

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

When Toni Morrison died in 2019, the world lost one of its most influential authors. But Morrison was not an early success. Her first novel was not published until she was 39, and her last appeared when she was 84. And Morrison was not 26 in this regard. Numerous writers produce masterpieces well into their 70s and beyond. Such 27 accomplishments highlight an important point. Our capacity to speak, write and learn new vocabulary does not seem to 28 with age. Our eyesight may dim and our recall may weaken, but, by comparison, our ability to produce and to 29 language is well preserved into older adulthood.

Indeed, the latest research that has emerged on language and aging shows that language mastery is a 30 that we begin as infants and continue on for the rest of our lives. Some aspects of our language abilities, such as our knowledge of word meanings, 31 improve during middle and late adulthood. One study, for example, found that adults over sixty had an average vocabulary size of over 21,000 words. The researchers also studied a 32 of college students and found that their average vocabulary contained 33 16,000 words. In another study, older adults, with an average age of 75, 34 better than participants in their youth or middle years on tasks that required them to determine the meaning of words. Thus, language seems to be a skill that, contrary to what many might 35, does not weaken with age.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| A) actually | I) literary |
| B) approximately | J) performed |
| C) assume | K) rarely |
| D) component | L) sample |
| E) comprehend | M) undermined |
| F) deteriorate | N) unique |
| G) equivalent | O) unit |
| H) journey | |