I. **Vocabulary and Grammar: Choose the best answer to each question (42%)**

1. The advertising agent, after putting up with a low salary for three years, tried to convince his boss that he was worth a ____________.
   (A) rise  (B) raise  (C) arouse  (D) lift

2. The prices of goods have steadily ________ over the last several years.
   (A) rise  (B) raised  (C) rose  (D) risen

3. The board of directors finally ________ to the terms of the contract.
   (A) accepted  (B) announced  (C) discussed  (D) agreed

4. Mr. Long has just opened a new business and is in the process of _____ his first advertising campaign.
   (A) launching  (B) demonstrating  (C) generating  (D) performing

5. Professor Huang needs a teaching assistant to ________ him with the conference display.
   (A) assume  (B) assign  (C) assent  (D) assist

6. It’s necessary for Mr. Smith to _______ the costs by tonight.
   (A) final    (B) finalize    (C) finally    (D) finality

7. Ms. Duck was responsible for collecting and ________ the data for negotiation.
   (A) organize  (B) organizing  (C) organization  (D) organized

8. Mr. Lee is very concerned _____ the upcoming board of directors meeting.
   (A) to    (B) about    (C) at    (D) on

9. Please _______ to our brochure for a list of products.
   (A) Have referred  (B) refer  (C) to refer  (D) will refer

10. _____ terms of quality and service, the Excellence Company far surpasses the competition.
    (A) In    (B) From    (C) By    (D) With

11. I used to __________ widely around the world.
    (A) travel  (B) traveling  (C) traveled  (D) to travel

12. His credit card was canceled because his monthly payments are several months ________.
    (A) due  (B) overdue  (C) update  (D) overpaid

13. We are looking forward _______ Johnson again soon.
    (A) to seeing  (B) to see  (C) seeing  (D) see

14. I enjoy _________ a walk whenever I have some free time.
    (A) take  (B) taking  (C) to take  (D) to have taken

15. Some companies are willing to _____ business on the Internet.
    (A) do  (B) make  (C) take  (D) work

16. The audience is ________ not to see cellular phones during the performance.
    (A) obliged  (B) requested  (C) realized  (D) recommended

17. If you have any questions about our products, ________ Michael, the sales manager.
    (A) notify  (B) connect  (C) confirm  (D) contact

18. Please submit the report to the lawyer’s office at your earliest ________.
(A) moment     (B) time     (C) convenience     (D) times
19. Golf fans ______ the world want to watch Tiger Woods play on TV.
   (A) within     (B) around     (C) round     (D) in
20. The company has a total ______ of 1000 dollars for the Christmas party.
   (A) money     (B) budget     (C) level     (D) stack
21. The food at this restaurant is ______! I will definitely come back!
   (A) fantastic     (B) beauty     (C) badly     (D) overeating

II. Reading Comprehension (58%)

Questions 22-24 refer to the following announcement

Good afternoon, everyone. I’m afraid we’re going to be very busy this afternoon, but before we get started, I would just like to make short announcement about the new sick leave policy. As of the first of the month, if any employee is absent for 3 days or more, you must provide a doctor’s note on your return to work. If you are sick for less than three days, you don’t need a doctor’s note but your manager or supervisor must be informed as soon as possible. There is a maximum of 9 sick days per employee per year except in exceptional circumstances.

22. What is the purpose of this announcement?
   (A) To note changed sick leave policy
   (B) To let employee know a new timetable
   (C) To announce a doctor’s office to be open
   (D) To give a warning to new employees

23. When do employees need a doctor’s note?
   (A) When they are absent for 1 day
   (B) When they are absent for 2 days
   (C) When they are absent for 4 days
   (D) It is not necessary to provide a doctor’s note

24. When do employees NOT need a doctor’s note?
   (A) When they are absent for 3 days
   (B) When they are absent for 3 days or more
   (C) When they are absent for less than 3 days
   (D) When they are absent for 7 days
Questions 25-27 refer to the following announcement.

If you follow me, we will begin our tour at the front door of the main building. This is the employees’ entrance. There is a key pad, and you’ll be supplied with an ID card to open the door. Deliveries go around to the back of the building. Smokers are not to be seen smoking out here. Instead, there is an outdoor smoking area near the rear entrance you can use. So, just inside the door is reception, and the elevators and stairs are to the left. You’ll be based mostly on the third floor. Payroll and personnel are on the fifth floor, and the cafeteria is on the 6th floor.

25. Who is this announcement being given to?
   (A) Smokers  (B) Receptionists  (C) New employees  (D) Trainers

26. Where will the people be working usually?
   (A) On the third floor    (B) On the fifth floor
   (C) On the sixth floor    (D) Just inside the door

27. Where can employees smoke?
   (A) At the rear entrance  (B) At the front door
   (C) At the back of the building  (D) On the 6th floor

Questions 28-30 refer to the following announcement.

I’m afraid we are going to be very busy over the next two weeks due to the run-up to Christmas. Opening hours will be extended from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for busy shoppers. Over the next two weeks, there’ll be no holidays, and everyone is expected to work very hard. All overtime will be paid at twice the usual rate for the duration of the holiday season. Also, as soon as possible, we need to make a list of the people who can work during the January sales.

28. Who is this announcement intended for?
   (A) Receptionists  (B) Employees  (C) Shoppers  (D) Trainers

29. Why will the company be very busy in the coming period?
   (A) Because many employees will be on holiday
   (B) Because many employees are on sick leave
   (C) Because it is a Christmas holiday
   (D) Because new opening hours are arranged

30. When was this announcement probably made?
   (A) December  (B) October  (C) November  (D) January

Questions 31-40 refer to the following reading
The Giant of the Sea

The blue whale is the largest animal on Earth, possibly the largest animal in the entire history of Earth. They can be up to 33 meters (110 feet) in length, with the female being larger than the male. This is equivalent in size to about three double-decker buses. Fifty humans can stand in a blue whale's mouth and its heart is the size of a small car. Its aorta is about 23 centimeters (9 inches) in diameter. The blue whale was given its Latin name Balaenoptera musculus in 1758 by Carolus Linnaeus. Linnaeus was the father of modern taxonomy, or the naming of animals. He was also known to have a sense of humor and by naming the giant of the sea musculus (little mouse) he was making a humorous play on words.

The blue whale can weigh over 99,800 kilograms (100 tons). Females are larger than males and can weigh as much as 150 tons. On land, any animals the size of the blue whale would be crushed by its own weight without the support of large, heavy bones. Because the blue whale’s body is supported by water, the need for heavy bones doesn’t exist. Most of the whale’s weight comes from it’s blubber.

The blue whale has a long, tapering body--longer and proportionately thinner than other stockier whales. Their head is flat and U-shaped and has a prominent ridge that runs from the blowhole to the top of the upper lips. There are 60 to 90 throat grooves which allow the entire throat area to expand tremendously during feeding. This expansion allows the blue whale to take in tons of water filled with its primary source of food, very tiny shrimp-like creatures called "krill." The blue whale eats the small krill because its throat is very narrow and it can only swallow an object the size of a beach ball. Once the whale takes in the krill and water, it closes its mouth, trapping the krill inside on it tongue, which is the size of an elephant. The water is then expelled through the 300 baleen plates that hang from the whale's upper jaw. In this way, the blue whale eats up to 40 million krill a day. This is an extremely efficient system that enables the largest animal in the world to feed on some of the smallest animals in the world.

Blue whales are mammals, and therefore their babies are nursed with their mother's milk. During the first seven months of life a blue whale calf drinks approximately 400 liters (100 gallons) of milk every day. When they are first born, calves weigh up to 2,700 kilograms (6000 pounds)--that's about the same as a full-grown hippopotamus. They continue to grow and gain weight very quickly, as much as 90 kilograms (200 pounds) a day, or 8 pounds an hour. Calves are weaned for about six months and at the end of that period they have doubled in length.

Male blue whales reach sexual maturity at about ten or twelve years. At this time males are at least 20 meters long. Females reach sexual maturity at five years and are about 21 meters long. They are truly the giants of the sea.
31. What is the main topic of the passage?
   A. mammals  C. blue whales
   B. Earth history  D. Carolus Linnaeus

32. How big is the blue whale's heart?
   A. the size of a small car  C. the size of 50 humans
   B. 33 meters  D. 23 centimeters in diameter

33. How much does the adult male blue whale weigh?
   A. 100 kilograms  C. 99,800 pounds
   B. 150 kilograms  D. 6000 pounds

34. Why are throat grooves important?
   A. the blue whale has a long, tapering body
   B. they help them swim fast
   C. they allow the throat to expand
   D. they help to expel water

35. How much krill does the adult whale eat every day?
   A. 150 tons  C. 400 liters
   B. 300 pounds  D. 40 million

36. Which statement is a fact?
   A. blue whales are beautiful animals
   B. blue whales are very large animals
   C. blue whales are the most interesting animal in the world
   D. the blue whale's Latin name is funny

37. Which statement is an opinion?
   A. blue whales are very heavy
   B. blue whales have U-shaped heads
   C. blue whales don't need heavy bones
   D. blue whales are amazing animals

38. Which statement is an opinion?
   A. blue whale calves probably grow the fastest of any animal
   B. blue whale calves drink 100 gallons of milk a day
   C. blue whale calves can grow 8 pounds an hour
   D. blue whale calves are weaned for about 6 months

39. Which statement is an opinion?
   A. blue whales are the best swimmers in the sea
   B. the blue whale's body is supported by water
   C. blue whales take water into their mouths when they eat
   D. blue whales are about the same length as three double-decker buses

40. Which statement is a fact?
   A. blue whales love the taste of krill
   B. blue whales eat about 40 million krill a day
C. blue whales have the most efficient way to eat of any animal in the world
D. watching blue whales eat is a little scary

Questions 41-50 refer to the following reading

_The Pursuit of Happiness--Movie Review_

_The Pursuit of Happiness_ is based on the real-life experiences of the main character Chris Gardner. The movie is a modern retelling of the American Dream--that every person has the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Gardner (played by Will Smith) is trying to make a living selling medical machines. He's down on his luck and living out the old saying that "if anything bad can happen, it will." His machines are stolen, his wife gets fed up and leaves, but through it all Chris remains determined to do two things--keep his son Christopher (played by Will Smith's real-life son, Jaden Smith) with him and get out of poverty. [A]

Chris's lucky break comes when he has a short conversation with the owner of a flashy sports car. What's the key to his success? The guy works for a big financial company and he tells Chris, "All you need is to be good at numbers and get along with people." Chris decides that's the job for him. He sees an ad in the window of a well-known investment firm and finally gets an unpaid six-month position as an intern, with the promise of a "real" job if he's successful. [B]

But the problem is that he has almost no money to live on. He and his son together confront every imaginable obstacle, including homelessness and hunger. The low point is the night they spend huddled on the floor of a men's room in the San Francisco subway. The movie does a great job of conveying the unpleasant reality of Chris's situation, life on the streets, and in the homeless shelters. The relationship between father and son shines through the film, and Smith's son Jaden is totally convincing in the role. [C]

The movie is well titled as a "pursuit" because Smith's character is always running after things, hard and fast. You wonder why he doesn't collapse! He runs after the woman who steals his machine, he runs away from a furious taxi driver when he doesn't have the money for the fare, and he runs to countless things on the job. This and the endless bad luck and series of setbacks become almost tedious to the viewer. After all, there's no real suspense in the movie. Everyone knows that he's going to get the job in the end. This makes it challenging for the moviemakers to keep up the interest in the story. [D] But it's still a good story, well acted by Will Smith and his son--a good movie for the whole family. I give it three stars out of five. ***
41. The *Pursuit of Happiness* is based on ____.
   (A) the life of Will Smith
   (B) a novel by Chris Gardner
   (C) a true story
   (D) a book called "The American Dream"

42. The expression *gets fed up* in paragraph 1 means that Chris's wife ____.
   (A) eats too much
   (B) gets very upset
   (C) is very hungry
   (D) is satisfied with the situation

43. At the beginning of the movie Chris ____.
   (A) is making a good living selling medical machines
   (B) is working for a financial company
   (C) has stopped trying to make his life better
   (D) is having a lot of bad luck

44. From reading the article, you can guess that a job as an *intern* is ____.
   (A) a beginning job with a low salary
   (B) a training position with no salary
   (C) a job in a hospital
   (D) a temporary job while someone is on vacation

45. Which of these things is NOT mentioned as a problem for Chris and his son?
   (A) Having someone steal their money
   (B) Being hungry
   (C) Sleeping in the subway bathroom
   (D) Sleeping in places for homeless people

46. Where does the following sentence best fit in the text? *As Christopher, he conveys all the complex emotions of a boy who is suddenly without a real home.*
   (A) In the place marked [A]
   (B) In the place marked [B]
   (C) In the place marked [C]
   (D) In the place marked [D]
47. Which of these does the review mention as a positive feature of the movie?
   (A) The acting of Will Smith's son
   (B) The realism of the scenes on the streets
   (C) Both A and B
   (D) Neither A nor B

48. Which of these is mentioned as a negative feature of the movie?
   (A) Will Smith's acting
   (B) The relationship between Chris and his son
   (C) The story is unrealistic
   (D) There isn't enough suspense

49. In paragraph 4, what does this refer to in the phrase *This and the endless bad luck ...?*
   (A) Not paying the taxi driver
   (B) All of the running the main character does
   (C) The machine that is stolen
   (D) The job Chris is trying to get

50. Why does the reviewer give the movie three stars?
    (A) Because he thinks it has more good points than weaknesses
    (B) Because he thinks it isn't a very good movie
    (C) Because it's a movie that will only appeal to children
    (D) Because he thinks it's an excellent movie