

ΑΓΓΛΙΚΑ (ΠΡΟΤΕΙΝΟΜΕΝΑ ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΩΝ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΩΝ 2021)

ΕΠΙΜΕΛΕΙΑ : Τομέας Αγγλικής Γλώσσας



At long last, NASA's Mars Perseverance Rover has arrived. Conceived a decade ago and distilled from the

dreams of generations of scientists, the SUV-sized, nuclear-fueled rover launched in July 2020, months into a world-transforming pandemic, traveling nearly a half billion kilometers in seven months and surviving a high-tension seven-minute planetfall from space to reach Jezero Crater—where its real hard work will now begin.

Perseverance (or even just “Percy,” for short) is meant to trundle across the terrain for at least a Martian year (two Earth years), following an ambitious to-do list. Explore the environment with rock-vaporizing lasers and ground-penetrating radar, and snap high-resolution panoramas, 3-D stereograms and microscopic close-ups with a suite of sophisticated cameras? Check. Listen to Martian soundscapes, and create weather reports with onboard sensors? Check. Test a device for manufacturing oxygen from the suffocatingly thin air, and launch Ingenuity, a first-of-its-kind four-bladed Marscopter on sorties through those alien skies? Check.

Since the dawn of the space age, the Red Planet has been the most prized target for astrobiological studies, being the closest remotely Earth-like body in the solar system. Although it is presently a cold, hostile desert of a world, billions of years ago it was warmer and wetter—presumably a perfectly fine place for the basics of biology to arise.

Seeing no sign of ancient life on Mars would bolster the case that Earth is indeed rather special, suggesting that despite almost identical initial conditions no wee beasties ever managed to emerge on our sister world. In contrast, finding an independent origin of life on Mars would be potent evidence for the mind-boggling notion that the universe is in some sense built for biology's **blossoming**. And while most scientists suspect fossilized microbes to be the most advanced organisms we could discover at the Red Planet, any extant life there—even if single-celled—would spur some to call for a planetary quarantine, to leave Mars to the Martians. A seemingly sterile planet would be, in some respects, the most promising scenario for eventual human exploration and even settlement there.

Perseverance promises to bring us closer to answers for these interlinked mysteries than any other mission in history. “The science that Perseverance will do is going to inform our world for decades,” Braun said. “There are scientists in schools today and perhaps not even born yet that will benefit from what’s about to happen.... Perseverance is the first step that **initiates** the sample return campaign, but already in the U.S. and across Europe we’re working on the next two missions.”

Adaptation of the article written by Lee Billings, “Scientific American”, February 18, 2021

A1. Answer the following questions in 12-15 words. (12 points)

1. Provide a title suitable for this text.
2. Why would **NOT** finding evidence of life in Mars be of great importance
3. *“There are scientists in schools today and perhaps not even born yet that will benefit from what’s about to happen...”* Explain this view in your own words.

A2. Choose the correct answer A, B or C (18 points)

1. “Perseverance”...

- a. came as an aftermath of the pandemic
- b. was conceived several decades ago
- c. was long sought after

2. One of the goals of “Perseverance” is NOT ...

- a. to explore the terrain and environment of Mars
- b. to do research for two Martian years
- c. to test if manufacturing oxygen is possible

3. The word closest in meaning to “blossoming” is....

- a. blooming
- b. hostile.
- c. unprecedented

4. If no traces of life are proven on Mars...

- a. life can thrive in all areas of the universe.
- b. planet Earth is a unique case of a planet.
- c. Mars and Earth will prove to be identical.

5. Settlement on Mars....

- a. could potentially take place on condition that the plane has no other form of life
- b. may sound a promising scenario but should be abandoned altogether .
- c. may allow scientists to find new forms of life.

6. All the information collected by the “Perseverance” ...

- a. will be used exclusively by universities around the world
- b. is bound to affect only this generation of scientists
- c. will greatly affect future generations

B1. Use the correct form of the following words (A-H) to complete the gaps (10-14) in the following text, as in the example. There are TWO words you do not need.

(5*2 points= 10 points)

A.	qualify	B.	employ	C.	minor	D.	ethnicity (example)
E.	controversial	F.	fail	G.	raise	H.	part

The example is in **bold** and *italics*

Race inequalities prevail on pay

The recent Commission on Race and (ex.) **ethnic** Disparities report generated (10) _____, but little light, which is what (11) _____ looks like when your purpose is to shed light on the disadvantages faced by ethnic (12) _____. So let's get the facts straight, labor market and living standards wise.

There is positive news. Over 20 years to 2016-17, employment among black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi men grew by more than a quarter. It doubled among Pakistani and Bangladeshi women. This (13) _____ reflects education – the pre-pandemic decade saw a 28 percentage point rise in women from Pakistani or Bangladeshi backgrounds having degrees.

But, as LSE economists show, that doesn't mean all is rosy. Understanding the impact of ethnicity means comparing people of similar age and (14) _____. On that basis, pay gaps haven't closed in decades.

B2. Fill in the gaps with two words in the statements of column B, so that they are similar in meaning to the statements (15-19) of column A, as in the example.

(5*2 points= 10 points)

Example: We should leave.		It's high time we left.
COLUMN A		COLUMN B
15.	The school lets us use its computers after class.	We _____ to use the school computers after class.
16.	Although he makes an effort, he finds Chemistry difficult.	Despite _____ effort, he still finds Chemistry difficult.
17.	We hardly ever get complaints about noise in this town.	Seldom _____ get complaints about noise in this town.
18.	The city is very clean and also has numerous parks.	In _____ being very clean, the city has numerous parks.
19.	I regret missing the beginning of the film.	I wish I _____ the beginning of the film.

B3. Find the paragraph in column B (options A-F), which best follows each of the paragraphs in column A (items 20-24). There is one option you do not need.

(5*2 points= 10 points)

English Language Day

COLUMN A		COLUMN B	
20.	English Language Day was first celebrated in 2010, alongside Arabic Language Day, Chinese Language Day, French Language Day, Russian Language Day and Spanish Language Day.	A.	As well as being the English language’s most famous playwright, Shakespeare also had a huge impact on modern-day English.
21.	The 23 rd of April was chosen because it is thought to be Shakespeare’s birthday, and the anniversary of his death.	B.	By the time former British colonies began to gain independence in the mid-20 th century, English had become established in their institutions.
22.	Many brilliant writers from diverse places across Africa, the Caribbean and Asia had started writing English, telling their stories of oppression.	C.	For many people, the need to communicate is much more important than the need to sound like a native speaker. As a result, language use is starting to change. For example, speakers might not use “a” or “the” in front of nouns.
23.	More than 1,75 billion people speak English worldwide-that’s around 1 in 4 people around the world. English is being used more and more as a way for two speakers with different first languages to communicate with each other, as a “lingua franca”.	D.	These are the six official languages of the United Nations, and each has a special Day, designed to raise awareness of the history, culture and achievements of these languages
24.	The spread of English all over the world has an ugly history but a rich and vibrant present. During the European colonial period, several European countries, including England, competed to expand their empires. They stole land, labour and resources from people across Africa, Asia, the Americas and Oceania.	E.	“International English” refers to the English that is used and developed by everyone in the world and doesn’t just belong to native speakers. There is a lot of debate about whether International English should be standardized and, if so, how.
		F.	People from all over the world were using English to talk and write about justice, equality, freedom and identity from their own perspectives.

Writing (40points): People nowadays seem to need personal interaction and communication more than ever; The key to an individual's need to share moments and experiences with others seems to be friendship.

Write an article (180-200 words) for your school blog in which you should elaborate on the importance of friendship in people's lives and how people can benefit from having friends

GOOD LUCK!!!

Τομέας Αγγλικής Γλώσσας

Γεώργιζα Αναστασία

Ελευθεράκης Αντώνης

Πατεράκη Ευδοκία

Χαραμή Αθηνά

Ψαλτάκη Ιωάννα