G R A M M A R

Complete the article by filling in the gaps with the proper verb form or verb tense. Write your answers in the spaces below the article. Example: (00) *waiting*

A Passage from *Nine Elms* by Robert Bryndza

'Sorry to keep you **– 00 –** (wait); traffic,' said Peter, giving her a brisk smile. He picked up a pile of paperwork from the passenger seat and put it behind his seat. He was a good-looking man in his late thirties, broad-shouldered with thick dark wavy hair, high cheekbones, and soft brown eyes. He **– 01 –** (wear) an expensive tailored black suit.

'Of course,' she said, feeling relief as she stashed her handbag and groceries in the footwell and dropped into the seat. As soon as she closed the door, Peter **– 02 –** (accelerate) and flicked on the sirens.

The sunshade was down on the passenger side, and she **– 03 –** (catch) her reflection in the mirror as she folded it back up. She **– 04 –** (wear, not) her make-up, or dressed provocatively, and Kate always thought herself a little plain. She wasn't delicate. She had strong features. The only distinguishing features were her unusual eyes, which were a startling cornflower blue with a burst of burnt orange **– 05 –** (flood) out from the pupils. It **– 06 –** (cause) by sectoral heterochromia, a rare condition where the eyes have two colours. The other, less permanent mark on her face was a split lip, which **– 07 –** (cause) by an irate drunk resisting arrest a few days before. She'd felt no fear when dealing with the drunk, and didn't feel ashamed that he **– 08 –** (hit) her. It was part of the job. Why did she feel shame after **– 09 –** (hit) on by the sleazy businessman? He was the one with the sad, saggy grey underwear.

Peter **– 10 –** (speed) around a roundabout in fourth gear and took the exit to Crystal Palace Park. He was a career police officer, and Kate had no doubt that solving this case **– 11 –** (result) in a promotion to superintendent or even chief superintendent. Peter had been the youngest officer in the history of the Met Police **– 12 –** (promote) to detective chief inspector.

The windows **– 13 –** (start) to fog up and he turned up the heater. The arc of condensation on the windscreen rippled and receded. Between a group of terraced houses, Kate wondered which light belonged to the Nine Elms Cannibal. *What if we never find him?* she thought. *The police* **– 14 –** (*find, not*) *many murderers?* They turned off into the north entrance to Crystal Palace Park. A police car **– 15 –** (wait) and the officer waved them through.

(Adapted from Nine Elms *by Robert Bryndza, 2020, pp. 14-15)*

01 …………………………………….	09 …………………………………….
02 …………………………………….	10 …………………………………….
03 …………………………………….	11 …………………………………….
04 …………………………………….	12 …………………………………….
05 …………………………………….	13 …………………………………….
06 …………………………………….	14 …………………………………….
07 …………………………………….	15 …………………………………….
08 …………………………………….	

Total Points: …........../15pts

V O C A B U L A R Y

Read the article below. Use the word given in CAPITALS at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

An extract from *Scotland*

As the Scottish monarch of **– 00 –** of the English king, it's	**CHOOSE**	00 ……choice…..…..….
perhaps **– 01 –** that King John's reign was both short and	**SURPRISE**	01 ……………………………
– 02 – ignominious. He ruled for just four years, during which	**WHAT**	02 ……………………………
time Edward became more aggressive in his **– 03 –** over	**ASSERT**	03 ……………………………
Scotland.		

The final straw came in 1294 when Edward demanded that

Scotland send troops to aid in his war with the French. **– 04 –**	**INFLUENCE**	04 ……………………………
Scots, tired of Edward's interference and John's **– 05 –**, created	**WEAK**	05 ……………………………
a council of nobles and **– 06 –** who ruled in John's name.	**CLERGY**	06 ……………………………

They then formed a treaty with Philip IV of France against

the English, kicking off the 'Auld Alliance'.

Now only **– 07 –** in charge, John renounced his fealty to	**NOMINAL**	07 ……………………………
Edward in 1296, which spurred Edward to march his army north,		
where he defeated the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar and **– 08 –**	**SUBSEQUENT**	08 ……………………………
took several castles, including Edinburgh and Stirling.		

John surrendered to Edward in Angus and was forced

to sign a **– 09 –** confession. Having proved to be	**HUMILIATE**	09 ……………………………
– 10 – to both sides, he was forced to abdicate in 1296. He	**EFFECT**	10 ……………………………
was **– 11 –** in the Tower of London until 1299, when he was	**PRISON**	11 ……………………………
allowed to live in **– 12 –** in France, where he stayed until his	**EXILING**	12 ……………………………
– 13 – in 1313.	**DEAD**	13 ……………………………
Perhaps his most enduring **– 14 –** came when, following	**LEGAL**	14 ……………………………

Edward's victory, the English took the Stone of Destiny

from Scone to Westminster Abbey, where it remained until 1996.

King John's abdication and Edward's **– 15 –** forays into	**RELENT**	15 ……………………………
Scotland left the country without a monarch for a decade, until 1306.		
This was the period of now-Hollywood **– 16 –**, when	**FAMOUS**	16 ……………………………
– 17 – battles and guerrilla-like campaigns were fought	**COUNT**	17 ……………………………
in a bid for Scottish **– 18 –** and the country was governed	**SOVEREIGN**	18 ……………………………
by a series of **– 19 –**, including William Wallace, grandson	**GUARD**	19 ……………………………
of Robert Bruce, who stood against King John in 1292.		

The man who would be king was a strong and able

leader and a mighty **– 20 –** with a deep-rooted commitment	**WAR**	20 ……………………………
to seeing a legitimately independent kingdom of Scotland.		

(Adapted from Scotland*, January 2024, pp. 55-56).*   **Total Points: …………./10pts**

R E A D I N G   C O M P R E H E N S I O N

Read the following article about the growth of artificial intelligence. For questions 01-10, decide which of the sentences (A-M) above the article best fits into each of the numbered gaps in the article. There are three extra sentences.

What is AI, and will it make us all redundant?

A they should get at it
B what jobs would be disrupted by AI
C it can help people answer questions
D draw inferences from patterns in datasets
E dangerous capabilities are found in their models
F which is modelled at a very simple level
G to solve more complex tasks
H AI systems threaten social stability
I seeking to limit the harms
J what they are told
K to help in the creation of simple programs
L obliging AI companies to adopt safety measures
M as AI systems become more capable

01 _____
02 _____
03 _____
04 _____
05 _____
06 _____
07 _____
08 _____
09 _____
10 _____

The term artificial intelligence was coined in 1955 by a team including Harvard computer scientist Marvin Minsky. With no strict definition of the phrase, almost anything more complex than a calculator has been called artificial intelligence by someone.

But in the current debate, AI has come to mean something else. It boils down to this: most old-school computers do **– 01 –**, following instructions given to them in the form of code. For them **– 02 –**, scientists are trying to train them how to learn in a way that imitates human behaviour.

Computers cannot be taught to think for themselves but can be taught to analyse information and **– 03 –**. The more you give them—computer systems can now cope with vast amounts of information—the better **– 04 –**.

The most successful versions of machine learning in recent years have used a system known as a neural network, **– 05 –** on how we think a brain works.

Almost anywhere you currently interact with other people is being eagerly assessed for AI-based disruption. Chatbots in customer service roles are nothing new but, **– 06 –**, expect to encounter more and more of them, handling increasingly complex tasks. Voice synthesis and recognition technology means they'll also answer the phone, and even call you.

And then there are the less obvious cases. The systems can be used to label and organise data, **– 07 –**, to summarise and generate work emails—anything where text is available, someone will try to hand it to a chatbot.

Scientists don't know what happens if they build an AI system that is smarter than humans at everything it does. Perhaps a future version of a large-language model-based chatbot like ChatGPT, for instance, decides that the best way **– 08 –** is by slowly manipulating people into putting it in charge. The tech industry produced 32 significant machine-learning models last year, compared with three produced by academia.

Asked recently **– 09 –**, the Google chief executive answered, 'Knowledge workers.' The boss of technology group IBM has said he expects nearly 8,000 back-office jobs at the business, like human resources roles, to be replaced by AI over a five-year period.

The recent history of tech regulation is that governments and regulators scramble into action once the technology has already been unleashed. Last week, a group of 23 senior experts in the technology released a policy proposal document warning that **– 10 –** and that companies must be made liable for their products.

(Adapted from The Guardian Weekly*, Nov. 2023, p. 13)*   **Total points: ..../10pts**

PROGRESSIVE TESTING – phrasal verbs with give

Write phrasal verbs with GIVE and explain their meaning. You will score 1 point for every two correct examples.

For example:
give up sth = to stop doing something

L I S T E N I N G   C O M P R E H E N S I O N

You will hear two experts talking about how decluttering your home can help move our life forward. Match the five texts (A-E) with the statements (01-08). Three statements are not needed. Write X for these. You will score five points. You will hear the texts only once.

01 Enjoy clarity ....

02 Simplify decluttering ....

03 Make way ....

04 Organise space ....

05 Be curious ....

06 Let go of things ....

07 Embrace a new vibe ....

08 Stay focused ....

Total points: _____/5