

科目：英文作文

系組：英國語文學系

年級：二

I remember my parents telling me that one of the best ways to spend a Saturday night was to visit a local bar and enjoy live music with friends. However, as I grew older, I found it increasingly difficult to find such venues. Although the global music industry generates billions of dollars each year through superstar performers such as Taylor Swift and Coldplay, many small music venues are disappearing.

One reason for this decline is the rise of digital technology. Today, people can access millions of songs instantly through streaming platforms and social media. Instead of visiting local venues to discover new music, many listeners find artists online. Surveys suggest that younger generations increasingly discover music through social media rather than through live performances.

Economic pressures have also contributed to the problem. Rising living expenses and educational costs leave many young adults with less money to spend on entertainment. At the same time, independent musicians often struggle to earn enough income from performances. The music industry has become increasingly dominated by a small number of global superstars whose concerts attract massive audiences and generate enormous profits.

Another concern is the changing relationship between audiences and music. Some musicians argue that people are becoming more interested in celebrities than in music itself. While fans are willing to spend hundreds of dollars on tickets for famous performers, they are often reluctant to support local artists. As a result, many talented musicians have fewer opportunities to develop their skills and build audiences.

This trend is not limited to one country. A 2023 Guardian article reported that the UK lost over 120 grassroots music venues in a single year — roughly 15% of its total. Across Europe, North America, and other regions, small venues are closing because of rising costs and declining attendance. Some cultural organizations warn that the disappearance of these spaces may weaken local communities and reduce opportunities for artistic expression.

Supporters of local music argue that live performances offer experiences that cannot be replicated through streaming services. They believe that attending concerts helps strengthen communities, supports emerging artists, and preserves cultural diversity. Others argue that technological and economic changes are inevitable and that the music industry must adapt to new realities. (396 words)
--adapted from "Can We keep Live Music Venues from Dying Out?" by Owen Werkheiser, Student Posts, Tatnall School, Youth Voices posted on *News Decoder*, 21st Apr., 2025.

According to this article, local music venues are disappearing in many parts of the world. *Write an essay analyzing the causes and effects of the decline of local music venues.* Support your discussion with specific examples from your own experience, observations, contemporary society, or cultural events. *Your essay should have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion, and the body paragraphs should correspond to the causes and effects you discuss.*

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科目：英文文法應用

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SECTION I — USAGE (50%)*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.*

1. HSBC Bank is not responsible for any ----- arising out of the use of a local Internet service provider or caused by any browser software during an online transaction or electronic transfer.
(A) losses (B) losing (C) lose (D) lost
2. Only qualified researchers will be granted ----- for the use of secondary data obtained from the National Health Service.
(A) permit (B) is permitted (C) to permit (D) permission
3. A bunch of customers have complained that there is an ----- rattling noise coming from the front driver's side once the window is down.
(A) annoying (B) annoyed (C) annoyingly (D) annoy
4. Women account for half of the world's population and represent the ----- purchasing decision makers, so even cosmetic brands for men need to appeal to both the targeted men and their wives.
(A) most (B) plenty (C) certain (D) primary
5. ----- her consistent efforts, achievements, and higher-educational background, Jade will rapidly moved up from an entry-level position to the marketing manager within five years.
(A) Since (B) Given (C) Among (D) Upon
6. ----- found in his field, Chester Guzman's vast knowledge of international trade gives him a unique perspective and a great reputation.
(A) Less (B) Enough (C) Apart (D) Seldom
7. ----- the following location not work best for you, notify one of our managers so alternative arrangements can be made.
(A) When (B) If (C) As well as (D) Should
8. Southland will host the Global Trading Forum next year, although it has ----- alternated between Otago and Canterbury.
(A) traditionally (B) positively (C) nearly (D) exceptionally
9. Holiday Inn has ----- from a single motel to a multi-national hotel franchise with well over 400 locations in operation worldwide.
(A) planned (B) established (C) furthered (D) evolved
10. Now that our technical support team has taken all the necessary steps, we ----- that there will be no more technical issues preventing our customers from shopping online.
(A) suppose (B) estimate (C) expect (D) guess
11. ----- two factories in London and one in Sydney have been closed, the Melbourne facility will remain open.
(A) Besides (B) Rather than (C) Although (D) Before

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12. ----- among the reasons BAP World is the premier operating system available is the fact that it's open-source software, meaning that anyone can change or modify the source code.

- (A) Many (B) Proper (C) Chief (D) Straight

13. According to the recent marketing research, only half of U.S. households read ----- of their advertising mail.

- (A) each (B) few (C) everything (D) all

14. Jeffery Lambert ----- the weekly sales meeting this morning, but he had a scheduling conflict.

- (A) should attend (B) must have attended (C) wants to attend (D) would have attended

15. The board of directors will not move to the next stage of the project ----- those opposing it number more than 100 shareholders.

- (A) if (B) so that (C) whether (D) depending on

16. In a competitive insurance market, most customers are more ----- in which services they choose and which company they would like to purchase those products or solutions from.

- (A) dominant (B) punctual (C) rigorous (D) selective

17. The new capital city was ----- by chief architect Andrew Evans educated at Cornell University, and his assistant Rudy Ferguson.

- (A) planned (B) proceeded (C) involved (D) supposed

18. Lloyd's Distance Learning Course is by far the most ----- we have seen and offers innovative e-learning classes and degree programs through a digital learning platform.

- (A) detailed (B) detail (C) details (D) detailing

19. The agenda of this meeting is to discuss what we need to know about ----- to promote the new product on social media.

- (A) decision (B) try (C) how (D) after

20. During the summer, we ship packages with frozen gel packs to prevent dairy and meat products and other ----- items from deteriorating.

- (A) plentiful (B) perishable (C) spoiled (D) adverse

21. The decision about whether the factory can reopen will be ----- until the Ministry has carried out a thorough investigation of this risk.

- (A) deferred (B) resolved (C) informed (D) agreed

22. Debra Mason, a widely recognized ----- on Northwestern Asian cultural history and art, was a curator of the Toronto Museum.

- (A) authority (B) authoritative (C) authorizing (D) authorization

23. ----- member is assigned a task depends on the specialty required for a project.

- (A) Which (B) Each (C) Any (D) Some

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年級：二

24. Recent studies from the University of California indicate that the ----- of visual aids to a presentation can provide the presenter with a lot of advantages.

- (A) feature (B) addition (C) pictures (D) tool

25. ----- poorly the customer may be treating them, customer service representatives are required to treat customers with professionalism.

- (A) Although (B) Seldom (C) However (D) Rather

SECTION II — SENTENCE CORRECTION (50%)

Directions: In each sentence, one portion is underlined. Choose the answer that best replaces the underlined portion.

1. Rarely the committee has encountered such resistance to a policy proposal.

- A. Rarely the committee has encountered
B. Rarely has the committee encountered
C. The committee rarely encountered
D. Rarely the committee encountered
E. The committee has rarely encounter

2. The article was criticized because its conclusions lacked clarity and failing to provide sufficient evidence.

- A. lacked clarity and failing to provide
B. lacked clarity and failed providing
C. lacked clarity and failed to provide
D. lacked clarity and providing
E. lacked clarity, also failing to provide

3. No sooner had the negotiations begun when disagreements emerged among the participants.

- A. begun when
B. begun than
C. began than
D. begun while
E. began when

4. The professor requested that every student submits the assignment electronically.

- A. submits the assignment electronically
B. submitted the assignment electronically
C. submit the assignment electronically
D. has submitted the assignment electronically
E. submitting the assignment electronically

5. The proposal was considered neither practical nor it was financially sustainable.

- A. nor it was financially sustainable
B. nor financially sustainable
C. or financially sustainable
D. nor was financially sustainable
E. nor sustainable financially

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系組：英國語文學系

年級：二

6. Had the experiment been conducted more carefully, the results could have interpreted more accurately.
- A. could have interpreted
 - B. could interpret
 - C. could have been interpreted
 - D. had interpreted
 - E. interpreted
7. The author's latest publication, along with several conference presentations, have attracted widespread academic attention.
- A. have attracted
 - B. attracting
 - C. has attracted
 - D. attracts
 - E. attracted
8. Not only the policy was ineffective, but it also created unnecessary confusion among employees.
- A. Not only the policy was ineffective
 - B. The policy not only was ineffective
 - C. Not only was the policy ineffective
 - D. Not only ineffective was the policy
 - E. The policy was not only ineffective
9. The lecturer emphasized that under no circumstances students should plagiarize academic material.
- A. students should plagiarize
 - B. should students plagiarize
 - C. students plagiarized
 - D. students are plagiarizing
 - E. plagiarizing students should
10. The board members disagreed among themselves, each insisting that their recommendation was more practical.
- A. their recommendation was more practical
 - B. his or her recommendation was more practical
 - C. its recommendation was more practical
 - D. one's recommendation was more practical
 - E. recommendations were more practical
11. Seldom modern historians agree entirely on the causes of major political revolutions.
- A. Seldom modern historians agree
 - B. Seldom do modern historians agree
 - C. Modern historians seldom agrees
 - D. Seldom modern historians agrees
 - E. Modern historians seldom agreeing

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12. The corporation expanded rapidly, therefore it struggled to maintain consistent quality standards.
A. therefore it struggled
B. therefore, it struggled
C. therefore it struggles
D. and therefore struggled
E. consequently struggling
13. The article was praised not only for its originality but also because it presented complex ideas clearly.
A. because it presented
B. for presenting
C. presenting
D. and because it presented
E. to present
14. Hardly had the reforms been implemented than opposition groups began protesting publicly.
A. implemented than
B. implemented when
C. implement than
D. implementing when
E. implemented while
15. The scientist argued that climate change, together with economic instability, threaten global security.
A. threaten global security
B. threatens global security
C. threatening global security
D. have threatened global security
E. threat global security
16. Only after the committee had reviewed all the evidence they reached a final decision.
A. they reached
B. they had reached
C. did they reach
D. reached they
E. had they reached
17. The policy was intended to reduce expenses and improving organizational efficiency.
A. improving organizational efficiency
B. improve organizational efficiency
C. while improving organizational efficiency
D. improved organizational efficiency
E. for improving organizational efficiency

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18. The executive denied having authorized the transaction, despite several documents suggested otherwise.
- A. despite several documents suggested otherwise
 - B. despite several documents suggesting otherwise
 - C. despite of several documents suggesting otherwise
 - D. although several documents suggesting otherwise
 - E. despite several documents suggest otherwise
19. Rarely have such ambitious reforms been proposed during periods of economic uncertainty.
- A. Rarely have such ambitious reforms been proposed
 - B. Rarely such ambitious reforms have been proposed
 - C. Such ambitious reforms rarely has been proposed
 - D. Rarely have ambitious reform been proposed
 - E. Ambitious reforms rarely proposed
20. The editor questioned whether the conclusions were supported by sufficient evidence and if the methodology had been applied consistently.
- A. and if the methodology had been applied consistently
 - B. and whether the methodology had been applied consistently
 - C. whether the methodology had applied consistently
 - D. and the methodology had been applied consistently
 - E. if the methodology applied consistently
21. The researchers failed to identify the variables responsible for the discrepancy, consequently the experiment had to be repeated.
- A. consequently the experiment had to be repeated
 - B. consequently, the experiment had to be repeated
 - C. consequently the experiment has to be repeated
 - D. therefore the experiment repeated
 - E. resulting the experiment being repeated
22. So controversial were the findings that several journals initially refused publishing the article.
- A. refused publishing
 - B. refused to publish
 - C. refusing publication of
 - D. refused publish
 - E. refused having published
23. The speaker's remarks were regarded as both misleading and lacking factual accuracy.
- A. both misleading and lacking factual accuracy
 - B. both misleading and lacked factual accuracy
 - C. misleading and lacked factual accuracy
 - D. both misleading and factually inaccurate
 - E. misleadingly and factually inaccurate

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24. The manager insisted that the employees are informed immediately of the procedural changes.
- A. are informed immediately
 - B. were informed immediately
 - C. be informed immediately
 - D. informed immediately
 - E. being informed immediately
25. Had the report been submitted earlier, the committee would have sufficient time to review it thoroughly.
- A. would have sufficient time
 - B. would had sufficient time
 - C. would have had sufficient time
 - D. had sufficient time
 - E. would having sufficient time

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