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[https://www.100test.com/kao\\_ti2020/163/2021\\_2022\\_1999\\_E5\\_B9\\_B41\\_E6\\_9C\\_c83\\_163437.htm](https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/163/2021_2022_1999_E5_B9_B41_E6_9C_c83_163437.htm) Part I Reading Comprehension

Questions 01-05 are based on the following passage: The concept of culture has been defined many times, and although no definition has achieved universal acceptance, most of the definitions include three central ideas: that culture is passed on from generation to generation, that a culture represents a ready-made prescription for living and for making day-to-day decisions, and, finally, that the components of a culture are accepted by those in the culture as good, and true, and not to be questioned. The eminent anthropologist George Murdock has listed seventy-three items that characterize every known culture, past and present. The list begins with Age-grading and Athletic sports, runs to Weaning and Weather Control, and includes on the way such items as Calendar, Firemaking, Property Rights, and Toolmaking. I would submit that even the most extreme advocate of a culture of poverty viewpoint would readily acknowledge that, with respect to almost all of these items, every American, beyond the first generation immigrant, regardless of race or class, is a member of a common culture. We all share pretty much the same sports. Maybe poor kids don't know how to play polo, and rich kids don't spend time with stickball, but we all know baseball, and football, and basketball. Despite some misguided efforts to raise minor dialects to the status of separate tongues, we all, in fact, share the same language. There may be differences in diction and usage, but it would be

ridiculous to say that all Americans don't speak English. We have the calendar, the law, and large numbers of other cultural items in common. It may well be true that on a few of the seventy-three items there are minor variations between classes, but these kinds of things are really slight variations on a common theme. There are other items that show variability, not in relation to class, but in relation to religion and ethnic background—funeral customs and cooking, for example. But if there is one place in America where the melting pot is a reality, it is on the kitchen stove. In the course of one month, half the readers of this sentence have probably eaten pizza, hot pastrami, and chow mein. Specific differences that might be identified as signs of separate cultural identity are relatively insignificant within the general unity of American life. They are cultural commas and semicolons in the paragraphs and pages of American life. 01.

According to the author's definition of culture, \_\_\_\_\_. A. a culture should be accepted and maintained universally B. a culture should be free from falsehood and evils C. the items of a culture should be taken for granted by people D. the items of a culture should be accepted by well-educated people 02. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

A. Baseball, football and basketball are popular sports in America. B. Pizza, hot pastrami, and chow mein are popular diet in America. C. There is no variation in using the American calendar. D. There is no variation in using the American language.

03. It can be inferred that all the following will most probably be included in the seventy-three items except \_\_\_\_\_.

A. heir and heritage B. childrearing practices C. dream patterns D.

table manners 04. By saying that "they are cultural commas and semicolons..." the author means that commas and semicolons \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. can be interpreted as subculture of American life B. can be identified as various ways of American life C. stand for work and rest in American life D. are preferred in writing the stories concerning American life

05. The authors main purpose in writing this passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. prove that different people have different definitions of culture B. inform that variations exist as far as a culture is concerned C. indicate that culture is closely connected with social classes D. show that the idea that the poor constitute a separate culture is an absurdity

Questions 06-10 are based on the following passage: It is 3A.M. Everything on the university campus seems ghostlike in the quiet, misty darkness - everything except the computer center. Here, twenty students rumped and bleary-eyed, sit transfixed at their consoles, tapping away on the terminal keys. With eyes glued to the video screen, they tap on for hours. For the rest of the world, it might be the middle of the night, but here time does not exist. This is a world unto itself. These young computer "hackers" are pursuing a kind of compulsion, a drive so consuming it overshadows nearly every other part of their lives and forms the focal point of their existence. They are compulsive computer programmers. Some of these students have been at the console for thirty hours or more without a break for meals or sleep. Some have fallen asleep on sofas and lounge chairs in the computer center, trying to catch a few winks but loathe to get too far away from their beloved machines. Most of these students dont have to be at the computer center in the middle

of the night. They aren't working on assignments. They are there because they want to be - they are irresistibly drawn there. And they are not alone. There are hackers at computer centers all across the country. In their extreme form, they focus on nothing else. They flunk out of school and lose contact with friends. They might have difficulty finding jobs, choosing instead to wander from one computer center to another. They may even forgo personal hygiene. "I remember one hacker. We literally had to carry him off his chair to feed him and put him to sleep. We really feared for his health," says a computer science professor at MIT. Computer science teachers are now more aware of the implications of this hacker phenomenon and are on the lookout for potential hackers and cases of computer addiction that are already severe. They know that the case of the hackers is not just the story of one person's relationship with a machine. It is the story of a society's relationship to the so-called thinking machines, which are becoming almost ubiquitous.

06. We can learn from the passage that those at the computer center in the middle of the night are \_\_\_\_\_. A. students working on a program B. students using computers to amuse themselves C. hard-working computer science majors D. students deeply fascinated by the computer

07. Which of the following is NOT true of those young computer "hackers"? A. Most of them are top students majoring in computer programming. B. For them, computer programming is the sole purpose for their life. C. They can stay with the computer at the center for nearly three days on end. D. Their "love" for the computer is so deep that they want to be near their machines even when they

sleep. 08. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_. A. the "hacker" phenomenon exists only at university computer centers B. university computer centers are open to almost everyone C. university computer centers are expecting outstanding programmers out of the "hackers" D. the "hacker" phenomenon is partly attributable to the deficiency of the computer centers 09. The authors attitude towards the "hacker" phenomenon can be described as \_\_\_\_\_. A. affirmative B. contemptuous C. anxious D. disgusted 10.

Which of the following may be a most appropriate title for the passage? A. The Charm of Computer Science B. A New Type of Electronic Toys C. Compulsive Computer Programmers D. Computer Addicts

Questions 11-15 are based on the following passage: Every profession or trade, every art, and every science has its technical vocabulary. Different occupations, however, differ widely in the character of their special vocabularies. In trades and handicrafts, and other vocations, like farming and fishery, that have occupied great numbers of men from remote times, the technical vocabulary, is very old. It consists largely of native words, or of borrowed words that have worked themselves into the very fibre of our language. Hence, though highly technical in many particulars, these vocabularies are more familiar in sound, and more generally understood, than most other technicalities. The special dialects of law, medicine, divinity, and philosophy have also, in their older strata, become pretty familiar to cultivated persons and have contributed much to the popular vocabulary. Yet every vocation still possesses a large body of technical terms that remain essentially

foreign, even to educated speech. And the proportion has been much increased in the last fifty years, particularly in the various departments of natural and political science and in the mechanic arts. Here new terms are coined with the greatest freedom, and abandoned with indifference when they have served their turn. Most of the new coinages are confined to special discussions, and seldom get into general literature or conversation. Yet no profession is nowadays, as all professions once were, a close guild. The lawyer, the physician, the man of science, the divine, associated freely with his fellow-creatures, and does not meet them in a merely professional way. Furthermore, what is called "popular science" makes everybody acquainted with modern views and recent discoveries. Any important experiment, though made in a remote or provincial laboratory, is at once reported in the newspapers, and everybody is soon talking about it - as in the case of the Roentgen rays and wireless telegraphy. Thus our common speech is always taking up new technical terms and making them commonplace.

11. Special words used in technical discussion \_\_\_\_\_. A. never last long B. are considered artificial language speech C. should be confined to scientific fields D. may become part of common speech

12. It is true that \_\_\_\_\_. A. an educated person would be expected to know most technical terms B. everyone is interested in scientific findings C. the average man often uses in his own vocabulary what was once technical language not meant for him D. various professions and occupations often interchange their dialects and jargons

13. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in the number of technical

terms in the terminology of A. farming B. sports C. government D. fishery

14. The writer of the article was, no doubt \_\_\_\_\_. A. a linguist B. an essayist C. a scientist D. an attorney

15. The authors main purpose in the passage is to \_\_\_\_\_. A. describe a phenomenon B. be entertaining C. argue a belief D. propose a solution

Questions 16-20 are based on the following passage: In the days immediately following hurricane Andrews deadly visit to South Florida, Allstate Insurance hastily dispatched more than 2,000 extra claim adjusters to the devastated area to assist the 200 stationed there. Many of the reserves arrived in convoys of motor homes. Others flew in from as far away as Alaska and California. Since the storm had knocked out telephone lines, Allstate rushed to set up its own communications system. Allstate expects to pay out 1.2 billion to cover more than 121,000 damage claims as a result of Andrew. All told, U.S. property and casualty insurers have been hit with more than 8 billion in Andrew-related claims, making the hurricane the most costly single calamity to strike the industry since the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906 (cost: 6 billion, after inflation). With claims continuing to pour in, Andrew threatens to take a painful toll on the already battered property-casualty insurance industry and its 100 million policy-holders. The final bill, analysts predict, is likely to top 10 billion. While most well-capitalized insurers are expected to weather the storm, less anchored firms are in danger of being blown away, leaving U.S. consumers stuck with the tab. Says Sean Mooney, senior researcher at the Insurance Information Institute: "It will take years before the industry digs itself out from the wreckage left by

Andrew. Some [companies] will be buried by it." Hurricane Andrew is the latest in a string of mishaps to plague the American insurance industry this year. In April an overflowing Chicago River flooded the city's downtown district, costing insurers 300 million in claims. A month later, Los Angeles was rocked by the worst civilian riot in the U.S. since the Civil War. The insurance toll: 1 billion. Then came a series of major hailstorms in Texas, Florida and Kansas. They cost insurers a combined 700 million. And two weeks after Andrew, another lethal hurricane, Iniki, smashed into Hawaii, causing 1.4 billion in damages. In all, property and casualty insurers have paid out a record 13 billion in claims so far this year, far surpassing the previous high of 7.6 billion in 1989, the year of Hurricane Hugo and California's Bay Area earthquake. Just as in that year, when those catastrophes were followed by substantial increases in insurance premiums, insurers are already lobbying for rate relief.

16. According to the passage, "Allstate Insurance" most likely refers to \_\_\_\_\_. A. one of the property and casualty insurers in the U.S. B. the only insurance company responsible for the damage claims by Andrew C. the insurance industry as a whole D. the biggest insurance company in the U.S.

17. As is stated in the second paragraph, the result of Hurricane Andrew is likely to \_\_\_\_\_. A. lead to inflation throughout the U.S. B. make the largest insurers suffer the most C. put the industry in South Florida out of action D. cause insurers with insufficient funds to go bankrupt

18. Using context clues, we may infer that "stuck with the tab" most probably means \_\_\_\_\_. A. "caught in the hurricane" B. "exposed to natural disasters" C. "trapped in



financial difficulties" D. "extremely vulnerable to further damages"

19. The end of the passage implies that, to compensate for their huge loss, the insurers will \_\_\_\_\_. A. resort to a very big increase in insurance premiums B. ask for subsidies from the federal government C. reduce their insurance coverage thereafter D. require a higher interest rate from the bank

20. The main purpose of the passage is to \_\_\_\_\_. A. show the severe damages and heavy losses caused by Hurricane Andrew B. suggest that U.S. insurers are virtually unable to cover the damage claims any more C. tell about the difficult situation faced by the insurers throughout the U.S. D. prove that disasters tend to cause ever worsening devastation as time goes on

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