I. Vocabulary

1. One of my coworkers always _____ the work others do. He's not very popular!
   (A) compliments    (B) values       (C) criticizes     (D) witnesses

2. That building isn't strong enough to ______ a major storm.
   (A) withstand      (B) transcend      (C) approach     (D) grasp

3. Don't let the extra work ______ you. Just focus on one piece at a time.
   (A) overlap        (B) overwhelm     (C) overachieve   (D) oversee

4. The musician was _____ by the severe criticism of his performance.
   (A) captured      (B) crushed        (C) applauded     (D) accomplished

5. We've been working on the problem for hours without a break. It's _____ all the energy I had out of me.
   (A) entertaining    (B) energizing     (C) consuming     (D) brushing

6. They're ______ to accept his offer for their house. It's a lot less than they wanted.
   (A) reluctant      (B) willing         (C) surprised     (D) incredible

7. They met at the newsstand on the way to work. It was just a ______.
   (A) fantasy        (B) romance       (C) hallucination   (D) coincidence

8. For a friendship to last long you have realize that everyone is _____; don't expect too much from others.
   (A) opinionated    (B) tempted       (C) imperfect       (D) convincing

9. Ugh! I _____ put salt in my coffee instead of sugar!
   (A) shockingly     (B) unfortunately    (C) accidentally    (D) originally

10. I don't understand the reason for the _____ of lotteries. You're almost certain to lose.
    (A) practicality     (B) popularity      (C) certainty     (D) possibility

11. Getting approval for the project is a _______ process. It involves many different people and procedures.
    (A) complex      (B) compact      (C) comprehended    (D) compatible

12. Many college students are online game _______.
    (A) attendants    (B) stereotypes     (C) addicts    (D) allures

13. Do you think that putting alarms on the windows will improve the _____ of your home?    (A) guard       (B) anxiety        (C) security      (D) property

14. The laptop computer market is so ______ that we need to figure out effective selling strategies.
    (A) competent      (B) competition      (C) competing     (D) competitive

15. The houses nearest to the beach are the most _____ to damage from the hurricane.
    (A) valuable      (B) vulnerable        (C) valid        (D) vacant

16. The scientist is ______ the research of the remedy to the rare disease.
    (A) obliged to      (B) motivated to     (C) reserved to     (D) dedicated to

17. What we do next will be ______ by the results of the experiment.
18. He has natural______ for learning languages. He speaks Chinese, English, and French.  
(A) aptitude    (B) altitude    (C) appetite    (D) attitude

19. Dolphins are _______ animals. They have a language and can recognize themselves in a mirror.  
(A) extraordinary    (B) distinguishable    (C) considerable    (D) conceptual

20. The picture _______ each step of the process for putting the bike together.  
(A) interrupts    (B) inherits    (C) illustrates    (D) inspects

II. Cloze

In China, red is the color for marriage because it __(21)__ good luck, wealth and celebration. During Lunar New Year, people __(22)__ their homes with red lanterns and spring couplets that have wishes of happiness and __(23)__. In Asia, yellow is worn by high-ranking people because of its __(24)__. In the West, white is seen as a __(25)__.  

21. (A) reproduces    (B) represents    (C) rebounds    (D) recycles

22. (A) accelerate    (B) decorate    (C) celebrate    (D) moderate

23. (A) prosperity    (B) liability    (C) individuality    (D) reality

24. (A) association    (B) negotiation    (C) population    (D) nomination

25. (A) signature    (B) sign    (C) symbol    (D) synthesis

An earthquake can __(26)__ at any time, so you should remember the following steps in order to keep safe. __(27)__ you must realize that the most important thing is to __(28)__ calm. Second, drop down to the ground, find a firm desk or table to hide __(29)__ if possible. Afterwards, __(30)__ your neck and head with your arms.

26. (A) offend    (B) occur    (C) orient    (D) oblige

27. (A) In conclusion    (B) Later on    (C) In general    (D) To begin with

28. (A) resist    (B) rebuild    (C) remodel    (D) remain

29. (A) under    (B) above    (C) from    (D) inside

30. (A) balance    (B) strengthen    (C) cover    (D) temperate

Experts say cherries can help __(31)__ the risk of heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer. Cherries also __(32)__ melatonin which can prevent memory loss and delay the __(33)__ process. Coffee can give your brain a __(34)__ in the morning, but don’t drink too much. High levels of caffeine will have the opposite __(35)__.

31. (A) reduces    (B) reducing    (C) reduced    (D) reduce

32. (A) maintain    (B) sustain    (C) remain    (D) contain

33. (A) age    (B) ages    (C) aging    (D) aged
34. (A) strike  (B) kick  (C) shot  (D) chemical
35. (A) affect  (B) effect  (C) affection  (D) effectives

III. Reading Comprehension:
Most teachers and parents have always assumed that hunger has a negative effect on learning. A study of elementary school children in Pittsburgh found that children who come to school without breakfast find it difficult to concentrate and have more behavior problems than children who do eat breakfast. A study in Minnesota schools showed that children who ate breakfast had higher test scores and fewer visits to the school nurse. It was not aptitude that they lacked, but food! However, a recent report from the Yale Medical School shows that some degree of hunger may actually improve brain function.

Scientists performed an experiment with two groups of mice. They made one group feel hungry by injecting the mice with a hormone (a chemical produced by the body) called ghrelin. Ghrelin is produced in the stomach when it is empty. It sends a chemical message to the brain that tells an animal that it is hungry. Both mice and humans produce ghrelin. The other group was the control group, and the mice in this group were not hungry. The scientists gave all of the mice a series of "mouse" intelligence tests. They found that the hungry mice performed better than the control group.

The reason for this may have something to do with the hormone ghrelin. Studies have shown that, in addition to telling us we're hungry, ghrelin also stimulates an area of the brain known as the hippocampus. This is the area associated with memory and learning. In other words, being a little hungry stimulates the brain and might help us remember more and learn things more easily. For animals, this might mean that hunger would give them the extra intelligence and concentration they need when hunting for food.

Of course, humans are not mice. The impact of these findings for humans cannot be determined without more research. For now scientists would certainly not advise students to skip breakfast completely on school days. However, a light breakfast before leaving for school might be better than a large meal. Before an exam, a big plate of spaghetti is probably not a good idea. It would be better to go into the exam a little hungry and bring a couple of small snacks.

36. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?
(A) The Importance of Eating Breakfast
(B) How to Concentrate
(C) Memory and Learning
(D) Hungry Intelligence

37. What is this article mainly about?
   (A) The need for school breakfast programs
   (B) Variations in the intelligence of mice
   (C) The link between a hunger hormone and intelligence
   (D) The effect of hunger on the behavior of school children

38. What have teachers always assumed about children?
   (A) They learn better if they are a little hungry.
   (B) They often have behavior problems.
   (C) They can't learn if they are hungry.
   (D) They don't need to eat a good breakfast.

39. Where were the studies on ghrelin done?
   (A) Pittsburgh elementary school
   (B) Yale Medical School
   (C) A school in Minnesota
   (D) The article doesn't say.

40. Which of these statements about ghrelin is true?
   (A) It is produced in an empty stomach.
   (B) It is produced in the brain.
   (C) It is produced in the stomach after a meal.
   (D) It is a kind of medicine.

41. What is the hippocampus?
   (A) part of the stomach
   (B) a kind of mouse
   (C) a hormone
   (D) part of the brain

42. In wild animals, ghrelin might help them _____.
   (A) gain weight
   (B) get better test scores in the lab
   (C) be better at finding food
   (D) become stronger

43. The word skip in paragraph 4 means _____.
   (A) hop on one foot
   (B) omit or not do something
   (C) remember to do something
   (D) forget to do something

44. What would scientists recommend based on the experiment?
   (A) Eating a small meal before an exam
   (B) Not eating any breakfast
   (C) Eating a big breakfast before going to school
45. What would researchers probably say about applying these results to humans?
(A) People should change their eating habits immediately.
(B) They are confident this information will solve many problems.
(C) These results don't have any applications for humans.
(D) They need to learn more about ghrelin in humans first.

46. How can you compare the study at Yale with the earlier studies?
(A) The findings show differences with regard to hunger.
(B) The findings are exactly the same in both studies.
(C) The results of the earlier studies are clearly wrong.
(D) The two studies have nothing in common.

47. According to this passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?
(A) Animals also have intelligence for performing some actions.
(B) Being hungry may not be a bad thing for some animals when hunting for food.
(C) A light breakfast is better than a big meal for breakfast.
(D) Children lack aptitude for school because of hunger.

48. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **stimulates**?
(A) inspires  (B) advises  (C) passes  (D) appeals

49. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **associated with**?
(A) on account of  (B) relied on  (C) connected to  (D) dominated by

50. Which of the following is closest in meaning to **impact**?
(A) character  (B) influence  (C) awareness  (D) quality