**Part 1: Reading (MCQ)**

1. **Read the following text and answer the questions below.**

They are just four, five and six years old right now, but already they are making criminologists nervous. They are growing up, too frequently, in abusive or broken homes, with little adult supervision and few positive role models. Left to themselves, they spend much of their time hanging out on the streets or soaking up violent TV shows. By the year 2025 they will be teenagers–a group that tends to be, in the view of Northeastern University criminologist James Alan Fox, “temporary sociopaths–impulsive and immature.” If they also have easy access to guns and drugs, they can be extremely dangerous.

For all the heartening news offered by recent crime statistics, there is an ominous flip side. While the crime rate is dropping for adults, it is soaring for teens. Between 1990 and 1994, the rate at which adults age 25 and older committed homicides declined 22%; yet the rate jumped 16% for youths between 14 and 17, the age group that in the early ’90s supplanted 18- to 24-year-olds as the most crime-prone. And that is precisely the age group that will be booming in the next decade. There are currently 39 million children under 10 in the U.S., more than at any time since the 1950s. “This is the calm before the crime storm,” says Fox. “So long as we fool ourselves in thinking that we’re winning the war against crime, we may be blindsided by this bloodbath of teenage violence that is lurking in the future.”

Demographics don’t have to be destiny, but other social trends do little to contradict the dire predictions. Nearly all the factors that contribute to youth crime–single-parent households, child abuse, deteriorating inner-city schools–are getting worse. At the same time, government is becoming less, not more, interested in spending money to help break the cycle of poverty and crime. All of which has led John J. DiIulio Jr., a professor of politics and public affairs at Princeton, to warn about a new generation of “superpredators,” youngsters who are coming of age in actual and “moral poverty,” without “the benefit of parents, teachers, coaches and clergy to teach them right or wrong and show them unconditional love.”

Predicting a generation’s future crime patterns is, of course, risky, especially when outside factors (Will crack use be up or down? Will gun laws be tightened?) remain unpredictable. Michael Tonry, a professor of law and public policy at the University of Minnesota, argues that the demographic doomsayers are undue scaremongers. “There will be a slightly larger number of people relative to the overall population who are at high risk for doing bad things, so that’s going to have some effect,” he concedes. “But it’s not going to be an apocalyptic effect.” Norval Morris, professor of law and criminology at the University of Chicago, finds DiIulio’s notion of superpredators too simplistic: “The human animal in young males is quite a violent animal all over the world. The people who put forth the theory of moral poverty lack a sense of history and comparative criminology.”

Yet other students of the inner city are more pessimistic. “All the basic elements that spawn teenage crime are still in place, and in many cases the indicators are worse,” says Jonathan Kozol, author of ‘Amazing Grace’. “There’s a dramatic increase of children in foster care, and that’s a very high-risk group of kids. We’re not creating new jobs, and we’re not improving education to suit poor people for the jobs that exist.”

Can anything defuse the demographic time bomb? DiIulio, a law-and-order conservative, advocates tougher prosecution and wants to strengthen religious institutions to instill better values. Fox backs campaigns reinvesting in children: improving schools, creating after-school programs and providing other alternatives to gangs and drugs. He opposes the Gingrich-led effort to make deep cuts in social programs. “A failure to maintain existing welfare and health commitment for kids,” he says, “is to guarantee that the next wave of juvenile predators will be even worse than we’re dealing with today.” (Source: Time Magazine)

1. Which title would best suit / summarize the text?
2. Teenage time bomb
3. Dropping crime rate
4. End of superpredators’ generation
5. Anticrime policy effects
6. Several factors contribute to rampant crime. Which of the following factors is NOT mentioned in the text?
7. availability of firearms
8. media portrayals of violence
9. poor parenting
10. poor health
11. In comparison with the other experts mentioned in the text, Michael Tonry
12. is more pessimistic.
13. is more precise in his predictions.
14. is slightly more optimistic.
15. takes other external factors into account.
16. Who wants to focus on prevention in order to tackle the problem of violence?
17. the government
18. John J. DiIulio Jr.
19. James Alan Fox
20. Gingrich
21. What is the final conclusion of this article?
22. Employment and education can improve the situation.
23. There is no solution to the problem.
24. Stricter repression is the only solution.
25. Teaching religious values is the only way out.

For questions 6 to 10, choose the best meaning for the words (they are shaded in the text; try to guess the meaning from the context).

1. ‘flip side’
2. drawback
3. equivalent
4. benefit
5. consequence
6. ‘crime-prone’
7. likely to be the victims of criminals
8. likely to commit crimes
9. likely to be less dangerous
10. likely to be murderers
11. ‘doomsayers’
12. people who are hopeful for the future
13. people who always predict catastrophes
14. people who deliberately lie about the future
15. people who always reinterpret statistics
16. ‘spawn’
17. follow
18. reduce
19. generate
20. prevent
21. ‘backs’
22. discourages
23. pretents
24. claims
25. supports
26. **You are going to read an article about an amateur theatre critic. 5 sentences have been removed from the article. Choose the sentence which fits each gap (11 – 16). 2 sentences will not be used. (adapted from** [**http://englishtests.ucoz.com/FCE/test2/reading/FCE\_paper1\_test2\_reading\_part2.htm**](http://englishtests.ucoz.com/FCE/test2/reading/FCE_paper1_test2_reading_part2.htm)**)** 
    1. the public know that it’s been approved by people with no axe to grind
    2. they were part of a panel that also included five professional theatre critics
    3. theatre reviews can make a major difference in the success or failure of a production
    4. the experience has left Mrs Hart optimistic about the state of British theatre
    5. regular theatre-goers usually disagree with some of their judgements, of course, and Mrs Hart is no exception
    6. in one week alone, her duties involved her reviewing as many as seven plays
    7. in this situation there is surely a danger of the professional critics dominating the discussions

Elisabeth Hart went to the theatre in London 55 times last year. She read 55 programmes, saw 55 curtains rise and ate an undisclosed number of ice creams. On top of that, she had to write page after page of notes on each visit. However, she is not a professional theatre critic. She is an ordinary member of the public on the judging panel of this year’s British Theatre Awards.

Mrs Hart was one of four theatre-lovers chosen to judge all new drama productions (excluding musicals) last year. \_\_\_(11)\_\_\_ . Mrs Hart thinks this was a good system. ‘It’s important to have amateurs playing a part in the decisions,’ she says. ‘It stops the awards appearing to have been fixed like some others. And if a play wins an award, \_\_\_(12)\_\_\_.’

Mrs Hart is extremely enthusiastic about the theatre. ‘The year before last I went to over 30 plays,’ she says, ‘and they were a complete mixed bag.’ Her appointment was therefore something of a dream come true for her. It began with an application form left on a foyer shelf by the Society of London Theatre, which organises the awards. She filled it in, added a short theatre review, and was selected from several hundred applicants.

‘They were looking for people with a very wide taste in theatre,’ she explains. ‘I always enjoyed acting in plays when I was young, and as a student in London, I regularly bought cheap standing tickets for West End productions.’ Being a judge was hard work, though. \_\_\_(13)\_\_\_ . ‘But I never got sick of it. Even the plays I didn’t like always had some redeeming qualities.’

She could never sit back and relax, though, because she had to make hefty notes on everything. Having to take this approach meant that she couldn’t let her concentration slip at any time. ‘It wasn’t just the actors we were judging, but also costume design, direction, lighting and script – twelve categories in all. But I still enjoyed it. It felt like an enormous privilege.’

\_\_\_(14)\_\_\_ . ‘'That didn’t happen at all. It was all very civilised and friendly,’ says Mrs Hart. ‘We were listened to and our votes were all equal.’ Theatre critics, of course, are known for their power to make or break a play. So did management show her enormous respect? ‘I wasn’t treated differently at all, although one receptionist did optimistically describe me as looking as if I was keen to enjoy my evening.’

\_\_\_(15)\_\_\_ . ‘It is bursting with talent on all fronts, from playwriting to direction, and there are plenty of innovative developments in productions. I personally think new writing should be encouraged. But overall, theatre is definitely alive and kicking.’

**Part 2: Vocabulary**

1. **Register awareness. Decide whether the following sentences are ….**

a) formal English b) standard English c) informal English d) slang

16. Thought I’d e-mail you that little project of mine.

17. That don’t mean nothing at all to me.

18. His being guilty was not substantiated by factual evidence.

19. Could you forward your request to the colleague in charge?

20. There’s two guys want to see you at the door.

1. **Fill in each gap with the appropriate preposition where necessary (use** Ø **if no preposition is needed).**

21. Ministers just can’t think of any measure to prevent terrorists \_\_\_\_\_ striking anywhere.

a) against b) of c) into d) towards e) from

22. Not only is she original, she’s got a great drive \_\_\_\_\_ materializing her ideas .

a) to b) 0 c) at d) for e) in

23. Some 3rd-year students forget that they have to sit \_\_\_\_\_ all their failed exams again.

a) 0 b) down c) through d) in e) back

24. We should address \_\_\_\_\_ the issue of lobbying by the pharmaceutical industry.

a) with b) 0 c) about d) in e) for

25. Why film \_\_\_\_\_ location if the same effects can be crafted with a computer program?

a) on b) in c) over d) at e) into

26. It is still tough for ambitious women to break \_\_\_\_\_ the so-called glass ceiling.

a) across b) out of c) through d) over e) into

27. The president is brilliant \_\_\_\_\_ dismantling and canceling but can he achieve anything?

a) in b) to c) at d) for e) 0

28. This is the hottest October day \_\_\_\_\_ record.

a) of b) in c) on d) by e) at

29. Oh no, don’t tell me we’ll have to start it all over again\_\_\_\_\_ scratch.

a) off b) from c) since d) for e) at

30. Too many students drop \_\_\_\_\_ university by the end of the first term.

a) off b) out c) outside d) out of e) outside of

1. **Fill in the gaps using the appropriate linking word or phrase.**

31. Air travel is growing fast in Gosselies. …………….. **,** it is a disaster for the inhabitants.

a) Besides b) Yet c) While d) Further e) Whereas

32. The planet is being threatened. We should …………….. act now.

a) yet b) therefore c) thereby d) furthermore e) whether

33. He gambled and lost a lot of money. He got over it,.…………… .

a) although b) as though c) as well d) still e) though

34. …………….. all nations have agreed on how much to do, it will be too late to remedy global warming.

a) As soon as b) By the time c) Since d) Despite e) On condition

35. When doing online research, do check …………….. the source is reliable.

a) whereas b) even if c) whilst d) while e) whether

36. Electing businessmen is all very well ………….. they have the right set of ethical values.

a) providing b) unless c) so as to d) so that e) thus

37. We did 7 takes of the bridge collapse …………….. be faithful to the book.

a) owing to b) for c) so as to d) in order e) due to

38. .…………… the soil of their country is arguably the richest in the planet, 80% of Congolese live in abject poverty.

a) Since b) Despite c) If d) Even though e) However

39. This is another breach of their code of conduct ………………. the huge number of workers sleeping in one room.

a) provided b) hence c) owing d) on account of e) as well

40. The issue of separatism is still taboo within the European Commission …………….. Catalonia’s declaration of independence.

a) as b) despite c) as a result d) nevertheless e) even if

**Part 3: Listening**

**6. Choose the statement that best corresponds to the meaning of the passage you will hear.**

41. According to the passage, David Crystal

1. predicts that English will always remain the first foreign language in the world.
2. cannot really predict the future of the English language.
3. thinks that Spanish is most likely to become the dominant language in the long term.
4. argues that English will only remain global if all Chinese pupils learn English as a second language.

42. According to the video, what is true about childhood vaccines and autism?

1. There is a clear connection between childhood vaccines and autism.
2. The information circulated by the paper about vaccines and autism had been verified scientifically.
3. Circular reporting incited many parents not to vaccinate their children.
4. The media proved early on that the claims about vaccines and autism were false.

43. Which right is **not** mentioned in the video:

1. Freedom of sexual orientation
2. Freedom of religion
3. Freedom of expression
4. Freedom of nationality

44. According to this passage,

1. we'll soon see an increase in temperature of 4°C.
2. climate experts do not believe current political efforts will keep warming below 2°C.
3. some governments don’t want to sign the Durban agreement.
4. opinions are split on the results of the Durban deal.

45. Meryl Streep has been chosen to portray Margaret Thatcher even though

1. they have a lot in common.
2. the director knew it was a controversial casting decision.
3. the director needed a charismatic and iconic actress.
4. Phyllida Lloyd was first approached to star in the movie.