

V O C A B U L A R Y

Read the text and complete the sentences with the correct form of the word written in brackets.

Travel, (1) _____ (SPECIFIC) the touristic kind, has been stained as bloody and ignorant by imperialism. Even in more “developed” parts of the world, it continues to

(2) _____ (THREAT) lifestyles, traditions, ecology, and peace of mind. Similarly, travel

(3) _____ (WRITE) has expressed everything from adoration to (4) _____ (RACE).

But at its best it can offer a portrait of human (5) _____ (FOOL), prejudice, and desire for connection—those endlessly (6) _____ (CONFLICT) feelings that come with the experience.

Travel writing is not (7) _____ (SCIENCE), nor does it show the “authenticity” of a place. It’s not quite a reportage or (8) _____ (TOUR) guidebook either, since it does not always rely on facts. This literary subgenre has been around for a long time, and it combines the styles of

(9) _____ (PERSON) essay, memoir, (10) _____ (JOURNAL), food writing, nature writing, fiction, and poetry. All that said and done, the subgenre and its scholarship cannot be defined precisely. Simply put, it has its tendrils in too many places.

(Adapted from Thier, T.: All Travelers are Infiltrators: An Introduction to the Study of Travel Writing. *JSTOR DAILY*, October 21, 2024.[online]. Retrieved from: <https://daily.jstor.org/all-travelers-are-infiltrators-an-introduction-to-the-study-of-travel-writing/>)

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

G R A M M A R

Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C, or D) best fits each space. Then circle the correct option on the following page.

AI (1) ___ a long way in the last few years and in 2024, it became truly helpful. Generally, I (2) ___ a couple of articles each week on one AI innovation or another. It has been truly exciting and fascinating (3) ___ explore. But what AI (4) ___ I usually use? In this article, I'm going to show you several ways I used AI in 2024 to increase my productivity.

I found that ChatGPT (and not so much the other chatbots) (5) ___ very helpful when coding (6) ___ parts of my projects. I used AI (7) ___ common-knowledge coding, for writing CSS selectors, for writing regular expressions, and to test regular expressions, among (8) ___ things.

A lot of modern programming (9) ___ working with code other people wrote. A lot also involves working with code you wrote years ago and do not remember the details of. A few times during my coding, I (10) ___ a block of code, pasted it into ChatGPT, and asked the AI what (11) ___ code does. Usually, the AI will not only tell you that, it (12) ___ the sections to help you (13) ___ it.

One of the biggest ways AI adds value to my work is in graphics and video production. (14) ___ I have been a fairly good creative director, I am not (15) ___ illustrator. So, I found the ability to do text-to-image hugely helpful. Last year, I (16) ___ AI to create the album cover for one of my EPs.

When it comes to graphics products, Photoshop is my daily driver. I use Illustrator, but mostly to resize and modify images (17) ___ clipart libraries I have bought. Earlier this year, a form of generative fill (18) ___ creates vector-based images was introduced. You (19) ___ then ungroup these into parts that are easy to resize and reuse. While I haven't needed these features much, they (20) ___ impressive. I hope to use them more over time.

I used AI to help me write articles in the bathroom, and in bed, and (21) ___ making eggs. Many mobile phone companies (22) ___ a voice recording app to transcribe voice recordings to their devices. Now, (23) ___ I am doing, if I have some useful thoughts, I (24) ___ a few sentences or paragraphs right into the voice recording app on my phone, then later transcribe them and drop them into an article. (25) ___ I do a lot of thinking about articles when I am not in front of the keyboard, this is a great way for me (26) ___ save time.

And what (27) ___ I like AI to do for me in 2025? Here is my wishlist. I would like to use it to remove pauses in video clips. This process is very time-consuming, and it should (28) ___ possible with a click of the mouse. I would also like to use AI to generate video clips for music videos and YouTube videos. We are seeing the beginnings of this, but I would like it as commonplace (29) ___ text-to-image is now.

What (30) ___ AI for in 2024? What do you want AI to be able to do for you next year?

(Adapted from Gewirtz, D.: 15 ways AI saved me time at work in 2024 - and how I plan to use it in 2025. ZDNET, December 27, 2024. [online]. Retrieved from <https://www.zdnet.com/article/15-ways-ai-saved-me-time-at-work-in-2024-and-how-i-plan-to-use-it-in-2025/>)

GRAMMAR – continued

1. A) comes B) came C) has come D) had come
2. A) have written B) has written C) am writing D) did write
3. A) of B) to C) by D) in
4. A) do B) does C) am D) was
5. A) will be B) were C) has been D) was
6. A) some B) any C) no D) the
7. A) at B) for C) to D) by
8. A) another B) the other C) other D) others
9. A) involves B) involve C) involving D) is involving
10. A) copy B) copied C) have copied D) had copied
11. A) a B) an C) the D) *no article*
12. A) also will break down B) does also break down
C) break down D) will also break down
13. A) to have dissected B) dissect C) dissecting D) dissected
14. A) When B) While C) Because D) Unless
15. A) a B) an C) the D) *no article*
16. A) have used B) did use C) used D) use
17. A) from B) at C) on D) of
18. A) that B) when C) what D) who
19. A) must B) should C) would D) can
20. A) is B) are C) will be D) were
21. A) at B) by C) for D) while
22. A) adding B) had added C) added D) add
23. A) however B) whatever C) whenever D) whoever
24. A) must record B) could record C) can record D) might record
25. A) During B) Since C) While D) In
26. A) to B) for C) with D) on
27. A) would B) should C) could D) do
28. A) being B) is C) be D) have been
29. A) as B) so C) such D) like
30. A) did you used B) did you use C) you used D) do you use

0.5 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 15 pts

READING COMPREHENSION

Plough Monday

No one likes going back to work after the holidays. However, in the past, people in the English countryside had a way to make it more fun. They developed a holiday called Plough Monday, and they celebrated it on the first Monday after Epiphany (January 6th). With disguises, trick-or-treating, and parties, Plough Monday feels like the Christmas season's version of Halloween.

Imagine you are at home in Yorkshire in 1814. You hear a knock at the door. When you open it, you see a strange group of people. **(1)** ____ Behind them is a company of sword-bearers in military-style uniforms, dancing to a fiddle.

After that, things get even stranger. A group of men act as oxen and pull a plough down the street. Someone walks behind them with a whip that has a sheep's-bladder rattle. **(2)** ____

Somewhere in the group, there might be a "Hobby Horse." This is a man with a puppet-horse around his waist, so it looks like he's riding it. He pulls a hidden string to make the horse's jaw and tail move. **(3)** ____ There are fishhooks and nails hidden behind the hairs.

The procession ends with a group of comic characters. One is a Fool dressed in skins, with a tail hanging down his back. There is also an old couple whose clothes are torn to pieces. Last of all comes the Collector, holding a box for donations.

Even if you pay them, you still need to be careful. **(4)** ____ Young men might remove everyone's gates at night so the cattle would escape. They might also prop a jug of water against your door. It would spill everywhere as soon as you opened it.

Plough Monday has existed since at least the 1400s and is still celebrated in some areas today. Over the centuries, its components have kept changing. As with all folk traditions, details vary from place to place.

In earlier times, there was also a religious side to it. People sometimes dragged the plough into the church to be blessed. The money they collected might be used to pay for "plough-lights," which were candles on a ploughman's altar. My personal favourite part is the Straw Bear: **(5)** ____

(Adapted from Soth, A.: Plough Monday. *JSTOR Daily*, December 27, 2024. [online]. Retrieved from: <https://daily.jstor.org/plough-monday/>)

READING COMPREHENSION – continued

A. Read the article *Plough Monday* and decide which of the sentences (A)–(E) best fits into each of the numbered gaps (1)–(5) in the article. Write the correct letter in the blank chart provided below. There are three extra sentences.

- a) Word to the wise—don't touch the tail.
- b) A man who is covered completely in straw, so he looks like a walking haystack.
- c) It was originally celebrated only by the royal family and their closest friends.
- d) The tradition was strictly banned for centuries due to safety concerns.
- e) Pranks were part of Plough Monday.
- f) It makes a noise as if it is actually hitting their backs.
- g) People usually exchanged small gifts in the morning on Plough Monday.
- h) At the front, a pair dressed in their best clothes plays the "King and Queen."

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

B. Read the text and for questions 1 to 5, choose the correct answer. Circle the correct answer.

1. What is Plough Monday?

- A. A new holiday created in modern times.
- B. A holiday celebrated on January 1st.
- C. A holiday celebrated on the first Monday after Epiphany.
- D. A harvest festival in the summer.

2. Who are the first two people you see leading the procession?

- A. The old couple in torn clothes.
- B. Two men dressed as oxen.
- C. The collector and the Fool.
- D. A "King and Queen" in their best clothes.

3. Which of the following is true about the group of men acting as oxen?

- A. They wear giant ox masks.
- B. They walk on all fours while singing.
- C. They pull a plough down the street.
- D. They give treats to children.

4. Why might Plough Monday be compared to Halloween?

- A. It happens in October.
- B. It involves people wearing disguises and going door to door.
- C. It features children asking for candy.
- D. It requires people to carve pumpkins.

5. Which statement is true about Plough Monday over the centuries?

- A. It has stayed exactly the same everywhere.
- B. Its components have changed over time.
- C. It was only celebrated in big cities.
- D. It has never involved music or dancing.

1 point/correct answer

Total: _____ / 10 pts

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

You will listen to an article entitled *'Reflecting on a Semester of Conservation: A Student Interview'*. Pay close attention and for each statement, decide whether it is true (T), false (F), or not stated in the text (NS). Circle the correct answer for each statement. You can score up to five points in this exercise.

1. T / F / NS Nadia says the class schedule usually includes field trips connected to the classroom lessons.
2. T / F / NS Nadia Gray interviewed Clark Farley to learn about his semester experience.
3. T / F / NS Nadia discovered she loved research long before she began studying at SMSC.
4. T / F / NS Nadia says "Apply yourself!" to encourage new SMSC students to make the most of their time in the program.
5. T / F / NS Nadia says that just watching hawks through binoculars is very similar to helping a vet examine them.
6. T / F / NS Before this semester, Nadia had a clear plan for her career in conservation.
7. T / F / NS Nadia's volunteer work gave her more real-world experience for what she was learning in class.
8. T / F / NS Nadia recommends staying focused only on class assignments without looking for any extra experiences.
9. T / F / NS Some SMSC professors also volunteer at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Centre.
10. T / F / NS Nadia says conservation is a small field where it's possible to meet future coworkers early in your career.

0.5 point/correct answer
Total: _____ / 5 pts

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