I . Reading comprehension: 70%

Part A: read the following passage carefully and choose the correct answer. 60%

Reading (1)

Watch a baby between six and nine months old, and you will observe the basic concepts of geometry being learned. Once the baby has mastered the idea that space is three-dimensional, it reaches out and begins grasping various kinds of objects. It is then, from perhaps nine to fifteen months, that the concepts of sets and numbers are formed. So far, so good. But now an ominous development takes place. The nerve fibers in the brain insulate themselves in such a way that the baby begins to hear sounds very precisely. Soon it picks up language, and it is then brought into direct communication with adults. From this point on, it is usually downhill all the way for mathematics, because the child now becomes exposed to all the nonsense words and beliefs of community into which it has been so unfortunate as to have been born. Nature, having done very well by the child to this point, having permitted it the luxury of thinking for itself for eighteen months, now abandons it to the arbitrary conventions and beliefs of society. But at least the child knows something of geometry and numbers, and it will always retain some memory of the early halcyon days, no matter what vicissitudes it may suffer later. The main reservoir of mathematical talent in any society is thus possessed by children who are about two years old, children who have just learned to speak fluently.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
   a. The impact of language on mathematics
b. Children’s ability to learn languages

c. How basic concepts of physics are learned

d. Math-learning strategies for babies

2. According to the passage, which of the following activities would teach a baby about geometry?

a. Uttering a nonsense word
b. Picking up a wooden block

c. Recognizing the number 2

d. Looking at distance objects

3. According to the author, at what age does a child probably begin to learn about sets and numbers?

a. Six months
b. Nine months

c. Fifteen months

d. Eighteen months

4. The use of the word “ominous” shows that the author believes the child’s

a. linguistic future is threatened
b. nerves will deteriorate

c. mathematical ability will decline

d. hearing will suffer

5. The passage supports which of the following conclusions?

a. Preschool education should stress society’s beliefs and conventions
b. Language teaching should incorporate some mathematical formulas

c. It is hopeless to try to teach children mathematics after age of two

d. The language concepts used in early education interfere with mathematical reasoning

6. The author’s attitude toward early childhood education can best be described as somewhat

a. cynical
b. Indifferent

c. Indulgent

d. compromising

Reading (2)

Dice, the plural of die, are small cubes used in games. They are usually made of ivory, bone, wood, or similar materials. The six sides are numbered by dots from 1 to 6, so placed the sum of the dots on a side and the opposite side equals 7.

A simple form of play with dice is for each player to throw, or to shot, for the
highest sum. However, the most popular dice game in the United States is called craps. It is played with two dice and the underlying principle of the game is the fact that the most probable throw is a 7. On the first throw, if a player shoots a 7 to 11 (called a natural), he wins and begins again, but if he shoots 2, 3, or 12 (called craps) on the first throw, he loses. If on the first throw he shoots 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10, that number becomes his point. He continues to throw until he shoots that number again (makes his pint), in which case he wins and begins again. However, if he shoots a 7 before he makes his point, he loses and relinquishes the dice to the next player. Usually all others in the game bet against thrower, and in gambling halls bets are made against the house.

7. In craps, a throw of 11
   a. always wins
   b. never loses
   c. sometimes wins
   d. becomes the point

8. If one side of the a die has three dots on it, the opposite side has
   a. six
   b. four
   c. three
   d. seven

9. To shoot the dice means to
   a. lose
   b. throw them
   c. make a natural
   d. make one’s point

10. In a game of craps, if a player throws a 8 and then a 3, he
    a. shoots again
    b. wins
    c. makes his point
    d. loses

11. In a game of craps, if a player throws a 6, 3, 4, 4, 6, 11, in that order, he has
    a. shot craps
    b. made 2 naturals
    c. made his point twice
    d. won twice

12. In a game of craps, if the player throws a 12 on his first throw,
    a. he has made a natural
    b. he has the highest sum, so he wins
c. that number is his point

d. he has shot craps

13. What number is most probable on a throw of the dice?

a. Seven
b. Craps
c. Eleven
d. Seven and eleven have equal probabilities

Reading (3)

It was not yet eleven o’clock when a boat crossed the river with a single passenger who had obtained his transportation at that unusual hour by promising an extra fare. While the youth stood on the landing place searching in his pockets, for money, the ferryman lifted a lantern, by the aid of which, together with the newly risen moon, he took a very accurate survey of the stranger’s figure. He was a young man of barely eighteen years, evidently country bred, and now, as it seemed, on his first visit to town. He was wearing a rough gray coat, which was in good shape, but which had seen many winters before this one. The garments under his coat were well constructed of leather, and fitted tightly to a pair of muscular legs; his stockings of blue yarn must have been the work of a mother or sister, and on his head was a three-concerned hat, which in its better days and perhaps sheltered the grayer head of the lad’s father. In his left hand was a walking stick, and his equipment was completed by a leather bag not so abundantly stocked as to inconvenience the strong shoulders on which it hung. Brown, curly hair, well-shaped features, bright, cheerful eyes were nature’s gifts, and worth all that art could have done for his adornment. The youth, whose name was Robin, paid the boatman, and then walked forward into the town with a light step, as if he had not already traveled more than thirty miles that day. As he walked, he surveyed his surroundings as eagerly as if he were entering London or Madrid, instead of the little metropolis of a New England colony.

14. What time of year was it in this story?

a. winter
b. autumn
c. spring
d. summer

15. The boatman was willing to take Robin across the river because

a. he saw that Robin was young and rich
b. he was going to row across the river anyway
c. he wanted to make extra money
d. he felt sorry for him because Robin looked poor
16. The stockings that Robin wore were obviously
   a. well done
   b. very expensive
   c. handmade
   d. much too big
17. From the way he looked, it was evident that Robin was
   a. a country boy
   b. a soldier
   c. a rich man’s son
   d. a foreigner
18. Robin was apparently going to the town
   a. for the first time
   b. for the first time in several years
   c. to buy new clothes
   d. on one of his regular trips there
19. How did Robin appear as he walked into town?
   a. He was tired
   b. He seemed frightened by his strange surroundings
   c. He seemed very sad
   d. He was cheerful and excited
20. How far had Robin traveled?
   a. from London
   b. from nearby town
   c. from Madrid
   d. over thirty miles

Part (B): 10%
21. Patriotism is unlike all other emotions in its ability to turn a blind eye to the
   inconsistencies and injustices of its object, the state.
   This sentence implies that
   a. patriotism is not an emotion
   b. patriotism is a noble emotion that can justify the means
   c. patriotism overlooks the defects of one’s government, such as injustices and
       inconsistencies
   d. all emotions pretend not to see the harmony of the state
22. He didn’t study hard until the eleventh hour.
   a. Not until 11 o’clock did he study hard
   b. He studied hard only at the last moment
c. Usually he did not study hard before the examination
d. He studied very hard before 11:00 P.M.

23. We had hoped that he could pass the test
   a. We hoped that he could pass the test, and he did
   b. We hoped for his success on the test, but he turned out to be a failure
   c. Our hope that he could pass the test finally came true
   d. His success on the test was quite a surprise to us

24. Very seldom has the writing of poetry brought the poet an adequate income; and
   there is no reason to suppose that it ever will
   a. The writing of poetry has seldom brought, but will surely bring the poet adequate income
   b. The writing of poetry has not brought, nor will it ever bring adequate income to the poet
   c. There is no mention of whether the poet could or can earn his living by writing poetry
   d. The poet has seldom got but will get adequate income by writing poetry

25. Freedom and rule by law must exist side by side. Should there be freedom without
   rule by law, there would be neither social order nor a government system.
   a. Freedom is more important than rule by law.
   b. What we need is freedom only.
   c. Social order and the government system lie in rule by law more than in freedom.
   d. If we should lose either freedom or rule by law, there would be no social order or government system.

II. Writing: 30%

Following is a student’s letter to Dr. Rose. The student needs some advice.
PRETEND YOU ARE DR. ROSE AND REPLY TO THE STUDENT’S LETTER IN LESS THAN one hundred words.

Dear Dr. Rose,

I’m a 20-year old university student with a serious problem with my boy friend. Jack and I have been dating for about 6 months. We usually go shopping or to the movies, play tennis and do other things we both enjoy. Recently, Jack asked me not to talk to any other boys. He doesn’t want to go out with any of my classmates.

Dr. Rose, I fell I don’t want to lose my friends, and I think that Jack is asking too much from me. But, I am afraid that if I don’t do what Jack wants, I may lose Jack. What should I do?
Puzzled Student

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