



Thales Foundation

KANGAROO ENGLISH LINGUISTICS 2019



Kangourou sans frontières

LEVEL 11-12

Questions 1-10: 3 points

Questions 11-20: 4 points

Questions 21-30: 5 points

For questions 1- 5 read and choose the best answer.

Croquet has been traced back to the 1300s. Originating in France, the game was called “paille-maille” which means **ball-mallet**. In 1604, the crowns of Scotland and England were united under James VI of Scotland, soon to be known as James I of England. When he moved to the palace in London, he brought a paille-maille set as well as a set of golf clubs with him. James’ grandson Charles II enjoyed the game mightily and often played it in St. James’ Park. A nearby road, ‘Pall Mall’, was named after the game. This boulevard was often frequented by strollers and soon any road conducive to pleasant walks in the city became known as a mall. Also, modern retailers adopted the name and now call any conglomeration of stores with a covered walkway a mall.

1. The original name for croquet was derived from
A) the equipment necessary for the game B) the rules devised for the game
C) the players required for the game D) the division of the teams in the game
E) the instructions given for the game
2. James I of England was previously
A) King of Ireland B) King of Scotland C) King of both Scotland and England
D) King of the UK E) King of Wales
3. Strollers frequented the boulevard Pall Mall during the reign of Charles II. These were people who
A) used to shop there B) used to admire croquet C) used to play croquet
D) used to walk at leisure E) used to be fans of Charles II
4. Which is the odd one out?
A) conducive to study B) conducive to learning C) conducive to discussion
D) conducive to sleep E) conducive to school
5. Complete the sentence: The new mall opened last month and by the end of the first week, it by thousands of shoppers.
A) will be visited B) had been visited C) is visited
D) would have been visited E) has been visited



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For questions 6- 10 read and choose the correct answer.

Why the world is terrified of Artificial Intelligence

When the likes of Bill Gates and Stephen Hawking are coming to the fore to warn us that life as we know it might soon end at the hands of Artificial Intelligence, is it time to start worrying? After all, these are people who have themselves been the promoters of technological advances that have almost completely reshaped our world. And they are the ones who are now sounding the alarm bell, putting forward scenarios that sound like sci-fi scripts.

Big technological change has always been ushered in with fair amounts of panic about humanity losing its grip over the world. But it is quite surprising that representatives of the technologically savvy elite are so opposed to change. The idea that in the near future humans will lose control of intelligent machines and be exterminated or enslaved by them is, however, scary enough to make us take a step back and ponder it.

Stephen Hawking has defined Artificial Intelligence as a “dual use” technology. Like nuclear fission, the science which gave us both power plants and nuclear bombs, A.I. can be capable of great good and great harm, depending on its users’ intentions. What are some harmful uses of A.I? One obvious example is autonomous killing machines. More than 50 nations are currently developing independent battlefield robots, who can autonomously decide who to target and kill without any human input. How will they be able to tell civilians apart from enemies? Who will they answer to? Who is responsible for the actions they perform? These questions are so far unanswered.

Another spine-chilling use of A.I. is data-mining. Data-mining software can collect, analyze and store such huge amounts of information that human brains would take millions of years to process it. Used by governments or security agencies like the U.S. National Security Agency, data mining software means that such institutions can literally know anything and everything about each and every one of us. Until recently, it took a judge to make a decision about access to personal data. Now, the NSA can go around the legal system and break into Yahoo and Google databases by resorting to data mining software.

A.I. techniques are also useful in many ways: they help us navigate the Internet, shop, translate and, soon enough, drive our cars. Many people choose to believe that if they become so smart as to “think” and “feel” in ways similar to us, they will be harmless or even amiable. However, if thinking machines learn to program themselves to become more intelligent, chances are that they will develop basic drives and start looking out for themselves alone. Unless we invest time and money into making sure we retain control over our own creation, what today looks like the road to progress might lead to our extinction.

6. One reason to be skeptical about A.I. is that people who oppose it are

- (A)** politicians that have our best interests in mind.
- (B)** some of the big brains in the areas of science and technology.
- (C)** philosophers.
- (D)** people who can tell the future.



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7. A “dual use” technology is one that
 - (A) can solve two tasks at the same time.
 - (B) can be used by two users simultaneously.
 - (C) can be both harmful and beneficial.
 - (D) changes its behaviour unpredictably.

8. The problem with using A.I. in military conflict is that
 - (A) Robots will not be able to fight properly.
 - (B) Robots cannot make ethical choices.
 - (C) Robots can break down during military operations.
 - (D) The costs are too high.

9. Data mining software is
 - (A) used by judges to pass their verdicts.
 - (B) used by Google and Yahoo to make their customers happy.
 - (C) used by security agencies to track and record personal data.
 - (D) used by companies to create better products.

10. If thinking machines start programming themselves, they might
 - (A) start serving their own interests.
 - (B) better look after us.
 - (C) discover new resources.
 - (D) self-destruct.

Read the text. For each space (11-20), choose the correct answer.

Beyoncé’s Rise to Stardom

At just 34-years-old, Beyoncé (11) as the second youngest self-..... (12) woman to make the list of America’s Richest Female Entertainers, in addition to being ranked as one of the 60 Most Successful Women in America. She is not (13) amazingly successful, but he heart-throbbing music, enchanting voice, and charismatic stage (14) are touching the lives of millions of fans. (15) the age of 21, she had become a renowned artist all over the globe and released her solo debut album *Dangerously in Love* in 2003. There was no looking (16)for this born superstar from there on. Today, she serves as an iconic inspiration to girls and women worldwide. On International Women’s Day in 2017, her charity foundation teamed up with the Clinton Foundation to (17) us that women still face discrimination in terms of equal pay and equal opportunity. Regardless (18) what you think of her or he music, it’s hard to deny Beyoncé’s status as an absolute icon. (19) sets her apart among musicians of her generation is her radical, well-written music, which promotes female (20) In the often shallow world of pop stardom, Beyoncé brings hope for music that does more than just provide entertainment.



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11. (A)stands (B)sits (C)lies (D)runs
12. (A)appointed (B)made (C)organized (D)conscious
13. (A)yet (B)still (C)enough (D)only
14. (A)ego (B)self (C)persona (D)individual
15. (A)Since (B)For (C)By (D)At
16. (A)up (B)in (C)to (D)back
17. (A)remember (B)remind (C)recall (D)reminisce
18. (A)of (B)from (C)off (D)by
19. (A)Which (B)What (C)That (D)It
20. (A)empowerment (B)powerlessness (C)enforcement (D)strengthening

For questions 21-25, choose the correct answer.

21. children are also capable of abstract thinking and hypothetical reasoning.

- (A) Twelve-year-olds (B) Twelve-years-old (C) Twelve-year's old
(D) Twelve-year-old (E) Twelfth-year-old

**22. The milk has been in the fridge for more than a week. Not surprisingly it gives
a strange smell.**

- (A) back (B) out (C) off (D) up (E) in



23. *Everything was at sixes and sevens* means that

- (A) everything was all right (B) everything was in a muddle (C) everything was quiet
- (D) the game could start (E) I couldn't find the way home

24. My cousin told his friend he had a good job and a good salary, but he

- (A) hadn't (B) wasn't (C) didn't (D) hadn't got (E) haven't

25. Which word is not a correct nationality?

- (A) Filipino (B) Israeli (C) Iraquian (D) Portuguese (E) Cuban

Read the text. For questions 26-30, choose the answer closest in meaning to the word in bold.

Poison Dart Frog

The backs of the poison dart frog ooze a (26) **slimy** neurotoxin that is meant to keep predators away. Each frog produces enough of the toxin to kill 10 humans, though, strangely, in captivity, the frogs do not (27) **secrete** this poison. The frogs are brilliantly coloured and live mainly in Central and South America. Many species of this family are threatened due to human infrastructure (28) **encroaching** upon the places they inhabit. Adult frogs lay their eggs in moist places, including on leaves, in plants, among exposed roots, and elsewhere. Once the eggs hatch, the adult (29) **piggybacks** the tadpoles, one at a time, to suitable water, either a pool, or the water gathered in the throat of bromeliads or other plants. Chemicals (30) **extracted** from the skin of the dart frog may be shown to have medicinal value. Scientists use this poison to make a painkiller. However, the therapeutic dose is very close to the fatal dose. The most poisonous of these frogs, the golden poison frog, has enough toxin to kill up to twenty men or about ten thousand mice while others pose a lesser risk to humans or other large animals

- 26. (A)smooth (B)slippery (C)dry (D)a silvery lime colour
- 27. (A)keep hidden (B)lay bare (C)discharge (D)shield
- 28. (A)intruding (B)keeping off (C)ignoring (D)destroying
- 29. (A)carries on back or shoulders (B)is transported in one leap (C)detaches and transports
(D)withdraws
- 30. (A)inserted (B)drawn out (C)dispersed (D)exited

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