

1-6: For these questions, choose the best word or expression to fill the space.

- Justinian I, also known as Justinian the Great, was a prominent Eastern Roman emperor under whose leadership and ambitions the empire ---- its borders and developed culturally and artistically.
A) applauded B) contended
C) differentiated D) enveloped
E) expanded
- New analyses confirm the world is failing to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of ---- objectives agreed to in 2015 by the United Nations, and scientists are among those calling for a reboot.
A) miserable B) flourishing
C) ambitious D) genuine
E) partial
- Amid concerns that researchers studying viruses collected from wild bats might have triggered the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Agency for International Development has ---- ended a \$125 million program aimed at identifying viruses in animals that might harm humans.
A) obsessively B) prematurely
C) accurately D) preferably
E) constantly
- Researchers completed a complex ---- that supports the idea that Saturn's jewellery – its unbelievable diamond reserves – emerged hundreds of millions of years ago, not billions.
A) alignment B) beneficiary
C) establishment D) simulation
E) distinction

- Researchers propose that placozoans, one of the simplest kinds of animals, may contain the ---- for the neurons of more complex creatures.
A) excellence B) blueprint
C) installation D) legacy
E) outrage
- By simply noticing and ---- about unwanted and unacceptable workplace behaviour, even if it is happening to someone else, you can help to change it.
A) going through B) coping with
C) speaking up D) pulling off
E) wearing out

7-16: For these questions, choose the best word(s) or expression(s) to fill the space(s).

- Climate change and the rapid evolution of mosquitos ---- drive up malaria deaths and brought dengue and other mosquito-borne viruses to places that ---- about them.
A) helped / must not have worried
B) had helped / would not have worried
C) have helped / didn't have to worry
D) were helping / aren't supposed to worry
E) help / would not have worried
- Black holes have such a powerful gravitational pull that nothing ---- upon their entry to the event horizon of the black hole, but this doesn't mean black holes ----.
A) can be retrieved / can't be seen
B) should be retrieved / wouldn't be seen
C) is supposed to be retrieved / shouldn't be seen
D) must be retrieved / couldn't be seen
E) has to be retrieved / mustn't be seen

9. Concerns ---- by disabled people regarding driverless cars usually involve safety, not being able to understand the technicalities of a driverless car and not being able to board and exit a vehicle, ---- not being able to escape from a damaged car.
- A) to mention / included
B) to have mentioned / to include
C) mentioned / including
D) having mentioned / to be included
E) mentioning / having been included
10. The key features of autism – differences in the way autistic persons think, communicate and interact ---- others – show up ---- more diverse and subtle ways than the limited examples suggested by the diagnostic criteria.
- A) of / on B) from / by
C) for / at D) away / onto
E) with / in
11. For centuries, the Hittites, who ruled ---- most of Anatolia and Syria, were ---- the most powerful empires in the ancient world.
- A) on / from B) over / among
C) in / off D) for / between
E) out of / below
12. ---- the global chocolate industry is a multibillion-dollar confection, and Africa grows 70 percent of the world's raw cocoa beans, the continent produces only 1 percent of the chocolate – missing out on a part of the business that generates the biggest returns and is dominated by American and European multinationals.
- A) Because B) Unless
C) As D) Though
E) Before
13. ---- the infectious diseases are here and seem to stay with us for a long while with new variants, long-term care operators have no other option but start administering shots to protect one of the most vulnerable populations: the elderly in the nursing homes.
- A) Until B) Just as
C) Although D) After
E) Now that
14. Parents are likely to be judged more ---- they do not fit the image of a “typical” or “good” mother or father, such as parents who are older, younger, disabled or from an ethnic minority.
- A) even though B) until
C) so that D) as long as
E) unless
15. Global warming poses multifaceted challenges that require comprehensive solutions; ---- the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions ---- the preservation of ecosystems can be overlooked in our collective efforts to combat this pressing issue.
- A) not only / but B) such / that
C) both / and D) either / or
E) neither / nor
16. Middle-income urban citizens are the ones suffering the most since the pandemic ---- stagnant wage growth in service jobs and the slow recovery of major industries, like retail.
- A) for all B) in addition to
C) as opposed to D) because of
E) contrary to

17-21: For these questions, choose the best word or expression to fill the spaces in the passage.

The continent of Australia is home to more than 250 spoken Indigenous languages and 800 dialects. (17) ----, one of its linguistic cornerstones wasn't spoken, but carved. Known as message sticks, these flat, rounded and oblong pieces of wood were etched with ornate images (18) ---- both sides that conveyed important messages and held the stories of the continent's Aboriginal people – considered the world's oldest continuous living culture. Message sticks are believed to be thousands of years old and were typically carried by messengers over long distances to (19) ---- oral histories or deliver news between Aboriginal nations or language groups. The motifs imprinted on each stick could signify news of war, death, peace, marriage and more. (20) ---- many of Australia's surviving message sticks are now encased in glass displays in places like The Australian Museum in Sydney, much of their information remains undecipherable by people today. To decode the inscriptions, it is necessary to enlist the help of Indigenous elders, who understand depictions that (21) ---- particular to a certain group, location or idea.

17.

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|------------------|--------------------|
| A) Nevertheless | B) Likewise |
| C) Thus | D) On the contrary |
| E) To illustrate | |

18.

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| A) of | B) on |
| C) out | D) amid |
| E) by | |

19.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| A) proliferate | B) reinforce |
| C) ameliorate | D) disrupt |
| E) mandate | |

20.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| A) Although | B) Because |
| C) Only when | D) Unless |
| E) When | |

21.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| A) would be | B) have to be |
| C) may be | D) must have been |
| E) were supposed to be | |

22-26: For these questions, choose the best word or expression to fill the spaces in the passage.

If you have noticed you are getting less while your bill at the till stays the same, it is not just you. 'Shrinkflation' – reducing a product's size or quantity while keeping its price stable – is **(22)** ----. As the global economy wrestles with issues including rising raw material costs, supply chain backlogs and higher post-pandemic labourer wages, consumers are bearing the brunt of frustrating production expenses. **(23)** ---- the type of the product, the practice, which mostly happens during times of inflation, is showing up in shops around the world. Recently, a French supermarket has put stickers on products to warn consumers when a packet's contents have gotten smaller **(24)** ---- a corresponding price decrease. Consumers are taking note of the shift to smaller packaging – and, naturally, they aren't happy, especially **(25)** ---- their purchasing power is already falling amid inflation. Yet as uncomfortable as the sticker shock is now, a longer-term problem looms large: past manifestations of the phenomenon show the story of shrinkflation **(26)** ---- when inflation does.

22.

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|-----------------|----------------|
| A) manipulative | B) optimistic |
| C) eccentric | D) prospective |
| E) rampant | |

23.

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|---------------|-------------------|
| A) Because of | B) Regardless of |
| C) In view of | D) With a view to |
| E) Similar to | |

24.

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|------------|-----------|
| A) beneath | B) beyond |
| C) without | D) about |
| E) into | |

25.

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| A) by the time | B) until |
| C) even though | D) as |
| E) whereas | |

26.

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|------------------|------------------------|
| A) hasn't ended | B) didn't end |
| C) wasn't ending | D) wouldn't have ended |
| E) doesn't end | |

27-36: For these questions, choose the best option to complete the given sentence.

27. ----, a nation's narrative should be facts, and it should rise or fall on its own merits.

- A) Whereas some nations claim to have dominance over a controversial region
- B) As China and other East-Asian countries try to manipulate Africa with a new anti-capitalist narrative
- C) Though every country has the right and every right to tell its story to the world
- D) Since some countries are known to use deceptive methods and sow disinformation
- E) While China is acquiring stakes in foreign newspapers and television networks

28. ----, so food supplement companies are having to work harder to convince people their products can overcome this problem.

- A) There are convincing reports claiming that liposomes enhance gastrointestinal absorption of certain vitamins
- B) There has been an explosion in nutritional supplements that promise a superior product as they contain nanoparticles called liposomes.
- C) The absorption of vitamins by our body is a complex process that needs proper attention by food supplement companies
- D) In the food supplement industry, there are a multitude of products on the market that are of poor quality or downright fake
- E) People are becoming more aware that our body is better at absorbing vitamins and other nutrients from food rather than supplements

29. While the number of strikes in the US is relatively unchanged, if not slightly lower this year, ----.

- A) the number of striking workers far outstrips prior years, due in part to unions with large membership taking to the picket line
- B) companies do have a legal obligation to negotiate with unionised workers, but they can delay bargaining with few consequences
- C) some workers are reacting to rising income inequality, especially amid soaring prices in the current flagging US economy
- C) there is a shift among US workers about what is acceptable in terms of conditions to accept, about their own worth in the workplace
- E) at the core of many of these strikes are demands for liveable wages, job security, and better working conditions

30. Over the past three decades, Venice has become one of the most notable victims of overtourism ----.

- A) because Venice's municipal authorities announced plans to fight these issues with a controversial move: charging day trippers a €5 entrance fee
- B) as the city currently welcomes an estimated 30 million visitors per year, far above the 50,000 residents that actually call it home
- C) though over tourism is putting pressure on the city's infrastructure, on top of making life unpleasant for both residents and tourists
- D) whereas the tourism explosion has increased the number of boats in the city's canals, causing waves that are eroding the foundations of Venice's centuries old buildings
- E) even if day trippers account for two thirds of all visitors and are mostly composed of large tour groups and cruise ship passengers

31. Some people experience feelings of dissociation for just a few hours or days ----.

- A) though these periods of dissociation are triggered by traumatic events from childhood
- B) since dissociation is an umbrella term that covers different types of dissociative disorders
- C) whereas others can feel disconnected for much longer – for weeks or even months
- D) as dissociative disorders lead to a range of both psychological and physical problems
- E) while others are not talked about as often as other, more common, mental health conditions

32. As online shopping has been enjoying a widespread growth, especially throughout the past few years, ---

- A) the strategies of huge retailers are far from catering to what young consumers say they want and need
- B) consumers want retailers to have the products they need in stock when they make the trip to the store
- C) shoppers aren't hungry for holistic experiences that go beyond two-dimensional images on a tiny screen
- D) brick-and-mortar stores are on the way to become a reminiscence or nostalgia for many consumers
- E) other companies are using their brick-and-mortar outposts as convenient hubs to complement their online storefronts

33. Though for much of history, women frequently died in labour – as often as one in every 100 births in the 1600s and 1700s, ----.

- A) narcotic pain reduction techniques like the epidural became common in many countries
- B) many birthing parents choose modern pain-management as the right choice for them
- C) the popularisation of 'natural' birth in particular has a long history
- D) it is generally accepted that, since each intervention has its own risks and costs, they shouldn't be done unnecessarily
- E) scientific advances including antibiotics mean that the maternal mortality rate has plummeted

34. Because orcas are highly intelligent and innovative marine mammals, ----.

- A) they get entangled in fishing gear and tragically lose their lives in pursuit of effortless feeding
- B) they are known to exploit human fisheries, which provide them with all-you-can-eat buffets worldwide
- C) a record number of orcas have died this year after snacking on fish
- D) their navigational skills are at par with those of blue and grey whales
- E) the way they hunt is no different from that of other species like dolphins

35. Although Shakespeare had achieved some measure of acclaim and financial success during his life, ----.

- A) Shakespeare's friends and admirers began to lay the groundwork for his literary immortality
- B) the "Bard of Avon" holds a place in history as one of the greatest writers to have lived
- C) writing for the stage was, at the time of his death, not yet thought of as a serious artistic pursuit
- D) he died in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon at the age of fifty-two
- E) his legacy has also evolved to keep up with changing times

36. ----, there are many false beliefs about the disorder that contribute to the serious stigma attached to it.

- A) Because schizophrenia is widely portrayed in an inaccurate manner in entertainment media
- B) Though a substantial portion of the population believes people with schizophrenia to be dangerous
- C) Although research has found that individuals with schizophrenia are seven times more likely to commit violent crimes
- D) If Schizophrenia's presentation can look very different from person to person and includes a variety of symptoms
- E) As someone who is diagnosed with schizophrenia cannot be a well-functioning member of society

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