

1. As is known to most of us, if not all, recent studies indicate that chronic stress can lead to cognitive ----, affecting memory, decision-making, and overall mental well-being.

- A) resilience
- B) impairment
- C) fluctuation
- D) enhancement
- E) acceleration

2. With cyberattacks no end in sight, many tech companies are now implementing strict cybersecurity ---- to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive user data.

- A) extractions
- B) modifications
- C) withdrawals
- D) instruments
- E) allowances

3. As cultural perceptions evolve and cultures merge, people may develop a more ---- understanding of gender identity and inclusivity in modern society.

- A) subjective
- B) pragmatic
- C) holistic
- D) hypothetical
- E) dismissive

4. The excessive use of social media can be particularly damaging to teenagers, as it ---- reinforces unrealistic beauty standards and fosters anxiety about self-image.

- A) inherently
- B) momentarily
- C) arbitrarily
- D) inadvertently
- E) selectively

5. Despite the widespread availability of information, individuals still tend to ---- misinformation if it aligns with their pre-existing beliefs.

- A) endorse
- B) refute
- C) mitigate
- D) reconsider
- E) regulate

6. Researchers are exploring how dietary choices can help ---- the progression of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's.

- A) bring about
- B) hold off
- C) account for
- D) set aside
- E) take over

7. While antibiotics ---- a crucial role in medicine, it was not until the mid-20th century that they ---- as a widespread treatment for bacterial infections.

- A) were playing / would emerge
- B) had played / were emerging
- C) have played / have emerged
- D) had been playing / emerged
- E) played / would have emerged

8. When the body's immune system malfunctions, it may start ---- healthy cells as foreign invaders, -- -- autoimmune disorders.

- A) recognizing / causing
- B) to recognize / to cause
- C) recognized / having caused
- D) to have recognized / causing
- E) recognizing / to cause

9. The Great Fire of London is believed ---- one of the most transformative disasters in British history, as it ---- to significant architectural and urban planning reforms.

- A) to have been / led
- B) being / leads
- C) having been / has led
- D) to be / would lead
- E) to be / had led

10. Amid growing concerns ---- climate change, scientists emphasize the urgent need ---- reducing carbon emissions on a global scale.

- A) over / in
- B) regarding / into
- C) onto / of
- D) about / for
- E) with / off

11. Researchers investigating the Arctic ice sheets have found that rising global temperatures are accelerating ice melt, a phenomenon that directly contributes ---- sea-level rise and indirectly impacts weather patterns ---- the world.

- A) in / on
- B) to / across
- C) with / through
- D) at / beyond
- E) for / between

12. Many scientists, regardless of their nationalities, advocate for a transition to renewable energy ---- fossil fuels continue to drive global warming and environmental degradation.

- A) because
- B) unless
- C) so that
- D) whereas
- E) as if

13. Experts argue that biodiversity loss poses a severe threat to ecosystems, ---- the intricate balance of nature depends on the presence of a diverse range of species.

- A) unless
- B) because
- C) whether
- D) even if
- E) although

14. ---- mental health awareness has improved significantly in recent years, stigma still prevents many individuals from seeking the professional help they need.

- A) While
- B) Provided that
- C) Before
- D) Since
- E) As long as

15. Climate models suggest that deforestation ---- disrupts local ecosystems, ---- contributes to global warming through increased carbon dioxide emissions.

- A) neither / nor
- B) such / that
- C) as / as
- D) not only / but also
- E) the less / the more

16. In the face of fierce competition across the globe, many developing countries struggle to balance economic growth with environmental protection, often doing so ---- their natural resources and local communities.

- A) in favour of
- B) at the expense of
- C) in contrast to
- D) as opposed to
- E) along with