



MUSIC FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

*A sample test of
academic literacy
levels*

ABSTRACT

This sample test will give you an idea of what to expect if you have to write a test of academic literacy.

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Music for young people

Scrambled text

The sequence of the sentences in the following has been altered. Say what the correct order is by marking your choice on the loose answer sheet.

There will be a collection afterwards

- A. The recording industry supply chain starts with the composers and performers. They create and perform the music.
- B. The last step is the retailers. They put the CD on the (physical or virtual) shelf and sell it directly to the consumer. They collect the money.
- C. The distributors then take CDs in bulk from the labels, warehouse them and ship them, on demand, to retailers or directly to the consumers.
- D. The music recording industry involves some discrete businesses. These businesses link together in a sophisticated way to create a “supply chain”.
- E. Next step in the supply chain is the labels. They finance, record, manufacture, promote and market the music.

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Which sentence did you put first ? | A | B | C | D | E |
| 2. Which sentence did you put second ? | A | B | C | D | E |
| 3. Which sentence did you put third ? | A | B | C | D | E |
| 4. Which sentence did you put fourth ? | A | B | C | D | E |
| 5. Which sentence did you put fifth ? | A | B | C | D | E |

[5]

Academic vocabulary

Choose the best possible answer from the list of options.

6. The study of the history of music aims to _____ how music has developed up to the present day.
- A. exclude
 - B. explore
 - C. expand
 - D. exceed

7. The ability to read sheet music can _____ a person to communicate through music with another.
- A. ensure
 - B. enable
 - C. enhance
 - D. enforce
8. The _____ between modern day rock and roll and the blues of old is not as big as one would think.
- A. contrast
 - B. conflict
 - C. controversy
 - D. contact
9. Musicians _____ many hours of their time to practise to reach a level of excellence.
- A. deliver
 - B. demand
 - C. derive
 - D. devote
10. The man needs somebody to _____ him to the ensemble concert at the theatre.
- A. accommodate
 - B. accumulate
 - C. accompany
 - D. account
11. This is as good a _____ of live music as one is likely to find anywhere on earth, and is sure to delight to people of all cultures.
- A. displace
 - B. distort
 - C. display
 - D. dispose
12. Musicians possess the ability to _____ people to think about the message that their lyrics and their music in combination convey.
- A. interview
 - B. interpret
 - C. inform
 - D. influence

13. This change in technology _____ that the modern guitarist will have a greater range of sounds to choose from.
- A. implements
 - B. implicates
 - C. imposes
 - D. implies
14. Modern jazz, funk and blues all _____ to the style of blues from the sixties and seventies.
- A. confirm
 - B. conform
 - C. confess
 - D. confide
15. The pianist has to _____ all the work before writing her exam on classic theory.
- A. reveal
 - B. reverse
 - C. revise
 - D. revive
16. The symphony orchestra for this piece _____ of 23 musicians.
- A. consoles
 - B. consists
 - C. consigns
 - D. consorts
17. Their unique sound _____ from the rock and roll sound of the sixties.
- A. derides
 - B. derives
 - C. deviates
 - D. derails
18. The singer anxiously waited to hear what the final _____ of the votes was.
- A. output
 - B. outline
 - C. outcast
 - D. outcome
19. The recording studio is _____ from downtown Los Angeles to Hollywood.
- A. transforming
 - B. transacting
 - C. transcending
 - D. transferring

20. Those who sing opera use various _____ to control their vocal chords.
- A. technocrats
 - B. technicians
 - C. techniques
 - D. technologies
21. South Africans should try their best to _____ local music among their friends.
- A. promote
 - B. project
 - C. progress
 - D. prohibit
22. The old hymn has been _____ to suit the music culture and tastes of today's youth.
- A. mollified
 - B. modified
 - C. modulated
 - D. moderated
23. The funk music of the 80s _____ the electro pop music of modern hits.
- A. preceded
 - B. proceeded
 - C. predicated
 - D. predicted
24. The high cost of instruments _____ many people from taking up music lessons.
- A. projects
 - B. prohibits
 - C. progresses
 - D. propels
25. The pupil was _____ to tune his guitar before playing his music exam.
- A. inhibited
 - B. instructed
 - C. initiated
 - D. insulted

[20]

Verbal reasoning

Consider each of the following, then answer by selecting the right option:

26. A business (also called a firm or an enterprise) is a legally recognized organization designed to provide goods and/or services to consumers.

The phrase in brackets implies that

- A. the word 'business' is not sufficient for this context.
 - B. another term for 'business' is 'firm' or 'enterprise.'
 - C. the author is careful to reveal the meaning of a business.
 - D. there is more than one meaning for the word 'business'.
27. The online retailers had an initial boom based on their much lower cost structure and the breadth of virtual inventory that they can provide.

One can infer from this that

- A. no retailers are better than on-line retailers.
 - B. online retailers hold the key to the future of retail.
 - C. online retailers' advantages did not endure.
 - D. online retailers could not contribute anything to retailing.
28. The word 'initial' in the previous question indicates that online retailers
- A. will always be dominant in retail.
 - B. boomed only for a certain period.
 - C. experience one of many good periods.
 - D. battle to compete in modern retailing.
29. A total of 500.5 million albums in the form of CDs, cassettes, LPs and other formats were purchased last year, down 15 percent from the unit total for 2006.

One can conclude from this that:

- A. the total in album sales for 2006 was not very high.
- B. about 500.5 million albums were purchased in 2006.
- C. album sales in 2006 were 15% higher than in 2007.
- D. the total in album sales for 2007 was very good.

30. We define the recorded music supply chain as a system where recorded music is created by performers, paid for by consumers, and there is adequate financial return.

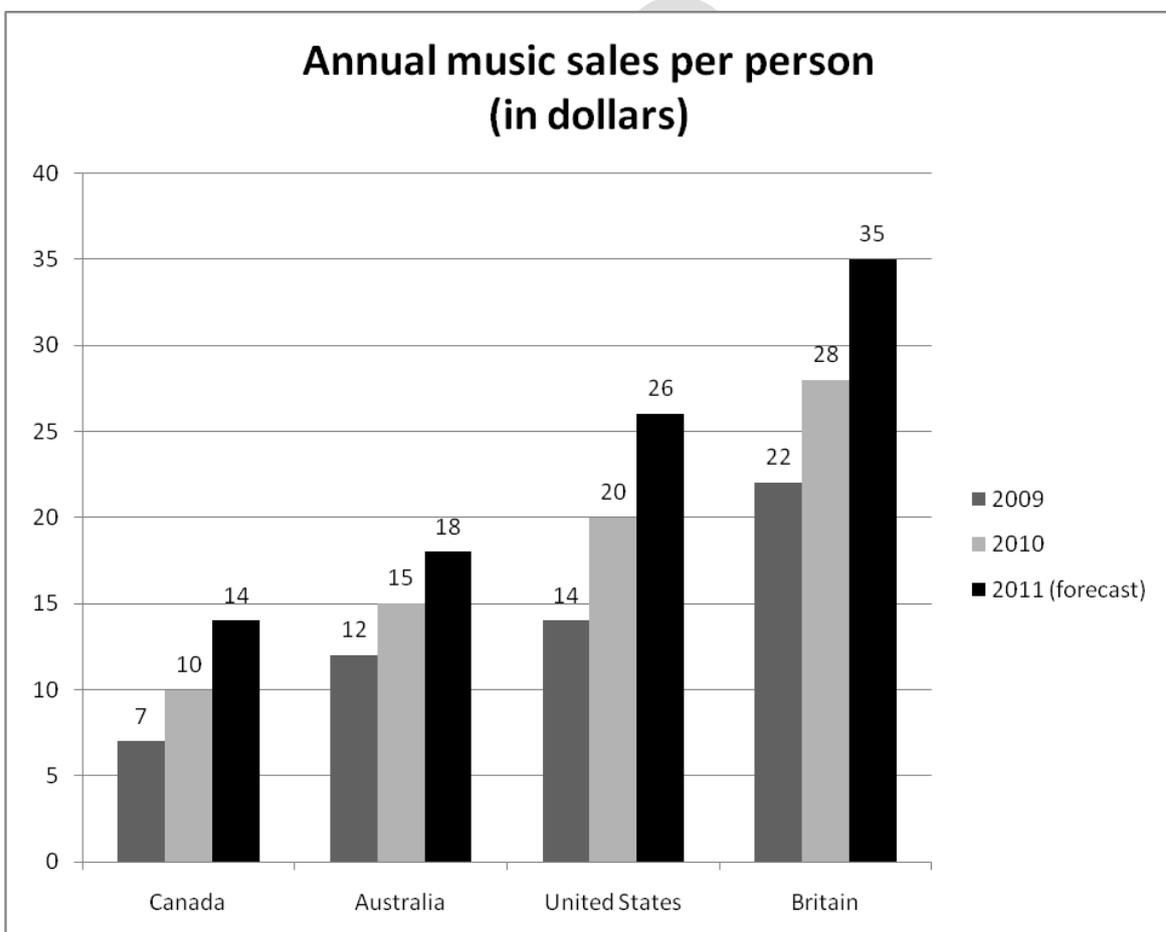
This means that

- A. the aim of recorded music is not to produce an income.
- B. the chain will cease to exist if you have adequate financial return.
- C. performers are dependent on consumers for the chain to survive.
- D. a supply chain is not a way for performers to earn an income.

[5]

Interpreting graphs and visual information

Study the following graph, which summarises the music sales per person for 2009 (first column) and 2010 (second column) in various countries, before answering the questions below. The figures for 2011 (third column) are a forecast.



([Online]. Available http://www.davidharrell.org/images/music_sales.gif Sources: Adapted from [FP]; UNFPA; *The Economist*. Some data altered/fictitious. Accessed 23 August 2010.)

31. Which country has the highest music sales per person?
- A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. United States
 - D. Britain
32. Which country has the smallest expenditure per person on music sales?
- A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. United States
 - D. Britain
33. When one examines music sales in 2010, it appears that people had a clear tendency to
- A. spend less money on music than in 2009.
 - B. spend more money on music than in 2009.
 - C. spend the same amount of money on music as in 2011.
 - D. spend more money on music than in 2011.
34. Which country/countries showed the smallest absolute growth from 2009 to 2010?
- A. Canada
 - B. Australia & Canada
 - C. United States
 - D. Britain
35. It is forecast that Canada will have the same music sales in 2011 as
- A. Australia in 2009.
 - B. United States in 2009.
 - C. Australia in 2010.
 - D. United States in 2010.
36. The average sales per person for Australia over the three years in the graph is _____.
- A. \$11
 - B. \$12
 - C. \$15
 - D. \$20
37. The total amount by which, for the three years shown in the graph, the country with the highest sales beat the runner-up, is _____.
- A. \$9
 - B. \$25
 - C. \$60
 - D. \$85

38. During 2010 the music sales per person in Canada was exactly 50% than that of
- A. Britain.
 - B. Australia and United States.
 - C. United States.
 - D. Australia.
39. Which two countries show the same percentage increase in sales between 2009 and 2010?
- A. Canada and United States
 - B. Britain and Australia
 - C. Britain and United States
 - D. United States and Australia
40. It is forecast that a person in Australia will spend just more than _____ of the amount that a person in Britain would spend on music sales in 2011.
- A. a third
 - B. two thirds
 - C. half
 - D. a quarter
41. In 2009 a person in Canada spent less than _____ of the amount that a person in Britain spent on music sales in the same year.
- A. a third
 - B. two thirds
 - C. half
 - D. a quarter
42. If the current trend continues, what would a possible forecast for music sales per person in the United States be for 2012?
- A. \$40
 - B. \$32
 - C. \$26
 - D. \$38
43. The forecast was that music sales per person in Canada would increase by _____ in from 2009 to 2011.
- A. 30%
 - B. 40%
 - C. 50%
 - D. 100%
44. If the current trend continues, how long would it take music sales per person in Canada to reach the same amount that Britain had in 2010?
- A. 1 year
 - B. 2 years
 - C. 3 years
 - D. 4years

45. The music sales per person in Canada in 2009 was lower by _____ % than sales in 2010.
- A. 20
 - B. 25
 - C. 30
 - D. 40
46. The music sales per person in Australia rose by _____% in 2010.
- A. 20
 - B. 25
 - C. 30
 - D. 40
47. It is forecast that the music sales per person in Australia will grow in 2011 by exactly
- A. 20%.
 - B. 25%.
 - C. 30%.
 - D. 40%.
48. The amount for music sales in Canada for 2009 was exactly _____% of the amount that Britain had in 2010.
- A. 50
 - B. 30
 - C. 25
 - D. 20
49. In 2010 the music sales per person in the United States was more than that of Australia by exactly one
- A. fifth.
 - B. quarter.
 - C. third.
 - D. half.
50. The proportion by which British music sales are likely to have improved in 2011 in comparison with the previous year is a
- A. fifth.
 - B. quarter.
 - C. third.
 - D. half.

[20]

Register and text type

The sentences below are examples of different text types, such as advertisements, interviews, academic textbooks and the like. You must match an item from the first set (51-35) with an item from the second set (A-E). For example, if you think that the language of 32 comes from the same text type as A, then mark 52 A as your answer.

51. The Beatles were an English rock band, and one of the most commercially successful acts in the history of popular music.
 52. MTV Games and all related titles and logos are trademarks of MTV Networks, a division of Viacom International Inc.
 53. Unlike most hollow-bodied Rickenbackers, it appears to be a solid-body until one picks it up and feels the unusually light weight.
 54. You can play The Beatles: Rock Band with nearly any music-game instrument you already have.
 55. So we chose those, based around the fact that it's all four of them playing. I mean let's face it, they recorded so may there's a lot of material to go from.
- A. And we also added and crossed out songs with just thinking of different scenarios for the game itself.
 - B. The game is fully compatible with most existing music-game hardware and is very user friendly.
 - C. ©2009 Harmonix Music Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. The Beatles: Rock Band developed by Harmonix Music Systems, Inc.
 - D. He took out the original whammy bar and replaced it with the Bigsby vibrato pedal, and, in 1962, he gave it a black finish.
 - E. According to RIAA certifications, they have sold more albums in the United States than any other artist.

[5]

Text comprehension

Read the text below thoroughly, then answer the questions that follow.

The birth of blues

Deep roots

A new book about the origins of music in the delta

“THE BLUES HAD A BABY AND THEY NAMED the baby rock and roll.” So sang Muddy Waters, one of the greatest bluesmen. While true, that is only part of the absorbing story Ted Gioia tells as he traces the blues, a seminal influence on all 20th-century popular music, back to its roots. The delta of his title, *Delta blues*, is a vast tract of land between the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers. This land is a source of agricultural riches, particularly cotton, and home to a poor black population whose very privation inspired an impassioned musical culture.

2 Mr Gioia’s authoritative chronicle interweaves the steamy character of the delta with the hard lot of its population. The delta’s sharecroppers generally toiled in conditions not far removed from slavery, and were at the mercy of plantation and prison farm. They expressed themselves through the blues, a vocal form derived from Africa, as well as from work songs and spirituals. Although the blues appeared in other places in the American South, the delta was astonishingly prolific in quality, abundance and sheer intensity. As the author puts it, aficionados reckoned there were blues, then deep blues, but delta blues had “the deepest roots of all”.

3 Mr Gioia’s book is made up of a chronological series of biographies of the region’s musical heroes. These musicians became famous for a style in which singing and guitar playing merged into a single mesmerising sound. Charley Patton, Bukka White and Son House all won local renown, made recordings and then faded away into delta life, in which passion and violence often went hand in hand. Robert Johnson was supposed to have sold his soul to the devil in return for his prodigious skills; he was

poisoned after an ill-advised dalliance with another man’s woman.

4 Johnson’s recordings brought the delta’s spell to a wider audience, as did the migration of a new generation of musicians northward, particularly to Chicago. From the 1940s, the Windy City became a hub for giants such as Waters and Howlin’ Wolf. They added a new dimension to the blues with supercharged amplification. The plangent attack of electric guitar and harmonica gave the delta style greater intensity. Hard-driving bands superseded soloists, but the redoubtable Mississippi-born John Lee Hooker could still galvanise a room all by himself with his stomping “Boogie Chillen”.

5 With such emotional energy afoot, cocking a snook at well-scrubbed post-war pop, it wasn’t long before the blues burst on to the mass market. Its carefree offspring, rock and roll, went on to become a huge commercial enterprise in which every singer affected a bluesy cry as a testament of personal emotion.

6 But Mr Gioia is in no doubt that delta blues retains its appeal. He describes the revival movement in which enthusiasts tracked down some of the region’s first stars, who brought the old sound alive. Records still convey the power of their music and of the delta tradition; a fire, Mr Gioia says, that is just waiting to be rekindled.

[Adapted from *The Economist*, October 16, 2008.]

56. Who is the author of the new book about the origins of delta music?
- A. Muddy Waters
 - B. Robert Johnson
 - C. Son House
 - D. Ted Gioia
57. The title of the passage “Deep roots” refers to the
- A. beginnings of blues music.
 - B. roots of modern rock and roll.
 - C. roots of modern jazz music.
 - D. growth of modern rock and roll.
58. The first part of the first paragraph points out that
- A. modern rock and roll music was not influenced by the blues.
 - B. the blues of old and modern rock and roll music had a baby.
 - C. all popular modern music was influenced by blues jazz music.
 - D. most of today’s rock hits influenced the delta-blues of the time.
59. Evidence for the answer to the previous question can be found in the phrase
- A. a new book about the origins of music in the delta.
 - B. “the blues had a baby ... they named rock and roll.”
 - C. he traces the blues, a seminal influence ... back to its roots.
 - D. whose very privation inspired an impassioned ... culture.
60. The word ‘This’ in the last sentence of paragraph one refers to
- A. title.
 - B. tract.
 - C. Mississippi.
 - D. rivers.
61. A synonym for the word ‘privation’ in the last sentence of paragraph one is
- A. isolation
 - B. hardship
 - C. separation
 - D. drudgery
62. Read the second paragraph and then say which of the following is the odd one out:
- A. conditions not far removed from slavery
 - B. mercy of plantations and prison farm.
 - C. the steamy character of the delta.
 - D. population toiled as sharecroppers.

63. The word ‘they’ in the third sentence of the second paragraph refers to the
- A. delta’s sharecroppers.
 - B. greatest bluesmen.
 - C. steamy characters.
 - D. the blues musicians
64. In the following, which is the odd one out?
- A. the absorbing story (paragraph one)
 - B. authoritative chronicle (paragraph two)
 - C. series of biographies (paragraph three)
 - D. new generation of musicians (paragraph four)
65. With reference to paragraph three, which of the following names stands out as perhaps more famous in the blues industry?
- A. Bukka White
 - B. Charley Patton
 - C. Son House
 - D. Robert Johnson
66. Which word in paragraph four provides further evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- A. spell
 - B. wider
 - C. migration
 - D. hub
67. A description for the unique sound of the delta-blue music style is given in paragraphs
- A. 1 and 2
 - B. 2 and 3
 - C. 3 and 4
 - D. 4 and 5
68. How did the blues of the 1940s add a new dimension to the blues?
- A. Through giants such as Waters and Howlin’ Wolf.
 - B. By bringing the delta’s spell to a wider audience.
 - C. By adding supercharged amplification to the blues.
 - D. Through musicians migrating to the city of Chicago.
69. What made the redoubtable John Lee Hooker a special performer? His
- A. hard-driving band.
 - B. Mississippi background.
 - C. number “Boogie Chillen”.
 - D. electric guitar and harmonica.

70. The effect of the emotional energy of blues, according to paragraph five, is that it
- A. became like post-war pop.
 - B. burst on to the pop market
 - C. burst on to the mass market
 - D. became like rock and roll.
71. The word 'Its' in the second sentence of paragraph five refers to:
- A. such emotional energy
 - B. the blues
 - C. "Boogie Chillen"
 - D. supercharged amplification
72. Every rock singer gave out a bluesy cry as evidence of the _____ in rock and roll music.
- A. delta blue music
 - B. personal emotion
 - C. "Boogie Chillen"
 - D. emotional energy
73. The _____ occurred when enthusiasts rediscovered the sound of some of the region's first stars.
- A. delta blues
 - B. revival movement
 - C. commercial enterprise
 - D. modern blues
74. Which phrase has the same meaning as the word 'rekindled' in the last paragraph?
- A. brought alive
 - B. burst on to
 - C. affected
 - D. created
75. Which paragraphs best describe the beginning of blues?
- A. 1 and 2
 - B. 2 and 3
 - C. 3 and 4
 - D. 4 and 5
76. Which phrase in the text indicates that the author sees a future for delta blues music?
- A. "huge commercial enterprise"
 - B. "the power of their music"
 - C. "retains its appeal"
 - D. "supercharged amplification"

[21]

Grammar and text relations

In the text below some words have been deleted. First read through the whole text, then answer the questions that follow.

THE BEACH BOYS ARE AN American rock band, formed in 1961, who gained popularity for their close vocal harmonies and lyrics reflecting a Southern California youth culture of cars, surfing, and romance. Brian Wilson's creative ambitions later transformed them into a more artistically innovative group that critical praise and influenced many later musicians.

The group was initially of singer-musician-composer Brian Wilson, his brothers, Carl and Dennis, their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine. This quintet was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Class of 1988.

The Beach Boys have been called "America's Band", and *All music* has stated that "the band's unerring ability... made them America's first, best rock band." The group had thirty-six U.S. Top 40 hits (the most of any U.S. rock band) and fifty-six Hot 100 hits, including four number-one singles. Rolling Stone magazine listed The Beach Boys number 12 in the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. According *Billboard*, in terms of singles and

album sales, The Beach Boys are the No.-1-selling American band of all time.

Many changes in both musical styles personnel have occurred during their career, because of Brian Wilson's mental illness and drug use (leading to his eventual withdrawal from the group) and the deaths of Dennis and Carl Wilson in 1983 and 1998, respectively. Extensive battles between members of the group have also played their part. After the death of Carl Wilson, member Al Jardine left to pursue a solo career. Currently, the members of The Beach Boys continue to tour in three separate bands: "The Beach Boys Band" with Love, Bruce Johnston, and a rotation of backing musicians; Al Jardine's "Endless Summer Band" with Jardine, his sons, and several former Beach Boys backup musicians; and Brian Wilson with 10-piece band including members of The Wondermints and Jeff Foskett, who toured with the Beach Boys in the 1980s and 1990s as a backing guitarist/singer.

[Adapted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/BeachBoys>. Accessed 23 August 2010]

In the following texts, you have to indicate the possible place where a word may have been deleted, and which word belongs there. Here are two examples:

The Beach Boys are an American rock band, formed in 1961, who gained popularity for their close vocal harmonies and lyrics reflecting a Southern California youth culture of cars, surfing, and romance. Brian Wilson's i creative ii ambitions later transformed iii them into iv a more artistically i innovative ii group that iii critical praise and influenced many later iv musicians.

Where has the word been deleted?

A. At position (i).

B. At position (ii).

C. At position (iii).

D. At position (iv).

Which word has been left out here?

A. Wonderful

B. growing

B. being

C. changing

Where has the word been deleted?

A. At position (i).

B. At position (ii).

C. At position (iii).

D. At position (iv).

Which word has been left out here?

A. aspiring

B. earned

C. sounding

D. pop

Now answer the following questions in the same way:

^{77&78} The i group was ii initially iii of iv singer-musician-composer Brian Wilson, his brothers, Carl and Dennis, their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine. ^{79&80} This i quintet was ii inducted iii into the iv Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Class of 1988.

77. Where has the word been deleted?

A. At position (i).

B. At position (ii).

C. At position (iii).

D. At position (iv).

78. Which word has been left out here?

A. composed

B. formed

C. by

D. first

79. Where has the word been deleted?

A. At position (i).

B. At position (ii).

C. At position (iii).

D. At position (iv).

80. Which word has been left out here?

A. then

B. far

C. core

D. first

^{81&82} The Beach Boys i have ii been called "America's Band", and *All music* has stated that "the band's unerring ability... iii made them America's first, iv best rock band."

81. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

82. Which word has been left out here?

- A. then
- B. often
- C. modern
- D. have

^{83&84} The i group ii had iii thirty-six U.S. Top 40 hits (the most of any U.S. rock band) and iv fifty-six Hot 100 hits, including four number-one singles.

83. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

84. Which word has been left out here?

- A. over
- B. about
- C. has
- D. one

^{85&86} Rolling Stone magazine listed The Beach Boys i number 12 ii in iii the iv 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. ^{87&88} According i Billboard, in ii terms of singles and album sales, The Beach Boys are iii the No.-1-selling American band of all iv time.

85. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

86. Which word has been left out here?

- A. to
- B. from
- C. as
- D. before

87. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

88. Which word has been left out here?

- A. at
- B. to
- C. the
- D. in

89&90 Many **i** changes in both **ii** musical styles **iii** personnel **iv** have occurred during ^{91&92} their **i** career, **ii** because **iii** of **iv** Brian Wilson's mental illness and drug use (leading to his eventual withdrawal from the group) and the deaths of Dennis and Carl Wilson in 1983 and 1998, respectively.

89. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

90. Which word has been left out here?

- A. great
- B. creative
- C. of
- D. and

91. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

92. Which word has been left out here?

- A. notably
- B. long
- C. to
- D. knowing

93&94 Extensive **i** battles **ii** between **iii** members of **iv** the group have also played their part.

93. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

94. Which word has been left out here?

- A. within
- B. certain
- C. raged
- D. legal

95&96 After the **i** death of Carl Wilson, **ii** member Al Jardine left **iii** to **iv** pursue a solo career.

95. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

96. Which word has been left out here?

- A. again
- B. go
- C. founding
- D. tragic

^{97&98} Currently, the i members ii of The Beach Boys iii continue to tour in three separate iv bands: "The Beach Boys Band" with Love, Bruce Johnston, and a rotation of backing musicians; Al Jardine's "Endless Summer Band" with Jardine, his sons, and several former Beach Boys backup musicians; ^{99&100} and Brian Wilson i with ii 10-piece iii band including iv members of The Wondermints and Jeff Foskett, who toured with the Beach Boys in the 1980s and 1990s as a backing guitarist/singer

97. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

98. Which word has been left out here?

- A. will
- B. surviving
- C. living
- D. live

99. Where has the word been deleted?

- A. At position (i).
- B. At position (ii).
- C. At position (iii).
- D. At position (iv).

100. Which word has been left out here?

- A. plays
- B. live
- C. the
- D. a

[24]

Total marks: [100]