I. Vocabulary (30%)

1. At the end of her life, Ms. Smith had tremendous _____ in her being and stability in her spirit, calm and happy.
   (A) visibility  (B) serenity  (C) probability  (D) dexterity

2. This scientific discovery _____ many neurologists to wonder what would happen to people who had strokes affecting the right side of their brains.
   (A) identified  (B) embarked  (C) resumed  (D) promoted

3. Everyone turned to look at John when he walked into the restaurant wearing an _____ outfit full of various colors and decorations.
   (A) outlandish  (B) insinuating  (C) unresponsive  (D) entrepreneurial

4. The implications of having truly intelligent computers are quite astounding: just imagine them building communities on the Moon and _____ solving global disputes on our own planet.
   (A) consciously  (B) effortlessly  (C) gratefully  (D) intermediate

5. The importance of preventing child abuse cannot be _____ because child abuse can cause physical handicaps and severe neurological problems.
   (A) over-emphasized  (B) over-generated  (C) over-flowed  (D) over-responded

6. Collections management is an area of specialization within the museum profession that _____ a wide range of activities, including conservation, registration, collecting and acquiring materials.
   (A) encompasses  (B) investigates  (C) reformulates  (D) differentiates

7. Language _____ refers to the ability to know the sound patterns, the word and sentence structures, and the meanings of a language.
   (A) performance  (B) proficiency  (C) competence  (D) constituency

8. Idiomatic expressions such as blow up, let off steam, and burst a blood vessel show how _____ of anger is often based on our embodied experiences.
   (A) abstraction  (B) conceptualization  (C) segmentation  (D) orientation

9. With this faith in racial justice, we’ll be able to transform this _____ discord of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.
   (A) jangling  (B) dolce  (C) congruous  (D) presumptive

10. Paris, renowned as a _____ of art and culture, is home to the Centre Georges Pompidou.
    (A) vale  (B) haven  (C) burrow  (D) burial
11. Wong Kar-wai’s *The Grand Master* is one of the best critically _______ movies of 2013.
   (A) evident  (B) sensational  (C) acclaimed  (D) cognized

12. In autumn, oak and maple and birch _______ a blaze of color that flaved and flickered across a backdrop of pines.
   (A) made up  (B) set off  (C) set up  (D) turned on

13. In November 2013, Oxford Dictionaries announced _______ as their international word of the year 2013.
   (A) selfoto  (B) selfie  (C) selfifie  (D) selfye

14. The government’s wrong policies of nuclear power would wreak _______ on its nation and lead to massive casualties.
   (A) havoc  (B) insecurity  (C) rescue  (D) construction

15. Leonardo da Vinci was a man of powerful intellect, driven by an _______ curiosity and haunted by a vision of artistic perfection.
   (A) insatiable  (B) unfavorable  (C) impalpable  (D) unreliable

II. Cloze Test  (20%)

**Passage 1**

The most fundamental classification that has resulted from research on memory is the distinction between episodic memory and semantic or categorical memory. The first type comprises memories for particular experiences, (16) _______ a view of the Grand Canyon at sunset or a bout of seasickness. In instances of this sort, one’s impression is that memory constitutes an image, somewhat faded and fragmented, of the original experience. An individual’s collection of episodic memories is of importance in (17) _______ the foundation for his ability to recognize the almost innumerable scenes, objects, and people that he has encountered in the past.

(18) _______, these memories are relatively unorganized: the constituent elements cannot be called up readily on command. Semantic memory is (19) _______ episodic memory. When called upon to use the word “red,” one does not remember the particular circumstances in which this word was first encountered or previously used, (20) _______ one recalls the meaning of the word. In order to read a newspaper, or to carry on a conversation, one must be able to summon up many semantic or categorical memories at an extremely high speed. This kind of performance is possible only because semantic or categorical memories are organized into a system that permits efficient retrieval.

16. (A) such as  (B) as much as  (C) so as to  (D) as long as

17. (A) lying  (B) being lied  (C) laying  (D) being laid

18. (A) In short  (B) After all  (C) Therefore  (D) However

19. (A) similar to  (B) different from  (C) related to  (D) made from

20. (A) and how  (B) but rather  (C) and then  (D) but why
Passage 2

Happiness does not appear to be associated with age, gender, race, or geographical location. (21)______, it is related to self-satisfaction. Researchers have found that happy people tend to be energetic, decisive, flexible, creative, and sociable and tend to look at the brighter side of life, and are more willing to help those in need. (22)______, happy people have high self-esteem and a sense of personal control, are optimistic, and enjoy social support—that is, they have a large circle of friends and often engage in rewarding social activities. An important (23)______ affecting happiness is the tendency to compare one’s situation with that of other people. If you feel that you are struggling to (24)______, while everyone around you appears to be living in comfort and security, you will feel less joy and more stress. Indeed, surveys have shown that perceived wealth matters more than absolute wealth. As David G. Myers, a leader of the field of happiness research, points out, “actual income doesn’t much influence happiness; how satisfied we are with our income does. If we’re content with our income, (25)______, how much it is, we’re likely to say we’re happy.” To put it another way, “satisfaction isn’t so much getting what you want as wanting what you have.”

21. (A) Consequently  (B) Instead  (C) Nevertheless  (D) Likewise
22. (A) Afterwards  (B) Similarly  (C) Otherwise  (D) Furthermore
23. (A) format  (B) factor  (C) fortune  (D) faction
24. (A) make ends meet  (B) cut both ways  (C) bite your tongue  (D) hold a grudge
25. (A) by means of  (B) regardless of  (C) in terms of  (D) on behalf of

IV. Reading Comprehension (20%)

Passage 1

English Ivy betrays its poor reputation as a nuisance by its unparalleled ability to provide shade. By seamlessly covering the exterior of a building, it works as a natural insulator, blocking the sun and decreasing air conditioning costs. This means big savings for both building tenants and homeowners alike. And it can happen quickly, too. Under the proper conditions, established English Ivy can grow to cover an area of roughly 500 square feet per year. Given that most homes have a roof measuring roughly 2000 square feet, ivy-friendly homeowners can rest assured that their roofs will be completely covered in about four years. When considering growth rates of newly planted ivy, just remember the old adage: First year, it sleeps. Second year, it creeps. Third year, it leaps! For English Ivy, this is especially true. Now, detractors may take this opportunity to remind readers about how invasive English Ivy can be. For what ivy enthusiast hasn’t been cautioned about its ability to burrow holes, fracture windows, and even deteriorate brick? But be warned. Oftentimes, this suggestion is taken to the comical extreme. Naysayers take a strange pleasure in spinning yarns about a particularly malevolent strand of ivy—one that slips in through the cracks on a hot summer night, silently strangling homeowners in their sleep. Admittedly, this can be a funny story to tell. But are we to believe such a tale? The intelligent gardener will quickly dismiss such rubbish for what it is.
26. The primary purpose of the passage is to ________.
   (A) highlight the reasons why English Ivy’s fast growth rate is beneficial
   (B) argue that English Ivy is an essential plant for homeowners
   (C) educate readers about how to use English Ivy to insulate their homes
   (D) defend the reputation of English Ivy

27. Which of the following is the best definition for “betrays”?  
   (A) gives away  
   (B) contradicts  
   (C) reveals  
   (D) highlights

28. Which of the following is the best antonym for “malevolent”?  
   (A) wary  
   (B) sensitive  
   (C) virtuous  
   (D) injured

29. This passage would most likely be found ________.
   (A) in a scholarly journal about botany  
   (B) in a magazine article about gardening  
   (C) in a letter from one gardener to another  
   (D) on a blog identifying different types of plants

30. The author’s tone can best be described as ________.
   (A) passionate  
   (B) defensive  
   (C) argumentative  
   (D) persuasive

Passage 2
Influential Norwegian painter Edvard Munch is best known for his dark, emotional images. Born in 1863, Munch was raised by his father alone as his mother died young. A severe man, Munch’s father instilled in his son a strong fear of going to hell. This fear stayed with the artist throughout his life. Munch used thick brushes and deep colors to depict his state of mind. His work was so dark that some even question whether Munch suffered from serious mental illness. His most famous painting, The Scream (1893), portrays a lone figure on a bridge, crying out in anguish. Much of Munch’s life was covered by a gloomy shadow of sickness and misery due to his unhappy childhood. It was in this state of anxiety and repression that he was inspired to paint The Scream. In his discussion of this image, he recalled the “blood-red” sunset he saw as he was out walking and the fear he felt running through his body. These strong emotions certainly come through and impose a similar feeling on the viewer. This painting
has become a cultural icon that many non-experts are familiar with. It has been stolen twice, most recently, in August 2004, with another Munch painting. Combined, the two paintings are worth an estimated $100 million. A little over two years to the date of their theft, police recovered both pieces. The paintings only had minor damage. In comparison, the thieves responsible received four-and eight-year sentences behind bars.

31. According to the article, what was a major impact on Munch’s work?
   (A) His early failure in the art world.
   (B) His father’s suppressing education.
   (C) His fear of going to hell with his father.
   (D) The treatment he received for his mental illness.

32. What does “gloomy” mean?
   (A) dismal    (B) disappointing   (C) delightful    (D) grumpy

33. Which of the following is NOT true about The Scream?
   (A) It is a valuable painting.
   (B) The thieves are still at large.
   (C) It’s internationally renowned.
   (D) It’s influenced by the artist’s inner fear.

34. What does “behind bars” refer to?
   (A) behind the scene    (B) behind windows   (C) in a pub    (D) in jail

35. Munch’s early life was filled with ________.
   (A) motherly love
   (B) his passion for God
   (C) fear and sadness
   (D) triumphant learning experience about art

V. Composition (30%)

Write a 300-word essay on how to enjoy doing nothing.