UNIVERSITA’ DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO

Prova di ammissione al corso di laurea in

LINGUE MODERNE

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Saving for a rainy day

Come on, Norway; this isn’t even a competition anymore! For the last eight years, Norway has registered the highest quality of life among the world’s nations. It is one of the wealthiest countries in the world – only Luxembourg and a couple of others are richer. Norwegians can also expect to get a good education, find the job they want – unemployment is only 2.5 per cent – enjoy good health and live a long life. People say the prisons are quite comfortable too!

Norway has not always been a rich country. Just 80 years ago Norwegians were emigrating to the USA in their thousands in search of a better life. The rise in oil prices in the 1970s changed all that. But Norway’s success is not only the result of its huge reserves of oil. Other countries have had such riches and squandered them. It is also due to the Norwegians’ natural thrift and their strong work ethic.

When you arrive in Oslo for the first time, don’t expect to be met with Dubai-style skyscrapers, entrepreneurs in designer suits and rows of Ferraris and Porsches. Norway may be rich, but it is modest in its wealth. Norwegians also work hard and are always near the top in surveys of global worker productivity rates. But in today’s high-tech world where work seems to follow us wherever we go, the people of Norway are redefining what wealth means. Laws just recently passed by the government emphasise the importance of family and time off, offering generous maternity and paternity leave, subsidised childcare and long holidays as well.

Also, the country is saving for the future. Every dollar earned from oil is put straight into what is now the world’s biggest pension fund – worth over $200 billion. Extraordinarily, none of this money is allowed to be spent on state infrastructure projects. It is not even invested in new schools and hospitals. But at a time when most other countries are wondering how they will finance the pensions of a growing retired population, Norway is sitting pretty.

01. The author of the article

A) sings the praises of Norway.  
B) depicts Norway as consciously competing with other countries.  
C) shows how resources guarantee a good education.  
D) highlights the relationship between monetary wealth and leave.

Risposta corretta: A

02. The excerpt points out

A) that the turning point occurred in the last third of the twentieth century.  
B) that Norway discovered crude oil in the 1970s.  
C) how the discovery of oil put an end to emigration.  
D) that huge price increases kept the 80 year-olds at home.

Risposta corretta: A

03. According to the article, which of the following statements is true?

A) Two renowned Norwegian characteristics are embodied in good money management and in great commitment in the workplace.  
B) Scandinavians take full advantage of long holidays.  
C) Young Norwegian fathers are treated in exactly the same way as mothers.  
D) People would prefer money to be diverted to infrastructures.

Risposta corretta: A

04. In the wealth-oriented image of Norway described by the author

A) the government considers social spending to be crucial.  
B) car-purchasing in Oslo is prestige-induced.  
C) the local population does not wish to spend too much money on cars.  
D) they have not started building Dubai-style skyscrapers yet.

Risposta corretta: A

05. According to the article, which of the following statements is true?

A) Norway has already provided for the ageing.  
B) Few countries wonder where they will find financing for pensions.  
C) Norway’s sole concern is pensions.  
D) Thrift is always on the average Norwegian’s mind.

Risposta corretta: A
On a more facetious note,

A) it is generally held that Norwegian prisons are in keeping with other standards in the country.
B) going to prison in Norway is a pleasure.
C) prisoners seek comfort in jail.
D) people cannot wait to get old in Scandinavia.

What does the word squandered mean in this context?

A) Wasted.
B) Invested.
C) Diversified.
D) Hoarded.

On arrival in Norway, people encounter

A) the low-key profile of the capital.
B) an anti-international atmosphere.
C) a homely aspect.
D) a reminder of the country's not so well-off past.

The Scandinavian country in question

A) is in the top five wealthiest countries in the world.
B) used its wealth to reduce unemployment.
C) is made pretty by its all-round success.
D) boasts a quality of life almost comparable to Luxembourg's.

The importance of high technology

A) is a determining factor in the work field.
B) has always been at the basis of Norwegian progress.
C) encourages Norway to assist other countries.
D) is totally ignored by Norway.

The Epsom Derby - The oldest and perhaps the most famous horse race in the world.

Talk about sport in any language, and sooner or later you'll find yourself using English words. The British were the first people to write down standard rules for a lot of sports, even in sports like tennis which was invented by the French, or golf which was probably played in Holland before becoming a national sport in Scotland. As the rules of lots of different sports spread all over the world, so did the language of sport. In the horse racing world, words like groom and lad and steeplechase spread to other countries; so too did the word "Derby". The word came to mean an important race, usually involving horses. One of the most famous horse races in Ireland is called the Irish Sweepstakes Derby, and one of the most famous American races is called the Kentucky Derby; and the word is used for other sports too, for important matches between two rival teams. In England, the "Manchester Derby" is a football match between Manchester United and Manchester City. But where did this word come from? Why a "Derby"?

Just like "Rugby", "Derby" (pronounced "Darby") is the name of a town in the middle of England; it is also the name of England's most famous horse race, The Derby. But the Derby is not run in the town of Derby, of course! That would be too simple!

Today the Derby has the reputation of being the world's most famous classic horse race. It is certainly the oldest and one of the biggest. Some years, over 600 horses are entered for the race; however only about 25 of them will actually take part in the great race on Derby day at the beginning of June.

It is said that the race was born during a dinner party in the year 1779, at the house of a nobleman, the Earl of Derby, near Epsom, a quiet village about 20 miles to the west of London. Like most aristocrats of the day, the earl loved horse-
racing, and the open hilltops near his house were an excellent place for his jockeys to test their skills and speed against challengers. After the dinner party, the earl's friends decided to organise a big race for three-year old horses, and in respect for their host, they called it "the Derby".

The Derby was one of the first sporting events to be shown on television. In 1932, long before public TV broadcasts began, the race was shown on closed circuit television to a select audience in the Metropole Cinema, in London. Then, in 1946, it was one of the first sports events to be broadcast on BBC television.

Today, the Derby is watched on TV by millions of people all over Britain, and in other countries too, thanks to satellite communications.

11. The author of the article underlines that
   
   A) one language reigns supreme in sports terminology.
   B) the French, the Dutch and Scots have contributed to the specific language of sports terminology.
   C) the British invented the rules for almost all sports.
   D) the Manchester derby has become the most important.

Risposta corretta: A

12. In the excerpt we learn of
   
   A) a reduction in the number of competitors on the way to the final race.
   B) a British desire to excel in a range of sports.
   C) the Dutch national sport.
   D) the rules of various sports.

Risposta corretta: A

13. According to the article, which of the following statements is true?
   
   A) A particular English town is mentioned without any explanation of its relevance.
   B) Americans could not wait to adopt the British term for their own context.
   C) The actual name for the race in question was chosen at random.
   D) Considerable detail is devoted to two English towns, the respective names of which are used in sport.

Risposta corretta: A

14. After the party described by the author
   
   A) the race was named after an aristocrat.
   B) the BBC were the first to show the race.
   C) Derby was located just west of London.
   D) Derby insisted on giving his name to the race.

Risposta corretta: A

15. The article shows that in the early days
   
   A) the Earl of Derby’s jockeys had an opportunity to compete with others.
   B) race enthusiasts went to Derby’s house every year.
   C) the BBC took over the role of the Metropole.
   D) the races took place in the countryside 20 miles from Epsom.

Risposta corretta: A

16. According to the author, the showing of The Derby
   
   A) was not a BBC exclusive.
   B) started in 1946.
   C) was encouraged in cinemas.
   D) dates back to 1779.

Risposta corretta: A

17. What does the word groom mean in this context?
   
   A) Someone who looks after an animal.
   B) Manservant.
   C) Officer.
   D) Man on his wedding day.
18. The author of the article hints at
   A) an apparently illogical explanation of the term "Derby".
   B) the link between the town of Derby and the race.
   C) a British tendency to try and confuse foreigners.
   D) how all aristocrats love horse-racing.
   Risposta corretta: A

19. The excerpt shows that a certain Irish race
   A) draws inspiration from the race in Epsom.
   B) preceded the Kentucky counterpart.
   C) highlights the importance of Irish beef.
   D) derives from the Kentucky Derby.
   Risposta corretta: A

20. According to the information contained in the article, which is true?
   A) The British have not kept the viewing of the race to themselves.
   B) Investment has been made to spread viewing of the race to other countries.
   C) There is not much interest in horse-racing on a worldwide scale.
   D) The Derby has been evolved to satisfy internationally.
   Risposta corretta: A

COMPETENZA GRAMMATICALE [21-50]
Scegliete la risposta corretta fra le quattro opzioni (A - D).

21. I wish I _____________ the job they offered me. Now I’ll have to work on Saturdays.
   A) hadn’t accepted  
   B) didn’t accept  
   C) wouldn’t have accepted  
   D) wouldn’t accept
   Risposta corretta: A

22. No matter _____________, we will solve it.
   A) how difficult the problem is  
   B) how difficult is the problem  
   C) if the problem results difficult  
   D) what is the difficult problem
   Risposta corretta: A

23. When my parents bought the house on the beach, _____________.
   A) I hadn’t been born yet  
   B) I hadn’t born already  
   C) I had already born  
   D) I wasn’t already born
   Risposta corretta: A

24. _____________ any difficulties, please let us know.
   A) Should you come across  
   B) If you should go into  
   C) In case you come before  
   D) If you will find
   Risposta corretta: A

25. I _____________ when I was younger.
A) used to go skiing  
B) used to skiing  
C) used to go to ski  
D) was used to ski  

Risposta corretta: A

26. There must be equality of rights for all citizens, ___________ nationality.

A) regardless of  
B) independent from  
C) independently of the  
D) no matter

Risposta corretta: A

27. ______________ was the colour of her hair.

A) What surprised me  
B) That surprised me  
C) The thing that surprised to me  
D) The thing surprised to me

Risposta corretta: A

28. ______________ it be OK if I left ______________ early today?

A) Would – a bit  
B) Can – a little more  
C) May – away  
D) Should – a while

Risposta corretta: A

29. He was extremely reckless and could __________ in that car accident.

A) have killed himself  
B) had died  
C) have killed  
D) murder himself

Risposta corretta: A

30. The more chocolates he ate, __________.

A) the fatter he became.  
B) more weight he put on.  
C) the fattest did he become.  
D) even fatter he was.

Risposta corretta: A

31. She __________ open that window.

A) told us not to  
B) told to us to not  
C) said to us don’t  
D) told us we don’t

Risposta corretta: A

32. - Is it OK if I use your computer?  
- ______________, i keep a lot of confidential information on it.

A) I’d rather you didn’t  
B) I’d rather you hadn’t  
C) I’d rather you don’t  
D) I’d rather that not
33. She married him _________ she didn’t love him.
   A) even though
   B) in spite of
   C) despite
   D) however

Risposta corretta: A

34. J.K. Rowling, ___________ Harry Potter novels were enormously popular, worked as a secretary before ___________ a brilliant novelist.
   A) whose – becoming
   B) the whose – to become
   C) which – to have become
   D) the which – she become

Risposta corretta: A

35. How do you ___________ the noise of the traffic outside your bedroom window?
   A) put up with
   B) stand up with
   C) put in for
   D) come up with

Risposta corretta: A

36. They don’t _______________ photos inside the museum.
   A) let tourists take
   B) let tourists to make
   C) permit the tourists to do
   D) allow the tourists doing

Risposta corretta: A

37. You didn’t ___________ me that the clocks changed yesterday, so now I’m going to be late for work.
   A) remind
   B) remember to
   C) advise to
   D) tell to

Risposta corretta: A

38. Would you mind ___________ the TV? I can’t concentrate with that noise!
   A) if I turn off
   B) to close off
   C) that I put off
   D) putting out

Risposta corretta: A

39. Sam suggested ___________ to a party.
   A) that we all went
   B) to going
   C) to go
   D) us to go

Risposta corretta: A

40. ___________ a fashion show in Milan.
A) I've never been to
B) I never went at
C) I've never been in
D) I've never gone at

Risposta corretta: A

41. He was admitted ______________ hospital with chest ______________.
   A) to – pains.
   B) in – harms.
   C) to – aches.
   D) in – hurts.

Risposta corretta: A

42. - We ______________ the concert because my husband was ill.
   - Oh, ______________!
   A) missed – what a shame
   B) lost – how shame
   C) skipped – what pity
   D) failed – how sorry

Risposta corretta: A

43. The airplane ____________ slowly into the air.
   A) rose
   B) raised
   C) was aroused
   D) rised

Risposta corretta: A

44. I ______________ packed warmer clothes if I ______________ realised it was so cold here.
   A) would have – had
   B) had – would have
   C) could have – have
   D) (none) – had

Risposta corretta: A

45. Her parents are ______________ some money for her education.
   A) setting aside
   B) putting inside
   C) getting away
   D) saving in

Risposta corretta: A

46. I don’t really ______________ with my brother-in-law.
   A) get along
   B) go well
   C) go in accordance
   D) go along good

Risposta corretta: A

47. Both the hotel and the Central Station ______________ simultaneously. However, delays with the construction of the railway made the hotel open its doors well before.
   A) should have been inaugurated
   B) had to inaugurate
   C) should inaugurate
   D) must have inaugurated
48. The main ____________ to your plan is that it's too expensive.
   A) drawback  
   B) breakthrough  
   C) outcome  
   D) outbreak  
   Risposta corretta: A

49. Having ____________ I have to use two different kinds of shampoo.
   A) such long hair  
   B) so long hair  
   C) hairs so long  
   D) so long a hair  
   Risposta corretta: A

50. ____________ forgive him for telling me all those lies?
   A) How can I ever  
   B) However I can  
   C) How can I ever since  
   D) How I can  
   Risposta corretta: A

51. Not only ____________ late, he also forgot his books.
   A) did he turn up  
   B) he arrived  
   C) did he arrived  
   D) he did arrive  
   Risposta corretta: A

52. Both her children graduated with degrees in ____________.
   A) economics  
   B) economical sciences  
   C) politic sciences  
   D) economic  
   Risposta corretta: A