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SET 1

TASK 1

Read the text. For questions 1–5, choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Circle the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D).

MORE THAN JUST A NICE VIEW

Living in a city does not necessarily mean being completely cut off from nature. Trees lining a street or vegetation visible from a window may influence how people feel, particularly during periods of considerable stress. Previous research has repeatedly **1.** _____ to a connection between exposure to natural environments and improved emotional well-being. A study conducted in Shanghai during the Covid-19 lockdown examined this relationship more closely. Researchers **2.** _____ into account both the type of natural features residents could see and their distance from them. The results suggest that nearby vegetation may be particularly effective at reducing negative emotions. However, not all forms of nature **3.** _____ the same influence on people's feelings. This means that simply measuring the total amount of greenery in an area may **4.** _____ short of explaining how residents actually experience their surroundings. The findings could influence future urban planning. **5.** _____ treating green spaces merely as decorative additions, planners may need to consider where vegetation is located and whether residents can actually see it from their homes.

Adapted from: <https://www.science.org>

1. A indicated 1. B pointed 1. C directed 1. D made	2. A brought 2. B held 2. C put 2. D took	3. A exercised 3. B exerted 3. C imposed 3. D produced
4. A fall 4. B come 4. C run 4. D go	5. A Except for 5. B In spite of 5. C As regards 5. D Rather than	

TASK 2

Read the text. For questions 1–4, use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits the gap. The text must be logical and correct in both grammar and spelling. Write the missing word in the space provided.

A DIFFERENT STORY OF LIFE ON LAND

For decades, scientists assumed that the earliest four-legged vertebrates developed in a way broadly comparable to modern amphibians. Their young were thought to have passed through an aquatic, tadpole-like stage before gradually acquiring adult features. Yet exceptionally rare fossils from the Mazon Creek site near Chicago have provided evidence that makes this apparently straightforward interpretation increasingly **1.** _____ (QUESTION). Researchers examined juvenile embolomeres, crocodile-like creatures that lived approximately 300 million years ago. The specimens displayed adult-like

proportions even at a very early stage of development. The **2.** _____ (ABSENT) of features normally associated with an aquatic larval stage suggests that at least some early vertebrates may have developed directly into miniature versions of adults. The findings are particularly significant because fossilised remains of very young animals are extremely uncommon. Researchers therefore warn against the **3.** _____ (GENERAL) of developmental patterns observed in a limited number of species. What appears typical today may not necessarily reflect the enormous diversity of life in the distant past. According to the researchers, the fossils could lead to a **4.** _____ (ASSESS) of long-standing ideas about the transition of vertebrates from water to land.

Adapted from: <https://www.livescience.com>

TASK 3

For questions 1–5, complete the second sentence so that it is as similar in meaning as possible to the first sentence and it is correct in both grammar and spelling. Use the word given. Do not change the word given.
Use up to six words including the word given.

1. I didn't realise how much the journey would cost until I started planning it.

DAWNED

1. It _____ expensive the journey would be when I started planning it.

2. The committee will not tolerate any further delays in completing the project.

PUT

2. The committee _____ any further delays in completing the project.

3. Perhaps Emma didn't realise that the documents were confidential.

AWARE

3. Emma _____ that the documents were confidential.

4. Immediately after the announcement was made, journalists started asking questions.

SOONER

4. No _____ than journalists started asking questions.

5. Tom says he didn't mean to criticise the way the event was organised.

INTENTION

5. Tom says he _____ the way the event was organised.

SET 2

TASK 1

Read the text. For questions 1–5, choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Circle the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D).

CAN YOUR DREAMS SOLVE A PROBLEM?

The advice to “sleep on” a difficult problem may have more scientific basis than we realise. Researchers have investigated whether dreams can help people find creative solutions to problems they were unable to solve while awake. In one experiment, volunteers attempted a series of puzzles before going to sleep. Each puzzle **1.** _____ with a particular musical cue. Once participants entered REM sleep, researchers played some of these sounds in an attempt to bring the corresponding problems back to mind. The technique appeared to **2.** _____. Participants were more likely to solve a puzzle the following morning if it had featured in their dreams. The researchers therefore **3.** _____ the possibility that dreaming allows the brain to form associations that might not occur during conscious thought. The findings should, however, **4.** _____ with caution. The study was relatively small, and scientists cannot yet be certain that dreaming itself was responsible for the improvement. **5.** _____, the experiment offers an intriguing glimpse into how the sleeping brain may continue working on problems long after we have stopped consciously thinking about them.

Adapted from: <https://www.livescience.com>

1. A would have been paired 1. B would be paired 1. C has been paired 1. D was paired	2. A break out 2. B pay off 2. C come through 2. D turn to	3. A put forward 3. B brought about 3. C set out 3. D brought forward
4. A have treated 4. B be treating 4. C be treated 4. D have been treating	5. A Even then 5. B As such 5. C Even though 5. D Even so	

TASK 2

Read the text. For questions 1–4, use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits the gap. The text must be logical and correct in both grammar and spelling. Write the missing word in the space provided.

MEMORY OUTSIDE THE LAB

For decades, laboratory studies have suggested that people's ability to recall detailed personal experiences gradually declines with age. Older adults typically provide fewer specific details than younger participants when asked by researchers to describe events from their past. However, recent studies indicate that this apparent decline may have been somewhat **1.** _____ (STATE). Researchers decided to examine autobiographical memory outside the controlled environment of a laboratory. When older adults described experiences in more

natural, everyday circumstances, their accounts proved considerably richer than previous experiments had led scientists to expect. This raises questions about the **2.** _____ (RELY) of conclusions based exclusively on traditional laboratory tasks. One possible explanation is that formal testing conditions influence not only what people remember but also their **3.** _____ (WILL) to provide extensive personal detail. Everyday conversations may offer contextual clues and a sense of purpose that conventional experiments cannot easily reproduce. The findings do not suggest that age-related changes in memory are **4.** _____ (EXIST). Rather, they demonstrate how strongly the method used to measure a cognitive ability can shape researchers' understanding of it.

Adapted from: <https://www.sciencenews.org>

TASK 3

For questions 1–5, complete the second sentence so that it is as similar in meaning as possible to the first sentence and it is correct in both grammar and spelling. Use the word given. Do not change the word given.
Use up to six words including the word given.

1. I'm sure Lucy didn't tell anyone about our conversation.

CAN'T

1. Lucy _____ our conversation.

2. The company decided to postpone the launch of the new product until September.

PUT

2. The company decided to _____ until September.

3. I only understood why Jack had reacted like that when he explained what had happened.

DID

3. Only when Jack explained what had happened _____ reacted like that.

4. Sarah is determined to finish the course despite all the difficulties she has experienced.

MATTER

4. Sarah is determined to finish the course _____ experienced.

5. The bad weather prevented us from reaching the top of the mountain.

FOR

5.If _____ weather, we would have reached the top of the mountain.

SET 3

TASK 1

Read the text. For questions 1–5, choose the word or phrase which fits best in each gap. Circle the appropriate letter (A, B, C or D).

WALK YOUR WAY TO A BETTER IDEA

When struggling with a difficult problem, you might be better off leaving your desk and going for a walk. Researchers have found that walking can have a surprisingly positive effect on creative thinking. In a series of experiments, participants were asked to complete tasks **1.** _____ measure their ability to generate original ideas. Some remained seated, while others walked either indoors or outside. Those who walked generally performed better, and the improvement did not appear to depend on being outdoors. **2.** _____ the findings particularly interesting is that the benefits continued for a short time after participants had sat down again. Researchers have **3.** _____ establish precisely why walking has this effect, although increased blood flow and changes in attention have been suggested as possible explanations. Walking does not, **4.** _____, appear to improve every kind of thinking. Tasks requiring a single correct answer may not benefit in the same way. **5.** _____ a problem requiring an original solution, though, getting up and moving around might be worth a try.

Adapted from: <https://www.stanford.edu>

1. A intended for 1. B devised for 1. C aimed to 1. D designed to	2. A That makes 2. B Which made 2. C What making 2. D What makes	3. A yet to 3. B ever to 3. C already to 3. D still to
4. A indeed 4. B however 4. C furthermore 4. D within	5. A Confronting with 5. B Faced with 5. C Encountered with 5. D Subjected to	

TASK 2

Read the text. For questions 1–4, use the word given in brackets to form a word that fits the gap. The text must be logical and correct in both grammar and spelling. Write the missing word in the space provided.

TRACES LEFT ON CAVE WALLS

Prehistoric cave paintings offer remarkable insights into the lives of early humans, yet identifying the individuals responsible for creating them has remained extremely difficult. Scientists have now recovered ancient human DNA from cave walls for the first time, opening up the **1.** _____ (PRECEDENT) possibility of establishing a closer connection between prehistoric art and the people who once occupied these sites. Researchers collected more