Llengua estrangera: anglès
Sèrie 1

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A. Read the text below and choose the correct answer. Draw a circle around the letter corresponding to the right answer.
[1.25 marks: 0.25 marks for each correct answer]

In 250 Million Years Earth Might Only Have One Continent

Science calls it “Pangaea Proxima.” You might prefer to call it the Next Big Thing. A supercontinent is on its way that incorporates all of Earth’s major landmasses, meaning you could walk from Australia to Alaska, or Patagonia to Scandinavia. But it will be about 250 million years in the making.

For Christopher Scotese at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, the fact that our continents are not stationary is tantamount. How were they arranged in the past—and how will they be positioned in the future?

“Fifty million years from now, Australia will be in collision with southeast Asia to a much larger degree,” he says. Africa will also be pushing right up against southern Europe, while the Atlantic will be a far wider ocean than it is today.

To visualise all of these details, Scotese has produced an animation illustrating his predictions as time elapses. However, he admits that projections for the period beyond 50 million years in the future—which include his Pangaea Proxima prediction—are “very speculative.”

Earth’s continents rest on a system of plates and these move at differing speeds. Some travel about 1.2 in (30 mm) per year while others might move at five times that rate. These are roughly the speeds at which human fingernails and hair grow, respectively.

These days, plate motion is tracked with satellite positioning instruments embedded into the ground. But we knew that plates moved long before such technology was invented. How? How did we ever realise that we were standing on huge, shifting plates, given that they move so slowly and are so massive?

The idea that the continents moved around dates back centuries, but the first time anyone produced any serious evidence in favour of the idea was 100 years ago. That someone was German geophysicist Alfred Wegener.

He noticed remarkable similarities between the fossilised plants and animals found on continents that were separated by vast oceans. This suggested to him that those continents were connected when those now fossilised species were alive.

What’s more, when Wegener looked at his maps, he could clearly see that South America and Africa were like two giant puzzle pieces—they fit together. Could that really just be coincidence, or were they connected millions of years ago, only to drift apart?

That was the essence of Wegener’s theory: continental drift. But few people liked it.

Text adapted from an article by
Chris Baraniuk. BBC [on-line] (August 1, 2016)

1. According to Christopher Scotese
   a) our continents are in movement.
   b) our continents are dividing.
   c) our continents are freezing.

2. According to him, in the future the Atlantic
   a) will be as wide as it is at the present.
   b) will be less wide than it is at the present.
   c) will be much wider than it is at the present.

3. According to the text, the Pangaea Proxima prediction
   a) will be reliable forever and ever.
   b) will be reliable longer than 50 million years.
   c) will not be reliable after a certain time in the future.
4. There was evidence about continents moving around
   a) a century ago.
   b) in the Middle Ages.
   c) at the end of the 20th century.

5. When observing the maps, Wegener realized South America and Africa
   a) were set apart at the Stone Age.
   b) match.
   c) did not fit together.

B. Choose the word or definition (a, b, c, or d) that best explains the meaning of the words
   below as they are used in the text. Draw a circle around the letter corresponding to the
   right answer. The words appear in **bold** in the text.
   [1.25 marks: 0.25 marks for each correct answer]

1. **tantalising** (line 6)
   a) tempting  b) unbelievable  c) impossible  d) correct

2. **collision** (line 8)
   a) survival  b) danger  c) impact  d) fashion

3. **elapses** (line 12)
   a) pays back  b) puts on  c) goes back  d) passes by

4. **roughly** (line 15)
   a) approximately  b) undoubtedly  c) definitely  d) negatively

5. **drift apart** (line 29)
   a) be improved  b) separate  c) be invited  d) be rejected
C. Read the text below and choose the correct answer. Draw a circle around the letter corresponding to the right answer.

[2.50 marks: 0.25 marks for each correct answer]

**Effortless Biking With the GeoOrbital E-Wheel**

A bicycle retrofitted* with a GeoOrbital, electric-powered front _____(1)_____ demands a light thumb; Touch the throttle* lever on the handlebar _____(2)_____ too hard, and you go ahead.

"You catch on in half an hour," says Michael Bartov, the founder of GeoOrbital. I _____(3)_____ around for just 10 minutes, so I never quite caught on.

It took Bartov less _____(4)_____ a minute to fit his wheel _____(5)_____ the bike and a few seconds _____(6)_____ to slip the 3.4-kilogram (7.5 lb) battery pack into its holder, _____(7)_____ hangs where the spokes* would be, if the wheel had spokes. Instead, its rim* orbits around a circular _____(8)_____, under the motive power of a 500-watt motor. That power is delivered through two rubber rollers, which grip the inward part of the rim.

The wheel is covered in hard rubber, which _____(9)_____ you'll be missing the cushioning effect of an inner tube. The wheel also adds some 9 kilograms to the bike, and though most of the mass is close to the ground, it does seem to make turning a bit harder. GeoOrbital has launched a Kickstarter campaign to _____(10)_____ money for mass production.

Text adapted from an article by Philip E. Ross. *IEEE Spectrum* [on-line] (April 26, 2016)

* retrofitted: manipulada
* throttle: accelerator / acelerador
* spokes: radis / radios
* rim: llanta, llanada / llanta

1. a) shake  
   b) wheel  
   c) fool  
   d) slot
2. a) a little  
   b) best  
   c) alike  
   d) surely
3. a) rode  
   b) spoke  
   c) designed  
   d) improved
4. a) than  
   b) more  
   c) better  
   d) ever
5. a) closer  
   b) off  
   c) to  
   d) after
6. a) more  
   b) absurd  
   c) unusual  
   d) unnecessary
7. a) off  
   b) as  
   c) if  
   d) which
8. a) trade  
   b) frame  
   c) break  
   d) fake
9. a) pays  
   b) means  
   c) lays  
   d) pleases
10. a) win  
    b) waste  
    c) raise  
    d) advise

D. Write 80-100 words about ONE of the following topics:

[5 marks]

1. Write a **descriptive essay** on the current means of transport and how they have changed along history. In what ways are they polluting our planets nowadays?

2. Write an **opinion essay** on how people will live in the future. Describe the way they are dressed, what they eat, how the weather is, etc.