I. Cloze test (30%)

Regular tea drinking may _1_ bones, say researchers in Taiwan. After _2_ more than 1,000 men and women 30 and older, scientists found that people who drank an average of _3_ two cups of tea—black, green or oolong—daily _4_ 10 years had a 6.2% greater hip bone _5_ than occasional drinkers. Scientists _6_ that fluoride, flavonoids and phytoestrogens—a few of the 4,000 health-_7_ chemical compounds found _8_ tea—may help _9_ bone-mineral density.

1. (A) increase (B) power (C) stress (D) strengthen
2. (A) investigate (B) reporting (C) surveying (D) regarding
3. (A) close (B) nearly (C) approximate (D) approaching
4. (A) for (B) in (C) around (D) during
5. (A) strength (B) length (C) compact (D) density
6. (A) suspect (B) regard (C) suggest (D) recite
7. (A) affective (B) affecting (C) affectable (D) affected
8. (A) by (B) on (C) in (D) along
9. (A) preserve (B) reserve (C) conserve (D) prevent

U.S. retailer Wal-Mart is _10_ the biggest sex-discrimination lawsuit in corporate history, _11_ by six women _12_ behalf of 700,000 current and former female employees. The suit _13_, among other things, _14_ some Wal-Mart women were told “trained monkeys” could _15_ their jobs.

10. (A) overcoming (B) challenging (C) facing (D) meeting
11. (A) filed (B) filing (C) file (D) proposing
12. (A) at (B) to (C) from (D) on
13. (A) announces (B) obfuscates (C) paroles (D) alleges
14. (A) which (B) that (C) the fact (D) the event
15. (A) do (B) make (C) have (D) take

II. Reading comprehension (20%)

Asked in recent study what skills children need in order to be prepared for school, parents of kindergartners routinely cited definable achievements such as knowing numbers, colors and shapes. Teachers, however, disagree. Far more important, they say, are social skills, such as sharing, interacting with others and following instructions. Kids who come to school with a mastery of these less _showy_ abilities stand a better chance of _knocking off_ not only reading and writing when they are eventually presented but everything else that comes along as well. “Intelligence is based on emotional _adequacy_,” says child-development expert T. Berry Brazelton. “The concept of emotional intelligence is at the base of all this.”

1. According to the passage, what is more important for children before ready for school?
   (A) To have (B) definable achievements (C) reading ability (D) social skills (E) intelligence

2. What is main idea of this passage?
   (A) Children with better basic knowledge will present better than those with social skills.
   (B) Kids need to develop their reading and writing skills before going to school.
   (C) Emotional adequacy is important for developing intelligence of children.
   (D) Teachers have better understanding in developing children’s intelligence than parents do.

3. What is NOT the synonym of the word “showy” in line 4?
   (A) impressive (B) modest (C) splendid (D) magnificent
4. What does the phrase “knock off” mean in line 5?
   (A) finish (B) defeat (C) conduct (D) enjoy

5. The word “adequacy” in line 6 is closest in meaning to
   (A) development (B) control (C) sufficiency (D) ability

Aside from the usual vacations and business trips, we’ll be undertaking more journeys in search of what we were once content to find at home. Want to lose weight? Then you won’t simply be going to the gym on the corner but on a fat-camp holiday as well. With the rise of obesity and other ailment-related illnesses, health tourism will surge across Asia. Low-cost air travel will also bring event tourism into its own—you won’t think twice about traveling for concerts or sports matches. Short haul trips for casual shopping or dinner with an overseas friend will become regular weekend fixtures. Budget airlines will rule Asia’s skies. Bookings will be Internet-driven, ticketless and will probably involve some biometric ID. With the hassle of bub-to-bub travel will come more high-speed trains on major routes like Kuala Lumpur to Singapore and a few others in China and India.

6. According to the passage, what type of trip is NOT mentioned in the future journeys?
   (A) health tourism (B) short haul trip (C) event tourism (D) family trip

7. What can solve the inconvenience of traveling from one place to another?
   (A) budget airlines (B) high-speed trains (C) Internet-driven bookings (D) biometric ID

8. What does this passage imply?
   (A) Traveling will be easier in the future. (B) Low-cost air travel will be the key for future tourism.
   (C) Traveling will become popular in Asia. (D) Traveling in the future will satisfy people’s daily needs.

9. The word “surge” in line 4 is closest in meaning to
   (A) flow (B) surround (C) popularize (D) populate

10. The word “hassle” in line 7 means
   (A) move (B) struggle (C) rapidity (D) ease

III. Error analysis & correction: Choose the wrong one (8%) and correct it (4%) in each sentence.

1. Scientists are pretty sure that an asteroid or comet end the 135-million-year reign of the dinosaurs.
   (A) (B) (C) (D)

2. A huge chunk of space debris slammed into the earth 65 million years ago, blasting a pall of dust in the air.
   (A) (B) (C) (D)

3. For the sun blocked, temperatures plunged and light-starved plants at the bottom of the food chain died.
   (A) (B) (C) (D)

4. Bad news for the dinos, good news for the rodent-like beasts that suddenly had breathing room to begin evolving to us.
   (A) (B) (C) (D)

IV. Interpretation (8%) & essay writing (30%)

Please interpret ONE of the following quotations by Mark Twain and write a short essay (100-150 words) on it.

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."
"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."
"The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter."