE RISPOSTE

Per le domande **1 – 20**:

Ad ogni risposta *esatta* viene attribuito il punteggio di **+1**

Ad ogni risposta *non data* viene attribuito il punteggio di **0**

Ad ogni risposta *errata* viene attribuito il punteggio di **-0,25**

Per le domande **21 – 40**:

Ad ogni risposta *esatta* viene attribuito il punteggio di **+2**

Ad ogni risposta *non data* viene attribuito il punteggio di **0**

Ad ogni risposta *errata* viene attribuito il punteggio di **-0,50**

Contrassegnare con una X la casella corrispondente alla risposta ritenuta esatta.

**SUL FOGLIO DELLE RISPOSTE NON SONO AMMESSE CORREZIONI
NE' ULTERIORI SEGNI CHE POTREBBERO COMPROMETTERE
L'ANONIMATO DELL'ELABORATO, PENA ESCLUSIONE.**

Numero domande: 40

Tempo disponibile: 1 ora

**TUTTE LE RISPOSTE DEVONO ESSERE TRASCritte SUL RETRO DI QUESTO
FOGLIO ENTRO IL TEMPO PREVISTO PER LA PROVA.**



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TRACCIA
A



PROVA PRESELETTIVA TRACCIA A – 19 MAGGIO 2021

Exercise 1. For questions 1 – 20, choose which answer (a, b, c, or d) best fits each gap. Put an "X" in the box with the answer that you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

1 She _____ disputed his version of what happened.

- a. hotly
- b. intensely
- c. harshly
- d. acutely

2 It goes without _____ that his research will be of particular interest to the music industry.

- a. speaking
- b. saying
- c. telling
- d. talking

3 I'm afraid the facts don't _____ your theory.

- a. pull off
- b. check out
- c. show off
- d. bear out



4 Ashley is very tired today, he didn't sleep a _____ last night

a. blink

b. wink

c. glint

d. flash

5 I spend a lot of time entertaining customers so it's important that you enjoy being with, and talking to people. I've always been fairly _____, so the job suits me perfectly.

a. assertive

b. gregarious

c. resilient

d. sensible

6 My friend is a singer so she gave us _____ tickets to her show.

a. compliment

b. complement

c. complimentary

d. complementary



7 The research _____ upon previous studies carried out by the same team.

- a. develops
- b. builds
- c. grows
- d. increases

8 This thesis is very thin Melanie. We need to _____ with some statistics, perhaps a pie chart or two.

- a. chicken it up
- b. veal it out
- c. beef it up
- d. pork it over

9 It's high time you _____ a job.

- a. get
- b. got
- c. getting
- d. have got



10 I've sat in that chair _____ a time and thought about poor Jimmy.

- a. many
- b. much
- c. little
- d. every

11 We stopped off _____ in London on our way to Geneva.

- a. shortly
- b. speedily
- c. briefly
- d. briskly

12 I wish you _____ shouting, it's making the baby upset.

- a. to stop
- b. will stop
- c. can stop
- d. would stop

13 We are all very tall. It _____ the family.

- a. runs in
- b. comes from
- c. started out with
- d. is down to



)

14 In the _____ of demand for tickets, it has been decided that an extra performance will be staged.

- a. view
- b. light
- c. consideration
- d. grounds

15 I grew up in a _____ family. There has always been a strong bond among us.

- a. intimate
- b. close-set
- c. enclosed
- d. tight-knit

16 We went to the end of the street together and then we _____ company.

- a. parted
- b. split
- c. separated
- d. broke



17 Emma found it impossible to _____ her anger and started shouting.

- a. restrict
- b. inhibit
- c. reserve
- d. contain

18 I had a lisp when I was younger and some of the other kids would _____ me at school.

- a. tease on
- b. pull on
- c. bully on
- d. pick on

19 As he accepted the award, his voice _____ with emotion.

- a. cringed
- b. quivered
- c. flinched
- d. winced

20 Because of the heat, the door is _____ and won't close properly.

- a. blurred
- b. warped
- c. distorted
- d. smudged



Exercise 2. Read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c, or d) best fits each gap (21 - 35). Put "X" on the box with the answer you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

THE MOTORING BOOM IN THE US

The 1920s saw the emergence of widespread car ownership in the U.S. Assembly-line (21) _____ made cars wonderfully cheap, credit was available on the cheapest (22) _____ and the irresistible appeal of the car to the consumer did the rest. The result was a complete (23) _____ of American life.

The car began to break (24) _____ the ancient sharp division between town and country. The movement perhaps began with the prosperous middle class, (25) _____ for a holiday from New York, who were delighted to discover the rest of their country. But the cheap car also enabled the working class to travel, for pleasure or in (26) _____ of work. Even poor country people, it (27) _____ out, could own cars and when they did so, many of them used the freedom thus (28) _____ to depart – to the West or to the cities.

Even more important, perhaps, was the (29) _____ of the car on daily life. It came into (30) _____ for all sorts of short (31) _____, to work or to the shops, which had previously been made by trolley bus or by railway. It made a whole new pattern of living possible. Vast suburbs began to (32) _____ over the land. No longer did you have to live in comparatively cramped (33) _____ near the railroad station. Nor did you have to (34) _____ your annual holiday at one of the traditional, crowded resorts nearby. Instead, you could (35) _____ over the hills and far away.



21	a	process	b	system	c	production	d	creation
22	a	obligations	b	terms	c	guarantees	d	repayments
23	a	transfer	b	variation	c	revision	d	transformation
24	a	down	b	off	c	in	d	away
25	a	concerned	b	willing	c	anxious	d	fond
26	a	hunt	b	search	c	chase	d	inquiry
27	a	found	b	turned	c	brought	d	set
28	a	gained	b	gathered	c	reached	d	benefitted
29	a	force	b	product	c	impact	d	trace
30	a	advantage	b	use	c	worth	d	function
31	a	travels	b	trips	c	tours	d	routes
32	a	spread	b	widen	c	scatter	d	broadcast
33	a	housing	b	residence	c	surrounding	d	settlement
34	a	make	b	place	c	take	d	set
35	a	press	b	speed	c	stir	d	pace



Exercise 3. Read the text below. For questions 36 – 40 choose the answer (a, b, c, or d) which you think fits best according to the text. Put an "X" in the box with the answer you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

Here is a confession: sometimes I have to succumb to the urge to slam doors. It's childish, I know, but it is exactly what I need when I don't want to be grown-up and talk about it.

Whether you're aged four or forty, being childish is usually considered to be a 'bad thing'. Toddlers, teenagers and people in their thirties are all liable to be told to 'act your age', 'grow up' or 'stop being such a baby'. To say that someone is childish is to imply that they are selfish, silly, insensitive, immature or embarrassing. But most of the things we do as adults contain elements of childishness. If it's so childish to care about winning or losing a game, for example, why are the sports pages of every newspaper given over to describing just that?

We live in a culture which prizes self-restraint: childishness is equated with being ruled by moods and emotions. But what we are critical of is often nothing more sinister or harmful than exuberance and unselfconscious self-expression. While there is a place for self-restraint, too much of it can be bad for you.

Many people say they feel guilty about being childish. 'It's a bit naughty, isn't it?' says one friend. 'I mean, we're supposed to be grown-up.' The fear of letting go prevents many of us from indulging in the luxury of being childish. But satisfying our non-adult whims is not only about slamming doors, it is about having fun, letting off steam and letting go of some of the tension which has accumulated after days, weeks or years of sensible, mature, rational and responsible behaviour.

Being childish is about doing all the things you are no longer supposed to do now that you are a grown-up. But there is no need to consign childishness to the past. A writer friend of mine in his thirties has an array of children's toys beside his computer; a plastic helicopter, a car and a green and yellow frog. When work is going badly, he picks up the helicopter, flies it around the desk and practises crash landings. 'It stops me worrying about my work and gets my brain working again,' he says.

Playing is a state of mind and it's good for you. Research into ageing suggests that there is truth in the adage, 'You're only as old as you feel'. The people who enjoy old age most are those who allowed themselves time off from the responsibilities of adulthood when they were younger. It seems that people who know how to enjoy themselves in their 30s and 40s are better equipped to deal with the challenges of life at 70 and 80.

Whether you call it being childish or having fun, it need not be the preserve of the old or the young. Everyone needs it. After a day spent chasing clients, attending meetings, coping with office politics, buying groceries, collecting clothes from the dry cleaners, paying bills and juggling debts, most of us crave for a breather from 'grown-upness'. We all need to have a place and a time where it's safe to drop the responsible, capable self for a moment and be looked after, irresponsible and carefree. So next time you feel life getting on top of you, stamp your foot, giggle, pull some silly faces or slam a door.



36. What is the writer's reference to the sports pages of newspapers intended to illustrate?
- A. How childish it is to be competitive in games.
 - B. The difference between adult and childish interests.
 - C. The fact that we are all childish to an extent.
 - D. How important it is to be childish sometimes.
37. According to the writer, how does the culture she lives in affect people's behaviour?
- A. It inhibits people's behaviour.
 - B. It makes people behave selfishly.
 - C. It makes people unpleasant to each other.
 - D. It increases the desire to be childish.
38. What does the example of the friend who is a writer illustrate?
- A. How guilty people feel about being childish.
 - B. How much fun it is to be childish.
 - C. How strangely some adults behave.
 - D. How useful being childish can be.
39. Research into the elderly has shown that
- A. people who had few responsibilities when younger are happier in old age.
 - B. people feel free to behave more childishly when they reach old age.
 - C. people who are free of all responsibilities when older are happier.
 - D. people who behave childishly when younger are likely to be happy when old.
40. The writer's intention in the article is to
- A. defend her own childishness.
 - B. regret the pressures of adulthood.
 - C. encourage childish behaviour.
 - D. criticize her own culture.



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TRACCIA

B



3

PROVA PRESELETTIVA TRACCIA B – 19 MAGGIO 2021

7

Exercise 1. For questions 1 – 20, choose which answer (a, b, c, or d) best fits each gap. Put an "X" in the box with the answer that you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

1 Jane didn't take _____ to your suggestion that she was mean with her money.

- a. pleasantly
b. kindly
c. cheerfully
d. agreeably

B

2 The rate at _____ electrical systems are evolving outpaces development on other parts of the car.

- a. which
b. how
c. why
d. what

3 A weekend at the Apple Tree Hotel will _____ you back £1000 or so, but it's worth every penny.

- a. put
b. take
c. set
d. carry



4 A lot of people make the _____ that poverty only exists in the Third World.

- a. presumption
- b. belief
- c. conviction
- d. assumption

5 I think I'll go home. I've got a _____ headache

- a. splitting
- b. screeching
- c. exploding
- d. mind-blowing

6 I've had six _____ hours of meetings today, without so much as a five-minute break.

- a. continuous
- b. continual
- c. continuing
- d. continued

7 Michael has always _____ after a life of luxury.

- a. craved
- b. yearned
- c. hankered
- d. aspired



8 He wasn't really eating his dinner, he was just _____ .

- a. munching it
- b. swigging it
- c. chewing it over
- d. picking at it

9 Suddenly I slipped and ended up _____ on the floor.

- a. slouching
- b. lounging
- c. sprawling
- d. drooping

10 John Wilcock is a small, wiry man with dark hair, who has _____ the same sleek, dark moustache for the last two decades.

- a. worn
- b. carried
- c. sported
- d. featured



11 Nobody can decide what to do with her. Opinion is _____ divided.

- a. deeply
- b. heavily
- c. perfectly
- d. seriously

12 Only when you have children of your own _____ how difficult it is.

- a. you will understand
- b. you understand
- c. will you understand
- d. do you understand

13 The employment minister argued angrily with the trade union representative after he said that a strike couldn't be _____ .

- a. ruled out
- b. thought in
- c. shown up
- d. broken down



14 I'm so tired of always being given the _____ work to do that I'm thinking of changing my job.

- a. mule
- b. horse
- c. ox
- d. donkey

15 He was so _____ in his career that he neglected his family and friends.

- a. obsessed
- b. preoccupied
- c. riveted
- d. engrossed

16 While the speeches were made, everyone listened in _____ silence.

- a. respectable
- b. respected
- c. respectful
- d. respective



17 Annie is rather childish and tends to _____ if she can't have what she wants.

a. hush

b. sulk

c. muse

d. tease

18 The manager's future _____ whether the team wins or loses this one game.

a. stems from

b. counts on

c. derives from

d. rests on

19 Our school is regularly _____ by a fire-safety officer, who makes sure that it is safe.

a. checked

b. controlled

c. verified

d. foreseen

20 Michael, you have _____ notion of what it takes to be successful.

a. none

b. some

c. any

d. little



Exercise 2. Read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c, or d) best fits each gap (21 - 35). Put "X" on the box with the answer you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.



WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

HOW WE READ



Why did you decide to read this, and will you keep reading to the end? Do you expect to understand every (21) _____ part of it and will you remember anything about it in a fortnight's time? Common sense (22) _____ that the answers to these questions depend on "readability" – whether the (23) _____ matter is interesting, the argument clear and the (24) _____ attractive. But psychologists are discovering that to (25) _____ why people read – and often don't read – technical information, they have to (26) _____ not so much the writing as the reader.

Even the most technically confident people often (27) _____ instructions for the video or home computer in favour of hands-on experience. And people frequently (28) _____ little notice of consumer information, whether on nutritional labels or in the small print of contracts.

Psychologists researching reading (29) _____ to assume that both beginners and (30) _____ readers read everything put in front of them from start to finish. There are (31) _____ among them about the (32) _____ of eyes, memory and brain during the process. Some believe that fluent readers take (33) _____ every letter or word they see; others (34) _____ that readers rely on memory or context to carry them from one phrase to another. But they have always assumed that the reading process is the same: reading starts, comprehension (35) _____ , then reading stops.



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21	a	absolute	b	one	c	single	d	unique
22	a	suggests	b	transmits	c	advises	d	informs
23	a	subject	b	topic	c	content	d	text
24	a	pattern	b	formation	c	layout	d	assembly
25	a	ensure	b	determine	c	value	d	rate
26	a	examine	b	inquire	c	trace	d	calculate
27	a	miss	b	omit	c	pass	d	ignore
28	a	get	b	pay	c	take	d	make
29	a	tend	b	undertake	c	lead	d	consent
30	a	competent	b	sufficient	c	considerable	d	valid
31	a	objections	b	arguments	c	contests	d	separations
32	a	role	b	concern	c	share	d	relation
33	a	up	b	over	c	out	d	in
34	a	insist	b	direct	c	urge	d	press
35	a	sets	b	occurs	c	issues	d	establishes



Exercise 3. Read the text below. For questions 36 – 40 choose the answer (a, b, c, or d) which you think fits best according to the text. Put an "X" in the box with the answer you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

During the long vacation I was accepted as a trainee bus conductor. I found the job fiercely demanding even on a short route with a total of about two dozen passengers. I pulled the wrong tickets, forgot the change and wrote up my log at the end of each trip in a way that drew hollow laughter from the inspectors. The inspectors were likely to swoop at any time. Conductors with twenty years' service could be dismissed if an inspector caught them accepting money without pulling a ticket. If hurrying passengers pressed the fare into your hand as they leapt out of the back door, it was wise to tear the tickets and throw them out after them. There might be a plain-clothes inspector following in an unmarked car.

It lasted about three weeks all told. The routes through town were more than the mind could stand even in the off-peak hours. All the buses from our depot and every other depot would be crawling nose to tail through the town while the entire working population of Sydney fought to get aboard. It was hot that summer: 100° Fahrenheit every day. Inside the bus it was about 30° hotter still. It was so jammed inside that my feet weren't touching the floor. I couldn't blink the sweat out of my eyes. There was no hope of collecting any fares. At each stop it was all I could do to reach the bell-push that signalled the driver to close the automatic doors and get going. I had no way of telling whether anybody had managed to get on or off. My one object was to get that bus up Pitt Street.

In these circumstances I was scarcely to blame. I didn't even know where we were, but I guessed we were at the top just before Market Street. I pressed the button, the doors puffed closed and the bus surged forward. There were shouts and yells from down the back, but I thought they were the angry cries of passengers who had not got on. Too late I realised that they were emanating from within the bus. The back set of automatic doors had closed around an old lady's neck as she was getting on. Her head was inside the bus. The rest of her, carrying a shopping bag, was outside. I knew none of this at the time.

When I at last cottoned on to the fact that something untoward was happening and signalled the driver to stop, he crashed to a halt and opened the automatic doors, whereupon the woman dropped to the road. She was very nice about it. Perhaps the experience had temporarily dislocated her mind. Anyway, she apologised to me for causing so much trouble. Unfortunately, the car behind turned out to be full of inspectors. Since it would have made headlines if a university student had been thrown off the buses for half-executing a woman of advanced years, I was given the opportunity to leave quietly. Once again this failed to coincide with my own plans in the sense that I had already resigned. In fact, I had made my decision at about the same time as the old lady hit the ground.



36. What do we learn about the inspectors in the first paragraph?

- A. They found the writer amusing.
- B. They never wore uniforms.
- C. They were feared by employees.
- D. They distrusted older employees.

37. Why was the writer unable to do his job properly?

- A. He wasn't tall enough.
- B. The buses went too fast.
- C. People avoided paying.
- D. He couldn't move.

38. The old lady in the incident described

- A. was injured.
- B. fainted.
- C. was dragged.
- D. hit her head.

39. When the incident with the old lady happened

- A. the writer had already decided to give up the job.
- B. the writer's employers wanted to avoid publicity.
- C. the writer was offered the chance to continue.
- D. the consequences were as the writer expected.

40. What is the writer's attitude now to the job?

- A. He feels responsible for the incident that ended it.
- B. He thinks that he was unfairly treated by the inspectors.
- C. He is ashamed that he was incapable of doing it properly.
- D. He believes that it was an impossible job to do well.



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TRACCIA
C



PROVA PRESELETTIVA TRACCIA C – 19 MAGGIO 2021

Exercise 1. For questions 1 – 20, choose which answer (a, b, c, or d) best fits each gap. Put an "X" in the box with the answer that you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

1 I was _____ disappointed when I didn't get the job.

- a. highly
b. absolutely
c. bitterly
d. entirely

2 _____ he turns up. What will you do then?

- a. Think
b. Believe
c. Predict
d. Suppose

3 Driverless cars would, of course, do _____ the stress of driving, allowing their occupants to read, browse the internet or take a nap.

- a. away with
b. out from
c. good by
d. in of



al

4 The hotel is perhaps a little off the beaten _____ for some visitors.

- a. path
- b. road
- c. way
- d. track

5 In his strange hat, he was a _____ figure wherever he went.

- a. blatant
- b. conspicuous
- c. pronounced
- d. salient

6 It is interesting to speculate on the _____ and turns that have shaped our recent history.

- a. twists
- b. curls
- c. bends
- d. curves



- 7 The applicant's hesitant response to the interview questions _____
a doubt on his suitability for the role.
- a. set
 - b. posed
 - c. cast
 - d. spread
- 8 Not long after I'd cast my line into the river, a fish started _____ my bait.
- a. wolfing down
 - b. nibbling at
 - c. draining
 - d. sucking away at
- 9 It was three days before the storm _____ and life began to return to normal.
- a. abated
 - b. dwindled
 - c. slackened
 - d. alleviated



10 Tom swaggered into the room, a tall, handsome man, wearing a hat tilted at a _____ angle.

- a. rakish
- b. breezy
- c. self-assured
- d. bold

11 There was so much traffic on the road. It was a _____ slow journey home.

- a. absolutely
- b. completely
- c. highly
- d. painfully

12 The politician has been arguing _____ workers' rights for her whole career.

- a. over
- b. for
- c. of
- d. on

13 The doctors didn't _____ much hope for him but he recovered in the end.

- a. stand by
- b. hold out
- c. keep at
- d. bear up



14 Mark decided on the _____ of the moment to catch a plane to New York

a. spur

b. crest

c. bang

d. heat

15 These days, many fashion designers are _____ names. Everyone knows them.

a. usual

b. household

c. regular

d. everyday

16 Maria is a _____ and hard-working student who always gets good results.

a. conscious

b. conscientious

c. conscience

d. conscientize



Al
Sh

17 We're not _____ any problems.

- a. anticipating
- b. viewing
- c. forwarding
- d. thinking

W
AB

18 He's a bit timid and hasn't _____ the courage yet to apply for the job.

- a. put on
- b. caught up with
- c. plucked up
- d. carried through

19 I was looking forward to the holiday but the awful journey _____ my spirits.

- a. dampened
- b. receded
- c. eroded
- d. belittled

20 If you pay for us now, I'll settle _____ when we get home.

- a. for
- b. on
- c. up
- d. in



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Exercise 2. Read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c, or d) best fits each gap (21 - 35). Put "X" on the box with the answer you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

Handwritten mark

THE BODY CLOCK

Scientists used to believe that our 24-hour cycle of sleeping and waking was (21) _____ entirely by external factors. The most notable of these, they thought, were the rising and (22) _____ of the sun. But they have now established that there is a daily rhythm to a (23) _____ range of biological functions – including temperature, digestion and mental (24) _____ - which are regulated internally by a special time-keeping mechanism within the brain.

The main function of this "body clock" is to anticipate and (25) _____ for external changes so that, for example, our body temperature starts to rise (26) _____ dawn, gearing us up for the day, and begins to (27) _____ in the early evening, winding us down for sleep.

Some people's body clocks (28) _____ poorer time than others, which can greatly disturb their lives and even (29) _____ their health. Insomnia, depression, fatigue and poor work performance and even accidents can all be (30) _____ or aggravated by inaccurate body clocks.

(31) _____ severe problems can result from the difficulties of (32) _____ to different time zones and working by night instead of by day.

Shift workers are known to run a higher-than-average (33) _____ of having a number of health problems and the disruption of (34) _____ body rhythms is one possible (35) _____ for this.



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21	a	conducted	b	steered	c	governed	d	managed
22	a	descending	b	diving	c	plunging	d	setting
23	a	wide	b	various	c	far	d	grand
24	a	operation	b	activity	c	process	d	occupation
25	a	dispose	b	scheme	c	steady	d	prepare
26	a	beside	b	approximately	c	around	d	nearly
27	a	fall	b	reduce	c	lessen	d	subtract
28	a	keep	b	hold	c	support	d	preserve
29	a	risk	b	spoil	c	injure	d	threaten
30	a	put	b	formed	c	caused	d	made
31	a	Parallel	b	Equally	c	Alike	d	Compared
32	a	altering	b	adjusting	c	fitting	d	suiting
33	a	risk	b	danger	c	threat	d	hazard
34	a	common	b	conditional	c	normal	d	used
35	a	explanation	b	solution	c	account	d	source



Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'e' or 'r'.

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'm'.

Exercise 3. Read the text below. For questions 36 – 40 choose the answer (a, b, c, or d) which you think fits best according to the text. Put an "X" in the box with the answer you choose. Give only 1 answer for each gap.

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WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET

One of the purposes of my trip across my native land was to listen – to hear speech, accent, rhythms, overtones and emphasis. For speech is so much more than words and sentences. I did not listen everywhere. It seemed to me that regional speech is in the process of disappearing; not gone, just going. Decades of radio and television must have had this impact. Communications must destroy localness, by a slow, inevitable process. I can remember a time when I could almost pinpoint a man's place of origin by his speech. That is growing more difficult now and will in some foreseeable future become impossible. It is a rare house or building that is not rigged with the spiky combers of the air. Radio and television speech have become standardised, perhaps better English than we have ever used. Just as our bread, mixed and baked, packaged and sold without benefit of accident or human frailty, is uniformly good and tasteless, so will our speech become one speech.

I who love words and the endless possibility of words am saddened by this inevitability. For with local accent will disappear local tempo. The idioms, the figures of speech that make language rich and full of the poetry of place and time must go. And in their place will be a national speech, wrapped and packaged, standard and tasteless. In the many years since I have listened to the land, the change is very great. Travelling west along the northern routes, I did not hear truly local speech until I reached Montana. That is one of the reasons I fell in love again with Montana. The West Coast went back to package English. The Southwest kept a grasp, but a slipping grasp on localness. Of course, the deep south holds on to its regional expressions, just as it holds and treasures some other anachronisms, but no region can hold out for long against the highway, the high-tension line and the national television. What I am mourning is perhaps not worth saving, but I regret its loss nevertheless.

Even while I protest the assembly-line production of our food, our songs, our language, and eventually our souls, I know that it was a rare home that baked good bread in the old days. Mother's cooking was with rare exceptions poor, that good unpasteurised milk touched only by flies and bits of manure crawling with bacteria, the healthy old-time life was riddled with aches and sudden death from unknown causes and that sweet local speech I mourn was the child of illiteracy and ignorance. It is the nature of a man as he grows older, a small bridge in time, to protest against change, particularly change for the better. But it is true that we have exchanged corpulence for starvation, and either one will kill us. We, or at least I, can have no conception of human life in a hundred years or fifty years. Perhaps my greatest wisdom is the knowledge that I do not know. The sad ones are those who waste their energy in trying to hold it back, for they can only feel bitterness in loss and no joy in gain.



36. What did the writer discover during his trip?

- A. Television and radio had destroyed local speech.
- B. He had forgotten what local accents were like.
- C. Local accents were starting to sound different from before.
- D. He found it hard to detect differences in speech.

37. What does the writer say about changes in bread and speech?

- A. They have produced an improvement in both.
- B. Both have become uniform throughout the whole country.
- C. He has noticed them taking place gradually over a long period.
- D. They have been caused by people's desire for progress.

38. According to the writer, the deep south is

- A. the only region where everyone uses local speech.
- B. changing in the same way as other regions.
- C. similar in many ways to the Southwest.
- D. a region that likes to remain old-fashioned.

39. What does the writer say about the past?

- A. Life was harder for many people but it was also better in many ways.
- B. Many aspects of the way of life in former times should have been preserved.
- C. Older people tend to have a false impression of what life was like then.
- D. The disappearance of that way of life has been beneficial in every way.

40. According to the writer, the people who react wrongly to change are

- A. those who gain no benefit from it.
- B. those who want to prevent it.
- C. those who have correctly predicted it.
- D. those who are critical of it.