

**2022—2023学年度（上）六校高三期初考试**

**英语试题**

考试时间:120分钟 满分：150分

**第一部分 听力（共两节，满分30分）**

**第一节（共5小题；每小题1.5分，满分7.5分）**

听下面5段对话。每段对话后有一个小题，从题中所给的A、B、C三个选项中选出最佳选项，并标在试卷的相应位置。听完每段对话后，你都有10秒钟的时间来回答有关小题和阅读下一小题。每段对话仅读一遍。

1. What does the man suggest doing?

A. Eating out. B. Leaving Jack alone. C.Comforting Jack.

2. What will Jane probably do in the vacation?

A. Help the man review English.

B. Make a study plan.

C. Take an English class.

3. What are the speakers mainly discussing?

A. A cyclist. B. An accident. C. A race.

4. How can we describe the game?

A. Close. B. Unequal. C. Surprising.

5. What is the relationship between the speakers?

A. Neighbors. B. Strangers. C. Workmates.

**第二节（共15小题；每小题1.5分，满分22.5分）**

听下面5段对话或独白，每段对话或独白后有几个小题，从题中所给的A、B、C三个选项中选出最佳选项，并标在试卷的相应位置。听每段对话或独白前，你将有时间阅读各个小题，每小题5秒钟；听完后，各小题将给出5秒钟的作答时间。每段对话或独白读两遍。

听第 6 段材料，回答第 6、7 题。

6. What is the weather like now?

A. Clear. B. Windy. C. Foggy.

7. Where is Jack now?

A. On the highway. B. At home. C. In the office.

听第 7 段材料，回答第 8 至 10 题。

8. Where does the woman work?

A. At a hotel. B. At an airport. C. At a bus company.

9. When will the man probably reach Sydney’s airport?

A. On March 3rd. B. On March 6th. C. On March 9th.

10. What can we learn about the man?

A. He has booked an ordinary single room.

B. He needs to confirm the flight next.

C. He will take the shuttle to the hotel.

听第 8 段材料，回答第 11 至 13 题。

11. Where does the conversation probably take place?

A. In a garden. B. In a gift shop. C. In a flower shop.

12. How did the woman develop an interest in growing flowers?

A. She took it as a pastime.

B. She was influenced by her husband.

C. She was fond of the smell of flowers.

13. What do we know about the man?

A. He has green fingers.

B. He is a bank clerk now.

C. He has taken up stamp collecting.

听第 9 段材料，回答第 14 至 17 题。

14. When did the man’s aunt and uncle first go to Ibiza?

A. About thirteen years ago.

B. About seventeen years ago.

C. About thirty years ago.

15. Why did the man’s aunt and uncle choose Ibiza last summer?

A. They had good memories of it.

B. They booked cheap flights.

C. They liked parties.

16. What was the trip like last summer?

A. Peaceful. B. Perfect. C. Noisy.

17. How do the old couple feel about trips now according to the man?

A. Regretful. B. Annoyed. C. Uninterested.

听第 10 段材料，回答第 18 至 20 题。

18. What is the cash prize for the first-prize winner?

A. $5,000. B. $4,000. C. $1,000.

19. Who has dropped out of the competition?

A. Donald Wreck. B. Rose O’Brien. C. Maria Sanchez.

20. What does the speaker think of the result?

A. Satisfying. B. Surprising. C. Disappointing.

**第二部分 阅读理解（共两节，满分50分）**

**第一节（共15小题；每小题2.5分，满分37.5分）**

阅读下列短文，从每题所给的A、B、C和D四个选项中，选出最佳选项，并在答题纸上将该项涂黑。

**A**

Under Singapore’s Vaccinated Travel Framework, all travellers including Singapore citizens and permanent residents arriving from all countries/regions can enter Singapore without quarantine (隔离), testing or entry approvals if they meet the following requirements:

\*Be a child born on or after 1 Jan. 2010 — children who meet this criteria can enter regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status (疫苗接种状态).

\*Be fully vaccinated with WHO EUL vaccines if born on or before 31 Dec. 2009 (i. e. age 13 and above by year of birth). Mixed doses using WHO EUL vaccines, and one vaccination dose after a COVID-19 infection are also acceptable.

\*Be vaccinated against Yellow Fever if you have visited Yellow Fever high risk countries/regions in Africa and Latin America — a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required.

Travellers born on or before 31 Dec. 2009 who do not meet the vaccination requirements above are considered non-fully vaccinated travellers. They will be subject to entry approvals, tests and quarantine. This includes travellers who:

\*Are medically exempted (免除) from COVID-19 vaccination.

\*Took non-WHO EUL vaccines only, and did not take the minimum dosage of WHO EUL COVID-19 vaccines.

\*Recovered from COVID-19 but did not complete the minimum dosage of WHO EUL COVID-19 vaccines.

Generally, non-fully vaccinated long term pass holders and short-term visitors are not allowed to enter Singapore unless in exceptional circumstances.

Click the orange button below for a detailed checklist of travel requirements.

21. Who can enter Singapore without entry approvals?

A. A college graduate unvaccinated.

B. A business man from Africa with Yellow Fever.

C. A Singaporean infected with COVID-19.

D. A ten-year-old boy from Australia.

22. What will the non-fully vaccinated travelers do to enter Singapore?

A. Get a long term pass.

B. Provide entry approvals and receive tests and quarantine.

C. Have physical examination on a regular basis.

D. Take non-WHO EUL vaccines.

23. Where is this text probably taken from?

A. A textbook. B. A magazine C. A website. D. A brochure.

**B**

Eradajere Oleita thinks she may have a partial solution to two of our country’s persistent problems: garbage and poverty. It’s called the Chip Bag Project. The 26-year-old student and environmentalist from Detroit is asking a favor of local snack lovers: Rather than toss your empty chip bags into the trash, donate them so she can turn them into sleeping bags for the homeless.

Chip eaters drop off their empty bags from Doritos, Lay’s, and other favorites at two locations in Detroit: a print shop and a clothing store, where Oleita and her volunteer helpers collect them. After they sanitize (消毒) the chip bags in soapy hot water, they slice them open, lay them flat, and iron them together. They use padding and liners from old coats to line the insides.

It takes about four hours to sew a sleeping bag, and each takes around 150 to 300 chip bags, depending on whether they’re single-serve or family size. The result is a sleeping bag that is “waterproof, lightweight, and easy to carry around,” Oleita told the *Detroit News*. Since its start in 2020, the Chip Bag Project has collected more than 800,000 chip bags and, as of last December, created 110 sleeping bags.

Sure, it would be simpler to raise the money to buy new sleeping bags. But that’s only half the goal for Oleita—whose family moved to the United States from Nigeria a decade ago with the hope of attaining a better life—and her fellow volunteers. “We are devoted to making an impact not only socially, but environmentally,” she said.

And, of course, there’s the symbolism of recycling bags that would otherwise land in the trash and using them to help the homeless. It’s a powerful reminder that environmental injustice and poverty often go hand in hand. As Oleita said, “I think it’s time to show connections between all of these issues.”

24. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

A. How they make the sleeping bags. B. Why they sanitize the chip bags.

C. Where they collect the chip bags. D. What they use to line the insides.

25. What do the numbers in paragraph 3 show?

A. The new sleeping bags have many benefits.

B. A lot of effort is put into making the sleeping bags.

C. People consume a large quantity of chips every day.

D. People are aware of the importance of environmental protection.

26. Why do the volunteers make rather than simply buy sleeping bags?

A. They aim to help the homeless by recycling waste.

B. They think it is difficult to raise a lot of money.

C. They wish they could earn better life.

D. They want to find a simpler way to help the homeless.

27. Which statement is true according to the passage?

A. Recycling chip bags can remove poverty.

B. The new sleeping bags have been put into wide use.

C. Few chip bags will end up in the trash in the country.

D. Environmental injustice and poverty are usually closely connected.

**C**

Some of the world’s best *Coffea arabica* is grown on Mount Kenya. This variety of the plant produces beans that are tastier than those from its poor cousin, *Coffea canephor*a (known as *robusta*), which often ends up in instant coffee. However, global warming may reduce the total area that is most suited to growing arabica beans by about half by 2050.

Some farmers are trying to adapt to warming by moving uphill. Yet this pushes them into areas long used for growing tea. Not only is there less space higher up; the move stresses how warming also threatens to harm the tea crop, which supports about 10% of Kenya’s population. Warmer weather will push tea itself higher up area.

Kenya’s government-funded Coffee Research Institute is trying to find other ways of helping farmers adapt, such as encouraging them to plant trees to shade their coffee bushes, or to grow hardier (适应性更强) *robusta* plants. It is also trying to plant a hybrid, *Arabusta*, which would combine the hardiness of *robusta* with the flavour of *arabica*. Coffee lovers may turn up their noses at **it**, but they may have no other choices.

However, such adaptations may bring social costs. Many smallholder farmers are at risk of being pushed out of the industry altogether because they cannot afford the money needed to protect their crops.

Another option may be entirely new varieties. Researchers in London are studying a wild type of coffee, *Coffea stenophylla*. It is delicious and can also take the heat. But it produces lower harvest than existing varieties and it may be years before it is widely grown. Without a breakthrough of some sort, caffeine addicts may face a future too unpleasant to imagine. “If we don’t have the innovation to respond to climate challenges,” Vern Long of World Coffee Research says, “we’re just going to be drinking man-made coffee.”

28. In what way is *Coffea arabica* better than *Coffea robusta*?

A. Sales. B. Harvest. C. Hardiness. D. Flavor.

29. What does the underlined “it” refer to in Paragraph 3?

A. *Robusta*. B. *Arabica*. C. *Arabusta*. D. *Stenophylla*.

30. What might be the impact of the government’s policy?

A. Smallholder coffee farmers may disappear.

B. The areas of tea crop will be reduced.

C. The cost of coffee-planting may drop.

D. Good money will be brought in.

31. What’s the purpose of this text?

A. To give suggestions to coffee farmers.

B. To recommend new varieties of coffee.

C. To introduce coffee industry under threat.

D. To list possible solutions to climate changes.

**D**

Contrary to “popular opinion”, the scientific pursuit for knowledge is not a predictable process. To make new discoveries, researchers need the freedom to be creative, fail, and learn by chance. This aspect is similar to art. This is why Wageningen scientists look to artists for inspiration and exchange ideas about how to increase creative freedom.

“Science and art are two different ways to make something understandable. They both provide a perspective on reality,” says Biochemistry Professor Dolf Weijers. “From the outside, the research process looks very formal and the artistic process looks somewhat messy. But the scientific process can also unfold in an unpredictable way.”

“Scientists can learn a lot from artists,” says Weijers. “Association and creativity are central to art. Those aspects require more attention in science as the creative process is the key of science.”

“As a scientist, you use different methods, but it is equally about how you visualize(可视化) your understanding of reality and the connections that there are. This is sometimes just as visual as art,” says Weijers. One example is a recent special project in which Weijers and his colleague Joris Sprakel, professor of Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter, measured the forces that act on plant cells. A molecular(分子的)sensor was used to visualize the different forces. They showed the results in colorful images, each representing a different force.

What science and art also have in common is that they are topics of discussion in society. There are people who say that they do not value art and people who mistrust science. Weijers says, “It often creates the wrong impression because only the results of scientific studies are presented, and people do not have any insight into the process leading to discovery. As a scientist, you are doubted if you say that something is different a few years later. Then you are viewed as unreliable. But what is often poorly understood is that there are no final results in science. What we scientists can achieve in the coming period is to provide more chances for people to focus on the process. Personally, I think that the connection with art can help to lead the focus on the process than the result.”

32 What might be the “popular opinion” about the scientific discovery?

1. It is creative. B. It can be accidental.

C. It allows failures. D. It is predictable.

33. In Dolf Weijers’s view, the artistic process\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. totally differs from the scientific one

B. normally looks formal and controlled

C. offers inspiration for scientific research

D. focuses on putting the messy in order

34. Why does the author mention Dolf Weijers’s research on plant cells?

A. To prove that science can be visualized like art.

B. To stress that understanding science is difficult.

C. To show the value of his scientific achievements.

D. To tell obvious differences between science and art.

35. What does Dolf Weijers say about scientific studies?

A. They have little to do with the discoveries.

B. Their process should be more open to people.

C. They always present unchanged final results.

D. Their focus is not the process but the result.

**第二节（共5小题；每小题2.5分，满分12.5分）**

**根据短文内容，从短文后选项中选出能填入空白处的最佳选项。选项中有两项为多余选项。**

The most relaxing colors are generally believed to be cool shades such as green and blue. 36 So we can often see these colors in hospitals, test centers, and television stations, where people may want some help to ease their nerves and bad emotions.

Home designers note that people often describe rooms painted blue and green as relaxing and comfortable. As a result, architects often use colors from the cool part of the color circle in bedrooms and bathrooms. 37

Driving down a highway. you’ll notice that some signs consist of white letters on a dark green background. 38 Another place where we see green used is in the “green room” of theaters or television studios because nervous performers are quieted by the color. This is also the reason why doctors wear green clothes in the operating room. And prison cells often paint their walls green for the same effect.

39 Our eyes sense color using tiny sensors sensitive to the red light, the green light or the blue light. However, generally they are the most sensitive to the green light. Researchers think that this sensitivity to green objects might affect hormonal production that in turn influences the mood. What’s more, recent studies have shown that when a person looks at the green colored paper or is placed in a green room, their heart rate drops, blood pressure lowers, and muscles relax. 40 So next time you’re feeling nervous or upset, please try to focus your eyes on something green instead of red.

A. There was research into colors in ancient times.

B. It is agreed that the two can make us feel calm, balanced and less emotional.

C. Different colors can cause different psychological reactions.

D. Engineers determine such signs won’t get people’s eyes tired.

E. Scientists have found some evidence for the magic power of green.

F. And painters often use blues and greens on walls and ceilings.

G. In contrast, hot colors cause these to rise.

**第三部分 语言运用（共两节，满分30分）**

**第一节 完形填空（共15小题；每小题1分，满分15分）**

阅读下面短文，从短文后各题所给的A、B、C和D四个选项中，选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项，并在答题纸上将该项涂黑。

My parents, siblings and I took our first camping trip to the Lake Houston Wilderness Park recently.

We had finished putting up the 41 when it suddenly started to rain. Luckily, we had 42 our tent on a high flat ground where water could not pour in. Mom got some snacks and drinks ready for us while we played games and 43 about our daily life, which made wet-weather camping fun. How 44 it was camping under the sound of the rain! We were gathered around in the center of 45 and it was a nice feeling. Even with the rain, I had never been so 46 .

The rain died down before dark and the sky turned clear. Soon, Mom 47 a big meal over the fire for the family. I sensed that a hot meal and good 48 would warm us right up. While we ate together, Dad 49 at the stars and told us about his childhood. As we laughed and 50 on our days, the stars shone like diamonds at night.

The following day, we had a good time 51 the rocky trails around our campsite. 52 hiking in the forest, we had a lovely late afternoon boating. It was amazing to see the 53 changing rays of the sunset behind the pine trees. That evening we packed up our 54 and headed home.

I am very grateful for this camping trip, which has left us unforgettable 55 .

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 41. | A. roof | B. shelf | C. fence | D. tent |
| 42. | A. positioned | B. attached | C. approached | D. checked |
| 43. | A. felt | B. chatted | C. argued | D. complained |
| 44. | A. strange | B. powerful | C. unique | D. beneficial |
| 45. | A. culture | B. society | C. nature | D. space |
| 46. | A. happy | B. lucky | C. curious | D. confident |
| 47. | A. served | B. prepared | C. ordered | D. delivered |
| 48. | A. impression | B. adventure | C. show | D. conversation |
| 49. | A. yelled | B. pointed | C. laughed | D. wondered |
| 50. | A. set out | B. went back | C. caught up | D. looked down |
| 51. | A. paving | B. cleaning | C. exploring | D. searching |
| 52. | A. Due to | B. Apart from | C. Instead of | D. As for |
| 53. | A. dramatically | B. casually | C. regularly | D. completely |
| 54. | A. goods | B. tools | C. harvests | D. belongings |
| 55. | A. encounters | B. coincidences | C. discoveries | D. memories |

**第二节 语法填空（共10小题：每小题1.5分，满分15分）**

**阅读下面材料，在空白处填入适当的内容（1个单词）或括号内单词的正确形式。**

For followers of freestyle skiing and fashion alike, the buzz surrounding Winter Olympian Eileen Gu at this year’s Games has become 56 hit.

Gu’s gold-medal 57 (perform) in the competition pushed her into the global spotlight on Tuesday, 58 (cause) such a craze in China that social media platform Weibo crashed. But Gu has spent years establishing 59 (she) as both a top athlete and a 60 (huge) reliable model.

Since switching her sporting devotion to her mother’s home country in 2019, Gu 61 ( get) her place in Chinese TV ads. JD. com is among the famous brands that she has modeled for in recent months. In fact, she arrived in Beijing with more than 20 commercial partnerships, ranging 62 Beats to Cadillac.

“The fashion world has helped balance my training,” Gu said. “Just like skiing, modeling 63 (require) creativity, confidence and the ability 64 (learn) and adapt. The transition between modeling and skiing becomes a practice for each other, 65 helped me feel more motivated in each area.”

**第四部分 写作（共两节，满分40分）**

**第一节 应用文写作（满分15分）**

假定你是李华，你校开设了丰富劳动课程（Labor Skill Course），请你给英国朋友Peter写一封邮件。内容包括：



1.课程内容； 2.你的感受； 3.询问Peter劳动课情况。

注意：1.词数80左右；

2.请按格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

Dear Peter

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Yours

Li Hua

**第二节：读后续写（满分25分）**

**阅读下面短文，根据所给情节进行续写，使之构成一个完整的故事。**

I had never been more anxious in my life. I had just spent the last three endless hours trying to get to the airport so that I could travel home. Now, as I watched the bus driver set my luggage on the airport sidewalk, I realized that my anxiety had only just begun.

This was my first visit alone to the international terminal of the airport, and nothing was familiar. I could not make sense of any of the signs. Where was the check­in counter? Where should I take my luggage? I had no idea where to go, feeling as if I were deaf and blind and stupid. I began to panic. What time was it? Where was my plane? I had to find help because I could not be late!

I tried to ask a passing businessman for help, but my words all came out wrong. He just frowned and walked away. What had happened? I had been in this country for a whole semester, and I could not even remember how to ask for directions. This was awful! Another bus arrived at the terminal, and the passengers came out carrying all sorts of luggage. Here was my chance! I could follow them to the right place, and I would not have to say a word.

I dragged my enormous suitcase behind me and followed the group. We finally reached the elevators. Oh, no! They all fit in it, but there was not enough room for me. I watched in despair as the elevator doors closed. I was abandoned again! I had no idea what to do next. I got on the elevator when it returned and stared at all the buttons. Which one could it be? I pressed button 3, because I thought I saw those passengers pressed 3, though it was no more than a quick glance. The elevator slowly climbed up to the third floor and came to a stop. A high, unpleasant noise announced the opening of the doors, and I looked around shyly.

注意: 1.续写词数应为150左右;

2.请按如下格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

Tears formed in my eyes as I saw the empty hall and realized that I would miss my plane. *\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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When I turned to thank him for all his help, he was gone. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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英语参考答案

听力 1-5 BCBAB 6-10 CA ABC 11-15 ACBCA 16-20 CCABB

阅读 21-25 DBCAB 26-30 ADDCA 31-35 CDCAB 36-40 BFDEG

完型 41-45 DABCC 46-50 ABDBC 51-55 CBADD

语法填空 56. a 57. performance 58. causing 59.herself 60.hugely

1. has got 62. from 63. requires 64. to learn 65. which

应用文

Dear Peter,  
 How are you recently? I’m writing to tell you about our school’s Labor Skill Course.   
 To form the students’ correct view of labor, colorful labor programs are open every week. We can help plant vegetables or feed chickens in the school-run farm. Besides, students are also encouraged to participate in community service and voluntary work. Most of us are fascinated by the course because it offers an alternative to our busy school life. Not only are we relaxed but also we have gained a higher moral value on life.  
 What is the Labor Skill Course like in your school?

Yours,

Li Hua

读后续写

*Tears formed in my eyes as I saw the empty hall and realized that I would miss my plane.* Seeing me crying with sadness, the elderly employee came up to me, patted me on the shoulder, and gently asked me what had happened, which made me feel relived and hopeful. With his comfort, I managed to explain my trouble to him clearly. “Don’t worry! You won’t miss your flight! Follow me please!” He said kindly. We walked up some stairs, turned a corner, and then there was the check-in counter! Never before had I felt so excited that I forgot to say thanks to him.

*When I turned to thank him for all his help, he was gone*. I looked around, hoping to find him, but in vain. Perhaps I never got an opportunity to know his name, but I would always remember his random kindness. He would never know what what he did meant to a helpless girl. Without his timely help, I would have certainly missed my plane and faced a lot of uncertainties. Not only did he help a girl travel home smoothly but also strengthen her faith in human. I can only hope that one day I will be able to do the same for another needy person.

录音稿：

(Text 1)

W: What’s eating Jack today? He’s in a really bad mood.

M: I don’t know. But let’s stay out of his way until he feels better.

(Text 2)

M: I’m going to the English refresher course in the vacation. How about you, Jane?

W: I’m making a plan for reviewing my English. Maybe I will also take your course.

M: That’s great. We can study together then.

(Text 3)

M: What happened?

W: Did you see what that guy did?

M: No. I was looking the other way.

W: He made a U-turn right in the middle of the block and hit a kid on a bicycle.

(Text 4)

W: Did you watch the game last night?

M: Yeah. And I thought both teams played super ball. Too bad one had to lose.

W: Right. I thought they were evenly matched. It could have gone either way!

M: That shot in the last fifteen seconds was really something.

(Text 5)

W: Could you push the button for the tenth floor, please?

M: Of course. Do you live in this building?

W: No, I’m just visiting a colleague from work. She has an apartment on the tenth floor. Do you live here?

M: Yes, I do. It’s not a bad building to live in, really.

(Text 6)

W: What terrible weather! Visibility is down to about 100 meters. I’ve heard it’s caused a lot of

problems on the highway.

M: I know. As a matter of fact, Jack just called and said he’ll be at least an hour late because the

traffic is so heavy.

W: He should have left home early. I did, and I wasn’t delayed even one minute.

M: Lucky you. The weather report says it will be windy in the afternoon. I hope it clears up soon because I have to go to the head office to attend a meeting at two o’clock.

(Text 7)

M: Hi, this is George Frasier. I’m calling to confirm my room reservation. I’m supposed to be booked at your hotel from March 6th to March 9th.

W: One moment, please, sir. Yes, you’ve booked for three nights in a luxury single room.

M: Right. By the way, I was wondering if you offer airport shuttle service to and from Sydney’s airport. I’m flying in late and I’m scheduled to arrive at the airport at around 11 p.m.

W: Sure, but we offer the service for $10 each way with advance notice required. Would you like me to arrange that for you?

M: All right.

(Text 8)

M: Wow. These roses are beautiful. Did you grow them yourself?

W: Yes, I’ve been growing flowers as a hobby since 2005. At first, I liked the pleasant smell of the flowers that my husband gave me as a birthday gift, and later decided to plant some roses in my garden. That’s how everything started. And now I have unbelievable green fingers.

M: You have such a great pastime. I used to collect rare stamps and coins, but I have been so tied up with work these days that I can’t continue doing it.

W: I know how busy you are nowadays. Oh, by the way, you just started working at British Bank, right? How is your new job?

M: Not too bad …

(Text 9)

W: Hello and welcome to today’s Holiday Program. Today we’ve asked you to call in with your holiday horror stories — holidays where things went wrong. Our first caller today is Sean from Belfast. Hi, Sean!

M: Hello.

W: So where was this holiday?

M: Well. This didn’t happen to me. It happened to my aunt and uncle, last summer. They went to Ibiza.

W: A fantastic place for a holiday.

M: Yes, fantastic place if you’re seventeen — but they’re nearly seventy!

W: Oh ... So why did they choose Ibiza? It’s the party island.

M: Yes, it is now but they didn’t know that. You see, they first went to Ibiza in their late thirties, when it was a beautiful, peaceful island with traditional cafes and restaurants, deserted beaches. So they looked on the Internet — my uncle loves his computer and they booked a hotel and they found some cheap flights. It all seemed so perfect.

W: So what happened?

M: You can imagine. It was a complete disaster. Their hotel was in San Antonio, a place that’s full of bars and discos. There was music until 5:00 in the morning, noise of car doors opening, motorbikes, and people shouting. They couldn’t sleep at all. When they came home they were in a state of shock.

W: Oh dear! What are their plans for this year?

M: I think they’ll probably stay at home this year … and next year and probably the year after that ...

W: Thank you, Sean. And now …

(Text 10)

W: And now, finally, the time has come to announce the winner of our art competition. I know you’re all excited to be here and looking forward to finding out the first-prize winner who will be awarded the opportunity to display their art in exhibitions at our art galleries across the country, as well as the $5,000 cash prize. We’ll also announce the lucky runner-up, who will be going home with a $1,000 cash prize. Before I start, I have to tell you that one of the contestants, Rose O’Brien, has decided to remove herself from the competition as she was offered an opportunity elsewhere — which is not surprising, considering she had the second highest score given by the judges. But let’s focus on our remaining three contestants: Maria Sanchez, John Krakow and Donald Wreck. All of them deserve recognition and congratulations for making it this far. It has been a very tough competition with more than a thousand entries, so you should all be very proud of yourselves. So, after counting the votes from our gallery’s members and combining them with the judges’ scores, we are happy to announce that the winner of the competition is ... Oh, wow … Incredibly, the winner is our youngest contestant, with no formal art training ... Congratulations to Donald Wreck, with My Sister Emily!