CONCOURS AVENIR – 8 MAI 2016

NOM : ..............................................................................

PRENOM : ...........................................................................

NUMERO APB : .................................................................

Concours Avenir

EPREUVE
D’ANGLAIS

DUREE : 30mn
Coefficient 3

CONSIGNES SPECIFIQUES

Lire attentivement les consignes afin de vous placer dans les meilleures conditions de réussite de cette épreuve. Vous devez traiter la totalité des 45 questions afin d'obtenir la note maximale.

Aucun brouillon n’est distribué.
L’usage de la calculatrice ou de tout autre appareil électronique est interdit.
Aucun document autre que ce sujet et sa grille réponse n’est autorisé.

Attention, il ne s’agit pas d’un examen mais bien d’un concours qui aboutit à un classement.
Si vous trouvez le sujet « difficile », ne vous arrêtez pas en cours de composition, n’abandonnez pas, restez concentré(e). Les autres candidats rencontrent probablement les mêmes difficultés que vous !

Barème :
Une seule réponse exacte par question. Afin d’éliminer les stratégies de réponses au hasard, chaque réponse exacte est gratifiée de 3 points, tandis que chaque réponse fausse est pénalisée par le retrait d’1 point.
Part I- GRAMMAR

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentences and put the corresponding letter on the answer sheet.

1. It is essential to stay focused during this test, and try not __________ too many mistakes.
   a. to do               b. doing               c. to make               d. making

2. Our next door neighbor, who’s usually shy, is being very friendly this morning and __________ a big party tonight for all his friends.
   a. is been having     b. is having            c. has                   d. has had

3. The Presidential candidate ___________ wins the election will be sworn in next month.
   a. which              b. of which            c. who                   d. to whom

4. Setting up a new business involves __________ a lot of time in preparing for the launch.
   a. to spend           b. to be spent         c. spending              d. spent

5. If I weren’t studying Engineering, I __________ Architecture.
   a. should study       b. might have study     c. had been studying     d. would be studying

6. Some people are used __________ told what to do.
   a. to being           b. to be               c. of been               d. of being

7. I wish I __________ that. My boss didn’t take it lightly at all.
   a. wouldn’t say       b. would have said     c. haven’t said          d. hadn’t said

8. The aftermath of the attack is that, passengers are now advised ___________ their belongings with them at all times.
   a. to keep            b. to mind             c. keeping               d. minding

9. If you __________ the time to have breakfast, you wouldn’t be starving now.
   a. would have taken   b. have taken          c. had taken             d. didn’t take

10. As the meeting was taking so long to end, we stopped ___________ lunch in between.
    a. having             b. for having          c. to have               d. for have

11. The Hewiths made us __________ our shoes before entering their living room.
    a. to take off        b. take off            c. taking of             d. took off

12. Under the circumstances, the management decided that there was nothing else to save the company __________ to call a general strike.
    a. despite            b. apart               c. except                d. besides

13. Last week, a group of British railway companies __________ a 48 hour session on board a train.
    a. have held          b. has held            c. are holding           d. held
14. May I ask if Ms Mohammed __________ some assistance during the TOEFL test?
   a. is needing    b. will be needing    c. will have needed    d. is to need

15. Electors on __________ side of the political spectrum are accusing each other of ineptitude in dealing with the country’s crucial issue.
   a. any    b. both    c. either    d. neither

16. You’re no longer a baby! You __________ to be able to look after yourself by now.
   a. should    b. must    c. can    d. ought

17. __________ someone please tell me how to download a film legally?

18. You can’t carry all this luggage! I’ll get someone to __________ for you.
   a. do    b. do these    c. do it    d. do so

19. I was delighted __________ the good news about your scholarship.
   a. hearing    b. to hear    c. to have heard    d. to heard

20. Any member who is interested __________ coming to our annual Christmas dinner should contact Remy, the club’s social secretary.
   a. by    b. on    c. in    d. for

Part II – VOCABULARY

21. In case you __________ a tough question, skip it and move onto the next one.
   a. come across    b. ran into    c. come into    d. run across

22. The president, has enjoyed a spectacular __________ bounce since the terrorist attacks on November 13th.
   a. poll    b. survey    c. policy    d. appraisal

23. Article submissions for the TESOL Colloquium must be submitted at least three weeks __________ to the conference.
   a. before    b. prior    c. early    d. ahead

24. The kitchen renovation project had been postponed indefinitely due to a __________ of funds.
   a. misfortune    b. budget    c. surplus    d. lack

25. My daughter __________ that her best friend, Nathalie now lives in Istanbul.
   a. mentioned    b. persuaded    c. told    d. reminded

26. Putting on a little extra weight during the wintertime is __________, especially after the Christmas holiday.
   a. unavoidable    b. unaffordable    c. unachievable    d. evitably

27. In a recent paper, we investigated the impact of __________ to renewable sources of energy.
   a. subsidiary    b. bursaries    c. grant    d. subsidies
28. Pricing greenhouse-gas emissions should be given priority to__________the negative side effects of green subsidies on the energy mix.
   a. evite    b. avoid    c. enable    d. shake

29. Are we now slaves to algorithm? More and more of modern life is__________by algorithms.
   a. stirred    b. steered    c. shunned    d. shuffled

30. Most people can’t afford to buy a flat in the centre of London unless they take out a (an) ____________.
    a. mortgage    b. credit    c. overdraft    d. borrow

31. I am writing to__________ your whole team, for the service you provided yesterday.
    a. commend    b. request    c. admonish    d. suggest

32. The purpose of this test is to assess your level and gauge the__________of your knowledge.
    a. amount    b. quantity    c. extent    d. capacity

33. David Cameron claims that Corbyn’s migration__________would make Calais more of a magnet.
    a. modality    b. polarity    c. politic    d. policy

34. The__________that pie is exactly equal to 3 can be discredited simply by careful measurement.
    a. say    b. claim    c. mention    d. knowledge

35. As the photocopier has just broken down, I’m afraid we’ll have to__________the vocabulary test until next week.
    a. give up    b. set up    c. call off    d. put off
E-bikes are popular in China and Europe, and a greener alternative to cars for transportation, but Americans remain wary of bicycles with motors and batteries.

When Larry Pizzi, a veteran bicycle industry executive, first heard about electric bikes nearly 20 years ago, he asked: “Why would anyone want to screw up a bike by putting a motor and batteries on it?”

It’s a question that still puzzles traditionalists. Bicycle shops have been slow to stock e-bikes, even though they have been around since the late 1990s. Sales in the US have been modest.

Pizzi, who is now CEO of Currie Technologies, the US’s No 1 seller of e-bikes, believes that’s about to change. Others in the industry agree. Familiar brands including Trek, Raleigh and Specialized all offer electric models, and they’re betting the market is about to take off. “We’re on the cusp of mainstream adoption,” Pizzi said. “There are more players entering the category, it seems, with every passing month.”

The US is an outlier when it comes to electric bikes. Nearly 32m e-bikes were sold last year, the vast majority in China, where they are primarily used for transportation, according to Navigant Research. They are popular in much of Europe, too. They’re common in the Netherlands and Switzerland; German postal workers use them to get around.

Electric bikes are different from motorcycles or mopeds, which rely on motorized power; they are bicycles that can be pedaled with – or without – an assist from an electric motor. Riding an e-bike feels like riding a conventional bike with a brisk tailwind; the motor helps you go faster or climb hills, but it’s typically not the primary source of propulsion. Unlike mopeds, e-bicycles are usually permitted on bike paths, and they can’t travel faster than 20 mph.

There’s debate about how many electric bikes are sold in the US, and no official count. Estimates of annual sales range from about 50,000 to 175,000. That’s comparable to the number of electric cars sold in the US – 118,000 in 2014. Yet while many people are aware of the Nissan Leaf, Chevy Volt and Tesla, few have heard of e-bike companies Currie, Pedego or ElectroBike.

To succeed, the electric bike business in the US must clear legal, cultural and financial hurdles. E-bikes are banned in some states, including New York, although the law isn’t strictly enforced. Traditionalists who own and staff bike shops don’t like putting motors on bicycles, citing among other things the added weight. Some e-bikes are close to 60 pounds.

E-bikes are also pricey. While low-end models sell for as little as $700, Court Rye, the founder and editor of ElectricBikeReview.com, a popular website, says riders should expect to pay at least $1,500 for a quality e-bike with a good battery. Top-of-the-line models cost more than twice that.

The companies that make and sell e-bikes say they can overcome those obstacles. E-bike technology, particularly the batteries, is improving. “They are getting smaller, they’re getting lighter, they’re getting more reliable and they are lasting longer,” says Don DiCostanza, the founder and CEO of Pedego, an electric bikemaker and retailer.

Companies like Bosch, the German electronics giant, and the Shimano, the leading manufacturer of bicycle gears, are entering the business, which should help erode resistance from bike shops. “This has really caught the attention and the imagination of bicycle dealers,” says Currie’s Larry Pizzi. Pedego and startup ElectroBike aren’t waiting for the shops to come around; they are building their own stores. Meantime, lobbying efforts are underway to permit the use of e-bikes everywhere.

Perhaps most important: as more cities build cycling infrastructure including dedicated bike lanes, bicycle commuting has become more popular. As the US Census Bureau reported last year, the number of bike commuters grew from about 488,000 in 2000 to 786,000 in 2012. That’s a “larger percentage increase than that of any other commuting mode”, the report notes. Electric bikes make commuting more practical – and fun – by easing worry about hills, headwinds, fatigue and sweat.

Most of our customers are “aging baby boomers who want to rekindle the experience they had as a kid”, says Pedego’s Don DiCostanza. “The main reason they stopped riding bikes was because of hills.” Pedego has opened nearly 60 stores in the US, and it has sold bikes to tour companies in San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Accell, a public company based in the Netherlands that is Europe’s market leader in e-bikes, has become more popular. As the US Census Bureau reported last year, the number of bike commuters grew from about 488,000 in 2000 to 786,000 in 2012. That’s a “larger percentage increase than that of any other commuting mode”, the report notes. Electric bikes make commuting more practical – and fun – by easing worry about hills, headwinds, fatigue and sweat.

Startups like Pedego and ElectroBike will have to compete with big companies like Trek and Currie, which in 2012 was acquired by the Accell Group, a public company based in the Netherlands which is Europe’s market leader in e-bikes. Accell owns the Raleigh brand as well as Haibike, an award-winning German electric bike.

“Accell has great expectations about e-bikes in North America,” Currie’s Larry Pizzi says. “While baby boomers are still a very important segment, we’re finding that a lot of younger people are using e-bikes for transportation, instead of cars.”

Accell’s Yuba brand even sells a cargo bike with a stronger motor and rear rack. “You can carry two children,” says Pizzi. “You can carry 100lb of groceries. It’s a minivan alternative.”

From The Guardian.co.uk
by Marc Gunther
5 May 2015
Comprehension

36. The word ‘wary’ in the subtitle could best be replaced by
   a. enthusiastic
   b. fearless
   c. careful
   d. delighted

37. Where are they often used?
   a. In the US and China
   b. In China and Europe
   c. In just the Netherlands and Switzerland
   d. In China and Germany.

38. The word screw up in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to
   a. make something into a smaller shape by squeezing it
   b. to close them tightly with a screw
   c. to make a serious mistake or spoil something
   d. prepare mentally for doing something difficult

39. What technological improvements are being made to the latest e-bikes?
   a. the batteries have been enhanced
   b. the engines are faster
   c. the technologies are becoming more unreliable
   d. the mechanic used last longer than before

40. The pronoun ‘they’ in line 3 of paragraph 9 refers to
   a. The technologies
   b. Batteries
   c. E-bikes
   d. The companies

41. What are the disadvantages of e-bikes compared to conventional bikes?
   a. They are not lightweight
   b. They are not as expensive as conventional bikes
   c. They are cheaper and heavy
   d. They are not as popular as they should be

42. What word ‘outlier’ in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to
   a. better than the others
   b. provide to others
   c. different from others
   d. exponent
43. Who is a typical e-bike customer in the US and why?
   a. all those who like to cycle
   b. those people born just after the Second World War
   c. those who don’t like to cycle and can’t manage the hills anymore
   d. younger people who might be using them for transportation

44. How much does a Top-of-the-line e-bike cost in the US?
   a. about $700
   b. less than $1,500
   c. around $1,500
   d. about $3,000

45. What benefits does ElectroBike want to promote with e-bikes?
   a. allow people to get to work without sweat and fatigue
   b. promote a healthy lifestyle and increase traffic
   c. ride this once and try not to smile
   d. cut down the amount of CO2 that is produced as well as decrease traffic

FIN