I. Cloze test: choose the best answer to fill in each blank.

In ancient times, wealth was measured and exchanged   1, in things that could be touched: food, tools, and precious metals and stones. Then the   2 was replaced by coins, which still had real value since they were pieces of rare metal. Coins were followed by fiat money, paper notes that have value only because everyone agrees to accept   3.

Today, electronic monetary systems   4 that will transform money into even less tangible forms,   5 it to arrays of “bits and bytes,” or units of computerized information, whizzing between machines at the speed of light. Already, electronic funds transfer allows money to be instantly sent and received by different banks, companies, and countries   6 computers and telecommunications devices.

1. A. monetarily   B. tangibly   C. temporarily   D. extensively
2. A. bargain system   B. immune system   C. banking system   D. barter system
3. A. them   B. it   C. themselves   D. theirs
4. A. are gradually introducing       B. have gradually introduced
   C. are gradually being introduced   D. have gradually been introducing
5. A. reduce   B. reducing   C. reduced   D. reduction
6. A. on   B. with   C. through   D. beyond

There are many ways in which we can be peacemakers, and one way is to allow the opinions and desires of others. Many quarrels   7 arguments in which men become angry about the opinions others express. Many religious wars have   8 because one party would not   9 the beliefs of others. Every man has a right to his opinion.   10 an opinion may seem, we should permit it to be expressed, and should not   11 because others do not think as we do.

Quarrels arise because our desires   12 those of others. At home two children sometimes desire the same thing, and neither will give way to the other. We should be willing to   13 many of the desires of others. Unselfishness promotes peace. If all of us are willing to let others have their fair share of things, and their own place in games at home and at school, we can live in peace.

7. A. result in   B. result from   C. are resulted in   D. is resulted from
8. A. risen   B. arose   C. raised   D. arisen
9. A. tolerate   B. dispute   C. retort   D. discard
10. A. What a fool   B. Whatever foolish   C. However foolish   D. How fool
11. A. accept offers   B. practice tolerance   C. bear any relation   D. take offense
12. A. put up with   B. call for   C. conflict with   D. look up to
13. A. get rid of   B. give in to   C. give ourselves up to   D. give up on

II. Reading Comprehension: answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

City police Sunday arrested former Mayor Richard Weekly on a long list of bribery, malfeasance, fraud, conspiracy and corruption charges.

Weekly, holding his handcuffed hands in front of his face, refused to speak to reporters as he was hauled into Weekly Courthouse where he will be indicted later this week.

Ironically, the high-living Weekly will be held in the crumbling cells of the courthouse complex built during his last term which allegedly brought him more than $400,000 in kickbacks from construction companies.

The arrest was the culmination of a 19-month special investigation of numerous irregularities during Weekly’s administration – called the most corrupt in American history.

Attorney for the investigating committee, Robert Renner, told newsmen the investigation had unearthed evidence of Weekly’s complicity in rackets bilking city, state and federal governments of vast sums.

Renner said Weekly and accomplices who will be arrested shortly, made a desperate effort to cover-up the scandal with attempted bribery and intimidation of law-enforcement officials.

“Weekly regularly abused his authority to channel government contracts to his friends and secret business partners. He entered more than 50 fictitious names on city payrolls and simply collected their salaries,” Renner said.

“Weekly bribed federal bureaucrats to overlook misuse of federal funds and a large portion of that money went to him and his cohorts,” he said.

Renner charged that Weekly and more than 40 other city officials were guilty of a wide range of offences that illicitly netted them more than $150 million in his 16-year reign as mayor of the state’s fourth largest city.

“He really was a king of corruption,” Renner said.

14. Which word doesn’t have a similar meaning to the others?
   A. conspirators   B. accomplices   C. rackets   D. cohorts
15. Which statement is NOT true according to the passage?
   A. The mayor was arrested each week.
   B. The mayor was charged with corruption.
   C. The jail in which the mayor stayed was named after him because it was built while he was the mayor.
   D. The mayor was arrested after more than one and a half years’ investigation of his acts of wrongdoing.

16. The word *unearthed* in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to:
   A. invalid.
   B. discovered.
   C. unclear.
   D. verified.

17. Whose money did Weekly take?
   A. City officials.
   B. Reporters and newsmen.
   C. His friends and secret business partners.
   D. The taxpayers and citizens.

18. The mayor was successful in bribing:
   A. the attorney.
   B. law-enforcement officials.
   C. federal bureaucrats.
   D. 40 other city officials.

19. Which is NOT one of the means by which Weekly illegally collected money?
   A. He asked construction companies for money in return for his help.
   B. He directed government contracts to his friends and secret business partners.
   C. He invented unreal city payrolls.
   D. He was offended by other city officials.

Fossil fuels are moving to extinction, claims a report compiled by lobby group Clear World, and, consequently, new energy sources are required. Asserting that studies indicate a lifespan of less than a couple of decades for coal and oil, the report endorses prior research advocating curbs on their use. It also promotes the quest for sustainable alternatives such as biofuels, wind, water and solar power. Citing studies from the Energy Departments of leading US universities, the group maintains that transport and heating costs will exceed tolerable levels unless these alternatives are developed.

Major oil supplier, Esson, while acknowledging the notion of eventual decline, has retorted that Clear World's diagnosis is not valid. Current estimates suggest the availability of oil for another half century, while collaboration between oil companies and the alternative energy sector could further prolong its use. Minor modifications to automobile engines will improve fuel efficiency, enabling existing fuel supplies to last longer.
20. What is the best title for this passage?
   A. The importance of fossil fuels.
   B. Energy conservation.
   C. The future of fossil fuels.
   D. The search for alternative energy.

21. According to the lobbyists' report mentioned in the passage, how many more years will fossil fuels last?
   A. About twenty years
   B. About one hundred years.
   C. About ten years.
   D. About fifty years.

22. The word prior in the first paragraph is closest in meaning to:
   A. recent.
   B. previous.
   C. relevant.
   D. important.

23. The word notion in the second paragraph is closest in meaning to:
   A. truth.
   B. new development.
   C. idea.
   D. possibility.

24. The word its in the second paragraph refers to:
   A. collaboration.
   B. coal.
   C. oil.
   D. alternative energy.

25. Which one of the following can be inferred from the passage?
   A. Transport costs will be lower in the future.
   B. Solar power is cleaner than coal power.
   C. Energy from wind power will be cheaper than that from oil.
   D. The use of fossil fuels will be reduced in future.