

**C O N C O U R S A T S**  
**-SESSION 2016-**

**É P R E U V E D ' A N G L A I S**

**CODE ÉPREUVE : 960**

**Dictionnaire et appareils électroniques interdits**

**Réponse juste : +3**

**Réponse fausse : -1**

**Pas de réponse : 0**

**DURÉE DE L'ÉPREUVE : 2H**

**I. Grammar and Vocabulary**

Choose the best answer for each question. There is only one correct answer per question.

1- How \_\_\_\_\_ do you brush your teeth?

- A- many                      B- often                      C- time                      D- times

2- \_\_\_\_\_ have become essential in many companies.

- A- The scientists              B- Scientists              C- Scientifics              D- The scientifics

3- DNA based technologies have increased our chances \_\_\_\_\_ many diseases.

- A- to curing                      B- of curing                      C- for curing                      D- of cure

4- If you \_\_\_\_\_ near an oxygen tank, you can get severely burnt.

- A- smoking                      B- smoke                      C- smoked                      D- have smoked

5- I don't know how \_\_\_\_\_ a car wheel!

- A- to replace                      B- replace                      C- replacing                      D- replaced

6- I'm sure the dog that \_\_\_\_\_ you belongs to my next door neighbour.

- A- bit                      B- bite                      C- bitten                      D- beat

7- We \_\_\_\_\_ for more than five minutes now.

- A- work                      B- are working                      C- have worked                      D- working

8- \_\_\_\_\_ magazines always have an associated web site.

- A- Scientist                      B- Scientists                      C- Scientifics                      D- Scientific

9- \_\_\_\_\_ life of our ancestors was much slower than ours.

- A- Ø                      B- The                      C- A                      D- Their

10- The new medicine is the outcome \_\_\_\_\_ years of research.

- A- of                      B- at                      C- from                      D- in

11- \_\_\_\_\_ have you been to London?

- A- How many time              B- How many times              C- How much time              D- How much times

12- How far is London \_\_\_\_\_ Paris?

- A- of    B- at    C- from    D- out

13- \_\_\_\_\_ is this pen? One pound and twenty pence.

- A- How cost    B- How many    C- How much    D- What

14- When you say 'you are exhausted' you mean \_\_\_\_\_.

- A- you are thirsty    C- you have no petrol left in your car  
B- you are very tired    D- your exhaust pipe has broken down

15- Last year I \_\_\_\_\_ my A-levels with flying colours.

- A- passed    B- took    C- succeeded    D- managed

16- \_\_\_\_\_ men ever live on Mars?

- A- Will    B-Ø    C- Shall    D-When

17- Your story is all very \_\_\_\_\_ but I don't believe a single word of it.

- A- interest    B- interested    C- interesting    D- interessant

18- Hello Peter, I \_\_\_\_\_ this email to recommend you a very good supplier I have just contacted.

- A- write    B- wrote    C- am writing    D- will write

19- I discovered this tutorial \_\_\_\_\_ on the Internet.

- A- in surfing    B- while surfing    C- while surf    D- on surfing

20- I'm studying HTML..... my own web site.

- A- for building    B- for build    C- to build    D- for build

21- \_\_\_\_\_ you already \_\_\_\_\_ about MOOC courses?

- A- Did/ hear    B- Have/ hear    C- Had/ hear    D- Have/ heard

22- Since our last meeting I \_\_\_\_\_ thinking about your idea.

- A- didn't stop    B- haven't stop    C- haven't stopped    D- haven't stopping

23- He does not know how \_\_\_\_\_ his financial difficulties.

- A- to come across    B- to overcome    C- to come through    D- to come out

24- I encourage you to take part \_\_\_\_\_ this programme as it is geared towards people like you.

- A- at                                      B- in                                      C- to                                      D- Ø

25- If I had to choose between maths and physics I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ subject I would study.

- A-which                                      B- what                                      C- whose                                      D- who

26- The best meal I have \_\_\_\_\_ had in my life was for my twentieth birthday.

- A- already                                      B- never                                      C- still                                      D- ever

27- My pets are very strange. Take my cat, \_\_\_\_\_ example. He never leaves the kitchen.

- A- from                                      B- for                                      C- by                                      D- in

28- I haven't seen Mary \_\_\_\_\_ last weekend, I hope she is well.

- A- since                                      B- for                                      C- during                                      D- at

29- He's looking for a better position with another \_\_\_\_\_.

- A- company                                      B- society                                      C- house                                      D- club

30- Most of the members of our \_\_\_\_\_ are university graduates.

- A- personal                                      B- staff                                      C- teammates                                      D- troupe

31- After five years' hard work he was \_\_\_\_\_.

- A- advanced                                      B- raised                                      C- promoted                                      D- elevated

32- My car broke \_\_\_\_\_ on the motorway and I had to have it towed away.

- A-away                                      B- down                                      C- up                                      D- through

33- Social life is changing fast. The \_\_\_\_\_ generation spent their lives more or less in one place.

- A- oldest                                      B- older                                      C- elderly                                      D- eldest

34- In some countries people cannot \_\_\_\_\_ with a full pension before the age of 67.

- A-retire                                      B- withdraw                                      C- live                                      D- retreat

35- \_\_\_\_\_ other students, he always hands in his assignments on time.

- A- Unlike                                      B- At difference                                      C- Contrary                                      D- Differently

36- If pedestrians \_\_\_\_\_ bright yellow jackets at night, drivers would see them more easily.

- A- wear                                      B- worn                                      C- wore                                      D- will wear

37- How do I get \_\_\_\_\_ the airport from the city center?

- A- to    B- at    C- in    D- into

38- It's a very long journey. You \_\_\_\_\_ go by car rather than walk there.

- A- would better                              B- had better                              C- would rather                              D- had rather

39- If I had heaps of money, I \_\_\_\_\_ champagne with every meal.

- A- had drink                                      B- had drunk                                      C- will drink                                      D- would drink

40- When he gave me back the book, he said he \_\_\_\_\_ reading it a lot.

- A- was enjoying                              B- had enjoyed                              C- enjoys                                      D- will enjoy

41- Could I speak \_\_\_\_\_ Tom please?

- A- Ø    B- at    C- for    D- to

42- I'll leave some sandwiches in the fridge in case you \_\_\_\_\_ hungry when you come back home.

- A- are    B- have    C- will be    D- will have

43- \_\_\_\_\_ first, I didn't recognize her as she had changed clothes.

- A- At    B- In    C- The    D- For

44- I haven't eaten steak and chips \_\_\_\_\_ a long time.

- A- for    B- ago    C- since    D- during

45- When I saw the stranger, I asked him why he \_\_\_\_\_ through the keyhole.

- A- looks    B- looked    C- was looking                                      D- will look

46- When you are at the butcher's, \_\_\_\_\_ to get a bone for the dog.

- A- remember                                      B- recall    C- remind    D- memorize

47- If you want to get a good salary, I \_\_\_\_\_ you to study in an engineering school.

- A- advise    B- advice    C- offer    D- counsel

- 48- When \_\_\_\_\_ your first mobile phone?  
 A- you got                      B- you get                      C- did you get                      D- had you
- 49- «Umbrellas and bags must be \_\_\_\_\_ at the desk», said the notice at the door of the museum.  
 A- left                      B- let                      C- leave                      D- live
- 50- In some districts, pigs \_\_\_\_\_ to find truffles.  
 A- are use                      B- are used                      C- use                      D- can be use
- 51- The French \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy good food and wine.  
 A- say                      B- are say                      C- are told                      D- are said
- 52- If you don't \_\_\_\_\_ him to enter, he'll break the door.  
 A- allow                      B- let                      C- leave                      D- refrain
- 53- The component is \_\_\_\_\_ large to fit on this printed circuit board.  
 A- to                      B- too                      C- so                      D- such
- 54- Try to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ late or you won't get any food and drink.  
 A- being                      B- to be                      C- be                      D- Ø
- 55- It's useless \_\_\_\_\_ to him as he cannot read.  
 A- write                      B- to writing                      C- writing                      D- written
- 56- This time next week I \_\_\_\_\_ in a bar drinking beer.  
 A- will to be                      B- am                      C- will be                      D- am going be
- 57- Brian cooks very well but he seems \_\_\_\_\_ learn English.  
 A- not be able to                      B- not to be able to                      C- to be not able                      D- to not be able
- 58- The teacher saw smoke coming from the student's desk and immediately understood he \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A- had smoke                      B- had been smoking                      C- had been smoke                      D- had been smoked
- 59- I cannot come right now I haven't finished my meal \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A- yet                      B- again                      C- still                      D- already

- 60- This is my flat. I \_\_\_\_\_ here since last September.  
 A-live                                      B- have lived                      C- lived                                      D- was living
- 61- His socks smell. He \_\_\_\_\_ them for over a week!  
 A-has been wearing                      B- worn                                      C- is worn                                      D- had worn
- 62- If I \_\_\_\_\_ this exam was so difficult I wouldn't have come!  
 A- know                                      B- knew                                      C- had known                                      D- have known
- 63- They cancelled the flight as there \_\_\_\_\_ passengers.  
 A-were enough not                      B- was not enough                      C- had not enough                      D- weren't enough
- 64- He didn't wear a coat \_\_\_\_\_ it was very cold outside.  
 A- because                                      B- so as to                                      C- through                                      D- although
- 65- The English drink tea, \_\_\_\_\_ the French drink wine.  
 A- since                                      B- whereas                                      C- in spite                                      D- despite
- 66- I'm going to tell you a story \_\_\_\_\_ will frighten you; it's all about ghosts and witches.  
 A- who                                      B- whom                                      C- what                                      D- which
- 67- \_\_\_\_\_ you finish this exercise the teacher will prepare the next one.  
 A- Whereas                                      B- While                                      C- During                                      D- Since
- 68- I found driving in the UK very strange as I \_\_\_\_\_ on the left.  
 A- was not used to driving                                      B- did not use to drive  
 C- was not used to drive                                      D- did not use driving
- 69- \_\_\_\_\_ taking this pill every morning, you will improve your memory.  
 A- While                                      B- On                                      C- By                                      D- With
- 70- \_\_\_\_\_ I turned on the light, I was astonished at what I saw.  
 A-Sooner                                      B-Before                                      C- As soon as                                      D- As early

71- Have you \_\_\_\_\_ been to an English-speaking country?

- A- yet                                      B- again                                      C- still                                      D- ever

72- The dentist's waiting room was full of people. Some \_\_\_\_\_ magazines.

- A- was reading                              B- were reading                              C- have read                              D- are reading

73- Tom works in the branch where the big robbery \_\_\_\_\_ place.

- A- takes                                      B- take                                      C- took                                      D- was taking

74- I \_\_\_\_\_ football for ten years now, so I am a confirmed player.

- A- played                                      B- am playing                                      C- played                                      D- have played

75- I'll look for your notebook and if I find it I \_\_\_\_\_ you a ring.

- A- am give                                      B- am giving                                      C- will give                                      D- give

76- We \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Education lessons every Monday at 8 am, it was very tough.

- A- were used to have                              B- are used to have                              C- have                                      D- used to have

77- If Jack \_\_\_\_\_ to help, we'll have to do without him.

- A- refuse                                      B- will refuse                                      C- refuses                                      D- refused

78- My mobile has gone. It was on the table by the window only a minute ago. Who \_\_\_\_\_ it?

- A- taked                                      B- takes                                      C- take                                      D- has taken

79- He keeps missing school, \_\_\_\_\_ makes his parents furious.

- A- who                                      B- whom                                      C- what                                      D- which

80- When she discovered she was not good at maths she gave \_\_\_\_\_ her studies.

- A- up                                      B- out                                      C- in                                      D- off

81- You can become a member by \_\_\_\_\_ twenty euros.

- A- pay                                      B- paying                                      C- having pay                                      D- having paid

82- I don't feel like working today. What about \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema?

- A- to go                                      B- go                                      C- going                                      D- gone



83- I'm not sure but your idea \_\_\_\_\_ be useful for the children who suffer from this rare disease.

- A- might                      B- will                      C- appeared                      D- seems

84- Once the factory is finished it will \_\_\_\_\_ produce two hundred new cars every day.

- A- be able                      B- can                      C- have the capacity                      D- be able to

85- I don't like coffee and I don't like tea \_\_\_\_\_.

- A- neither                      B- nor                      C- either                      D- above

86- The compilation of accurate statistics is becoming \_\_\_\_\_.

- A- more and more necessary                      C- most necessary  
B- the more necessary                      D- the most necessary

87- Most of my children \_\_\_\_\_ my husband, both in appearance and character.

- A- take after                      B- step down                      C- show up                      D- pull off

88- I'll finish now and I look forward to \_\_\_\_\_ you again soon.

- A- see                      B- seen                      C- seeing                      D- saw

89- Stop \_\_\_\_\_ the door if you want to open it.

- A- push                      B- pushing                      C- to push                      D- to pushing

90- My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ ten years ago.

- A- caught on                      B- passed away                      C- took after                      D- carried on

91- I have read \_\_\_\_\_ you have.

- A- twice as many books as                      C- twice as many books that  
B- twice too many books as                      D- twice so many books

92- This recipe requires \_\_\_\_\_ that recipe.

- A- fewer eggs than                      B- fewest eggs than                      C- fewer eggs than                      D- few eggs than

93- Had she known about the risks, she might not have \_\_\_\_\_ the operation.

- A- gone through with                      B- taken up                      C- broken down                      D- got along

94- The magazines cost \_\_\_\_\_ fifteen cents.

- A- as few as                      B- as many as                      C- as fewer as                      D- as little as

95- She expects \_\_\_\_\_ home for dinner.

A-to be                                      B- be                                      C- to being                                      D- being

96- Jane should consider \_\_\_\_\_ for this company.

A-to working                                      B- work                                      C- to work                                      D- working

97- The chairman doesn't recall \_\_\_\_\_ the binding contract.

A- to see                                      B- see                                      C- seeing                                      D- to seeing

98- Alan is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the boys in the class.

A-younger                                      B- most young                                      C- more young                                      D- youngest

99- I try to lend a \_\_\_\_\_ ear to my friend's problems, even if I don't agree.

A- nice                                      B-hearing                                      C- sympathetic                                      D- listening

100- "Hard work \_\_\_\_\_ pays off" as they say.

A- advertises                                      B- eventually                                      C- will sometimes                                      D- never

## II- Reading Comprehension

Read the following texts carefully and choose the answer that best corresponds to the text.

### Text 1

Homo erectus, The proTolinguisTic ape?

The earliest writing, providing clear evidence of modern language, dates from just 6000 years \_\_101\_\_, but language in \_\_102\_\_ modern form emerged long before then. Because all modern humans come \_\_103\_\_ an ancestral African population, and children from any existing culture can learn \_\_104\_\_ language, language must \_\_105\_\_ our emigration from Africa at least 50,000 years ago. But can we put a date \_\_106\_\_ the emergence of the first rudimentary protolanguages?

\_\_107\_\_ gestural, musical or lexical, protolanguage \_\_108\_\_ surpassed modern ape communication in the wild. With all the cognitive challenges, and benefits this would bring, we would expect \_\_109\_\_ early humans to differ considerably \_\_110\_\_ their forebears in both anatomy and culture. Using this logic, Homo erectus, which \_\_111\_\_ almost 2 million years ago, appears to be the most \_\_112\_\_ candidate. H. erectus were larger \_\_113\_\_ their predecessors, and had brain sizes of 900 \_\_114\_\_ 1100 cubic centimetres.

These approach the size of \_\_115\_\_ own brains, which average about 1350 cubic centimetres. This suggests a capability for flexible intelligence and culture. Their stone tools were vastly \_\_116\_\_ sophisticated than \_\_117\_\_ of Australopithecus, suggesting they may \_\_118\_\_ more advanced communication, \_\_119\_\_ the tools were less sophisticated than tools \_\_120\_\_ by Neanderthals and modern humans.

Importantly, the H. erectus tools appeared to reach a kind of stasis– their iconic Achulean hand axe, which was a symmetrical all-purpose tool, persisted for a million years. This suggests they did not have full language, which would have accelerated cultural and technological change. Hence they might have had some, but not all, of the linguistic capacities modern humans possess– a protolanguage, in other words.

January 2016, New Scientist

- 101) a) never                      b) again                      c) since                      d) ago
- 102) a) its                              b) his                              c) her                              d) it's
- 103) a) at                              b) out                              c) from                              d) of
- 104) a) any                              b) all                              c) not any                              d) few
- 105) a) have preceded              b) be preceded              c) preceding                      d) precede

- 106)** a) on                      b) in                      c) of                      d) at
- 107)** a) Either                      b) Whether                      c) Or                      d) Both
- 108)** a) considerably                      b) considerable                      c) consider                      d) considered
- 109)** a) those                      b) these                      c) this                      d) that
- 110)** a) from                      b) of                      c) than                      d) at
- 111)** a) has originated                      b) originated                      c) have originated                      d) had originated
- 112)** a) liked                      b) liking                      c) likely                      d) likeable
- 113)** a) as                      b) that                      c) which                      d) than
- 114)** a) to                      b) from                      c) at                      d) of
- 115)** a) his                      b) our                      c) your                      d) their
- 116)** a) rather                      b) as                      c) less                      d) more
- 117)** a) this                      b) that                      c) those                      d) these
- 118)** a) had had                      b) have having                      c) have had                      d) have
- 119)** a) though                      b) despite                      c) in spite                      d) because
- 120)** a) were made                      b) made                      c) making                      d) make

## **Text 2**

### *Pigment-making microbes could replace dirty synthetic dyes*

A French start-up is growing bacteria that can produce inks and dyes, meaning we may no longer have to synthesise dyes using oil and toxic chemicals.

WHAT puts the colour in your clothes? At present, the answer is usually petrochemical dyes. Now a French start-up called Pili is offering a radically different approach: getting bacteria to make dyes in the lab, with sugars as the only raw material.

Thomas Landrain and his co-founders at Pili hatched the idea three years ago at a biohacking lab in Paris called La Paillasse. They wanted to build a pen powered by bacteria: feed in sugar, get back ink. Their first lead was a South American strain of *Streptomyces* bacteria which produces blue pigment. Landrain and his colleagues learned to extract the pigment and write with it.

The group tried the bio-ink in an inkjet printer, and explored what it would take to use it with textiles. By fiddling with the microbes' environment – feeding them different kinds of sugars, varying the temperature and the time – the team learned to control the ink production and even to coax *Streptomyces* and other bacteria into producing four other colours: red, yellow, orange and violet. (...)

Many inks are made from a mixture of petrochemicals and organic pigments; others involve compounds of heavy metals such as cadmium or lead. The black ink in a ballpoint pen, for example, gets its colour from carbon black, made by burning petroleum products. “We began to imagine a future without that industry,” says Landrain, one in which dye-making has no dependence on oil. (...)

Making a little dye in the lab is a neat trick; producing enough for industrial purposes would be a real feat. The denim industry gets through 40,000 tonnes of synthetic indigo annually. Scaling up bacterial production will mean understanding precisely what resources are needed to feed all the bacteria, and maximizing the yield.

Pili is also testing how to get its bacterial dyes into clothes. Currently, the company grows the microbes right on the garments themselves. When dyeing is complete, the team kills the bacteria with heat or simply by throwing the clothes in the wash.

“When you're talking about replacing something made with petrochemicals, the production process has to be very efficient in order to compete with the scale and cost of current processes,” says Christina Agapakis, a synthetic biologist in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Pili is working with the French pen manufacturer BIC to help answer some of these questions. (...)

Producing dye biologically is still in its infancy. But if it works, says Chieza, “this could revolutionize how we dye in the fashion industry.”

New Scientist, 6 January 2016

**121) What is the main idea of the text?**

- a) Inks are made with petrochemicals
- b) Pens could be built with bacteria
- c) Inks can be made with sugars
- d) Bacteria is good for humans

**122) What does the text reveal?**

- a) Inks are dying because of bacteria
- b) Bacteria and sugars can colour clothes
- c) We will still have to synthesize dyes
- d) BIC can solve the problem with ink

**123) What did Thomas Landrain and his co-founders do at Pili 3 years ago?**

- a) They first had the idea
- b) They killed the idea
- c) They gave the idea to other researchers
- d) They started with textiles

**124) According to the text, what can sugar turn into?**

- a) sugar
- b) oil
- c) toxic chemicals
- d) ink

**125) How can the colours change from blue to other colours?**

- a) using other bacteria
- b) using a different raw material than sugar
- c) changing the microbes' environment
- d) using cadmium or lead

**126) According to the text, what will dye-making need in the future?**

- a) oil
- b) heavy metals
- c) bio-ink
- d) denim

**127) According to the text, what is the next challenge for Pili?**

- a) getting a massive production of ink
- b) killing the bacteria
- c) throwing the clothes in the wash
- d) compete with other researchers

**128) Today's production of ink with petrochemicals is considered:**

- a) cheap
- b) massive and cheap
- c) costly
- d) too little

**129) According to the text, biological dye is:**

- a) unrealistic
- b) booming
- c) just starting
- d) competitive

### **Text 3**

#### *How you can harness the placebo effect*

It can influence your body as strongly as some treatments – in the short term. Here's how to exploit the power of positive thinking.

My mum swears that reiki, a technique claimed to channel healing energy through touch, cured her painful frozen shoulder. And my sister promises me a homeopathic remedy will relieve my frequent stomach aches.

Such claims raise eyebrows among those who champion rational thinking. There is often no physiological mechanism by which these and other alternative therapies could work, and they regularly fail to pass the standard tests for efficacy in medicine. But if someone feels better after their chosen remedy, who are we to say it didn't work for them?

At the heart of such questions lies the placebo effect – the way that we tend to feel better just because we believe a medical treatment is going to work, even if the treatment itself is a sham. The power of placebos has been shown in many settings. In one study from 2002, 60 people were even given fake surgery to treat arthritic knees. An elaborate ruse involving doctored footage on a video screen convinced them that they had full surgery, whereas in reality they had only had the skin on their knees cut. Even so, their symptoms improved, and they recovered as well as those who had real surgery. The improvement lasted at least a year.

“We feel better if we believe a treatment will work – even if the treatment is a sham”.

“It's hard to believe that sham surgery can produce a long-lasting effect,” says Luana Colloca, who studies the placebo effect at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. But it can.

New Scientist 9 December 2015

#### **130) What is the text mainly about?**

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) physiological mechanism | c) the placebo effect |
| b) alternative therapies   | d) sham surgery       |

#### **131) The author's mum is said to be:**

- |           |                            |              |          |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------|----------|
| a) vulgar | b) faithful to her country | c) suffering | d) cured |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------|----------|

#### **132) The author says that first he was:**

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) sceptical about homeopathy | c) not sceptical about homeopathy |
| b) cured by homeopathy        | d) believing in positive thinking |



**133) What is the expression “raise eyebrows among” closest in meaning to?**

- a) irritate                      b) surprise                      c) annoy                      d) disturb

**134) According to the text, alternative therapies:**

- a) pass the standard test in medicine efficiency                      c) always work  
b) fail the standard test in medicine efficiency                      d) never work

**135) According to the text, what makes a medical treatment work?**

- a) positive thinking                      b) fake surgery                      c) placebos                      d) a sham

**136) How often has the power of placebos been proved?**

- a) always                      b) never                      c) often                      d) at times

**137) What happened to the 60 people mentioned in the text?**

- a) They had arthritic knees                      c) They were told the truth  
b) They had full surgery                      d) They were cured for good

**138) How long did the surgery work?**

- a) a year                      b) minimum a year                      c) less than a year                      d) for ever

**139) What is sham surgery?**

- a) the last resort                      b) a placebo                      c) a mistake                      d) a miracle

**140) What is Luana Colloca’s opinion?**

- a) real surgery is the only efficient treatment  
b) fake surgery never works  
c) fake surgery only works for a couple of days  
d) fake surgery can work for longer than we think