I. Choose one correct answer for the following questions.

【單選題】每題 2 分，共計 40 分，未作答，不給分亦不扣分，並請依序註明題號，作答於答案卷上。

1. The structure below is a potent analgesic agent (pain reliever) (J. Med. Chem., 2009, 5685). How many secondary carbons are in this structure?

   ![Structure](image)

   (A) 2 (B) 4 (C) 6 (D) 12

2. For the compound represented by the Newman projection below, what is the dihedral angle between the methyl groups in the conformer that has the smallest molecular dipole moment?

   ![Newman Projection](image)

   (A) 30° (B) 60° (C) 120° (D) 180°

3. One of the stereoisomers of the following oblongolide structure is a natural product isolated from a fungus and has been found to contain antiviral and cytotoxic activities (J. Nat. Prod. 2010, 55). How many stereoisomers exist for this structure?

   ![Oblongolide](image)

   (A) 8 (B) 16 (C) 32 (D) 64

4. Select the structure of the major product formed in the following reaction.

   ![Reaction](image)

   (A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4

5. Rank the species below in order of increasing nucleophilicity in hydroxyllic solvents: CH₃CO₂⁻, CH₃S⁻, HO⁻, H₂O.

   (A) HO⁻ < CH₃CO₂⁻ < H₂O < CH₃S⁻ (B) H₂O < CH₃CO₂⁻ < HO⁻ < CH₃S⁻
   (C) H₂O < HO⁻ < CH₃CO₂⁻ < CH₃S⁻ (D) CH₃S⁻ < CH₃CO₂⁻ < HO⁻ < H₂O.

6. When 3-iodo-3-ethylpentane is treated with sodium methoxide in methanol, the major organic product is an _______ that is generated through an _______ mechanism.

   (A) ether, SN1. (B) ether, SN2. (C) alkene, E2. (D) alkene, E1.

7. Which of the following free radicals is the most stable?

   ![Free Radicals](image)

   (A) 1 (B) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4

8. A reaction of an unknown alkene with MCPBA in dichloromethane followed by work-up with H₂O/H⁺ yielded, as the major product, a racemic mixture of (2S, 3S) and (2R, 3R)-3-methylpentan-2,3-diol. What is the specific structure of the alkene used in the reaction?

   (A) (Z)-3-methylpent-2-ene. (B) (E)-3-methylpent-2-ene.
   (C) 2-methylpent-2-ene. (D) 2,3-dimethylbut-2-ene
9. In the reduction of alkynes using sodium in liquid ammonia, which of the species below is not thought to be an intermediate in the commonly accepted mechanism?
   (A) vinyl anion.  (B) vinyl radical.  (C) radical anion.  (D) vinyl cation.

10. Unsymmetrical alkenes give Markovnikov products through the most stable __________ intermediates and anti-Markovnikov products through the most stable __________ intermediates.
   (A) carbocation, radical.  (B) radical, carbocation.  (C) carbanion, radical.  (D) radical, carbanion.

11. Which of the following alkyl halides would be suitable to use when forming a Grignard reagent?
   (A) BrCH2CH2CH2CN.  (B) CH3COCH2CH2Br.  (C) (CH3)2NCH2CH2Br.  (D) H2NCH2CH2Br.

12. Predict the outcome of the following sequence of reactions.

13. Rank the following bonds in order of increasing stretching frequency (cm⁻¹) in IR spectroscopy: O-H, C=Ｎ, C-N, C=O.
   (A) O-H < C=N < C-N < C=O  (B) C-N < C=N < C=O < O-H  (C) O-H < C-N < C=O < C=N  (D) C-N < C=O < C=N < O-H

14. Provide a structure that is consistent with the data below.
   C₅H₁₀O; IR (cm⁻¹): 2950; ¹H NMR (δ): 3.5 (4H, s), 0.9 (6H, s); ¹³C NMR (δ): 64 (t), 41 (s), 12 (q).

15. Which of the following isomers would be the most reactive in the Diels-Alder reaction?

16. Consider the hydrogenation reaction of each compound listed and rank the compounds in order of increasing ΔH° of this reaction. The most negative ΔH° should be listed first.

17. Which toluidine isomers are possible products when m-bromotoluene is treated with NaNH₂?
   (A) ortho, meta, and para.  (B) ortho only.  (C) meta only.  (D) ortho and para.

18. p-Methoxybenzaldehyde can be prepared from anisole using the Gatterman-Koch formylation. What mixture of reagents is necessary for this process?
   (A) CO, HCl, AlCl₃, CuCl.  (B) CO, SO₃, H₂SO₄.  (C) CO₂, HCl, AlCl₃.  (D) CO₂, SO₃, H₂SO₄.

19. Why do acetal-forming reactions that use ethylene glycol have more favorable equilibrium constants than those using methanol?
   (A) Ethylene glycol reacts more rapidly.  (B) They are more favorable on entropy grounds.
   (C) They are more favorable on enthalpy grounds.  (D) Ethylene glycol is acidic and catalyzes the reaction.

20. Provide the structure of the major organic product in the reaction below.
II. Each of the following reactions gives a **predominance of a single product** in synthetically acceptable yield. Give the structure of the product formed in each reaction.

請依題號標示作答，每題 2.5 分，共計 12.5 分，未作答，不給分亦不扣分。

(a) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{structure} + \text{HIO}_4 & \rightarrow \text{structure} \\
\end{align*}
\]

(b) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{structure} + \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 & \xrightarrow{\text{heat}} \text{structure} \\
\end{align*}
\]

(c) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{structure} + \text{HCl} & \xrightarrow{\text{MeOH}} \text{structure} \\
\end{align*}
\]

III. Complete the following road-map problem by drawing the structures for compounds A through O.

請依序（A 至 O）標示於於答案卷上作答，每題 2.5 分，共計 37.5 分，未作答，不給分亦不扣分。

(a) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{CO}_2\text{Et} & \xrightarrow{(1) \text{EtONa} \quad (2) \text{3-bromo-2-methylpropene}} \text{structure} \\
\end{align*}
\]

(b) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{structure} + \text{AlCl}_3 & \rightarrow \text{structure} \\
\end{align*}
\]

IV. Propose mechanism for the following reactions.
反應機轉，每題 5 分，共計 10 分

(a) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{CH}_2=CH-CH=CH-CH\equiv & \quad \text{H}_3\text{O} \\
\xrightarrow{} & \quad \text{Me}
\end{align*}
\]

(b) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{C}_8H_8 & \quad + \quad \text{HCCl}_3 \\
\xrightarrow{\text{peroxide}} & \quad \text{C}_8H_8
\end{align*}
\]
1. Explain the following terms (a) steady-state approximation (b) residual entropy (c) intersystem crossing (d) Boltzmann distribution (e) variational theorem (f) equipartition theorem (12%)

2. For diatomic molecules, CO, O2, NO2, NH3, and N2, which molecules do you expect having IR activity? Why? (2%)

3. Please describe how to measure the activation energy of a chemical reaction. (2%)

4. What is the ground-state term symbol (including J value) for the Fe atom with 3d^6 configuration? (2%)

5. Whether the position and the momentum of a particle can be precisely known simultaneously? Prove your answer. (4%)

6. What is the most probable distance from the nucleus for an electron in the 2p orbital? The radial part of the wavefunction for 2p is \( R_21(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{24}} \left( \frac{1}{a_0} \right)^{3/2} r \frac{e^{-r/a_0}}{a_0} \). (3%)
1. Please define the Fisher carbine and Schrock carbine? (16)

2. Briefly describe the following terms:
   (1) Migratory insertion (2) Agostic hydrogen (3) Orthometallation (9)
Define gradient elution. (3%)

Define eddy diffusion. (3%)

Define standard addition method. (3%)

A 0.5065 g sample of a wheat flour was analyzed by the Kjeldahl method. The ammonia formed by addition of concentrated base after digestion with H_2SO_4 was distilled into 25.00 mL of 0.04977 M HCl. The excess HCl was then back-titrated with 3.97 mL of 0.04012 M NaOH. Calculate the percent protein in the flour. (6%)

What are the major advantages and disadvantages of each of the detectors?
(a) flame ionization, (b) electron captive. (10%)
高雄醫學大學 103 學年度 研究所碩士班 招生考試 系所：醫藥暨應用化學系碩士班 科目：綜合化學-生物化學

請務必於試卷紙上作答，違者該科不於計分。
每題 5 分，共 25 分。

1. Reversible inhibition of enzyme activity
2. Gluconeogenesis
3. ketone bodies
4. Steps in RAN synthesis
5. DNA cloning
I. SENTENCE COMPLETION: You are to choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence. 20%

1. _____ he began studying in the high school, he experienced strange health problems.
   (A) Shortly before   (B) Not long after   (C) No sooner than   (D) No longer

2. She didn’t work on the project yesterday, _____ work on it tomorrow.
   (A) nor she will   (B) nor she does    (C) nor will she   (D) nor does she

3. _____ hardiness, orchids can be cultivated particularly easily.
   (A) Their   (B) Since their   (C) Because of their   (D) It is their

4. A linguist does not merely analyze language, but is able to investigate _____ make errors.
   (A) what causes language learners to   (B) causes language learners to what
   (C) what to cause language learners   (D) what cause to language learners

5. The primary activity of the panda, Yuan Zai, is sleep, _____ its waking hours looking for food.
   (A) that it spends   (B) for spending   (C) and it spends   (D) will spend

6. They were running although they suspected that the shuttle bus _____.
   (A) has already gone   (B) was already going   (C) already went   (D) had already gone

7. _____ the movie for years, Mrs. Holiday knew instinctively what the next crisis would be.
   (A) Watch   (B) Watched   (C) She watched   (D) Having watched

8. Engines are machines _____ power or motion.
   (A) produce   (B) producing   (C) produced   (D) which produced

9. Besides being expensive, the food in this restaurant tastes _____.
   (A) badly   (B) too much bad   (C) too badly   (D) bad

10. Being seriously anxious, _____.
    (A) we have to ask him to take medicine. (B) he went to the restroom for several times.
        (C) a doctor was sent for him at once. (D) his test score was really low.

II. CLOZE TEST: This passage contains several missing words or phrases. You are to choose the best answer for each missing word or phrase in the passage. 10%

   Amid leaden wintry skies, it may come as a surprise to Londoners (11) new figures suggest the city has beaten its arch rival, Paris, to become the world's most popular city for tourists. However, a growing spat between the two cities' administrations suggests that, when it comes to comparisons between London and Paris, there are only lies, damn lies and statistics.

   Figures (12) this week by the UK's Office for National Statistics show that 4.9 million people visited London from July to September 2013. That was an increase of 20% on the same period in the previous year – (13) London hosted the Olympics – and a new quarterly record. Taking a wider view, for the first nine months of 2013, 12.8 million visitors (14) to the British capital, an increase of 12% compared with the previous year. The figures prompted the city's promotional body, London and Partners, to proclaim that London was "on course to welcome over 16 million visitors in one year." That in turn has led to reports in Britain and abroad that London has trumped Paris as the most visited city in the world.

   The two cities have actually swapped the top spot on various lists in recent years. According to the MasterCard Global Destinations Cities Index for 2012, London narrowly beat (15) Paris for the top spot with 16.9 million visitors.


11. (A) but   (B) and   (C) or   (D) so
12. (A) releasing   (B) is releasing   (C) released   (D) has released
13. (A) which   (B) during which   (C) that   (D) X
14. (A) flattered   (B) interceded   (C) attributed   (D) flocked
15. (A) out   (B) on   (C) in   (D) up

III. WRITTEN EXPRESSION: In questions 16-20 each sentence has four underlined words or phrases. Identify the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct. 10%

16. Jane Addams, pursuing social reforms and humanitarianism, founding the first charitable institution, Hull-House, in Chicago and expertly organized civic groups to bring pressure on legislatures and government officials.

17. Behind the notion of the nuclear reactors are the release of the tremendous energy in each fission.

18. The economic development of a country lies not only in a stable basis of finance, but also on a firm foundation of industry.

19. The most living things depend on two main types of cell division, mitosis and meiosis, to reproduce themselves.

20. He has finally got used to cook on an electric stove after having a gas one for so long.

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTION: read each passage and answer questions. 60%

READING ONE
You Just Don't Understand

A People have different conversational styles. So when people from different parts of the country, or different ethnic or class backgrounds, talk to each other, it is likely that their words will not be understood exactly as they were meant. The desire to affirm that women are equal has made some scholars reluctant to show that they are different. There are gender differences in ways of speaking, and we need to identify and understand them.

B Men often engage the world as “an individual in a hierarchical social order in which they are either one-up or one-down”, a question of gaining and keeping the upper hand. Women are more likely to approach it as “a network of connections” in which conversations are negotiations for closeness and people try to seek and give confirmation and support, and to reach consensus.

C So, to Josh, checking with his wife about a convenient date for a dinner party resembles “seeking permission”; to Linda it is simply a recognition that lives are interwoven and complex. This is the struggle between independence and intimacy. The modern face of chivalry: holding the door is an act of power — showing that I (the male) grant you (the female) permission to pass through. There seems to be a male obsession with ‘freedom’ or independence. Women academics value the opportunity to pursue interests; men value the freedom from others’ control.

D Throughout history, women have been punished physically and psychologically for talking too much, yet studies show that men talk more and for longer periods. In one study men’s turns ranged from 10.66 to 17.07 seconds, while women’s lasted from 3 to 10 seconds. The difference is that men are more comfortable with public speaking, report talk, women with private speaking, rapport talk. Rapport talk establishes relationships, seeking similarities and matching experiences. “For most men, talk is primarily a means to preserve independence and negotiate and maintain status in a hierarchical order.” Men are more likely to tell jokes in public than women: it is another way of gaining centre stage and proving their abilities.

E Whereas women’s cooperative overlaps frequently annoy men by seeming to coopt their topic, men frequently annoy women by taking over or switching the topic. Women and men feel interrupted by each other because of the differences in what they are trying to accomplish with talk. Men who approach conversation as a contest are likely to expend effort not to support the other’s talk but to lead the conversation in another direction, perhaps one in which they can take centre stage by telling a story or joke or by displaying knowledge. Women’s effusion of support can be irritating to men who would rather meet with verbal debates.

F Women are frequently judged differently even if they speak the same way as men. Hayes Bradley found that women using tag-questions were judged less intelligent than men who also used them. Women who did not provide evidence to support their arguments were judged less intelligent than men who did not. People asked why a baby is crying say — if it is a boy — that he is angry and — if it is a girl — that she is scared. When women and men are together, women tend to follow the topics the males want: “male-female conversations are more like men’s conversations than they are like women’s.”

G “If you understand gender differences in what I call conversational style, you may not be able to prevent disagreements from arising, but you stand a better chance of preventing them from spiraling out of control... Understanding the other’s ways of talking is a giant leap across the communication gap between women and men, and a giant step toward opening lines of communication.”
21. The article is mainly about _____.
   (A) reasons women talk differently from men
   (B) ways people have different conversational style
   (C) the differences between men and women using language
   (D) things that make understanding opposite gender difficult

22. The main idea of Paragraph A is _____.
   (A) understanding people’s words is difficult
   (B) understanding people of the same ethnic backgrounds is easier
   (C) scholars are reluctant to show that genders are different
   (D) we need to know the differences between genders in ways of speaking

23. Paragraph B is mainly about _____.
   (A) the engagement of a hierarchical social order
   (B) the importance of social network
   (C) the gender differences regarding social relationships
   (D) how men and women have different social status in speaking

24. Paragraph C is mainly about _____.
   (A) the struggle between independence and intimacy
   (B) the difference between permission and recognition
   (C) the discrepancy between power and interests
   (D) the contradictory between freedom and opportunity

25. In Paragraph C, intimacy probably means _____.
   (A) closeness   (B) control   (C) power   (D) freedom

26. The main idea of Paragraph D is _____.
   (A) women talk more than men
   (B) it’s a stereotype that women talk more than men
   (C) men and women have different styles of talking
   (D) women talk more in private, and men talk more in public

27. Which sentence from Paragraph E states the main idea?
   (A) Men frequently annoy women by taking over or switching the topic.
   (B) Women and men feel interrupted by each other because of the differences in what they are trying to accomplish with talk.
   (C) Men are likely to expend effort not to support the other’s talk but to lead the conversation in another direction.
   (D) Women’s effusion of support can be irritating to men who would rather meet with verbal debates.

28. Which sentence from Paragraph F states the main idea?
   (A) Women are frequently judged differently even if they speak the same way as men.
   (B) Women using tag-questions were judged less intelligent than men who also used them.
   (C) Women who did not provide evidence to support their arguments were judged less intelligent than men who did not.
   (D) Male-female conversations are more like men’s conversations than they are like women’s.

29. Which of the following is a logical inference based on Paragraph F?
   (A) People have stereotype regarding gender differences in speaking.
   (B) Women use tag-questions more than men do.
   (C) Men talk with evidence more than women do.
   (D) Boys have bad temper than girls do.

30. Paragraph G is mainly about _____.
   (A) the importance of understanding the differences of gender in conversational style
   (B) the disagreements existing in the communication gap between women and men
   (C) the giant communication gap between women and men
   (D) the ways of understanding a giant leap and step in communication
It's an almost universal truth that any language you don't understand sounds like it's being spoken at 200 m.p.h. — a storm of alien syllables almost impossible to tease apart. That, we tell ourselves, is simply because the words make no sense to us. Surely our spoken English sounds just as fast to a native speaker of Urdu. And yet it's equally true that some languages seem to zip by faster than others. Spanish blows the doors off French; Japanese leaves German in the dust — or at least that's how they sound.

But how could that be? The dialogue in movies translated from English to Spanish doesn't whiz by in half the original time after all, which is what it should if the same lines were being spoken at double time. Similarly, Spanish films don't take four hours to unspool when they're translated into French. Somewhere among all the languages must be a great equalizer that keeps us conveying information at the same rate even if the speed limits vary from tongue to tongue.

To investigate this puzzle, researchers from the Université de Lyon recruited 59 male and female volunteers who were native speakers of one of seven common languages — English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish — and one not so common one: Vietnamese. All of them were instructed to read 20 different texts, including the one about the house cat and the locked door, into a recorder. All of the volunteers read all 20 passages in their native languages. Any silences that lasted longer than 150 milliseconds were edited out, but the recordings were left otherwise untouched.

The investigators next counted all of the syllables in each of the recordings and further analyzed how much meaning was packed into each of those syllables. A single-syllable word like bliss, for example, is rich with meaning — signifying not ordinary happiness but a particularly serene and rapturous kind. The single-syllable word to is less information-dense. And a single syllable like the short i sound, as in the word jubilee, has no independent meaning at all.

With this raw data in hand, the investigators crunched the numbers together to arrive at two critical values for each language: the average information density for each of its syllables and the average number of syllables spoken per second in ordinary speech. Vietnamese was used as a reference language for the other seven, with its syllables (which are considered by linguists to be very information-dense) given an arbitrary value of 1.

For all of the other languages, the researchers discovered, the more data-dense the average syllable was, the fewer of those syllables had to be spoken per second — and thus the slower the speech. English, with a high information density of .91, was spoken at an average rate of 6.19 syllables per second. Mandarin, which topped the density list at .94, was the spoken slowpoke at 5.18 syllables per second. Spanish, with a low-density .63, ripped along at a syllable-per-second velocity of 7.82. The true speed demon of the group, however, was Japanese, which edged past Spanish at 7.84, thanks to its low density of .49. Despite those differences, at the end of, say, a minute of speech, all of the languages would have conveyed more or less identical amounts of information.

"A tradeoff is operating between a syllable-based average information density and the rate of transmission of syllables," the researchers wrote. "A dense language will make use of fewer speech chunks than a sparser language for a given amount of semantic information." In other words, your ears aren't deceiving you: Spaniards really do sprint and Chinese really do stroll, but they will tell you the same story in the same span of time.

None of that, of course, makes the skull-cracking business of trying to learn a new language any easier. It does, however, serve as one more reminder that beneath all of the differences that separate Tagalog from Thai, from Norwegian, from Wolof, from any one of the world's 6,800 other languages, lie some very simple, very common rules. The DNA of speech — like our actual DNA — makes us a lot closer to one another than we think.

(Source: “Slow Down! Why Some Languages Sound So Fast” by Jeffrey Kluger in Time, published on September 8, 2011)
35. Regarding the speed limits of languages, which of the following is not true?
(A) The speed of spoken Mandarin is faster than that of English.
(B) The speed of spoken Urdu is as fast as that of English.
(C) The speed of spoken Spanish is faster than that of French.
(D) The speed of spoken German is slower than that of Japanese.

36. Which of the following descriptions about the study mentioned in the article is correct?
(A) Because a two-hour Spanish film is always translated into a four-hour French one, a group of researchers conducted the research.
(B) The study recruited subjects who could speak at least two languages.
(C) Mandarin is a common language, and so is Italian.
(D) All the silences were excluded from the experiment.

37. Which language was used as a reference language for the study?
(A) English (B) Spanish (C) Mandarin (D) Vietnamese

38. Researchers of the study collected two critical values for each language they investigated. What were they?
(A) the number of raw data and the information density for each syllable
(B) the information density for each syllable and the number of syllables spoken per second
(C) the number of raw data and the number of syllables spoken per second
(D) None of the above.

39. What was the finding of the study?
(A) The shorter a syllable is, the more meaning it carries.
(B) Each Spanish syllable carries more information than each English syllable does.
(C) The number of raw data for Mandarin is higher than that for Spanish.
(D) All languages would have carried more or less identical amounts of information during the same amount of time.

40. Which language is easier to learn?
(A) the one which bears less information in a sentence
(B) the one which is spoken in a relatively slow way
(C) the one whose DNA is closer to our body’s DNA
(D) none of the above

**READING THREE**

British Education System

Education in the UK is compulsory. Children are legally obliged to attend school from the ages of 5 (4 in Northern Ireland) to 16. In 1992 there were 9.5 million full-time school/college students.

Parents can choose between ending their children to state schools or to private schools. State schools are funded by local and central government. About 93% of pupils receive free education from the public sector. The government also sometimes assists schools established by religious groups.

Since 1993, parents have the right to express a preference for a particular state school for their children. A system of "league tables" – comparative tables which rank schools according to public examination results, truancy rates, destinations of school leavers, and so on – are published in order to help parents make choices. While children usually attend the school they live closest to, now ambitious parents sometimes move to a different neighborhood in order to be close to a well-performing school. Needless to say, good schools tend to be in middle class neighborhoods and it is the wealthier middle classes who can most easily afford to move if they think it is necessary.

In the private sector there are independent schools which are commonly, but confusingly, called public schools. (They are called public schools because they were originally seen as “public” alternatives to having private tutors in aristocratic households.) Independent schools receive their funding through the private sector and through tuition rates, with some government assistance. Independent schools are not part of the national education system, but the quality of instruction and standards are maintained through visits from Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Schools. Parents choose to pay fees in order to send their children to these schools because the quality of education is such that their children have a better chance of getting into good universities and/or getting better jobs when they leave school.

試題 第 5 頁，共 7 頁。
Up to age 5, children may have some pre-primary schooling in nursery schools, daycare, or play groups. The government has no obligation to provide such facilities and so many are private enterprise arrangements. However, the state realizes such provision is important, especially now that many mothers work, and so they provide some financial support.

Between the ages of 5 and 11, pupils mainly attend state sector primary schools. These schools are called co-educational or mixed schools because they admit both boys and girls.

From the age of 11 up to around the age of 19, students attend secondary schools. More than 80% of pupils in secondary schools in England and Wales attend mixed schools; 60% in Northern Ireland; Scotland, nearly all.

About 90% of secondary schools are comprehensive schools which admit children without reference to their academic abilities. Such schools provide a general education. Pupils can study everything from academic subjects like literature and sciences, to more practical subjects like cooking and carpentry.

Foreign languages are taught as an integral part of the National Curriculum, reflecting the importance of Britain’s relationship with Europe.

Those children who do not attend comprehensive schools attend grammar schools instead. Grammar schools select children, usually at the age of 11, through an examination called “the 11-plus”. Those who show academic potential are admitted to the grammar schools where the emphasis is on advanced academic work rather than the more general curriculum of the comprehensive schools. In Northern Ireland the grammar school/non-grammar school division is still common, but throughout the rest of Great Britain grammar schools are becoming increasingly rare.

After five years of secondary education, (at about age 16) English, Northern Irish and Welsh students sit their GCSEs exams (General Certificate of Secondary Education). GCSEs are the main means of assessing pupils’ progress in their final two years of compulsory education. Based on these results, pupils then decide what avenue of education they would like to follow. They have a number of choices. At the age of 16, they can decide to quit school and find a job; or they can prepare to sit exams for university entrance; or they can concentrate on vocational training. Every 16 and 17 year old is guaranteed a place in full-time education or training.

Pupils who hope to attend university carry on their academic study in the sixth form for a further two years and then sit A-levels exams (General Certificate of Education – Advanced). Most pupils try to achieve three or four A-levels in the subjects they are most proficient at. Since admittance to universities depends largely on A-level results, the two years spent in the sixth form are very important and often very stressful for British pupils. Among first year university students getting to know each other, the most common question after “What’s your name?” and “Where are you from?” is “What A-levels did you take?”

Other pupils who decide not to go to university may choose to take vocational training. The vocational equivalent of A-levels are GNVQs (General National Vocational Qualifications), which provide a broadly based preparation for work or for taking further vocational.

46. Which of the following is not true?
   (A) 3 year olds can go to nursery schools.
   (B) 9 year olds study in primary schools.
   (C) 15 year olds attend secondary schools.
   (D) None of the above is correct.

47. If a student wants to emphasize on advanced academic work, which school should he or she go to?
   (A) comprehensive school   (B) secondary school   (C) independent school   (D) grammar school

48. The number of _____ in Britain is decreasing.
   (A) grammar schools   (B) comprehensive schools   (C) state schools   (D) technical schools

49. A fifth-grader of a secondary school may decide his or her future grounded on the examination called _____.
   (A) General Certificate of Education – Advanced
   (B) General Certificate of Secondary Education.
   (C) the common entrance examination
   (D) General National Vocational Qualifications

50. Which of the following is not true about the British education system?
   (A) All the state sector primary schools admit both boys and girls.
   (B) Comprehensive schools provide a general education.
   (C) The system guarantees students of 16 years old a full-time education or training.
   (D) The university entrance in Britain is not competitive.