1. Our boss is becoming more and more _____ about punctuality, and any latecomers would be scolded by him.
   (A) unconcerned  (B) slavish  (C) obsessive  (D) uneventful

2. In order to fawn on her sponsor, the critic wrote a(n) _____ review of a new play produced by that sponsor.
   (A) commonplace  (B) sycophantic  (C) passable  (D) aggravating

3. All of the boys were _____ to the cartoon, as evidenced by the fact that all their eyes were glued to the TV screen.
   (A) discomfited  (B) electoral  (C) backhanded  (D) riveted

4. He wanted to answer back, but on second thought he _____ doing so.
   (A) grazed on  (B) mingled with  (C) forbore from  (D) wrangled with

5. He has done _____ work on the finance committee; therefore, his performance is unanimously praised by the press.
   (A) somber  (B) horrendous  (C) menacing  (D) sterling

6. He was _____ at the way he had been treated, but he could not find a way to vent his ire.
   (A) released  (B) aimed  (C) relieved  (D) outraged

7. Before his death he had been a bedridden _____ for many years.
   (A) skier  (B) invalid  (C) gremlin  (D) campaigner

8. Rainwater causes flooding when it can't _____.
   (A) drain away  (B) cut out  (C) win out  (D) pull up

9. The museum is going to publish an illustrated catalogue to _____ the exhibition.
   (A) clutch  (B) accompany  (C) motorize  (D) sabotage

10. The whole view is disharmonious, especially the modern building that looks _____ in that quaint old village.
    (A) combative  (B) incongruous  (C) therapeutic  (D) handy

11. The company was in the red last year and reported to have _____ of nearly $90,000.
    (A) desalination  (B) liabilities  (C) animosity  (D) communion

12. Her voice was barely audible in the growing _____.
    (A) uptick  (B) stole  (C) hubbub  (D) pastel

13. The movie was not based on a true story, but a _____ account of the 1992 presidential campaign.
    (A) truthful  (B) sibilant  (C) waymarked  (D) fictitious

14. Our teacher is a very nice person who always uses her _____ voice to comfort and encourage us.
    (A) dissenting  (B) soothing  (C) retaliatory  (D) uptight

15. His latest article is a(n) _____ argument trying to confuse his readers by use of paradoxes.
    (A) adjacent  (B) stellar  (C) specious  (D) proprietary

16. The relaxing exercise aims to _____ the effects of stress and tension.
    (A) intensify  (B) adjudicate  (C) counterbalance  (D) solicit

17. I had taken my raincoat and umbrella in _____ of rain.
    (A) anticipation  (B) afterthought  (C) command  (D) privatization

18. That was the most _____ and boring speech I've ever to sit through.
    (A) longwinded  (B) beloved  (C) juicy  (D) lustrous

19. Only the most _____ people would believe such a feeble excuse.
    (A) ingenious  (B) ingenuous  (C) wary  (D) sensible

20. He was _____ to a wheelchair after the terrible car accident.
    (A) centralized  (B) demonized  (C) confined  (D) minimized
Questions 21-25

Plug-in cars will help the U.S. kick its oil addiction and address crude's familiar litany of problems: the BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico, greenhouse-gas emissions and a dependence on petro-punk dictators who don't always have America's best interests at heart. That's something not lost on the Obama Administration, which has allocated billions in stimulus funds to support electric-car makers and build a national infrastructure of charging stations.

Should you buy an electric car this year? Huge roadblocks remain. How many drivers will be willing, or able, to charge their cars 7 or 8 hours a day for only 100 or so miles of driving? More than a few will surely suffer from the dreaded "range anxiety" — worrying that they'll run out of juice in the middle of nowhere. Price is an issue too. Electrics cost considerably more than comparable gasoline-powered cars and are too expensive for the average buyer.

The good news is that, unlike in the mechanical world, where improvements are incremental, electric-car technology is advancing quickly, and the price is dropping as it does. The key is lowering the cost of the lithium-ion battery. The Nissan Leaf battery costs an estimated $15,000, about half the car's sticker price. (A $7,500 federal tax credit takes away a bit of the sting.) The cost of making these power packs, however, will drop — according to some experts, by half in a few years. And charging the car? The U.S. now has only about 1,000 battery-charging stations, mostly in California. Department of Energy grants will help fund at least 10,000 more of them in selected cities nationwide by the end of 2011.

21. The primary purpose of the passage is to ______.
   (A) analyze Obama's economic policies
   (B) discuss a special type of car
   (C) encourage people to quit driving
   (D) describe the status quo of the greenhouse effect

22. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a possible concern for potential buyers of electric cars?
   (A) Price
   (B) Range
   (C) The number of battery-charging stations
   (D) Safety

23. According to the passage, the key to reducing the cost of the electric car lies in its ______.
   (A) cell
   (B) appearance
   (C) windscreen
   (D) bonnet

24. At the time of writing this report, which state owned the most battery-charging stations in the U.S.? 
   (A) New Mexico
   (B) Washington
   (C) California
   (D) New York

25. Which adjective might best describe the author's attitude towards the reduction in costs of electric cars?
   (A) Optimistic
   (B) Pessimistic
   (C) Underwhelmed
   (D) Indifferent
Questions 26-30

To the millions of people who watch television dramas such as CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, forensic science is an unerring guide to ferreting out the guilty and exonerating the innocent. It is a robust, high-tech methodology that has all the precision, rigour and, yes, glamour of science at its best.

The reality is rather different. Forensics has developed largely in isolation from academic science, and has been shaped more by the practical needs of the criminal-justice system than by the canons of peer-reviewed research. This difference in perspective has sometimes led to misunderstanding and even rancour. For example, many academics look at techniques such as fingerprint analysis or hair- and fibre-matching and see a disturbing degree of methodological sloppiness. In their view, forensic examiners have a poor empirical basis for estimating error rates, and they use protocols that don’t fully take into account the possibility of unconscious investigator bias. Many academics are also perturbed to see newer techniques, such as DNA analysis of extremely small samples and functional magnetic resonance imaging, being pressed into service before the results and interpretations have been adequately validated for forensic use.

Forensic scientists, meanwhile, are often resentful of academics who speak high-mindedly of proper procedures now, decades after standard operating procedures have been put in place. They also bristle at being criticized by people who offer little in the way of support for forensics-relevant research. Perhaps not surprisingly, many practitioners have closed themselves off from any open sharing of methods and information with the academic community. As deep as these differences are, they must be bridged. If they are not, rapidly evolving techniques will continue to be bandied about in court before they are ready. Forensic practitioners will face more legal challenges to their results as the academic critiques mount. And judges will increasingly find themselves refereeing arguments over arcane new technologies and trying to rule on the admissibility of the evidence they produce — a struggle that can lead to a body of inconsistent and sometimes ill-advised case law, which muddies the picture further.

26. According to the passage, forensic science is _____ for the audience of CSI.
   (A) outdated
   (B) lenient
   (C) dysfunctional
   (D) glamorous

27. According to the passage, which of the following is true about forensic science?
   (A) In general it has developed independently of academic science.
   (B) It fully takes into consideration the possibility of unconscious investigator bias.
   (C) It refuses to adopt techniques such as fingerprint analysis.
   (D) Most of its techniques are shaped by the canons of peer-reviewed research.

28. Which adjective might best describe the relation between forensic practitioners and their critics from academic science?
   (A) Harmonious
   (B) Bitter
   (C) Venerable
   (D) Convivial

29. The phrase "bristle at" is closest in meaning to "______.
   (A) get around to
   (B) balk at
   (C) be angered by
   (D) gloat over
30. According to the author, what should forensic scientists and their critics do?
   (A) They should continue to withhold information.
   (B) They should find a sagacious judge to adjudicate their disagreement.
   (C) They should stop using DNA analysis of extremely small samples.
   (D) They should try to bridge their divide.

Questions 31-35

Derek Bok, a former president of Harvard, once observed that “universities share one characteristic with compulsive gamblers and exiled royalty: there is never enough money to satisfy their desires.” This is a bit hard on compulsive gamblers and exiled royals. America’s universities have raised their fees five times as fast as inflation over the past 30 years. Student debt in America exceeds credit-card debt. Yet still the universities keep sending begging letters to alumni and philanthropists.

This insatiable appetite for money was bad enough during the boom years. It is truly irritating now that middle-class incomes are stagnant and students are struggling to find good jobs. Hence a flurry of new thinking about higher education. Are universities inevitably expensive? Vance Fried, of Oklahoma State University, recently conducted a fascinating thought experiment, backed up by detailed calculations. Is it possible to provide a first-class undergraduate education for $6,700 a year rather than the $25,900 charged by public research universities or the $51,500 charged by their private peers? He concluded that it is.

Mr. Fried shunned easy solutions. He insisted that students should live in residential colleges, just as they do at Harvard and Yale. He did not suggest getting rid of football stadiums (which usually pay for themselves) or scrimping on bed-and-board.

His cost-cutting strategies were as follows. First, separate the funding of teaching and research. Research is a public good, he reasoned, but there is no reason why undergraduates should pay for it. Second, increase the student-teacher ratio. Business and law schools achieve good results with big classes. Why not other colleges? Mr. Fried thinks that universities will be able to mix some small classes with big ones even if they have fewer teachers. Third, eliminate or consolidate programmes that attract few students. Fourth, puncture administrative bloat. The cost of administration per student soared by 61% in real terms between 1993 and 2007. Private research universities spend $7,000 a year per student on “administrative support”: not only deans and department heads but also psychologists, counsellors, human-resources implementation managers and so on. That is more than the entire cost of educating a student under Mr. Fried’s scheme.

31. Bok likens universities to exiled royalty because of their common insatiable desire for _____.
   (A) money
   (B) risks
   (C) reputation
   (D) titles

32. Fried mentions Harvard and Yale mainly because the majority of their students _____.
   (A) come from wealthy families
   (B) have difficulties finding good jobs
   (C) like playing football
   (D) live on campus
33. For Fried, universities can still keep their football stadiums because ______.
   (A) football is profitable
   (B) football is a prized tradition
   (C) football is more important than bed and board
   (D) football is popular only in Harvard and Yale

34. Which of the following statements about Fried’s thought experiment is NOT true?
   (A) It is based on detailed calculations.
   (B) It advises economizing on food.
   (C) It encourages bigger classes.
   (D) It suggests that undergraduates should not pay for research.

35. For Fried, university administrations in America have ______ expanded in the past twenty years.
   (A) unnecessarily
   (B) adequately
   (C) barely
   (D) belatedly

Questions 36–40

As an example of the absurdity of US food-safety regulations, consider the humble egg. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) monitors the chickens that produce them and grades the eggs according to their quality. The safety of those (intact) eggs is scrutinized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Once cracked open and used to make a product, the egg comes back under USDA jurisdiction. If that product is then used as an ingredient to make yet another food, responsibility for ensuring its safety again rests with the FDA. Unless, of course, that egg-based food is a meat product — then the USDA remains in charge.

US lawmakers waded into this arcane system late last year when they passed the biggest overhaul of the US food-safety system in more than 70 years. The Food Safety Modernization Act, signed into law on 4 January, aims to shore up the FDA side of food-safety regulation, giving the agency expanded authority to conduct inspections and to pull contaminated products from the market. The law also expands the government’s role in the prevention of food-borne illnesses, rather than simply reacting to outbreaks on a case-by-case basis. Farms and food manufacturers will now be required to identify potential hazards in their manufacturing process — anything from bacterial contamination to metal screws that could fall off equipment and into food — and develop plans to prevent them.

But by the time President Barack Obama had signed the act, some in the House of Representatives were already threatening to drag the new law into the budgetary battle brewing on Capitol Hill. Critics, who include Representative Jack Kingston (Republican, Georgia), the lead Republican on the subcommittee that oversees the FDA’s budget, have threatened to underfund the law. They argue that the cost of the regulations — US$1.4 billion over the next five years — outweighs the benefits.

Their sums are short-sighted: the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington DC estimates that food-borne illnesses cost the United States $152 billion a year, not including the cost to industry in lost sales and lawsuits when outbreaks surface. The investment seems a sound strategy.
36. According to the passage, egg-based food that is also a meat product is under the charge of _____.
   (A) the White House
   (B) the Pew Charitable Trusts
   (C) the USDA
   (D) the FDA

37. The primary purpose of the author is to _____.
   (A) analyze Barack Obama's favorite food
   (B) encourage people to eat more eggs
   (C) describe the health risks involved in eating egg-based products
   (D) report new legislation pertaining to food-safety regulation

38. According to the passage, Jack Kingston is inclined to _____ the budget of the Food Safety Modernization Act.
   (A) slash
   (B) balance
   (C) enlarge
   (D) overspend

39. According to the passage, all of the following statements about the Food Safety Modernization Act are true EXCEPT that _____.
   (A) it gives the FDA more power
   (B) it urges the government to play a more active role in the prevention of food-borne illnesses
   (C) Barack Obama refused to sign it
   (D) it requires food manufacturers to identify potential hazards

40. It is implied that the US food-safety system is _____.
   (A) simple
   (B) perfect
   (C) foolproof
   (D) complicated

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