

**РОССИЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ ШКОЛА
ПРОГРАММА МАСТЕР ФИНАНСОВ**

ОЛИМПИАДА ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ (май 2023 г.)

Part 1 A. Structure

Directions: Questions 1-15 are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Only one answer is correct.

1. The purchase price was a hefty 37 per cent premium to where Tiffany's stock _____ before the deal was announced and the value of the deal, including net debt, was nearly 17 times Tiffany's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization.

(A) was trading
(B) had been trading
(C) is traded
(D) is trading

2. Research by Scientific Beta, a factor-based data provider and consultancy, has found that value strategies delivered returns of 11 per cent _____ losses of between 17 and 18 per cent for global cap-weighted indices such as the Scientific Beta Global Cap-Weighted index, FTSE All-World index and MSCI ACWI index.

(A) compare to
(B) compare for
(C) compared to
(D) comparing by

3. When these funds _____ next week, they _____ compete primarily with 'quasi-active' smart beta ETFs for assets then.

(A) will launch, they will need to
(B) will launch, they need to
(C) launch, will need to
(D) launch, need to

4. The market is showing signs of life, with bitcoin _____ some of its losses and trading up over a quarter so far this year.

(A) having clawed back
(B) having been clawed back
(C) being clawed back
(D) having being clawed back

5. An industry that in the last year _____ precipitous price falls, multiple bankruptcies and allegations of fraud would normally pay attention when the US accuses one of its companies of fueling a “high-tech axis of crypto crime”.
- (A) witnessed
(B) has witnessed
(C) was witnessed
(D) was witnessing
6. In the non-crypto world, _____ are rules, norms and mores that would aim to prevent this kind of thing from happening.
- (A) they
(B) this
(C) their
(D) there
7. In a sense it seems really absurd that they would try to monetise crypto bankruptcy, but it also makes sense _____ terms of the general trajectory of crypto.
- (A) in
(B) on
(C) with
(D) at
8. _____ highfalutin things you might have been told, crypto is only really about one thing: making a quick buck.
- (A) So
(B) Whoever
(C) As
(D) Whatever
9. Initial claims for US unemployment benefits fell to 190,000 in the week ending January 14 from 205,000 in the previous week, a report showed, indicating labour market resilience _____ the Fed’s efforts to tighten monetary policy.
- (A) although
(B) despite
(C) in spite
(D) notwithstanding
10. This is thanks _____ much lower than expected energy prices alleviating cost of living and economic competitiveness worries and a still strong global employment backdrop.
- (A) -
(B) for
(C) of
(D) to

11. One probe crushed the hopes of ride-hailing company Didi by _____ downloads of its app just days after its \$4.4bn IPO in New York.
- (A) suspending
 - (B) suspended
 - (C) being suspended
 - (D) suspend
12. Most of the firm's rivals have not built up in commodities to the same extent _____ the sector provided less attractive opportunities than equities or bonds.
- (A) regardless
 - (B) despite
 - (C) because of
 - (D) given
13. It sets a floor on interest rates, but it's only necessary because the Fed convinced itself that its only non-political choice for stimulus _____ treasuries and hope something good happened.
- (A) was buying
 - (B) was to buy
 - (C) was buy
 - (D) bought
14. Trillions of dollars each day are gushing into a Federal Reserve facility designed to mop up excess cash in the financial system, _____ how many ultra-safe investment funds are avoiding volatile US government debt markets even as interest rates rise.
- (A) showed
 - (B) showing
 - (C) to show
 - (D) having show
15. Another reason for the increased use of reverse repo, analysts say, is that many investors, who cannot directly access the reverse repo facility, are still preferring to place excess cash in money market funds _____ in savings accounts offered by banks.
- (A) than
 - (B) then
 - (C) rather than
 - (D) much rather

Part 1B. Written Expression

Directions: In questions 16-30, each sentence has four highlighted words or phrases. The four highlighted parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C), and (D) beneath. Identify the one highlighted word or phrase that must be changed to correct the sentence. Only one answer is correct.

16. Genesis's crypto lending arm, Genesis Global Capital, said in November it would stop **A**
make new loans and blocked customers from withdrawing funds, citing the market **B**
C
dislocation caused by the collapse of FTX. **D**
17. Grayscale's flagship Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) is the world's largest bitcoin fund, **A**
one that the company hopes will someday be convert into an exchange-traded fund. **B**
C **D**
18. Shares of the bank lost more then 10% as the bank attempted to reassure **A**
B
investors that it remained committed to servng the digital asset industry. **C** **D**
19. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Saturday underscored the urgent need to reduce **A**
the debt burden of heavy indebted countries, warning that failure to do so would set **B**
C
back development in poor countries and could lead to more war, fragility and conflict. **D**
20. She said she believed Chinese officials understood the imperative to reduce the debts of **A**
some of these countries, but declined to forecasting what China would ultimately do, **B**
C **D**
and when.
21. Traders in Deutsche Bank's fixing income and currencies business, in contrast, will have **A** **B**
bigger bonuses for the past year, as the area boomed due to volatile markets. **C** **D**
22. The probe, which grew out of a standard Fed review of the business in 2021 and **A**
intensified into an investigation last year, is also examining instances of customer harm **B**
C
and unless they were properly resolved. **D**
23. The bank said it would take an impairment charge of \$196 millions in the fourth **A** **B** **C**
quarter on assets purchased for the payment solution venture. **D**

24. The initial focus will be on how a new currency, which Brazil suggests to call the “sur” (south), could boost regional trade and reduce reliance on the US dollar, officials told the Financial Times.
A B C
D
25. The US Federal Reserve last year lifted it’s main policy rate by 4.25 percentage points, the largest one-year increase in four decades.
A B
C D
26. Despite of caution expressed by numerous central bank officials, markets expect the Fed to begin cutting rates in the second half of the year.
A B
C D
27. Middle Eastern oil and gas producing nations, including Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, have over the highest carbon emissions per capita globally, surpassing other big emitters including the US, China and Russia, according to the Oxford-based research group Our World In Data.
A C
B D
28. Investors are thus highly sensitive to news about corporate earnings, either from seasonal reporting and any management discussions. The reaction to bad or good surprises on earnings can be extreme.
A B
C D
29. Luxury retailers Richemont of Switzerland and Britain’s Burberry on Wednesday both offered bad news about there previous quarter’s sales in China, down by over a fifth for both.
A
B C D
30. This has forced some traders to manually finish steps such as checking margin requirements and completing end of day reports — steps that are usually automated and more labour intensive when completing manually.
A B
C D

Part 2: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: In this section you will read two passages which are followed by a number of questions about them. You are to choose the one best answer, A, B, C, or D to each question. Only one answer is correct.

The Financial times.

9 January 2023.

Word count: 408

	Tesla owners in China protest against price cuts.
	Tesla owners in big cities across China are protesting against the carmaker's price cuts, overshadowing the company's efforts to revive sales in the world's largest electric vehicle market.
4	Tesla announced the cuts for its Model 3 and Model Y vehicles on Friday, slashing prices to Rmb229,900 (\$34,000) and Rmb259,900, respectively. The carmaker had already cut prices previously in October.
	The cuts prompted Tesla owners to picket the automaker's showrooms and delivery centres in cities including Shanghai, Wuhan and Shenzhen over the weekend, according to people who took part in the protests.
	A group of more than 60 car owners, upset that their cars have lost a significant amount of value, chanted slogans such as "Tesla lied to customers" and "Protect consumers' legal rights" in front of Tesla's distribution centre in Wuhan on Sunday, showed a video taken by a protester.
	The protests come as Tesla is confronted with slowing EV sales in China. The company is also increasingly facing fierce competition from domestic rivals including BYD and Li Auto.
19	Tesla's price cuts, which are as high as 13.5 per cent depending on the model, might not be enough to keep hold of top spot in the EV market, said analysts. "Tesla needs to further cut prices and expand its sales network in China's lower-tier cities," said Shi Ji, an auto analyst with China Merchants Bank International.
23	Grace Tao, Tesla's vice-president for external affairs, said in a social media post on Friday that the cuts relied on "engineering innovations". She added: "We answer the call of the country to stimulate economic growth and unleash consumption potential." Recommended The Big Read Trouble at Tesla: the end of a golden age of growth? Li, a Tesla owner who provided only his surname for fear of being investigated by police, joined more than 20 other car owners to stage a protest at Tesla's delivery centre in the eastern city of Wenzhou on Sunday.
	"Tesla is lowering its prestige as a premium EV brand by cutting prices time after time," said Li, who owns a Model 3.
	"A Tesla salesperson told me that they intended to raise prices in the second of 2022, so I scrambled to place an order. I feel myself being lied to." Li said the protesters handed over a list of demands to Tesla to compensate for the price drop. The list included a lifetime subscription to the EV maker's self-driving services and a three-year extension of car insurance.

31. The purpose of the passage is to
- (A) condemn the price cuts Tesla announced
 - (B) support protesters
 - (C) describe the current situation around Tesla activities
 - (D) inform Tesla buyers on price opportunities
32. According to paragraphs 1 and 2, which of the following is NOT true
- (A) Tesla owners are protesting across the globe
 - (B) Tesla owners are protesting against carmaker's price reduction
 - (C) Tesla has taken certain actions to recover its sales in the world's largest electric vehicle market
 - (D) This is not the first price cut since last year
33. The word "**slash**" in line 8 is **opposite** in meaning to
- (A) boost
 - (B) decrease
 - (C) rejuvenate
 - (D) boggle
34. Which of the statements below is supported by paragraphs 3 and 4?
- (A) Protestors were prompted to picket after Tesla lost a significant amount of cars
 - (B) Protestors believe Tesla lied to customers
 - (C) A video taken by a protestor showed Tesla protecting customers
 - (D) None of the answers is correct
35. The pronoun "**its**" in line 19 refers to
- (A) top spot
 - (B) the EV market
 - (C) sales network
 - (D) Tesla
36. According to paragraph 6, which of the statements is true?
- (A) Price reduction is the only way to keep the top spot in the market
 - (B) Tesla has to expand around the whole country
 - (C) Tesla is trying to stay the leader of the EV market in China
 - (D) Tesla might be able to keep hold of top spot in the EV market
37. What is the reason Tesla cut prices, according to Grace Tao?
- (A) Tesla is not relying on technological innovations
 - (B) Tesla is addressing governmental incentives and is trying to boost sales
 - (C) Tesla is trying to leverage its engineering potential
 - (D) Tesla is calling for economic growth to unleash customer's potential

38. The word “unleash” in line 23 could best be replaced by

- (A) reduce
- (B) curb
- (C) release
- (D) challenge

39. According to the two last paragraphs,

- (A) Protestors are likely to give in
- (B) Protestors say Tesla made a fair deal with them
- (C) Protestors are pushing Tesla to regain its prestige
- (D) Protestors are expecting to yield bonuses for an allegedly unfair previous deal with them

40. The tone of this passage is

- (A) pragmatic
- (B) reciprocating
- (C) theoretical
- (D) accusatory

The Economist.

13 December 2022.

Word count: 431

	America's inflation fever may be breaking at last.
	"We will stay the course until the job is done," said Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve's chairman, on December 14th, shortly after the central bank's latest interest-rate rise. As a statement of intent, his words were both straightforward and utterly sensible. But what it means for the job to be done is becoming a matter of controversy. Inflation remains uncomfortably high. Meanwhile, the aggressive monetary tightening of the past year is only now filtering through to the economy, complicating assessments of whether the Fed has in fact done enough to rein in prices.
8	Promisingly, after a difficult two years, inflation does appear to be easing its grip on the American economy. Overall prices increased by a mere 0.1% month-on-month in November, according to data published on December 13th, making for that rarest of recent occurrences: a downside surprise. Most encouraging was a breakdown showing that core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy costs, had decelerated for a second consecutive month.
14	Investors and analysts, scarred by America's relentless run of inflation, have learned to restrain their hopes after a single month of rosy data. Year-on-year rates of inflation remain elevated at 7.1% for headline inflation. But the disinflation in November follows a similarly cheerful batch of data for October. Optimism is on the rise, albeit still mostly of the cautious rather than the unbridled kind. Since mid-October the s&p 500 index of leading American firms has recovered some of the ground it lost earlier this year. Concerns are shifting to the prospect of weaker growth. Many economists forecast a recession early next year.
22	For the Fed these countervailing forces create a tricky balance. On the one hand, it has just administered the sharpest tightening of monetary policy in four decades, lifting interest rates from a floor of 0% in March to more than 4% today. With inflation ebbing, it is prudent to slow the pace of rate increases. On the other hand, a perception of Fed softening risks adding fuel to the market rally. That, in turn, would cause financial conditions to ease, thereby placing upward pressure on inflation.
28	The Fed has tried to resolve this conundrum by maintaining its hawkish tone at the same time as tweaking its policies. On December 14 th , the Fed raised rates by half a percentage point, ending a string of jumbo three-quarter-point increases. Most Fed officials believe that they will raise rates to more than 5% next year and refrain from cutting rates until 2024, according to the central bank's latest projections. "Historical experience cautions strongly against prematurely easing," said Mr Powell.

41. Which statement is true according to paragraph 1?

- (A) The current interest-rate rise will not be debatable
- (B) The Fed has in fact done enough to rein in prices
- (C) The aggressive monetary tightening of the past year is only now disappearing
- (D) None of the statement is true

42. The word “**grip**” in line 8 is closest in meaning to
- (A) punch
 - (B) clench
 - (C) acknowledge
 - (D) thrust
43. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in paragraph 2?
- (A) The inflation rate showed an unexpected surprise according to data published on December 13th
 - (B) Overall prices decreased by a mere 0.1% month-on-month in November
 - (C) Core inflation had sped up for a second consecutive month
 - (D) It was a downside surprise that volatile food and energy costs were stripped out from a breakdown showing core inflation tendencies
44. The word “**relentless**” in line 14 could best be replaced by
- (A) compromising
 - (B) gradual
 - (C) ruthless
 - (D) steady
45. Why is “optimism on the rise” according to paragraph 3?
- (A) Because rates of inflation remain elevated at 7.1% for headline inflation
 - (B) Because disinflation follows a similarly cheerful batch of data like previously
 - (C) Because the s&p 500 index of leading American firms has significantly recovered this year
 - (D) All answers are correct
46. The pronoun “**it**” in line 22 refers to
- (A) a tricky balance
 - (B) the sharpest tightening
 - (C) monetary policy
 - (D) the Fed
47. What is tricky for American economy that was described in paragraph 4?
- (A) The fastest increase in interest rates ever during 40 years and stimulation of inflation due to low market competition
 - (B) The fastest increase in interest rates ever during 40 years and volatile market situation
 - (C) The fastest increase in interest rates ever during 40 years and softening risks on the market
 - (D) The fastest increase in interest rates ever during 40 years and growing pressure on inflation

48. The word “**conundrum**” in line 28 could best be replaced by
- (A) riddle
 - (B) bustle
 - (C) adversity
 - (D) threat
49. What is the Fed planning to do until 2024 according to the central bank’s latest projections?
- (A) Will raise rates to more than 5%
 - (B) Refrain from premature rises
 - (C) End a string of jumbo three-quarter-point increases
 - (D) There is no correct answer
50. What is the purpose of the whole passage?
- (A) It describes the current situation
 - (B) It dashes against obvious facts
 - (C) It calls for actions
 - (D) It criticizes the actions of the Fed

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST!

THANK YOU!

ANSWERS

Part 1A.

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. B
6. D
7. A
8. D
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. D
13. B
14. B
15. C

Part 1B. Correct answers are indicated in the brackets.

16. B (making)
17. C (convertED)
18. A (thAn)
19. B (heavily)
20. C (to forecast)
21. A (fixed)
22. D (whether/ if)
23. C (million)
24. C (suggests calling)
25. A (its)
26. A (despite, no "of")
27. B (among)
28. B (both from)
29. C (their)
30. D (completED)

Part 2.

31. C
32. A
33. A
34. B
35. D
36. C
37. B
38. C
39. D
40. A
41. D
42. B
43. A

- 44. C
- 45. B
- 46. D
- 47. D
- 48. A
- 49. D
- 50. A