OPTION A

THE PILOT

1. As a German pilot in World War I, my father was flying a reconnaissance mission over the east of France when he was attacked by French airplanes whose machine guns damaged his plane. Without engine power, he managed to cross the Swiss border and crash-landed in a field among surprised farmers. At the end of the war, he returned to Germany from neutral Switzerland, where he had been living in an internment camp. After that, he continued his studies, graduated as a geologist, and eventually immigrated to the United States, where he became a geology professor at a leading American University.

2. Half a century after this wartime incident and near the end of his career, my father was with a group of students at the end of a day's geological fieldwork. They all gathered around a campfire and he started to tell them his experience. Suddenly, one of the students interrupted him and said, “Let me finish the story.” From that moment, to the amazement of all, the student provided the correct details of what had happened that day in Switzerland.

3. He told them that, when the farm workers got to the place of the accident to assist the soldiers, they found that the photographer who was seated behind my father was dead. They liberated my disoriented but uninjured father from the plane and provided him with food and water. Some time later, the Swiss police arrived and interned him in a camp. In his youth, the student had heard this story many times from his mother, who happened to be one of the farm girls taking part in the events.

I * COMPREHENSION (3 points)

CHOOSE THE CORRECT OPTION (A, B, C or D). (0.5 points each)

1. The pilot had an accident because...
   (a) he had to fly across the Swiss border.  (b) he had damaged the French planes.  (c) his machine guns got damaged.  (d) his plane engine stopped working.

2. When the farm workers arrived at the place of the accident, they found that...
   (a) there were two injured men.  (b) there were two dead men.  (c) the pilot was not hurt.  (d) the photographer was hurt.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS. (0.5 points each)

3. The events that the professor told the students about had taken place fifty years earlier.

4. The story was told after that day’s academic activity had finished.

5. The Swiss police gave food and water to the pilot.

6. The student’s mother had often heard the story of the accident when she was young.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (4 points; questions 7-12, 0.25 points each; 13-17, 0.5 points each)

7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “to come together into one group.”

8. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT PREPOSITION: “The French pilot arrived... Germany.”

9. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE OPPOSITE FOR “harmed” (adjective).

10. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: “Her eyes are red. I think she... (cry).”

11. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: “I had never seen... beautiful picture!” so / such / such a / rather

12. GIVE ONE SYNONYM FOR “eventually” (adverb) (line 5) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT.

13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED. “I got wet because I didn’t take an umbrella.” If I...

14. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: “The machine gun damaged his plane.”

15. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: “People should wear life jackets during swimming lessons.”

16. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY. “I can’t find the house. Charles Dickens was born there.”

17. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO DIRECT SPEECH: “He asked me not to leave the pilot unattended.”

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

18. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:
   Write about something unusual that happened to you or to someone you know.
Across the United States, arts institutions are in the middle of a building boom. About twelve museums have been built in the past year. That means twelve temples devoted to art in a single year. Near the end of the 1990s Frank Gehry’s Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao marked the beginning of a new era of museums designed by star architects. Churches and cathedrals once stood at the top of the architectural hierarchy, but today the museum is the building that every renowned architect dreams of designing. Besides, only a museum can attract the sort of budget that used to be reserved for cathedrals in the past.

Art museums are the new churches not because the role of the church has declined in recent centuries and something had to fill the gap. The new status of museum architecture is rather a reflection of how art has changed over the years. Before the 18th Century, non-religious art could only be found in palaces and lacked any public function. By the 19th Century, museums were meant to serve as places for ethical and social improvement. But, in the 20th Century, aesthetic contemplation became a virtue in itself, and museum architecture changed accordingly. That is why modern museums are marked by pure, white walls and by giant spaces that, like the nave of a basilica, make visitors seem small in comparison.

Art has imitated religion in other ways too. These days, we frequently use religious language when talking about art. We make “pilgrimages” to museums in far-off places. We experience “transcendence” before major paintings. And, of course, Sunday is the busiest day of the week for most art museums.

I * COMPREHENSION (3 points)
CHOOSE AND WRITE THE CORRECT OPTION (A, B, C or D). (0.5 points each)

1. The building of museums…
   (a) has been the dream of architects throughout history.          (b) is now the professional aspiration of prestigious architects.
   (c) reduced the importance of the church throughout history.       (d) is slowing down in the US.

2. The role of art in society…
   (a) has declined in recent centuries.    (b) has always been private.
   (c) has moved from the private sphere to the public one.       (d) has been supplanted by religion.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS. (0.5 points each)

3. The Guggenheim Bilbao marked the end of the trend for iconic buildings by famous architects.

4. Religious buildings used to be the most important constructions in the past.

5. Some expressions describe both religious and artistic phenomena.

6. Art museums often close on Sunday.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (4 points; questions 7-12, 0.25 points each; 13-17, 0.5 points each)

7. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS “announce” (verb).

8. GIVE ONE OPPOSITE FOR “top” (noun) (line 4) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT.

9. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR “huge” (adjective).

10. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “Categorization or arrangement of a group of people or things into ranks or grades.”

11. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT PREPOSITION: “Isabel thanked him… his help.”

12. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: “I am tired of… (hear) you complain about everything.”

13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE CORRECTLY WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING: “They say that he drive to work every days.”

14. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: “This train runs every 10 minutes at night.”

15. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED. “The last time I rode a horse was in 1999.”
   I haven’t…

16. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: “Workers must wear a safety helmet at all times.”

17. USE THE WORDS IN THE BOXES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL SENTENCE. USE ALL AND ONLY THE WORDS IN THE BOXES WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR FORM.

   museums   the   has   art   importance   of   increased   recently

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

18. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:
   What are the most popular hobbies in modern society and what do you think about them?