

SOAL PAKET 2

TES KEMAMPUAN AKADEMIK (TKA) BAHASA INGGRIS SMA

Read the following text to answer problems 1 through 5.

The Enchanting Whispering Sands of Bromo

Nestled within the dramatic landscape of Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in East Java, Indonesia, lies a unique natural wonder known as the Lautan Pasir Berbisik, or the Whispering Sands. This vast sea of fine, grey volcanic sand stretches across the caldera floor, creating a surreal, almost lunarlike environment that captivates every visitor. The name itself is not just a poetic label; it describes a genuine auditory phenomenon. When the wind sweeps across the vast expanse, it creates a soft, rustling sound, almost like a whisper, which gives the area its poetic name. This sound, combined with the stark, minimalist beauty of the landscape, evokes a profound sense of peace and solitude.

Visitors often explore this magnificent terrain in a variety of ways. Many choose to traverse this sandy ocean on horseback, a method that adds a traditional and rustic feel to the experience. Others opt for renting a rugged jeep, which allows for a more extensive exploration of the caldera. The most magical time to visit is during sunrise. As the first light of dawn breaks over the crater rim, it casts long, dramatic shadows across the sand, and the air is crisp and cool. The view of the active Mount Bromo crater, with plumes of smoke gently rising into the sky, completes the unforgettable panorama.

Beyond its stunning visual and auditory appeal, the Whispering Sands holds deep cultural significance. It is an integral part of the spiritual life of the local Tenggerese people, who have inhabited this region for centuries. The area serves as a pathway for the annual Yadnya Kasada festival, where offerings are made to the mountain gods at the crater's edge. This deep connection between nature and culture adds another layer of meaning to the landscape, transforming it from a mere tourist destination into a living heritage site. The Whispering Sands of Bromo is more than just a place to see; it's an experience that engages the senses and touches the soul.

1. According to the text, what is the primary reason the area is called the "Whispering Sands"?
 - A. Because of the soft echoes from the surrounding crater walls.
 - B. Because of the quiet conversations of tourists visiting at sunrise.
 - C. Because of the sound made by the wind moving across the volcanic sand.
 - D. Because local legends say ancient spirits whisper to travelers.
 - E. Because of the gentle flow of a hidden underground river.
2. What is the main topic of the text?
 - A. The various tourist activities available in East Java.
 - B. The unique sensory and cultural experience of Bromo's Whispering Sands.
 - C. The geological formation of the Mount Bromo volcano.
 - D. The cultural significance of the Yadnya Kasada festival.
 - E. The challenges of exploring the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park.

3. Which phrases from the text best capture the tranquil and serene atmosphere of the Whispering Sands?

Decide whether the following are correct answers. There is more than one correct answer.

- ☐ “a vast sea of fine, grey volcanic sand”
- ☐ “creates a soft, rustling sound, almost like a whisper”
- ☐ “renting a rugged jeep”
- ☐ “evokes a profound sense of peace and solitude”
- ☐ “serves as a pathway for the annual Yadnya Kasada festival”

4. Based on the text, classify the following descriptions as relating to the Natural Features of the Whispering Sands or the Human Activities there.

#	Statement	Natural Features	Human Activities
A	Traversing the area on horseback or by jeep.	☐	☐
B	The sand creating a soft, rustling sound in the wind.	☐	☐
C	The landscape being part of the Tenggerese Yadnya Kasada ceremony.	☐	☐

5. Determine if the following statements show a “Logical” or “Not Logical” cause-and-effect relationship based on the text.

#	Statement	Logical	Not Logical
A	Cause: The wind blows across the fine sand. Effect: A whispering sound is produced.	☐	☐
B	Cause: Many visitors come for sunrise. Effect: The area is famous for its vibrant nightlife.	☐	☐
C	Cause: The area is a protected national park. Effect: It holds cultural significance for the Tenggerese people.	☐	☐

Read the following text to answer problems 6 through 10.

The Double-Edged Sword of Smart Home Technology

In the last decade, smart home technology has transitioned from a futuristic concept into a mainstream reality for millions. Devices like smart speakers, automated lighting, and intelligent thermostats promise a future of unparalleled convenience, where daily routines are streamlined with a simple voice command or a tap on a smartphone. A single phrase like “Good morning” can trigger a sequence of actions: the lights gradually brighten, the coffee maker starts brewing, and your favorite news podcast begins to play. This level of automation undoubtedly simplifies life, allowing users to manage their homes more efficiently, even from miles away.

However, this convenience comes with a significant price that is not listed on the price tag: privacy and security. At the core of every smart device is data. These devices are constantly listening, watching, and learning—collecting vast amounts of information about your habits, schedules, and personal preferences. While this data is often used to personalize your experience, it is also stored on company servers, making

it a tempting target for hackers. A single security breach could provide a criminal with a detailed blueprint of your life, including when your home is empty.

Furthermore, the interconnected nature of these devices creates a chain of potential vulnerabilities. If one device, such as a smart lock, has a security flaw, it could compromise the entire home network. The challenge for modern consumers, therefore, is to navigate this double-edged sword. To enjoy the clear benefits of an automated home, one must also be mindful and proactive in managing the associated risks, such as using strong passwords, regularly updating software, and being selective about which devices to trust. Balancing convenience with caution is the key to safely embracing the smart homes of the future.

6. What are the two main contrasting aspects of smart home technology discussed in the text?
- A. Affordability and luxury.
 - B. Entertainment and productivity.
 - C. Energy efficiency and complexity.
 - D. Convenience and security risks.
 - E. Durability and software updates.
7. What is the author's primary purpose in writing this text?
- A. To offer a balanced view on the benefits and drawbacks of smart homes.
 - B. To persuade everyone to buy smart home devices.
 - C. To provide a technical manual for setting up a smart home.
 - D. To condemn tech companies for creating insecure products.
 - E. To predict the future of home automation technology.
8. Which of the following statements best support the author's concern about the "darker side" of smart homes?
- Decide whether the following are correct answers. There is more than one correct answer.
- ☐ Smart thermostats can help reduce energy bills.
 - ☐ A single security breach could compromise an entire network of connected devices.
 - ☐ Users can control their homes from miles away using a smartphone.
 - ☐ Companies are constantly collecting data on your daily life.
 - ☐ These devices can learn your habits to serve you better.

9. According to the text, classify each item as either a "Benefit" or a "Risk" of smart home technology.

#	Statement	Benefit	Risk
A	Automating daily routines with a single voice command.	☐	☐
B	The possibility of unauthorized access to personal data.	☐	☐
C	Adjusting home lighting and temperature remotely.	☐	☐

10. Based on the author's conclusion, determine if the following actions are "Recommended" or "Not Recommended" for a potential smart home user.

#	Statement	Recommended	Not Recommended
A	Ignoring the device's privacy settings for a quicker setup.	☐	☐
B	Using s trong, unique passwords for each smart device.	☐	☐
C	Completely avoiding all smart technology to stay safe.	☐	☐

Read the following text to answer problems 11 through 13.

Often people use the term personality as an easy way of explaining a person's behavior. Someone says that "she is a good saleswoman because she is an extrovert" or her uncle is hard to get along with because he has an authoritarian personality." Actually, the concept of personality does not explain anything about the person's behavior. Instead, the concept of personality is a descriptive one. It relates to specific behavioral traits of an individual. It describes the individual's specific adoption to his or her cultural surroundings.

We might define personality as the basic organization of people that determines the uniqueness of their interaction with themselves, with other, and with the nonhuman aspects of their environment. The basic organization refers to the structure of the personality how it is put together, and the relationships among the various parts, it concerns the total physical, intellectual, and emotional structure of the individual.

The personality structure determines the uniqueness of the individual's interactions. Now two personalities are alike. All persons have their own way of interacting with themselves and with their environment, and the way they interact with others.

Human interaction always brings about some change in the individual. This change takes place very slowly. It is generally not noticeable from day to day. Nevertheless, the personality is changing constantly. Personalities don't all change at the same rate. For example, the child changes very rapidly in both physical and intellectual aspects of personality. The adult may change very slowly. However, every personality undergoes constant, gradual change as the individual interacts with others.

The personality of individual their basic organization is blending of all the factors present in their particular social situation with whatever traits they inherit biologically. This brings us to one of the age old question with is more important, hereditary or environment?

11. Which of the following is true about change personality?
- A. Personality change applies to all individuals in the same way.
 - B. The physical and intellectual aspect of personality within a child change less quickly than an adult.
 - C. The physical and intellectual aspect of personality within both child and adult undergo the same rate of change.
 - D. The personality in either child or adult changes uncertainly
 - E. Personality constantly changes.

12. According to the passage, the personality change happening in the individual as affected by human interactions _____ from day to day.
- A. can be observed
 - B. cannot be seen
 - C. can be noticed
 - D. cannot be expected
 - E. can be watched
13. Based on the passage, which statements correctly describe how personality develops and changes? Decide whether the following are correct answers. There is more than one correct answer.
- ☐ Personality changes gradually as individuals interact with others.
 - ☐ Children experience faster personality changes compared to adults.
 - ☐ Personality development stops completely once a person reaches adulthood.
 - ☐ Interaction with the environment plays a role in shaping personality.
 - ☐ Personality is only determined by biological inheritance without environmental influence.

Read the following text to answer problems 14 through 15.

A 55-year-old civil servant from Tarakan, North Kalimantan, swam across the channel between the Malaysian part of Sebatik Island and the Indonesian island of Nunukan to mark the 75th anniversary of Indonesian independence on Monday. Ibrahim Rusli tackled the currents to swim 1.864 miles (about 3 kilometers) from the Patok 16 border marker in Bambang village on Sebatik Island, the northern part of which belongs to the Malaysian state of Sabah, to Nunukan Island in North Kalimantan province.

Ibrahim, who works at the Tarakan Tourism and Culture Agency, completed the crossing in two hours, from 7:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. local time. "I have been swimming since I was a child. I love the sea and I am used to it," said Ibrahim, who claimed that he started swimming 800 meters in the waters off Tarakan in junior high school and gradually increased his distance.

Monday marked his 13th Sebatik-Nunukan crossing, during which he encountered strong ocean currents. He recalled how he failed to complete several crossings in East Kalimantan's Derawan archipelago because of sharks, and expressed gratitude that speedboats always accompanied him during his open-water crossings.

14. Which of the following statement is correct about the passage?
- A. Ibrahim Rusli swam across the channel between Indonesian part of Sebatik Island and the Malaysian island of Nunukan.
 - B. Ibrahim Rusli successfully swim across Sebatik-Nunukan for 13 times.
 - C. Ibrahim Rusli swim across Sebatik-Nunukan for nearly two hours.
 - D. Ibrahim Rusli works as civil servant at Tarakan Tourism and Culture department.
 - E. Ibrahim Rusli swim about 800 meters across Sebatik-Nunukan.

15. Based on the text, determine whether the following statements are agree or disagree.

#	Statement	Agree	Disagree
A	Ibrahim Rusli carried out the crossing to commemorate Indonesia's Independence Day.	☐	☐
B	Ibrahim successfully completed all of his previous crossing attempts without any obstacles.	☐	☐
C	Ibrahim's experience and habit of swimming since childhood helped him complete the crossing.	☐	☐

Read the following text to answer problems 16 through 18.

Unlike beloved children's stories, nature is a cruel, hard world that is painted not in water colors but in blood. A study found that chemicals released by plants as they are eaten can help push caterpillars to cannibalism. Many plants release the chemical methyl jasmonate when stressed or damaged. Getting gnawed on by a caterpillar is stressful, so when the caterpillars start biting, the chemical flare goes up. Other nearby plants sense the flare and start producing their own methyl jasmonate, building a camouflage around their leaves and stems.

Once all the food sources taste terrible, caterpillars turn to the next available meal: each other. Plants with the time to build up a strong defence can make their leaves so unappetizing that caterpillars will start eating each other to get their fill, leaving the plant alone.

Researchers now plan to also look into how insect viruses are transferred during their more carnivorous period. If viruses that harm caterpillars are transferred more easily by cannibalism, that could be a gain for the plants. Not only are their leaves protected from pests, but now those predators are spreading disease amongst themselves, reducing the herbivore population further.

Interestingly enough, cannibalism can serve some important functions among these herbivores. Eating each other literally takes the competition out of the food chain and keeps the surviving population strong in a time when food might be scarce.

16. Which of the following statements is incorrect according to the text?

- A. Stress may save plants from being consumed.
- B. Plants can manipulate their own perception of taste.
- C. Under constraints, plants can alter their predator's appetite.
- D. Cannibalism helps maintain food supply in times of need.
- E. The chemical Methyl jasmonate drives caterpillars away from their natural food.

17. It can be inferred from the text that

- A. cannibalism may balance the supply and demand for food
- B. viruses are easily transferred by means of cannibalism
- C. the chemicals decrease the caterpillar's hunger for food
- D. cannibalism is a natural phenomenon among herbivores
- E. other bugs can also turn cannibalistic towards each other

18. Which of the following statements best reflect the role of plant defense mechanisms and their impact on caterpillars?

Decide whether the following are correct answers. There is more than one correct answer.

- ☐ Plants can indirectly influence caterpillar behavior by altering the taste of their leaves.
- ☐ Nearby plants do not respond to chemical signals released by other plants.
- ☐ Cannibalism among caterpillars may occur as a result of limited edible food sources.
- ☐ The spread of viruses among caterpillars during cannibalism can benefit plants.
- ☐ Plant defense mechanisms only affect individual plants and have no wider ecological impact.

Read the following text to answer problems 19 through 20.

Strategic flooding is a highly risky tactic. It can only be successful if there's a well-thought-out backup plan and a plan for fast repairs. Floods can result in loss of life and damage homes and businesses, and when the water remains inland for a long time, it can change the landscape through erosion and deposition, forming new tidal channels and creeks.

During the Eighty Years War, as the Spanish army fought to recapture territory in what is now northern Belgium and southwestern Netherlands in the late sixteenth century, the Dutch rebels led by William of Orange decided to use the low-lying, flood-prone landscape to their advantage. In an attempt to liberate Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp from Spanish dominance and defend their territory, the rebels destroyed seawalls at strategic places from 1584 to 1586 to cause deliberate, large-scale floods.

The area flooded during the Eighty Years War became part of a strategic line of defense and remained inundated for more than 100 years in some places, with profound consequences for the landscape. The plan got completely out of hand, and it came at the expense of the countryside of northern Flanders, now Zeeland Flanders.

After the waters receded, a thick layer of clay covered all remnants of buildings and roads in the area. As sea water was used, soil salinity increased, affecting agricultural yields, being as damaging as floods caused by heavy rainfall or storm surges.

19. According to the text, which of the following statements is FALSE?

- A. Agricultural crops are disturbed because of the rise of soil salinity brought by sea water.
- B. The Dutch utilized the landscape which was easily flooded to beat the Spanish.
- C. Fast restoration was one of the ways to ensure the success of strategic flooding.
- D. Three cities were affected by the flood strategy used by the Dutch.
- E. Erosion caused by floods will alter the landscape.

20. Based on the text, determine whether the following statements are true or false.

#	Statement	True	False
A	Strategic flooding was used by Dutch rebels as a military tactic during the Eighty Years War.	☐	☐
B	The flooding had only positive effects and successfully protected the countryside without damage.	☐	☐
C	The long-term flooding caused environmental changes, including increased soil salinity and landscape transformation.	☐	☐

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Key Answer and Explanation

1. The text clearly states that the name “Whispering Sands” comes from a real sound phenomenon: “When the wind sweeps across the vast expanse, it creates a soft, rustling sound, almost like a whisper.” This matches option C, which explains that the sound is caused by wind moving across the volcanic sand.

Answer: C

2. The text focuses on the Whispering Sands of Bromo, describing:

- Its unique sound (whispering sand)
- Its stunning visual landscape
- The experience of visiting (sunrise, horseback, jeep)
- Its cultural significance (Yadnya Kasada festival)

All of these highlight a sensory (sight & sound) and cultural experience, which matches option B.

Answer: B

3. Here are the correct answers:

- ✓ “creates a soft, rustling sound, almost like a whisper”
- ✓ “evokes a profound sense of peace and solitude”

Explanation:

Phrases that show a tranquil and serene atmosphere are those that express calmness, quietness, and peaceful feelings:

- **Soft, whispering sound** → suggests calm and quiet
- **Peace and solitude** → directly describes serenity

Meanwhile, descriptions of landscape, activities, or cultural function do not directly express tranquility.

Correct Answers: 2 and 4

4. Analysis results:

- **A** → Activities done by visitors → Human Activities.
- **B** → A natural phenomenon caused by wind and sand → Natural Features.
- **C** → Cultural/religious use by people → Human Activities.

Answer: Human Activities – Natural Features – Human Activities

5. Analysis results:

- **A Logical** → The text clearly explains that wind over sand creates the whispering sound.
- **B Not Logical** → Sunrise tourism has no connection to nightlife.
- **C Not Logical** → Cultural significance comes from local traditions, not because it is a national park.

Answer: Logical – Not Logical – Not Logical

6. The text clearly presents smart home technology as a “**double-edged sword**”, meaning it has both positive and negative sides:
- **Convenience** → automation, efficiency, easy control of home devices
 - **Security risks (and privacy concerns)** → data collection, hacking, vulnerabilities
- These two contrasting aspects are the main focus of the text.

Answer: D

7. The text discusses both:
- The **benefits** of smart home technology (convenience, automation)
 - The **drawbacks** (privacy and security risks)

It does not fully support or reject smart homes but encourages readers to **balance convenience with caution**.

Answer: A

8. Here are the correct answers:
- ✓ A single security breach could compromise an entire network of connected devices.
 - ✓ Companies are constantly collecting data on your daily life.

Explanation:

The “darker side” refers to **privacy and security risks**:

- **Security breach affecting the whole network** → shows vulnerability.
- **Data collection by companies** → shows privacy concerns.

Meanwhile, energy savings, remote control, and personalization are **benefits**, not risks.

Correct Answers: 2 and 4

9. Analysis results:
- **A** → Makes life easier and more efficient → Benefit.
 - **B** → Relates to privacy/security problems → Risk.
 - **C** → Adds convenience and control → Benefit.

Answer: Benefit – Risk – Benefit

10. Analysis results:
- **A Not Recommended** → The author advises being **careful and proactive about security**, not ignoring it.
 - **B Recommended** → The text clearly suggests using **strong passwords**.
 - **C Not Recommended** → The author supports **balancing convenience with caution**, not avoiding technology completely.

Answer: Not Recommended – Recommended – Not Recommended

11. The text clearly states “the personality is changing constantly” and “every personality undergoes constant, gradual change”. This directly supports option E.

Answer: E

12. The text states: “This change takes place very slowly. It is generally **not noticeable from day to day**.” “Not noticeable” means it **cannot be seen or observed easily**, which matches option B.

Answer: B

13. Here are the correct answers:

- ✓ Personality changes gradually as individuals interact with others.
- ✓ Children experience faster personality changes compared to adults.
- ✓ Interaction with the environment plays a role in shaping personality.

Explanation:

From the passage:

- Personality **changes slowly and continuously through interaction.**
- **Children change more rapidly than adults.**
- Both **environment (social interaction)** and **biological traits** influence personality.

Notice that personality **does not stop developing in adulthood.**

Correct Answers: 1, 2, and 4

14. The passage clearly states: "Ibrahim, who works at the Tarakan Tourism and Culture Agency..."

This matches option **D**.

Answer: D

15. Analysis results:

- **A** → The text states he did it to mark the **75th anniversary of Indonesian independence.**
- **B** → He **failed several crossings before** due to sharks → not always successful.
- **C** → His long experience since childhood clearly helped him succeed.

Answer: Agree – Disagree – Agree

16. The text explains that plants release methyl jasmonate, which makes their leaves unappetizing, causing caterpillars to turn to cannibalism. However, it does not say that plants "manipulate their own perception of taste."

Answer: B

17. The text states: "Eating each other literally takes the competition out of the food chain and keeps the surviving population strong in a time when food might be scarce."

This implies that cannibalism helps **balance food availability and population**, which matches option **A**.

Answer: A

18. Here are the correct answers:

- ✓ Plants can indirectly influence caterpillar behavior by altering the taste of their leaves.
- ✓ Cannibalism among caterpillars may occur as a result of limited edible food sources.
- ✓ The spread of viruses among caterpillars during cannibalism can benefit plants.

Explanation:

- Plants release chemicals that make leaves **unappetizing**, influencing caterpillars.
- Lack of edible food leads caterpillars to **eat each other.**
- Cannibalism may spread viruses, helping reduce pests.

Correct answers: 1, 3, and 4

19. The text states that the Dutch used flooding to try to liberate Bruges, Ghent, and Antwerp, but it does not say that all three cities were actually affected by the flooding strategy. It only mentions them as targets, not confirmed outcomes.

Answer: D

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20. Analysis Results:

- A → Clearly stated: the Dutch used flooding as a military tactic.
- B → The text mentions damage, loss, and negative consequences.
- C → Flooding caused soil salinity increase and landscape changes.

Answer: True – False – True