UNIVERSITA’ DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO

Prova di ammissione al corso di laurea in

LINGUE MODERNE

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Holiday on Ice

Seven o'clock, evening, cold November. People are crossing a huge car park – not for the cinema, ballet or circus. They are here for what is, bizarrely, a global phenomenon: Holiday on Ice. Since few are acquainted with anyone who has ever been, statistics are extraordinary. Nearing 300 million since 1943, it is the most popular live entertainment in the world.

But what does the production involve? And why do people spend their lives travelling round Europe in caravans just to appear in it? It cannot be glamorous – nor is it easy work. Backstage blends gym class and workplace. A curtained-off section at the back of the arena is laughably called the girls' dressing room. More accurate would be a mere corridor, with beige, cracked walls and cheap temporary tables flanking the whole length. Each girl has a cramped area littered with orange make-up pots, mascara tubes and long false eyelashes. As a place to work, it must rank pretty low: around the ice-rink it is grey and mucky with rows of dirty blue and brown plastic seating and red carpet tiles. An unimpressive picture, even if the show itself is unquestionably enormous, polished... global. Lights hailing from a Texan firm, a Californian-based audio system and smoke effects from Montreal; former British skater Robin Cousins, the present company creative director, conducts a vast master class to guarantee ensuing performances succeed.

Music blares as the routines begin under Robin's direction. The latter says, 'The aim is to make sure they're all still getting to exactly the right place on the ice at the right time – largely because the banks of lights in the ceiling are set to those places, and if the skaters are all half a metre out they'll be illuminating empty ice. Though working for survival, he remains enthusiastic. 'The only place you'll see certain skating moves is an ice show because you're not allowed to do them in competition. The show offers what competition doesn't.' He should know because, competing days over but financially unable to retire, the Olympian skated for the show. He initially realized that such performances every night were impossible. 'I'd be thinking, these people have paid their money, now do your stuff, and I suddenly thought, "I really can't cope. I'm not enjoying it".' The solution was to give 75% every night, rather than striving for twice-a-year excellence which won him medals.

01. The character mentioned in the excerpt

A) carried on working in pursuit of a different activity.
B) plays music for Holiday on Ice.
C) is enthusiastic about Olympic performances.
D) does not like his job.

Risposta corretta: A

02. The text shows that Holiday on Ice girls

A) have very little room.
B) enjoy putting on make-up.
C) are hidden from view on purpose.
D) cannot wait to skate.

Risposta corretta: A

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

A) Lighting and movement must be synchronized.
B) Cousins loses his patience with the environment.
C) 75% of Robin's salary is for skating.
D) Holiday on Ice is the only activity preferable to Olympic ice-skating.

Risposta corretta: A

04. In the description of the workplace

A) the colour scheme is not one of great harmony.
B) Cousins used his fame to contact suppliers from different parts of North America.
C) the workers have scant respect for it.
D) the nighttime environment undergoes a metamorphosis.

Risposta corretta: A

05. From reading the excerpt, which of the following statements is false?

A) Cousins has worked in only one capacity for the show.
B) The show contrasts with preparations and living environment.
C) Backstage and rink-side leave a lot to be desired.
D) Technical equipment comes from different parts of the continent.

Risposta corretta: A

06. According to the main character, one crucial aspect is that

A) Holiday on Ice does not respect the rules of skating as a competitive sport
B) he won medals twice a year.
C) he knows everything about ice-skating.
D) it would have been better to retire.

Risposta corretta: A

07. What does the word *littered* mean in this context?

A) Packed.
B) Supplied.
C) Dirtied.
D) Decorated.

Risposta corretta: A

08. The writer shows that Holiday on Ice

A) is a widely appreciated form of entertainment.
B) aims to attract top skaters such as the former Olympic champion.
C) competes with the Olympics in rankings.
D) has been running for over a century.

Risposta corretta: A

09. In the beginning Cousins felt morally obliged to

A) perform to the best of his ability.
B) copy the others.
C) enjoy the new adventure.
D) earn as much as he could.

Risposta corretta: A

10. We discover from the excerpt that

A) living and working conditions leave a lot to be desired.
B) each girl wants to put on her make-up alone.
C) it takes a lot of money to run the show.
D) the show visits most European countries.

Risposta corretta: A

COMPRENSIONE DEL TESTO [11-20]

Leggete con attenzione il seguente brano quindi rispondete ai quesiti da 11 a 20.

An unforgettable president...

In short, George Washington's life was *unforgettable* - a story of travel, adventure, risk and glory.

In 1789, he was elected the first US president; his country was to become the most powerful in the world and by 1799 George was an international hero.

The early years, however, were not so rosy. George, a colonist, was sent into the Army - a respectable option. He, thus, made a living and witnessed a country teeming with wild animals and Indians. It was a tough life but he hunted in the vast forest and explored new lands… seemingly forever.

A lover of Nature, George became a surveyor with the Army, which led him further and further into the wilds. The Indians were friendly and good trading partners. All in all, George's youth was simply carefree wandering in a new, virgin land.

Then, some threatening news emerged: on the other side of the Appalachians Virginia scouts had spotted French soldiers. These latter claimed all land west of the mountains for New France but the governor of Virginia wanted the same land.

In his quest to take the disputed land, the governor called upon his best soldier to deal with the situation. Barely 22, Washington sought out the French to convey one message: leave the region or commit to battle.

After crossing the mountains with a small army, the envoy dutifully informed the French, who, naturally, refused to leave. Inevitably, a *French and Indian War* ensued - some Indians joining in against Virginia.

To cut a long story short, for once in his life Washington surrendered an army at Fort Necessity. With hindsight, President George Washington just might never have been! Surrounded by French and Indian adversaries, outnumbered,
Washington the soldier gave up the fort. The French let the British off the hook, allowing withdrawal with their horses and guns. The French had won the battle, but their enemies eventually won the war.

The experience moulded George – a fact to be confirmed twenty years later, when, dressed in an American uniform, he fought for independence against the British.

In this war George's fiery leadership inspired American troops – starving and somewhat cold – allowing him to emerge as the greatest general.

Not surprisingly, the victorious Americans chose him as their president. His picture on the one-dollar bill came when George was long dead and gone, pointing to his unforgettable spirit.

11. In his lifetime the character mentioned in the excerpt
   A) had apparently contradictory experiences with native Americans.
   B) traded exclusively with native Americans.
   C) knew he would one day fight against native Americans.
   D) was surprised to see native Americans allied to the French.

Risposta corretta: A

12. The text shows that the French
   A) made a crucial miscalculation.
   B) were consistent throughout the war.
   C) exploited the natives.
   D) were impressed by the governor's envoy.

Risposta corretta: A

13. According to the excerpt, which of the following statements is true?
   A) Washington's fate lay in the balance during his days in the Virginia army.
   B) Washington's fate was totally decided by the French.
   C) Washington's fate was decided by the British in the war for independence.
   D) Washington was always the master of his own destiny.

Risposta corretta: A

14. In the description of Washington's early days
   A) he was on good terms with his future enemies.
   B) he had to go into the forest to make a living.
   C) he was an animalist.
   D) he appeared in court to bear witness against hunting.

Risposta corretta: A

15. From reading the excerpt, which of the following statements is false?
   A) Throughout his life Washington always fought against the British.
   B) Washington was destined to become an important US politician.
   C) Winning one battle is not enough.
   D) Two European powers were active in North America.

Risposta corretta: A

16. According to the writer, during the war of independence American soldiers
   A) ate next to nothing.
   B) were incredibly tired.
   C) had nothing to drink.
   D) were not suitably dressed.

Risposta corretta: A

17. What does the word moulded mean in this context?
   A) Shaped.
   B) Ruined.
18. The writer shows that the French
   A) received one piece of information.
   B) took exception to the informations.
   C) awaited further information.
   D) needed another convoy.

Risposta corretta: A

19. In the beginning, in Virginia Washington was expected
   A) to obey.
   B) to treat the native Americans cautiously.
   C) to blossom into the future leader of his country.
   D) to enjoy himself in the forest.

Risposta corretta: A

20. We discover from the excerpt that
   A) it took some time for Americans to formally honour their first president.
   B) Americans could not wait to see his head appear on the one-dollar bill.
   C) defeat at Fort Necessity could not have been worse.
   D) it was militarily wrong to give up he fort.

Risposta corretta: A

COMPETENZA GRAMMATICALE [ 21-50 ]

21. ________ the car on Saturday?
   A) Will you be using
   B) Will you be use
   C) Will you using
   D) Are you going to using

Risposta corretta: A

22. I phoned my grandmother again in case she ________ the phone the first time.
   A) hadn’t heard
   B) didn’t heard
   C) wasn’t hear
   D) couldn’t heard

Risposta corretta: A

23. ________ I was very angry with him, I didn’t say anything.
   A) Even though
   B) However
   C) Because of
   D) Despite

Risposta corretta: A

24. By this time next week, he ________ finished his Art project.
   A) will have
   B) will be
   C) is
   D) has
25. The dog ________ by the gate waiting for me to come home.
   A) was lying  
   B) was laying  
   C) lied  
   D) was laid

Risposta corretta: A

26. She ________ run 100m in under 11 seconds by the end of the year.
   A) will be able to  
   B) manages to  
   C) will can  
   D) will be good at

Risposta corretta: A

27. If I ________ the weather forecast, I ________ walking in the mountains.
   A) had heard / wouldn't have gone  
   B) would have heard / hadn't gone  
   C) will hear / will go  
   D) heard / won't go

Risposta corretta: A

28. She ________ her dad with her fair hair and skin, but she has her mother's eyes.
   A) takes after  
   B) looks up to  
   C) splits up with  
   D) takes down from

Risposta corretta: A

29. Thirty people were made ________ in our office last week because there isn't enough work for them now.
   A) redundant  
   B) retired  
   C) in pension  
   D) hired

Risposta corretta: A

30. I couldn't afford to buy any food but I managed to get ________ on some bread and cheese I had left.
   A) by  
   B) across  
   C) away  
   D) down

Risposta corretta: A

31. He refused to talk to the police ________ his lawyer arrived.
   A) until  
   B) whenever  
   C) sooner  
   D) up to

Risposta corretta: A

32. I spoke to all the students in the class but ________ knew the answer.
A) none of them  
B) every of them  
C) either  
D) anyone of they

Risposta corretta: A

33. We had a _________ talk, and things are much clearer now.
   A) heart-to-heart  
   B) head-off  
   C) flesh-to-blood  
   D) eye-to-heart

Risposta corretta: A

34. We've got a letter here that isn't for us. The postman _________ delivered it by mistake.
   A) must have  
   B) would have  
   C) should have  
   D) could be

Risposta corretta: A

35. She's always been a freelancer, so she _________ her own boss.
   A) is used to being  
   B) uses to be  
   C) is getting used to be  
   D) gets used to being

Risposta corretta: A

36. I don't know why _________ leave school.
   A) she decided to  
   B) did she decide to  
   C) did she  
   D) has she decided to

Risposta corretta: A

37. He gave me _________ advice.
   A) some good  
   B) a good  
   C) a few useful  
   D) few good

Risposta corretta: A

38. Spaghetti with Bolognese sauce is my favourite _________.
   A) dish  
   B) plate  
   C) cook  
   D) oven

Risposta corretta: A

39. It's unlikely that the robbers _________.
   A) will be caught  
   B) will been caught  
   C) are been caught  
   D) will caught by the police
Risposta corretta: A

40. We made our booking ________ months in advance.
    A) several
    B) since four
    C) before
    D) while

Risposta corretta: A

41. He never gave up. He kept ________ hard.
    A) on working
    B) in to work
    C) up in working
    D) to work

Risposta corretta: A

42. The teacher asked ________ the essay.
    A) me to rewrite
    B) me that I rewrite
    C) of rewrite
    D) me to rewriting

Risposta corretta: A

43. The meeting ________ at 221B, Baker Street.
    A) was held
    B) held
    C) was had
    D) was taken

Risposta corretta: A

44. Our teacher ________ sit in front of the computer for too long.
    A) warned us not to
    B) told to us not to
    C) ordered that we wouldn’t
    D) warned us to don’t

Risposta corretta: A

45. ________ about my grandfather is his kind, wrinkly smile.
    A) What I love
    B) That I like
    C) That what I like
    D) Which I love

Risposta corretta: A

46. Life is full of ups and ________.
    A) downs
    B) belows
    C) unders
    D) beneaths

Risposta corretta: A

47. Where did she learn to speak ________ Spanish?
48. I could ________ believe it when she said she was pregnant!
   A) hardly
   B) difficulty
   C) not almost
   D) uneasily
   Risposta corretta: A

49. My doctor suggested ________ a week off work.
   A) taking
   B) to take
   C) that I taking
   D) me to take
   Risposta corretta: A

50. Be careful as you walk. I've just polished the floor and it's rather ________.
   A) slippery
   B) smooth
   C) sticky
   D) stiff
   Risposta corretta: A

51. These plums are ________.
   A) too hard to eat
   B) enough ripe for eating
   C) too hard for eating
   D) quite hardly to eat
   Risposta corretta: A

52. ________, social networks have gained popularity in recent years.
   A) Whether you like it or not
   B) If we like or if we don't
   C) If you like it or whether you don't
   D) Whether you like it
   Risposta corretta: A