Conversation Comprehension

Read the conversations below and choose the correct answers. (50%, 2 points/each)

I. How Was Last Weekend?
Dave: What's up? How was last weekend? Where were you?
Betty: It wasn't that exciting. I just went to an amusement park on Saturday.
Dave: Oh, yeah? That sounds exciting.
Betty: Well, I wanted to go on some cool rides, but it wasn't to be.
Dave: Why? What happened?
Betty: The amusement park only had rides for small children. It was pretty boring.
Dave: Was Kenny with you at the amusement park?
Betty: No, not Kenny. I went with his brother Lenny.
Dave: What? Did you break up with Kenny?
Betty: No, not yet. I was angry with Kenny so I went with his brother Lenny instead. I just wanted to make Kenny jealous.
Dave: Really? Did it work?
Betty: Not at all. He wasn't even a bit nervous. He knows I think Lenny is boring.
Dave: Yeah, Lenny is kind of a loser. I know how you can teach Kenny a lesson. Go out with me this Saturday. We'll have a great time!
Betty: I'm surprised at you, Dave. I always thought you were shy.
Dave: I guess you didn't understand the true me.
Betty: OK then, let's do it. Just tell me the time and place, and I'll be there.

1. Did Betty enjoy her weekend?
   a. No, she felt it wasn't boring.
   b. No, she felt it wasn't exciting.
   c. Yes, she felt it was exciting.

2. What did Betty do last weekend?
   a. She went to an amusement park.
   b. She went to dinner with Dave.
   c. She went to see her brother Lenny.
3. How did Betty think the rides were?
   a. She thought they were funny.
   b. She thought they were small.
   c. She thought they were boring.

4. Who did Betty go to the amusement park with?
   a. Lenny     b. Kenny     c. Dave

5. How did Kenny make Betty feel?
   a. Happy     b. Angry     c. Proud

6. Betty wanted Kenny to feel . . .
   a. pleased.   b. nervous.  c. jealous.

7. Who does Betty think is boring?
   a. Kenny     b. Lenny     c. Dave

8. What did Betty think about Dave before?
   a. He was very boring.
   b. He was very jealous.
   c. He was very shy.

9. How did Kenny respond to Betty's going out with Lenny?

II. We're from Japan
T&Y = Taki & Yuki
Tim: Hi, I'm Tim, from America.
Yuki: Hi, Tim. I'm Yuki. And this is my friend Taki. We're from Japan.
Taki: Nice to meet you.
Tim: And you too, Taki. I guessed you are both from Japan.
Yuki: Really? How do you know?
Tim: Because you both have black hair and brown eyes.
Taki: Ha-ha! Yes, it's true. And we guessed you're American, because . . .
Tim: I'm chubby, right? Yeah, we do love our food in the States.
Yuki: Who's the girl we see you with? She has long, curly hair and blue eyes.
Tim: Oh, that's my girlfriend, Jessica. She's also from the States.
Yuki: Really? She doesn't look American.
Taki: She looks too thin.
Tim: Well, she likes her food, too. But she only eats salad.
T&Y: Ha-ha!

10. Where is Jessica from?
    a. Japan     b. The States     c. Canada
11. Who is a little fat?
   a. Jessica  b. Yuki  c. Tim

12. Who looks the same?
   a. Yuki and Taki  b. Tim and Yuki  c. Jessica and Tim

13. Who is from America?
   a. Just Jessica  b. Just Tim  c. Both Tim and Jessica

14. Who has blue eyes?
   a. Jessica  b. Taki  c. Yuki

15. Who likes salad?
   a. Yuki  b. Jessica  c. Tim

16. What is Jessica’s hair like?
   a. Straight  b. Long  c. Long and straight

17. What do Yuki and Taki think about Americans?
   a. They are thin.  b. They are short.  c. They are chubby.

III. What’s Your Star Sign?
James: Hello, I’m James. The teacher told me I’m one of your partners for the research project. Nice to meet you.
Cherry: Hi, I’m Cherry. It’s a pleasure to meet you. Welcome to the group.
James: Thanks. What’s your major?
Cherry: My major is marketing. You?
James: I’m a physics major. Just out of curiosity, what’s your star sign?
Cherry: I’m a Leo. My younger brother says that’s why I’m so outgoing.
James: They do say that about Leos.
Cherry: I think star signs are interesting. But I need to focus on this project because I’m really struggling.
James: Well, maybe I can help you after class.
Cherry: Wow, thanks! I really appreciate it, James. Where do you want to meet?
James: We can meet at the school library if that’s convenient for you. Where do you live?
Cherry: I live in the dorm, so that works for me. It’s only about a 15-minute walk.
James: Great. If you have time after we’re done studying, why don’t we get a bite to eat and see a movie?
Cherry: Whoa! Slow down. I’m just looking for a partner, not a date.

18. What’s James’ major?
   a. Star signs  b. Marketing  c. Physics
19. What does the teacher tell James?
   a. James and Cherry will study the stars together.
   b. James and Cherry will work together on a project.
   c. James and Cherry will have the same major.

20. Why does Cherry need James' help?
   a. She is making an effort on this course.
   b. Her major is not actually physics.
   c. She is very interested in marketing.

21. What does James want to do after they study?
   a. Go to dinner and see a movie with Cherry
   b. Get a drink and watch TV with Cherry
   c. Go to the library and have coffee with Cherry

22. Where does Cherry live?
   a. In a large house on the school campus
   b. In a building where many students live
   c. In her parents' home near the school

23. Where will Cherry and James meet?
   a. The school library
   b. A convenience store
   c. Cherry's dorm

24. What is Cherry looking for?
   a. Someone to watch movies with her
   b. Someone to help with her studies
   c. Someone to be her boyfriend

25. Why does James ask Cherry what her star sign is?
   a. Because she's a marketing major.
   b. Someone tells him to ask her.
   c. He has a desire to know.

Reading Comprehension (50%, 2 points/each)

I. Read the article below and choose the correct answers.

A Healthy Leisure Activity

Some popular leisure activities in Taiwan are not good for your health. Surfing the Internet and playing online games are two examples. But one activity has got more and more people outside. Thanks to cycling, they are exercising and enjoying the open road.

Cycling was first introduced in the 19th century. It has now become popular all around the world. This is mostly because of the health benefits and low costs. Going cycling is a great
way to keep healthy. It’s the kind of exercise that can easily fit into your schedule. You can do it on the way to work or school.

In Taiwan, cycling has become much safer and more convenient. Bike lanes have been built in many counties and cities. Some allow people to cycle next to rivers and across parks. Taiwan has become a nation of cyclists.

So, if you want a healthy and fun leisure activity, get on your bike!

26. What is the main idea of the article?
   a. Cyclists can ride their bikes in bike lanes.
   b. Going cycling in Taiwan isn’t a popular activity.
   c. Cycling is a healthy and fun leisure activity.

27. What does the author say about surfing the Internet and playing online games?
   a. They are good for your health.
   b. They are good samples.
   c. They are not good for you.

28. What has cycling helped people to do?
   a. Get outside
   b. Exercise
   c. Both of the above

29. Based on the article, in which year could cycling have been introduced?
   a. 1717
   b. 1917
   c. 1817

30. Why is cycling a convenient kind of exercise in Taiwan?
   a. There are so many kinds of bikes now.
   b. There are now many bike lanes available.
   c. There aren’t so many rivers and parks now.

II. Read the article below and choose the correct answers.

What “Color” Are You?

Before you can express yourself well, you need to know yourself. What situations make you nervous or shy? Are you bored with day-to-day life, or do you wake up excited each morning?

Many people learn about what makes them happy or sad by taking online personality tests. One well-known test is the Color Code Personality Test.

During the test, the user answers questions such as “Do you think people are jealous of you because you are happy?” or “Are you afraid of not having a career plan?” Afterwards, the computer program groups the user into one of four colors—red, blue, white, and yellow. People who are “reds” want power, “blues” want romance, “whites” want peace, and “yellows” want fun.
People might not be proud of the results—they might even make the users a little angry. But most people who take the test are pleased to get an honest opinion about themselves. Are you interested in this test? Surf the Internet now!

31. Based on the article, how do many people learn to know themselves?
   a. By taking personality tests online
   b. By answering questions from friends
   c. By making themselves happy every day

32. What kind of personality test does the article talk about?
   a. A Dress Code Personality Test
   b. A Color Code Personality Test
   c. A User Code Personality Test

33. Which color is NOT included in the personality test?
   a. Green
   b. Blue
   c. White

34. What do people who belong to "yellows" want?
   a. Peace
   b. Power
   c. Fun

35. After people find out the results, how do they feel about them?
   a. They are pleased to get an honest opinion.
   b. They are not angry about the results at all.
   c. They are very proud of the results they get.

III. Read the article below and choose the correct answers.

*Night Time Is the Right Time for Great Food!*

Ask visitors to Taiwan what they like the most and they will probably answer, "The food!"

And where can some of Taiwan’s tastiest dishes be found? The night market.

By early evening, night markets are full of people looking for great food at a cheap price. They’re not usually disappointed. For under a couple hundred NT, you can enjoy a wide variety of dishes.

Taiwanese night markets offer some very interesting foods that you may not have had before. Pig blood cakes and oyster thin noodles are popular. And Taiwan is famous for its beef noodle soup.

If you’re brave, there’s one special dish you should try at the night market. What’s the name of this dish? It’s called stinky tofu. Don’t worry. It tastes much better than it smells.

No matter who you are, there’s always something special waiting for you at the night market. The people are loud and friendly. The items for sale are cheap. Best of all, the food is great. The only thing that isn’t good about the night market is we have to wait until evening before we can enjoy it.
36. What is the main idea of the article?
   a. Taiwanese night markets are full of loud shoppers.
   b. Beef noodle soup is one of the most famous dishes in Taiwan.
   c. Taiwanese night markets offer tasty and cheap dishes.

37. What do people like the most about Taiwan?
   a. The night markets
   b. The food
   c. The sales

38. Why do people go to night markets?
   a. To make some money
   b. To be disappointed
   c. For the cheap food

39. According to the article, what food is Taiwan famous for?
   a. Stinky tofu
   b. Beef noodle soup
   c. Pig blood cakes

40. The only thing that is NOT good about the night market is ______.
   a. the foods are too expensive
   b. the service is slow and bad
   c. it’s not open in the daytime

IV. Read the article below and choose the correct answers.

*Online Shopping Catches On*

As technology gets better, more and more people are connecting to the Internet to shop online. Shopping online is usually quicker and often costs less money. People value their time and money, so it’s not surprising that customers are changing their ways.

One popular kind of shopping site is the Internet auction. Here, people can buy and sell almost anything, including clothes and accessories, like jeans, shirts, pants, earrings, and necklaces. There are even cars, books, computers, and homes for sale. At first, these sites were used by people hoping to sell off unwanted items.

Now, those same sellers have become businesspeople. They use Internet auctions to make a living. Some of them are growing rich from their online stores.

Internet auctions are very popular among university students. As well as using the sites for bargain hunting, some run their own online retail or wholesale businesses after class. Art students use Internet auctions as a way to present their own work to the public and view the latest trends in the field. Everyone can benefit from online shopping!
41. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a reason for online shopping becoming more popular?
   a. The Japanese are running it.
   b. Online shopping is cheaper.
   c. Technology is really improving.

42. Who suits Internet shopping?
   a. Everyone  
   b. Hunters 
   c. Senior citizens

43. What do businesspeople use Internet auctions for?
   a. To meet people 
   b. To sell things 
   c. To earn money

44. What were Internet auction sites first used for?
   a. To sell clothes and accessories 
   b. To sell second-hand items 
   c. To buy and sell currency

45. What is another suitable title for this article?
   a. Businesspeople Moving to the US 
   b. Art Students Everywhere 
   c. Shopping Online Takes Off

V. Read the notice below and choose the correct answers.

ABC Sports Camp!

Dear Students,

Welcome to this year's ABC Sports Camp. We hope you're as excited as we are about the activities planned. First, we're sorry to tell you that, for safety reasons, this afternoon's boating excursion has been cancelled. But the good news is we're offering skydiving instead. For those who like being up in the air, we also have hang gliding, which we'll be doing tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon, after playing baseball in the morning.

On Monday morning, we'll be heading into the mountains for some skiing. We'll stay there for ice-skating that afternoon. Some of you signed up for figure skating, which you can do at the same time. For those of you who still have the energy, there will be a basketball game after dinner.

We're still planning the schedule, but you can look forward to some jogging, cycling, and bowling.

Have fun!

Eric White
Sports Camp Director
46. What activity will take place instead of boating?

47. What will take place on Sunday afternoon?

48. When will they play baseball?
   a. On Saturday morning
   b. On Sunday afternoon
   c. On Sunday morning

49. When is figure skating scheduled?
   a. For Monday morning
   b. Later in the week
   c. For Monday afternoon

50. Who, if anyone, will play basketball?
   a. Those who have eaten their dinner are invited to play.
   b. Anyone who isn't tired can play in the basketball game.
   c. Anybody who hasn't signed up for figure skating can join.