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新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 1. 2016 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题(第 1 套)

### Part I Writing (30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on living in the virtual world. Try to imagine what will happen when people spend more and more time in the virtual world instead of interacting in the real world. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension (30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A. Project organizer.  
B. Public relations officer.  
C. Marketing manager.  
D. Market research consultant.
2. A. Quantitative advertising research.  
B. Questionnaire design.  
C. Research methodology.  
D. Interviewer training.
3. A. They are intensive studies of people's spending habits.  
B. They examine relations between producers and customers.  
C. They look for new and effective ways to promote products.  
D. They study trends or customer satisfaction over a long period.
4. A. The lack of promotion opportunity.  
B. Checking charts and tables.  
C. Designing questionnaires.  
D. The persistent intensity.

**Question 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A. His view on Canadian universities.

- B. His understanding of higher education.
  - C. His suggestions for improvements in higher education.
  - D. His complaint about bureaucracy in American universities.
6. A. It is well designed.
- B. It is rather inflexible.
  - C. It varies among universities.
  - D. It has undergone great changes.
7. A. The United States and Canada can learn from each other.
- B. Public universities are often superior to private universities.
  - C. Everyone should be given equal access to higher education.
  - D. Private schools work more efficiently than public institutions.
8. A. University systems vary from country to country.
- B. Efficiency is essential to university management.
  - C. It is hard to say which is better, a public university or a private one.
  - D. Many private universities in the U.S. are actually large bureaucracies.

### Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Question 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A. Government's role in receiving an economic crisis.
- B. The worsening real wage situation around the world.
  - C. Indications of economic recovery in the United States.
  - D. The impact of the current economic crisis on people's life.
10. A. They will feel less pressure to raise employees' wages.
- B. They will feel free to choose the most suitable employees.
  - C. They will feel inclined to expand their business operations.
  - D. They will feel more confident in competing with their rivals.
11. A. Employees and companies cooperate to pull through the economic crisis.
- B. Government and companies join hands to create jobs for the unemployed.
  - C. Employees work shorter hours to avoid layoffs.
  - D. Team work will be encouraged in companies.

**Question 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A. Whether memory supplements work.  
B. Whether herbal medicine works wonders.  
C. Whether exercise enhance one's memory.  
D. Whether a magic memory promises success.
13. A. They help the elderly more than the young.  
B. They are beneficial in one way or another.  
C. They generally do not have side effects.  
D. They are not based on real science.
14. A. They are available at most country fairs.  
B. They are taken in relatively high dosage.  
C. They are collected or grown by farmers.  
D. They are prescribed by trained practitioners.
15. A. They have often proved to be as helpful as doing mental exercise.  
B. Taking them with other medications might entail unnecessary risks.  
C. Their effect lasts only a short time.  
D. Many have benefited from them.

### Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 16 to 18 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

16. A. How catastrophic natural disasters turn out to be to developing nations.  
B. How the World Meteorological Organization studies natural disasters.  
C. How powerless humans appear to be in face of natural disasters.  
D. How the negative impacts of natural disasters can be reduced.
17. A. By training rescue teams for emergencies.  
B. By taking steps to prepare people for them.  
C. By changing people's views of nature.  
D. By relocating people to safer places.
18. A. How preventive action can reduce the loss of life.  
B. How courageous Cubans are in face of disasters.  
C. How Cubans suffer from tropical storms.  
D. How destructive tropical storms can be.

**Question 19 to 22 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

19. A. Pay back their loans to the American government.  
B. Provide loans to those in severe financial difficulty.  
C. Contribute more to the goal of a wider recovery.  
D. Speed up their recovery from the housing bubble.
20. A. Some banks may have to merge with others.  
B. Many smaller regional banks are going to fail.  
C. It will be hard for banks to provide more loans.  
D. Many banks will have to lay off some employees.
21. A. It will work closely with the government.  
B. It will endeavor to write off bad loans.  
C. It will try to lower the interest rate.  
D. It will try to provide more loans.
22. A. It won't help the American economy to turn around.  
B. It won't do any good to the major commercial banks.  
C. It will win the approval of the Obama administration.  
D. It will be necessary if the economy starts to shrink again.

**Question 23 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard**

23. A. Being unable to learn new things.  
B. Being rather slow to make changes.  
C. Losing temper more and more often.  
D. Losing the ability to get on with others.
24. A. Cognitive stimulation.  
B. Community activity.  
C. Balanced diet.  
D. Fresh air.
25. A. Ignoring the signs and symptoms of aging.  
B. Adopting an optimistic attitude towards life.  
C. Endeavoring to give up unhealthy lifestyles.  
D. Seeking advice from doctors from time to time

**Part III**

**Reading Comprehension**

**(40 minutes)**

**Section A**

**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.

**Questions 26 to 35 are based on the following passage.**

Pursuing a career is an essential part of adolescent development. "The adolescent becomes an adult when he 26 a real job." To cognitive researchers like Piaget, adulthood meant the beginning of an 27.

Piaget argued that once adolescents enter the world of work, their newly acquired ability to form hypotheses allows them to create representations that are too ideal. The 28 of such ideals, without the tempering of the reality of a job or profession, rapidly leads adolescents to become 29 of the non-idealistic world and to press for reform in a characteristically adolescent way. Piaget said: "True adaptation to society comes 30 when the adolescent reformer attempts to put his ideas to work."

Of course, youthful idealism is often courageous, and no one likes to give up dreams. Perhaps, taken 31 out of context, Piaget's statement seems harsh. What he was 32, however, is the way reality can modify idealistic views. Some people refer to such modification as maturity. Piaget argued that attaining and accepting a vocation is one of the best ways to modify idealized views and to mature.

As careers and vocations become less available during times of 33, adolescents may be especially hard hit. Such difficult economic times may leave many adolescents 34 about their roles in society. For this reason, community interventions and government job programs that offer summer and vacation work are not only economically 35 but also help to stimulate the adolescent's sense of worth.

|                 |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| A)automatically | F)entrance     | K)occupation |
| B)beneficial    | G)excited      | L)promises   |
| C)capturing     | H)existence    | M)recession  |
| D)confused      | I)incidentally | N)slightly   |
| E)emphasizing   | J)intolerant   | O)undertake  |

**Section B**

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

**Can societies be rich and green?**

[A] "If our economies are to flourish, if global poverty is to be eliminated and if the well-being of the world's people enhanced -- not just in this generation but in succeeding generations -- we must make sure we take care of the natural environment and resources on which our economic

activity depends." That statement comes not, as you might imagine, from a stereotypical tree-hugging, save-the-world *greenie* (环保主义者), but from Gordon Brown, a politician with a reputation for rigour, thoroughness and above all, caution.

[B] A surprising thing for the man who runs one of the world's most powerful economies to say? Perhaps; though in the run-up to the five-year review of the *Millennium* (千年的) Goals, he is far from alone. The roots of his speech, given in March at the roundtable meeting of environment and energy ministers from the G20 group of nations, stretch back to 1972, and the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

[C] "The protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the wellbeing of peoples and economic development throughout the world," read the final declaration from this gathering, the first of a sequence which would lead to the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992 and the World Development Summit in Johannesburg three years ago.

[D] Hunt through the reports prepared by UN agencies and development groups -- many for conferences such as this year's Millennium Goals review -- and you will find that the linkage between environmental protection and economic progress is a common thread.

[E] Managing ecosystems sustainably is more profitable than exploiting them, according to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. But finding hard evidence to support the thesis is not so easy. Thoughts turn first to some sort of global statistic, some indicator which would rate the wealth of nations in both economic and environmental terms and show a relationship between the two.

[F] If such an indicator exists, it is well hidden. And on reflection, this is not surprising; the single word "environment" has so many dimensions, and there are so many other factors affecting wealth -- such as the oil deposits -- that teasing out a simple economy-environment relationship would be almost impossible.

[G] The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a vast four-year global study which reported its initial conclusions earlier this year, found reasons to believe that managing ecosystems sustainably -- working with nature rather than against -- might be less profitable in the short term, but certainly brings long-term rewards.

[H] And the World Resources Institute (WRI) in its World Resources 2005 report, issued at the end of August, produced several such examples from Africa and Asia; it also demonstrated that environmental degradation affects the poor more than the rich, as poorer people derive a much higher proportion of their income directly from the natural resources around them.

[I] But there are also many examples of growing wealth by trashing the environment, in rich and poor parts of the world alike, whether through unregulated mineral extraction, drastic water use for agriculture, slash-and-burn farming, or *fossil-fuel-guzzling* (大量消耗) transport. Of course, such growth may not persist in the long term -- which is what Mr. Brown and the Stockholm declaration were both attempting to point out. Perhaps the best example of boom growth and bust decline is the Grand Banks fishery. For almost five centuries a very large supply of *cod* (鳕鱼) provided abundant raw material for an industry which at its peak employed about 40,000 people, sustaining entire communities in Newfoundland. Then, abruptly, the cod population collapsed. There were no longer enough fish in the sea for the stock to maintain itself, let alone an industry. More than a decade later, there was no sign of the ecosystem re-building itself. It had, apparently, been fished out of existence; and the once mighty Newfoundland fleet now gropes about frantically



for crab on the sea floor.

[J] There is a view that modern humans are inevitably sowing the seeds of a global Grand Banks-style disaster. The idea is that we are taking more out of what you might call the planet's environmental bank balance than it can sustain; we are living beyond our ecological means. One recent study attempted to calculate the extent of this "ecological overshoot of the human economy", and found that we are using 1.2 Earth's-worth of environmental goods and services -- the implication being that at some point the debt will be called in, and all those services -- the things which the planet does for us for free -- will grind to a halt.

[K] Whether this is right, and if so where and when the ecological axe will fall, is hard to determine with any precision -- which is why governments and financial institutions are only beginning to bring such risks into their economic calculations. It is also the reason why development agencies are not united in their view of environmental issues; while some, like the WRI, maintain that environmental progress needs to go hand-in-hand with economic development, others argue that the priority is to build a thriving economy, and then use the wealth created to tackle environmental degradation.

[L] This view assumes that rich societies will invest in environmental care. But is this right? Do things get better or worse as we get richer? Here the Stockholm declaration is ambiguous. "In the developing countries," it says, "most of the environmental problems are caused by under-development." So it is saying that economic development should make for a cleaner world? Not necessarily. "In the industrialised countries, environmental problems are generally related to industrialisation and technological development," it continues. In other words, poor and rich both over-exploit the natural world, but for different reasons. It's simply not true that economic growth will surely make our world cleaner.

[M] Clearly, richer societies are able to provide environmental improvements which lie well beyond the reach of poorer communities. Citizens of wealthy nations demand national parks, clean rivers, clean air and poison-free food. They also, however, use far more natural resources -- fuel, water (all those baths and golf courses) and building materials.

[N] A case can be made that rich nations export environmental problems, the most graphic example being climate change. As a country's wealth grows, so do its greenhouse gas emissions. The figures available will not be completely accurate. Measuring emissions is not a precise science, particularly when it comes to issues surrounding land use; not all nations have released up-to-date data, and in any case, emissions from some sectors such as aviation are not included in national statistics. But the data is exact enough for a clear trend to be easily discernible. As countries become richer, they produce more greenhouse gases; and the impact of those gases will fall primarily in poor parts of the world.

[O] Wealth is not, of course, the only factor involved. The average Norwegian is better off than the average US citizen, but contributes about half as much to climate change. But could Norway keep its standard of living and yet cut its emissions to Moroccan or even Ethiopian levels? That question, repeated across a dozen environmental issues and across our diverse planet, is what will ultimately determine whether the human race is living beyond its ecological means as it pursues economic revival.

36. Examples show that both rich and poor countries exploited the environment for economic progress.

37. Environmental protection and improvement benefit people all over the world.
38. It is not necessarily true that economic growth will make our world cleaner.
39. The common theme of the UN reports is the relation between environmental protection and economic growth.
40. Development agencies disagree regarding how to tackle environment issues while ensuring economic progress.
41. It is difficult to find solid evidence to prove environmental friendliness generates more profits than exploiting the natural environment.
42. Sustainable management of ecosystems will prove rewarding in the long run.
43. A politician noted for being cautious asserts that sustainable human development depends on the natural environment.
44. Poor countries will have to bear the cost for rich nations' economic development.
45. One recent study warns us of the danger of the exhaustion of natural resources on Earth.

### Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre

#### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Interactive television advertising, which allows viewers to use their remote controls to click on advertisements, has been pushed for years. Nearly a decade ago it was predicted that viewers of "Friends", a popular situation comedy, would soon be able to purchase a sweater like Jennifer Aniston's with a few taps on their remote control. "It's been the year of interactive television advertising for the last ten or twelve years," says Colin Dixon of a digital-media consultancy.

So the news that Cablevision, an American cable company, was rolling out interactive advertisements to all its customers on October 6th was greeted with some skepticism. During commercials, an overlay will appear at the bottom of the screen, prompting viewers to press a button to request a free sample or order a catalogue. Cablevision hopes to allow customers to buy things with their remote controls early next year.

Television advertising could do with a boost. Spending fell by 10% in the first half of the year. The popularization of digital video recorders has caused advertisers to worry that their commercials will be skipped. Some are turning to the Internet, which is cheaper and offers concrete measurements like click-through rates -- especially important at a time when marketing budgets are tight. With the launch of interactive advertising, "many of the dollars that went to the Interact will come back to the TV," says David Kline of Cablevision. Or so the industry hopes.

In theory, interactive advertising can engage viewers in a way that 30-second spots do not. Unilever recently ran an interactive campaign for its *Axe deodorant* (除臭剂), which kept viewers engaged for more than three minutes on average.

The amount spent on interactive advertising on television is still small. Magna, an advertising agency, reckons it will be worth about \$138 million this year. That falls far short of the billions of dollars people once expected it to generate. But DirecTV, Comcast and Time Warner Cable have all invested in it. A new effort led by Canoe Ventures, a coalition of leading cable providers, aims to make interactive advertising available across America later this year. Bright Line iTV, which designs and sells interactive ads, says interest has surged: it expects its revenues almost to triple this year. BSkyB, Britain's biggest satellite-television service, already provides 9 million customers with interactive ads.

Yet there are doubts whether people watching television, a "lean back" medium, crave interaction. Click-through rates have been high so far (around 3-4%, compared with less than 0.3% online), but that may be a result of the novelty. Interactive ads and viewers might not go well together.

46. What does Colin Dixon mean by saying "It's been the year of interactive television advertising for the last ten or twelve years" (Line 4, Para. 1)?

- A) Interactive television advertising will become popular in 10-12 years.
- B) Interactive television advertising has been under debate for the last decade or so.
- C) Interactive television advertising is successful when incorporated into situation comedies.
- D) Interactive television advertising has not achieved the anticipated results.

47. What is the public's response to Cablevision's planned interactive TV advertising program?

- A) Pretty positive.
- B) Totally indifferent.
- C) Somewhat doubtful.
- D) Rather critical.

48. What is the impact of the wide use of digital video recorders on TV advertising?

- A) It has made TV advertising easily accessible to viewers.
- B) It helps advertisers to measure the click-through rates.
- C) It has placed TV advertising at a great disadvantage.
- D) It enables viewers to check the sales items with ease.

49. What do we learn about Unilever's interactive campaign?

- A) It proves the advantage of TV advertising.
- B) It has done well in engaging the viewers.
- C) It helps attract investments in the company.
- D) It has boosted the TV advertising industry.

50. How does the author view the hitherto high click-through rates?

- A) They may be due to the novel way of advertising.
- B) They signify the popularity of interactive advertising.
- C) They point to the growing curiosity of TV viewers.

D) They indicate the future direction of media reform.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

What can be done about mass unemployment? All the wise heads agree: there're no quick or easy answers. There's work to be done, but workers aren't ready to do it -- they're in the wrong places, or they have the wrong skills. Our problems are "structural," and will take many years to solve.

But don't bother asking for evidence that justifies this bleak view. There isn't any. On the contrary, all the facts suggest that high unemployment in America is the result of inadequate demand. Saying that there're no easy answers sounds wise, but it's actually foolish: our unemployment crisis could be cured very quickly if we had the intellectual clarity and political will to act. In other words, structural unemployment is a fake problem, which mainly serves as an excuse for not pursuing real solutions.

The fact is job openings have plunged in every major sector, while the number of workers forced into part-time employment in almost all industries has soared. Unemployment has surged in every major occupational category. Only three states, with a combined population not much larger than that of Brooklyn, have unemployment rates below 5%. So the evidence contradicts the claim that we're mainly suffering from structural unemployment. Why, then, has this claim become so popular?

Part of the answer is that this is what always happens during periods of high unemployment - in part because experts and analysts believe that declaring the problem deeply rooted, with no easy answers, makes them sound serious.

I've been looking at what self-proclaimed experts were saying about unemployment during the Great Depression; it was almost identical to what Very Serious People are saying now. Unemployment cannot be brought down rapidly, declared one 1935 analysis, because the workforce is "unadaptable and untrained. It cannot respond to the opportunities which industry may offer." A few years later, a large defense buildup finally provided a fiscal stimulus adequate to the economy's needs -- and suddenly industry was eager to employ those "unadaptable and untrained" workers.

But now, as then, powerful forces are ideologically opposed to the whole idea of government action on a sufficient scale to jump-start the economy. And that, fundamentally, is why claims that we face huge structural problems have been multiplying: they offer a reason to do nothing about the mass unemployment that is crippling our economy and our society.

So what you need to know is that there's no evidence whatsoever to back these claims. We aren't suffering from a shortage of needed skills; we're suffering from a lack of policy resolve. As I said, structural unemployment isn't a real problem, it's an excuse -- a reason not to act on America's problems at a time when action is desperately needed.

51. What does the author think is the root cause of mass unemployment in America?

- A) Corporate mismanagement.
- B) Insufficient demand.
- C) Technological advances.

- D) Workers' slow adaptation.
52. What does the author think of the experts' claim concerning unemployment?
- A) Self-evident. C) Irrational.  
B) Thought-provoking. D) Groundless.
53. What does the author say helped bring down unemployment during the Great Depression?
- A) The booming defense industry. C) Nationwide training of workers.  
B) The wise heads' benefit package. D) Thorough restructuring of industries.
54. What has caused claims of huge structural problems to multiply?
- A) Powerful opposition to government's stimulus efforts.  
B) Very Serious People's attempt to cripple the economy.  
C) Evidence gathered from many sectors of the industries.  
D) Economists' failure to detect the problems in time.
55. What is the author's purpose in writing the passage?
- A) To testify to the experts' analysis of America's problems.  
B) To offer a feasible solution to the structural unemployment.  
C) To show the urgent need for the government to take action.  
D) To alert American workers to the urgency for adaptation.

#### Part IV

#### Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part you are *allowed* 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

中国的创新正以前所未有的速度蓬勃发展。为了在科学技术上尽快赶超世界发达国家，中国近年来大幅度增加了研究开发资金。中国的大学和研究所以正在积极开展创新研究，这些研究覆盖了从大数据到生物化学、从新能源到机器人等各类高科技领域。它们还与各地的科技园合作，使创新成果商业化。与此同时，无论在产品还是商业模式上，中国企业家也在努力争做创新的先锋，以适应国内外消费市场不断变化和增长的需求。

## 2. 2016 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题(第 2 套)

### Part I

### Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on e-learning. Try to imagine what will happen when more and more people study online instead of attending school. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II

### Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1.     A.     The project the man managed at CucinTech.  
       B.     The updating of technology at CucinTech.  
       C.     The man's switch to a new career.  
       D.     The restructuring of her company.
2.     A.     Talented personnel.  
       B.     Strategic innovation.  
       C.     Competitive products.  
       D.     Effective promotion.
3.     A.     Expand the market.  
       B.     Recruit more talents.  
       C.     Innovate constantly.  
       D.     Watch out for his competitors.
4.     A.     Possible bankruptcy.  
       B.     Unforeseen difficulties.  
       C.     Conflicts within the company.  
       D.     Imitation by one's competitors.

**Question 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5.     A.     The job of an interpreter.  
       B.     The stress felt by professionals.  
       C.     The importance of language proficiency.  
       D.     The best way to effective communication.
6.     A.     Promising.

- B. Admirable.
  - C. Rewarding.
  - D. Meaningful.
7. A. They all have a strong interest in language.
- B. They all have professional qualifications.
  - C. They have all passed language proficiency tests.
  - D. They have all studied cross-cultural differences.
8. A. It requires a much larger vocabulary.
- B. It attaches more importance to accuracy.
  - C. It is more stressful than simultaneous interpreting.
  - D. It puts one's long-term memory under more stress.

### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A. It might affect mothers' health.
- B. It might disturb infants' sleep.
  - C. It might increase the risk of infants' death.
  - D. It might increase mothers' mental distress.
10. A. Mothers who breast-feed their babies have a harder time falling asleep.
- B. Mothers who sleep with their babies need a little more sleep each night.
  - C. Sleeping patterns of mothers greatly affect their newborn babies' health.
  - D. Sleeping with infants in the same room has a negative impact on mothers.
11. A. Change their sleep patterns to adapt to their newborn babies'.
- B. Sleep in the same room but not in the same bed as their babies.
  - C. Sleep in the same house but not in the same room as their babies.
  - D. Take precautions to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome.

**Question 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A. A lot of native languages have already died out in the US.
- B. The US ranks first in the number of endangered languages.
  - C. The efforts to preserve Indian languages have proved fruitless.
  - D. More money is needed to record the native languages in the US.
13. A. To set up more language schools.



- B. To document endangered languages.
  - C. To educate native American children.
  - D. To revitalize America's native languages.
14. A. The US government's policy of Americanizing Indian children.  
B. The failure of American Indian languages to gain an official status.  
C. The US government's unwillingness to spend money educating Indians.  
D. The long-time isolation of American Indians from the outside world.
15. A. It is being utilized to teach native languages.  
B. It tells traditional stories during family time.  
C. It speeds up the extinction of native languages.  
D. It is widely used in language immersion schools.

### Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 16 to 18 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

16. A. It pays them up to half of their previous wages while they look for work.  
B. It covers their mortgage payments and medical expenses for 99 weeks.  
C. It pays their living expenses until they find employment again.  
D. It provides them with the basic necessities of everyday life.
17. A. Creating jobs for the huge army of unemployed workers.  
B. Providing training and guidance for unemployed workers.  
C. Convincing local lawmakers to extend unemployment benefits.  
D. Raising funds to help those having no unemployment insurance.
18. A. To offer them loans they need to start their own businesses.  
B. To allow them to postpone their monthly mortgage payments.  
C. To create more jobs by encouraging private investments in local companies.  
D. To encourage big businesses to hire back workers with government subsidies.

**Question 19 to 22 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

19. A. They measured the depths of sea water.  
B. They analyzed the water content.  
C. They explored the ocean floor.  
D. They investigated the ice.
20. A. Eighty percent of the ice disappears in summer time.  
B. Most of the ice was accumulated over the past centuries.  
C. The ice ensures the survival of many endangered species.



- D. The ice decrease is more evident than previously thought.
21. A. Arctic ice is a major source of the world's fresh water.  
B. The melting Arctic ice has drowned many coastal cities.  
C. The decline of Arctic ice is irreversible.  
D. Arctic ice is essential to human survival.
22. A. It will do a lot of harm to mankind.  
B. There is no easy way to understand it.  
C. It will advance nuclear technology.  
D. There is no easy technological solution to it.

**Question 23 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

23. A. The reason why New Zealand children seem to have better self-control.  
B. The relation between children's self-control and their future success.  
C. The health problems of children raised by a single parent.  
D. The deciding factor in children's academic performance.
24. A. Children raised by single parents will have a hard time in their thirties.  
B. Those with a criminal record mostly come from single parent families.  
C. Parents must learn to exercise self-control in front of their children.  
D. Lack of self-control in parents is a disadvantage for their children.
25. A. Self-control can be improved through education.  
B. Self-control can improve one's financial situation.  
C. Self-control problems may be detected early in children.  
D. Self-control problems will diminish as one grows up.

**Part III Reading Comprehension (40 minutes)**  
**Section A**

**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.

**Questions 26 to 35 are based on the following passage.**

The robotics revolution is set to bring humans face to face with an old fear -- man-made creations as smart and capable as we are but without a moral compass. As robots take on ever more complex roles, the question naturally 26: Who will be responsible when they do something wrong? Manufacturers? Users? Software writers? The answer depends on the robot.

Robots already save us time, money and energy. In the future, they will improve our health care, social welfare and standard of living. The 27 of computational power and engineering advances will 28 enable lower-cost in-home care for the disabled, 29 use of driverless cars that may reduce drunk- and distracted-driving accidents and countless home and service-

industry uses for robots, from street cleaning to food preparation.

But there are 30 to be problems. Robot cars will crash. A *drone* (遥控飞行器) operator will 31 someone's privacy. A robotic lawn mower will run over a neighbor's cat. Juries sympathetic to the 32 of machines will punish entrepreneurs with company-crushing 33 and damages. What should governments do to protect people while 34 space for innovation?

Big, complicated systems on which much public safety depends, like driverless cars, should be built, 35 and sold by manufacturers who take responsibility for ensuring safety and are liable for accidents. Governments should set safety requirements and then let insurers price the risk of the robots based on the manufacturer's driving record, not the passenger's.

|               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| A)arises      | F)eventually  | K)preserving  |
| B)ascends     | G)interfere   | L)programmed  |
| C)bound       | H)invade      | M)proximately |
| D)combination | I)manifesting | N)victims     |
| E)definite    | J)penalties   | O)widespread  |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Reform and Medical Costs

[A] Americans are deeply concerned about the relentless rise in health care costs and health insurance premiums. They need to know if reform will help solve the problem. The answer is that no one has an easy fix for rising medical costs. The fundamental fix -- reshaping how care is delivered and how doctors are paid in a wasteful, abnormal system -- is likely to be achieved only through trial and error and *incremental* (渐进的) gains.

[B] The good news is that a bill just approved by the House and a bill approved by the Senate Finance Committee would implement or test many reforms that should help slow the rise in medical costs over the long term. As a report in *The New England Journal of Medicine* concluded, "Pretty much every proposed innovation found in the health policy literature these days is contained in these measures."

[C] Medical spending, which typically rises faster than wages and the overall economy, is propelled by two things: the high prices charged for medical services in this country and the volume of unnecessary care delivered by doctors and hospitals, which often perform a lot more tests and treatments than a patient really needs.

[D] Here are some of the important proposals in the House and Senate bills to try to address those problems, and why it is hard to know how well they will work.

[E] Both bills would reduce the rate of growth in annual Medicare payments to hospitals, nursing homes and other providers by amounts comparable to the productivity savings routinely made in other industries with the help of new technologies and new ways to organize work. This

proposal could save Medicare more than \$100 billion over the next decade. If private plans demanded similar productivity savings from providers, and refused to let providers shift additional costs to them, the savings could be much larger. Critics say Congress will give in to lobbyists and let inefficient providers off the *hook* (放过). That is far less likely to happen if Congress also adopts strong "pay-go" rules requiring that any increase in payments to providers be offset by new taxes or budget cuts.

[F] The Senate Finance bill would impose an *excisetax* (消费税) on health insurance plans that cost more than \$8,000 for an individual or \$21,000 for a family. It would most likely cause insurers to redesign plans to fall beneath the threshold. Enrollees would have to pay more money for many services out of their own pockets, and that would encourage them to think twice about whether an expensive or redundant test was worth it. Economists project that most employers would shift money from expensive health benefits into wages. The House bill has no similar tax. The final legislation should.

[G] Any doctor who has wrestled with multiple forms from different insurers, or patients who have tried to understand their own parade of statements, know that simplification ought to save money. When the health insurance industry was still cooperating in reform efforts, its trade group offered to provide standardized forms for automated processing. It estimated that step would save hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade. The bills would lock that pledge into law.

[H] The stimulus package provided money to convert the inefficient, paper-driven medical system to electronic records that can be easily viewed and transmitted. This requires open investments to help doctors convert. In time it should help restrain costs by eliminating redundant tests, preventing drug interactions, and helping doctors find the best treatments.

[I] Virtually all experts agree that the fee-for-service system -- doctors are rewarded for the quantity of care rather than its quality or effectiveness -- is a primary reason that the cost of care is so high. Most agree that the solution is to push doctors to accept fixed payments to care for a particular illness or for a patient's needs over a year. No one knows how to make that happen quickly. The bills in both houses would start pilot projects within Medicare. They include such measures as accountable care organizations to take charge of a patient's needs with an eye on both cost and quality, and chronic disease management to make sure the seriously ill, who are responsible for the bulk of all health care costs, are treated properly. For the most part, these experiments rely on incentive payments to get doctors to try them.

[J] Testing innovations do no good unless the good experiments are identified and expanded and the bad ones are dropped. The Senate bill would create an independent commission to monitor the pilot programs and recommend changes in Medicare's payment policies to urge providers to adopt reforms that work. The changes would have to be approved or rejected as a whole by Congress, making it hard for narrow-interest lobbies to bend lawmakers to their will.

[K] The bills in both chambers would create health insurance exchanges on which small businesses and individuals could choose from an array of private plans and possibly a public option. All the plans would have to provide standard benefit packages that would be easy to compare. To get access to millions of new customers, insurers would have a strong incentive to sell on the exchange. And the head-to-head competition might give them a strong incentive to lower their prices, perhaps by accepting slimmer profit margins or demanding better deals from providers.

[L] The final legislation might throw a public plan into the competition, but thanks to the

fierce opposition of the insurance industry and Republican critics, it might not save much money. The one in the House bill would have to negotiate rates with providers, rather than using Medicare rates, as many reformers wanted.

[M] The president's stimulus package is pumping money into research to compare how well various treatments work. Is surgery, radiation or careful monitoring best for *prostate* (前列腺) cancer? Is the latest and most expensive cholesterol-lowering drug any better than its common competitors? The pending bills would spend additional money to accelerate this effort.

[N] Critics have charged that this sensible idea would lead to rationing of care. (That would be true only if you believed that patients should have an unrestrained fight to treatments proven to be inferior.) As a result, the bills do not require, as they should, that the results of these studies be used to set payment rates in Medicare.

[O] Congress needs to find the courage to allow Medicare to pay preferentially for treatments proven to be superior. Sometimes the best treatment might be the most expensive. But overall, we suspect that spending would come down through elimination of a lot of unnecessary or even dangerous tests and treatments.

[P] The House bill would authorize the secretary of health and human services to negotiate drug prices in Medicare and Medicaid. Some authoritative analysts doubt that the secretary would get better deals than private insurers already get. We believe negotiation could work. It does in other countries.

[Q] Missing from these bills is any serious attempt to rein in malpractice costs. Malpractice awards do drive up insurance premiums for doctors in high-risk specialties, and there is some evidence that doctors engage in "defensive medicine" by performing tests and treatments primarily to prove they are not negligent should they get sued.

36. With a tax imposed on expensive health insurance plans, most employers will likely transfer money from health expenses into wages.

37. Changes in policy would be approved or rejected as a whole so that lobbyists would find it hard to influence lawmakers.

38. It is not easy to curb the rising medical costs in America.

39. Standardization of forms for automatic processing will save a lot of medical expenses.

40. Republicans and the insurance industry are strongly opposed to the creation of a public insurance plan.

41. Conversion of paper to electronic medical records will help eliminate redundant tests and prevent drug interactions.

42. The high cost of medical services and unnecessary tests and treatments have driven up medical expenses.

43. One main factor that has driven up medical expenses is that doctors are compensated for the amount of care rather than its effect.

44. Contrary to analysts' doubts, the author believes drug prices may be lowered through negotiation.

45. Fair competition might create a strong incentive for insurers to charge less.

### Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

#### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Facing water shortages and escalating fertilizer costs, farmers in developing countries are using raw *sewage* (下水道污水) to irrigate and fertilize nearly 49 million acres of cropland, according to a new report -- and it may not be a bad thing.

While the practice carries serious health risks for many, those dangers are outweighed by the social and economic gains for poor urban farmers and consumers who need affordable food.

"There is a large potential for wastewater agriculture to both help and hurt great numbers of urban consumers," said Liqa Raschid-Sally, who led the study.

The report focused on poor urban areas, where farms in or near cities supply relatively inexpensive food. Most of these operations draw irrigation water from local rivers or lakes. Unlike developed cities, however, these areas lack advanced water-treatment facilities, and rivers effectively become *sewers* (下水道).

When this water is used for agricultural irrigation, farmers risk absorbing disease-causing bacteria, as do consumers who eat the produce raw and unwashed. Nearly 2.2 million people die each year because of *diarrhea-related* (与腹泻相关的) diseases, according to WHO statistics. More than 80% of those cases can be attributed to contact with contaminated water and a lack of proper sanitation. But Pay Drechsel, an environmental scientist, argues that the social and economic benefits of using untreated human waste to grow food outweigh the health risks.

Those dangers can be addressed with farmer and consumer education, he said, while the free water and nutrients from human waste can help urban farmers in developing countries to escape poverty.

Agriculture is a water-intensive business, accounting for nearly 70% of global fresh water consumption.

In poor, dry regions, untreated wastewater is the only viable irrigation source to keep farmers in business. In some cases, water is so scarce that farmers break open sewage pipes transporting waste to local rivers.

Irrigation is the primary agricultural use of human waste in the developing world. But frequently untreated human waste harvested from lavatories is delivered to farms and spread as fertilizer.

In most cases, the human waste is used on grain crops, which are eventually cooked, minimizing the risk of transmitting water-borne diseases. With fertilizer prices jumping nearly 50% per metric ton over the last year in some places, human waste is an attractive, and often necessary, alternative.

In cases where sewage mud is used, expensive chemical fertilizer use can be avoided. The

mud contains the same critical nutrients.

"Overly strict standards often fail," James Bartram, a WHO water-health expert, said. "We need to accept that fact across much of the planet, so waste with little or no treatment will be used in agriculture for good reason."

46. What does the author say about the use of raw sewage for farming?
- A) Its risks cannot be overestimated.
  - B) It should be forbidden altogether.
  - C) Its benefits outweigh the hazards involved.
  - D) It is polluting millions of acres of cropland.
47. What is the main problem caused by the use of wastewater for irrigation?
- A) Rivers and lakes nearby will gradually become contaminated.
  - B) It will drive producers of chemical fertilizers out of business.
  - C) Farmers and consumers may be affected by harmful bacteria.
  - D) It will make the farm produce less competitive on the market.
48. What is environmental scientist Pay Drechsel's attitude towards the use of untreated human waste in agriculture?
- A) Favorable.
  - B) Skeptical.
  - C) Indifferent.
  - D) Responsible.
49. What does Pay Drechsel think of the risks involved in using untreated human waste for farming?
- A) They have been somewhat exaggerated.
  - B) They can be dealt with through education.
  - C) They will be minimized with new technology.
  - D) They can be addressed by improved sanitation.
50. What do we learn about James Bartram's position on the use of human waste for farming?
- A) He echoes Pay Drechsel's opinion on the issue.
  - B) He challenges Liqa Raschid-Sally's conclusion.
  - C) He thinks it the only way out of the current food crisis.
  - D) He deems it indispensable for combating global poverty.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

These days, nobody needs to cook. Families graze on high-cholesterol take-aways and microwaved ready-meals. Cooking is an occasional hobby and a vehicle for celebrity chefs. Which makes it odd that the kitchen has become the heart of the modern house: what the great hall was to the medieval castle, the kitchen is to the 21st-century home.

The money spent on kitchens has risen with their status. In America the kitchen market is now



worth \$170 billion, five times the country's film industry. In the year to August 2007, IKEA, a Swedish furniture chain, sold over one million kitchens worldwide. The average budget for a "major" kitchen overhaul in 2006, calculates *Remodeling* magazine, was a staggering \$54,000; even a "minor" improvement cost on average \$18,000.

Exclusivity, more familiar in the world of high fashion, has reached the kitchen: Robinson & Cornish, a British manufacturer of custom-made kitchens, offers a Georgian-style one which would cost £ 145,000-155,000 -- excluding building, plumbing and electrical work. Its big selling point is that nobody else will have it: "You won't see this kitchen anywhere else in the world."

The elevation of the room that once belonged only to the servants to that of design showcase for the modern family tells the story of a century of social change. Right into the early 20th century, kitchens were smoky, noisy places, generally located underground, or to the back of the house, and as far from living space as possible. That was as it should be: kitchens were for servants, and the aspiring middle classes wanted nothing to do with them.

But as the working classes prospered and the servant shortage set in, housekeeping became a matter of interest to the educated classes. One of the pioneers of a radical new way of thinking about the kitchen was Catharine Esther Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe. In *American Woman's Home*, published in 1869, the Beecher sisters recommended a scientific approach to household management, designed to enhance the efficiency of a woman's work and promote order.

Many contemporary ideas about kitchen design can be traced back to another American, Christine Frederick, who set about enhancing the efficiency of the housewife. Her 1919 work, *Household Engineering: Scientific Management in the Home*, was based on detailed observation of a housewife's daily routine. She borrowed the principle of efficiency on the factory floor and applied it to domestic tasks on the kitchen floor.

Frederick's central idea, that "stove, sink and kitchen table must be placed in such a relation that useless steps are avoided entirely", inspired the first fully fitted kitchen, designed in the 1920s by Margarete Schütter- Lihotsky. It was a modernist triumph, and many elements remain central features of today's kitchen.

51. What does the author say about the kitchen of today?
  - A) It is where housewives display their cooking skills.
  - B) It is where the family entertains important guests.
  - C) It has become something odd in a modern house.
  - D) It is regarded as the center of a modern home.
52. Why does the Georgian-style kitchen sell at a very high price?
  - A) It is believed to have tremendous artistic value.
  - B) No duplicate is to be found in any other place.
  - C) It is manufactured by a famous British company.
  - D) No other manufacturer can produce anything like it.
53. What does the change in the status of the kitchen reflect?
  - A) Improved living conditions.
  - B) Women's elevated status.
  - C) Technological progress.
  - D) Social change.

54. What was the Beecher sisters' idea of a kitchen?
- A) A place where women could work more efficiently.
  - B) A place where high technology could be applied.
  - C) A place of interest to the educated people.
  - D) A place to experiment with new ideas.
55. What do we learn about today's kitchen?
- A) It represents the rapid technological advance in people's daily life.
  - B) Many of its central features are no different from those of the 1920s.
  - C) It has been transformed beyond recognition.
  - D) Many of its functions have changed greatly.

**Part IV**  
**minutes)**

**Translation**

**(30**

**Directions:** *For this part you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on Answer Sheet 2.*

深圳是中国广东省一座新开发的城市。在改革开放之前，深圳不过是一个渔村，仅有三万多人。20 世纪 80 年代，中国政府创建了深圳经济特区，作为实施社会主义市场经济的试验田。如今，深圳的人口已超过 1000 万，整个城市发生了巨大的变化。

到 2014 年，深圳的人均(per-capital)GDP 已达 25 000 美元，相当于世界上一些发达国家的水平。就综合经济实力而言，深圳居于中国顶尖城市之列。由于其独特的地位，深圳也是国内外企业家创业的理想之地。



### 3. 2016 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题(第 3 套)

#### Part I

#### Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on the use of robots. Try to imagine what will happen when more and more robots take the place of human beings in industry as well as people's daily lives. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II

#### Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：2016 年 6 月六级考试全国共考了两套听力。本套(即第三套)真题听力内容与前两套内容完全一样，只是选项顺序不一样，故在本套中不再重复给出。

#### Part III

#### Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

**Questions 26 to 35 are based on the following passage.**

Let's say you love roller-skating. Just the thought of 26 on your roller-skates brings a smile to your face. You also know that roller-skating is excellent exercise. You have a 27 attitude toward it.

This description of roller-skating 28 the three components of an attitude: affect, cognition, and behavior. You love the activity; it's great fun. These feelings 29 the affective or emotional component; they are an important ingredient in attitudes. The knowledge we have about the object constitutes the cognitive component of an attitude. You understand the health 30 that the activity can bring. Finally, attitudes have a behavioral component. Our attitudes 31 us to go outside to enjoy roller-skating.

Now, we don't want to leave you with the 32 that these three components always work together 33. They don't; sometimes they clash. For example, let's say you love pizza (affective component); however, you have high cholesterol and understand (knowledge component) that eating pizza may be bad for your health. Which behavior will your attitude result in, eating pizza or 34 it? The answer depends on which component happens to be stronger. If you are walking past a pizza restaurant at lunchtime, your emotions and feelings probably will be stronger than your knowledge that pizza may not be the best food for your health. In that instance, you have pizza for lunch. If you are at home trying to decide where to go for dinner, however, the knowledge component may 35, and you decide to go where you can eat a healthier meal.

|               |             |                  |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| A)avoiding    | F)improves  | K)primarily      |
| B)benefits    | G)inquiring | L)prompt         |
| C)highlight   | H)perfectly | M)specifications |
| D)illustrates | I)positive  | N)strapping      |
| E)impression  | J)prevail   | O)typical        |

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.*

### The Changing Generation

[A] It turns out today's teenagers aren't so scary after all. Results of USA WEEKEND'S Teens & Parents survey reveal a generation of young people who get along well with their parents and approve of the way they're being raised. They think of their parents with affection and respect. They speak with Mom or Dad when they have a problem. Most feel that their parents understand them, and they believe their family is the No. 1 priority in their parents' lives. Many even think their parents are cool! Although more than a third have an object in their rooms they would like to keep secret from their parents, rarely is it anything more alarming than a diary or *off-color* (低俗的) book or CD.

[B] Such results may seem surprising against the background of shocking incidents that color the way the mass media portray the young. In October 2000, the same month the survey was taken, the Washington-based Center for Media and Public Affairs wrote in its publication *Media Monitor* that, in a recent month of TV news coverage of American youth, just 2% of teens were shown at home, and just 1% were portrayed in a work setting. In contrast, the criminal justice system accounted for nearly one out of every five visual backgrounds. No wonder parents worry their own kids might spin out of control once they hit the turbulent waters of adolescence.

[C] The overall facts ought to reassure us. The survey shows us that today's teens are affectionate, sensible and far happier than the angry and tortured souls that have been painted for us by stereotypes. From other sources, we also know teenage crime, drug abuse and premarital sex are in general decline. We, of course, need to pay attention to youngsters who are filled with discontent and hostility, but we should not allow these extreme cases to distort our view of most young people.

[D] My own research at the Stanford Center on Adolescence uses in-depth interviews with small samples of youngsters rather than large-scale surveys. Still, in my studies and others I have read, I find the same patterns as in USA WEEKEND's survey. Today's teenagers admire their parents and welcome parental guidance about important matters such as career choice—though certainly not Mom and Dad's advice on matters of personal taste, such as music or fashion. When we ask teens to choose a hero, they usually select an older family member rather than a remote public figure. Most teens say they enjoy the company of both parents and friends.

[E] Contrary to some stereotypes, most adolescents believe they must be tolerant of

differences among individuals (though they do not always find this easy in the *cliquish* (拉帮结派的) environment of high school). Many of them volunteer for community service with disadvantaged people. One prevalent quality we have found in teens, statements about themselves, their friends and their families is a strikingly positive emotional tone. By and large, these are very nice kids, and as the band The Who used to sing, "The kids are alright."

[F] How much is today's spirit of harmony a change from our more turbulent past? A mere generation ago, parent-child relations were described as "the generation gap". Yet even then reports of widespread youth rebellion were overdone: Most kids in the '60s and '70s shared their parents' basic values. Still, it is true that American families are growing closer at the dawn of this new *millennium* (千年). Perhaps there is less to fight about, with the country in a period of tranquility and the dangers of drug abuse and other unwholesome behavior well known. Perhaps in the face of impersonal and intimidating globalization, a young person's family feels more like a friendly haven than an oppressive trap. And perhaps parents are acting more like parents than in the recent past. Within just the past five years, I have noticed parents returning to a belief that teenagers need the guidance of elders rather than the liberal, "anything goes" mode of child-rearing that became popular in the second half of the 20th century.

[G] But missing from all these data is the sense that today's young care very much about their country, about the broader civic and political environment, or about the future of their society. They seem to be turning inward—generally in a pro-social manner, certainly with positive benefits for intimate relationships, but too often at the expense of a connection with the present and future world beyond, including the society they will one day inherit.

[H] Recently, we examined more than 400 essays on the "laws of life" that teens from two communities had written as part of an educational program initiated by the John Templeton Foundation in Radnor, Pa. In those essays, and in follow-up interviews with a few of the teenagers, we found lots of insight, positive feeling and inspirational thinking. But we also found little interest in civic life beyond the tight circles of their family and immediate friends.

[I] For example, only one boy said he would like to be president when he grows up. When I was in high school, dozens in my class alone would have answered differently. In fact, other recent studies have found there has never been a time in American history when so small a proportion of young people have sought or accepted leadership roles in local civic organizations. It is also troubling that voting rates among our youngest eligible voters—18- to 24-year-olds—are way down: Little more than one in four now go to the polls, even in national elections, compared with almost twice that many when 18-year-olds were first given the vote.

[J] In our interviews, many students viewed politics with suspicion and distaste. "Most politicians are kind of *crooked* (不诚实的)" one student declared. Another, discussing national politics, said, "I feel like one person can't do that much, and I get the impression most people don't think a group of people can do that much." Asked what they would like to change in the world, the students mentioned only personal concerns such as slowing down the pace of life, gaining good friends, becoming more spiritual, becoming either more materially successful or less materially oriented (depending on the student's values), and being more respectful of the Earth, animals and other people. One boy said, "I'd rather be concentrating on artistic efforts than saving the world or something."

[K] It is fine and healthy for teens to cultivate their personal interests, and it is good news

when young people enjoy harmonious relations with their family and friends. But there is also a place in a young life for noble purposes that include a dedication to the broader society, a love of country and an aspiration to make their own leadership contributions.

[L] In the past, the young have eagerly participated in national service and civic affairs, often with lots of energy and idealism. If this is not happening today, we should ask why. Our society needs the full participation of its younger citizens if it is to continue to thrive. We know the promise is there—this is a well-grounded, talented, warm-hearted group of youngsters. We have everything to gain by encouraging them to explore the world beyond their immediate experience and to prepare themselves for their turn at shaping that world

36. Not many young people eligible for voting are interested in local or national elections these days.

37. Parents are concerned that their children may get involved in criminal offences once they reach their teens.

38. Even during the turbulent years of last century, youth rebellion was often exaggerated in the media.

39. Teenagers of today often turn to their parents for advice on such important matters as career choice.

40. The incidence of teenage crime and misbehavior is decreasing nowadays.

41. Young people should have lofty ideals in life and strive to be leaders.

42. Some young people like to keep something to themselves and don't want their parents to know about it.

43. It is beneficial to encourage young people to explore the broader world and get ready to make it a better place.

44. Many teenagers now offer to render service to the needy.

45. Interviews with students find many of them are only concerned about personal matters.

### Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

#### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Manufacturers of products that claim to be environmentally friendly will face tighter rules on how they are advertised to consumers under changes proposed by the Federal Trade Commission.

The commission's revised "Green Guides" warn marketers against using labels that make broad claims, like "eco-friendly". Marketers must qualify their claims on the product packaging and limit them to a specific benefit, such as how much of the product is recycled.

"This is really about trying to cut through the confusion that consumers have when they are buying a product and that businesses have when they are selling a product," said Jon Leibowitz,

chairman of the commission.

The revisions come at a time when green marketing is on the rise. According to a new study, the number of advertisements with green messages in mainstream magazines has risen since 1987, and peaked in 2008 at 10.4%. In 2009, the number dropped to 9%.

But while the number of advertisements may have dipped, there has been a rapid spread of eco-labeling. There are both good and bad players in the eco-labeling game.

In the last five years or so, there has been an explosion of green claims and environmental claims. It is clear that consumers don't always know what they are getting.

A handful of lawsuits have been filed in recent years against companies accused of using misleading environmental labels. In 2008 and 2009, *class-action lawsuits* (集体诉讼) were filed against SC Johnson for using "Greenlist" labels on its cleaning products. The lawsuits said that the label was misleading because it gave the impression that the products had been certified by a third party when the certification was the company's own.

"We are very proud of our accomplishments under the Greenlist system and we believe that we will prevail in these cases," Christopher Beard, director of public affairs for SC Johnson, said, while acknowledging that "this has been an area that is difficult to navigate."

Companies have also taken it upon themselves to contest each other's green claims.

David Mallen, associate director of the Council of Better Business Bureau, said in the last two years the organization had seen an increase in the number of claims companies were bringing against each other for false or misleading environmental product claims.

"About once a week, I have a client that will bring up a new certification I've never even heard of and I'm in this industry," said Kevin Wilhelm, chief executive officer of Sustainable Business Consulting. "It's kind of a Wild West, anybody can claim themselves to be green." Mr. Wilhelm said the excess of labels made it difficult for businesses and consumers to know which labels they should pay attention to.

46. What do the revised "Green Guides" require businesses to do?

- A) Manufacture as many green products as possible.
- B) Indicate whether their products are recyclable.
- C) Specify in what way their products are green.
- D) Attach green labels to all of their products.

47. What does the author say about consumers facing an explosion of green claims?

- A) They can easily see through the businesses' tricks.
- B) They have to spend lots of time choosing products.
- C) They have doubt about current green certification.
- D) They are not clear which products are truly green.

48. What was SC Johnson accused of in the class-action lawsuits?

- A) It gave consumers the impression that all its products were truly green.
- B) It gave a third party the authority to label its products as environmentally friendly.
- C) It misled consumers to believe that its products had been certified by a third party.

- D) It sold cleaning products that were not included in the official "Greenlist".
49. How did Christopher Beard defend his company's labeling practice?
- A) There were no clear guidelines concerning green labeling.
- B) His company's products had been well received by the public.
- C) It was in conformity to the prevailing practice in the market.
- D) No law required the involvement of a third party in certification.
50. What does Kevin Wilhelm imply by saying "It's kind of a Wild West" (Lines 2-3, Para. 11)?
- A) Businesses compete to produce green products.
- B) Each business acts its own way in green labeling.
- C) Consumers grow wild with products labeled green.
- D) Anything produced in the West can be labeled green.

### Passage Two

**Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.**

America's education system has become less a ladder of opportunity than a structure to transmit inequality from one generation to the next.

That's why school reform is so critical. This is an issue of equality, opportunity and national conscience. It's not just about education, but about poverty and justice.

It's true that the main reason inner-city schools do poorly isn't teachers' unions, but poverty. Southern states without strong teachers' unions have schools at least as awful as those in union states. Some Chicago teachers seem to think that they shouldn't be held accountable until poverty is solved. There're steps we can take that would make some difference, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel is trying some of them -- yet the union is resisting.

I'd be sympathetic if the union focused solely on higher compensation. Teachers need to be much better paid to attract the best college graduates to the nation's worst schools. But, instead, the Chicago union seems to be using its political capital primarily to protect weak performers.

There's solid evidence that there are huge differences in the effectiveness of teachers. The gold standard study by Harvard and Columbia University scholars found that even in high-poverty schools, teachers consistently had a huge positive or negative impact.

Get a bottom 1% teacher, and the effect is the same as if a child misses 40% of the school year. Get a teacher from the top 20%, and it's as if a child has gone to school for an extra month or two.

The study found that strong teachers in the fourth through eighth grades raised the skills of their students in ways that would last for decades. Just having a strong teacher for one elementary year left pupils a bit less likely to become mothers as teenagers, a bit more likely to go to college and earning more money at age 28

How does one figure out who is a weak teacher? Yes, that's a challenge. But researchers are improving systems to measure a teacher's performance throughout the year, and, with three years of data, it's usually possible to tell which teachers are failing.

Unfortunately, the union in Chicago is insisting that teachers who are laid off -- often for being



ineffective -- should get priority in new hiring. That's an insult to students.

Teaching is so important that it should be like other professions, with high pay and good working conditions but few job protections for bottom performers.

This isn't a battle between garment workers and greedy bosses. The central figures in the Chicago schools strike are neither strikers nor managers but 350,000 children. Protecting the union demand sacrifices those students, in effect turning a blind eye to the injustice in the education system.

51. What do we learn about America's education system?
  - A) It provides a ladder of opportunity for the wealthy.
  - B) It contributes little to the elimination of inequality.
  - C) It has remained basically unchanged for generations.
  - D) It has brought up generations of responsible citizens.
52. What is chiefly responsible for the undesirable performance of inner-city schools?
  - A) Unqualified teachers.
  - B) Lack of financial resources.
  - C) Unfavorable learning environment.
  - D) Subconscious racial discrimination.
53. What does the author think the union should do to win popular support?
  - A) Assist the city government in reforming schools.
  - B) Give constructive advice to inner-city schools.
  - C) Demand higher pay for teachers.
  - D) Help teachers improve teaching.
54. What is the finding of the gold standard study by Harvard and Columbia University scholars?
  - A) Many inner-city school teachers are not equal to their jobs.
  - B) A large proportion of inner-city children often miss classes.
  - C) Many students are dissatisfied with their teachers.
  - D) Student performance has a lot to do with teachers.
55. Why does the author say the Chicago union's demand is an insult to students?
  - A) It protects incompetent teachers at the expense of students.
  - B) It underestimates students' ability to tell good teachers from poor ones.
  - C) It makes students feel that they are discriminated against in many ways.
  - D) It totally ignores students' initiative in the learning process.

#### Part IV

#### Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

旗袍(qipao)是一种雅致的中国服装, 源于中国的满族(Manchu Nationality)。在清代, 旗袍是王室女性穿着的宽松长袍。上世纪 20 年代, 受西方服饰影响, 旗袍发生了一些变化。

袖口(cuffs)变窄，袍身变短。这些变化使女性美得以充分展现。

如今，旗袍经常出现在世界级的时装秀上。中国女性出席重要社交聚会时，旗袍往往是她们的首选。很多中国新娘也会选择旗袍作为结婚礼服。一些有影响的人士甚至建议将旗袍作为中国女性的民族服饰。

新东方大学生学习与发展中心



## 4. 2016 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 1 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on *invention*. Your essay should include the importance of invention and measures to be taken to encourage invention. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) It focuses on the efforts countries can make to deal with global warming.  
B) It links the science of climate change to economic and policy issues.  
C) It studies the impacts of global climate change on people's lives.  
D) It tries to predict the possible trends of global climate change.
2. A) It would be more costly to deal with its consequences than to avoid it.  
B) It will take a long time before a consensus is reached on its impact.  
C) It is the most pressing issue confronting all countries.  
D) It is bound to cause endless disputes among nations.
3. A) The raising of people's awareness.  
B) The signing of a global agreement.  
C) The cooperation among world major powers.  
D) The transition to low-carbon energy systems.
4. A) Plan well in advance.  
B) Adopt new technology.  
C) Carry out more research on it.  
D) Cut down energy consumption.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) When luck plays a role.  
B) Whether practice makes perfect.  
C) What determines success.  
D) How important natural talent is.
6. A) It knocks at your door only once in a while.  
B) It means being good at seizing opportunities.  
C) It is something that no one can possibly create.  
D) It comes naturally out of one's self-confidence.
7. A) Practice is essential to becoming good at something.  
B) One should always be ready to seize opportunities.  
C) One must have natural talent to be successful.

- D) Luck rarely contributes to a person's success.
8. A) People who love what they do care little about money.  
B) Being passionate about work can make one wealthy.  
C) Putting time and effort into fun things is profitable.  
D) People in need of money work hard automatically.

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) A tall chimney.  
B) A huge piece of rock.  
10. A) Human activity.  
B) Chemical processes.  
11. A) It was built in ancient times.  
B) It is a historical monument.  
C) It was created by supernatural powers.  
D) It is Indians' sacred place for worship  
12. A) By killing the attacking bears.  
B) By sheltering them in a cave.  
C) By lifting them well above the ground.  
D) By taking them to the top of a mountain.
- C) The peak of a mountain.  
D) The stump of a giant tree.  
C) Wind and water.  
D) Fire and fury.

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

13. A) They will pick up some souvenirs or gift items.  
B) They will have their vehicles washed or serviced.  
C) They will take advantage of the time to rest a while.  
D) They will buy something from the convenience stores.  
14. A) They may eventually drive one to bankruptcy.  
B) They should be done away with altogether.  
C) They are meant for the extremely wealthy.  
D) They can bring only temporary pleasures.  
15. A) Small daily savings can make a big difference in one's life.  
B) A vacation will be affordable if one saves 20 dollars a week.  
C) Retirement savings should come first in one's family budgeting.  
D) A good way to socialize is to have daily lunch with one's colleagues.

## Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then

mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) They are harmful to health.  
 B) They enrich our experience.  
 C) They are necessary in our lives.  
 D) They should be done away with.
17. A) They are exhausted even without doing any heavy work.  
 B) They feel too overwhelmed to deal with life's problems.  
 C) They are anxious to free themselves from life's troubles.  
 D) They feel stressed out even without any challenges in life.
18. A) They lessen our burdens.  
 B) They narrow our focus.  
 C) They prolong our lives.  
 D) They expand our mind.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) It is not easily breakable.  
 B) It represents the latest style.  
 C) It came from a 3D printer.  
 D) It was made by a fashion designer.
20. A) When she attended a fashion show nine months ago.  
 B) When she was studying at a fashion design school.  
 C) When she had just graduated from her college.  
 D) When she attended a conference in New York.
21. A) It was hard and breakable.  
 B) It was extremely expensive.  
 C) It was difficult to print.  
 D) It was hard to come by.
22. A) It is the latest model of a 3D printer.  
 B) It is a plastic widely used in 3D printing.  
 C) It marks a breakthrough in printing material.  
 D) It gives fashion designers room for imagination.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. A) They can't be solved without government support.  
 B) They are easy to solve with modern technology.  
 C) They have not been examined in detail so far.  
 D) They arise from the advances in technology.
24. A) It is intensely competitive.  
 B) It focuses on new products.  
 C) It demands huge investment.  
 D) It is attractive to entrepreneurs.
25. A) Cooperation with big companies.  
 B) Sharing of costs with each other.  
 C) Recruiting more qualified staff.  
 D) In-service training of IT personnel.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

It is important that scientists be seen as normal people asking and answering important questions. Good, sound science depends on 26, experiments and reasoned methodologies. It requires a willingness to ask new questions and try new approaches. It requires one to take risks and experience failures. But good science also requires 27 understanding, clear explanation and concise presentation.

Our country needs more scientists who are willing to step out in the public 28 and offer their opinions on important matters. We need more scientists who can explain what they are doing in language that is 29 and understandable to the public. Those of us who are not scientists should also be prepared to support public engagement by scientists, and to 30 scientific knowledge into our public communications.

Too many people in this country, including some among our elected leadership, still do not understand how science works or why robust, long-range investments in research vitally matter. In the 1960s, the United States 31 nearly 17% of *discretionary* (可酌情支配的) spending to research and development, 32 decades of economic growth. By 2008, the figure had fallen into the single 33. This occurs at a time when other nations have made significant gains in their own research capabilities.

At the University of California (UC), we 34 ourselves not only on the quality of our research, but also on its contribution to improving our world. To 35 the development of science from the lab bench to the market place, UC is investing our own money in our own good ideas.

|              |               |           |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| A)arena      | F) hasten     | K)indulge |
| B)contextual | G)hypotheses  | L)inertia |
| C)convincing | H) impairing  | M)pride   |
| D)devoted    | I)incorporate | N)reaping |
| E)digits     | J)indefinite  | O)warrant |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Are We in an Innovation Lull?

[A] Scan the highlights of this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES), and you may get a slight feeling of having seen them before. Many of the coolest gadgets this year are the same as the coolest gadgets last year--or the year before, even. The booths are still exciting, and the demos are still just as crazy. It is still easy to be dazzled by the display of *drones* (无人机), 3D printers, virtual reality *goggles* (眼镜) and more "smart" devices than you could ever hope to catalog. Upon reflection, however, it is equally easy to feel like you have seen it all before. And it is hard not to think: Are we in an innovation *lull* (间歇期)?

- [B] In some ways, the answer is yes. For years, smartphones, televisions, tablets, laptops and desktops have made up a huge part of the market and driven innovation. But now these segments are looking at slower growth curves--or shrinking markets in some cases--as consumers are not as eager to spend money on new gadgets. Meanwhile, emerging technologies--the drones, 3D printers and smart-home devices of the world--now seem a bit too old to be called "the next big thing."
- [C] Basically the tech industry seems to be in an awkward period now. "There is not any one-hit wonder, and there will not be one for years to come," said Gary Shapiro, president and chief executive of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA). In his eyes, however, that doesn't necessarily mean that innovation has stopped. It has just grown up a little. "Many industries are going out of infancy and becoming adolescents," Shapiro said.
- [D] For instance, new technologies that are building upon existing technology have not found their footing well enough to appeal to a mass audience, because, in many cases, they need to work effectively with other devices to realize their full appeal. Take the evolution of the smart home, for example. Companies are pushing it hard but make it almost overwhelming even to dip a toe in the water for the average consumer, because there are so many compatibility issues to think about. No average person wants to figure out whether their favorite calendar software works with their fridge or whether their washing machine and tablet get along. Having to install a different app for each smart appliance in your home is annoying; it would be nicer if you could manage everything together. And while you may forgive your smartphone an occasional fault, you probably have less patience for error messages from your door lock.
- [E] Companies are promoting their own standards, and the market has not had time to choose a winner yet as this is still very new. Companies that have long focused on hardware now have to think of ecosystems instead to give consumers practical solutions to their everyday problems. "The dialogue is changing from what is technologically possible to what is technologically meaningful," said economist Shawn DuBravac. DuBravac works for CTA--which puts on the show each year--and said that this shift to a search for solutions has been noticeable as he researched his predictions for 2016.
- [F] "So much of what CES has been about is the cool. It is about the flashiness and the gadgets," said John Curran, managing director of research at Accenture. "But over the last couple of years, and in this one in particular, we are starting to see companies shift from what is the largest screen size, the smallest form factor or the shiniest object and more into what all of these devices do that is practical in a consumer's life." Even the technology press conferences, which have been high-profile in the past and reached a level of drama and theatrics fitting for a Las Vegas stage, have a different bent to them. Rather than just dazzling with a high cool factor, there is a focus on the practical. Fitbit, for example, released its first smartwatch Monday, selling with a clear purpose--to improve your fitness--and promoting it as a "tool, not a toy." Not only that, it supports a number of platforms: Apple's iOS, Google's Android and Microsoft's Windows phone.
- [G] That seems to be what consumers are demanding, after all. Consumers are becoming increasingly bored with what companies have to offer. A survey of 28,000 consumers in 28 countries released by Accenture found consumers are not as excited about technology as they once were. For example, when asked whether they would buy a new smartphone this year, only 48 percent said yes---a six-point drop from 2015.

- [H] And when it comes to the hyper-connected super-smart world that technology firms are painting for us, it seems that consumers are growing more uneasy about handing over the massive amounts of consumer data needed to provide the personalized, customized solutions that companies need to improve their services. That could be another explanation for why companies seem to be strengthening their talk of the practicality of their devices.
- [I] Companies have already won part of the battle, having driven tech into every part of our lives, tracking our steps and our very heartbeats. Yet the persistent question of "Why do I need that?"--or, perhaps more tellingly, "Why do you need to know that?"--dogs the steps of many new ventures. Only 13 percent of respondents said that they were interested in buying a smartwatch in 2016, for example--an increase of just one percent from the previous year despite a year of high-profile launches. That is bad news for any firm that may hope that smartwatches can make up ground for maturing smartphone and tablet markets. And the survey found flat demand for fitness monitors, smart *thermostats* (恒温器) and connected home cameras, as well.
- [J] According to the survey, that lack of enthusiasm could stem from concerns about privacy and security. Even among people who have bought connected devices of some kind, 37 percent said that they are going to be more cautious about using these devices and services in the 'future. A full 18 percent have even returned devices until they feel they can get safer guarantees against having their sensitive information hacked.
- [K] That, too, explains the heavy Washington presence at this year's show, as these new technologies intrude upon heavily regulated areas. In addition to many senior officials from the Federal Trade and Federal Communications commissions, this year's list of policy makers also includes appearances from Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, to talk about smart cities, and Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Michael Huerta, to talk about drones.
- [L] Curran, the Accenture analyst, said that increased government interest in the show makes sense as technology becomes a larger part of our lives. "There is an incompatibility in the rate at which these are advancing relative to the way we're digesting it," he said. "Technology is becoming bigger and more aspirational, and penetrating almost every aspect of our lives. We have to understand and think about the implications, and balance these great innovations with the potential downsides they naturally carry with them."
36. Consumers are often hesitant to try smart-home devices because they are worried about compatibility problems.
37. This year's electronics show featured the presence of many officials from the federal government.
38. The market demand for electronic devices is now either declining or not growing as fast as before.
39. One analyst suggests it is necessary to accept both the positive and negative aspects of innovative products.
40. The Consumer Electronics Show in recent years has begun to focus more on the practical value than the showiness of electronic devices.
41. Fewer innovative products were found at this year's electronic products show.
42. Consumers are becoming more worried about giving personal information to tech companies to get customized products and services.
43. The Consumer Technology Association is the sponsor of the annual Consumer Electronics



Show.

44. Many consumers wonder about the necessity of having their fitness monitored.  
45. The electronic industry is maturing even though no wonder products hit the market.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

The Paris climate agreement finalised in December last year heralded a new era for climate action. For the first time, the world's nations agreed to keep global warming well below 2°C.

This is vital for climate-vulnerable nations. Fewer than 4% of countries are responsible for more than half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In a study published in *Nature Scientific Reports*, we reveal just how deep this injustice runs.

Developed nations such as Australia, the United States, Canada, and European countries are essentially climate "free-riders": causing the majority of the problems through high greenhouse gas emissions, while incurring few of the costs such as climate change's impact on food and water. In other words, a few countries are benefiting enormously from the consumption of fossil fuels, while at the same time contributing disproportionately to the global burden of climate change.

On the flip side, there are many "forced riders", who are suffering from the climate change impacts despite having scarcely contributed to the problem. Many of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, the majority of which are African or small island states, produce a very small quantity of emissions. This is much like a non-smoker getting cancer from second-hand smoke, while the heavy smoker is fortunate enough to smoke in good health.

The Paris agreement has been widely hailed as a positive step forward in addressing climate change for all, although the details on addressing "climate justice" can be best described as sketchy.

The goal of keeping global temperature rise "well below" 2°C is commendable but the emissions-reduction pledges submitted by countries leading up to the Paris talks are very unlikely to deliver on this.

More than \$100 billion in funding has been put on the table for supporting developing nations to reduce emissions. However, the agreement specifies that there is no formal distinction between developed and developing nations in their responsibility to cut emissions, effectively ignoring historical emissions. There is also very little detail on who will provide the funds or, importantly, who is responsible for their provision. Securing these funds, and establishing who is responsible for raising them will also be vital for the future of climate-vulnerable countries.

The most climate-vulnerable countries in the world have contributed very little to creating the global disease from which they now suffer the most. There must urgently be a meaningful mobilisation of the policies outlined in the agreement if we are to achieve national emissions reductions while helping the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change.

And it is clearly up to the current generation of leaders from high-emitting nations to decide whether they want to be remembered as climate change tyrants or pioneers.

46. The author is critical of the Paris climate agreement because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) it is unfair to those climate-vulnerable nations  
 B) it aims to keep temperature rise below 2°C only  
 C) it is beneficial to only fewer than 4% of countries  
 D) it burdens developed countries with the sole responsibility
47. Why does the author call some developed countries climate "free-riders"?  
 A) They needn't worry about the food and water they consume.  
 B) They are better able to cope with the global climate change.  
 C) They hardly pay anything for the problems they have caused.  
 D) They are free from the greenhouse effects affecting "forced riders".
48. Why does the author compare the "forced riders" to second-hand smokers?  
 A) They have little responsibility for public health problems.  
 B) They are vulnerable to unhealthy environmental conditions.  
 C) They have to bear consequences they are not responsible for.  
 D) They are unaware of the potential risks they are confronting.
49. What does the author say about the \$100 billion funding?  
 A) It will motivate all nations to reduce carbon emissions.  
 B) There is no final agreement on where it will come from.  
 C) There is no clarification of how the money will be spent.  
 D) It will effectively reduce greenhouse emissions worldwide.
50. What urgent action must be taken to realise the Paris climate agreement?  
 A) Encouraging high-emitting nations to take the initiative.  
 B) Calling on all the nations concerned to make joint efforts.  
 C) Pushing the current world leaders to come to a consensus.  
 D) Putting in effect the policies in the agreement at once.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Teenagers at risk of depression, anxiety and suicide often wear their troubles like a *neon* (霓虹灯) sign. Their risky behaviors--drinking too much alcohol, using illegal drugs, smoking cigarettes and skipping school--can alert parents and teachers that serious problems are brewing.

But a new study finds that there's another group of adolescents who are in nearly as much danger of experiencing the same psychiatric symptoms: teens who use tons of media, don't get enough sleep and have a *sedentary* (不爱活动的) lifestyle.

Of course, that may sound like a description of every teenager on the planet. But the study warns that it is teenagers who engage in all three of these practices in the extreme who are truly in jeopardy. Because their behaviors are not usually seen as a red flag, these young people have been dubbed the "invisible risk" group by the study's authors.

"In some ways they're at greater risk of falling through the cracks," says researcher Vladimir Carli. "While most parents, teachers and clinicians would react to an adolescent using drugs or getting drunk, they may easily overlook teenagers who are engaging in inconspicuous behaviors."

The study's authors surveyed 12,395 students and analyzed nine risk behaviors, including excessive alcohol use, illegal drug use, heavy smoking, high media use and *truancy* (逃学). Their aim was to determine the relationship between these risk behaviors and mental health issues in



teenagers.

About 58% of the students demonstrated none or few of the risk behaviors. Some 13% scored high on all nine of the risk behaviors. And 29%, the "invisible risk" group, scored high on three in particular: They spent five hours a day or more on electronic devices. They slept six hours a night or less. And they neglected "other healthy activities."

The group that scored high on all nine of the risk behaviors was most likely to show symptoms of depression; in all, nearly 15% of this group reported being depressed, compared with just 4% of the low-risk group. But the invisible group wasn't far behind the high-risk set, with more than 13% of them exhibiting depression.

The findings caught Carli off guard. "We were very surprised," he says. "The high-risk group and low-risk group are obvious. But this third group was not only unexpected, it was so distinct and so large--nearly one third of our sample--that it became a key finding of the study."

Carli says that one of the most significant things about his study is that it provides new early-warning signs for parents, teachers and mental health-care providers. And early identification, support and treatment for mental health issues, he says, are the best ways to keep them from turning into full-blown disorders.

51. What does the author mean by saying "Teenagers at risk of depression, anxiety and suicide often wear their troubles like a neon sign" (Lines 1-2, Para. 1)?
  - A) Mental problems can now be found in large numbers of teenagers.
  - B) Teenagers' mental problems are getting more and more attention.
  - C) Teenagers' mental problems are often too conspicuous not to be observed.
  - D) Depression and anxiety are the most common symptoms of mental problems.
52. What is the finding of the new study?
  - A) Teenagers' lifestyles have changed greatly in recent years.
  - B) Many teenagers resort to drugs or alcohol for mental relief.
  - C) Teenagers experiencing psychological problems tend to use a lot of media.
  - D) Many hitherto unobserved youngsters may have psychological problems.
53. Why do the researchers refer to teens who use tons of media, don't get enough sleep and have a sedentary lifestyle as the "invisible risk" group?
  - A) Their behaviors can be an invisible threat to society.
  - B) Their behaviors do not constitute a warning signal.
  - C) Their behaviors do not tend towards mental problems.
  - D) Their behaviors can be found in almost all teenagers on earth.
54. What does the new study find about the invisible group?
  - A) They are almost as liable to depression as the high-risk group.
  - B) They suffer from depression without showing any symptoms.
  - C) They do not often demonstrate risky behaviors as their peers.
  - D) They do not attract the media attention the high-risk group does.
55. What is the significance of Vladimir Carli's study?
  - A) It offers a new treatment for psychological problems among teenagers.
  - B) It provides new early-warning signals for identifying teens in trouble.
  - C) It may have found an ideal way to handle teenagers with behavioral problems.
  - D) It sheds new light on how unhealthy behaviors trigger mental health problems.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

随着生活水平的提高，度假在中国人生活中的作用越来越重要。过去，中国人的时间主要花在谋生上，很少有机会外出旅行。然而，近年来中国旅游业发展迅速。经济的繁荣和富裕中产阶级的出现，引发了一个前所未有的旅游热潮。中国人不仅在国内旅游，出国旅游也越来越普遍。2016 年国庆节假期期间，旅游消费总计超过 4000 亿元。据世界贸易组织估计，2020 年中国将成为世界上最大的旅游国，在未来几年里将成为出境旅游支出增长最快的国家。

### 5. 2016 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on *innovation*. Your essay should include the importance of innovation and measures to be taken to encourage innovation. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) They were proud of their cuisine.  
B) They were particular about food.  
C) They were all good at cooking.  
D) They were fond of bacon and eggs.
2. A) His parents.      B) His parents' friends.      C) His friends.      D) His schoolmates.
3. A) No one of the group ate it.  
B) It was a little overcooked.  
C) No tea was served with the meal.  
D) It was the real English breakfast.
4. A) It was full of excitement.      C) It was a risky experience.  
B) It was rather disappointing.      D) It was really extraordinary.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) The woman's earnings over the years.  
B) The key to running a shop at a low cost.  
C) The business success of the woman's shop.  
D) The woman's relationship with other shops.
6. A) Keep down its expenses.      C) Expand its business scale.  
B) Improve its customer service.      D) Upgrade the goods it sells.
7. A) They are in great demand.  
B) They are delivered free of charge.  
C) They are very popular with the local residents.  
D) They are sold at lower prices than in other shops.
8. A) To maintain friendly relationships with other shops.  
B) To avoid being put out of business in competition.  
C) To attract more customers in the neighborhood.  
D) To follow the custom of the local shopkeepers.

### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) They are on the verge of extinction because of pollution.

- B) They carry plant seeds and spread them to faraway places.
- C) They deliver pollutants from the ocean to their nesting sites.
- D) They can be used to deliver messages in times of emergency.
- 10. A) They originate from Devon Island in the Arctic area.
- B) They migrate to the Arctic Circle during the summer.
- C) They have the ability to survive in extreme weathers.
- D) They travel as far as 400 kilometers in search of food.
- 11. A) They had become more poisonous.
- B) They were carried by the wind.
- C) They poisoned some of the fulmars.
- D) They were less than on the continent.
- 12. A) The effects of the changing climate on Arctic seabirds.
- B) The harm Arctic seabirds may cause to humans.
- C) The diminishing colonies for Arctic seabirds.
- D) The threats humans pose to Arctic seabirds.

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

- 13. A) It has remained basically the same.
- B) It has become better understood.
- C) It has been exaggerated.
- D) It has decreased.
- 14. A) It is now the second leading cause of death for centenarians.
- B) It develops more easily in centenarians who are not active.
- C) It calls for more intensive research.
- D) It has had no effective cure so far.
- 15. A) They cherish their life more than ever.
- B) Their minds fail before their bodies do.
- C) Their quality of life deteriorates rapidly.
- D) They care more about their physical health.

### Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 16. A) They form the basis on which he builds his theory of love.
- B) They were carried out over a period of some thirty years.
- C) They were done by his former colleague at Yale.
- D) They are focused more on attraction than love.
- 17. A) The relationship cannot last long if no passion is involved.
- B) It is not love if you don't wish to maintain the relationship.
- C) Romance is just impossible without mutual understanding.
- D) Intimacy is essential but not absolutely indispensable to love.
- 18. A) Whether it is true love without commitment.
- B) Which of them is considered most important.

- C) How the relationship is to be defined if anyone is missing.
- D) When the absence of any one doesn't affect the relationship.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 19. A) The history of social work.
- B) Social work as a profession.
- C) Academic degrees required of social work applicants.
- D) The aim of the National Association of Social Workers.
- 20. A) They try to change people's social behavior.
- B) They raise people's awareness of environment.
- C) They create a lot of opportunities for the unemployed.
- D) They help enhance the well-being of the underprivileged.
- 21. A) They have all made a difference through their work.
- B) They are all members of the National Association.
- C) They all have an academic degree in social work.
- D) They have all received strict clinical training.
- 22. A) Social workers' job options and responsibilities.
- B) Ways for social workers to meet people's needs.
- C) The importance of training for social workers.
- D) The promotion of social workers' social status.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 23. A) To fight childhood obesity.
- B) To help disadvantaged kids.
- C) To urge kids to follow their role models.
- D) To encourage kids to play more sports.
- 24. A) They are most effective when appearing on TV.
- B) They best boost product sales when put online.
- C) They are becoming more and more prevalent.
- D) They impress kids more than they do adults.
- 25. A) Do what they advocate in public.
- B) Always place kids' interest first.
- C) Pay attention to their image before children.
- D) Message positive behaviors at all times.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

The tree people in the Lord of the Rings--the Ents--can get around by walking. But for real

trees, it's harder to uproot. Because they're literally rooted into the ground, they are unable to leave and go 26.

When a tree first starts growing in a certain area, it's likely that the 27 envelope--the temperature, humidity, rainfall patterns and so on--suits it. Otherwise, it would be unable to grow from a seedling. But as it 28, these conditions may change and the area around it may no longer be suitable for its 29.

When that happens, many trees like walnuts, oaks and pines, rely 30 on so-called "scatter-hoarders," such as birds, to move their seeds to new localities. Many birds like to store food for the winter, which they 31 retrieve.

When the birds forget to retrieve their food--and they do sometimes--a seedling has a chance to grow. The bird Clark's nutcracker, for example, hides up to 100,000 seeds per year, up to 30 kilometers away from the seed source, and has a very close symbiotic (共生的) relationship with several pine species, most 32 the whitebark pine.

As trees outgrow their ideal 33 in the face of climate change, these flying ecosystem engineers could be a big help in 34 trees. It's a solution for us--getting birds to do the work is cheap and effective--and it could give 35 oaks and pines the option to truly "make like a tree and leave."

|               |            |                |
|---------------|------------|----------------|
| A)ages        | F)forever  | K)offspring    |
| B)breathing   | G)fruitful | L)replanting   |
| C)climatic    | H)habitats | M)subsequently |
| D)elsewhere   | I)legacy   | N)vulnerable   |
| E)exclusively | J)notably  | O)withdraws    |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### The American Workplace Is Broken. Here's How We Can Start Fixing It.

- [A] Americans are working longer and harder hours than ever before. 83% of workers say they're stressed about their jobs, nearly 50% say work-related stress is interfering with their sleep, and 60% use their smartphones to check in with work outside of normal working hours. No wonder only 13% of employees worldwide feel engaged in their occupation.
- [B] *Glimmers* (少许) of hope, however, are beginning to emerge in this bruising environment: Americans are becoming aware of the toll their jobs take on them, and employers are exploring ways to alleviate the harmful effects of stress and overwork. Yet much more work remains to be done. To call stress an epidemic isn't exaggeration. The 83% of American employees who are stressed about their jobs--up from 73% just a year before--say that poor compensation and an unreasonable workload are their number-one sources of stress. And if you suspected that the workplace had gotten more stressful than it was just a few decades ago, you're right. Stress levels increased 18% for women and 24% for men from 1983 to 2009. Stress is also starting earlier in life, with some data suggesting that today's teens are even more stressed than adults.

- [C] Stress is taking a significant toll on our health, and the collective public health cost may be enormous. Occupational stress increases the risk of heart attack and diabetes, accelerates the aging process, decreases longevity, and contributes to depression and anxiety, among numerous other negative health outcomes. Overall, stress-related health problems account for up to 90% of hospital visits, many of them preventable. Your job is "literally killing you," as *The Washington Post* put it. It's also hurting our relationships. Working parents say they feel stressed, tired, rushed and short on quality time with their children, friends and partners.
- [D] Seven in 10 workers say they struggle to maintain work-life balance. As technology (and with it, work emails) *seeps* (渗入) into every aspect of our lives, work-life balance has become an almost meaningless term. Add a rapidly changing economy and an uncertain future to this 24/7 connectivity, and you've got a recipe for overwork, according to Phyllis Moen. "There's rising work demand coupled with the insecurity of mergers, takeovers, downsizing and other factors," Moen said. "Part of the work-life issue has to talk about uncertainty about the future."
- [E] These factors have converged to create an increasingly impossible situation with many employees overworking to the point of burnout. It's not only unsustainable for workers, but also for the companies that employ them. Science has shown a clear correlation between high stress levels in workers and *absenteeism* (旷工), reduced productivity, disengagement and high turnover. Too many workplace policies effectively prohibit employees from developing a healthy work-life balance by barring them from taking time off, even when they need it most.
- [F] The U.S. trails far behind every wealthy nation and many developing ones that have family-friendly work policies including paid parental leave, paid sick days and breast-feeding support, according to a 2007 study. The U.S. is also the only advanced economy that does not guarantee workers paid vacation time, and it's one of only two countries in the world that does not offer guaranteed paid maternity leave. But even when employees *are* given paid time off, workplace norms and expectations that pressure them to overwork often prevent them from taking it. Full-time employees who *do* have paid vacation days only use half of them on average.
- [G] Our modern workplaces also operate based on outdated time constraints. The practice of clocking in for an eight-hour workday is a leftover from the days of the Industrial Revolution, as reflected in the then-popular saying, "Eight hours labor, eight hours recreation, eight hours rest."
- [H] We've held on to this workday structure--but thanks to our digital devices, many employees never really clock out. Today, the average American spends 8.8 hours at work daily, and the majority of working professionals spend additional hours checking in with work during evenings, weekends and even vacations. The problem isn't the technology itself, but that the technology is being used to create more flexibility for the employer rather than the employee. In a competitive work environment, employers are able to use technology to demand more from their employees rather than motivating workers with flexibility that benefits them.
- [I] In a study published last year, psychologists coined the term "workplace telepressure" to describe an employee's urge to immediately respond to emails and engage in obsessive thoughts about returning an email to one's boss, colleagues or clients. The researchers found that telepressure is a major cause of stress at work, which over time contributes to physical and mental burnout. Of the 300 employees participating in the study, those who experienced high levels of telepressure were more likely to agree with statements assessing burnout, like "I've no energy for going to work in the morning," and to report feeling fatigued and unfocused.



Telepressure was also correlated with sleeping poorly and missing work.

- [J] Harvard Business School professor Leslie Perlow explains that when people feel the pressure to be always "on," they find ways to accommodate that pressure, including altering their schedules, work habits and interactions with family and friends. Perlow calls this vicious cycle the "cycle of responsiveness": Once bosses and colleagues experience an employee's increased responsiveness, they increase their demands on the employee's time. And because a failure to accept these increased demands indicates a lack of commitment to one's work, the employee complies.
- [K] To address skyrocketing employee stress levels, many companies have implemented workplace wellness programs, partnering with health care providers that have created programs to promote employee health and well-being. Some research does suggest that these programs hold promise. A study of employees at health insurance provider Aetna revealed that roughly one quarter of those taking in-office yoga and mindfulness classes reported a 28% reduction in their stress levels and a 20% improvement in sleep quality. These less-stressed workers gained an average of 62 minutes per week of productivity. While yoga and *meditation* (冥想) are scientifically proven to reduce stress levels, these programs do little to target the root causes of burnout and disengagement. The conditions creating the stress are long hours, unrealistic demands and deadlines, and work-life conflict.
- [L] Moen and her colleagues may have found the solution. In a 2011 study, she investigated the effects of implementing a Results Only Work Environment (ROWE) on the productivity and well-being of employees at Best Buy's corporate headquarters.
- [M] For the study, 325 employees spent six months taking part in ROWE, while a control group of 334 employees continued with their normal workflow. The ROWE participants were allowed to freely determine when, where and how they worked--the only thing that mattered was that they got the job done. The results were striking. After six months, the employees who participated in ROWE reported reduced work-family conflict and a better sense of control of their time, and they were getting a full hour of extra sleep each night. The employees were less likely to leave their jobs, resulting in reduced turnover. It's important to note that the increased flexibility didn't encourage them to work around the clock. "They didn't work anywhere and all the time--they were better able to manage their work," Moen said. "Flexibility and control is key," she continued.
36. Workplace norms pressure employees to overwork, deterring them from taking paid time off.
37. The overwhelming majority of employees attribute their stress mainly to low pay and an excessive workload.
38. According to Moen, flexibility gives employees better control over their work and time.
39. Flexibility resulting from the use of digital devices benefits employers instead of employees.
40. Research finds that if employees suffer from high stress, they will be less motivated, less productive and more likely to quit.
41. In-office wellness programs may help reduce stress levels, but they are hardly an ultimate solution to the problem.
42. Health problems caused by stress in the workplace result in huge public health expenses.
43. If employees respond quickly to their job assignments, the employer is likely to demand more from them.

44. With technology everywhere in our life, it has become virtually impossible for most workers to keep a balance between work and life.
45. In America today, even teenagers suffer from stress, and their problem is even more serious than grown-ups'.

### Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

#### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Dr. Donald Sadoway at MIT started his own battery company with the hope of changing the world's energy future. It's a dramatic endorsement for a technology most people think about only when their smartphone goes dark. But Sadoway isn't alone in trumpeting energy storage as a missing link to a cleaner, more efficient, and more equitable energy future.

Scientists and engineers have long believed in the promise of batteries to change the world. Advanced batteries are moving out of specialized markets and creeping into the mainstream, signaling a tipping point for forward-looking technologies such as electric cars and rooftop solar panels.

The *ubiquitous* (无所不在的) battery has already come a long way, of course. For better or worse, batteries make possible our mobile-first lifestyles, our screen culture, our increasingly globalized world. Still, as impressive as all this is, it may be trivial compared with what comes next. Having already enabled a communications revolution, the battery is now poised to transform just about everything else.

The wireless age is expanding to include not just our phones, tablets, and laptops, but also our cars, homes, and even whole communities. In emerging economies, rural communities are bypassing the wires and wooden poles that spread power. Instead, some in Africa and Asia are seeing their first lightbulbs illuminated by the power of sunlight stored in batteries.

Today, energy storage is a \$33 billion global industry that generates nearly 100 gigawatt-hours of electricity per year. By the end of the decade, it's expected to be worth over \$50 billion and generate 160 gigawatt-hours, enough to attract the attention of major companies that might not otherwise be interested in a decidedly pedestrian technology. Even utility companies, which have long viewed batteries and alternative forms of energy as a threat, are learning to embrace the technologies as enabling rather than disrupting.

Today's battery breakthroughs come as the world looks to expand modern energy access to the billion or so people without it, while also cutting back on fuels that warm the planet. Those simultaneous challenges appear less overwhelming with increasingly better answers to a centuries-old question: how to make power portable.

To be sure, the battery still has a long way to go before the nightly recharge completely replaces the weekly trip to the gas station. A battery-powered world comes with its own risks, too. What happens to the centralized electric grid, which took decades and billions of dollars to build, as more and more people become "prosumers," who produce and consume their own energy on-site?

No one knows which--if any--battery technology will ultimately dominate, but one thing remains clear: The future of energy is in how we store it.

46. What does Dr. Sadoway think of energy storage?
- A) It involves the application of sophisticated technology.
  - B) It is the direction energy development should follow.
  - C) It will prove to be a profitable business.
  - D) It is a technology benefiting everyone.
47. What is most likely to happen when advanced batteries become widely used?
- A) Mobile-first lifestyles will become popular.
  - B) The globalization process will be accelerated.
  - C) Communications will take more diverse forms.
  - D) The world will undergo revolutionary changes.
48. In some rural communities of emerging economies, people have begun to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) find digital devices simply indispensable  
B) communicate primarily by mobile phone  
C) light their homes with stored solar energy  
D) distribute power with wires and wooden poles
49. Utility companies have begun to realize that battery technologies \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) benefit their business  
B) transmit power faster  
C) promote innovation  
D) encourage competition
50. What does the author imply about the centralized electric grid?  
A) It might become a thing of the past.  
B) It might turn out to be a "prosumer".  
C) It will be easier to operate and maintain.  
D) It will have to be completely transformed.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

More than 100 years ago, American sociologist W. E. B. Du Bois was concerned that race was being used as a biological explanation for what he understood to be social and cultural differences between different populations of people. He spoke out against the idea of "white" and "black" as distinct groups, claiming that these distinctions ignored the scope of human diversity.

Science would favor Du Bois. Today, the mainstream belief among scientists is that race is a social construct without biological meaning. In an article published in the journal *Science*, four scholars say racial categories need to be phased out.

"Essentially, I could not agree more with the authors," said Svante Pääbo, a biologist and director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. In one example that demonstrated genetic differences were not fixed along racial lines, the full *genomes* (基因组) of James Watson and Craig Venter, two famous American scientists of European ancestry, were compared to that of a Korean scientist, Seong-Jin Kim. It turned out that Watson and Venter shared fewer variations in their genetic sequences than they each shared with Kim.

Michael Yudell, a professor of public health at Drexel University in Philadelphia, said that modern genetics research is operating in a paradox: on the one hand, race is understood to be a useful tool to illuminate human genetic diversity, but on the other hand, race is also understood to be a poorly defined marker of that diversity.

Assumptions about genetic differences between people of different races could be particularly dangerous in a medical setting. "If you make clinical predictions based on somebody's race, you're going to be wrong a good chunk of the time," Yudell told *Live Science*. In the paper, he and his colleagues used the example of cystic fibrosis, which is underdiagnosed in people of African ancestry because it is thought of as a "white" disease.

So what other variables could be used if the racial concept is thrown out? Yudell said scientists need to get more specific with their language, perhaps using terms like "ancestry" or "population" that might more precisely reflect the relationship between humans and their genes, on both the individual and population level. The researchers also acknowledged that there are a few areas where race as a construct might still be useful in scientific research: as a political and social, but not biological, variable.

"While we argue phasing out racial *terminology* (术语) in the biological sciences, we also acknowledge that using race as a political or social category to study racism, although filled with lots of challenges, remains necessary given our need to understand how structural inequities and discrimination produce health *disparities* (差异) between groups," Yudell said.

51. Du Bois was opposed to the use of race as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) a basis for explaining human genetic diversity  
 B) an aid to understanding different populations  
 C) an explanation for social and cultural differences  
 D) a term to describe individual human characteristics
52. The study by Svante Pääbo served as an example to show \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) modern genetics research is likely to fuel racial conflicts  
 B) race is a poorly defined marker of human genetic diversity  
 C) race as a biological term can explain human genetic diversity  
 D) genetics research should consider social and cultural variables
53. The example of the disease cystic fibrosis underdiagnosed in people of African ancestry demonstrates that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) it is absolutely necessary to put race aside in making diagnosis  
 B) it is important to include social variables in genetics research  
 C) racial categories for genetic diversity could lead to wrong clinical predictions  
 D) discrimination against black people may cause negligence in clinical treatment
54. What is Yudell's suggestion to scientists?  
 A) They be more precise with the language they use.  
 B) They refrain from using politically sensitive terms.  
 C) They throw out irrelevant concepts in their research.  
 D) They examine all possible variables in their research.
55. What can be inferred from Yudell's remark in the last paragraph?  
 A) Clinging to racism prolongs inequity and discrimination.  
 B) Physiological disparities are quite striking among races.

- C) Doing away with racial discrimination is challenging.  
D) Racial terms are still useful in certain fields of study.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

随着中国经济的蓬勃发展，学汉语的人数迅速增加，使汉语成了世界上人们最爱学的语言之一。近年来，中国大学在国际上的排名也有了明显的提高。由于中国教育的巨大进步，中国成为最受海外学生欢迎的留学目的地之一就不足为奇了。2015 年，近四十万国际学生蜂拥来到中国学习。他们学习的科目已不再限于中国语言和文化，而包括科学与工程。在全球教育市场上，美国和英国仍占主导地位，但中国正在迅速赶上。

### 6. 2016 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on creation. Your essay should include the importance of creation and measures to be taken to encourage creation. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：由于 2016 年 12 月六级考试全国共考了两套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

#### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

##### Section A

**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.

Small communities, with their distinctive character--where life is stable and intensely human--are disappearing. Some have 26 from the face of the earth, others are dying slowly, but all have 27 changes as they have come into contact with an 28 machine civilization. The merging of diverse peoples into a common mass has produced tension among members of the minorities and the majority alike.

The Old Order Amish, who arrived on American shores in colonial times, have 29 in the modern world in distinctive, small communities. They have resisted the homogenization 30 more successfully than others. In planting and harvest time one can see their bearded men working the fields with horses and their women hanging out the laundry in neat rows to dry. Many American people have seen Amish families, with the men wearing broad-brimmed black hats and the women in long dresses, in railway or bus 31. Although the Amish have lived with 32 America for over two and a half centuries, they have moderated its influence on their personal lives, their families, communities, and their values.

The Amish are often 33 by other Americans to be relics of the past who live a simple, inflexible life dedicated to inconvenient out-dated customs. They are seen as abandoning both modern 34 and the American dream of success and progress. But most people have no quarrel with the Amish for doing things the old-fashioned way. Their conscientious objection was tolerated in wartime, for after all, they are good farmers who 35 the virtues of work and thrift.

- |                  |              |             |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| A)accessing      | F) perceived | K)survived  |
| B)conveniences   | G)practice   | L)terminals |
| C)destined       | H)process    | M)undergone |
| D)expanding      | I)progress   | N)universal |
| E)industrialized | J)respective | O)vanished  |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Countries Rush for Upper Hand in Antarctica

[A] On a glacier-filled island with *fjords* (峡湾) and elephant seals, Russia has built Antarctica's first Orthodox church on a hill overlooking its research base. Less than an hour away by snowmobile, Chinese labourers have updated the Great Wall Station, a vital part of China's plan to operate five bases on Antarctica, complete with an indoor badminton court and sleeping quarters for 150 people. Not to be outdone, India's futuristic new Bharathi base, built on *stilts* (桩子) using 134 interlocking shipping containers, resembles a spaceship. Turkey and Iran have announced plans to build bases, too.

[B] More than a century has passed since explorers raced to plant their flags at the bottom of the



world, and for decades to come this continent is supposed to be protected as a scientific preserve, shielded from intrusions like military activities and mining. But an array of countries are rushing to assert greater influence here, with an eye not just towards the day those protective treaties expire, but also for the strategic and commercial opportunities that already exist.

- [C] The newer players are stepping into what they view as a treasure house of resources. Some of the ventures focus on the Antarctic resources that are already up for grabs, like abundant sea life. South Korea, which operates state-of-the-art bases here, is increasing its fishing of *krill* (磷虾), found in abundance in the Southern Ocean, while Russia recently frustrated efforts to create one of the world's largest ocean sanctuaries here.
- [D] Some scientists are examining the potential for harvesting icebergs from Antarctica, which is estimated to have the biggest reserves of fresh water on the planet. Nations are also pressing ahead with space research and satellite projects to expand their global navigation abilities.
- [E] Building on a Soviet-era foothold, Russia is expanding its monitoring stations for Glonass, its version of the Global Positioning System (GPS). At least three Russian stations are already operating in Antarctica, part of its effort to challenge the dominance of the American GPS, and new stations are planned for sites like the Russian base, in the shadow of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity.
- [F] Elsewhere in Antarctica, Russian researchers boast of their recent discovery of a freshwater reserve the size of Lake Ontario after drilling through miles of solid ice. "You can see that we're here to stay," said Vladimir Cheberdak, 57, chief of the Bellingshausen Station, as he sipped tea under a portrait of Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, a high-ranking officer in the Imperial Russian Navy who explored the Antarctic coast in 1820.
- [G] Antarctica's mineral, oil and gas wealth are a longer-term prize. The treaty banning mining here, shielding *coveted* (令人垂涎的) reserves of iron ore, coal and chromium, comes up for review in 2048. Researchers recently found *kimberlite* (金伯利岩) deposits hinting at the existence of diamonds. And while assessments vary widely, geologists estimate that Antarctica holds at least 36 billion barrels of oil and natural gas.
- [H] Beyond the Antarctic treaties, huge obstacles persist to tapping these resources, like drifting icebergs that could jeopardise offshore platforms. Then there is Antarctica's remoteness, with some mineral deposits found in windswept locations on a continent that is larger than Europe and where winter temperatures hover around minus 55 degrees Celsius.
- [I] But advances in technology might make Antarctica a lot more accessible three decades from now. And even before then, scholars warn, the demand for resources in an energy-hungry world could raise pressure to renegotiate Antarctica's treaties, possibly allowing more commercial endeavours here well before the prohibitions against them expire. The research stations on King George Island offer a glimpse into the long game on this ice-blanketed continent as nations assert themselves, eroding the sway long held by countries like the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand.
- [J] Being stationed in Antarctica involves adapting to life on the planet's driest, windiest and coldest continent, yet each nation manages to make itself at home. Bearded Russian priests offer regular services at the Orthodox church for the 16 or so Russian speakers who spend the winter at the base, largely polar scientists in fields like glaciology and meteorology. Their number climbs to about 40 in the warmer summer months. China has arguably the fastest-growing operations in Antarctica. It opened its fourth station last year and is pressing ahead with plans to build a fifth.



It is building its second ice-breaking ship and setting up research drilling operations on an ice dome 13,422 feet above sea level that is one of the planet's coldest places. Chinese officials say the expansion in Antarctica priorities scientific research, but they also acknowledge that concerns about "resource security" influence their moves.

- [K] China's newly renovated Great Wall Station on King George Island makes the Russian and Chilean bases here seem outdated. "We do weather monitoring here and other research," Ning Xu, 53, the chief of the Chinese base, said over tea during a fierce *blizzard* (暴风雪) in late November. The large base he leads resembles a snowed-in college campus on holiday break, with the capacity to sleep more than 10 times the 13 people who were staying on through the Antarctic winter. Yong Yu, a Chinese microbiologist, showed off the spacious building, with empty desks under an illustrated timeline detailing the rapid growth of China's Antarctic operations since the 1980s. "We now feel equipped to grow," he said.
- [L] As some countries expand operations in Antarctica, the United States maintains three year-round stations on the continent with more than 1,000 people during the southern hemisphere's summer, including those at the Amundsen-Scott station, built in 1956 at an elevation of 9,301 feet on a plateau at the South Pole. But US researchers quietly complain about budget restraints and having far fewer icebreakers than Russia, limiting the reach of the United States in Antarctica.
- [M] Scholars warn that Antarctica's political drift could blur the distinction between military and civilian activities long before the continent's treaties come up for renegotiation, especially in parts of Antarctica that are ideal for *intercepting* (拦截) signals from satellites or retasking satellite systems, potentially enhancing global electronic intelligence operations.
- [N] Some countries have had a hard time here. Brazil opened a research station in 1984, but it was largely destroyed by a fire that killed two members of the navy in 2012, the same year that a diesel-laden Brazilian barge sank near the base. As if that were not enough, a Brazilian C-130 Hercules military transport plane has remained stranded near the runway of Chile's air base here since it crash-landed in 2014.
- [O] However, Brazil's stretch of misfortune has created opportunities for China, with a Chinese company winning the \$100 million contract in 2015 to rebuild the Brazilian station.
- [P] Amid all the changes, Antarctica maintains its allure. South Korea opened its second Antarctic research base in 2014, describing it as a way to test robots developed by Korean researchers for use in extreme conditions. With Russia's help, Belarus is preparing to build its first Antarctic base. Colombia said this year that it planned to join other South American nations with bases in Antarctica.
- [Q] "The old days of the Antarctic being dominated by the interests and wishes of white men from European, Australasian and North American states are over," said Klaus Dodds, a politics scholar at the University of London who specialises in. Antarctica. "The reality is that Antarctica is geopolitically contested."

36. According to Chinese officials, their activities in Antarctica lay greater emphasis on scientific research.
37. Efforts to create one of the world's largest ocean sanctuaries failed because of Russia's obstruction.
38. With several monitoring stations operating in Antarctica, Russia is trying hard to counter

America's dominance in the field of worldwide navigational facilities.

39. According to geologists' estimates, Antarctica has enormous reserves of oil and natural gas.
40. It is estimated that Antarctica boasts of the richest reserves of fresh water on earth.
41. The demand for energy resources may compel renegotiation of Antarctica's treaties before their expiration.
42. Many countries are racing against each other to increase their business and strategic influence on Antarctica.
43. Antarctica's harsh natural conditions constitute huge obstacles to the exploitation of its resources.
44. With competition from many countries, Antarctica is no longer dominated by the traditional white nations.
45. American scientists complain about lack of sufficient money and equipment for their expansion in Antarctica.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Any veteran nicotine addict will testify that fancy packaging plays no role in the decision to keep smoking. So, it is argued, stripping cartons of their branding will trigger no mass movement to quit.

But that isn't why the government--under pressure from cancer charities, health workers and the Labour party--has agreed to legislate for standardised packaging. The theory is that smoking should be stripped of any appeal to discourage new generations from starting in the first place. Plain packaging would be another step in the reclassification of cigarettes from inviting consumer products to *narcotics*(麻醉剂).

Naturally, the tobacco industry is violently opposed. No business likes to admit that it sells addictive poison as a lifestyle choice. That is why government has historically intervened, banning advertising, imposing health warnings and *punitive* (惩罚性的) duties. This approach has led over time to a fall in smoking with numbers having roughly halved since the 1970s. Evidence from Australia suggests plain packaging pushes society further along that road. Since tobacco is one of the biggest causes of premature death in the UK, a measure that tames the habit even by a fraction is worth trying.

So why has it taken so long? The Department of Health declared its intention to consider the move in November 2010 and consulted through 2012. But the plan was suspended in July 2013. It did not escape notice that a lobbying firm set up by Lynton Crosby, David Cameron's election campaign director, had previously acted for Philip Morris International. (The prime minister denied there was a connection between his new adviser's outside interests and the change in legislative programme.) In November 2013, after an unnecessary round of additional consultation, health minister Jane Ellison said the government was minded to proceed after all. Now we are told Members of Parliament (MPs) will have a free vote before parliament is dissolved in March.

Parliament has in fact already authorized the government to tame the tobacco trade. MPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of Labour amendments to the children and families bill last February that included the power to regulate for plain packaging. With sufficient will in Downing Street this would have been done already. But strength of will is the missing ingredient where Mr. Cameron and public health are concerned. His attitude to state intervention has looked confused ever since his bizarre 2006 *lament* (叹惜) that chocolate oranges placed seductively at supermarket checkouts fueled obesity.

The government has moved reluctantly into a sensible public health policy, but with such obvious over-cautiousness that any political credit due belongs to the opposition. Without sustained external pressure it seems certain Mr. Cameron would still be hooked on the interests of big tobacco companies.

46. What do chain smokers think of cigarette packaging?
  - A) Fancy packaging can help to engage new smokers.
  - B) It has little to do with the quality or taste of cigarettes.
  - C) Plain packaging discourages non-smokers from taking up smoking.
  - D) It has little impact on their decision whether or not to quit smoking.
47. What has the UK government agreed to do concerning tobacco packaging?
  - A) Pass a law to standardise cigarette packaging.
  - B) Rid cigarette cartons of all advertisements.
  - C) Subsidise companies to adopt plain packaging.
  - D) Reclassify cigarettes according to packaging.
48. What has happened in Australia where plain packaging is implemented?
  - A) Premature death rates resulting from smoking have declined.
  - B) The number of smokers has dropped more sharply than in the UK.
  - C) The sales of tobacco substitutes have increased considerably.
  - D) Cigarette sales have been falling far more quickly than in the UK.
49. Why has it taken so long for the UK government to consider plain packaging?
  - A) Prime Minister Cameron has been reluctant to take action.
  - B) There is strong opposition from veteran nicotine addicts.
  - C) Many Members of Parliament are addicted to smoking.
  - D) Pressure from tobacco manufacturers remains strong.
50. What did Cameron say about chocolate oranges at supermarket checkouts?
  - A) They fueled a lot of controversy.
  - B) They attracted a lot of smokers.
  - C) They made more British people obese.
  - D) They had certain ingredients missing.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

What a waste of money! In return for an average of \$44,000 of debt, students get an average of only 14 hours of lecture and tutorial time a week in Britain. Annual fees have risen from \$1,000 to \$9,000 in the last decade, but contact time at university has barely risen at all. And graduating doesn't even provide any guarantee of a decent job: six in ten graduates today are in non-graduate

jobs.

No wonder it has become fashionable to denounce many universities as little more than elaborate *con-tricks* (骗术). There's a lot for students to complain about: the repayment threshold for paying back loans will be frozen for five years, meaning that lower-paid graduates have to start repaying their loans; and maintenance grants have been replaced by loans, meaning that students from poorer backgrounds face higher debt than those with wealthier parents.

Yet it still pays to go to university. If going to university doesn't work out, students pay very little-- if any--of their tuition fees back: you only start repaying when you are earning \$21,000 a year. Almost half of graduates--those who go on to earn less — will have a portion of their debt written off. It's not just the lectures and tutorials that are important. Education is the sum of what students teach each other in between lectures and seminars. Students do not merely benefit while at university; studies show they go on to be healthier and happier than non-graduates, and also far more likely to vote.

Whatever your talents, it is extraordinarily difficult to get a leading job in most fields without having been to university. Recruiters circle elite universities like *vultures* (兀鹰). Many top firms will not even look at applications from those who lack a 2.1, i.e., an upper-second class degree, from an elite university. Students at university also meet those likely to be in leading jobs in the future, forming contacts for life. This might not be right, but school-leavers who fail to acknowledge as much risk making the wrong decision about going to university.

Perhaps the reason why so many universities offer their students so little is they know studying at a top university remains a brilliant investment *even if you don't learn anything*. Studying at university will only become less attractive if employers shift their focus away from where someone went to university--and there is no sign of that happening anytime soon. School-leavers may moan, but they have little choice but to embrace university and the student debt that comes with it.

51. What is the author's opinion of going to university?
  - A) It is worthwhile after all.
  - B) It is simply a waste of time.
  - C) It is hard to say whether it is good or bad.
  - D) It is too expensive for most young people.
52. What does the author say about the employment situation of British university graduates?
  - A) Few of them are satisfied with the jobs they are offered.
  - B) It usually takes a long time for them to find a decent job.
  - C) Graduates from elite universities usually can get decent jobs.
  - D) Most of them take jobs which don't require a college degree.
53. What does the author say is important for university students besides classroom instruction?
  - A) Making sure to obtain an upper-second class degree.
  - B) Practical skills they will need in their future careers.
  - C) Interactions among themselves outside the classroom.
  - D) Developing independent and creative thinking abilities.
54. What is said to be an advantage of going to university?
  - A) Learning how to take risks in an ever-changing world.
  - B) Meeting people who will be helpful to you in the future.
  - C) Having opportunities of playing a leading role in society.

- D) Gaining up-to-date knowledge in science and technology.
55. What can we infer from the last paragraph?
- A) It is natural for students to make complaints about university education.
- B) Few students are willing to bear the burden of debt incurred at university.
- C) University education is becoming attractive to students who can afford it.
- D) The prestige of the university influences employers' recruitment decisions.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

农业是中国的一个重要产业，从业者超过 3 亿。中国农业产量全球第一，主要生产水稻、小麦和豆类。虽然中国的农业用地仅占世界的百分之十，但为世界百分之二十的人口提供了粮食。中国 7700 年前开始种植水稻。早在使用机械和化肥之前，勤劳和富有创造性的中国农民就已经采用各种各样的方法来增加农作物产量。中国农业最新的发展是推进有机农业。有机农业可以同时服务于多种目的，包括食品安全、大众健康和可持续发展。

### 7. 2017 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 1 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** Suppose you are asked to give advice on *whether to attend a vocational college or a university*, write an essay to state your opinion. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

##### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on *Answer Sheet 1* with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A) Doing enjoyable work.                   | C) Having friendly colleagues.          |
| B) Earning a competitive salary.              | D) Working for supportive bosses.       |
| 2. A) 20%.                                    | B) 25%.                                 |
| C) 31%.                                       | D) 73%.                                 |
| 3. A) Those full of skilled workers.          | C) Those run by women.                  |
| B) Those that are well managed.               | D) Those of a small size.               |
| 4. A) They can win recognition of their work. | C) They can hop from job to job easily. |
| B) They can better balance work and life.     | D) They can take on more than one job.  |

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) It is a collection of photos. C) It is about the city of Bruges.  
B) It is an introduction to music. D) It is a book of European history.
6. A) When writing about Belgium's coastal regions.  
B) When taking pictures for a concert catalogue.  
C) When vacationing in an Italian coastal city.  
D) When painting the concert hall of Bruges.
7. A) The rich heritage of Europe will be lost completely.  
B) The seawater of Europe will be seriously polluted.  
C) The entire European coastline will be submerged.  
D) The major European scenic spots will disappear.
8. A) Tourists use wooden paths to reach their hotels in the morning.  
B) It attracts large numbers of tourists from home and abroad.  
C) People cannot get around without using boats.  
D) Its waterways are being increasingly polluted.

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) They try hard to avoid getting off on the wrong foot.  
B) They spend too much time anticipating their defeat.  
C) They take too many irrelevant factors into account.  
D) They make careful preparations beforehand.
10. A) Mental images often interfere with athletes' performance.  
B) Golfers usually have positive mental images of themselves.  
C) Thinking has the same effect on the nervous system as doing.  
D) A person's nervous system is more complicated than imagined.
11. A) Anticipate possible problems. C) Try to appear more professional.  
B) Make a list of do's and don'ts. D) Picture themselves succeeding.
12. A) She won her first jury trial. C) She presented moving pictures.  
B) She wore a designer dress. D) She did not speak loud enough.

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

13. A) It enables patients with diabetes to recover sooner.  
B) Its health benefits have been overestimated.  
C) Its long-term effects are yet to be proved.  
D) It helps people to avoid developing breast cancer.
14. A) It tracked their eating habits since their adolescence.  
B) It focused on their difference from men in fiber intake.



- C) It tracked their change in food preferences for 20 years.
- D) It focused on their ways of life during young adulthood.
- 15. A) Fiber may bring more benefits to women than men.
- B) Fiber may improve the function of heart muscles.
- C) Fiber may make blood circulation more smooth.
- D) Fiber may help to reduce hormones in the body.

### Section C

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 16. A) Investigating the impact of media on government.
- B) Studying the hazards of young people drinking.
- C) Conducting research on consumer behaviour.
- D) Observing the changes in marketing.
- 17. A) It is a chief concern of parents.                      C) It is the cause of many street riots.
- B) It is an act of socialising.                              D) It is getting worse year by year.
- 18. A) They researched the impact of mobile phones on young people..
- B) They spent a week studying their own purchasing behaviour.
- C) They conducted a thorough research on advertising.
- D) They analysed their family budgets over the years.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 19. A) It is likely to give up paper money in the near future.
- B) It is the first country to use credit cards in the world.
- C) It is trying hard to do away with dirty money.
- D) It is helping its banks to improve efficiency.
- 20. A) Whether it is possible to travel without carrying any physical currency.
- B) Whether it is possible to predict how much money one is going to spend.
- C) Whether the absence of physical currency is going to affect everyday life.
- D) Whether the absence of physical currency causes a person to spend more.
- 21. A) The cash in her handbag was missing.                      C) The restaurant car accepted cash only.
- B) The service on the train was not good.                      D) There was no food service on the train.
- 22. A) By drawing money week by week.                      C) By limiting their day-to-day spending.
- B) By putting money into envelopes.                              D) By refusing to buy anything on credit.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 23. A) Population explosion.                                      C) Chronic hunger.
- B) Extinction of rare species.                                      D) Environmental deterioration.
- 24. A) About half of them are unintended.
- B) They contribute to overpopulation.
- C) They have been brought under control.



- D) The majority of them tend to end halfway.
25. A) It is beginning to attract postgraduates' attention.  
B) It is neglected in many of the developing countries.  
C) It is becoming a subject of interdisciplinary research.  
D) It is essential to the wellbeing of all species on earth.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

After becoming president of Purdue University in 2013, Mitch Daniels asked the faculty to prove that their students have actually achieved one of higher education's most important goals: critical thinking skills. Two years before, a nationwide study of college graduates had shown that more than a third had made no (26) gains in such mental abilities during their school years. Mr. Daniels needed to (27) the high cost of attending Purdue to its students and their families. After all, the percentage of Americans who say a college degree is "very important" has fallen (28) in the last 5-6 years.

Purdue now has a pilot test to assess students' critical thinking skills. Yet like many college teachers around the U.S., the faculty remain (29) that their work as educators can be measured by a "learning (30) " such as a graduate's ability to investigate and reason. However, the professors need not worry so much. The results of a recent experiment showed that professors can use (31) metrics to measure how well students do in three key areas: critical thinking, written communication, and quantitative literacy.

Despite the success of the experiment, the actual results are worrisome, and mostly (32) earlier studies. The organizers of the experiment concluded that far fewer students were achieving at high levels on critical thinking than they were doing for written communication or quantitative literacy. And that conclusion is based only on students nearing graduation.

American universities, despite their global (33) for excellence in teaching, have only begun to demonstrate what they can produce in real-world learning. Knowledge-based degrees are still important, but employers are (34) advanced thinking skills from college graduates. If the intellectual worth of a college degree can be (35) measured, more people will seek higher education -- and come out better thinkers.

|                |                 |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A) accurately  | F) justify      | K) reputation     |
| B) confirm     | G) monopolized  | L) significant    |
| C) demanding   | H) outcome      | M) signify        |
| D) doubtful    | I) predominance | N) simultaneously |
| E) drastically | J) presuming    | O) standardized   |

#### Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.*

### The Price of Oil and the Price of Carbon

- [A] Fossil fuel prices are likely to stay “low for long.” Notwithstanding important recent progress in developing renewable fuel sources, low fossil fuel prices could discourage further innovation in, and adoption of, cleaner energy technologies. The result would be higher emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
- [B] Policymakers should not allow low energy prices to derail the clean energy transition. Action to restore appropriate price incentives, notably through corrective carbon pricing, is urgently needed to lower the risk of irreversible and potentially devastating effects of climate change. That approach also offers fiscal benefits.
- [C] Oil prices have dropped by over 60% since June 2014. A commonly held view in the oil industry is that “the best cure for low oil prices is low oil prices.” The reasoning behind this saying is that low oil prices discourage investment in new production capacity, eventually shifting the oil supply curve backward and bringing prices back up as existing oil fields -- which can be tapped at relatively low marginal cost — are depleted. In fact, in line with past experience capital expenditure in the oil sector has dropped sharply in many producing countries, including the United States. The dynamic adjustment to low oil prices may, however, be different this time around.
- [D] Oil prices are expected to remain lower for longer. The advent of new technologies has added about 4.2 million barrels per day to the crude oil market, contributing to a global over-supply. In addition, other factors are putting downward pressure on oil prices: change in the strategies behavior of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the projected increase in Iranian exports, the scaling-down of global demand (especially from emerging markets), the long-term drop in petroleum consumption in the United States, and some displacement of oil by substitutes. These likely persistent forces, like the growth of *shale* (页岩) oil, point to a “low for long” scenario. Futures markets, which show only a modest recovery of prices to around \$60 a barrel by 2019, support this view.
- [E] Natural gas and coal -- also fossil fuels -- have similarly seen price declines that look to be long-lived. Coal and natural gas are mainly used for electricity generation, whereas oil is used mostly to power transportation, yet the prices of all these energy sources are linked. The North American shale gas boom has resulted in record low prices there. The recent discovery of the giant Zohr gas field off the Egyptian coast will eventually have impact on pricing in the Mediterranean region and Europe, and there is significant development potential in many other places, notably Argentina. Coal prices also are low, owing to over-supply and the scaling-down of demand, especially from China, which burns half of the world’s coal.
- [F] Technological innovations have unleashed the power of renewables such as wind, hydro, solar, and *geothermal* (地热). Even Africa and the Middle East, home to economies that are heavily dependent on fossil fuel exports, have enormous potential to develop renewables. For example, the United Arab Emirates has endorsed an ambitious target to draw 24% of its primary energy consumption from renewable sources by 2021.

- [G]Progress in the development of renewables could be fragile, however, if fossil fuel prices remain low for long. Renewables account for only a small share of global primary energy consumption, which is still dominated by fossil fuels -- 30% each for coal and oil, 25% for natural gas. But renewable energy will have to displace fossil fuels to a much greater extent in the future to avoid unacceptable climate risks.
- [H]Unfortunately, the current low prices for oil, gas, and coal may provide little incentive for research to find even cheaper substitutes for those fuels. There is strong evidence that both innovation and adoption of cleaner technology are strongly encouraged by higher fossil fuel prices. The same is true for new technologies for alleviating fossil fuel emissions.
- [I]The current low fossil fuel price environment will thus certainly delay the energy transition from fossil fuel to clean energy sources. Unless renewables become cheap enough that substantial carbon deposits are left underground for a very long time, if not forever, the planet will like be exposed to potentially catastrophic climate risks.
- [J]Some climate impacts may already be discernible. For example, the United Nations Children Fund estimates that some 11 million children in Africa face hunger, disease, and water shortage as a result of the strongest *El Nino* (厄尔尼诺) weather phenomenon in decades. Many scientists believe that El Nino events, caused by warming in the Pacific, are becoming more intense as a result of climate change.
- [K]Nations from around the world have gathered in Paris for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21, with the goal of a universal and potentially legally-binding agreement reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We need very broad participation to fully address global tragedy that results when countries fail to take into account the negative impact of their carbon emissions on the rest of the world. Moreover, non-participation by nations, if sufficiently widespread, can undermine the political will of participating countries to act.
- [L]The nations participating at COP 21 are focusing on quantitative emissions-reduction commitments. Economic reasoning shows that the least expensive way for each country is to put a price on carbon emissions. The reason is that when carbon is priced, those emissions reductions that are least costly to implement will happen first. The International Monetary Fund calculates that countries can generate substantial fiscal revenues by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and levying carbon charges that capture the domestic damage caused by emissions. A tax on upstream carbon sources is one easy way to put a price on carbon emissions, although some countries may wish to use other methods, such as emissions trading schemes. In order to maximize global welfare, every country's carbon pricing should reflect not only the purely domestic damage from emissions, but also the damage to foreign countries.
- [M]Setting the right carbon price will therefore efficiently align the costs paid by carbon users with the true social opportunity cost of using carbon. By raising relative demand for clean energy sources, a carbon price would also help align the market return to clean-energy innovation with its social return, spurring the refinement of existing technologies and the development of new ones. And it would raise the demand for technologies such as carbon capture and storage, spurring their further development. If not corrected by the appropriate carbon price, low fossil fuel prices are not accurately signaling to markets the true social profitability of clean energy. While alternative estimates of the damage from carbon emissions differ, and it's especially hard to reckon the likely costs of possible catastrophic climate events, most estimates suggest substantial negative effects.

[N] Direct subsidies to research and development have been adopted by some governments but are a poor substitute for a carbon price; they do only part of the job, leaving in place market incentives to over-use fossil fuels and thereby add to the stock of atmospheric greenhouse gases without regard to the *collateral* (附带的) costs.

[O] The hope is that the success of COP 21 opens the door to future international agreement on carbon prices. Agreement on an international carbon-price floor would be a good starting point in that process. Failure to address comprehensively the problem of greenhouse gas emissions, however, exposes all generations, present and future, to incalculable risks.

36. A number of factors are driving down the global oil prices not just for now but in the foreseeable future.

37. Pricing carbon proves the most economical way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

38. It is estimated that extreme weather conditions have endangered the lives of millions of African children.

39. The prices of coal are low as a result of over-supply and decreasing demand.

40. Higher fossil fuel prices prove to be conducive to innovation and application of cleaner technology.

41. If fossil fuel prices remain low for a long time, it may lead to higher emissions of greenhouse gases.

42. Fossil fuels remain the major source of primary energy consumption in today's world.

43. Even major fossil fuel exporting countries have great potential to develop renewable energies.

44. Greenhouse gas emissions, if not properly dealt with, will pose endless risks for mankind.

45. It is urgent for governments to increase the cost of using fossil fuels to an appropriate level to lessen the catastrophic effects of climate change.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Open data sharers are still in the minority in many fields. Although many researchers broadly agree that public access to raw data would accelerate science, most are reluctant to post the results of their own labors online.

Some communities have agreed to share online -- geneticists, for example, post DNA sequences at the GenBank *repository* (库), and astronomers are accustomed to accessing images of galaxies and stars from, say, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, a telescope that has observed some 500 million objects -- but these remain the exception, not the rule. Historically, scientists have objected to sharing for many reasons: it is a lot of work; until recently, good databases did not exist; grant funders were not pushing for sharing; it has been difficult to agree on standards for formatting data; and there is no agreed way to assign credit for data.

But the barriers are disappearing, in part because journals and funding agencies worldwide are encouraging scientists to make their data public. Last year, the Royal Society in London said

in its report that scientists need to “shift away from a research culture where data is viewed as a private preserve”. Funding agencies note that data paid for with public money should be public information and the scientific community is recognizing that data can now be shared digitally in ways that were not possible before. To match the growing demand, services are springing up to make it easier to publish research products online and enable other researchers to discover and cite them.

Although calls to share data often concentrate on the moral advantages of sharing, the practice is not purely *altruistic* (利他的). Researchers who share get plenty of personal benefits, including more connections with colleagues, improved visibility and increased citations. The most successful sharers -- those whose data are downloaded and cited the most often -- get noticed, and their work gets used. For example, one of the most popular data sets on multidisciplinary repository Dryad is about wood density around the world; it has been downloaded 5,700 times. Co-author Amy Zanne thinks that users probably range from climate-change researchers wanting to estimate how much carbon is stored in biomass, to foresters looking for information on different grades of timber. “I’d much prefer to have my data used by the maximum number of people to ask their own questions,” she says. “It’s important to allow readers and reviewers to see exactly how you arrive at your results. Publishing data and code allows your science to be reproducible.”

Even people whose data are less popular can benefit. By making the effort to organize and label files so others can understand them, scientists become more organized and better disciplined themselves, thus avoiding confusion later on.

46. What do many researchers generally accept?
  - A) It is imperative to protect scientists’ patents.
  - B) Repositories are essential to scientific research.
  - C) Open data sharing is most important to medical science.
  - D) Open data sharing is conducive to scientific advancement.
47. What is the attitude of most researchers towards making their own data public?
  - A) Opposed.    B) Ambiguous.    C) Liberal.    D) Neutral.
48. According to the passage, what might hinder open data sharing?
  - A) The fear of massive copying.
  - B) The lack of a research culture.
  - C) The belief that research data is private intellectual property.
  - D) The concern that certain agencies may make a profit out of it.
49. What helps lift some of the barriers to open data sharing?
  - A) The ever-growing demand for big data.
  - B) The advancement of digital technology.
  - C) The changing attitude of journals and funders.
  - D) The trend of social and economic development.
50. Dryad serves as an example to show how open data sharing \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) is becoming increasingly popular
  - B) benefits sharers and users alike
  - C) makes researchers successful
  - D) saves both money and labor

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Macy's reported its sales plunged 5.2% in November and December at stores open more than a year, a disappointing holiday season performance that capped a difficult year for a department store chain facing wide-ranging challenges. Its flagship stores in major U.S. cities depend heavily on international tourist spending, which shrank at many retailers due to a strong dollar. Meanwhile, Macy's has simply struggled to lure consumers who are more interested in spending on travel or dining out than on new clothes or accessories.

The company blamed much of the poor performance in November and December on unseasonably warm weather. "About 80% of our company's year-over-year declines in comparable sales can be attributed to *shortfalls*(短缺) in cold-weather goods," said chief executive Terry Lundgren in a press release. This prompted the company to cut its forecasts for the full fourth quarter.

However, it's clear that Macy's believes its troubles run deeper than a temporary *aberration*(偏离) off the thermometer. The retail giant said the poor financial performance this year has pushed it to begin implementing \$400 million in cost-cutting measures. The company pledged to cut 600 back-office positions, though some 150 workers in those roles would be reassigned to other jobs. It also plans to offer "voluntary separation" packages to 165 senior executives. It will slash staffing at its fleet of 770 stores, a move affecting some 3,000 employees.

The retailer also announced the locations of 36 stores it will close in early 2016. The company had previously announced the planned closures, but had not said which locations would be affected. None of the chain's stores in the Washington metropolitan area are to be closed.

Macy's has been moving aggressively to try to remake itself for a new era of shopping. It has plans to open more locations of Macy's Backstage, a newly-developed off-price concept which might help it better compete with ambitious T.J. Maxx. It's also pushing ahead in 2016 with an expansion of Bluemercury, the beauty chain it bought last year. At a time when young beauty shoppers are often turning to Sephora or Ulta instead of department store beauty counters, Macy's hopes Bluemercury will help strengthen its position in the category.

One relative bright spot for Macy's during the holiday season was the online channel, where it rang up "double-digit" increases in sales and a 25% increase in the number of orders it filled. That relative strength would be consistent with what was seen in the wider retail industry during early part of the holiday season. While Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday all saw record spending online, in-store sales plunged over the holiday weekend.

51. What does the author say about the shrinking spending of international tourists in the U.S.?

- A) It is attributable to the rising value of the U.S. dollar.
- B) It is a direct result of the global economic recession.
- C) It reflects a shift of their interest in consumer goods.
- D) It poses a potential threat to the retail business in the U.S.

52. What does Macy's believe about its problems?

- A) They can be solved with better management.
- B) They cannot be attributed to weather only.
- C) They are not as serious in its online stores.
- D) They call for increased investments.



53. In order to cut costs, Macy's decided to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) cut the salary of senior executives                      C) adjust its promotion strategies  
B) relocate some of its chain stores                      D) reduce the size of its staff
54. Why does Macy's plan to expand Bluemercury in 2016?  
A) To experiment on its new business concept.  
B) To focus more on beauty products than clothing.  
C) To promote sales of its products by lowering prices.  
D) To be more competitive in sales of beauty products.
55. What can we learn about Macy's during the holiday season?  
A) Sales dropped sharply in its physical stores.  
B) Its retail sales exceeded those of T.J. Maxx.  
C) It helped Bluemercury establish its position worldwide.  
D) It filled its stores with abundant supply of merchandise.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

唐朝始于 618 年，终于 907 年，是中国历史上最灿烂的时期。经过近三百年的发展，唐代中国成为世界上最繁荣的强国，其首都长安是当时世界上最大的都市。这一时期，经济发达、商业繁荣、社会秩序稳定，甚至边境也对外开放。随着城市化和财富的增加，艺术和文学也繁荣起来。李白和杜甫是以作品简洁自然而著称的诗人。他们的诗歌打动了学者和普通人的心。即使在今天，他们的许多诗歌仍广为儿童及成人阅读背诵。



## 8. 2017 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** Suppose you are asked to give advice on *whether to attend college at home or abroad*, write an essay to state your opinion. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) He would be embarrassed.                      .C) He would feel insulted.  
   B) He would feel very sad.                         D) He would be disappointed.
2. A) They are of little value.                         C) They are worthy of a prize.  
   B) They make good reading.                       D) They need improvement.
3. A) He writes several books simultaneously.  
   B) He draws on his real-life experiences.  
   C) He often turns to his wife for help.  
   D) He seldom writes a book straight through.
4. A) Writing a book is just like watching a football match.

- B) Unlike a football match, there is no end to writing a book.
- C) He likes watching a football match after finishing a book.
- D) Writers actually work every bit as hard as footballers.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- 5. A) Undergraduate enrollments of black athletes.  
B) Financial assistance to black athletes in college.  
C) High college dropout rates among black athletes.  
D) Achievements of black male athletes in college.
- 6. A) They make money for the college but often fail to earn a degree.  
B) They have difficulty finding money to complete their studies.  
C) They are better at sports than at academic work.  
D) They display great talent in every kind of game.
- 7. A) Around 40%.  
B) Slightly over 50%.  
C) About 15%.  
D) Approximately 70%.
- 8. A) College degrees do not count much to them.  
B) They have little interest in academic work.  
C) Schools do not deem it a serious problem.  
D) Coaches lack the incentive to graduate them.

**Section B**

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

- 9. A) Online stores.  
B) Marketing strategies.  
10. A) About 136 million.  
B) About 183.8 million.  
11. A) They appeal to elderly customers.  
B) They find it hard to survive.  
12. A) Higher employment and wages.  
B) Better quality of consumer goods.
- C) Shopping malls.  
D) Holiday shopping.  
C) About 50% of holiday shoppers.  
D) About 20-30% of holiday shoppers.  
C) They have fewer customers.  
D) They are thriving once more.  
C) Greater varieties of commodities.  
D) People having more leisure time.

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

- 13. A) They are life-threatening diseases.  
B) They are overprescribed antibiotics.  
C) They are new species of big insects.  
D) They are antibiotic-resistant bacteria.
- 14. A) Routine operations have become complex.  
B) Large amounts of tax money are wasted.  
C) Many infections are no longer curable.

- D) Antibiotics are now in short supply.  
15. A) Money.      B) Expertise.      C) Facilities.      D) Publicity.

### Section C

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) It improves students' ability to think.      C) It starts a lifelong learning process.  
    B) It is accessible only to the talented.      D) It gives birth to many eminent scholars.  
17. A) They protect students' rights.      C) They uphold the presidents' authority.  
    B) They promote globalization.      D) They encourage academic democracy.  
18. A) His eagerness to find a job.      C) His potential for leadership.  
    B) His thirst for knowledge.      D) His contempt for authority.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) People tend to underestimate their mental powers.  
    B) Most people have a rather poor long-term memory.  
    C) People can enhance their memory with a few tricks.  
    D) Few people know how to retrieve information properly.  
20. A) They contain names of the most familiar states.  
    B) They are exactly the same as is shown in the atlas.  
    C) They include more or less the same number of states.  
    D) They present the states in a surprisingly different order.  
21. A) Making sensible decisions while choosing your answers.  
    B) Reviewing your lessons where the exam is to take place.  
    C) Having a good sleep the night before.  
    D) Focusing on what is likely to be tested.  
22. A) Follow the example of a marathon runner.  
    B) Give yourself a double bonus afterwards.  
    C) Discover when you can learn best.  
    D) Change your time of study daily.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. A) He is a politician.      C) He is a businessman.  
    B) He is a sociologist.      D) He is an economist.  
24. A) In slums.      C) In developing countries.  
    B) In Africa.      D) In pre-industrial societies.  
25. A) Their children cannot afford to go to private schools.  
    B) They work extra hours to have their basic needs met.  
    C) Their income is less than 50% of the national average family income.  
    D) They have no access to health care, let alone entertainment or recreation.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Half of your brain stays alert and prepared for danger when you sleep in a new place, a study has revealed. This phenomenon is often (26) to as the “first-night-effect”. Researchers from Brown University found that a network in the left hemisphere of the brain “remained more active” than the network in the right side of the brain. Playing sounds into the right ears (stimulating the left hemisphere) of (27) was more likely to wake them up than if the noises were played into their left ears.

It was (28) observed that the left side of the brain was more active during deep sleep. When the researchers repeated the laboratory experiment on the second and third nights they found the left hemisphere could not be stimulated in the same way during deep sleep. The researchers explained that the study demonstrated when we are in a (29) environment the brain partly remains alert so that humans can defend themselves against any (30) danger.

The researchers believe this is the first time that the “first-night-effect” of different brain states has been (31) in humans. It isn’t, however, the first time it has ever been seen. Some animal (32) also display this phenomenon. For example, dolphins, as well as other (33) animals, shut down one hemisphere of the brain when they go to sleep. A previous study noted that dolphins always (34) control their breathing. Without keeping the brain active while sleeping, they would probably drown. But, as the human study suggests, another reason for dolphins keeping their eyes open during sleep is that they can look out for (35) while asleep. It also keeps their physiological processes working.

|                 |              |                 |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| A) classified   | F) inherent  | K) referred     |
| B) consciously  | G) marine    | L) species      |
| C) dramatically | H) novel     | M) specifically |
| D) exotic       | I) potential | N) varieties    |
| E) identified   | J) predators | O) volunteers   |

#### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

##### Elite Math Competitions Struggle to Diversify Their Talent Pool

[A] Interest in elite high school math competitions has grown in recent years, and in light of last summer’s U.S. win at the International Math Olympiad (IMO) -- the first for an American team

in more than two decades -- the trend is likely to continue.

- [B] But will such contests, which are overwhelmingly dominated by Asian and white students from middle-class and affluent families, become any more diverse? Many social and cultural factors play roles in determining which promising students get on the path toward international math recognition. But efforts are in place to expose more black, Hispanic, and low-income students to advanced math, in the hope that the demographic pool of high-level contenders will eventually begin to shift and become less exclusive.
- [C] “The challenge is if certain types of people are doing something, it’s difficult for other people to break into it,” said Po-Shen Loh, the head coach of last year’s winning U.S. Math Olympiad team. Participation grows through friends and networks and if “you realize that’s how they’re growing, you can start to take action” and bring in other students, he said.
- [D] Most of the training for advanced-math competitions happens outside the confines of the normal school day. Students attend after-school clubs, summer camps, online forums and classes, and university-based “math circles,” to prepare for the competitions.
- [E] One of the largest feeders for high school math competitions -- including those that eventually lead to the IMO -- is a middle school program called MathCounts. About 100,000 students around the country participate in the program’s competition series, which culminates in a national game-show-style contest held each May. The most recent one took place last week in Washington, D.C. Students join a team through their schools, which provide a volunteer coach and pay a nominal fee to send students to regional and state competitions. The 224 students who make it to the national competition get an all-expenses-paid trip.
- [F] Nearly all members of last year’s winning U.S. IMO team took part in MathCounts as middle school students, as did Loh, the coach. “Middle school is an important age because students have enough math capability to solve advanced problems, but they haven’t really decided what they want to do with their lives,” said Loh. “They often get hooked then.”
- [G] Another influential feeder for advanced-math students is an online school called Art of Problem Solving, which began about 13 years ago and now has 15,000 users. Students use forums to chat, play games, and solve problems together at no cost, or they can pay a few hundred dollars to take courses with trained teachers. According to Richard Rusczyk, the company founder, the six U.S. team members who competed at the IMO last year collectively took more than 40 courses on the site. Parents of advanced-math students and MathCounts coaches say the children are on the website constantly.
- [H] There are also dozens of summer camps -- many attached to universities -- that aim to prepare elite math students. Some are pricey -- a three-week intensive program can cost \$4,500 or more -- but most offer scholarships. The Math Olympiad Summer Training Program is a three-week math camp held by the Mathematical Association of America that leads straight to the international championship and is free for those who make it. Only about 50 students are invited based on their performance on written tests and at the USA Math Olympiad.
- [I] Students in university towns may also have access to another lever for involvement in accelerated math: math circles. In these groups, which came out of an Eastern European tradition of developing young talent, professors teach promising K-12 students advanced mathematics for several hours after school or on weekends. The Los Angeles Math Circle, held at the University of California, Los Angeles, began in 2007 with 20 students and now has more than 250. “These math circles cost nothing, or they’re very cheap for students to get involved

in, but you have to know about them,” said Rusczyk. “Most people would love to get students from more underserved populations, but they just can’t get them in the door. Part of it is communication; part of it is transportation.”

- [J] It’s no secret in the advanced-math community that diversity is a problem. According to Mark Saul, the director of competitions for the Mathematical Association of America, not a single African-American or Hispanic student -- and only a handful of girls -- has ever made it to the Math Olympiad team in its 50 years of existence. Many schools simply don’t prioritize academic competitions. “Do you know who we have to beat?” asked Saul. “The football team, the basketball team -- that’s our competition for resources, student time, attention, school dollars, parent efforts, school enthusiasm.”
- [K] Teachers in low-income urban and rural areas with no history of participating in math competitions may not know about advanced-math opportunities like MathCounts -- and those who do may not have support or feel trained to lead them.
- [L] But there are initiatives in place to try to get more underrepresented students involved in accelerated math. A New York City-based nonprofit called Bridge to Enter Mathematics runs a residential summer program aimed at getting underserved students, mostly black and Hispanic, working toward math and science careers. The summer after 7th grade, students spend three weeks on a college campus studying advanced math for seven hours a day. Over the next five years, the group helps the students get into other elite summer math programs, high-performing high schools, and eventually college. About 250 students so far have gone through the program, which receives funding from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.
- [M] “If you look at a lot of low-income communities in the United States, there are programs that are serving them, but they’re primarily centered around ‘Let’s get these kids’ grades up,’ and not around ‘let’s get these kids access to the same kinds of opportunities as more-affluent kids,’” said Daniel Zaharopol, the founder and executive director of the program. “We’re trying to create that pathway.” Students apply to the program directly through their schools. “We want to reach parents who are not plugged into the system,” said Zaharopol.
- [N] In the past few years, MathCounts added two new middle school programs to try to diversify its participant pool -- the National Math Club and the Math Video Challenge. Schools or teachers who sign up for the National Math Club receive a kit full of activities and resources, but there’s no special teacher training and no competition attached.
- [O] The Math Video Challenge is a competition, but a collaborative one. Teams of four students make a video illustrating a math problem and its real-world application. After the high-pressure Countdown round at this year’s national MathCounts competition, in which the top 12 students went head to head solving complex problems in rapid fire, the finalists for the Math Video Challenge took the stage to show their videos. The demographics of that group looked quite different from those in the competition round -- of the 16 video finalists, 13 were girls and eight were African-American students. The video challenge does not put individual students on the hot seat -- so it’s less intimidating by design. It also adds the element of artistic creativity to attract a new pool of students who may not see themselves as “math people.”

36. Middle school is a crucial period when students may become keenly interested in advanced mathematics.
37. Elite high school math competitions are attracting more interest throughout the United States.



38. Math circles provide students with access to advanced-math training by university professors.
39. Students may take advantage of online resources to learn to solve math problems.
40. The summer program run by a nonprofit organization has helped many underserved students learn advanced math.
41. Winners of local contests will participate in the national math competition for free.
42. Many schools don't place academic competitions at the top of their priority list.
43. Contestants of elite high school math competitions are mostly Asian and white students from well-off families.
44. Some math training programs primarily focus on raising students' math scores.
45. Some intensive summer programs are very expensive but most of them provide scholarships.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

We live today indebted to McCardell, Cashin, Hawes, Wilkins, and Maxwell, and other women who liberated American fashion from the confines of Parisian design. Independence came in tying, wrapping, storing, harmonizing, and rationalizing that wardrobe. These designers established the modern dress code, letting playsuits and other active wear outfits suffice for casual clothing, allowing pants to enter the wardrobe, and prizing rationalism and versatility in dress, in contradiction to dressing for an occasion or allotment of the day. Fashion in America was logical and answerable to the will of the women who wore it. Implicitly or explicitly, American fashion addressed a democracy, whereas traditional Paris-based fashion was prescriptive and imposed on women, willing or not.

In an earlier time, American fashion had also followed the dictates of Paris, or even copied and pirated specific French designs. Designer sportswear was not modeled on that of Europe, as "modern art" would later be; it was genuinely invented and developed in America. Its designers were not high-end with supplementary lines. The design objective and the business commitment were to sportswear, and the distinctive traits were problem-solving ingenuity and realistic lifestyle applications. Ease of care was most important: summer dresses and outfits, in particular, were chiefly cotton, readily capable of being washed and pressed at home. Closings were simple, practical, and accessible, as the modern woman depended on no personal maid to dress her. American designers prized resourcefulness and the freedom of women who wore the clothing.

Many have argued that the women designers of this time were able to project their own clothing values into a new style. Of course, much of this argument in the 1930s-40s was advanced because there was little or no experience in justifying *apparel*(服装) on the basis of utility. If Paris was cast aside, the tradition of beauty was also to some degree slighted. Designer sportswear would have to be verified by a standard other than that of pure beauty; the emulation of a designer's life in designer sportswear was a crude version of this relationship. The consumer was ultimately to be mentioned as well, especially by the likes of Dorothy Shaver, who could point to the sales figures at Lord & Taylor.



Could utility alone justify the new ideas of the American designers? Fashion is often regarded as a pursuit of beauty, and some cherished fashion's trivial relationship to the fine arts. What the designers of American sportswear proved was that fashion is a genuine design art, answering to the demanding needs of service. Of course these practical, insightful designers have determined the course of late twentieth-century fashion. They were the pioneers of gender equity, in their useful, adaptable clothing, which was both made for the masses and capable of self-expression.

46. What contribution did the women designers make to American fashion?
  - A) They made some improvements on the traditional Parisian design.
  - B) They formulated a dress code with distinctive American features.
  - C) They came up with a brandnew set of design procedures.
  - D) They made originality a top priority in their fashion design.
47. What do we learn about American designer sportswear?
  - A) It imitated the European model.
  - B) It laid emphasis on women's beauty.
  - C) It represented genuine American art.
  - D) It was a completely new invention.
48. What characterized American designer sportswear?
  - A) Pursuit of beauty.
  - B) Decorative closings.
  - C) Ease of care.
  - D) Fabric quality.
49. What occurred in the design of women's apparel in America during the 1930s-40s?
  - A) A shift of emphasis from beauty to utility.
  - B) The emulation of traditional Parisian design.
  - C) A search for balance between tradition and novelty.
  - D) The involvement of more women in fashion design.
50. What do we learn about designers of American sportswear?
  - A) They catered to the taste of the younger generation.
  - B) They radically changed people's concept of beauty.
  - C) They advocated equity between men and women.
  - D) They became rivals of their Parisian counterparts.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Massive rubbish dumps and sprawling landfills constitute one of the more uncomfortable impacts that humans have on wildlife. They have led some birds to give up on migration. Instead of flying thousands of miles in search of food, they make the waste sites their winter feeding grounds.

Researchers in Germany used miniature GPS tags to track the migrations of 70 white *storks* (鸛) from different sites across Europe and Asia during the first five months of their lives. While many birds travelled along well-known routes to warmer climates, others stopped short and spent the winter on landfills, feeding on food waste, and the multitudes of insects that thrive on the dumps.

In the short-term, the birds seem to benefit from *overwintering* (过冬) on rubbish dumps. Andrea Flack of the Max Planck Institute found that birds following traditional migration routes were more likely to die than German storks that flew only as far as northern Morocco, and spent

the winter there on rubbish dumps. “For the birds it’s a very convenient way to get food. There are huge clusters of organic waste they can feed on,” said Flack. The meals are not particularly appetising, or even safe. Much of the waste is discarded rotten meat, mixed in with other human debris such as plastic bags and old toys.

“It’s very risky. The birds can easily eat pieces of plastic or rubber bands and they can die,” said Flack. “And we don’t know about the long-term consequences. They might eat something toxic and damage their health. We cannot estimate that yet.”

The scientists tracked white storks from different colonies in Europe and Africa. The Russian, Greek and Polish storks flew as far as South Africa, while those from Spain, Tunisia and Germany flew only as far as the Sahel.

Landfill sites on the Iberian peninsula have long attracted local white storks, but all of the Spanish birds tagged in the study flew across the Sahara desert to the western Sahel. Writing in the journal, the scientists describe how the storks from Germany were clearly affected by the presence of waste sites, with four out of six birds that survived for at least five months overwintering on rubbish dumps in northern Morocco, instead of migrating to the Sahel.

Flack said it was too early to know whether the benefits of plentiful food outweighed the risks of feeding on landfills. But that’s not the only uncertainty. Migrating birds affect ecosystems both at home and at their winter destinations, and disrupting the traditional routes could have unexpected side effects. White storks feed on locusts(蝗虫) and other insects that can become pests if their numbers get out of hand. “They provide a useful service,” said Flack.

51. What is the impact of rubbish dumps on wildlife?
  - A) They have forced white storks to search for safer winter shelters.
  - B) They have seriously polluted the places where birds spend winter.
  - C) They have accelerated the reproduction of some harmful insects.
  - D) They have changed the previous migration habits of certain birds.
52. What do we learn about birds following the traditional migration routes?
  - A) They can multiply at an accelerating rate.
  - B) They can better pull through the winter.
  - C) They help humans kill harmful insects.
  - D) They are more likely to be at risk of dying.
53. What does Andrea Flack say about the birds overwintering on rubbish dumps?
  - A) They may end up staying there permanently.
  - B) They may eat something harmful.
  - C) They may evolve new feeding habits.
  - D) They may have trouble getting adequate food.
54. What can be inferred about the Spanish birds tagged in the study?
  - A) They gradually lose the habit of migrating in winter.
  - B) They prefer rubbish dumps far away to those at home.
  - C) They are not attracted to the rubbish dumps on their migration routes.
  - D) They join the storks from Germany on rubbish dumps in Morocco.
55. What is scientists’ other concern about white storks feeding on landfills?
  - A) The potential harm to the ecosystem.
  - B) The genetic change in the stork species.

- C) The spread of epidemics to their homeland.
- D) The damaging effect on bio-diversity.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

明朝统治中国 276 年，被人们描绘成人类历史上治理有序、社会稳定的最伟大的时代之一。这一时期，手工业的发展促进了市场经济和城市化。大量商品，包括酒和丝绸，都在市场销售。同时，还进口许多外国商品，如时钟和烟草。北京、南京、扬州、苏州这样的大商业中心相继形成。也是在明代，由郑和率领的船队曾到印度洋进行了七次大规模探险航行。还值得一提的是，中国文学的四大经典名著中有三部写于明代。

### 9. 2017 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** Suppose you are asked to give advice on *whether to major in science or humanities at college*, write an essay to state your opinion. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：由于 2017 年 6 月六级考试全国共考了 two 套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

#### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

##### Section A

**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.

Let's all stop judging people who talk to themselves. New research says that those who can't seem to keep their inner *monologues*(独白) in are actually more likely to stay on task, remain (26) better and show improved perception capabilities. Not bad, really, for some extra muttering.

According to a series of experiments published in the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology* by professors Gary Lupyan and Daniel Swinley, the act of using verbal clues to (27) mental pictures helps people function quicker.

In one experiment, they showed pictures of various objects to twenty (28) and asked them to find just one of those, a banana. Half were (29) to repeat out loud what they were looking

for and the other half kept their lips (30) Those who talked to themselves found the banana slightly faster than those who didn't, the researchers say. In other experiments, Lupyan and Swignley found that (31) the name of a common product when on the hunt for it helped quicken someone's pace, but talking about uncommon items showed no advantage and slowed you down.

Common research has long held that talking themselves through a task helps children learn, although doing so when you've (32) matured is not a great sign of (33). The two professors hope to refute that idea, (34) that just as when kids walk themselves through a process, adults can benefit from using language not just to communicate, but also to help "augment thinking".

Of course, you are still encouraged to keep the talking at library tones and, whatever you do, keep the information you share simple, like a grocery list. At any (35), there's still such a thing as too much information.

|               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| A) apparently | F) focused    | K) spectators |
| B) arrogance  | G) incur      | L) trigger    |
| C) brilliance | H) instructed | M) uttering   |
| D) claiming   | I) obscurely  | N) volume     |
| E) dedicated  | J) sealed     | O) volunteers |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on *Answer Sheet 2*.

### Rich Children and Poor Ones Are Raised Very Differently

- [A]The lives of children from rich and poor American families look more different than ever before.
- [B]Well-off families are ruled by calendars, with children enrolled in ballet, soccer and after-school programs, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. There are usually two parents, who spend a lot of time reading to children and worrying about their anxiety levels and hectic schedules.
- [C]In poor families, meanwhile, children tend to spend their time at home or with extended family. They are more likely to grow up in neighborhoods that their parents say aren't great for raising children, and their parents worry about them getting shot, beaten up or in trouble with the law.
- [D]The class differences in child rearing are growing -- a symptom of widening inequality with far-reaching consequences. Different upbringings set children on different paths and can deepen socioeconomic divisions, especially because education is strongly linked to earnings. Children grow up learning the skills to succeed in their socioeconomic *stratum*(阶层), but not necessarily others.
- [E]"Early childhood experiences can be very consequential for children's long-term social, emotional and cognitive development," said Sean Reardon, professor of poverty and inequality in education at Stanford University. "And because those influence educational success and later earnings, early childhood experiences cast a lifelong shadow." The cycle continues: Poorer parents have less time and fewer resources to invest in their children, which can leave children less prepared for school and work, which leads to lower earnings.

- [F] American parents want similar things for their children, the Pew report and past research have found: for them to be healthy and happy, honest and ethical, caring and compassionate. There is no best parenting style or philosophy, researchers say, and across income groups, 92% of parents say they are doing a good job at raising their children. Yet they are doing it quite differently. Middle-class and higher-income parents see their children as projects in need of careful cultivation, says Annette Lareau, whose groundbreaking research on the topic was published in her book *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race and Family Life*. They try to develop their skills through close supervision and organized activities, and teach children to question authority figures and navigate elite institutions.
- [G] Working-class parents, meanwhile, believe their children will naturally thrive, and give them far greater independence and time for free play. They are taught to be compliant and respectful to adults. There are benefits to both approaches. Working-class children are happier, more independent, complain less and are closer to family members, Ms. Lareau found. Higher-income children are more likely to declare boredom and expect their parents to solve their problems. Yet later on, the more affluent children end up in college and on the way to the middle class, while working-class children tend to struggle. Children from higher-income families are likely to have the skills to navigate bureaucracies and succeed in schools and workplaces, Ms. Lareau said.
- [H] “Do all parents want the most success for their children? Absolutely,” she said. “Do some strategies give children more advantages than others in institutions? Probably they do. Will parents be damaging children if they have one fewer organized activity? No, I really doubt it.”
- [I] Social scientists say the differences arise in part because low-income parents have less money to spend on music class or preschool, and less flexible schedules to take children to museums or attend school events. Extracurricular activities reflect the differences in child rearing in the Pew survey, which was of a nationally representative sample of 1,807 parents. Of families earning more than \$75,000 a year, 84% say their children have participated in organized sports over the past year, 64% have done volunteer work and 62% have taken lessons in music, dance or art. Of families earning less than \$30,000, 59% of children have done sports, 37% have volunteered and 41% have taken arts classes.
- [J] Especially in affluent families, children start young. Nearly half of high-earning, college-graduate parents enrolled their children in arts classes before they were 5, compared with one-fifth of low-income, less-educated parents. Nonetheless, 20% of well-off parents say their children’s schedules are too hectic, compared with 8% of poorer parents.
- [K] Another example is reading aloud, which studies have shown gives children bigger vocabularies and better reading comprehension in school. 71% of parents with a college degree say they do it every day, compared with 33% of those with a high school diploma or less. White parents are more likely than others to read to their children daily, as are married parents. Most affluent parents enroll their children in preschool or day care, while low-income parents are more likely to depend on family members. Discipline techniques vary by education level: 8% of those with a postgraduate degree say they often beat their children, compared with 22% of those with a high school degree or less.
- [L] The survey also probed attitudes and anxieties. Interestingly, parents’ attitudes toward education do not seem to reflect their own educational background as much as a belief in the importance of education for upward mobility. Most American parents say they are not concerned about

their children's grades as long as they work hard. But 50% of poor parents say it is extremely important to them that their children earn a college degree, compared with 39% of wealthier parents.

[M] Less-educated parents, and poorer and black and Latino parents are more likely to believe that there is no such thing as too much involvement in a child's education. Parents who are white, wealthy or college-educated say too much involvement can be bad. Parental anxieties reflect their circumstances. High-earning parents are much more likely to say they live in a good neighborhood for raising children. While bullying is parents' greatest concern over all, nearly half of low-income parents worry their child will get shot, compared with one-fifth of high-income parents. They are more worried about their children being depressed or anxious.

[N] In the Pew survey, middle-class families earning between \$30,000 and \$75,000 a year fell right between working-class and high-earning parents on issues like the quality of their neighborhood for raising children, participation in extracurricular activities and involvement in their children's education.

[O] Children were not always raised so differently. The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is 30-40% larger among children born in 2001 than those born 25 years earlier, according to Mr. Reardon's research. People used to live near people of different income levels; neighborhoods are now more segregated by income. More than a quarter of children live in single-parent households -- a historic high, according to Pew -- and these children are three times as likely to live in poverty as those who live with married parents. Meanwhile, growing income inequality has coincided with the increasing importance of a college degree for earning a middle-class wage.

[P] Yet there are recent signs that the gap could be starting to shrink. In the past decade, even as income inequality has grown, some of the socioeconomic differences in parenting, like reading to children and going to libraries, have narrowed.

[Q] Public policies aimed at young children have helped, including public preschool programs and reading initiatives. Addressing differences in the earliest years, it seems, could reduce inequality in the next generation.

36. Working-class parents teach their children to be obedient and show respect to adults.
37. American parents, whether rich or poor, have similar expectations of their children despite different ways of parenting.
38. While rich parents are more concerned with their children's psychological well-being, poor parents are more worried about their children's safety.
39. The increasing differences in child rearing between rich and poor families reflect growing social inequality.
40. Parenting approaches of working-class and affluent families both have advantages.
41. Higher-income families and working-class families now tend to live in different neighborhoods.
42. Physical punishment is used much less by well-educated parents.
43. Ms. Lareau doesn't believe participating in fewer after-class activities will negatively affect children's development.
44. Wealthy parents are concerned about their children's mental health and busy schedules.
45. Some socioeconomic differences in child rearing have shrunk in the past ten years.



## Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Tennessee's technical and community colleges will not *outsource*(外包) management of their facilities to a private company, a decision one leader said was bolstered by an analysis of spending at each campus.

In an email sent Monday to college presidents in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, outgoing Chancellor John Morgan said an internal analysis showed that each campus' spending on facilities management fell well below the industry standards identified by the state. Morgan said those findings -- which included data from the system's 13 community colleges, 27 technical colleges and six universities -- were part of the decision not to move forward with Governor Bill Haslam's proposal to privatize management of state buildings in an effort to save money.

"While these numbers are still being validated by the state, we feel any adjustments they might suggest will be immaterial," Morgan wrote to the presidents. "System institutions are operating very efficiently based on this analysis, raising the question of the value of pursuing a broad scale outsourcing initiative."

Workers' advocates have criticized Haslam's plan, saying it would mean some campus workers would lose their jobs or benefits. Haslam has said colleges would be free to opt in or out of the outsourcing plan, which has not been finalized.

Morgan notified the Haslam administration of his decision to opt out in a letter sent last week. That letter, which includes several concerns Morgan has with the plan, was originally obtained by *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis.

In an email statement from the state's Office of Customer Focused Government, which is examining the possibility of outsourcing, spokeswoman Michelle R. Martin said officials were still working to analyze the data from the Board of Regents. Data on management expenses at the college system and in other state departments will be part of a "business justification" the state will use as officials deliberate the specifics of an outsourcing plan.

"The state's facilities management project team is still in the process of developing its business justification and expects to have that completed and available to the public at the end of February," Martin said. "At this time there is nothing to take action on since the analysis has yet to be completed."

Morgan's comments on outsourcing mark the second time this month that he has come out against one of Haslam's plans for higher education in Tennessee. Morgan said last week that he would retire at the end of January because of the governor's proposal to split off six universities of the Board of Regents system and create separate governing boards for each of them. In his resignation letter, Morgan called the reorganization "unworkable."

46. What do we learn about the decision of technical and community colleges in Tennessee?

- A) It is backed by a campus spending analysis.
- B) It has been flatly rejected by the governor.



- C) It has neglected their faculty's demands.  
D) It will improve their financial situation.
47. What does the campus spending analysis reveal?  
A) Private companies play a big role in campus management.  
B) Facilities management by colleges is more cost-effective.  
C) Facilities management has greatly improved in recent years.  
D) Colleges exercise full control over their own financial affairs.
48. Worker's supporters argue that Bill Haslam's proposal would \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) deprive colleges of the right to manage their facilities  
B) make workers less motivated in performing duties  
C) render a number of campus workers jobless  
D) lead to the privatization of campus facilities
49. What do we learn from the state spokeswoman's response to John Morgan's decision?  
A) The outsourcing plan is not yet finalized.  
B) The outsourcing plan will be implemented.  
C) The state officials are confident about the outsourcing plan.  
D) The college spending analysis justifies the outsourcing plan.
50. Why did John Morgan decide to resign?  
A) He had lost confidence in the Tennessee state government.  
B) He disagreed with the governor on higher education policies.  
C) He thought the state's outsourcing proposal was simply unworkable.  
D) He opposed the governor's plan to reconstruct the college board system.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Beginning in the late sixteenth century, it became fashionable for young aristocrats to visit Paris, Venice, Florence, and above all, Rome, as the *culmination* (终极) of their classical education. Thus was born the idea of the Grand Tour, a practice which introduced Englishmen, Germans, Scandinavians, and also Americans to the art and culture of France and Italy for the next 300 years. Travel was arduous and costly throughout the period, possible only for a privileged class -- the same that produced gentlemen scientists, authors, antique experts, and patrons of the arts.

The Grand Tourist was typically a young man with a thorough grounding in Greek and Latin literature as well as some leisure time, some means, and some interest in art. The German traveler Johann Winckelmann pioneered the field of art history with his comprehensive study of Greek and Roman sculpture; he was portrayed by his friend Anton Raphael Mengs at the beginning of his long residence in Rome. Most Grand Tourists, however, stayed for briefer periods and set out with less scholarly intentions, accompanied by a teacher or guardian, and expected to return home with souvenirs of their travels as well as an understanding of art and architecture formed by exposure to great masterpieces.

London was a frequent starting point for Grand Tourists, and Paris a compulsory destination; many traveled to the Netherlands, some to Switzerland and Germany, and a very few adventurers to Spain, Greece, or Turkey. The essential place to visit, however, was Italy. The British traveler Charles Thompson spoke for many Grand Tourists when in 1744 he described himself as "being impatiently desirous of viewing a country so famous in history, a country which once gave laws to

the world, and which is at present the greatest school of music and painting, contains the noblest productions of sculpture and architecture, and is filled with cabinets of rarities, and collections of all kinds of historical relics.” Within Italy, the great focus was Rome, whose ancient ruins and more recent achievements were shown to every Grand Tourist. Panini’s Ancient Rome and Modern Rome represent the sights most prized, including celebrated Greco-Roman statues and views of famous ruins, fountains, and churches. Since there were few museums anywhere in Europe before the close of the eighteenth century, Grand Tourists often saw paintings and sculptures by gaining admission to private collections, and many were eager to acquire examples of Greco-Roman and Italian art for their own collections. In England, where architecture was increasingly seen as an aristocratic pursuit, noblemen often applied what they learned from the villas of Palladio in the Veneto and the *evocative* (唤起回忆的) ruins of Rome to their own country houses and gardens.

51. What is said about the Grand Tour?
  - A) It was fashionable among young people of the time.
  - B) It was unaffordable for ordinary people.
  - C) It produced some famous European artists.
  - D) It made a compulsory part of college education.
52. What did Grand Tourists have in common?
  - A) They had much geographic knowledge.
  - B) They were courageous and venturesome.
  - C) They were versed in literature and interested in art.
  - D) They had enough travel and outdoor-life experience.
53. How did Grand Tourists benefit from their travel?
  - A) They found inspiration in the world’s greatest masterpieces.
  - B) They got a better understanding of early human civilization.
  - C) They developed an interest in the origin of modern art forms.
  - D) They gained some knowledge of classical art and architecture.
54. Why did many Grand Tourists visit the private collections?
  - A) They could buy unique souvenirs there to take back home.
  - B) Europe hardly had any museums before the 19th century.
  - C) They found the antiques there more valuable.
  - D) Private collections were of greater variety.
55. How did the Grand Tour influence the architecture in England?
  - A) There appeared more and more Roman-style buildings.
  - B) Many aristocrats began to move into Roman-style villas.
  - C) Aristocrats’ country houses all had Roman-style gardens.
  - D) Italian architects were hired to design houses and gardens.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

宋朝始于 960 年，一直延续到 1279 年。这一时期，中国经济大幅增长，成为世界上最先进的经济体，科学、技术、哲学和数学蓬勃发展。宋代中国是世界历史上首先发行纸币的国家。宋朝还最早使用火药并发明了活字 (movable-type) 印刷。人口增长迅速，越来越多

的人住进城市，那里有热闹的娱乐场所。社会生活多种多样。人们聚集在一起观看和交易珍贵艺术品。宋朝的政府体制在当时也是先进的。政府官员均通过竞争性考试选拔作用。

## 10. 2017 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 1 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay commenting on the saying “*Respect others, and you will be respected.*” You can cite examples to illustrate your views. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) They forbid businesses to produce more foods than needed.  
B) They facilitate the donation of unsold foods to the needy.  
C) They prohibit the sale of foods that have gone stale.  
D) They reward businesses that eliminate food waste.
2. A) It passed a law aiming to stop overproduction.  
B) It prohibited the promotion of bulk food sales.  
C) It voted against food import from outside Europe.  
D) It imposed penalties on businesses that waste food.
3. A) It has penalized businesses that keep overproducing foods.  
B) It has started a nationwide campaign against food waste.  
C) It has warned its people against possible food shortages.  
D) It has banned supermarkets from dumping edible foods.
4. A) Americans' habit of buying food in bulk.  
B) A lack of regulation on food consumption.  
C) The confusion over food expiration labels.  
D) The surplus resulting from overproduction.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) It specializes in the sale of ladies' designer dresses.  
B) It offers regular weekend sales all the year round.  
C) It has just launched its annual anniversary sales.

- D) It has started a week-long promotion campaign.
6. A) Price adjustments within seven days of purchase.  
B) Free delivery of purchases for senior customers.  
C) Coupons for customers with bulk purchases.  
D) Price reductions for its frequent customers.
7. A) Give her some coupons. C) Allow her to buy on credit.  
B) Credit it to her account. D) Mail a gift card to her.
8. A) Complimentary tailoring. C) Free installing of appliances.  
B) Prolonged goods warranty. D) Refunding for goods returned.

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) They represent people from virtually all walks of life.  
B) They have twenty-four different body shapes in total.  
C) They have more than twenty different hair textures.  
D) They are thin, tall, and unlike real human beings.
10. A) They do not reflect young girls' aspirations.  
B) They are not sold together with the original.  
C) Their body shapes have not changed much.  
D) Their flat feet do not appeal to adolescents.
11. A) In toy stores. C) In shopping malls.  
B) On the Internet. D) At Barbie shops.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) Metal type was imported from Korea.  
B) The earliest known book was published.  
C) Chinese printing technology was first introduced.  
D) Moveable metal type began to be used in printing.
13. A) It produced some 20 million volumes in total.  
B) It helped the German people become literate.  
C) It was the biggest printer in the 16th century.  
D) It had more than a hundred printing presses.
14. A) It boosted the circulation of popular works.  
B) It provided readers with more choices.  
C) It made writing a very profitable career.  
D) It pushed handwritten books out of circulation.
15. A) It accelerated the extinction of the Latin Language.  
B) It promoted the growth of national languages.  
C) It turned translation into a welcome professional.

- D) It standardized the publication of grammar books.

### Section C

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) They choose a job without thinking it through.  
B) They become stuck in the same job for decades.  
C) They spend an average of one year finding a job.  
D) They get bored after working for a period of time.
17. A) Decide which job is most attractive to you.  
B) See if there will be chances for promotion.  
C) Watch a film about ways of job hunting.  
D) Find out what job choices are available.
18. A) The pay you are going to get.  
B) The qualifications you have.  
C) The culture of your target company.  
D) The work environment you will be in.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) It is a religious festival celebrated by African-Americans.  
B) It is an ancient festival celebrated by African-Americans.  
C) It is a cultural festival founded for African-Americans.  
D) It is as important as Christmas for African-Americans.
20. A) To call on African-Americans to worship their gods.  
B) To urge African-Americans to do more for society.  
C) To remind African-Americans of their sufferings.  
D) To help African-Americans to realize their goals.
21. A) Faith in self-determination.  
B) The first fruits of the harvest.  
C) Creative work and achievement.  
D) Unity and cooperative economics.
22. A) They take a solemn oath.  
B) They drink wine from the unity cup.  
C) They recite a principle.  
D) They call out their ancestors' names.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. A) It consists mainly of various kinds of seafood.  
B) It began to impact the world in recent years.  
C) It contains large amounts of dairy products.  
D) It is one of the world's most healthy diets.
24. A) It is regarded as one of the greatest researches of its kind.  
B) It has drawn the attention of medical doctors the world over.  
C) It was conducted in seven Mid-Eastern countries in the 1950s.  
D) It involved 13,000 researchers from Asia, Europe and America.

25. A) They eat foods with little fat. C) They use little oil in cooking.  
B) They have lower mortality rates. D) They care much about their health.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Many European countries have been making the shift to electric vehicles and Germany has just stated that they plan to ban the sale of vehicles using gasoline and diesel as fuel by 2030. The country is also planning to reduce its carbon footprint by 80-95% by 2050, 26 a shift to green energy in the country. Effectively, the ban will include the registration of new cars in the country as they will not allow any gasoline 27 vehicle to be registered after 2030.

Part of the reason this ban is being discussed and 28 is because energy officials see that they will not reach their emissions goals by 2050 if they do not 29 a large portion of vehicle emissions. The country is still 30 that it will meet its emissions goals, like reducing emissions by 40% by 2020, but the 31 of electric cars in the country has not occurred as fast as expected.

Other efforts to increase the use of electric vehicles include plans to build over 1 million hybrid and electric car battery charging stations across the country. By 2030, Germany plans on having over 6 million charging stations 32. According to the *International Business Times*, electric car sales are expected to increase as Volkswagen is still recovering from its emissions scandal.

There are 33 around 155,000 registered hybrid and electric vehicles on German roads, dwarfed by the 45 million gasoline and diesel cars driving there now. As countries continue setting goals of reducing emissions, greater steps need to be taken to have a 34 effect on the surrounding environment. While the efforts are certainly not 35, the results of such bans will likely only start to be seen by generations down the line, bettering the world for the future.

|               |                 |                |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A) acceptance | F) futile       | K) noticeable  |
| B) currently  | G) hopeful      | L) powered     |
| C) disrupting | H) implemented  | M) restoration |
| D) eliminate  | I) incidentally | N) skeptical   |
| E) exhaust    | J) installed    | O) sparking    |

#### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

#### Apple's Stance Highlights a More Confrontational Tech Industry



- [A] The battle between Apple and law enforcement officials over unlocking a terrorist's smartphone is the culmination of a slow turning of the tables between the technology industry and the United States government.
- [B] After revelations by the former National Security Agency contractor Edward J. Snowden in 2013 that the government both *cozied up to* (讨好) certain tech companies and hacked into others to gain access to private data on an enormous scale, tech giants began to recognize the United States government as a hostile actor. But if the confrontation has crystallized in this latest battle, it may already be heading toward a predictable conclusion: In the long run, the tech companies are destined to emerge victorious.
- [C] It may not seem that way at the moment. On the one side, you have the United States government's mighty legal and security apparatus fighting for data of the most sympathetic sort: the secrets buried in a dead mass murderer's phone. The action stems from a federal court order issued on Tuesday requiring Apple to help the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to unlock an iPhone used by one of the two attackers who killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in December.
- [D] In the other corner is the world's most valuable company, whose chief executive, Timothy Cook, has said he will appeal the court's order. Apple argues that it is fighting to preserve a principle that most of us who are addicted to our smartphones can defend: Weaken a single iPhone so that its contents can be viewed by the American government and you risk weakening all iPhones for any government intruder, anywhere.
- [E] There will probably be months of legal tussling, and it is not at all clear which side will prevail in court, nor in the battle for public opinion and legislative favor. Yet underlying all of this is a simple dynamic: Apple, Google, Facebook and other companies hold most of the cards in this confrontation. They have our data, and their businesses depend on the global public's collective belief that they will do everything they can to protect that data.
- [F] Any crack in that front could be fatal for tech companies that must operate worldwide. If Apple is forced to open up an iPhone for an American law enforcement investigation, what is to prevent it from doing so for a request from the Russians or the Iranians? If Apple is forced to write code that lets the FBI get into the Phone 5c used by Syed Rizwan Farook, the male attacker in the San Bernardino attack, who would be responsible if some hacker got hold of that code and broke into its other devices?
- [G] Apple's stance on these issues emerged post-Snowden, when the company started putting in place a series of technologies that, by default, make use of *encryption* (加密) to limit access to people's data. More than that, Apple--and, in different ways, other tech companies, including Google, Facebook, Twitter and Microsoft--have made their opposition to the government's claims a point of corporate pride.
- [H] Apple's emerging global brand is privacy; it has staked its corporate reputation, not to mention the investment of considerable technical and financial resources, on limiting the sort of mass surveillance that was uncovered by Mr. Snowden. So now, for many cases involving governmental intrusions into data, once-lonely privacy advocates find themselves fighting alongside the most powerful company in the world.
- [I] "A comparison point is in the 1990s battles over encryption," said Kurt Opsahl, general counsel of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy watchdog group. "Then you had a few companies involved, but not one of the largest companies in the world coming out with a



lengthy and impassioned post, like we saw yesterday from Tim Cook. The profile has really been raised.”

- [J] Apple and other tech companies hold another ace: the technical means to keep making their devices more and more inaccessible. Note that Apple’s public opposition to the government’s request is itself a hindrance to mass government intrusion. And to get at the contents of a single iPhone, the government says it needs a court order and Apple’s help to write new code; in earlier versions of the iPhone, ones that were created before Apple *found religion on* (热衷于) privacy, the FBI may have been able to break into the device by itself.
- [K] You can expect that *noose*(束缚) to continue to tighten. Experts said that whether or not Apple loses this specific case, measures that it could put into place in the future will almost certainly be able to further limit the government’s reach.
- [L] That’s not to say that the outcome of the San Bernardino case is insignificant. As Apple and several security experts have argued, an order compelling Apple to write software that gives the FBI access to the iPhone in question would establish an unsettling precedent. The order essentially asks Apple to hack its own devices, and once it is in place, the precedent could be used to justify law enforcement efforts to get around encryption technologies in other investigations far removed from national security threats.
- [M] Once armed with a method for gaining access to iPhones, the government could ask to use it *proactively*(先发制人地), before a suspected terrorist attack--leaving Apple in a bind as to whether to comply or risk an attack and suffer a public-relations nightmare. “This is a brand-new move in the war against encryption,” Mr. Opsahl said. “We’ve had plenty of debates in Congress and the media over whether the government should have a backdoor, and this is an *end run*(迂回战术) around that--here they come with an order to create that backdoor.”
- [N] Yet it’s worth noting that even if Apple ultimately loses this case, it has plenty of technical means to close a backdoor over time. “If they’re anywhere near worth their salt as engineers, I bet they’re rethinking their threat model as we speak,” said Jonathan Zdziarski, a digital expert who studies the iPhone and its vulnerabilities.
- [O] One relatively simple fix, Mr. Zdziarski said, would be for Apple to modify future versions of the iPhone to require a user to enter a passcode before the phone will accept the sort of modified operating system that the FBI wants Apple to create. That way, Apple could not unilaterally introduce a code that weakens the iPhone--a user would have to consent to it.
- [P] “Nothing is 100 percent hacker-proof,” Mr. Zdziarski said, but he pointed out that the judge’s order in this case required Apple to provide “reasonable security assistance” to unlock Mr. Farook’s phone. If Apple alters the security model of future iPhones so that even its own engineers’ “reasonable assistance” will not be able to crack a given device when compelled by the government, a precedent set in this case might lose its lasting force. In other words, even if the FBI wins this case, in the long run, it loses.

- 36. It is a popular belief that tech companies are committed to protecting their customers’ private data.
- 37. The US government believes that its access to people’s iPhones could be used to prevent terrorist attacks.
- 38. A federal court asked Apple to help the FBI access data in a terrorist’s iPhone.
- 39. Privacy advocates now have Apple fighting alongside them against government access to

personal data.

40. Snowden revealed that the American government had tried hard to access private data in massive scale.
41. The FBI might have been able to access private data in earlier iPhones without Apple's help.
42. After the Snowden incident, Apple made clear its position to counter government intrusion into personal data by means of encryption.
43. According to one digital expert, no iPhone can be entirely free from hacking.
44. Timothy Cook's long web post has helped enhance Apple's image.
45. Apple's CEO has decided to appeal the federal court's order to unlock a user's iPhone.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

At the base of a mountain in Tanzania's Gregory Rift, Lake Natron burns bright red, surrounded by the remains of animals that were unfortunate enough to fall into the salty water. Bats, swallows and more are chemically preserved in the pose in which they perished, sealed in the deposits of sodium carbonate in the water. The lake's landscape is bizarre and deadly--and made even more so by the fact that it's the place where nearly 75percent of the world's *flamingos* (火烈鸟) are born.

The water is so corrosive that it can burn the skin and eyes of unadapted animals. Flamingos, however, are the only species that actually makes life in the midst of all that death. Once every three or four years, when conditions are right, the lake is covered with the pink birds as they stop flight to breed. Three-quarters of the world's flamingos fly over from other salt lakes in the Rift Valley and nest on salt-crystal islands that appear when the water is at a specific level--too high and the birds can't build their nests, too low and predators can move briskly across the lake bed and attack. When the water hits the right level, the baby birds are kept safe from predators by a corrosive ditch.

"Flamingos have evolved very leathery skin on their legs so they can tolerate the salt water," says David Harper, a professor at the University of Leicester. "Humans cannot, and would die if their legs were exposed for any length of time." So far this year, water levels have been too high for the flamingos to nest.

Some fish, too, have had limited success vacationing at the lake as less salty *lagoons* (泻湖) form on the outer edges from hot springs flowing into Lake Natron. Three species of *tilapia* (罗非鱼) thrive there part-time. "Fish have a refuge in the streams and can expand into the lagoons when the lake is low and the lagoons are separate," Harper said. "All the lagoons join when the lake is high and fish must retreat to their stream refuges or die." Otherwise, no fish are able to survive in the naturally toxic lake.

This unique ecosystem may soon be under pressure. The Tanzanian government has once again started mining the lake for soda ash, used for making chemicals, glass and detergents. Although the planned operation will be located more than 40 miles away, drawing the soda ash in

through pipelines, conservationists worry it could still upset the natural water cycle and breeding grounds. For now, though, life prevails – even in a lake that kills almost everything it touches.

46. What can we learn about Lake Natron?
- A) It is simply uninhabitable for most animals.
  - B) It remains little known to the outside world.
  - C) It is a breeding ground for a variety of birds.
  - D) It makes an ideal habitat for lots of predators.
47. Flamingos nest only when the lake water is at a specific level so that their babies can \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) find safe shelter more easily                      C) stay away from predators  
B) grow thick feathers on their feet                D) get accustomed to the salty water
48. Flamingos in the Rift Valley are unique in that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) they can move swiftly across lagoons  
B) they can survive well in salty water  
C) they breed naturally in corrosive ditches  
D) they know where and when to nest
49. Why can certain species of tilapia sometimes survive around Lake Natron?  
A) They can take refuge in the less salty waters.  
B) They can flee quick enough from predators.  
C) They can move freely from lagoon to lagoon.  
D) They can stand the heat of the spring water.
50. What may be the consequence of Tanzanian government's planned operation?  
A) The accelerated extinction of flamingos.  
B) The change of flamingos' migration route.  
C) The overmining of Lake Natron's soda ash.  
D) The disruption of Lake Natron's ecosystem.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

It is the season for some frantic last-minute math across the country, employees of all stripe are counting backward in an attempt to figure out just how much paid time-off they have left in their reserves. More of them, though, will skip those calculations altogether and just power through the holidays into 2017: More than half of American workers don't use up all of their allotted vacation days each year.

Not so long ago, people would have turned up their noses at that kind of dedication to the job. As marketing professors Silvia Bellezza, Neeru Paharia, and Anat Keinan recently explained in *Harvard Business Review (HBR)*, leisure time was once seen as an indicator of high social status, something attainable only for those at the top. Since the middle of the 20th century, though, things have turned the opposite way--these days, punishing hours at your desk, rather than days off, are seen as the mark of someone important.

In a series of several experiments, the researchers illustrated just how much we've come to admire busyness, or at least the appearance of it. Volunteers read two passages, one about a man who led a life of leisure and another about a man who was over-worked and over-scheduled; when asked to determine which of the two had a higher social status, the majority of the participants said

the latter. The same held true for people who used products that implied they were short on time: In one experiment, for example, customers of the grocery-delivery service Peapod were seen as of higher status than people who shopped at grocery stores that were equally expensive; in another, people wearing wireless headphones were considered further up on the social ladder than those wearing regular headphones, even when both were just used to listen to music.

In part, the authors wrote in *HBR*, this pattern may have to do with the way work itself has changed over the past several decades.

We think that the shift from leisure-as-status to busyness-as-status may be linked to the development of knowledge-intensive economies. In such economies, individuals who possess the human capital characteristics that employers or clients value (e.g., competence and ambition) are expected to be in high demand and short supply on the job market. Thus, by telling others that we are busy and working all the time, we are implicitly suggesting that we are sought after, which enhances our perceived status.

Even if you feel tempted to sacrifice your own vacation days for fake busyness, though, at least consider leaving your weekends unscheduled. It's for your own good.

51. What do most employees plan to do towards the end of the year?
  - A) Go for a vacation.
  - B) Keep on working.
  - C) Set an objective for next year.
  - D) Review the year's achievements.
52. How would people view dedication to work in the past?
  - A) They would regard it as a matter of course.
  - B) They would consider it a must for success.
  - C) They would look upon it with contempt.
  - D) They would deem it a trick of businessmen.
53. What did the researchers find through a series of experiments?
  - A) The busier one appears, the more respect one earns.
  - B) The more one works, the more one feels exploited.
  - C) The more knowledge one has, the more competent one will be.
  - D) The higher one's status, the more vacation time one will enjoy.
54. What may account for the change of people's attitude towards being busy?
  - A) The fast pace of life in modern society.
  - B) The fierce competition in the job market.
  - C) The widespread use of computer technology.
  - D) The role of knowledge in modern economy.
55. What does the author advise us to do at the end of the passage?
  - A) Schedule our time properly for efficiency.
  - B) Plan our weekends in a meaningful way.
  - C) Find time to relax however busy we are.
  - D) Avoid appearing busy when we are not.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

青海湖位于海拔 3205 米、青海省省会西宁以西约 100 公里处,是中国最大的咸水湖,

面积 4317 平方公里，最深处 25.5 米。有 23 条河注入湖中，其中大部分是季节性的。百分之八十的湖水源于五条主要河流。青海湖位于跨越亚洲的几条候鸟迁徙路线的交叉处。许多鸟类把青海湖作为迁徙过程中的暂息地。湖的西侧是著名的“鸟岛”，吸引着来自世界各地的观鸟者。每年夏天，游客们也来这里观看国际自行车比赛。

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 11. 2017 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay commenting on the saying “*Seek to understand others, and you will be understood.*” You can cite examples to illustrate your views. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) Say a few words to thank the speaker.      C) Give a lecture on the history of the town.  
B) Introduce the speaker to the audience.      D) Host a talk on how to give a good speech.
2. A) He was the founder of the local history society.  
B) He has worked with Miss Bligh for 20 years.  
C) He has published a book on public speaking.  
D) He joined the local history society when young.
3. A) She was obviously better at talking than writing.  
B) She had a good knowledge of the town's history.  
C) Her speech was so funny as to amuse the audience.  
D) Her ancestors came to the town in the 18th century.
4. A) He read exactly what was written in his notes.  
B) He kept forgetting what he was going to say.  
C) He made an embarrassing remark.  
D) He was too nervous to speak up.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) What their retailers demand.      C) How they are going to beat their rivals.  
B) What their rivals are doing.      D) How dramatically the market is changing.
6. A) They should be taken seriously.      C) Their business strategy is quite effective.  
B) They are rapidly catching up.      D) Their potential has been underestimated.
7. A) She had given it to Tom.      C) She had not seen it yet.  
B) It simply made her go frantic.      D) It was not much of a big concern.
8. A) Restructuring the whole company.      C) Promoting cooperation with Jayal Motors.  
B) Employing more forwarding agents.      D) Exporting their motorbikes to Indonesia.

#### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once.

*After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) It makes claims in conflict with the existing research.  
B) It focuses on the link between bedtime and nutrition.  
C) It cautions against the overuse of coffee and alcohol.  
D) It shows that “night owls” work much less efficiently.
10. A) They pay greater attention to food choice.  
B) They tend to achieve less than their peers.  
C) They run a higher risk of gaining weight.  
D) They stand a greater chance to fall sick.
11. A) Get up late. C) Exercise more.  
B) Sleep 8 hours a day. D) Go to bed earlier.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) All of the acting nominees are white. C) It is prejudiced against foreign films.  
B) It has got too much publicity on TV. D) Only 7% of the nominees are female.
13. A) Twenty-two percent of movie directors were people of color.  
B) Half of the TV programs were ethnically balanced.  
C) Only one-fifth of TV shows had black characters.  
D) Only 3.4 percent of film directors were women.
14. A) Non-white males.  
B) Program creators.  
C) Females of color over 40.  
D) Asian speaking characters.
15. A) They constitute 17% of Hollywood movie characters.  
B) They are most underrepresented across TV and film.  
C) They contribute little to the U. S. film industry.  
D) They account for 8.5% of the U. S. population

**Section C**

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) One that can provide for emergency needs.  
B) One that can pay for their medical expenses.  
C) One that covers their debts and burial expenses.  
D) One that ensures a healthy life for their later years.
17. A) Purchase insurance for their children. C) Buy a home with a small down payment.  
B) Save sufficient money for a rainy day. D) Add more insurance on the breadwinner.
18. A) When their children grow up and leave home.



- B) When they have saved enough for retirement.
- C) When their family move to a different place.
- D) When they have found better-paying jobs.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 19. A) They do more harm than good. C) They do not help build friendship.
- B) They have often been ignored. D) They may not always be negative.
- 20. A) Biased sources of information. C) Misinterpretation of Shakespeare.
- B) Ignorance of cultural differences. D) Tendency to jump to conclusions.
- 21. A) They are hard to dismiss once attached to a certain group.
- B) They may have a negative impact on people they apply to.
- C) They persist even when circumstances have changed.
- D) They are often applied to minorities and ethnic people.
- 22. A) They impact people more or less in the same way.
- B) Some people are more sensitive to them than others.
- C) A positive stereotype may help one achieve better results.
- D) A negative stereotype sticks while a positive one does not

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 23. A) Use some over-the-counter medicine instead.
- B) Quit taking the medicine immediately.
- C) Take some drug to relieve the side effect.
- D) Ask your pharmacist to explain why it occurs.
- 24. A) It may help patients fall asleep.
- B) It may lead to mental problems.
- C) It may cause serious harm to one's liver.
- D) It may increase the effect of certain drugs.
- 25. A) Tell their children to treat medicines with respect.
- B) Keep medicines out of the reach of their children.
- C) Make sure their children use quality medicines.
- D) Ask their children to use legitimate medicines.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

In the past 12 months, Nigeria has suffered from a shrinking economy, a sliding currency, and a prolonged fuel shortage. Now, Africa's largest economy is facing a food crisis as major tomato fields have been destroyed by an insect, leading to a nationwide shortage and escalating prices. The insect, Tutaabsoluta, has destroyed 80% of farms in Kaduna, Nigeria's largest tomato-

producing state, leading the government there to declare a state of 26. The insect, also known as the tomato leaf miner, devastates crops by 27 on fruits and digging into and moving through stalks. It 28 incredibly quickly, breeding up to 12 generations per year if conditions are favorable. It is believed to have 29 in South America in the early 1900s, and later spread to Europe before crossing over to sub-Saharan Africa.

In Nigeria, where tomatoes are a staple of local diets, the insect's effects are devastating. Retail prices for a 30 of tomatoes at local markets have risen from \$0.50 to \$2.50. Farmers are reporting steep losses and a new \$20 million tomato-paste factory has 31 production due to the shortages.

Given the moth's ability also to attack crops like pepper and potatoes, AuduOgbeh, Nigeria's minister of agriculture, has warned that the pest may "create serious problems for food 32" in the country. Ogbeh says experts are investigating how to control the pest's damage and prevent its spread, which has gone largely 33 until now.

Despite being the continent's second-largest producer of tomatoes, Nigeria is 34 on \$1 billion worth of tomato-paste imports every year, as around 75% of the local harvest goes to waste thanks to a lack of proper storage facilities. A further 35 in local supplies is yet another unwelcome setback to the industry.

|             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| A)dependent | F)halted     | K)reproduces |
| B)embarking | G)handful    | L)security   |
| C)emergency | H)multitude  | M)terror     |
| D)feeding   | I)originated | N)unchecked  |
| E)grazes    | J)reduction  | O)untouched  |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Who's Really Addicting You to Technology?

- [A] "Nearly everyone I know is addicted in some measure to the Internet," wrote Tony Schwartz in *The New York Times*. It's a common complaint these days. A steady stream of similar headlines accuse the Net and its offspring apps, social media sites and online games of addicting us to distraction.
- [B] There's little doubt that nearly everyone who comes in contact with the Net has difficulty disconnecting. Many of us, like Schwartz, struggle to stay focused on tasks that require more concentration than it takes to post a status update. As one person ironically put it in the comments section of Schwartz's online article, "As I was reading this very excellent article, I stopped at least half a dozen times to check my email."
- [C] There's something different about this technology: it is both invasive and persuasive. But who's at fault for its overuse? To find solutions, it's important to understand what we're dealing with. There are four parties conspiring to keep you connected: the tech, the boss, your friends, and you.

- [D] The technologies themselves, and their makers, are the easiest suspects to blame for our diminishing attention spans. Nicholas Carr, author of *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains*, wrote, “The net is designed to be an interruption system, a machine geared to dividing attention.”
- [E] Online services like Facebook, Twitter and the like, are called out as masters of manipulation-making products so good that people can’t stop using them. After studying these products for several years, I wrote a book about how they do it. I learned it all starts with the business model. Since these services rely on advertising revenue, the more frequently you use them, the more money they make. It’s no wonder these companies employ teams of people focused on engineering their services to be as engaging as possible. These products aren’t habit-forming by chance; it’s by design. They have an incentive to keep us hooked.
- [F] However, as good as these services are, there are simple steps we can take to keep them at bay. For example, we can change how often we receive the distracting notifications that trigger our urge to check. According to Adam Marchick, CEO of mobile marketing company Kahuna, less than 15 percent of smartphone users ever bother to adjust their notification settings--meaning the remaining 85 percent of us default to the app makers’ every preset trigger. Google and Apple have made it far too difficult to adjust these settings so it’s up to us to take steps to ensure we set these triggers to suit our own needs, not the needs of the app makers’.
- [G] While companies like Facebook harvest attention to generate revenue from advertisers, other technologies have no such agenda. Take email, for example. This system couldn’t care less how often you use it. Yet to many, email is the most habit-forming medium of all. We check email at all hours of the day--we’re obsessed. But why? Because that’s what the boss wants. For almost all white-collar jobs, email is the primary tool of corporate communication. A slow response to a message could hurt not only your reputation but also your livelihood.
- [H] Your friends are also responsible for the addiction. Think about this familiar scene. People gathered around a table, enjoying food and each other’s company. There’s laughter and a bit of kidding. Then, during an interval in the conversation, someone takes out their phone to check who knows what. Barely anyone notices and no one says a thing.
- [I] Now, imagine the same dinner, but instead of checking their phone, the person *belches*(打嗝)--loudly. Everyone notices. Unless the meal takes place in a beer house, this is considered bad manners. The impolite act violates the basic rules of etiquette. One has to wonder: why don’t we apply the same social norms to checking phones during meals, meetings and conversations as we do to other antisocial behaviors? Somehow, we accept it and say nothing when someone offends.
- [J] The reality is, taking one’s phone out at the wrong time is worse than belching because, unlike other minor offense, checking tech is contagious. Once one person looks at their phone, other people feel compelled to do the same, starting a chain reaction. The more people are on their phones, the fewer people are talking until finally you’re the only one left not reading email or checking Twitter. From a societal perspective, phone checking is less like belching in public and more like another bad habit. Our phones are like cigarettes--something to do when we’re anxious, bored or when our fingers need something to toy with. Seeing others enjoy a smoke, or sneak a quick glance, is too tempting to resist and soon everyone is doing it.
- [K] The technology, your boss, and your friends, all influence how often you find yourself using (or overusing) these gadgets. But there’s still someone who deserves scrutiny – the person

holding the phone.

- [L] I have a confession. Even though I study habit-forming technology for a living, disconnecting is not easy for me. I'm online far more than I'd like. Like Schwartz and so many others, I often find myself distracted and off task. I wanted to know why so I began self-monitoring to try to understand my behavior. That's when I discovered an uncomfortable truth. I use technology as an escape. When I'm doing something I'd rather not do, or when I'm someplace I'd rather not be, I use my phone to port myself elsewhere. I found that this ability to instantly shift my attention was often a good thing, like when passing time on public transportation. But frequently my tech use was not so benign. When I faced difficult work, like thinking through an article idea or editing the same draft for the hundredth time, for example, a more sinister screen would draw me in. I could easily escape discomfort, temporarily, by answering email or browsing the web under the pretense of so-called "research." Though I desperately wanted to lay blame elsewhere, I finally had to admit that my bad habits had less to do with new-age technology and more to do with old-fashioned *procrastination* (拖延).
- [M] It's easy to blame technology for being so distracting, but distraction is nothing new. Aristotle and Socrates debated the nature of "akrasia"--our tendency to do things against our interests. If we're honest with ourselves, tech is just another way to occupy our time and minds. If we weren't on our devices, we'd likely do something similarly unproductive.
- [N] Personal technology is indeed more engaging than ever, and there's no doubt companies are engineering their products and services to be more compelling and attractive. But would we want it any other way? The intended result of making something better is that people use it more. That's not necessarily a problem, that's progress.
- [O] These improvements don't mean we shouldn't attempt to control our use of technology. In order to make sure it doesn't control us, we should come to terms with the fact that it's more than the technology itself that's responsible for our habits. Our workplace culture, social norms and individual behaviors all play a part. To put technology in its place, we must be conscious not only of how technology is changing, but also of how it is changing us.
36. Online services are so designed that the more they are used, the more profit they generate.
37. The author admits using technology as an escape from the task at hand.
38. Checking phones at dinners is now accepted as normal but not belching.
39. To make proper use of technology, we should not only increase our awareness of how it is changing but also how it is impacting us.
40. Most of us find it hard to focus on our immediate tasks because of Internet distractions.
41. When one person starts checking their phone, the others will follow suit.
42. The great majority of smartphone users don't take the trouble to adjust their settings to suit their own purposes.
43. The Internet is regarded by some as designed to distract our attention.
44. The author attributes his tech addiction chiefly to his habit of putting off doing what he should do right away.
45. White-collar workers check email round the clock because it is required by their employers.

## Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or

unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

### Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

You may have heard that Coca-Cola once contained an ingredient capable of sparking particular devotion in consumers: cocaine. The “coca” in the name referred to the extracts of coca leaf that the drink’s originator, chemist John Pemberton, mixed with his sugary *syrup* (浆汁). At the time, coca leaf extract mixed with wine was a common *tonic* (滋补品), and Pemberton’s sweet brew was a way to get around local laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol. But the other half of the name represents another ingredient, less *infamous* (名声不好的), perhaps, but also strangely potent: the kola nut.

In West Africa, people have long chewed kola nuts as stimulants, because they contain caffeine that also occurs naturally in tea, coffee, and chocolate. They also have heart stimulants.

Historian Paul Lovejoy relates that the cultivation of kola nuts in West Africa is hundreds of years old. The leafy, spreading trees were planted on graves and as part of traditional rituals. Even though the nuts, which need to stay moist, can be somewhat delicate to transport, traders carried them hundreds of miles throughout the forests and grasslands.

Europeans did not know of them until the 1500s, when Portuguese ships arrived on the coast of what is now Sierra Leone. And while the Portuguese took part in the trade, ferrying nuts down the coast along with other goods, by 1620, when English explorer Richard Jobson made his way up the Gambia, the nuts were still peculiar to his eyes.

By the late 19th century, kola nuts were being shipped by the tonne to Europe and the US. Many made their way into medicines, a French product consisting of coca extract mixed with red wine. It was created by a French chemist, Angelo Mariani, in 1863. So when Pemberton created his drink, it represented an ongoing trend. When cocaine eventually fell from grace as a beverage ingredient, kola-extract colas became popular.

The first year it was available, Coca-Cola averaged nine servings a day across all the Atlanta soda fountains where it was sold. As it grew more popular, the company sold rights to bottle the soda, so it could travel easily. Today about 1.9 billion Cokes are purchased daily. It’s become so iconic that attempts to change its taste in 1985--sweetening it in a move projected to boost sales--proved disastrous, with widespread anger from consumers. “Coca-Cola Classic” returned to store shelves just three months after the “New Coke” was released.

These days, the Coca-Cola recipe is a closely guarded secret. But it’s said to no longer contain kola nut extract, relying instead on artificial imitations to achieve the flavor.

46. What do we learn about chemist John Pemberton?

- A) He used a strangely potent ingredient in a food supplement.
- B) He created a drink containing alcohol without breaking law.
- C) He became notorious because of the coca drink he developed.
- D) He risked breaking local law to make a drink with coca leaves.

47. What does the passage say about kola nuts?

- A) Their commercial value was first discovered by Portuguese settlers.
- B) They contain some kind of energy boost not found in any other food.

- C) Many were shipped to Europe in the late 19th century for medicinal use.  
D) They were strange to the Europeans when first imported from West Africa.
48. How come kola-extract colas became popular?  
A) Cocaine had become notorious. C) Fountains were set up to sell them.  
B) Alcoholic drinks were prohibited. D) Rights were sold to bottle the soda.
49. What is known about the taste of Coca-Cola?  
A) It was so designed as to create addiction in consumers.  
B) It still relies on traditional kola nut extract.  
C) It has become more popular among the old.  
D) It has remained virtually unchanged since its creation.
50. What is the passage mainly about?  
A) The evolution of Coca-Cola. C) The medicinal value of Coca-Cola.  
B) The success story of Coca-Cola. D) The business strategy of Coca-Cola.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Twenty years ago, the Urban Land Institute defined the two types of cities that dominated the US landscape: smaller cities that operated around standard 9-5 business hours and large metropolitan areas that ran all 24 hours of the day. Analyzing and comparing cities using the lens of this basic divide gives interesting context to how investment capital flows and housing prices have shifted.

In recent years, many mid-sized cities have begun to adopt a middle-of-the-road approach incorporating the excitement and opportunity of large cities with small cities' quiet after midnight. These 18-hour cities are beginning to make waves in real estate rankings and attract more real estate investment. What is underlying this new movement in real estate, and why do these cities have so much appeal?

18-hour cities combine the best of 24-hour and 9-5 cities, which contributes to downtown revitalization. For decades, many downtown cores in small to mid-sized cities were abandoned after work hours by workers who lived in the suburbs. Movement out of city centers was widespread, and downtown tenants were predominantly made up of the working poor. This generated little commerce for downtown businesses in the evenings, which made business and generating tax revenue for municipal upkeep difficult. With the rise of a new concept in urban planning that aims to make life easier and more convenient, however, increasing popularity for urban areas that caused the real estate pushes, in major cities like San Francisco or New York, has inspired a type of forward thinking urbanity and policy in smaller cities.

Transforming downtown areas so that they incorporate modern housing and improved walkability to local restaurants, retail, and entertainment--especially when combined with improved infrastructure for cyclists and public transit--makes them appeal to a more affluent demographic. These adjustments encourage employers in the knowledge and talent industries to keep their offices downtown. Access to foot traffic and proximity to transit allow the type of entertainment-oriented businesses such as bars and restaurants to stay open later, which attracts both younger, creative workers and baby boomers nearing retirement alike. Because of their smaller size, most keep hours that allow people to enjoy themselves, then have some quiet after midnight, as opposed to large major cities like New York, where the buzz of activity is ongoing.



These 18-hour cities are rapidly on the rise and offer great opportunities for homeowner investment. In many of these cities such as Denver, a diverse and vigorous economy attracted to the urban core has offered stable employment for residents. The right urban mix has propped up home occupancy, increased property values, and attracted significant investment capital.

51. What do we learn about American cities twenty years ago?
  - A) They were divided into residential and business areas.
  - B) Their housing prices were linked with their prosperity.
  - C) There was a clear divide between large and small cities.
  - D) They were places where large investment capital flowed.
52. What can be inferred from the passage about 18-hour cities?
  - A) They especially appeal to small businesses.
  - B) They have seen a rise in property prices.
  - C) They have replaced quiet with excitement.
  - D) They have changed America's landscape.
53. Years ago, many downtown cores in small to mid-sized cities
  - A) had hardly any business activity
  - B) were crowded in business hours.
  - C) exhibited no signs of prosperity.
  - D) looked deserted in the evenings.
54. What characterizes the new downtown areas in 18-hour cities?
  - A) A sudden emergence of the knowledge industry.
  - B) Flooding in of large crowds of migrant workers
  - C) Modernized housing and improved infrastructure.
  - D) More comfortable life and greater upward mobility.
55. What have 18-hour cities brought to the local residents?
  - A) More chances for promotion.
  - B) Healthier living environment.
  - C) Greater cultural diversity.
  - D) Better job opportunities.

#### Part IV Translation (30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

洞庭湖位于湖南省东北部，面积很大，但湖水很浅。洞庭湖是长江的蓄洪地，湖的大小很大程度上取决于季节变化。湖北和湖南两省因其与湖的相对位置而得名：湖北意为“湖的北边”，而湖南则为“湖的南边”。洞庭湖作为龙舟赛的发源地，在中国文化中享有盛名。据说龙舟赛始于洞庭湖东岸，为的是搜寻楚国爱国诗人屈原的遗体。龙舟赛与洞庭湖及周围的美景，每年都吸引着成千上万来自全国和世界各地的游客。

## 12. 2017 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

#### Part I Writing (30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay commenting on the saying “**Help others, and you will be helped when you are in need.**” You can cite examples to illustrate your views. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.



## Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：由于 2017 年 12 月六级考试全国共考了两套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

## Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

### Section A

**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.

The Pacific island nation of Palau has become home to the sixth largest marine sanctuary in the world. The new marine reserve, now the largest in the Pacific, will 26 no fishing or mining. Palau also established the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009.

The tiny island nation has set aside 500,000 square kilometres--80 percent--of its maritime 27, for full protection. That's the highest percentage of an 28 economic zone devoted to marine conservation by any country in the world. The remaining 20 percent of the Palau seas will be reserved for local fishing by individuals and small-scale 29 fishing businesses with limited exports.

"Island 30 have been among the hardest hit by the threats facing the ocean," said President Tommy Remengesau Jr. in a statement. "Creating this sanctuary is a bold move that the people of Palau recognize as 31 to our survival. We want to lead the way in restoring the health of the ocean for future generations."

Palau has only been an 32 nation for twenty years and has a strong history of environmental protection. It is home to one of the world's finest marine ecosystems, with more than 1,300 species of fish and 700 species of coral.

Senator Hokkons Baules, lead 33 of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary Act, said the sanctuary will "help build a 34 future for the Palauan people by honoring the conservation traditions of our past". These include the centuries-old custom of "bul", where leaders would call a temporary stop to fishing for key species in order to give fish 35 an opportunity to *replenish* (补充).

- |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| A)allocate    | F) exclusive  | K)solitary  |
| B)celebrities | G)independent | L)spectacle |
| C)commercial  | H)indulge     | M)sponsor   |
| D)communities | I)permit      | N)stocks    |
| E)essential   | J)secure      | O)territory |

### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once.

Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

**Data sharing: An open mind on open data**

- [A] It is a movement building steady momentum: a call to make research data, software code and experimental methods publicly available and transparent. A spirit of openness is gaining acceptance in the science community, and is the only way, say advocates, to address a ‘crisis’ in science whereby too few findings are successfully reproduced. Furthermore, they say, it is the best way for researchers to gather the range of observations that are necessary to speed up discoveries or to identify large-scale trends.
- [B] The open-data shift poses a confusing problem for junior researchers. On the one hand, the drive to share is gathering official steam. Since 2013, global scientific bodies have begun to back policies that support increased public access to research. On the other hand, scientists disagree about how much and when they should share data, and they debate whether sharing it is more likely to accelerate science and make it more robust, or to introduce vulnerabilities and problems. As more journals and funders adopt data-sharing requirements, and as a growing number of enthusiasts call for more openness, junior researchers must find their place between adopters and those who continue to hold out, even as they strive to launch their own careers.
- [C] One key challenge facing young scientists is how to be open without becoming scientifically vulnerable. They must determine the risk of jeopardizing a job offer or a collaboration proposal from those who are wary of--or unfamiliar with--open science. And they must learn how to capitalize on the movement’s benefits, such as opportunities for more citations and a way to build a reputation without the need for conventional metrics, such as publication in high-impact journals.
- [D] Some fields have embraced open data more than others. Researchers in psychology, a field rocked by findings of irreproducibility in the past few years, have been especially vocal supporters of the drive for more-open science. A few psychology journals have created incentives to increase interest in reproducible science--for example, by affixing an ‘open-data’ badge to articles that clearly state where data are available. According to social psychologist Brian Nosek, executive director of the Center for Open Science, the average data-sharing rate for the journal *Psychological Science*, which uses the badges, increased tenfold to 38% from 2013 to 2015.
- [E] Funders, too, are increasingly adopting an open-data policy. Several strongly encourage, and some require, a data-management plan that makes data available. The US National Science Foundation is among these. Some *philanthropic* (慈善的) funders, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, Washington, and the Wellcome Trust in London, also mandate open data from their grant recipients.
- [F] But many young researchers, especially those who have not been mentored in open science, are uncertain about whether to share or to stay private. Graduate students and postdocs, who often are working on their lab head’s grant, may have no choice if their supervisor or another senior colleague opposes sharing.
- [G] Some fear that the potential impact of sharing is too high, especially at the early stages of a career. “Everybody has a scary story about someone *getting scooped* (被抢先),” says New York University astronomer David Hogg. Those fears may be a factor in a lingering hesitation to share data even when publishing in journals that mandate it.

- [H] Researchers at small labs or at institutions focused on teaching arguably have the most to lose when sharing hard-won data. “With my institution and teaching load, I don’t have postdocs and grad students,” says Terry McGlynn, a tropical biologist at California State University, Dominguez Hills. “The stakes are higher for me to share data because it’s a bigger fraction of what’s happening in my lab.”
- [I] Researchers also point to the time sink that is involved in preparing data for others to view. Once the data and associated materials appear in a *repository*(存储库), answering questions and handling complaints can take many hours.
- [J] The time investment can present other problems. In some cases, says data scientist Karthik Ram, it may be difficult for junior researchers to embrace openness when senior colleagues--many of whom head selection and promotion committees--might ridicule what they may view as misplaced energies. “I’ve heard this recently--that embracing the idea of open data and code makes traditional academics uncomfortable,” says Ram. “The concern seems to be that open advocates don’t spend their time being as productive as possible.”
- [K] An open-science stance can also add complexity to a collaboration. Kate Ratliff, who studies social attitudes at the University of Florida, Gainesville, says that it can seem as if there are two camps in a field--those who care about open science and those who don’t. “There’s a new area to navigate--‘Are you cool with the fact that I’ll want to make the data open?’--when talking with somebody about an interesting research idea,” she says.
- [L] Despite complications and concerns, the upsides of sharing can be significant. For example, when information is uploaded to a repository, a digital object identifier (DOI) is assigned. Scientists can use a DOI to publish each step of the research life cycle, not just the final paper. In so doing, they can potentially get three citations--one each for the data and software, in addition to the paper itself. And although some say that citations for software or data have little currency in academia, they can have other benefits.
- [M] Many advocates think that transparent data procedures with a date and time stamp will protect scientists from being scooped. “This is the sweet spot between sharing and getting credit for it, while discouraging *plagiarism* (剽窃),” says Ivo Grigorov, a project coordinator at the National Institute of Aquatic Resources Research Secretariat in Charlottenlund, Denmark. Hogg says that scooping is less of a problem than many think. “The two cases I’m familiar with didn’t involve open data or code,” he says.
- [N] Open science also offers junior researchers the chance to level the playing field by gaining better access to crucial data. Ross Mounce, a postdoc studying evolutionary biology at the University of Cambridge, UK, is a vocal champion of open science, partly because his fossil-based research depends on access to others’ data. He says that more openness in science could help to discourage what some perceive as a common practice of shutting out early-career scientists’ requests for data.
- [O] Communication also helps for those who worry about jeopardizing collaboration, he says. Concerns about open science should be discussed at the outset of a study. “Whenever you start a project with someone, you have to establish a clear understanding of expectations for who owns the data, at what point they go public and who can do what with them,” he says.
- [P] In the end, sharing data, software and materials with colleagues can help an early-career researcher to gain recognition--a crucial component of success. “The thing you are searching for is reputation,” says Titus Brown, a *genomics* (基因组学) researcher at the University of

California, Davis. “To get grants and jobs, you have to be relevant and achieve some level of public recognition. Anything you do that advances your presence--especially in a larger sphere, outside the communities you know--is a net win.”

36. Astronomer David Hogg doesn't think scooping is as serious a problem as generally thought.
37. Some researchers are hesitant to make their data public for fear that others might publish something similar before them.
38. Some psychology journals have offered incentives to encourage authors to share their data.
39. There is a growing demand in the science community that research data be open to the public.
40. Sharing data offers early-career researchers the chance to build a certain level of reputation.
41. Data sharing enables scientists to publish each step of their research work, thus leading to more citations.
42. Scientists hold different opinions about the extent and timing of data sharing.
43. Potential problems related to data sharing should be made known to and discussed by all participants at the beginning of a joint research project.
44. Sharing data and handling data-related issues can be time-consuming.
45. Junior researchers may have no say when it comes to sharing data.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

In the beginning of the movie *I, Robot*, a robot has to decide whom to save after two cars plunge into the water--Del Spooner or a child. Even though Spooner screams “Save her! Save her!” the robot rescues him because it calculates that he has a 45 percent chance of survival compared to Sarah's 11 percent. The robot's decision and its calculated approach raise an important question: would humans make the same choice? And which choice would we want our robotic counterparts to make?

Isaac Asimov evaded the whole notion of morality in devising his three laws of robotics, which hold that 1. Robots cannot harm humans or allow humans to come to harm; 2. Robots must obey humans, except where the order would conflict with law 1; and 3. Robots must act in self-preservation, unless doing so conflicts with laws 1 or 2. These laws are programmed into Asimov's robots--they don't have to think, judge, or value. They don't have to like humans or believe that hurting them is wrong or bad. They simply don't do it.

The robot who rescues Spooner's life in *I, Robot* follows Asimov's zero<sup>th</sup> law: robots cannot harm humanity (as opposed to individual humans) or allow humanity to come to harm--an expansion of the first law that allows robots to determine what's in the greater good. Under the first law, a robot could not harm a dangerous gunman, but under the zero<sup>th</sup> law, a robot could kill the gunman to save others.

Whether it's possible to program a robot with safeguards such as Asimov's laws is debatable. A word such as “harm” is vague (what about emotional harm? Is replacing a human employee

harm?), and abstract concepts present coding problems. The robots in Asimov's fiction expose complications and loopholes in the three laws, and even when the laws work, robots still have to assess situations.

Assessing situations can be complicated. A robot has to identify the players, conditions, and possible outcomes for various scenarios. It's doubtful that a computer program can do that--at least, not without some undesirable results. A roboticist at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory programmed a robot to save human *proxies* (替身) called "H-bots" from danger. When one H-bot headed for danger, the robot successfully pushed it out of the way. But when two H-bots became imperiled, the robot choked 42 percent of the time, unable to decide which to save and letting them both "die." The experiment highlights the importance of morality: without it, how can a robot decide whom to save or what's best for humanity, especially if it can't calculate survival odds?

46. What question does the example in the movie raise?
  - A) Whether robots can reach better decisions.
  - B) Whether robots follow Asimov's zero<sup>th</sup> law.
  - C) How robots may make bad judgments.
  - D) How robots should be programmed.
47. What does the author think of Asimov's three laws of robotics?
  - A) They are apparently divorced from reality.
  - B) They did not follow the coding system of robotics.
  - C) They laid a solid foundation for robotics.
  - D) They did not take moral issues into consideration.
48. What does the author say about Asimov's robots?
  - A) They know what is good or bad for human beings.
  - B) They are programmed not to hurt human beings.
  - C) They perform duties in their owners' best interest.
  - D) They stop working when a moral issue is involved.
49. What does the author want to say by mentioning the word "harm" in Asimov's laws?
  - A) Abstract concepts are hard to program.
  - B) It is hard for robots to make decisions.
  - C) Robots may do harm in certain situations.
  - D) Asimov's laws use too many vague terms.
50. What has the roboticist at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory found in his experiment?
  - A) Robots can be made as intelligent as human beings some day.
  - B) Robots can have moral issues encoded into their programs.
  - C) Robots can have trouble making decisions in complex scenarios.
  - D) Robots can be programmed to perceive potential perils.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Our world now moves so fast that we seldom stop to see just how far we have come in just a few years. The latest iPhone 6s, for example, has a dual-core processor and fits nicely into your pocket. By comparison, you would expect to find a technological specification like this on your standard laptop in an office anywhere in the world.

It's no wonder that new applications for the Internet of Things are moving ahead fast when almost every new device we buy has a plug on the end of it or a wireless connection to the internet. Soon, our current smartphone lifestyle will expand to create our own smart home lifestyle too.

All researches agree that close to 25 billion devices, things and sensors will be connected by 2020 which incidentally is also the moment that *Millennials* (千禧一代) are expected to make up 75 percent of our overall workforce, and the fully connected home will become a reality for large numbers of people worldwide.

However, this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg as smart buildings and even cities increasingly become the norm as leaders and business owners begin to wake up to the massive savings that technology can deliver through connected sensors and new forms of automation coupled with intelligent energy and facilities management.

Online security cameras, intelligent lighting and a wealth of sensors that control both temperature and air quality are offering an unprecedented level of control, efficiency, and improvements to what were once classed necessary costs when running a business or managing a large building.

We can expect that the ever-growing list of devices, systems and environments remain connected, always online and talking to each other. The big benefit will not only be in the housing of this enormous and rapidly growing amount of data, but will also be in the ability to run real time data analytics to extract actionable and ongoing knowledge.

The biggest and most exciting challenge of this technology is how to creatively leverage this ever-growing amount of data to deliver cost savings, improvements and tangible benefits to both businesses and citizens of these smart cities.

The good news is that most of this technology is already invented. Let's face it, it wasn't too long ago that the idea of working from anywhere and at anytime was some form of a distant *utopian* (乌托邦式的) dream, and yet now we can perform almost any office-based task from any location in the world as long as we have access to the internet.

It's time to wake up to the fact that making smart buildings, cities and homes will dramatically improve our quality of life in the years ahead.

51. What does the example of iPhone 6s serve to show?
  - A) The huge capacity of the smartphones people now use.
  - B) The widespread use of smartphones all over the world.
  - C) The huge impact of new technology on people's everyday life.
  - D) The rapid technological progress in a very short period of time.
52. What can we expect to see by the year 2020?
  - A) Apps for the Internet of Things.
  - B) The popularization of smart homes.
  - C) The emergence of Millennials.
  - D) Total globalization of the world.
53. What will business owners do when they become aware of the benefits of the Internet of Things?
  - A) Employ fewer workers in their operations.
  - B) Gain automatic control of their businesses.
  - C) Invest in more smart buildings and cities.
  - D) Embrace whatever new technology there is.
54. What is the most exciting challenge when we possess more and more data?
  - A) How to turn it to profitable use.
  - C) How to link the actionable systems.



- B) How to do real time data analysis. D) How to devise new ways to store it.
55. What does the author think about working from anywhere and at anytime?
- A) It is feasible with a connection to the internet.  
B) It will thrive in smart buildings, cities and homes.  
C) It is still a distant utopian dream for ordinary workers.  
D) It will deliver tangible benefits to both boss and worker.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

太湖是中国东部的一个淡水湖，占地面积 2250 平方公里，是中国第三大淡水湖，仅次于鄱阳和洞庭。太湖约有 90 个岛屿，大小从几平方米到几平方公里不等。太湖以其独特的“太湖石”而闻名，太湖石常用于装饰中国传统园林。太湖也以高产的捕鱼业闻名。自上世纪 70 年代后期以来，捕捞鱼蟹对沿湖的居民来说极为重要，并对周边地区的经济作出了重大贡献。太湖地区是中国陶瓷（ceramics）业基地之一，其中宜兴的陶瓷厂家生产举世闻名的宜兴紫砂壶（clay teapot）。

### 13. 2018 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题（第 1 套）

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of building trust between business and consumers*. You can cite examples to illustrate your views. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

##### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on *Answer*



*Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A) It is a typical salad.              | C) It is a weird vegetable.             |
| B) It is a Spanish soup.                  | D) It is a kind of spicy food.          |
| 2. A) To make it thicker.                 | C) To add to its appeal.                |
| B) To make it more nutritious.            | D) To replace an ingredient.            |
| 3. A) It contains very little fat.        | C) It uses no artificial additives.     |
| B) It uses olive oil in cooking.          | D) It is mainly made of vegetables.     |
| 4. A) It does not go stale for two years. | C) It comes from a special kind of pig. |
| B) It takes no special skill to prepare.  | D) It is a delicacy blended with bread. |

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 5. A) They come in a great variety.                 | C) They do not vary much in price. |
| B) They do not make decent gifts.                   | D) They go well with Italian food. |
| 6. A) \$30-\$40.                                    | C) \$50-\$60.                      |
| B) \$40-\$50.                                       | D) Around \$150.                   |
| 7. A) They are a healthy choice for elderly people. |                                    |
| B) They are especially popular among Italians.      |                                    |
| C) They symbolize good health and longevity.        |                                    |
| D) They go well with different kinds of food.       |                                    |
| 8. A) It is a wine imported from California.        |                                    |
| B) It is less spicy than all other red wines.       |                                    |
| C) It is far more expensive than he expected.       |                                    |
| D) It is Italy's most famous type of red wine.      |                                    |

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 9. A) Learning others' secrets.                     | C) Decoding secret messages.   |
| B) Searching for information.                       | D) Spreading sensational news. |
| 10. A) They helped the U.S. army in World War Two.  |                                |
| B) They could write down spoken codes promptly.     |                                |
| C) They were assigned to decode enemy messages.     |                                |
| D) They were good at breaking enemy secret codes.   |                                |
| 11. A) Important battles fought in the Pacific War. |                                |
| B) Decoding of secret messages in war times.        |                                |
| C) A military code that was never broken.           |                                |
| D) Navajo Indians' contribution to code breaking.   |                                |

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) All services will be personalized.  
B) A lot of knowledge-intensive jobs will be replaced.  
C) Technology will revolutionize all sectors of industry.  
D) More information will be available.
13. A) In the robotics industry.  
B) In the information service.  
C) In the personal care sector.  
D) In high-end manufacturing.
14. A) They charge high prices.  
B) They need lots of training.  
C) They cater to the needs of young people.  
D) They focus on customers' specific needs.
15. A) The rising demand in education and healthcare in the next 20 years.  
B) The disruption caused by technology in traditionally well-paid jobs.  
C) The tremendous changes new technology will bring to people's lives.  
D) The amazing amount of personal attention people would like to have.

### Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) It was the longest road in ancient Egypt.  
B) It was constructed some 500 years ago.  
C) It lay 8 miles from the monument sites.  
D) It linked a stone pit to some waterways.
17. A) Saws used for cutting stone.  
B) Traces left by early explorers.  
C) An ancient geographical map.  
D) Some stone tool segments.
18. A) To transport stones to block floods.  
B) To provide services for the stone pit.  
C) To link the various monument sites.  
D) To connect the villages along the Nile.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) Dr. Gong didn't give him any conventional tests.  
B) Dr. Gong marked his office with a hand-painted sign.  
C) Dr. Gong didn't ask him any questions about his pain.  
D) Dr. Gong slipped in needles where he felt no pain.
20. A) He had heard of the wonders acupuncture could work.  
B) Dr. Gong was very famous in New York's Chinatown.  
C) Previous medical treatments failed to relieve his pain.  
D) He found the expensive medical tests unaffordable.
21. A) More and more patients ask for the treatment.  
B) Acupuncture techniques have been perfected.  
C) It doesn't need the conventional medical tests.  
D) It does not have any negative side effects.

Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.

22. A) They were on the verge of breaking up.  
 B) They were compatible despite differences.  
 C) They quarreled a lot and never resolved their arguments.  
 D) They argued persistently about whether to have children.
23. A) Neither of them has any brothers or sisters.  
 B) Neither of them won their parents' favor.  
 C) They weren't spoiled in their childhood.  
 D) They didn't like to be the apple of their parents' eyes.
24. A) They are usually good at making friends.  
 B) They tend to be adventurous and creative.  
 C) They are often content with what they have.  
 D) They tend to be self-assured and responsible.
25. A) They enjoy making friends.  
 B) They tend to be well adjusted.  
 C) They are least likely to take initiative.  
 D) They usually have successful marriages.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Scientists scanning and mapping the Giza pyramids say they've discovered that the Great Pyramid of Giza is not exactly even. But really not by much. This pyramid is the oldest of the world's Seven Wonders. The pyramid's exact size has 26 experts for centuries, as the "more than 21 acres of hard, white casing stones" that originally covered it were 27 long ago. Reporting in the most recent issue of the newsletter "AERAGRAM," which 28 the work of the Ancient Egypt Research Associates, engineer Glen Dash says his team used a new measuring approach that involved finding any surviving 29 of the casing in order to determine where the original edge was. They found the east side of the pyramid to be a 30 of 5.5 inches shorter than the west side.

The question that most 31 him, however, isn't how the Egyptians who designed and built the pyramid got it wrong 4,500 years ago, but how they got it so close to 32. "We can only speculate as to how the Egyptians could have laid out these lines with such 33 using only the tools they had," Dash writes. He says his 34 is that the Egyptians laid out their design on a grid, noting that the great pyramid is oriented only 35 away from the cardinal directions (its north-south axis runs 3 minutes 54 seconds west of due north, while its east-west axis runs 3 minutes 51 seconds north of due east)—an amount that's "tiny, but similar," archeologist Atlas Obscura points out.

|                |                 |                |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A) chronicles  | F) maximum      | K) puzzled     |
| B) complete    | G) momentum     | L) remnants    |
| C) established | H) mysteriously | M) removed     |
| D) fascinates  | I) perfect      | N) revelations |
| E) hypothesis  | J) precision    | O) slightly    |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Peer Pressure Has a Positive Side

- [A] Parents of teenagers often view their children's friends with something like suspicion. They worry that the adolescent peer group has the power to push its members into behavior that is foolish and even dangerous. Such wariness is well founded: statistics show, for example, that a teenage driver with a same-age passenger in the car is at higher risk of a fatal crash than an adolescent driving alone or with an adult.
- [B] In a 2005 study, psychologist Laurence Steinberg of Temple University and his co-author, psychologist Margo Gardner, then at Temple, divided 306 people into three age groups: young adolescents, with a mean age of 14; older adolescents, with a mean age of 19; and adults, aged 24 and older. Subjects played a computerized driving game in which the player must avoid crashing into a wall that materializes, without warning, on the roadway. Steinberg and Gardner randomly assigned some participants to play alone or with two same-age peers looking on.
- [C] Older adolescents scored about 50 percent higher on an index of risky driving when their peers were in the room—and the driving of early adolescents was fully twice as reckless when other young teens were around. In contrast, adults behaved in similar ways regardless of whether they were on their own or observed by others. "The presence of peers makes adolescents and youth, but not adults, more likely to take risks," Steinberg and Gardner concluded.
- [D] Yet in the years following the publication of this study, Steinberg began to believe that this interpretation did not capture the whole picture. As he and other researchers examined the question of why teens were more apt to take risks in the company of other teenagers, they came to suspect that a crowd's influence need not always be negative. Now some experts are proposing that we should take advantage of the teen brain's keen sensitivity to the presence of friends and leverage it to improve education.
- [E] In a 2011 study, Steinberg and his colleagues turned to functional MRI (磁共振) to investigate how the presence of peers affects the activity in the adolescent brain. They scanned the brains of 40 teens and adults who were playing a virtual driving game designed to test whether players would brake at a yellow light or speed on through the crossroad.
- [F] The brains of teenagers, but not adults, showed greater activity in two regions associated with rewards when they were being observed by same-age peers than when alone. In other words, rewards are more intense for teens when they are with peers, which motivates them to pursue higher-risk experiences that might bring a big payoff (such as the thrill of just making the light before it turns red). But Steinberg suspected this tendency could also have its advantages. In

his latest experiment, published online in August, Steinberg and his colleagues used a computerized version of a card game called the Iowa Gambling Task to investigate how the presence of peers affects the way young people gather and apply information.

- [G] The results: Teens who played the Iowa Gambling Task under the eyes of fellow adolescents engaged in more exploratory behavior, learned faster from both positive and negative outcomes, and achieved better performance on the task than those who played in solitude. “What our study suggests is that teenagers learn more quickly and more effectively when their peers are present than when they’re on their own,” Steinberg says. And this finding could have important implications for how we think about educating adolescents.
- [H] Matthew D. Lieberman, a social cognitive neuroscientist at the University of California, Los Angeles, and author of the 2013 book *Social: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Connect*, suspects that the human brain is especially skillful at learning socially significant information. He points to a classic 2004 study in which psychologists at Dartmouth College and Harvard University used functional MRI to track brain activity in 17 young men as they listened to descriptions of people while concentrating on either socially relevant cues (for example, trying to form an impression of a person based on the description) or more socially neutral information (such as noting the order of details in the description). The descriptions were the same in each condition, but people could better remember these statements when given a social motivation.
- [I] The study also found that when subjects thought about and later recalled descriptions in terms of their informational content, regions associated with factual memory, such as the medial temporal lobe, became active. But thinking about or remembering descriptions in terms of their social meaning activated the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex—part of the brain’s social network—even as traditional memory regions registered low levels of activity. More recently, as he reported in a 2012 review, Lieberman has discovered that this region may be part of a distinct network involved in socially motivated learning and memory. Such findings, he says, suggest that “this network can be called on to process and store the kind of information taught in school—potentially giving students access to a range of untapped mental powers.”
- [J] If humans are generally geared to recall details about one another, this pattern is probably even more powerful among teenagers who are very attentive to social details: who is in, who is out, who likes whom, who is mad at whom. Their desire for social drama is not—or not only—a way of distracting themselves from their schoolwork or of driving adults crazy. It is actually a neurological (神经的) sensitivity, initiated by hormonal changes. Evolutionarily speaking, people in this age group are at a stage in which they can prepare to find a mate and start their own family while separating from parents and striking out on their own. To do this successfully, their brain prompts them to think and even obsess about others.
- [K] Yet our schools focus primarily on students as individual entities. What would happen if educators instead took advantage of the fact that teens are powerfully compelled to think in social terms? In *Social*, Lieberman lays out a number of ways to do so. History and English could be presented through the lens of the psychological drives of the people involved. One could therefore present Napoleon in terms of his desire to impress or Churchill in terms of his lonely gloom. Less inherently interpersonal subjects, such as math, could acquire a social aspect through team problem solving and peer tutoring. Research shows that when we absorb information in order to teach it to someone else, we learn it more accurately and deeply, perhaps in part because we are engaging our social cognition.

[L] And although anxious parents may not welcome the notion, educators could turn adolescent recklessness to academic ends. “Risk taking in an educational context is a vital skill that enables progress and creativity,” wrote Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, a cognitive neuroscientist at University College London, in a review published last year. Yet, she noted, many young people are especially unwilling to take risks at school—afraid that one low test score or poor grade could cost them a spot at a selective university. We should assure such students that risk, and even peer pressure, can be a good thing—as long as it happens in the classroom and not in the car.

36. It is thought probable that the human brain is particularly good at picking up socially important information.
37. It can be concluded from experiments that the presence of peers increases risk-taking by adolescents and youth.
38. Students should be told that risk-taking in the classroom can be something positive.
39. The urge of finding a mate and getting married accounts for adolescents’ greater attention to social interactions.
40. According to Steinberg, the presence of peers increases the speed and effectiveness of teenagers’ learning.
41. Teenagers’ parents are often concerned about negative peer influence.
42. Activating the brain’s social network involved in socially motivated learning and memory may allow students to tap unused mental powers.
43. The presence of peers intensifies the feeling of rewards in teens’ brains.
44. When we absorb information for the purpose of imparting it to others, we do so with greater accuracy and depth.
45. Some experts are suggesting that we turn peer influence to good use in education.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

The Ebro Delta, in Spain, famous as a battleground during the Spanish Civil War, is now the setting for a different contest, one that is pitting rice farmers against two enemies: the rice-eating giant apple snail, and rising sea levels. What happens here will have a bearing on the future of European rice production and the overall health of southern European wetlands.

Located on the Mediterranean just two hours south of Barcelona, the Ebro Delta produces 120 million kilograms of rice a year, making it one of the continent’s most important rice-growing areas. As the sea creeps into these fresh-water marshes, however, rising *salinity* (盐分) is hampering rice production. At the same time, this sea-water also kills off the greedy giant apple snail, an introduced pest that feeds on young rice plants. The most promising strategy has become to harness one foe against the other.

The battle is currently being waged on land, in greenhouses at the University of Barcelona. Scientists working under the banner “Project Neurice” are seeking varieties of rice that can



withstand the increasing salinity without losing the absorbency that makes European rice ideal for traditional Spanish and Italian dishes.

“The project has two sides,” says Xavier Serrat, Neurice project manager and researcher at the University of Barcelona, “the short-term fight against the snail, and a mid- to long-term fight against climate change. But the snail has given the project greater urgency.”

Originally from South America, the snails were accidentally introduced into the Ebro Delta by Global Aquatic Technologies, a company that raised the snails for fresh-water *aquariums* (水族馆), but failed to prevent their escape. For now, the giant apple snail’s presence in Europe is limited to the Ebro Delta. But the snail continues its march to new territory, says Serrat. “The question is not whether it will reach other rice-growing areas of Europe, but when.”

Over the next year and a half investigators will test the various strains of salt-tolerant rice they’ve bred. In 2018, farmers will plant the varieties with the most promise in the Ebro Delta and Europe’s other two main rice-growing regions—along the Po in Italy, and France’s Rhone. A season in the field will help determine which, if any, of the varieties are ready for commercialization.

As an EU-funded effort, the search for salt-tolerant varieties of rice is taking place in all three countries. Each team is crossbreeding a local European short-grain rice with a long-grain Asian variety that carries the salt-resistant gene. The scientists are breeding successive generations to arrive at varieties that incorporate salt tolerance but retain about 97 percent of the European rice *genome* (基因组).

46. Why does the author mention the Spanish Civil War at the beginning of the passage?
- A) It had great impact on the life of Spanish rice farmers.
  - B) It is of great significance in the records of Spanish history.
  - C) Rice farmers in the Ebro Delta are waging a battle of similar importance.
  - D) Rice farmers in the Ebro Delta are experiencing as hard a time as in the war.
47. What may be the most effective strategy for rice farmers to employ in fighting their enemies?
- A) Striking the weaker enemy first.
  - B) Killing two birds with one stone.
  - C) Eliminating the enemy one by one.
  - D) Using one evil to combat the other.
48. What do we learn about “Project Neurice”?
- A) Its goals will have to be realized at a cost.
  - B) It aims to increase the yield of Spanish rice.
  - C) Its immediate priority is to bring the pest under control.
  - D) It tries to kill the snails with the help of climate change.
49. What does Neurice project manager say about the giant apple snail?
- A) It can survive only on southern European wetlands.
  - B) It will invade other rice-growing regions of Europe.
  - C) It multiplies at a speed beyond human imagination.
  - D) It was introduced into the rice fields on purpose.
50. What is the ultimate goal of the EU-funded program?
- A) Cultivating ideal salt-resistant rice varieties.
  - B) Increasing the absorbency of the Spanish rice.
  - C) Introducing Spanish rice to the rest of Europe.
  - D) Popularizing the rice crossbreeding technology.



## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Photography was once an expensive, laborious ordeal reserved for life's greatest milestones. Now, the only apparent cost to taking infinite photos of something as common as a meal is the space on your hard drive and your dining companion's patience.

But is there another cost, a deeper cost, to documenting a life experience instead of simply enjoying it? "You hear that you shouldn't take all these photos and interrupt the experience, and it's bad for you, and we're not living in the present moment," says Kristin Diehl, associate professor of marketing at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business.

Diehl and her fellow researchers wanted to find out if that was true, so they embarked on a series of nine experiments in the lab and in the field testing people's enjoyment in the presence or absence of a camera. The results, published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, surprised them. Taking photos actually makes people enjoy what they're doing more, not less.

"What we find is you actually look at the world slightly differently, because you're looking for things you want to capture, that you may want to hang onto," Diehl explains. "That gets people more engaged in the experience, and they tend to enjoy it more."

Take sightseeing. In one experiment, nearly 200 participants boarded a double-decker bus for a tour of Philadelphia. Both bus tours forbade the use of cell phones but one tour provided digital cameras and encouraged people to take photos. The people who took photos enjoyed the experience significantly more, and said they were more engaged, than those who didn't.

Snapping a photo directs attention, which heightens the pleasure you get from whatever you're looking at, Diehl says. It works for things as boring as *archaeological* (考古的) museums, where people were given eye-tracking glasses and instructed either to take photos or not. "People look longer at things they want to photograph," Diehl says. They report liking the exhibits more, too.

To the relief of *Instagrammers* (Instagram 用户) everywhere, it can even make meals more enjoyable. When people were encouraged to take at least three photos while they ate lunch, they were more immersed in their meals than those who weren't told to take photos.

Was it the satisfying click of the camera? The physical act of the snap? No, they found; just the act of planning to take a photo—and not actually taking it—had the same joy-boosting effect. "If you want to take mental photos, that works the same way," Diehl says. "Thinking about what you would want to photograph also gets you more engaged."

51. What does the author say about photo-taking in the past?
  - A) It was a painstaking effort for recording life's major events.
  - B) It was a luxury that only a few wealthy people could enjoy.
  - C) It was a good way to preserve one's precious images.
  - D) It was a skill that required lots of practice to master.
52. Kristin Diehl conducted a series of experiments on photo-taking to find out \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) what kind of pleasure it would actually bring to photo-takers
  - B) whether people enjoyed it when they did sightseeing
  - C) how it could help to enrich people's life experiences
  - D) whether it prevented people enjoying what they were doing
53. What do the results of Diehl's experiments show about people taking pictures?

- A) They are distracted from what they are doing.
  - B) They can better remember what they see or do.
  - C) They are more absorbed in what catches their eye.
  - D) They can have a better understanding of the world.
54. What is found about museum visitors with the aid of eye-tracking glasses?
- A) They come out with better photographs of the exhibits.
  - B) They focus more on the exhibits when taking pictures.
  - C) They have a better view of what are on display.
  - D) They follow the historical events more easily.
55. What do we learn from the last paragraph?
- A) It is better to make plans before taking photos.
  - B) Mental photos can be as beautiful as snapshots.
  - C) Photographers can derive great joy from the click of the camera.
  - D) Even the very thought of taking a photo can have a positive effect.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

过去,拥有一辆私家车对大部分中国人而言是件奢侈的事。如今,私家车在中国随处可见。汽车成了人们生活中不可或缺的一部分,他们不仅开车上下班,还经常驾车出游。有些城市的汽车增长速度过快,以至于交通拥堵和停车位不足的问题日益严峻,这些城市的市政府不得不出台新规,限制上路汽车的数量。由于空气污染日益严重,现在越来越多的人选择购买新能源汽车,中国政府也采取了一些措施,支持新能源汽车的发展。

### 14. 2018 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of building trust between teachers and students*. You can cite examples to illustrate your views. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

##### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on *Answer Sheet 1* with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

- 1. A) She is the owner of a special café.      C) She advocates animal protection.
- B) She sells a special kind of coffee.      D) She is going to start a café chain.

2. A) They help take care of customers' pets. C) They cater to different customers.  
B) They are a profitable business sector. D) They bear a lot of similarities.
3. A) By selecting breeds that are tame and peaceful.  
B) By giving them regular cleaning and injections.  
C) By placing them at a safe distance from customers.  
D) By briefing customers on how to get along with them.
4. A) They give her café favorite reviews. C) They love the animals in her café.  
B) They like to bring in their children. D) They want to learn about rabbits.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) It can cause obesity. C) It contains too many additives.  
B) It is mostly garbage. D) It lacks the essential vitamins.
6. A) TV commercials. C) Its taste and texture.  
B) Its fancy design. D) Peer influence.
7. A) Offering children more varieties to choose from.  
B) Trying to trick children into buying their products.  
C) Marketing their products with ordinary ingredients.  
D) Investing heavily in the production of sweet foods.
8. A) They favored chocolate-coated sweets. C) They hardly ate vegetables.  
B) They liked the food advertised on TV. D) They seldom had junk food.

**Section B**

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) Tombs of ancient rulers. C) Ruins left by devastating floods.  
B) Typical Egyptian animal farms. D) Stretches of farmland.
10. A) It provides habitats for more primitive tribes.  
B) It is hardly associated with great civilizations.  
C) It gathers water from many tropical rain forests.  
D) It has not yet been fully explored and exploited.
11. A) It has numerous human settlements along its banks.  
B) It is as long as the Nile and the Yangtze combined.  
C) It is second only to the Mississippi River in width.  
D) It carries about one fifth of the world's fresh water.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) All of us actually yearn for a slow and calm life.  
B) The search for tranquility has become a trend.  
C) We are always in a rush to do various things.  
D) Living a life in the fast lane leads to success.

13. A) She enjoyed the various social events.  
B) She was accustomed to tight schedules.  
C) She had trouble balancing family and work.  
D) She spent all her leisure time writing books.
14. A) The fatigue from living a fast-paced life.  
B) Becoming aware of her declining health.  
C) Reading a book about slowing down.  
D) The possibility of ruining her family.
15. A) She came to enjoy doing everyday tasks.  
B) She started to follow the cultural norms.  
C) She learned to use more polite expressions.  
D) She stopped using to-do lists and calendars.

### Section C

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) They will root out native species altogether.  
B) They will crossbreed with native species.  
C) They pose a threat to the local ecosystem.  
D) They contribute to a region's biodiversity.
17. A) Their distinctions are artificial. C) Their interactions are hard to define.  
B) Their definitions are changeable. D) Their classifications are meaningful.
18. A) Only 10 percent of them can be naturalized.  
B) Few of them can survive in their new habitats.  
C) They may turn out to benefit the local environment.  
D) Only a few of them cause problems to native species.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) Adopt the right business strategies. C) Respect their traditional culture.  
B) Attend their business seminars. D) Research their specific demands.
20. A) Clicking your fingers loudly in their presence.  
B) Drinking alcohol on certain days of a month.  
C) Giving them gifts of great value.  
D) Showing them your palm.
21. A) They have a break from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
B) They have a strong sense of worth.  
C) They tend to be friendly and enthusiastic.  
D) They are very easy to satisfy.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. A) He had the company's boardroom extensively renovated.

- B) He completely changed the company's culture.  
 C) He took over the sales department of *Reader's Digest*.  
 D) He collected paintings by world-famous artists.
23. A) Its articles should entertain blue- and pink-collar workers.  
 B) It should be published in the world's leading languages.  
 C) It should be sold at a reasonable price.  
 D) Its articles should be short and inspiring.
24. A) He served as a church minister for many years.  
 B) He knew how to make the magazine profitable.  
 C) He treated the employees like members of his family.  
 D) He suffered many setbacks and misfortunes in his life.
25. A) It carried many more advertisements.  
 B) Its subscriptions increased considerably.  
 C) George Grune joined it as an ad salesman.  
 D) Several hundred of its employees got fired.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Did Sarah Josepha Hale write "Mary's Little Lamb," the eternal *nursery rhyme* (儿歌) about a girl named Mary with a stubborn lamb? This is still disputed, but it's clear that the woman 26 for writing it was one of America's most fascinating 27. In honor of the poem's publication on May 24, 1830, here's more about the 28 author's life.

Hale wasn't just a writer, she was also a 29 social advocate, and she was particularly 30 with an ideal New England, which she associated with abundant Thanksgiving meals that she claimed had "a deep moral influence." She began a nationwide 31 to have a national holiday declared that would bring families together while celebrating the 32 festivals. In 1863, after 17 years of advocacy including letters to five presidents, Hale got it. President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, issued a 33 setting aside the last Thursday in November for the holiday.

The true authorship of "Mary's Little Lamb" is disputed. According to the New England Historical Society, Hale wrote only part of the poem, but claimed authorship. Regardless of the author, it seems that the poem was 34 by a real event. When young Mary Sawyer was followed to school by a lamb in 1816, it caused some problems. A bystander named John Roulstone wrote a poem about the event, then, at some point, Hale herself seems to have helped write it. However, if a 1916 piece by her great-niece is to be trusted, Hale claimed for the 35 of her life that "some other people pretended that someone else wrote the poem".

- |               |                 |                |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A) campaign   | F) inspired     | K) reputed     |
| B) career     | G) latter       | L) rest        |
| C) characters | H) obsessed     | M) supposed    |
| D) features   | I) proclamation | N) traditional |
| E) fierce     | J) rectified    | O) versatile   |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Grow Plants Without Water

- [A] Ever since humanity began to farm our own food, we've faced the unpredictable rain that is both friend and enemy. It comes and goes without much warning, and a field of lush (茂盛的) leafy greens one year can dry up and blow away the next. Food security and fortunes depend on sufficient rain, and nowhere more so than in Africa, where 96% of farmland depends on rain instead of the irrigation common in more developed places. It has consequences: South Africa's ongoing drought—the worst in three decades—will cost at least a quarter of its corn crop this year.
- [B] Biologist Jill Farrant of the University of Cape Town in South Africa says that nature has plenty of answers for people who want to grow crops in places with unpredictable rainfall. She is hard at work finding a way to take traits from rare wild plants that adapt to extreme dry weather and use them in food crops. As the earth's climate changes and rainfall becomes even less predictable in some places, those answers will grow even more valuable. "The type of farming I'm aiming for is literally so that people can survive as it's going to get more and more dry," Farrant says.
- [C] Extreme conditions produce extremely tough plants. In the rusty red deserts of South Africa, steep-sided rocky hills called inselbergs rear up from the plains like the bones of the earth. The hills are remnants of an earlier geological era, scraped bare of most soil and exposed to the elements. Yet on these and similar formations in deserts around the world, a few fierce plants have adapted to endure under ever-changing conditions.
- [D] Farrant calls them *resurrection plants* (复苏植物). During months without water under a harsh sun, they wither, shrink and contract until they look like a pile of dead gray leaves. But rainfall can revive them in a matter of hours. Her *time-lapse* (间歇性拍摄的) videos of the revivals look like someone playing a tape of the plant's death in reverse.
- [E] The big difference between "drought-tolerant" plants and these tough plants: metabolism. Many different kinds of plants have developed tactics to weather dry spells. Some plants store reserves of water to see them through a drought; others send roots deep down to subsurface water supplies. But once these plants use up their stored reserve or tap out the underground supply, they cease growing and start to die. They may be able to handle a drought of some length, and many people use the term "drought tolerant" to describe such plants, but they never actually stop needing to consume water, so Farrant prefers to call them drought resistant.
- [F] Resurrection plants, defined as those capable of recovering from holding less than 0.1 grams



of water per gram of dry mass, are different. They lack water-storing structures, and their existence on rock faces prevents them from tapping groundwater, so they have instead developed the ability to change their metabolism. When they detect an extended dry period, they divert their metabolisms, producing sugars and certain stress-associated proteins and other materials in their tissues. As the plant dries, these resources take on first the properties of honey, then rubber, and finally enter a glass-like state that is “the most stable state that the plant can maintain,” Farrant says. That slows the plant’s metabolism and protects its dried-out tissues. The plants also change shape, shrinking to minimize the surface area through which their remaining water might evaporate. They can recover from months and years without water, depending on the species.

- [G] What else can do this dry-out-and-revive trick? Seeds—almost all of them. At the start of her career, Farrant studied “*recalcitrant seeds* (顽拗性种子),” such as avocados, coffee and lychee. While tasty, such seeds are delicate—they cannot bud and grow if they dry out (as you may know if you’ve ever tried to grow a tree from an avocado pit). In the seed world, that makes them rare, because most seeds from flowering plants are quite robust. Most seeds can wait out the dry, unwelcoming seasons until conditions are right and they *sprout* (发芽). Yet once they start growing, such plants seem not to retain the ability to hit the pause button on metabolism in their stems or leaves.
- [H] After completing her Ph.D. on seeds, Farrant began investigating whether it might be possible to isolate the properties that make most seeds so *resilient* (迅速恢复活力的) and transfer them to other plant tissues. What Farrant and others have found over the past two decades is that there are many genes involved in resurrection plants’ response to dryness. Many of them are the same that regulate how seeds become dryness-tolerant while still attached to their parent plants. Now they are trying to figure out what molecular signaling processes activate those seed-building genes in resurrection plants—and how to reproduce them in crops. “Most genes are regulated by a master set of genes,” Farrant says. “We’re looking at gene promoters and what would be their master switch.”
- [I] Once Farrant and her colleagues feel they have a better sense of which switches to throw, they will have to find the best way to do so in useful crops. “I’m trying three methods of breeding,” Farrant says: conventional, genetic modification and gene editing. She says she is aware that plenty of people do not want to eat genetically modified crops, but she is pushing ahead with every available tool until one works. Farmers and consumers alike can choose whether or not to use whichever version prevails: “I’m giving people an option.”
- [J] Farrant and others in the resurrection business got together last year to discuss the best species of resurrection plant to use as a lab model. Just like medical researchers use rats to test ideas for human medical treatments, botanists use plants that are relatively easy to grow in a lab or greenhouse setting to test their ideas for related species. The Queensland rock violet is one of the best studied resurrection plants so far, with a draft *genome* (基因图谱) published last year by a Chinese team. Also last year, Farrant and colleagues published a detailed molecular study of another candidate, *Xerophytaviscosa*, a tough-as-nail South African plant with lily-like flowers, and she says that a genome is on the way. One or both of these models will help researchers test their ideas—so far mostly done in the lab—on test plots.
- [K] Understanding the basic science first is key. There are good reasons why crop plants do not use dryness defenses already. For instance, there’s a high energy cost in switching from a regular



metabolism to an almost-no-water metabolism. It will also be necessary to understand what sort of yield farmers might expect and to establish the plant's safety. "The yield is never going to be high," Farrant says, so these plants will be targeted not at Iowa farmers trying to squeeze more cash out of high-yield fields, but subsistence farmers who need help to survive a drought like the present one in South Africa. "My vision is for the subsistence farmer," Farrant says. "I'm targeting crops that are of African value."

36. There are a couple of plants tough and adaptable enough to survive on bare rocky hills and in deserts.
37. Farrant is trying to isolate genes in resurrection plants and reproduce them in crops.
38. Farmers in South Africa are more at the mercy of nature, especially inconsistent rainfall.
39. Resurrection crops are most likely to be the choice of subsistence farmers.
40. Even though many plants have developed various tactics to cope with dry weather, they cannot survive a prolonged drought.
41. Despite consumer resistance, researchers are pushing ahead with genetic modification of crops.
42. Most seeds can pull through dry spells and begin growing when conditions are ripe, but once this process starts, it cannot be held back.
43. Farrant is working hard to cultivate food crops that can survive extreme dryness by studying the traits of rare wild plants.
44. By adjusting their metabolism, resurrection plants can recover from an extended period of drought.
45. Resurrection plants can come back to life in a short time after a rainfall.

## Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Human memory is notoriously unreliable. Even people with the sharpest facial-recognition skills can only remember so much.

It's tough to quantify how good a person is at remembering. No one really knows how many different faces someone can recall, for example, but various estimates tend to hover in the thousands—based on the number of acquaintances a person might have.

Machines aren't limited this way. Give the right computer a massive database of faces, and it can process what it sees—then recognize a face it's told to find—with remarkable speed and precision. This skill is what supports the enormous promise of facial-recognition software in the 21st century. It's also what makes contemporary surveillance systems so scary.

The thing is, machines still have limitations when it comes to facial recognition. And scientists are only just beginning to understand what those constraints are. To begin to figure out how computers are struggling, researchers at the University of Washington created a massive database of faces—they call it MegaFace—and tested a variety of facial-recognition *algorithms* (算法) as they scaled up in complexity. The idea was to test the machines on a database that included up to

1 million different images of nearly 700,000 different people—and not just a large database featuring a relatively small number of different faces, more consistent with what’s been used in other research.

As the databases grew, machine accuracy dipped across the board. Algorithms that were right 95% of the time when they were dealing with a 13,000-image database, for example, were accurate about 70% of the time when confronted with 1 million images. That’s still pretty good, says one of the researchers, Ira Kemelmacher-Shlizerman. “Much better than we expected,” she said.

Machines also had difficulty adjusting for people who look a lot alike—either *doppelgangers* (长相极相似的人), whom the machine would have trouble identifying as two separate people, or the same person who appeared in different photos at different ages or in different lighting, whom the machine would incorrectly view as separate people.

“Once we scale up, algorithms must be sensitive to tiny changes in identities and at the same time invariant to lighting, pose, age,” Kemelmacher-Shlizerman said.

The trouble is, for many of the researchers who’d like to design systems to address these challenges, massive datasets for experimentation just don’t exist—at least, not in formats that are accessible to academic researchers. Training sets like the ones Google and Facebook have are private. There are no public databases that contain millions of faces. MegaFace’s creators say it’s the largest publicly available facial-recognition dataset out there.

“An ultimate face recognition algorithm should perform with billions of people in a data set,” the researchers wrote.

46. Compared with human memory, machines can \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) identify human faces more efficiently
  - B) tell a friend from a mere acquaintance
  - C) store an unlimited number of human faces
  - D) perceive images invisible to the human eye
47. Why did researchers create MegaFace?
  - A) To enlarge the volume of the facial-recognition database.
  - B) To increase the variety of facial-recognition software.
  - C) To understand computers’ problems with facial recognition.
  - D) To reduce the complexity of facial-recognition algorithms.
48. What does the passage say about machine accuracy?
  - A) It falls short of researchers’ expectations.
  - B) It improves with added computing power.
  - C) It varies greatly with different algorithms.
  - D) It decreases as the database size increases.
49. What is said to be a shortcoming of facial-recognition machines?
  - A) They cannot easily tell apart people with near-identical appearances.
  - B) They have difficulty identifying changes in facial expressions.
  - C) They are not sensitive to minute changes in people’s mood.
  - D) They have problems distinguishing people of the same age.
50. What is the difficulty confronting researchers of facial-recognition machines?
  - A) No computer is yet able to handle huge datasets of human faces.
  - B) There do not exist public databases with sufficient face samples.

- C) There are no appropriate algorithms to process the face samples.
- D) They have trouble converting face datasets into the right format.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

There're currently 21.5 million students in America, and many will be funding their college on borrowed money. Given that there's now over \$1.3 trillion in student loans on the books, it's pretty clear that many students are far from sensible. The average student's debt upon graduation now approaches \$40,000, and as college becomes ever more expensive, calls to make it "free" are multiplying. Even Hillary Clinton says that when it comes to college, "Costs won't be a barrier."

But the only way college could be free is if the faculty and staff donated their time, the buildings required no maintenance, and campuses required no utilities. As long as it's impossible to produce something from nothing, costs are absolutely a barrier.

The actual question we debate is who should pay for people to go to college. If taxpayers are to bear the cost of forgiving student loans, shouldn't they have a say in how their money is used?

At least taxpayers should be able to decide what students will study on the public dime. If we're going to force taxpayers to foot the bill for college degrees, students should only study those subjects that are of greatest benefit to taxpayers. After all, students making their own choices in this respect is what caused the problem in the first place. We simply don't need more poetry, gender studies, or sociology majors. How do we know which subjects benefit society? Easy.

Average starting salaries give a clear indication of what type of training society needs its new workers to have. Certainly, there're benefits to a college major beyond the job a student can perform. But if we're talking about the benefits to society, the only thing that matters is what the major enables the student to produce for society. And the value of what the student can produce is reflected in the wage employers are willing to pay the student to produce it.

A low wage for elementary school teachers, however, doesn't mean elementary education isn't important. It simply means there're too many elementary school teachers already.

Meanwhile, there're few who're willing and able to perform jobs requiring a petroleum engineering major, so the value of one more of those people is very high.

So we can have taxpayers pick up students' tuition in exchange for dictating what those students will study. Or we can allow students both to choose their majors and pay for their education themselves. But in the end, one of two things is true:

Either a college major is worth its cost or it isn't. If yes, taxpayer financing isn't needed. If not, taxpayer financing isn't desirable. Either way, taxpayers have no business paying for students' college education.

51. What does the author think of college students funding their education through loans?

- A) They only expect to get huge returns.
- B) They are acting in an irrational way.
- C) They benefit at taxpayers' expense
- D) They will regret doing so someday

52. In the author's opinion, free college education is \_\_\_\_.

- A) impractical
- B) unsustainable
- C) a goal to strive for
- D) a way to social equality

53. What should students do if taxpayers are to bear their college costs?

- A) Work even harder to repay society.

- B) Choose their subjects more carefully.  
C) Choose majors that will serve society's practical needs.  
D) Allow taxpayers to participate in college administration.
54. What does the author say about the value of a student's college education?  
A) It is underestimated by profit-seeking employers.  
B) It is to be proved by what they can do on the job.  
C) It is well reflected in their average starting salary.  
D) It is embodied in how they remove social barriers.
55. What message does the author want to convey in the passage?  
A) Students should think carefully whether to go to college.  
B) Taxpayers should only finance the most gifted students.  
C) The worth of a college education is open to debate.  
D) College students should fund their own education.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

中国目前拥有世界上最大最快的高速铁路网。高铁列车的运行速度还将继续提升，更多的城市将修建高铁站。高铁大大缩短了人们出行的时间。相对飞机而言，高铁列车的突出优势在于准时，因为基本不受天气或交通管制的影响。高铁极大地改变了中国人的生活方式。如今，它已经成了很多人商务旅行的首选交通工具。越来越多的人也在假日乘高铁外出旅游。还有不少年轻人选择在一个城市工作而在邻近城市居住，每天乘高铁上下班。

### 15. 2018 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of building trust between employers and employees*. You can cite examples to illustrate your views. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：由于 2018 年 6 月六级考试全国共考了 two 套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

#### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

##### Section A

**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 Elon Musk says that his new priority is using artificial intelligence to build domestic

robots, we should look forward to the day in admiration.

Mr. Musk is a guy who gets things done. The founder of two tech companies, Tesla Motors and Space X, is bringing electric vehicles to mass market and 26 humans to live on other planets. This sounds like so much hot air, but the near \$13 billion fortune this entrepreneur has 27 comes from practical achievements rather than hypothetical ones.

A lot of clever people are 28 about artificial intelligence, fearing that robots will one day become so 29 that they'll murder all of us. These fears are mostly 30: as with hysteria about genetic modification, we humans are generally wise enough to manage these problems with speed and care.

And just think of how wonderful it would be if you had a live-in robot. It could, 31, be like having a babysitter and a nurse rolled into one—or, if that required 32 intelligence beyond the power of Mr. Musk's imagined machine, at least someone to chop the carrots, wash the car and mow the lawn. Once purchased and trained, this would allow the 33 user to save money and time, freeing up 34 space in our busy lives to read a good book.

That is why we welcome Mr. Musk's latest 35, and wish him well. As long as robots add to the sum of human happiness, reduce suffering, and create time to read world-class journalism, we should be their fans. Especially since journalism is one job robots will never do.

|               |                |              |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| A) amassed    | F) exaggerated | K) reward    |
| B) casual     | G) extravagant | L) smart     |
| C) emotional  | H) generously  | M) sphere    |
| D) enabling   | I) misleading  | N) terrified |
| E) eventually | J) precious    | O) venture   |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### In the real world, nobody cares that you went to an Ivy League school

[A] As a high school junior, everything in my life revolved around getting into the right college. I diligently attended my SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement test preparation courses. I juggled (尽力应付) cross-country and track schedules, newspaper staff, and my church's youth group and drama team. I didn't drink, party, or even do much dating. The right college, I thought, was one with prestige, one with a name. It didn't have to be the Ivy League, but it needed to be a "top school."

[B] Looking back now, nine years later, I can't remember exactly what it was about these universities that made them seem so much better. Was it a curriculum that appeared more rigorous, perhaps? Or an alumni network that I hoped would open doors down the line? Maybe. "I do think there are advantages to schools with more recognition," notes Marybeth Gasman, a professor of higher education at the University of Pennsylvania. "I don't necessarily think that's a reason to go to one."

[C] In reflection, my firm belief in the power of the brand was naive, not to mention a bit snobby. I quickly passed over state schools and southern schools, believing their curriculums to be

automatically inferior to northeastern or western counterparts. Instead, I dreamed of living in New York City and my parents obliged me with a visit to New York University's (NYU) campus. During the tour, tuition fees were discussed. (NYU is consistently ranked one of the country's most expensive schools, with room and board costs totaling upwards of \$64,000 a year.) Up until then, I hadn't truly realized just how expensive an education can be. Over the next few months, I realized not only could I not afford my dream school, I couldn't even afford the ones where I'd been accepted. City University of New York (CUNY), Rutgers University, and Indiana University were out of reach as were Mississippi State and the University of Alabama, where I would have to pay out-of-state fees. Further complicating my college search was a flourishing track career—I wanted to keep running but my times weren't quite fast enough to secure a scholarship.

- [D] And so, at 11pm on the night of Georgia State University's (GSU) midnight deadline, I applied online. Rated No. 466 overall on Forbes' Lists Top Colleges, No. 183 in Research Universities, and No. 108 in the South, I can't say it was my top choice. Still, the track coach had offered me a walk-on spot, and I actually found the urban Atlanta campus a decent consolation prize after New York City.
- [E] While it may have been practical, it wasn't prestigious. But here's the thing: I loved my "lower-tier" (低层次的) university. (I use the term "low-tier" cautiously, because GSU is a well-regarded research institution that attracts high quality professors and faculty from all over the country.) We are taught to believe that only by going to the best schools and getting the best grades can we escape the rat race and build a better future. But what if lower-tier colleges and universities were the ticket to escaping the rat race? After all, where else can you leave school with a decent degree—but without a lifetime of debt?
- [F] My school didn't come pre-packaged like the more popular options, so we were left to take care of ourselves, figuring out city life and trying to complete degree programs that no one was championing for us to succeed in. What I'm saying is, I loved my university because it taught us all to be resourceful and we could make what we wanted out of it.
- [G] I was lucky enough to have my tuition covered by a lottery-funded scholarship called HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally). When I started college, the HOPE scholarship was funded by the state of Georgia and offered to graduating high school seniors with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Living costs and books I paid for with money earned during high school, supplemented by a small college fund my deceased grandfather left for me and a modest savings account my parents created when I was born.
- [H] So what about all that name recognition? Sure, many of my colleagues and competitors have more glamorous alma maters (母校) than I do. As a journalist, I have competed against NYU, Columbia, and Northeastern graduates for jobs. And yet, not a single interviewer has ever asked me about my educational background. In fact, almost every interview I've ever had was due to a connection—one that I've gained through pure determination, not a school brand.
- [I] According to The Boston Globe, students who earned their bachelor's in 2012 have an average monthly loan payment of \$312, which is one-third more than those who graduated in 2004. Ultimately, that's the thing universities don't want to admit. Private universities are money-making institutions. If you can afford to buy prestige, that's your choice. For the rest of us, however, our hearty lower-tiered universities are just fine, thank you.
- [J] Wealthy universities talk up the benefits their name will give graduates: namely, strong alumni



networks, star faculty, and a résumé boost. But you needn't attend an Ivy League school to reap those rewards. Ludacris and the former CEO of Bank of America Ken Lewis are alumni of my college, as well as VICE's first female editor-in-chief, Ellis Jones. Successful people tend to be successful no matter where they go to school, and lower-tier schools can have alumni networks just as strong as their big name counterparts. In fact, lower-tier school alumni networks are arguably stronger, because fellow alumni recognize that you didn't necessarily have an easy path to follow. They might be more willing to offer career help, because your less famous school denotes that, like them, you are also full of energy and perseverance.

[K] The Washington Post reported on a recent study by Princeton economists, in which college graduates who applied to the most selective schools in the 12th grade were compared to those who applied to slightly less selective schools. They found that students with more potential earned more as adults, and the reverse held true as well, no matter where they went to school.

[L] Likewise, star faculty are not always found where you'd expect. Big name schools are not necessarily the best places for professors; plus, many professors split teaching time between multiple colleges and/or universities. This means, for instance, a CUNY student could reasonably expect to receive the same quality of instruction from a prestigious professor as they would if they were enrolled in the same class at NYU.

[M] It's possible that some hiring managers may be drawn to candidates with a particular educational résumé, but it's no guarantee. According to a 2012 survey described in The Atlantic, college reputation ranked lowest in relative importance of attributes in evaluating graduates for hire, beaten out by top factors like internships, employment during college, college major, volunteer experience, and extracurriculars.

[N] Maybe students who choose less prestigious universities are bound to succeed because they are determined to. I tend to think so. In any case, if I could do it again, I'd still make the same choice. Today I'm debt-free, resourceful—and I understand that even the shiniest packaging can't predict what you'll find on the inside.

36. Modest institutions can also have successful graduates and strong alumni networks.
37. The money the author made in high school helped pay for her living expenses and books at college.
38. The author came to see how costly college education could be when she was trying to choose a university to attend.
39. A recent study found that a graduate's salary is determined by their potential, not the university they attended.
40. The author cannot recall for sure what made certain top universities appear a lot better.
41. None of the author's job interviewers cared which college she went to.
42. The author thinks she did the right thing in choosing a less prestigious university.
43. In order to be admitted to a prestigious university, the author took part in various extracurricular activities and attended test preparation courses.
44. The author liked her university which was not prestigious but less expensive.
45. Colleges are reluctant to admit that graduates today are in heavier debt.

## Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or

unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

### Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Economically speaking, are we better off than we were ten years ago? Twenty years ago?

In their thirst for evidence on this issue, commentators seized on the recent report by the Census Bureau, which found that average household income rose by 5.2% in 2015. Unfortunately, that conclusion puts too much weight on a useful, but flawed and incomplete, statistic. Among the more significant problems with the Census's measure are that: 1) it excludes taxes, transfers, and compensation like employer-provided health insurance; and 2) it is based on surveys rather than data. Even if precisely measured, income data exclude important determinants of economic well-being, such as the hours of work needed to earn that income.

While thinking about the question, we came across a recently published article by Charles Jones and Peter Klenow, which proposes an interesting new measure of economic welfare. While by no means perfect, it is considerably more comprehensive than average income; taking into account not only growth in consumption per person but also changes in working time, life expectancy, and inequality. Moreover, it can be used to assess economic performance both across countries and over time.

The Jones-Klenow method can be illustrated by a cross-country example. Suppose we want to compare the economic welfare of citizens of the U.S. and France in 2005.

In 2005, as the authors observe, real consumption per person in France was only 60% as high as the U.S., making it appear that Americans were economically much better off than the French on average. However, that comparison omits other relevant factors: leisure time, life expectancy, and economic inequality. The French take longer vacations and retire earlier, so typically work fewer hours; they enjoy a higher life expectancy, presumably reflecting advantages with respect to health care, diet, lifestyle, and the like; and income and consumption are somewhat more equally distributed there than in the U.S. Because of these differences, comparing France's consumption with the U.S.'s overstates the gap in economic welfare.

Similar calculations can be used to compare the U.S. and other countries. For example, this calculation puts economic welfare in the United Kingdom at 97% of U.S. levels, but estimates Mexican well-being at 22%.

The Jones-Klenow measure can also assess an economy's performance over time. According to this measure, as of the early-to-mid-2000s, the U.S. had the highest economic welfare of any large country. Since 2007, economic welfare in the U.S. has continued to improve. However, the pace of improvement has slowed markedly.

Methodologically, the lesson from the Jones-Klenow research is that economic welfare is multi-dimensional. Their approach is flexible enough that in principle other important quality-of-life changes could be incorporated—for example, decreases in total emissions of pollutants and declines in crime rates.

46. What does the author think of the 2015 report by the Census Bureau?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| A) It is based on questionable statistics. | C) It evidences the improved welfare. |
| B) It reflects the economic changes.       | D) It provides much food for thought. |

47. What does the author say about the Jones-Klenow method?
- A) It is widely used to compare the economic growth across countries.
  - B) It revolutionizes the way of measuring ordinary people's livelihood.
  - C) It focuses on people's consumption rather than their average income.
  - D) It is a more comprehensive measure of people's economic well-being.
48. What do Jones and Klenow think of the comparison between France and the U.S. in terms of real consumption per person?
- A) It reflected the existing big gap between the two economies.
  - B) It neglected many important indicators of people's welfare.
  - C) It covered up the differences between individual citizens.
  - D) It failed to count in their difference in natural resources.
49. What is an advantage of the Jones-Klenow method?
- A) It can accurately pinpoint a country's current economic problems.
  - B) It can help to raise people's awareness of their economic well-being.
  - C) It can diagnose the causes of a country's slowing pace of economic improvement.
  - D) It can compare a country's economic conditions between different periods of time.
50. What can we infer from the passage about American people's economic well-being?
- A) It is much better than that of their European counterparts.
  - B) It has been on the decline ever since the turn of the century.
  - C) It has not improved as much as reported by the Census Bureau.
  - D) It has not been accurately assessed and reported since mid-2000s.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

If you've ever started a sentence with, "If I were you..." or found yourself scratching your head at a colleague's agony over a decision when the answer is crystal-clear, there's a scientific reason behind it. Our own decision-making abilities can become depleted over the course of the day causing indecision or poor choices, but choosing on behalf of someone else is an enjoyable task that doesn't suffer the same pitfalls.

The problem is "decision fatigue," a psychological phenomenon that takes a toll on the quality of your choices after a long day of decision making, says Evan Polman, a leading psychologist.

Physicians who have been on the job for several hours, for example, are more likely to prescribe antibiotics to patients when it's unwise to do so. "Presumably it's because it's simple and easy to write a prescription and consider a patient case closed rather than investigate further," Polman says.

But decision fatigue goes away when you are making the decision for someone else. When people imagine themselves as advisers and imagine their own choices as belonging to someone else, they feel less tired and rely less on decision shortcuts to make those choices. "By taking upon the role of adviser rather than decision maker, one does not suffer the consequences of decision fatigue," he says. "It's as if there's something fun and liberating about making someone else's choice."

Getting input from others not only offers a fresh perspective and thought process, it often also includes riskier choices. While this sounds undesirable, it can be quite good, says Polman. "When people experience decision fatigue—when they are tired of making choices—they have a tendency

to choose to go with the *status quo* (现状),” he says. “But the status quo can be problematic, since a change in the course of action can sometimes be important and lead to a positive outcome.”

In order to achieve a successful outcome or reward, some level of risk is almost always essential. “People who are susceptible to decision fatigue will likely choose to do nothing over something,” he says. “That’s not to say that risk is always good, but it is related to taking action, whereas decision fatigue assuredly leads to inaction and the possible *chagrin* (懊恼) of a decision maker who might otherwise prefer a new course but is unfortunately hindered.”

Just because you can make good choices for others doesn’t mean you’ll do the same for yourself, Polman cautions. “Research has found that women negotiate higher salaries for others than they do for themselves,” he says, adding that people slip in and out of decision roles.

51. What does the author say about people making decisions?

- A) They may become exhausted by making too many decisions for themselves.
- B) They are more cautious in making decisions for others than for themselves.
- C) They tend to make decisions the way they think advantageous to them.
- D) They show considerable differences in their decision-making abilities.

52. What does the example about the physicians illustrate?

- A) Patients seldom receive due care towards the end of the day.
- B) Prescription of antibiotics can be harmful to patients’ health.
- C) Decision fatigue may prevent people making wise decisions.
- D) Medical doctors are especially susceptible to decision fatigue.

53. When do people feel less decision fatigue?

- A) When they take decision shortcuts.
- B) When they help others to make decisions.
- C) When they have major decisions to make.
- D) When they have advisers to turn to.

54. What are people likely to do when decision fatigue sets in?

- A) They turn to physicians for advice.
- B) They tend to make risky decisions.
- C) They adopt a totally new perspective.
- D) They refrain from trying anything new.

55. What does the passage say about taking some risk in decision making?

- A) It is vital for one to reach the goal desired.
- B) It is likely to entail serious consequences.
- C) It will enable people to be more creative.
- D) It will more often than not end in regret.

## Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

自行车曾经是中国城乡最主要的交通工具，中国一度被称为“自行车王国”。如今，随着城市交通拥堵和空气污染日益严重，骑自行车又开始流行起来。近来，中国企业家将移动互联网技术与传统自行车结合在一起，发明了一种称为共享单车 (shared bikes) 的商业模式。共享单车的出现使骑车出行更加方便，人们仅需一部手机就可以随时使用共享单车。为了鼓励人们骑车出行，很多城市修建了自行车道。现在，越来越多的中国人也喜欢通过骑车健身。

16. 2018 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 1 套)

Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *how to balance academic study and extracurricular activities*. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

Part I Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) It can benefit professionals and non-professionals alike.  
B) It lists the various challenges physicists are confronting.  
C) It describes how some mysteries of physics were solved.  
D) It is one of the most fascinating physics books ever written.
2. A) Physicists' contribution to humanity.                      C) Historical evolution of modern physics.  
B) Stories about some female physicists.                  D) Women's changing attitudes to physics.
3. A) By exposing a lot of myths in physics.  
B) By describing her own life experiences.  
C) By including lots of fascinating knowledge.  
D) By telling anecdotes about famous professors.
4. A) It avoids detailing abstract concepts of physics.

- B) It contains a lot of thought-provoking questions.
- C) It demonstrates how they can become physicists.
- D) It provides experiments they can do themselves.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- 5. A) He is too busy to finish his assignment in time.  
B) He does not know what kind of topic to write on.  
C) He does not understand the professor's instructions.  
D) He has no idea how to proceed with his dissertation.
- 6. A) It is too broad.      B) It is outdated.      C) It is challenging.      D) It is interesting.
- 7. A) Biography.      B) Nature.      C) Photography.      D) Beauty.
- 8. A) Improve his cumulative grade.      C) Stick to the topic assigned.  
B) Develop his reading ability.      D) List the parameters first.

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

- 9. A) The unprecedented high temperature in Greenland.  
B) The collapse of ice on the northern tip of Greenland.  
C) The unusual cold spell in the Arctic area in October.  
D) The rapid change of Arctic temperature within a day.
- 10. A) It has created a totally new climate pattern.  
B) It will pose a serious threat to many species.  
C) It typically appears about once every ten years.  
D) It has puzzled the climate scientists for decades.
- 11. A) Extinction of Arctic wildlife.      C) Emigration of indigenous people.  
B) Iceless summers in the Arctic.      D) Better understanding of ecosystems.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

- 12. A) A good start.      C) A strong determination.  
B) A detailed plan.      D) A scientific approach.
- 13. A) Most people get energized after a sufficient rest.  
B) Most people tend to have finite source of energy.  
C) It is vital to take breaks between demanding mental tasks.  
D) It is most important to have confidence in one's willpower.
- 14. A) They could keep on working longer.      C) They found it easier to focus on work at hand.  
B) They could do more challenging tasks.      D) They held more positive attitudes toward life.
- 15. A) They are part of their nature.      C) They are related to culture.  
B) They are subject to change.      D) They are beyond control.

## Section C



**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) About half of current jobs might be automated.  
B) The jobs of doctors and lawyers would be threatened.  
C) The job market is becoming somewhat unpredictable.  
D) Machine learning would prove disruptive by 2013.
17. A) They are widely applicable for massive open online courses.  
B) They are now being used by numerous high school teachers.  
C) They could read as many as 10,000 essays in a single minute.  
D) They could grade high-school essays just like human teacher.
18. A) It needs instructions throughout the process.  
B) It does poorly on frequent, high-volume tasks.  
C) It has to rely on huge amounts of previous data.  
D) It is slow when it comes to tracking novel things.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) The engineering problems with solar power.  
B) The generation of steam with the latest technology.  
C) The importance of exploring new energy sources.  
D) The theoretical aspects of sustainable energy.
20. A) Drive trains with solar energy.  
B) Upgrade the city's train facilities.  
C) Build a new ten-kilometer railway line.  
D) Cut down the city's energy consumption.
21. A) Build a tank for keeping calcium oxide.  
B) Find a new material for storing energy.  
C) Recover super-heated steam.  
D) Collect carbon dioxide gas.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. A) The lack of supervision by both the nation and local government.  
B) The impact of the current economic crisis at home and abroad.  
C) The poor management of day centers and home help services.  
D) The poor relation between national health and social care services.
23. A) It was mainly provided by voluntary services.  
B) It mainly caters to the need of the privileged.  
C) It called for a sufficient number of volunteers.  
D) It has deteriorated over the past sixty years.
24. A) Their longer lifespans.  
B) Fewer home helpers available.  
C) Their preference for private services.  
D) More of them suffering serious illness.
25. A) They are unable to pay for health services.  
B) They have long been discriminated against.  
C) They are vulnerable to illness and diseases.  
D) They have contributed a great deal to society.

**Part III Reading Comprehension**  
**Section A**

**(40 minutes)**

**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.

In what's probably the craziest headline I've ever written, I've reported that 26 in livestock protection are happening with scientists painting eyes on the butts of cows. The experiment is based upon the idea that farmers who're protecting their herd from lions would shoot and kill lions in an effort to protect their livestock. While this makes a lot of sense, it results in many lion deaths that 27 would have been unnecessary. Researchers in Australia have been 28 and testing a method of trickery to make lions think they are being watched by the painted eyes on cow butts.

This idea is based on the principle that lions and other 29 are far less likely to attack when they feel they are being watched. As conservation areas become smaller, lions are increasingly coming into contact with human populations, which are expanding to the 30 of these protected areas.

Efforts like painting eyes on cow butts may seem crazy at first, but they could make actual headway in the fight for conservation. "If the method works, it could provide farmers in Botswana —and 31—with a low-cost, sustainable tool to protect their livestock, and a way to keep lions safe from being killed."

Lions are 32 *ambush* (埋伏) hunters, so when they feel their prey has 33 them, they usually give up on the hunt. Researchers are 34 testing their idea on a select herd of cattle. They have painted half of the cows with eyes and left the other half as normal. Through satellite tracking of both the herd and the lions in the area, they will be able to 35 if their psychological trickery will work to help keep farmers from shooting lions.

|                |                 |                |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A) advances    | F) devising     | K) primarily   |
| B) boundaries  | G) elsewhere    | L) retorted    |
| C) challenging | H) nevertheless | M) spotted     |
| D) currently   | I) otherwise    | N) testimonies |
| E) determine   | J) predators    | O) wrestle     |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Resilience Is About How You Recharge, Not How You Endure

[A] As constant travelers and parents of a 2-year-old, we sometimes fantasize about how much work we can do when one of us gets on a plane, undistracted by phones, friends, or movies. We race to get all our ground work done: packing, going through security, doing a last-minute work call, calling each other, then boarding the plane. Then, when we try to have that amazing work

session in flight, we get nothing done. Even worse, after refreshing our email or reading the same studies over and over, we are too exhausted when we land to soldier on with (继续处理) the emails that have inevitably still piled up.

- [B] Why should flying deplete us? We're just sitting there doing nothing. Why can't we be tougher, more resilient (有复原力的) and determined in our work so we can accomplish all of the goals we set for ourselves? Based on our current research, we have come to realize that the problem is not our hectic schedule or the plane travel itself; the problem comes from a misconception of what it means to be resilient, and the resulting impact of overworking.
- [C] We often take a militaristic, "tough" approach to resilience and determination like a Marine pulling himself through the mud, a boxer going one more round, or a football player picking himself up off the ground for one more play. We believe that the longer we tough it out, the tougher we are, and therefore the more successful we will be. However, this entire conception is scientifically inaccurate.
- [D] The very lack of a recovery period is dramatically holding back our collective ability to be resilient and successful. Research has found that there is a direct correlation between lack of recovery and increased incidence of health and safety problems. And lack of recovery—whether by disrupting sleep with thoughts of work or having continuous cognitive arousal by watching our phones—is costing our companies \$62 billion a year in lost productivity.
- [E] And just because work stops, it doesn't mean we are recovering. We "stop" work sometimes at 5pm, but then we spend the night wrestling with solutions to work problems, talking about our work over dinner, and falling asleep thinking about how much work we'll do tomorrow. In a study just released, researchers from Norway found that 7.8% of Norwegians have become workaholics (工作狂). The scientists cite a definition of "workaholism" as "being overly concerned about work, driven by an uncontrollable work motivation, and investing so much time and effort in work that it impairs other important life areas."
- [F] We believe that the number of people who fit that definition includes the majority of American workers, which prompted us to begin a study of workaholism in the U.S. Our study will use a large corporate dataset from a major medical company to examine how technology extends our working hours and thus interferes with necessary cognitive recovery, resulting in huge health care costs and turnover costs for employers.
- [G] The misconception of resilience is often bred from an early age. Parents trying to teach their children resilience might celebrate a high school student staying up until 3am to finish a science fair project. What a distortion of resilience! A resilient child is a well-rested one. When an exhausted student goes to school, he risks hurting everyone on the road with his impaired driving; he doesn't have the cognitive resources to do well on his English test; he has lower self-control with his friends; and at home, he is moody with his parents. Overwork and exhaustion are the opposite of resilience and the bad habits we acquire when we're young only magnify when we hit the workforce.
- [H] As Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz have written, if you have too much time in the performance zone, you need more time in the recovery zone, otherwise you risk burnout. Gathering your resources to "try hard" requires burning energy in order to overcome your currently low arousal level. It also worsens exhaustion. Thus the more imbalanced we become due to overworking, the more value there is in activities that allow us to return to a state of balance. The value of a recovery period rises in proportion to the amount of work required of us.

- [I] So how do we recover and build resilience? Most people assume that if you stop doing a task like answering emails or writing a paper, your brain will naturally recover, so that when you start again later in the day or the next morning, you'll have your energy back. But surely everyone reading this has had times when you lie in bed for hours, unable to fall asleep because your brain is thinking about work. If you lie in bed for eight hours, you may have rested, but you can still feel exhausted the next day. That's because rest and recovery are not the same thing.
- [J] If you're trying to build resilience at work, you need adequate internal and external recovery periods. As researchers Zijlstra, Cropley and Rydstedt write in their 2014 paper: "Internal recovery refers to the shorter periods of relaxation that take place within the frames of the work day or the work setting in the form of short scheduled or unscheduled breaks, by shifting attention or changing to other work tasks when the mental or physical resources required for the initial task are temporarily depleted or exhausted. External recovery refers to actions that take place outside of work—e.g. in the free time between the work days, and during weekends, holidays or vacations." If after work you lie around on your bed and get irritated by political commentary on your phone or get stressed thinking about decisions about how to renovate your home, your brain has not received a break from high mental arousal states. Our brains need a rest as much as our bodies do.
- [K] If you really want to build resilience, you can start by strategically stopping. Give yourself the resources to be tough by creating internal and external recovery periods. Amy Blankson describes how to strategically stop during the day by using technology to control overworking. She suggests downloading the Instant or Moment apps to see how many times you turn on your phone each day. You can also use apps like Offtime or Unplugged to create tech free zones by strategically scheduling automatic airplane modes. The average person turns on their phone 150 times every day. If every distraction took only 1 minute, that would account for 2.5 hours a day.
- [L] In addition, you can take a cognitive break every 90 minutes to charge your batteries. Try to not have lunch at your desk, but instead spend time outside or with your friends—not talking about work. Take all of your paid time off, which not only gives you recovery periods, but raises your productivity and likelihood of promotion.
- [M] As for us, we've started using our plane time as a work-free zone, and thus time to dip into the recovery phase. The results have been fantastic. We are usually tired already by the time we get on a plane, and the crowded space and unstable internet connection make work more challenging. Now, instead of swimming upstream, we relax, sleep, watch movies, or listen to music. And when we get off the plane, instead of being depleted, we feel recovered and ready to return to the performance zone.
36. It has been found that inadequate recovery often leads to poor health and accidents.
37. Mental relaxation is much needed, just as physical relaxation is.
38. Adequate rest not only helps one recover, but also increases one's work efficiency.
39. The author always has a hectic time before taking a flight.
40. Recovery may not take place even if one seems to have stopped working.
41. It is advised that technology be used to prevent people from overworking.
42. Contrary to popular belief, rest does not equal recovery.

43. The author has come to see that his problem results from a misunderstanding of the meaning of resilience.
44. People's distorted view about resilience may have developed from their upbringing.
45. People tend to think the more determined they are, the greater their success will be.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Children with attention problems in early childhood were 40% less likely to graduate from high school, says a new study from Duke University.

The study included 386 kindergarteners from schools in the Fast Track Project, a multi-site clinical trial in the U.S. that in 1991 began tracking how children developed across their lives.

With this study, researchers examined early academic attention and socio-emotional skills and how each contributed to academic success into young adulthood.

They found that early attention skills were the most consistent predictor of academic success, and that likability by peers also had a modest effect on academic performance.

By fifth grade, children with early attention difficulties had lower grades and reading achievement scores than their peers. As fifth-graders, children with early attention problems obtained average reading scores at least 3% lower than their contemporaries' and grades at least 8% lower than those of their peers. This was after controlling for IQ, socio-economic status and academic skills at school entry.

Although these may not seem like large effects, the impact of early attention problems continued throughout the children's academic careers. Lower reading achievement scores and grades in fifth grade contributed to reduced grades in middle school and thereby contributed to a 40% lower high school graduation rate.

"The children we identified as having attention difficulties were not diagnosed with *attention deficit hyperactivity disorder* (注意力缺乏多动症) (ADHD), although some may have had the disorder. Our findings suggest that even more modest attention difficulties can increase the risk of negative academic outcomes," said David Rabiner, an associate dean of Duke's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, whose research has focused on ADHD and interventions to improve academic performance in children with attention difficulties.

Social acceptance by peers in early childhood also predicted grades in fifth grade. Children not as liked by their first-grade peers had slightly lower grades in fifth grade, while those with higher social acceptance had higher grades.

"This study shows the importance of so-called 'non-cognitive' or soft skills in contributing to children's positive peer relationships, which, in turn, contribute to their academic success," said Kenneth Dodge, director of the Duke Center for Child and Family Policy.

The results highlight the need to develop effective early interventions to help those with attention problems stay on track academically and for educators to encourage positive peer relationships, the researchers said.

"We are learning that student success requires a more comprehensive approach, one that incorporates

not only academic skills but also social, self-regulatory and attention skills,” Dodge said. “If we neglect any of these areas, the child’s development lags. If we attend to these areas, a child’s success may reinforce itself with positive feedback loops.”

46. What is the focus of the new study from Duke University?
  - A) The contributors to children’s early attention.
  - B) The predictors of children’s academic success.
  - C) The factors that affect children’s emotional well-being.
  - D) The determinants of children’s development of social skills.
47. How did the researchers ensure that their findings are valid?
  - A) By attaching equal importance to all possible variables examined.
  - B) By collecting as many typical samples as were necessary.
  - C) By preventing them from being affected by factors not under study.
  - D) By focusing on the family background of the children being studied.
48. What do we learn from the findings of the Duke study?
  - A) Modest students are generally more attentive than their contemporaries.
  - B) There are more children with attention difficulties than previously thought.
  - C) Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder accounts for most academic failures.
  - D) Children’s academic performance may suffer from even slight inattention.
49. What does the Duke study find about children better accepted by peers?
  - A) They do better academically.
  - B) They are easy to get on with.
  - C) They are teachers’ favorites.
  - D) They care less about grades.
50. What can we conclude from the Duke study?
  - A) Children’s success is related to their learning environment.
  - B) School curriculum should cover a greater variety of subjects.
  - C) Social skills are playing a key role in children’s development.
  - D) An all-round approach should be adopted in school education.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

On Jan 9, 2007, Steve Jobs formally announced Apple’s “revolutionary mobile phone”—a device that combined the functionality of an iPod, phone and Internet communication into a single unit, navigated by touch.

It was a huge milestone in the development of smartphones, which are now owned by a majority of American adults and are increasingly common across the globe.

As smartphones have multiplied, so have questions about their impact on how we live and how we work. Often the advantages of convenient, mobile technology are both obvious and taken for granted, leaving more subtle topics for concerned discussion: Are smartphones disturbing children’s sleep? Is an inability to get away from work having a negative impact on health? And what are the implications for privacy?

But today, on the 10th anniversary of the iPhone, let’s take a moment to consider a less obvious advantage: the potential for smartphone technology to revolutionize behavioral science. That’s because, for the first time in human history, a large proportion of the species is in continuous contact with technology that can record key features of an individual’s behavior and environment.



Researchers have already begun to use smartphones in social scientific research, either to query people regularly as they engage in their normal lives or to record activity using the device's built-in sensors. These studies are confirming, challenging and extending what's been found using more traditional approaches, in which people report how they behaved in real life or participate in relatively short and artificial laboratory-based tasks.

Such studies are just first steps. As more data are collected and methods for analysis improve, researchers will be in a better position to identify how different experiences, behaviors and environments relate to each other and evolve over time, with the potential to improve people's productivity and wellbeing in a variety of domains. Beyond revealing population-wide patterns, the right combination of data and analysis can also help individuals identify unique characteristics of their own behavior, including conditions that could indicate the need for some form of intervention — such as an unusual increase in behaviors that signal a period of depression.

Smartphone-based data collection comes at an appropriate time in the evolution of psychological science. Today, the field is in transition, moving away from a focus on laboratory studies with undergraduate participants towards more complex, real-world situations studied with more diverse groups of people. Smartphones offer new tools for achieving these ambitions, providing rich data about everyday behaviors in a variety of contexts.

So here's another way in which smartphones might transform the way we live and work: by offering insights into human psychology and behavior and, thus, supporting smarter social science.

51. What does the author say about the negative impact of smartphones?

- A) It has been overshadowed by the positive impact.
- B) It has more often than not been taken for granted.
- C) It is not so obvious but has caused some concern.
- D) It is subtle but should by no means be overstated.

52. What is considered a less obvious advantage of smartphone technology?

- A) It systematically records real human interactions.
- B) It helps people benefit from technological advances.
- C) It brings people into closer contact with each other.
- D) It greatly improves research on human behavior.

53. What characterizes traditional psychological research?

- A) It is based on huge amounts of carefully collected data.
- B) It relies on lab observations and participants' reports.
- C) It makes use of the questionnaire method.
- D) It is often expensive and time-consuming.

54. How will future psychological studies benefit individuals?

- A) By helping them pin down their unusual behaviors.
- B) By helping them maintain a positive state of mind.
- C) By helping them live their lives in a unique way.
- D) By helping them cope with abnormal situations.

55. What do we learn about current psychological studies?

- A) They are going through a period of painful transition.
- B) They are increasingly focused on real-life situations.
- C) They are conducted in a more rigorous manner.

D) They are mainly targeted towards undergraduates.

## Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

近年来, 中国政府进一步加大体育馆建设投资, 以更好地满足人们快速增长的健身需求。除了新建体育馆外, 许多城市还采取了改造旧工厂和商业建筑等措施, 来增加当地体育馆的数量。在政府资金的支持下, 越来越多的体育馆向公众免费开放, 或者只收取少量费用。许多体育馆通过应用现代信息技术大大提高了服务质量。人们可以方便地在线预订场地和付费。可以预见, 随着运动设施的不断改善, 愈来愈多的人将会去体育馆健身。

## 17. 2018 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on **how to balance job responsibilities and personal interests**. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) Stop worrying about him. C) Take a picture of him.  
B) Keep away from the statue. D) Put on a smile for the photo.
2. A) Gaining great fame on the Internet. C) Collecting the best photos in the world.  
B) Publishing a collection of his photos. D) Becoming a professional photographer.
3. A) Surfing various websites and collecting photos.  
B) Editing his pictures and posting them online.  
C) Following similar accounts to compare notes.  
D) Studying the pictures in popular social media.
4. A) They are far from satisfactory. C) They make an impressive album.  
B) They are mostly taken by her mom. D) They record her fond memories.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) A journal reporting the latest progress in physics.  
B) An introductory course of modern physics.  
C) An occasion for physicists to exchange ideas.  
D) A series of interviews with outstanding physicists.
6. A) The future of the physical world. C) Sources of radiation.  
B) The origin of the universe. D) Particle theory.

7. A) How matter collides with anti-matter. C) Why there exists anti-matter.  
 B) Whether the universe will turn barren. D) Why there is a universe at all.
8. A) Matter and anti-matter are opposites of each other.  
 B) Anti-matter allowed humans to come into existence.  
 C) The universe formed due to a sufficient amount of matter.  
 D) Anti-matter exists in very high-temperature environments.

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) She found herself speaking a foreign language.  
 B) She woke up speaking with a different accent.  
 C) She found some symptoms of her illness gone.  
 D) She woke up finding herself in another country.
10. A) It is usually caused by a stroke or brain injury.  
 B) It has not yet found any effective treatment.  
 C) It leaves the patient with a distorted memory.  
 D) It often happens to people with speech defects.
11. A) British. B) Irish. C) Russian. D) Australian.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) Water sports. C) Stories about women swimmers.  
 B) Racing in rivers. D) Books about swimming.
13. A) She succeeded in swimming across the English Channel.  
 B) She published a guide to London's best swimming spots.  
 C) She told her story of adventures to some young swimmers.  
 D) She wrote a book about the history of swimwear in the UK.
14. A) They loved vacationing on the seashore. C) They were prohibited from swimming.  
 B) They had a unique notion of modesty. D) They were fully dressed when swimming.
15. A) She designed lots of appropriate swimwear for women.  
 B) She once successfully competed against men in swimming.  
 C) She was the first woman to swim across the English Channel.  
 D) She was an advocate of women's right to swim in public pools.

## Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) Build a machine that can detect lies. C) Test the credibility of court evidence.

- B) Develop a magnetic brain scanner.  
 17. A) They are optimistic about its potential.  
 B) They are sceptical of its reliability.  
 18. A) It is not to be trusted at all.  
 B) It does not sound economical.
- D) Win people's complete trust in them.  
 C) They think it is but business promotion.  
 D) They celebrate it with great enthusiasm.  
 C) It may intrude into people's privacy.  
 D) It may lead to overuse in court trials.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) Most of its residents speak several languages.  
 B) Some of its indigenous languages are dying out.  
 C) Each village there speaks a totally different language.  
 D) Its languages have interested researchers the world over.
20. A) They are spread randomly across the world.  
 B) Some are more difficult to learn than others.  
 C) More are found in tropical regions than in the mild zones.  
 D) They enrich and impact each other in more ways than one.
21. A) They used different methods to collect and analyze data.  
 B) They identified distinct patterns of language distribution.  
 C) Their conclusions do not correspond to their original hypotheses.  
 D) There is no conclusive account for the cause of language diversity.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. A) Its middle-class is disappearing.  
 B) Its wealth is rationally distributed.
- C) Its population is rapidly growing.  
 D) Its cherished dream is coming true.
23. A) Success was but a dream without conscientious effort.  
 B) They could realize their dreams through hard work.  
 C) A few dollars could go a long way.  
 D) Wealth was shared by all citizens.
24. A) Better working conditions.  
 B) Better-paying jobs.
- C) High social status.  
 D) Full employment.
25. A) Reduce the administrative costs.  
 B) Adopt effective business models.
- C) Hire part-time employees only.  
 D) Make use of the latest technology.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Just off the coast of Southern California sits Santa Cruz Island, where a magical creature called the island fox 26. A decade ago, this island's ecosystem was in 27. Wild pigs attracted golden eagles from the mainland, and those flying 28 crashed the fox population. So the Nature Conservancy launched a 29 war against the pigs, complete with helicopters and sharpshooters.

And it worked. Today, federal agencies are pulling the island fox from the Endangered Species List. It's the fastest-ever recovery of a mammal, joining peers like the Louisiana black bear as glowing successes in the history of the Endangered Species Act.

But the recovery of Santa Cruz Island isn't just about the fox. The Nature Conservancy has 30 war on a multitude of invasive species here, from sheep to plants to the 31 Argentine ant. "Our philosophy with the island has always been, 'OK, 32 the threats and let the island go back to what it was,'" says ecologist Christina Boser. And it appears to be working. Native plants are coming back, and the fox once again bounds about carefree.

But keeping those foxes from harm will occupy Boser and her colleagues for years to come. You see, humans are still allowed on Santa Cruz Island, and they bring dogs. So Boser has to vaccinate her foxes against various diseases. "We're obligated to keep a pulse on the population for at least five years after the foxes are delisted," says Boser. That includes tagging the foxes and 33 their numbers to ensure nothing goes wrong.

This is the story of the little fox that has come back, and the people who have 34 their lives to protecting it. This is the story of wildlife conservation in the age of mass 35.

|                  |               |               |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| A) aggressive    | F) dwells     | K) monitoring |
| B) chaos         | G) extinction | L) predators  |
| C) configuration | H) fierce     | M) remove     |
| D) declared      | I) hinders    | N) tempt      |
| E) dedicated     | J) mammal     | O) underlying |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### Do Parents Invade Children's Privacy When They Post Photos Online?

- [A] When Katlyn Burbidge's son was 6 years old, he was performing some ridiculous song and dance typical of a first-grader. But after she snapped a photo and started using her phone, he asked her a serious question: "Are you going to post that online?" She laughed and answered, "Yes, I think I will." What he said next stopped her. "Can you not?"
- [B] That's when it dawned on her: She had been posting photos of him online without asking his permission. "We're big advocates of bodily autonomy and not forcing him to hug or kiss people unless he wants to, but it never occurred to me that I should ask his permission to post photos of him online," says Burbidge, a mom of two in Wakefield, Massachusetts. "Now when I post a photo of him online, I show him the photo and get his okay."
- [C] When her 8-month-old is 3 or 4 years old, she plans to start asking him in an age-appropriate way, "Do you want other people to see this?" That's precisely the approach that two researchers advocated before a room of pediatricians (儿科医生) last week at the American Academy of Pediatrics meeting, when they discussed the 21st century challenge of "sharenting," a new term for parents' online sharing about their children. "As advocates of children's rights, we believe that children should have a voice about what information is shared about them if possible,"

says Stacey Steinberg, a legal skills professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law in Gainesville.

- [D] Whether it's ensuring your child isn't bullied over something you post, that their identity isn't digitally "kidnapped", or that their photos don't end up on a half dozen child pornography (色情) sites, as one Australian mom discovered, parents and pediatricians are increasingly aware of the importance of protecting children's digital presence. Steinberg and Bahareh Keith, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine, say most children will likely never experience problems related to what their parents share, but a tension still exists between parents' rights to share their experiences and their children's rights to privacy.
- [E] "We're in no way trying to silence parents' voices," Steinberg says. "At the same time, we recognize that children might have an interest in entering adulthood free to create their own digital footprint." They cited a study presented earlier this year of 249 pairs of parents and their children in which twice as many children as parents wanted rules on what parents could share. "The parents said, 'We don't need rules—we're fine,' and the children said, 'Our parents need rules,'" Keith says. "The children wanted autonomy about this issue and were worried about their parents sharing information about them."
- [F] Although the American Academy of Pediatrics offers guidelines recommending that parents model appropriate social media use for their children, it does not explicitly discuss oversharing by parents. "I think this is a very legitimate concern, and I appreciate their drawing our attention to it," David Hill, a father of five, says. He sees a role for pediatricians to talk with parents about this, but believes the messaging must extend far beyond pediatricians' offices. "I look forward to seeing researchers expand our understanding of the issue so we can translate it into effective education and policy," he says.
- [G] There's been little research on the topic, Steinberg wrote in a law article about this issue. While states could pass laws related to sharing information about children online, Steinberg feels parents themselves are generally best suited to make these decisions for their families. "While we didn't want to create any unnecessary panic, we did find some concerns that were troublesome, and we thought that parents or at least physicians should be aware of those potential risks," Steinberg says. They include photos repurposed for inappropriate or illegal means, identity theft, embarrassment, bullying by peers or digital kidnapping.
- [H] But that's the negative side, with risks that must be balanced against the benefits of sharing. Steinberg pointed out that parental sharing on social media helps build communities, connect spread-out families, provide support and raise awareness around important social issues for which parents might be their children's only voice.
- [I] A C. S. Mott survey found among the 56 percent of mothers and 34 percent of fathers who discussed parenting on social media, 72 percent of them said sharing made them feel less alone, and nearly as many said sharing helped them worry less and gave them advice from other parents. The most common topics they discussed included kids' sleep, nutrition, discipline, behavior problems and day care and preschool.
- [J] "There's this peer-to-peer nature of health care these days with a profound opportunity for parents to learn helpful tips, safety and prevention efforts, pro-vaccine messages and all kinds of other messages from other parents in their social communities," says Wendy Sue Swanson, a pediatrician and executive director of digital health at Seattle Children's Hospital, where she



blogs about her own parenting journey to help other parents. “They’re getting nurtured by people they’ve already selected that they trust,” she says.

- [K] “How do we weigh the risks, how do we think about the benefits, and how do we alleviate the risks?” she says. “Those are the questions we need to ask ourselves, and everyone can have a different answer.”
- [L] Some parents find the best route for them is not to share at all. Bridget O’Hanlon and her husband, who live in Cleveland, decided before their daughter was born that they would not post her photos online. When a few family members did post pictures, O’Hanlon and her husband made their wishes clear. “It’s been hard not to share pictures of her because people always want to know how babies and toddlers (学走路的孩子) are doing and to see pictures, but we made the decision to have social media while she did not,” O’Hanlon said. Similarly, Alison Jamison of New York decided with her husband that their child had a right to their own online identity. They did use an invitation-only photo sharing platform so that friends and family, including those far away, could see the photos, but they stood firm, simply refusing to put their child’s photos on other social media platforms.
- [M] “For most families, it’s a journey. Sometimes it goes wrong, but most of the time it doesn’t,” says Swanson, who recommends starting to ask children permission to post narratives or photos around ages 6 to 8. “We’ll learn more and more what our tolerance is. We can ask our kids to help us learn as a society what’s okay and what’s not.”
- [N] Indeed, that learning process goes both ways. Bria Dunham, a mother in Somerville, Massachusetts, was so excited to watch a moment of brotherly bonding while her first-grader and baby took a bath together that she snapped a few photos. But when she considered posting them online, she took the perspective of her son: How would he feel if his classmates’ parents saw photos of him chest-up in the bathtub? “It made me think about how I’m teaching him to have ownership of his own body and how what is shared today endures into the future,” Dunham says. “So I kept the pictures to myself and accepted this as one more step in supporting his increasing autonomy.”
36. Steinberg argued parental sharing online can be beneficial.
  37. According to an expert, when children reach school age, they can help their parents learn what can and cannot be done.
  38. One mother refrained from posting her son’s photos online when she considered the matter from her son’s perspective.
  39. According to a study, more children than parents think there should be rules on parents’ sharing.
  40. Katlyn Burbidge had never realized she had to ask her son’s approval to put his photos online.
  41. A mother decided not to post her son’s photo online when he asked her not to.
  42. A woman pediatrician tries to help other parents by sharing her own parenting experience.
  43. There are people who decide simply not to share their children’s photos online.
  44. Parents and physicians should realize sharing information online about children may involve risks.
  45. Parents who share their parenting experiences may find themselves intruding into their children’s privacy.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Perhaps it is time for farmers to put their feet up now that robots are used to inspect crops, dig up weeds, and even have become shepherds, too. Commercial growing fields are astronomically huge and take thousands of man-hours to operate. One prime example is one of Australia's most isolated cattle stations, Supplejack Downs in the Northern Territory, extending across 4,000 square kilometers, taking over 13 hours to reach by car from the nearest major town—Alice Springs.

The extreme isolation of these massive farms leaves them often unattended, and monitored only once or twice a year, which means if the livestock falls ill or requires assistance, it can be a long time for farmers to discover.

However, robots are coming to the rescue.

Robots are currently under a two-year trial in Wales which will train “farmbots” to herd, monitor the health of livestock, and make sure there is enough pasture for them to graze on. The robots are equipped with many sensors to identify conditions of the environment, cattle and food, using thermal and vision sensors that detect changes in body temperature.

“You’ve also got color, texture and shape sensors looking down at the ground to check pasture quality,” says Salah Sukkarieh of the University of Sydney, who will carry out trials on several farms in central New South Wales.

During the trials, the robot *algorithms*(算法) and mechanics will be fine-tuned to make it better suited to ailing livestock and ensure it safely navigates around potential hazards including trees, mud, swamps, and hills.

“We want to improve the quality of animal health and make it easier for farmers to maintain large landscapes where animals roam free,” says Sukkarieh.

The robots are not limited to herding and monitoring livestock. They have been created to count individual fruit, inspect crops, and even pull weeds.

Many robots are equipped with high-tech sensors and complex learning algorithms to avoid injuring humans as they work side by side. The robots also learn the most efficient and safest passages, and allow engineers and farmers to analyze and better optimize the attributes and tasks of the robot, as well as provide a live stream giving real-time feedback on exactly what is happening on the farms.

Of course, some worry lies in replacing agricultural workers. However, it is farmers that are pushing for the advancements due to ever-increasing labor vacancies, making it difficult to maintain large-scale operations.

The robots have provided major benefits to farmers in various ways, from hunting and pulling weeds to monitoring the condition of every single fruit. Future farms will likely experience a greater deal of autonomy as robots take up more and more farm work efficiently.

46. What may farmers be able to do with robots appearing on the farming scene?

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A) Upgrade farm produce.     | C) Modify the genes of crops. |
| B) Enjoy more leisure hours. | D) Cut down farming costs.    |

47. What will “farmbots” be expected to do?  
 A) Take up many of the farmers’ routines.      C) Lead the trend in farming the world over.  
 B) Provide medical treatments for livestock.      D) Improve the quality of pastures for grazing.
48. What can robots do when equipped with high-tech sensors and complex learning algorithms?  
 A) Help farmers choose the most efficient and safest passages.  
 B) Help farmers simplify their farming tasks and management.  
 C) Allow farmers to learn instantly what is occurring on the farm.  
 D) Allow farmers to give them real-time instructions on what to do.
49. Why are farmers pressing for robotic farming?  
 A) Farming costs are fast increasing.      C) Robotic farming is the trend.  
 B) Robotics technology is maturing.      D) Labor shortage is worsening.
50. What does the author think future farms will be like?  
 A) More and more automated.      C) Larger and larger in scale.  
 B) More and more productive.      D) Better and better in condition.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The public must be able to understand the basics of science to make informed decisions. Perhaps the most dramatic example of the negative consequences of poor communication between scientists and the public is the issue of climate change, where a variety of factors, not the least of which is a breakdown in the transmission of fundamental climate data to the general public, has contributed to widespread mistrust and misunderstanding of scientists and their research.

The issue of climate change also illustrates how the public acceptance and understanding of science (or the lack of it) can influence governmental decision-making with regard to regulation, science policy and research funding.

However, the importance of effective communication with a general audience is not limited to hot issues like climate change. It is also critical for socially charged neuroscience issues such as the genetic basis for a particular behavior, the therapeutic potential of stem cell therapy for neurodegenerative diseases, or the use of animal models, areas where the public understanding of science can also influence policy and funding decisions. Furthermore, with continuing advances in individual *genome* (基因组) sequencing and the advent of personalized medicine, more non-scientists will need to be comfortable analyzing complex scientific information to make decisions that directly affect their quality of life.

Science journalism is the main channel for the popularization of scientific information among the public. Much has been written about how the relationship between scientists and the media can shape the efficient transmission of scientific advances to the public. Good science journalists are specialists in making complex topics accessible to a general audience, while adhering to scientific accuracy.

Unfortunately, pieces of science journalism can also oversimplify and generalize their subject material to the point that the basic information conveyed is obscured or at worst, obviously wrong. The impact of a basic discovery on human health can be exaggerated so that the public thinks a miraculous cure is a few months to years away when in reality the significance of the study is far more limited.

Even though scientists play a part in transmitting information to journalists and ultimately the

public, too often the blame for ineffective communication is placed on the side of the journalists. We believe that at least part of the problem lies in places other than the interaction between scientists and members of the media, and exists because for one thing we underestimate how difficult it is for scientists to communicate effectively with a diversity of audiences, and for another most scientists do not receive formal training in science communication.

51. What does the example of climate change serve to show?
  - A) The importance of climate data is increasingly recognized.
  - B) Adequate government funding is vital to scientific research.
  - C) Government regulation helps the public understand science.
  - D) Common folks' scientific knowledge can sway policy making.
52. What should non-scientists do to ensure their quality of life?
  - A) Seek personalized medical assistance from doctors.
  - B) Acquire a basic understanding of medical science.
  - C) Have their individual genome sequenced.
  - D) Make informed use of animal models.
53. Why is it important for scientists to build a good relationship with the media?
  - A) It helps them to effectively popularize new scientific information.
  - B) It enables the public to develop a positive attitude toward science.
  - C) It helps them to establish a more positive public image.
  - D) It enables them to apply their findings to public health.
54. What does the author say is the problem with science journalism?
  - A) It is keen on transmitting sensational information.
  - B) It tends to oversimplify people's health problems.
  - C) It may give inaccurate or distorted information to the public.
  - D) It may provide information open to different interpretations.
55. What should scientists do to impart their latest findings to the public more effectively?
  - A) Give training to science journalists.
  - B) Stimulate public interest in science.
  - C) Seek timely assistance from the media.
  - D) Improve their communication skills.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on Answer Sheet 2.

中国越来越重视公共图书馆，并鼓励人们充分加以利用。新近公布的统计数字表明，中国的公共图书馆数量在逐年增长。许多图书馆通过翻新和扩建，为读者创造了更为安静、舒适的环境。大型公共图书馆不仅提供种类繁多的参考资料，而且定期举办讲座、展览等活动。近年来，也出现了许多数字图书馆，从而节省了存放图书所需的空間。一些图书馆还推出了自助服务系统，使读者借书还书更加方便，进一步满足了读者的需求。

## 18. 2018 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *how to balance work and leisure*. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：由于 2018 年 12 月六级考试全国共考了两套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Surfing the Internet during class doesn't just steal focus from the educator; it also hurts students who're already struggling to 26 the material. A new study from Michigan State University, though, argues that all students—including high achievers—see a decline in performance when they browse the Internet during class for non-academic purposes.

To measure the effects of Internet-based distractions during class, researchers 27 500 students taking an introductory psychology class at Michigan State University. Researchers used ACT scores as a measure of intellectual 28. Because previous research has shown that people with high intellectual abilities are better at 29 out distractions, researchers believed students with high ACT scores would not show a 30 decrease in performance due to their use of digital devices. But students who surfed the web during class did worse on their exams regardless of their ACT scores, suggesting that even the academically smartest students are harmed when they're distracted in class.

College professors are increasingly 31 alarm bells about the effects smartphones, laptops, and tablets have on academic performance. One 2013 study of college students found that 80% of students use their phones or laptops during class, with the average student checking their digital device 11 times in a 32 class. A quarter of students report that their use of digital devices during class causes their grades to 33.

Professors sometimes implement policies designed to 34 students' use of digital devices, and some instructors even *confiscate* (没收) tablets and phones. In a world where people are increasingly dependent on their phones, though, such strategies often fail. One international study found that 84% of people say they couldn't go a day without their smartphones. Until students are able to 35 the pull of social networking, texting, and endlessly surfing the web, they may continue to struggle in their classes.

|                |             |                |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| A) aptitude    | F) grasp    | K) raising     |
| B) eradication | G) legacy   | L) resist      |
| C) evaluated   | H) minimize | M) significant |
| D) evaporated  | I) obscure  | N) suffer      |
| E) filtering   | J) obsess   | O) typical     |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### A Pioneering Woman of Science Re-Emerges after 300 Years

- [A] Maria Sibylla Merian, like many European women of the 17th century, stayed busy managing a household and rearing children. But on top of that, Merian, a German-born woman who lived in the Netherlands, also managed a successful career as an artist, botanist, naturalist and entomologist (昆虫学家).
- [B] “She was a scientist on the level with a lot of people we spend a lot of time talking about,” said Kay Etheridge, a biologist at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania who has been studying the scientific history of Merian’s work. “She didn’t do as much to change biology as Charles Darwin, but she was significant.”
- [C] At a time when natural history was a valuable tool for discovery, Merian discovered facts about plants and insects that were not previously known. Her observations helped dismiss the popular belief that insects spontaneously emerged from mud. The knowledge she collected over decades didn’t just satisfy those curious about nature, but also provided valuable insights into medicine and science. She was the first to bring together insects and their habitats, including food they ate, into a single ecological composition.
- [D] After years of pleasing a fascinated audience across Europe with books of detailed descriptions and life-size paintings of familiar insects, in 1699 she sailed with her daughter nearly 5,000 miles from the Netherlands to South America to study insects in the jungles of what is now known as Suriname. She was 52 years old. The result was her masterpiece, *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium*.
- [E] In her work, she revealed a side of nature so exotic, dramatic and valuable to Europeans of the time that she received much acclaim. But a century later, her findings came under scientific criticism. Shoddy (粗糙的) reproductions of her work along with setbacks to women’s roles in 18th- and 19th-century Europe resulted in her efforts being largely forgotten. “It was kind of stunning when she sort of dropped off into oblivion (遗忘),” said Dr. Etheridge. “Victorians started putting women in a box, and they’re still trying to crawl out of it.”
- [F] Today, the pioneering woman of the sciences has re-emerged. In recent years, feminists, historians and artists have all praised Merian’s tenacity (坚韧), talent and inspirational artistic compositions. And now biologists like Dr. Etheridge are digging into the scientific texts that accompanied her art. Three hundred years after her death, Merian will be celebrated at an international symposium in Amsterdam this June.
- [G] And last month, *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* was republished. It contains 60



plates (插图) and original descriptions, along with stories about Merian's life and updated scientific descriptions. Before writing *Metamorphosis*, Merian spent decades documenting European plants and insects that she published in a series of books. She began in her 20s, making textless, decorative paintings of flowers with insects. "Then she got really serious," Dr. Etheridge said. Merian started raising insects at home, mostly butterflies and caterpillars. "She would sit up all night until they came out of the pupa (蛹) so she could draw them," she said.

- [H] The results of her decades' worth of careful observations were detailed paintings and descriptions of European insects, followed by unconventional visuals and stories of insects and animals from a land that most at the time could only imagine. It's possible Merian used a magnifying glass to capture the detail of the split tongues of sphinx moths (斯芬克斯飞蛾) depicted in the painting. She wrote that the two tongues combine to form one tube for drinking nectar (花蜜). Some criticized this detail later, saying there was just one tongue, but Merian wasn't wrong. She may have observed the adult moth just as it emerged from its pupa. For a brief moment during that stage of its life cycle, the tongue consists of two tiny half-tubes before merging into one.
- [I] It may not have been ladylike to depict a giant spider devouring a hummingbird, but when Merian did it at the turn of the 18th century, surprisingly, nobody objected. Dr. Etheridge called it revolutionary. The image, which also contained novel descriptions of ants, fascinated a European audience that was more concerned with the exotic story unfolding before them than the gender of the person who painted it.
- [J] "All of these things shook up their nice, neat little view," Dr. Etheridge said. But later, people of the Victorian era thought differently. Her work had been reproduced, sometimes incorrectly. A few observations were deemed impossible. "She'd been called a silly woman for saying that a spider could eat a bird," Dr. Etheridge said. But Henry Walter Bates, a friend of Charles Darwin, observed it and put it in a book in 1863, proving Merian was correct.
- [K] In this same plate, Merian depicted and described leaf-cutter ants for the first time. "In America there are large ants which can eat whole trees bare as a broom handle in a single night," she wrote in the description. Merian noted how the ants took the leaves below ground to their young. And she wouldn't have known this at the time, but the ants use the leaves to farm fungi (菌类) underground to feed their developing babies.
- [L] Merian was correct about the giant bird-eating spiders, ants building bridges with their bodies and other details. But in the same drawing, she incorrectly lumped together army and leaf-cutter ants. And instead of showing just the typical pair of eggs in a hummingbird nest, she painted four. She made other mistakes in *Metamorphosis Insectorum Surinamensium* as well: not every caterpillar and butterfly matched.
- [M] Perhaps one explanation for her mistakes is that she cut short her Suriname trip after getting sick, and completed the book at home in Amsterdam. And errors are common among some of history's most-celebrated scientific minds, too. "These errors no more invalidate Ms. Merian's work than do well-known misconceptions published by Charles Darwin or Isaac Newton," Dr. Etheridge wrote in a paper that argued that too many have wrongly focused on the mistakes of her work.
- [N] Merian's paintings inspired artists and ecologists. In an 1801 drawing from his book, *General Zoology Amphibia*, George Shaw, an English botanist and zoologist, credited Merian for describing a frog in the account of her South American expedition, and named the young tree

frog after her in his portrayal of it. It wouldn't be fair to give Merian all the credit. She received assistance naming plants, making sketches and referencing the work of others. Her daughters helped her color her drawings.

[O] Merian also made note of the help she received from the natives of Suriname, as well as slaves or servants that assisted her. In some instances she wrote moving passages that included her helpers in descriptions. As she wrote in her description of the peacock flower, "The Indians, who are not treated well by their Dutch masters, use the seeds to abort their children, so that they will not become slaves like themselves. The black slaves from Guinea and Angola have demanded to be well treated, threatening to refuse to have children. In fact, they sometimes take their own lives because they are treated so badly, and because they believe they will be born again, free and living in their own land. They told me this themselves."

[P] Londa Schiebinger, a professor of the history of science at Stanford University, called this passage rather astonishing. It's particularly striking centuries later when these issues are still prominent in public discussions about social justice and women's rights. "She was ahead of her time," Dr. Etheridge said.

36. Merian was the first scientist to study a type of American ant.
37. The European audience was more interested in Merian's drawings than her gender.
38. Merian's masterpiece came under attack a century after its publication.
39. Merian's mistakes in her drawings may be attributed to her shortened stay in South America.
40. Merian often sat up the whole night through to observe and draw insects.
41. Merian acknowledged the help she got from natives of South America.
42. Merian contributed greatly to people's better understanding of medicine and science.
43. Merian occasionally made mistakes in her drawings of insects and birds.
44. Now, Merian's role as a female forerunner in sciences has been re-established.
45. Merian made a long voyage to South America to study jungle insects over three centuries ago.

## Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

While human achievements in mathematics continue to reach new levels of complexity, many of us who aren't mathematicians at heart (or engineers by trade) may struggle to remember the last time we used *calculus* (微积分).

It's a fact not lost on American educators, who amid rising math failure rates are debating how math can better meet the real-life needs of students. Should we change the way math is taught in schools, or eliminate some courses entirely?

Andrew Hacker, Queens College political science professor, thinks that advanced algebra and other higher-level math should be cut from curricula in favor of courses with more routine usefulness, like statistics.

"We hear on all sides that we're not teaching enough mathematics, and the Chinese are running

rings around us,” Hacker says. “I’m suggesting we’re teaching too much mathematics to too many people... not everybody has to know calculus. If you’re going to become an *aeronautical* (航空的) engineer, fine. But most of us aren’t.”

Instead, Hacker is pushing for more courses like the one he teaches at Queens College: Numeracy 101. There, his students of “citizen statistics” learn to analyze public information like the federal budget and corporate reports. Such courses, Hacker argues, are a remedy for the numerical illiteracy of adults who have completed high-level math like algebra but are unable to calculate the price of, say, a carpet by area.

Hacker’s argument has met with opposition from other math educators who say what’s needed is to help students develop a better relationship with math earlier, rather than teaching them less math altogether.

Maria Droujkova is a founder of Natural Math, and has taught basic calculus concepts to 5-year-olds. For Droujkova, high-level math is important, and what it could use in American classrooms is an injection of childlike wonder.

“Make mathematics more available,” Droujkova says. “Redesign it so it’s more accessible to more kinds of people: young children, adults who worry about it, adults who may have had bad experiences.”

Pamela Harris, a lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, has a similar perspective. Harris says that American education is suffering from an epidemic of “fake math”—an emphasis on the *rote memorization* (死记硬背) of formulas and steps, rather than an understanding of how math can influence the ways we see the world.

Andrew Hacker, for the record, remains skeptical.

“I’m going to leave it to those who are in mathematics to work out the ways to make their subject interesting and exciting so students want to take it,” Hacker says. “All that I ask is that alternatives be offered instead of putting all of us on the road to calculus.”

46. What does the author say about ordinary Americans?

- A) They struggle to solve math problems.
- B) They think math is a complex subject.
- C) They find high-level math of little use.
- D) They work hard to learn high-level math.

47. What is the general complaint about America’s math education according to Hacker?

- A) America is not doing as well as China.
- B) Math professors are not doing a good job.
- C) It doesn’t help students develop their literacy.
- D) There has hardly been any innovation for years.

48. What does Andrew Hacker’s Numeracy 101 aim to do?

- A) Allow students to learn high-level math step by step.
- B) Enable students to make practical use of basic math.
- C) Lay a solid foundation for advanced math studies.
- D) Help students to develop their analytical abilities.

49. What does Maria Droujkova suggest math teachers do in class?

- A) Make complex concepts easy to understand.
- B) Start teaching children math at an early age.
- C) Help children work wonders with calculus.
- D) Try to arouse students’ curiosity in math.

50. What does Pamela Harris think should be the goal of math education?

- A) To enable learners to understand the world better.
- B) To help learners to tell fake math from real math.
- C) To broaden Americans' perspectives on math.
- D) To exert influence on world development.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

For years, the U.S. has experienced a shortage of registered nurses. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that while the number of nurses will increase by 19 percent by 2022, demand will grow faster than supply, and that there will be over one million unfilled nursing jobs by then.

So what's the solution? Robots.

Japan is ahead of the curve when it comes to this trend. Toyohashi University of Technology has developed Terapio, a robotic medical cart that can make hospital rounds, deliver medications and other items, and retrieve records. It follows a specific individual, such as a doctor or nurse, who can use it to record and access patient data. This type of robot will likely be one of the first to be implemented in hospitals because it has fairly minimal patient contact.

Robots capable of social engagement help with loneliness as well as cognitive functioning, but the robot itself doesn't have to engage directly—it can serve as an intermediary for human communication. Telepresence robots such as MantaroBot, Vgo, and Giraff can be controlled through a computer, smartphone, or tablet, allowing family members or doctors to remotely monitor patients or Skype them, often via a screen where the robot's 'face' would be. If you can't get to the nursing home to visit grandma, you can use a telepresence robot to hang out with her. A 2016 study found that users had a "consistently positive attitude" about the Giraff robot's ability to enhance communication and decrease feelings of loneliness.

A robot's appearance affects its ability to successfully interact with humans, which is why the RIKEN-TRI Collaboration Center for Human-Interactive Robot Research decided to develop a robotic nurse that looks like a huge teddy bear. RIBA (Robot for Interactive Body Assistance), also known as "Robear", can help patients into and out of wheelchairs and beds with its strong arms.

On the less cute and more scary side there is Actroid F, which is so human-like that some patients may not know the difference. This conversational robot companion has cameras in its eyes, which allow it to track patients and use appropriate facial expressions and body language in its interactions. During a month-long hospital trial, researchers asked 70 patients how they felt being around the robot and "only three or four said they didn't like having it around."

It's important to note that robotic nurses don't decide courses of treatment or make diagnoses (though robot doctors and surgeons may not be far off). Instead, they perform routine and laborious tasks, freeing nurses up to attend to patients with immediate needs. This is one industry where it seems the integration of robots will lead to collaboration, not replacement.

51. What does the author say about Japan?

- A) It delivers the best medications for the elderly.
- B) It takes the lead in providing robotic care.
- C) It provides retraining for registered nurses.
- D) It sets the trend in future robotics technology.

52. What do we learn about the robot Terapio?

- A) It has been put to use in many Japanese hospitals.  
B) It provides specific individualized care to patients.  
C) It does not have much direct contact with patients.  
D) It has not revolutionized medical service in Japan.
53. What are telepresence robots designed to do?  
A) Directly interact with patients to prevent them from feeling lonely.  
B) Cater to the needs of patients for recovering their cognitive capacity.  
C) Closely monitor the patients' movements and conditions around the clock.  
D) Facilitate communication between patients and doctors or family members.
54. What is one special feature of the robot Actroid F?  
A) It interacts with patients just like a human companion.  
B) It operates quietly without patients realizing its presence.  
C) It likes to engage in everyday conversations with patients.  
D) It uses body language even more effectively than words.
55. What can we infer from the last paragraph?  
A) Doctors and surgeons will soon be laid off.  
B) The robotics industry will soon take off.  
C) Robots will not make nurses redundant.  
D) Collaboration will not replace competition.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

近年来, 中国越来越多的博物馆免费向公众开放。博物馆展览次数和参观人数都明显增长。在一些广受欢迎的博物馆门前, 排长队已很常见。这些博物馆必须采取措施限制参观人数。如今, 展览形式越来越多样。一些大型博物馆利用多媒体和虚拟现实等先进技术, 使展览更具吸引力。不少博物馆还举办在线展览, 人们可在网上观赏珍稀展品。然而, 现场观看展品的体验对大多数参观者还是更具吸引力。

### 19. 2019 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 1 套)

#### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of motivation and methods in learning*. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

## Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. A) A six-month-long negotiation.      C) A project with a troublesome client.  
B) Preparations for the party.      D) Gift wrapping for the colleagues.
2. A) Take wedding photos.      C) Start a small business.  
B) Advertise her company.      D) Throw a celebration party.
3. A) Hesitant.      B) Nervous.      C) Flattered.      D) Surprised.
4. A) Start her own bakery.      C) Share her cooking experience.  
B) Improve her baking skill.      D) Prepare food for the wedding.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) They have to spend more time studying.  
B) They have to participate in club activities.  
C) They have to be more responsible for what they do.  
D) They have to choose a specific academic discipline.
6. A) Get ready for a career.      C) Set a long-term goal.  
B) Make a lot of friends.      D) Behave like adults.
7. A) Those who share her academic interests.  
B) Those who respect her student commitments.  
C) Those who can help her when she is in need.  
D) Those who go to the same clubs as she does.
8. A) Those helpful for tapping their potential.  
B) Those conducive to improving their social skills.  
C) Those helpful for cultivating individual interests.  
D) Those conducive to their academic studies.

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) They break away from traditional ways of thinking.  
B) They are prepared to work harder than anyone else.  
C) They are good at refining old formulas.  
D) They bring their potential into full play.
10. A) They contributed to the popularity of skiing worldwide.  
B) They resulted in a brand new style of skiing technique.  
C) They promoted the scientific use of skiing poles.



- D) They made explosive news in the sports world.
11. A) He was recognized as a genius in the world of sports.  
B) He competed in all major skiing events in the world.  
C) He won three gold medals in one Winter Olympics.  
D) He broke three world skiing records in three years.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) They appear restless. C) They lose consciousness.  
B) They become upset. D) They die almost instantly.
13. A) It has an instant effect on your body chemistry  
B) It keeps returning to you every now and then.  
C) It leaves you with a long-lasting impression.  
D) It contributes to the shaping of your mind.
14. A) To succeed while feeling irritated.  
B) To feel happy without good health.  
C) To be free from frustration and failure.  
D) To enjoy good health while in dark moods
15. A) They are closely connected. C) They are too complex to understand.  
B) They function in a similar way. D) They reinforce each other constantly

### Section C

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet I with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) They differ in their appreciation of music.  
B) They focus their attention on different things.  
C) They finger the piano keys in different ways.  
D) They choose different pieces of music to play.
17. A) They manage to cooperate well with their teammates.  
B) They use effective tactics to defeat their competitors.  
C) They try hard to meet the spectators' expectations.  
D) They attach great importance to high performance.
18. A) It marks a breakthrough in behavioral science.  
B) It adopts a conventional approach to research.  
C) It supports a piece of conventional wisdom.  
D) It gives rise to controversy among experts.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 19. A) People's envy of slim models. | C) The increasing range of fancy products. |
| B) People's craze for good health.   | D) The great variety of slimming products. |
| 20. A) They appear vigorous.         | C) They look charming.                     |
| B) They appear strange.              | D) They look unhealthy.                    |
| 21. A) Culture and upbringing.       | C) Peer pressure.                          |

- B) Wealth and social status. D) Media influence.
- Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**
22. A) The relation between hair and skin. C) The color of human skin.  
B) The growing interest in skin studies. D) The need of skin protection.
23. A) The necessity to save energy. C) The need to breathe with ease.  
B) Adaptation to the hot environment. D) Dramatic climate changes on earth.
24. A) Leaves and grass. C) Their skin coloring.  
B) Man-made shelter. D) Hair on their skin.
25. A) Their genetic makeup began to change. C) Their children began to mix with each other.  
B) Their communities began to grow steadily. D) Their pace of evolution began to quicken.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Pasta is no longer off the menu, after a new review of studies suggested that the carbohydrate can form part of a healthy diet, and even help people lose weight. For years, nutritionists have recommended that pasta be kept to a 26, to cut calories, prevent fat build-up and stop blood sugar 27 up.

The low-carbohydrate food movement gave birth to such diets as the Atkins, Paleo and Keto, which advised swapping foods like bread, pasta and potatoes for vegetables, fish and meat. More recently the trend of swapping spaghetti for vegetables has been 28 by clean-eating experts.

But now a 29 review and analysis of 30 studies by Canadian researchers found that not only does pasta not cause weight gain, but three meals a week can help people drop more than half a kilogram over four months. The reviewers found that pasta had been unfairly *demonized*(妖魔化) because it had been 30 in with other, more fat-promoting carbohydrates.

"The study found that pasta didn't 31 to weight gain or increase in body fat," said lead author Dr John Sievenpiper. "In 32 the evidence, we can now say with some confidence that pasta does not have an 33 effect on body weight outcomes when it is consumed as part of a healthy dietary pattern." In fact, analysis actually showed a small weight loss. So 34 to concerns, perhaps pasta can be part of a healthy diet.

Those involved in the 35 trials on average ate 3.3 servings of pasta a week instead of other carbohydrates, one serving equaling around half a cup. They lost around half a kilogram over an average follow-up of 12 weeks.

|               |              |               |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| A) adverse    | F) intimate  | K) ration     |
| B) championed | G) lumped    | L) shooting   |
| C) clinical   | H) magnified | M) subscribe  |
| D) contrary   | I) minimum   | N) systematic |
| E) contribute | J) radiating | O) weighing   |

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2.*

### The Best Retailers Combine Bricks and Clicks

- [A] Retail profits are falling sharply. Stores are closing. Malls are emptying. The depressing stories just keep coming. Reading the earnings announcements of large retail stores like Macy's, Nordstrom, and Target is about as uplifting as a tour of an intensive care unit. The internet is apparently taking down yet another industry. Brick and mortar stores (实体店) seem to be going the way of the yellow pages. Sure enough, the Census Bureau just released data showing that online retail sales surged 15.2 percent between the first quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016.
- [B] But before you dump all of your retail stocks, there are more facts you should consider. Looking only at that 15.2 percent "surge" would be misleading. It was an increase that was on a small base of 6.9 percent. Even when a tiny number grows by a large percentage terms, it is often still tiny.
- [C] More than 20 years after the internet was opened to commerce, the Census Bureau tells us that brick and mortar sales accounted for 92.3 percent of retail sales in the first quarter of 2016. Their data show that only 0.8 percent of retail sales shifted from offline to online between the beginning of 2015 and 2016.
- [D] So, despite all the talk about drone (无人机) deliveries to your doorstep, all the retail executives expressing anxiety over consumers going online, and even a Presidential candidate exclaiming that Amazon has a "huge antitrust problem," the Census data suggest that physical retail is thriving. Of course, the closed stores, depressed executives, and sinking stocks suggest otherwise. What's the real story?
- [E] Many firms operating brick and mortar stores are in trouble. The retail industry is getting "reinvented," as we describe in our new book Matchmakers. It's standing in the path of what Schumpeter called a gale (大风) of creative destruction. That storm has been brewing for some time, and as it has reached gale force, most large retailers are searching for a response. As the CFO of Macy's put it recently, "We're frankly scratching our heads."
- [F] But it's not happening as experts predicted. In the peak of the dot.com bubble, brick and mortar retail was one of those industries the internet was going to kill—and quickly. The dot.com bust discredited most predictions of that sort and in the years that followed, conventional retailers' confidence in the future increased as Census continued to report weak online sales. And then the gale hit.
- [G] It is becoming increasingly clear that retail reinvention isn't a simple battle to the death between bricks and clicks. It is about devising retail models that work for people who are making increasing use of a growing array of internet-connected tools to change how they search, shop, and buy. Creative retailers are using the new technologies to innovate just about everything stores do from managing inventory, to marketing, to getting paid.
- [H] More than drones dropping a new supply of underwear on your doorstep, Apple's massively

successful brick-and-mortar-and-glass retail stores and Amazon's small steps in the same direction are what should keep old-fashioned retailers awake at night. Not to mention the large number of creative new retailers, like Bonobos, that are blending online and offline experiences in creative ways.

- [I] Retail reinvention is not a simple process, and it's also not happening on what used to be called "Internet Time." Some internet-driven changes have happened quickly, of course. Craigslist quickly overtook 'newspaper classified ads and turned newspaper economics upside down. But many widely anticipated changes weren't quick, and some haven't really started. With the benefit of hindsight (后见之明), it looks like the internet will transform the economy at something like the pace of other great inventions like electricity. B2B commerce, for example, didn't move mainly online by 2005 as many had predicted in 2000, nor even by 2016, but that doesn't mean it won't do so over the next few decades.
- [J] But the gale is still blowing. The sudden decline in foot traffic in recent years, even though it hasn't been accompanied by a massive decline in physical sales, is a critical warning. People can shop more efficiently online and therefore don't need to go to as many stores to find what they want. There's a surplus of physical shopping space for the crowds, which is one reason why stores are downsizing and closing.
- [K] The rise of the mobile phone has recently added a new level of complexity to the process of retail reinvention. Even five years ago most people faced a choice. Sit at your computer, probably at home or at the office, search and browse, and buy. Or head out to the mall, or Main Street, look and shop, and buy. Now, just about everyone has a smartphone, connected to the internet almost everywhere almost all the time. Even when a retailer gets a customer to walk in the store, she can easily see if there's a better deal online or at another store nearby.
- [L] So far, the main thing many large retailers have done in response to all this is to open online stores, so people will come to them directly rather than to Amazon and its smaller online rivals. Many are having the same problem that newspapers have had. Even if they get online traffic, they struggle to make enough money online to compensate for what they are losing offline.
- [M] A few seem to be making this work. Among large traditional retailers, Walmart recently reported the best results, leading its stock price to surge, while Macy's, Target, and Nordstrom's dropped. Yet Walmart's year-over-year online sales only grew 7 percent, leading its CEO to lament (哀叹), "Growth here is too slow." Part of the problem is that almost two decades after Amazon filed the one-click patent, the online retail shopping and buying experience is filled with frictions. A recent study graded more than 600 internet retailers on how easy it was for consumers to shop, buy, and pay. Almost half of the sites didn't get a passing grade and only 18 percent got an A or B.
- [N] The turmoil on the ground in physical retail is hard to square with the Census data. Unfortunately, part of the explanation is that the Census retail data are unreliable. Our deep look into those data and their preparation revealed serious problems. It seems likely that Census simply misclassifies a large chunk of online sales. It is certain that the Census procedures, which lump the online sales of major traditional retailers like Walmart with "non-store retailers" like food trucks, can mask major changes in individual retail categories. The bureau could easily present their data in more useful ways, but they have chosen not to.
- [O] Despite the turmoil, brick and mortar won't disappear any time soon. The big questions are which, if any, of the large traditional retailers will still be on the scene in a decade or two

because they have successfully reinvented themselves, which new players will operate busy stores on Main Streets and maybe even in shopping malls, and how the shopping and buying experience will have changed in each retail category. Investors shouldn't write off brick and mortar. Whether they should bet on the traditional players who run those stores now is another matter.

36. Although online retailing has existed for some twenty years, nearly half of the internet retailers still fail to receive satisfactory feedback from consumers, according to a recent survey.
37. Innovative retailers integrate internet technologies with conventional retailing to create new retail models.
38. Despite what the Census data suggest, the value of physical retail's stocks has been dropping.
39. Internet-driven changes in the retail industry didn't take place as quickly as widely anticipated.
40. Statistics indicate that brick and mortar sales still made up the lion's share of the retail business.
41. Companies that successfully combine online and offline business models may prove to be a big concern for traditional retailers.
42. Brick and mortar retailers' faith in their business was strengthened when the dot.com bubble burst.
43. Despite the tremendous challenges from online retailing, traditional retailing will be here to stay for quite some time.
44. With the rise of online commerce, physical retail stores are likely to suffer the same fate as the yellow pages.
45. The wide use of smartphones has made it more complex for traditional retailers to reinvent their business.

### Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

#### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Professor Stephen Hawking has warned that the creation of powerful artificial intelligence (AI) will be "either the best, or the worst thing, ever to happen to humanity", and praised the creation of an academic institute dedicated to researching the future of intelligence as "crucial to the future of our civilisation and our species".

Hawking was speaking at the opening of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (LCFI) at Cambridge University, a multi-disciplinary institute that will attempt to tackle some of the open-ended questions raised by the rapid pace of development in AI research. "We spend a great deal of time studying history," Hawking said, "which, let's face it, is mostly the history of stupidity. So it's a welcome change that people are studying instead the future of intelligence."

While the world-renowned physicist has often been cautious about AI, raising concerns that humanity could be the architect of its own destruction if it creates a super-intelligence with a will of its own, he was also quick to highlight the positives that AI research can bring. "The potential benefits of creating intelligence are huge," he said. "We cannot predict what we might achieve

when our own minds are amplified by AI. Perhaps with the tools of this new technological revolution, we will be able to undo some of the damage done to the natural world by the last one-industrialisation. And surely we will aim to finally eradicate disease and poverty. And every aspect of our lives will be transformed. In short, success in creating AI could be the biggest event in the history of our civilisation."

Huw Price, the centre's academic director and the Bertrand Russell professor of philosophy at Cambridge University, where Hawking is also an academic, said that the centre came about partially as a result of the university's Centre for Existential Risk. That institute examined a wider range of potential problems for humanity, while the LCFI has a narrow focus.

AI pioneer Margaret Boden, professor of cognitive science at the University of Sussex, praised the progress of such discussions. As recently as 2009, she said, the topic wasn't taken seriously, even among AI researchers. "AI is hugely exciting," she said, "but it has limitations, which present grave dangers given uncritical use."

The academic community is not alone in warning about the potential dangers of AI as well as the potential benefits. A number of pioneers from the technology industry, most famously the entrepreneur Elon Musk, have also expressed their concerns about the damage that a super-intelligent AI could do to humanity.

46. What did Stephen Hawking think of artificial intelligence?
- A) It would be vital to the progress of human civilisation.
  - B) It might be a blessing or a disaster in the making.
  - C) It might present challenges as well as opportunities.
  - D) It would be a significant expansion of human intelligence.
47. What did Hawking say about the creation of the LCFI?
- A) It would accelerate the progress of AI research.
  - B) It would mark a step forward in the AI industry.
  - C) It was extremely important to the destiny of humankind.
  - D) It was an achievement of multi-disciplinary collaboration.
48. What did Hawking say was a welcome change in AI research?
- A) The shift of research focus from the past to the future.
  - B) The shift of research from theory to implementation.
  - C) The greater emphasis on the negative impact of AI.
  - D) The increasing awareness of mankind's past stupidity.
49. What concerns did Hawking raise about AI?
- A) It may exceed human intelligence sooner or later.
  - B) It may ultimately over-amplify the human mind.
  - C) Super-intelligence may cause its own destruction.
  - D) Super-intelligence may eventually ruin mankind.
50. What do we learn about some entrepreneurs from the technology industry?
- A) They are much influenced by the academic community.
  - B) They are most likely to benefit from AI development.
  - C) They share the same concerns about AI as academics.
  - D) They believe they can keep AI under human control.



## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The market for products designed specifically for older adults could reach \$30 billion by next year, and *startups* (初创公司) want in on the action. What they sometimes lack is feedback from the people who they hope will use their products. So Brookdale, the country's largest owner of retirement communities, has been inviting a few select entrepreneurs just to move in for a few days, show off their products and hear what the residents have to say.

That's what brought Dayle Rodriguez, 28, all the way from England to the dining room of Brookdale South Bay in Torrance, California. Rodriguez is the community and marketing manager for a company called Sentab. The startup's product, SentabTV, enables older adults who may not be comfortable with computers to access email, video chat and social media using just their televisions and a remote control.

"It's nothing new, it's nothing too complicated and it's natural because lots of people have TV remotes," says Rodriguez.

But none of that is the topic of conversation in the Brookdale dining room. Instead, Rodriguez solicits residents' advice on what he should get on his cheeseburger and how he should spend the afternoon. Playing cards was on the agenda, as well as learning to play *mahjong* (麻将).

Rodriguez says it's important that residents here don't feel like he's selling them something. "I've had more feedback in a passive approach," he says. "Playing pool, playing cards, having dinner, having lunch," all work better "than going through a survey of questions. When they get to know me and to trust me, knowing for sure I'm not selling them something-there'll be more honest feedback from them."

Rodriguez is just the seventh entrepreneur to move into one of Brookdale's 1,100 senior living communities. Other new products in the program have included a kind of full-body blow dryer and specially designed clothing that allows people with disabilities to dress and undress themselves.

Mary Lou Busch, 93, agreed to try the Sentab system. She tells Rodriguez that it might be good for someone, but not for her.

"I have the computer and FaceTime, which I talk with my family on," she explains. She also has an iPad and a smartphone. "So I do pretty much everything I need to do."

To be fair, if Rodriguez had wanted feedback from some more *technophobic* (害怕技术的) seniors, he might have ended up in the wrong Brookdale community. This one is located in the heart of Southern California's aerospace corridor. Many residents have backgrounds in engineering, business and academic circles.

But Rodriguez says he's still learning something important by moving into this Brookdale community: "People are more tech-proficient than we thought."

And besides, where else would he learn to play mahjong?

51. What does the passage say about the startups?

- A) They never lose time in upgrading products for seniors.
- B) They want to have a share of the seniors' goods market.
- C) They invite seniors to their companies to try their products.
- D) They try to profit from promoting digital products to seniors.

52. Some entrepreneurs have been invited to Brookdale to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) have an interview with potential customers

- B) conduct a survey of retirement communities
  - C) collect residents' feedback on their products
  - D) show senior residents how to use IT products
53. What do we know about SentabTV?
- A) It is a TV program catering to the interest of the elderly.
  - B) It is a digital TV which enjoys popularity among seniors.
  - C) It is a TV specially designed for seniors to view programs.
  - D) It is a communication system via TV instead of a computer.
54. What does Rodriguez say is important in promoting products?
- A) Winning trust from prospective customers.
  - B) Knowing the likes and dislikes of customers.
  - C) Demonstrating their superiority on the spot.
  - D) Responding promptly to customer feedback.
55. What do we learn about the seniors in the Brookdale community?
- A) Most of them are interested in using the Sentab.
  - B) They are quite at ease with high-tech products.
  - C) They have much in common with seniors elsewhere.
  - D) Most of them enjoy a longer life than average people.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet2**.

中国幅员辽阔，人口众多，很多地方人们都说自己的方言。方言在发音上差别最大，词汇和语法差别较小。有些方言，特别是北方和南方的方言，差异很大，以至于说不同方言的人常常很难听懂彼此的讲话。方言被认为是当地文化的一个组成部分，但近年来能说方言的人数不断减少。为了鼓励人们更多说本地方言，一些地方政府已经采取措施，如在学校开设方言课，在广播和电视上播放方言节目，以期保存本地的文化遗产。

20. 2019 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of mutual understanding and respect in interpersonal relationships*. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on *Answer Sheet 1* with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. A) Why Roman Holiday was more famous than Breakfast at Tiffany's.  
B) Why Audrey Hepburn had more female fans than male ones.  
C) Why the woman wanted to be like Audrey Hepburn.  
D) Why so many girls adored Audrey Hepburn.
2. A) Her unique personality.                      C) Her shift of interest to performing arts.  
B) Her physical condition.                      D) Her family's suspension of financial aid.

3. A) She was not an outgoing person. C) She was modest and hardworking.  
B) She was easy-going on the whole. D) She was usually not very optimistic.
4. A) She was influenced by the roles she played in the films.  
B) Her parents taught her to sympathize with the needy.  
C) She learned to volunteer when she was a child.  
D) Her family benefited from other people's help.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. A) Give a presentation. C) Start a new company.  
B) Raise some questions. D) Attend a board meeting.
6. A) It will cut production costs. C) No staff will be dismissed.  
B) It will raise productivity. D) No new staff will be hired.
7. A) The timeline of restructuring. C) The communication channels.  
B) The reasons for restructuring. D) The company's new missions.
8. A) By consulting their own department managers.  
B) By emailing questions to the man or the woman.  
C) By exploring various channels of communication.  
D) By visiting the company's own computer network.

**Section B**

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) It helps passengers to take care of their pet animals.  
B) It has animals to help passengers carry their luggage.  
C) It uses therapy animals to soothe nervous passengers.  
D) It allows passengers to have animals travel with them.
10. A) Avoiding possible dangers. C) Identifying drug smugglers.  
B) Finding their way around. D) Looking after sick passengers.
11. A) Schedule their flights around the animal visits.  
B) Photograph the therapy animals at the airport.  
C) Keep some animals for therapeutic purposes.  
D) Bring their pet animals on board their plane.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) Beside a beautifully painted wall in Arles. C) At the site of an ancient Roman mansion.  
B) Beside the gate of an ancient Roman city. D) At the entrance to a reception hall in Rome.
13. A) A number of different images. C) Various musical instruments.  
B) A number of mythological heroes. D) Paintings by famous French artists.
14. A) The originality and expertise shown. C) The stunning images vividly depicted.  
B) The worldly sophistication displayed. D) The impressive skills and costly dyes.

15. A) His artistic taste is superb. C) He was a collector of antiques.  
B) His identity remains unclear. D) He was a rich Italian merchant.

### Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) They encourage international cooperation.  
B) They lay stress on basic scientific research.  
C) They place great emphasis on empirical studies.  
D) They favour scientists from its member countries.
17. A) Many of them wish to win international recognition.  
B) They believe that more hands will make light work.  
C) They want to follow closely the international trend.  
D) Many of their projects have become complicated.
18. A) It requires mathematicians to work independently.  
B) It is faced with many unprecedented challenges.  
C) It lags behind other disciplines in collaboration.  
D) It calls for more research funding to catch up

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) Scientists tried to send a balloon to Venus.  
B) Scientists discovered water on Venus.  
C) Scientists found Venus had atmosphere.  
D) Scientists observed Venus from a space vehicle.
20. A) It resembles Earth in many aspects. C) It is a paradise of romance for alien life.  
B) It is the same as fiction has portrayed. D) It undergoes geological changes like Earth.
21. A) It might have been hotter than it is today C) It used to have more water than Earth.  
B) It might have been a cozy habitat for life. D) It used to be covered with rainforests.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. A) Causes of sleeplessness. C) Cultural psychology.  
B) Cross-cultural communication. D) Motivation and positive feelings.
23. A) They attach great importance to sleep. C) They pay more attention to sleep efficiency.  
B) They often have trouble falling asleep. D) They generally sleep longer than East Asians.
24. A) By asking people to report their sleep habits.  
B) By observing people's sleep patterns in labs.  
C) By having people wear motion-detecting watches.  
D) By videotaping people's daily sleeping processes.
25. A) It has made remarkable progress in the past few decades.

- B) It has not yet explored the cross-cultural aspect of sleep.
- C) It has not yet produced anything conclusive.
- D) It has attracted attention all over the world.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

The dream of personalized flight is still vivid in the minds of many inventors, some developing cycle-powered craft, others 26 money into *jetpacks* (喷气飞行背包). However, the flying car has always remained the 27 Symbol of personal transport freedom.

Several companies around the world have produced 28 that can drive on roads and fly. Airbus has a futuristic *modular* (组件式的) concept involving a passenger capsule that can be 29 from the road-going *chassis* (底盘) and picked up by a helicopter-type machine.

But all these concepts are massively expensive, require safety certification standards for road and air, need 30 controls, involve complex folding wings and propellers, and have to be flown from air-strips. So they are likely to remain rich people's playthings rather than practical transport solutions for the masses.

"A car that takes off from some London street and lands in another 31 street is unlikely to "Sky taxis are much more likely." But that and trying to persuade investors to back their happen," says Prof. Gray, a leading aeronautical engineer. won't stop inventors from dreaming up new ways to fly sometimes 32 schemes.

Civilian aviation is being disrupted, not by the age-old desires for speed, romanticism and 33 , but by the pressing need to respond to a changing climate. New electric engines coupled with artificial intelligence and 34 systems will contribute to a more efficient, integrated transport system that is less polluting and less noisy. That may sound simple, but as Prof. Gray says, "When I travel somewhere like this notion that when I finish my journey I feel better than when I started it. That's completely at 35 with how I feel today." Now that would be progress.

|               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| A) autonomous | F) odds       | K) random     |
| B) detached   | G) opposites  | L) repressing |
| C) dual       | H) outrageous | M) segmented  |
| D) glamour    | I) pouring    | N) spectrum   |
| E) imminent   | J) prototypes | O) ultimate   |

#### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.



### Companies Are Working with Consumers to Reduce Waste

- [A] As consumers, we are very wasteful. Annually, the world generates 1.3 billion tons of solid waste. This is expected to go up to 2.2 billion by 2025. The developed countries are responsible for 44% of waste, and in the U.S. alone, the average person throws away their body weight in rubbish every month.
- [B] Conventional wisdom would seem to suggest that companies have no incentive to lengthen the lifecycle of their products and reduce the revenue they would get from selling new goods. Yet, more and more businesses are thinking about how to reduce consumer waste. This is partly driven by the rising price of raw materials and metals. It is also partly due to both consumers and companies becoming more aware of the need to protect our environment.
- [C] When choosing what products to buy and which brands to buy from, more and more consumers are looking into sustainability. This is opposed to just price and performance they were concerned about in the past. In a survey of 54 of the world's leading brands, almost all of them reported that consumers are showing increasing care about sustainable lifestyles. At the same time, surveys on consumers in the U.S. and the U.K. show that they also care about minimizing energy use and reducing waste.
- [D] For the most part, consumers control what happens to a product. But some companies are realizing that placing the burden of recycling entirely on the consumer is not an effective strategy, especially when tossing something away seems like the easiest and most convenient option.
- [E] Some retailers and manufacturers in the clothing, footwear, and electronics industries have launched environmental programs. They want to make their customers interested in preserving their products and preventing things that still have value from going to the garbage dump. By offering services to help expand the longevity of their products, they're promising quality and durability to consumers, and receiving the reputational gains for being environmentally friendly.
- [F] For example, the Swedish jeans company Nudie Jeans offers free repair at twenty of their shops. Instead of discarding their old worn-out jeans, customers bring them in to be renewed. The company even provides mail-order repair kits and online videos, so that customers can learn how to fix a pair of jeans at home. Their philosophy is that extending the life of a pair of jeans is not only great for the environment, but allows the consumer to get more value out of their product. When customers do want to toss their pair, they can give them back to the store, which will repurpose and resell them. Another clothing company, Patagonia, a high-end outdoor clothing store, follows the same principle. It has partnered with DIY website iFixit to teach consumers how to repair their clothing, such as waterproof outerwear, at home. The company also offers a repair program for their customers for a modest fee. Currently, Patagonia repairs about 40,000 garments a year in their Reno, Nevada, service center. According to the company's CEO, Rose Marcario, this is about building a company that cares about the environment. At the same time, offering repair supports the perceived quality of its products.
- [G] In Brazil, the multinational corporation Adidas has been running a shoe-recycling program called "Sustainable Footprint" since 2012. Customers can bring shoes of any brand into an Adidas store to be shredded and turned into alternative fuels for energy creation instead of being burned as trash. They are used to fuel cement ovens. To motivate visitors to bring in more old shoes, Adidas Brazil promotes the program in stores by showing videos to educate customers, and it even offers a discount each time a customer brings in an old pair of shoes.

This boosts the reputation and image of Adidas by making people more aware of the company's values.

- [H] Enormous opportunities also lie with e-waste. It is estimated that in 2014 the world produced some 42 million metric tons of e-waste (discarded electrical and electronic equipment and its parts) with North America and Europe accounting for 8 and 12 million metric tons respectively. The materials from e-waste include iron, copper, gold, silver, and aluminum—materials that could be reused, resold, salvaged, or recycled. Together, the value of these metals is estimated to be about \$52 billion. Electronics giants like Best Buy and Samsung have provided e-waste take-back programs over the past few years, which aim to refurbish (翻新) old electronic components and parts into new products.
- [I] For other companies interested in reducing waste, helping the environment, and providing the sustainable lifestyles that consumers seek, here are some first steps for building a relationship with customers that focuses on recycling and restoring value to products:
- [J] Find partners. If you are a manufacturer who relies on outside distributors, then retailers are the ideal partner for collecting old products. Power tool maker DeWalt partners with companies, such as Lowe's and Napa Auto Parts, to collect old tools at their stores for recycling. The partnership benefits both sides by allowing unconventional partners (for example, two companies from two different industries) to work together on a specific aspect of the value chain, like, in this example, an engine firm with an accessory one.
- [K] Create incentives. Environmental conscientiousness isn't always enough to make customers recycle old goods. For instance, DeWalt discovered that many contractors were holding on to their old tools, even if they no longer worked, because they were expensive purchases and it was hard to justify bringing them in to recycle. By offering instant discounts worth as much as \$100, DeWalt launched a trade-in program to encourage people to bring back tools. As a result, DeWalt now reuses those materials to create new products.
- [L] Start with a trial program, and expect to change the details as you go. Any take-back program will likely change over time, depending on what works for your customers and company goals. Maybe you see low customer participation at first, or conversely, so much success that the cost of recycling becomes too high. Best Buy, for instance, has been bearing the lion's share of e-waste volume since two of its largest competitors, Amazon and Wal-mart, do not have their own recycling programs. Since the launch of its program, Best Buy changed its policy to add a \$25 fee for recycling old televisions in order to keep the program going.
- [M] Build a culture of collective values with customers. A stronger relationship between the retailer/producer and the consumer isn't just about financial incentives. By creating more awareness around your efforts to reduce waste, and by developing a culture of responsibility, repair, and reuse, you can build customer loyalty based on shared values and responsibilities.
- [N] These examples are just the tip of the iceberg, but they demonstrate how helping customers get more use of their materials can transform value chains and operations. Reducing waste by incorporating used materials into production can cut costs and decrease the price of procurement (采购): less to be procured from the outside and more to be re-utilized from the inside.
- [O] Companies play a big role in creating a circular economy, in which value is generating less from extracting new resources and more from getting better use out of the resources we already have—but they must also get customers engaged in the process.

36. Some companies believe that products' prolonged lifespan benefits both the environment and customers.
37. A survey shows shoppers today are getting more concerned about energy conservation and environmental protection when deciding what to buy.
38. Companies can build customer loyalty by creating a positive culture of environmental awareness.
39. When companies launch environmental programs, they will have their brand reputation enhanced.
40. One multinational company offers discounts to customers who bring in old footwear to be used as fuel.
41. Recycling used products can help manufacturers reduce production costs.
42. Electronic products contain valuable metals that could be recovered.
43. It seems commonly believed that companies are not motivated to prolong their products' lifespan.
44. It is advisable for companies to partner with each other in product recycling.
45. Some businesses have begun to realize it may not be effective to let consumers take full responsibility for recycling.

### Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

#### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Effective Friday, Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AWRA) has declared a strike against 11 video game publishers over games that went into production after Feb. 17, 2015. The companies include some of the heavyweights of the industry, like Electronic Arts Productions, Insomniac Games, Activision and Disney.

The strike comes in light of an unsuccessful 19 months of negotiations after the existing labor contract known as the Interactive Media Agreement expired in late 2014. Overall, the strike is an effort to provide more secondary compensation along with other concerns, such as transparency upon hiring talent and *on-set* (制作中) safety precautions.

The video gaming industry has ballooned in recent years. The *Los Angeles Times* reports that the industry is in the midst of an intense increase in cash flow. In 2015, gaming produced \$23.5 billion in domestic revenue.

But SAG-AFTRA says voice actors don't receive *residuals* (追加酬金) for their gaming work. Instead, they receive a fixed rate, which is typically about \$825 for a standard four-hour vocal session. So the voice actors are pushing for the idea of secondary compensation — a performance bonus every time a game sells 2 million copies or downloads, or reaches 2 million subscribers, with a cap at 8 million.

"It's a very small number of games that would trigger this secondary compensation issue," said voice actor Crispin Freeman, who's a member of the union's negotiating committee. "This is

an important aspect of what it means to be a *freelance* (从事自由职业的) performer, who isn't regularly employed every single day working on projects."

Another major complaint from the actors is the secrecy of the industry. "I can't imagine if there's any other acting job in the world where you don't know what show you're in, when you're hired," says voice actor Keythe Farley, who chairs the SAG-AWRA negotiating committee.

"And yet that happens every day in the video game world," Farley told reporters during a press conference Friday. "I was a main character in *Fallout 4*, a character by the name of Kellogg, and I never knew that I was doing vocal recording for that game throughout the year and a half."

Scott Witlin, the lawyer representing the video game companies, says voice actors "represent less than one tenth of 1 percent of the work that goes into making a video game." So "even though they're the top craftsmen in their field," Witlin says, "if we pay them under a vastly different system than the people who do the 99.9 percent of the work, that's going to create far more problems for the video game companies."

46. Why did SAG-AFTRA declare a strike against some video game publishers?

- A) The labor contract between them had been violated.
- B) Its appeal to renegotiate the contract had been rejected.
- C) It had been cheated repeatedly in the 19 months of talks.
- D) The negotiations between them had broken down.

47. What do we learn from the passage about the video gaming industry?

- A) It has reaped huge profits in recent years.
- B) It has become more open and transparent.
- C) It has attracted many famous voice actors.
- D) It has invested a lot in its domestic market.

48. What are the voice actors demanding?

- A) More regular employment.
- B) A non-discriminatory contract.
- C) Extra pay based on sales revenues.
- D) A limit on the maximum work hours.

49. What does Keythe Farley say about voice actors?

- A) They are kept in the dark about many details of their job.
- B) They are discriminated against in the gaming industry.
- C) They are not paid on a regular basis.
- D) They are not employed full-time.

50. What is the argument of lawyer Scott Witlin?

- A) Voice actors should have a pay raise if they prove to be top craftsmen.
- B) Changing the pay system would cause the industry more problems.
- C) Voice actors are mere craftsmen, not professional performers.
- D) Paying voice actors on an hourly basis is in line with the law.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Officials at the White House announced a new space policy focused on managing the increasing number of satellites that companies and governments are launching into space. Space

Policy Directive-3 lays out general guidelines for the United States to *mitigate*(缓解) the effects of space debris and track and manage traffic in space.

This policy sets the stage for the Department of Commerce to take over the management of traffic in space. The department will make sure that newly launched satellites don't use radio frequencies that would interfere with existing satellites, and schedule when such new satellites can be launched. This only applies to American space activities, but the hope is that it will help standardize a set of norms in the dawning commercial spaceflight industry throughout the world.

Space, especially the space directly around our planet, is getting more crowded as more governments and companies launch satellites. One impetus for the policy is that companies are already starting to build massive *constellations* (星座), comprising hundreds or thousands of satellites with many moving parts among them. With so much stuff in space, and a limited area around our planet, the government wants to reduce the chances of a collision. Two or more satellites slamming into each other could create many more out-of-control bits that would pose even more hazards to the growing collection of satellites in space.

And it's not like this hasn't happened before. In 2009 an old Russian craft slammed into a communications satellite, creating a cloud of hundreds of pieces of debris and putting other hardware at risk. Journalist Sarah Scoles reports that NASA currently tracks about 24,000 objects in space, and in 2016 the Air Force had to issue 3,995,874 warnings to satellite owners alerting them to a potential nearby threat from another satellite or bit of debris.

That's why this new policy also includes directions to update the current U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices, which already require any entity that launches a satellite or spacecraft to vigorously analyze the likelihood that any of their actions, from an unexpected failure or normal operations, will create more space debris. It includes accounting for any piece of debris they plan to release over 5mm that might stay in orbit for 25 years or more. It might seem surprising to think about an item staying in space for that long, but the oldest satellite still in orbit—Vanguard 1—turned 60 in 2018.

Agencies and companies throughout the world are working on developing technology that would dispose of or capture space debris before it causes serious damage. But for now, the U.S. government is more focused on preventing new debris from forming than taking the trash out of orbit.

51. What is the purpose of the new U.S. space policy?

- A) To lay out general guidelines for space exploration.
- B) To encourage companies to join in space programs.
- C) To make the best use of satellites in space.
- D) To improve traffic conditions in space.

52. What is the Department of Commerce expected to do under the new policy?

- A) Reduce debris in space.
- C) Regulate the launching of new satellites.
- B) Monitor satellite operations.
- D) Update satellite communications technology.

53. What does the U.S. government hope to do with the new space policy?

- A) Set international standards for the space flight industry.
- B) Monopolize space industry by developing a set of norms.
- C) Facilitate commercial space flights throughout the world.
- D) Promote international collaboration in space exploration.

54. What is a space vehicle launching entity required to do according to the current U.S. Government Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices?
- A) Give an estimate of how long its debris will stay in space.
  - B) Account for the debris it has released into space at any time.
  - C) Provide a detailed plan for managing the space debris it creates.
  - D) Make a thorough analysis of any possible addition to space debris.
55. What are space agencies and companies aiming to do at present?
- A) Recycle used space vehicles before they turn into debris.
  - B) Develop technology to address the space debris problem.
  - C) Limit the amount of debris entering space.
  - D) Cooperate closely to retrieve space debris.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet2**.

汉语现在是世界上用作本族语人数最多的语言。汉语与西方语言的一个重要区别在于它是以方块字 (character) 而不是以字母构成的。目前仍在使用的书写系统中, 汉语是最古老的。在中国, 来自不同地区的人可能听不懂对方的方言, 但由于汉字有统一的书写形式, 他们交流起来几乎没有任何困难。汉语历史上对团结中华民族发挥了重要作用。今天, 随着中国经济的快速增长和全球影响力的增强, 越来越多其他国家的人也开始学习汉语。



## 21. 2019 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of team spirit and communication in the workplace*. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

说明：由于 2018 年 12 月六级考试全国共考了两套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

Steel is valued for its reliability, but not when it gets cold. Most forms of steel 26 become brittle (脆的) at temperatures below about  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  unless they are mixed with other metals. Now, though, a novel type of steel has been developed that resists 27 at much lower temperatures, while retaining its strength and toughness—without the need for expensive 28.

Steel's fragility at low temperatures first became a major concern during the Second World War. After German U-boats torpedoed (用鱼雷攻击) numerous British ships, a strong fleet of cheap-and-cheerful "Liberty ships" was introduced to replace the lost vessels, providing a lifeline for the 29 British. But the steel shells of hundreds of the ships 30 in the icy

north Atlantic, and 12 broke in half and sank.

Brittleness remains a problem when building steel structures in cold conditions, such as oil rigs in the Arctic. So scientists have 31 to find a solution by mixing it with expensive metals such as nickel.

Yuuji Kimura and colleagues in Japan tried a more physical 32. Rather than adding other metals, they developed a complex mechanical process involving repeated heating and very severe mechanical deformation, known as tempforming.

The resulting steel appears to achieve a combination of strength and toughness that is 33 to that of modern steels that are very rich in alloy content and, therefore, very expensive.

Kimura's team intends to use its tempformed steel to make ultra-high strength parts, such as bolts. They hope to reduce both the number of 34 needed in a construction job and their weight by replacing solid supports with 35 tubes, for example. This could reduce the amount of steel needed to make everything from automobiles to buildings and bridges.

|              |               |               |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| A) abruptly  | F) channel    | K) hollow     |
| B) additives | G) comparable | L) relevant   |
| C) approach  | H) components | M) reshuffled |
| D) ardently  | I) cracked    | N) strived    |
| E) besieged  | J) fractures  | O) violent    |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

### The future of personal satellite technology is here—are we ready for it?

- [A] Satellites used to be the exclusive playthings of rich governments and wealthy corporations. But increasingly, as space becomes more democratized, they are coming within reach of ordinary people. Just like drones (无人机) before them, miniature satellites are beginning to fundamentally transform our conceptions of who gets to do what up above our heads.
- [B] As a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences highlights, these satellites hold tremendous potential for making satellite-based science more accessible than ever before. However, as the cost of getting your own satellite in orbit drops sharply, the risks of irresponsible use grow. The question here is no longer "Can we?" but "Should we?" What are the potential downsides of having a slice of space densely populated by equipment built by people not traditionally labeled as "professionals"? And what would the responsible and beneficial development and use of this technology actually look like? Some of the answers may come from a nonprofit organization that has been building and launching amateur satellites for nearly 50 years.
- [C] Having your personal satellite launched into orbit might sound like an idea straight out of science fiction. But over the past few decades a unique class of satellites has been created that fits the bill: CubeSats. The "Cube" here simply refers to the satellite's shape. The most common CubeSat is a 10cm cube, so small that a single CubeSat could easily be mistaken for a

paperweight on your desk. These mini-satellites can fit in a launch vehicle's formerly "wasted space." Multiples can be deployed in combination for more complex missions than could be achieved by one CubeSat alone.

- [D] Within their compact bodies these minute satellites are able to house sensors and communications receivers/transmitters that enable operators to study Earth from space, as well as space around Earth. They're primarily designed for Low Earth Orbit (LEO)—an easily accessible region of space from around 200 to 800 miles above Earth, where human-tended missions like the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station (ISS) hang out. But they can attain more distant orbits; NASA plans for most of its future Earth-escaping payloads (to the moon and Mars especially) to carry CubeSats.
- [E] Because they're so small and light, it costs much less to get a CubeSat into Earth's orbit than a traditional communications or GPS satellite. For instance, a research group here at Arizona State University recently claimed their developmental small CubeSats could cost as little as \$3,000 to put in orbit. This decrease in cost allows researchers, hobbyists and even elementary school groups to put simple instruments into LEO or even having them deployed from the ISS.
- [F] The first CubeSat was created in the early 2000s, as a way of enabling Stanford graduate students to design, build, test and operate a spacecraft with similar capabilities to the USSR's Sputnik (前苏联的人造卫星). Since then, NASA, the National Reconnaissance Office and even Boeing have all launched and operated CubeSats. There are more than 130 currently in operation. The NASA Educational Launch of Nano Satellite program, which offers free launches for educational groups and science missions, is now open to U.S. nonprofit corporations as well. Clearly, satellites are not just for rocket scientists anymore.
- [G] The National Academy of Sciences report emphasizes CubeSats' importance in scientific discovery and the training of future space scientists and engineers. Yet it also acknowledges that widespread deployment of LEO CubeSats isn't risk-free. The greatest concern the authors raise is space debris—pieces of "junk" that orbit the earth, with the potential to cause serious damage if they collide with operational units, including the ISS.
- [H] Currently, there aren't many CubeSats and they're tracked closely. Yet as LEO opens up to more amateur satellites, they may pose an increasing threat. As the report authors point out, even near-misses might lead to the "creation of a burdensome regulatory framework and affect the future disposition of science CubeSats."
- [I] CubeSat researchers suggest that now's the time to ponder unexpected and unintended possible consequences of more people than ever having access to their own small slice of space. In an era when you can simply buy a CubeSat kit off the shelf, how can we trust the satellites over our heads were developed with good intentions by people who knew what they were doing? Some "expert amateurs" in the satellite game could provide some inspiration for how to proceed responsibly.
- [J] In 1969, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) was created in order to foster ham radio enthusiasts (业余无线电爱好者) participation in space research and communication. It continued the efforts, begun in 1961, by Project OSCAR—a U.S.-based group that built and launched the very first nongovernmental satellite just four years after Sputnik. As an organization of volunteers, AMSAT was putting "amateur" satellites in orbit decades before the current CubeSat craze. And over time, its members have learned a thing or two about responsibility. Here, open-source development has been a central principle. Within the

organization, AMSAT has a philosophy of open sourcing everything—making technical data on all aspects of their satellites fully available to everyone in the organization, and when possible, the public. According to a member of the team responsible for FOX I-A, AMSAT's first CubeSat, this means that there's no way to sneak something like explosives or an energy emitter into an amateur satellite when everyone has access to the designs and implementation.

[K] However, they're more cautious about sharing information with nonmembers, as the organization guards against others developing the ability to hijack and take control of their satellites. This form of "self-governance" is possible within long-standing amateur organizations that, over time, are able to build a sense of responsibility to community members, as well as society in general. But what happens when new players emerge, who don't have deep roots within the existing culture?

[L] Hobbyist and student are gaining access to technologies without being part of a long-standing amateur establishment. They're still constrained by funders, launch providers and a series of regulations—all of which rein in what CubeSat developers can and cannot do. But there's a danger they're ill-equipped to think through potential unintended consequences. What these unintended consequences might be is admittedly far from clear. Yet we know innovators can be remarkably creative with taking technologies in unexpected directions. Think of something as seemingly benign as the cellphone — we have microfinance and text-based social spectrum, improvised (临时制作的) explosive devices at the other.

[M] This is where a culture of social responsibility around CubeSats becomes important—not simply to ensure that physical risks are minimized, but to engage with a much larger community in anticipating and managing less obvious consequences of the technology. This is not an easy task. Yet the evidence from AMSAT and other areas of technology development suggests that responsible amateur communities can and do emerge around novel technologies. The challenge here, of course, is ensuring that what an amateur community considers to be responsible, actually is. Here's where there needs to be a much wider public conversation that extends beyond government agencies and scientific communities to include students, hobbyists, and anyone who may potentially stand to be affected by the use of CubeSat technology.

36. Given the easier accessibility to space, it is time to think about how to prevent misuse of satellites.
37. A group of mini-satellites can work together to accomplish more complex tasks.
38. The greater accessibility of mini-satellites increases the risks of their irresponsible use.
39. Even school pupils can have their CubeSats put in orbit owing to the lowered launching cost.
40. AMSAT is careful about sharing information with outsiders to prevent hijacking of their satellites.
41. NASA offers to launch CubeSats free of charge for educational and research purposes.
42. Even with constraints, it is possible for some creative developers to take the CubeSat technology in directions that result in harmful outcomes.
43. While making significant contributions to space science, CubeSats may pose hazards to other space vehicles.
44. Mini-satellites enable operators to study Earth from LEO and space around it.
45. AMSAT operates on the principle of having all its technical data accessible to its members, preventing the abuse of amateur satellites.

## Section C

**Directions:** There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

When I re-entered the full-time workforce a few years ago after a decade of solitary self-employment, there was one thing I was looking forward to the most: the opportunity to have work friends once again. It wasn't until I entered the corporate world that I realized, for me at least, being friends with colleagues didn't emerge as a priority at all. This is surprising when you consider the prevailing emphasis by scholars and trainers and managers on the importance of cultivating close interpersonal relationships at work. So much research has explored the way in which *collegial* (同事的) ties can help overcome a range of workplace issues affecting productivity and the quality of work output such as team-based conflict, jealousy, undermining, anger, and more.

Perhaps my expectations of lunches, water-cooler gossip and caring, deep-and-meaningful conversations were a legacy of the last time I was in that kind of office environment. Whereas now, as I near the end of my fourth decade, I realize work can be fully functional and entirely fulfilling without needing to be best mates with the people sitting next to you.

In an academic analysis just published in the profoundly-respected *Journal of Management*, researchers have looked at the concept of "indifferent relationships". It's a simple term that *encapsulates* (概括) the fact that relationships at work can reasonably be non-intimate, inconsequential, unimportant and even, dare I say it, disposable or substitutable.

Indifferent relationships are neither positive nor negative. The limited research conducted thus far indicates they're especially dominant among those who value independence over cooperation, and harmony over confrontation. Indifference is also the preferred option among those who are socially lazy. Maintaining relationships over the long term takes effort. For some of us, too much effort.

As noted above, indifferent relationships may not always be the most helpful approach in resolving some of the issues that pop up at work. But there are nonetheless several empirically proven benefits. One of those is efficiency. Less time chatting and socializing means more time working and *churning* (产出).

The other is self-esteem. As human beings, we're primed to compare ourselves to each other in what is an anxiety-inducing phenomenon. Apparently, we look down on acquaintances more so than friends. Since the former is most common among those inclined towards indifferent relationships, their predominance can bolster individuals' sense of self-worth.

Ego aside, a third advantage is that the emotional neutrality of indifferent relationships has been found to enhance critical evaluation, to strengthen one's focus on task resolution, and to gain greater access to valuable information. None of that might be as fun as after-work socializing but, hey, I'll take it anyway.

46. What did the author realize when he re-entered the corporate world?

A) Making new friends with his workmates was not as easy as he had anticipated.

- B) Cultivating positive interpersonal relationships helped him expel solitary feelings.  
C) Working in the corporate world requires more interpersonal skills than self-employment.  
D) Building close relationships with his colleagues was not as important as he had expected.
47. What do we learn from many studies about collegial relationships?  
A) Inharmonious relationships have an adverse effect on productivity.  
B) Harmonious relationships are what many companies aim to cultivate.  
C) Close collegial relationships contribute very little to product quality.  
D) Conflicting relationships in the workplace exist almost everywhere.
48. What can be inferred about relationships at work from an academic analysis?  
A) They should be cultivated. C) They are vital to corporate culture.  
B) They are virtually irrelevant. D) They should be reasonably intimate.
49. What does the author say about people who are socially lazy?  
A) They feel uncomfortable when engaging in social interactions.  
B) They often find themselves in confrontation with their colleagues.  
C) They are unwilling to make efforts to maintain workplace relationships.  
D) They lack basic communication skills in dealing with interpersonal issues.
50. What is one of the benefits of indifferent relationships?  
A) They provide fun at work. C) They help resolve differences.  
B) They help control emotions. D) They improve work efficiency.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

In a few decades, artificial intelligence (AI) will surpass many of the abilities that we believe make us special. This is a grand challenge for our age and it may require an "irrational" response.

One of the most significant pieces of news from the US in early 2017 was the efforts of Google to make autonomous driving a reality. According to a report, Google's self-driving cars clocked 1,023,330 km, and required human intervention 124 times. That is one intervention about every 8,047 km of autonomous driving. But even more impressive is the progress in just a single year: human interventions fell from 0.8 times per thousand miles to 0.2, a 400% improvement. With such progress, Google's cars will easily surpass my own driving ability later this year.

Driving once seemed to be a very human skill. But we said that about chess, too. Then a computer beat the human world champion, repeatedly. The board game *Go* (围棋) took over from chess as a new test for human thinking in 2016, when a computer beat one of the world's leading professional *Go* players. With computers conquering what used to be deeply human tasks, what will it mean in the future to be human? I worry about my six-year-old son. What will his place be in a world where machines beat us in one area after another? He'll never calculate faster, never drive better, or even fly more safely. Actually, it all comes down to a fairly simple question: What's so special about us? It can't be skills like arithmetic, which machines already excel in. So far, machines have a pretty hard time emulating creativity, arbitrary enough not to be predicted by a computer, and yet more than simple randomness.

Perhaps, if we continue to improve information-processing machines, we'll soon have helpful rational assistants. So we must aim to complement the rationality of the machine, rather than to compete with it. If I'm right, we should foster a creative spirit because a dose of illogical creativity will complement the rationality of the machine. Unfortunately, however, our education system has



not caught up to the approaching reality. Indeed, our schools and universities are structured to mould pupils to be mostly obedient servants of rationality and to develop outdated skills in interacting with outdated machines. We need to help our children learn how to best work with smart computers to improve human decision-making. But most of all we need to keep the long-term perspective in mind: that even if computers will outsmart us, we can still be the most creative. Because if we aren't, we won't be providing much value in future ecosystems, and that may put in question the foundation for our existence.

51. What is the author's greatest concern about the use of AI?
- A) Computers are performing lots of creative tasks.
  - B) Many abilities will cease to be unique to human beings.
  - C) Computers may become more rational than humans.
  - D) Many human skills are fast becoming outdated.
52. What impresses the author most in the field of AI?
- A) Google's experimental driverless cars require little human intervention.
  - B) Google's cars have surpassed his driving ability in just a single year.
  - C) Google has made huge progress in autonomous driving in a short time.
  - D) Google has become a world leader in the field of autonomous driving.
53. What do we learn from the passage about creativity?
- A) It is rational.
  - B) It is predictable.
  - C) It is human specific.
  - D) It is yet to be emulated by AI.
54. What should schools help children do in the era of AI?
- A) Cultivate original thinking.
  - B) Learn to work independently.
  - C) Compete with smart machines.
  - D) Understand how AI works.
55. How can we humans justify our future existence?
- A) By constantly outsmarting computers.
  - B) By adopting a long-term perspective.
  - C) By rationally compromising with AI.
  - D) By providing value with our creativity.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

成语 (Chinese idioms) 是汉语中的一种独特的表达方式, 大多由四个汉字组成。它们高度简练且形式固定, 但通常能形象地表达深刻的含义。成语大多来源于中国古代的文学作品, 通常与某些神话、传说或者历史事件有关。如果不知道某个成语的出处, 就很难理解其确切含义。因此, 学习成语有助于人们更好地理解中国传统文化。成语在日常会话和文学创作中广泛使用。恰当使用成语可以使一个人的语言更具表现力, 交流更有效。

## 22. 2019 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 1 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on **the importance of having a sense of family responsibility**. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. A) Magazine reporter.         | C) Website designer.         |
| B) Fashion designer.             | D) Features editor.          |
| 2. A) Designing sports clothing. | C) Answering daily emails.   |
| B) Consulting fashion experts.   | D) Interviewing job-seekers. |
| 3. A) It is challenging.         | C) It is tiresome.           |
| B) It is fascinating.            | D) It is fashionable.        |
| 4. A) Her persistence.           | C) Her competence.           |
| B) Her experience.               | D) Her confidence.           |

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 5. A) It is enjoyable.  | C) It is divorced from real life. |
| B) It is educational.   | D) It is adapted from a drama.    |
| 6. A) All the roles are played by famous actors and actresses.      |                                   |
| B) It is based on the real-life experiences of some celebrities.    |                                   |
| C) Its plots and events reveal a lot about Frankie's actual life.   |                                   |
| D) It is written, directed, edited and produced by Frankie himself. |                                   |

7. A) Go to the theater and enjoy it. C) Watch it with the man.  
B) Recommend it to her friends. D) Download and watch it.
8. A) It has drawn criticisms from scientists. C) It is a ridiculous piece of satire.  
B) It has been showing for over a decade. D) It is against common sense.

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet I** with a single line through the center.*

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) They are likely to get injured when moving too fast.  
B) They believe in team spirit for good performance.  
C) They need to keep moving to avoid getting hurt.  
D) They have to learn how to avoid body contact.
10. A) They do not have many years to live after retirement.  
B) They tend to live a longer life with early retirement.  
C) They do not start enjoying life until full retirement.  
D) They keep themselves busy even after retirement.
11. A) It prevents us from worrying. C) It enables us to accomplish more in life.  
B) It slows down our aging process. D) It provides us with more chances to learn.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) It tends to dwell upon their joyous experiences.  
B) It wanders for almost half of their waking time.  
C) It has trouble concentrating after a brain injury.  
D) It tends to be affected by their negative feelings.
13. A) To find how happiness relates to daydreaming.  
B) To observe how one's mind affects one's behavior.  
C) To see why daydreaming impacts what one is doing.  
D) To study the relation between health and daydreaming.
14. A) It helps them make good decisions. C) It contributes to their creativity.  
B) It helps them tap their potentials. D) It contributes to clear thinking.
15. A) Subjects with clear goals in mind outperformed those without clear goals.  
B) The difference in performance between the two groups was insignificant.  
C) Non-daydreamers were more focused on their tasks than daydreamers.

D) Daydreamers did better than non-daydreamers in task performance.

### Section C

**Directions:** *In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 16. A) They are the oldest buildings in Europe. | C) They are renovated to attract tourists. |
| B) They are part of the Christian tradition.    | D) They are in worsening condition.        |
| 17. A) They have a history of 400 centuries.    | C) They are without foundations.           |
| B) They are 40 meters tall on average.          | D) They consist of several storeys.        |
| 18. A) Wood was harmonious with nature.         | C) Timber was abundant in Scandinavia.     |
| B) Wooden buildings kept the cold out.          | D) The Vikings liked wooden structures.    |

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 19. A) Similarities between human babies and baby animals. |                                     |
| B) Cognitive features of different newly born mammals.     |                                     |
| C) Adults' influence on children.                          |                                     |
| D) Abilities of human babies.                              |                                     |
| 20. A) They can distinguish a happy tune from a sad one.   |                                     |
| B) They love happy melodies more than sad ones.            |                                     |
| C) They fall asleep easily while listening to music.       |                                     |
| D) They are already sensitive to beats and rhythms.        |                                     |
| 21. A) Infants' facial expressions.                        | C) Babies' interaction with adults. |
| B) Babies' emotions.                                       | D) Infants' behaviors.              |

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 22. A) It may harm the culture of today's workplace.            |  |
| B) It may hinder individual career advancement.                 |  |
| C) It may result in unwillingness to take risks.                |  |
| D) It may put too much pressure on team members.                |  |
| 23. A) They can hardly give expression to their original views. |  |
| B) They can become less motivated to do projects of their own.  |  |
| C) They may find it hard to get their contributions recognized. |  |
| D) They may eventually lose their confidence and creativity.    |  |
| 24. A) They can enlarge their professional circle.              |  |

- B) They can get chances to engage in research.  
 C) They can make the best use of their expertise.  
 D) They can complete the project more easily.
25. A) It may cause lots of arguments in a team.  
 B) It may prevent making a timely decision.  
 C) It may give rise to a lot of unnecessary expenses.  
 D) It may deprive a team of business opportunities.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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 considering risk factors associated with serious chronic diseases, we often think about health indicators such as cholesterol, blood pressure, and body weight. But poor diet and physical inactivity also each increase the risk of heart disease and have a role to play in the development of some cancers. Perhaps worse, the 26 effects of an unhealthy diet and insufficient exercise are not limited to your body. Recent research has also shown that 27 in a high-fat and high-sugar diet may have negative effects on your brain, causing learning and memory 28.

Studies have found obesity is associated with impairments in cognitive functioning, as 29 by a range of learning and memory tests, such as the ability to remember a list of words presented some minutes or hours earlier. There is also a growing body of evidence that diet-induced cognitive impairments can emerge 30 — within weeks or even days. For example, one study found healthy adults 31 to a high-fat diet for five days showed impaired attention, memory, and mood compared with a low-fat diet control group. Another study also found eating a high-fat and high-sugar breakfast each day for as little as four days resulted in problems with learning and memory 32 to those observed in overweight and obese individuals.

Body weight was not hugely different between the groups eating a healthy diet and those on high fat and sugar diets. So this shows negative 33 of poor dietary intake can occur even when body weight has not changed 34. Thus, body weight is not always the best indicator of health and a thin person still needs to eat well and exercise 35.

|             |               |              |              |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| A) assessed | E) deficits   | I) excelling | M) redundant |
| B) assigned | F) designated | J) indulging | N) regularly |

|                  |                |              |            |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| C) consequences  | G) detrimental | K) loopholes | O) similar |
| D) conspicuously | H) digestion   | L) rapidly   |            |

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the question by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.*

### Increased Screen Time and Wellbeing Decline in Youth

- [A] Have young people never had it so good? Or do they face more challenges than any previous generation? Our current era in the West is one of high wealth. This means minors enjoy material benefits and legal protections that would have been the envy of those living in the past. But there is an increasing suspicion that all is not well for our youth. And one of the most popular explanations, among some experts and the popular media, is that excessive “screen time” is to blame (This refers to all the attention young people devote to their phones, tablets and laptops). However, this is a connection theory and such claims have been treated skeptically by some scholars based on their reading of the relevant data.
- [B] Now a study in the journal *Emotion* has provided another contribution to the debate, uncovering strong evidence that adolescent wellbeing in the United States really is experiencing a decline and arguing that the most likely cause is the electronic riches we have given them. The background to this is that from the 1960s into the early 2000s, measures of average wellbeing went up in the US. This was especially true for younger people. It reflected the fact that these decades saw a climb in general standards of living and avoidance of mass societal traumas like full-scale war or economic deprivation. However, the “screen time” hypothesis, advanced by researchers such as Jean Twenge, is that electronic devices and excessive time spent online may have reversed these trends in recent years, causing problems for young people’s psychological health.
- [C] To investigate, Twenge and her colleagues dived into the “Monitoring The Future” dataset based on annual surveys of American school students from grades 8, 10, and 12 that started in 1991. In total, 1.1 million young people answered various questions related to their wellbeing. Twenge’s team’s analysis of the answers confirmed the earlier, well-established wellbeing climb, with scores rising across the 1990s, and into the later 2000s. This was found across measures like self-esteem, life satisfaction, happiness and satisfaction with individual domains like job, neighborhood, or friends. But around 2012 these measures started to decline. This continued through 2016, the most recent year for which data is available.



- [D] Twenge and her colleagues wanted to understand why this change in average wellbeing occurred. However, it's very hard to demonstrate causes in non-experimental data such as this. In fact, when Twenge previously used this data to suggest a screen time effect, some commentators were quick to raise this problem. They argued that her causal-sounding claims rested on correlational data, and that she had not adequately accounted for other potential causal factors. This time around, Twenge and her team make a point of saying that that they are not trying to establish causes as such, but that they are assessing the plausibility of potential causes.
- [E] First, they explain that if a given variable is playing a causal role in affecting wellbeing, then we should expect any change in that variable to correlate with the observed changes in wellbeing. If not, it isn't plausible that the variable is a causal factor. So the researchers looked at time spent in a number of activities that could plausibly be driving the wellbeing decline. Less sport, and fewer meetings with peers correlated with lower wellbeing, as did less time reading print media (newspapers) and, surprisingly, less time doing homework (This last finding would appear to contradict another popular hypothesis that it is our burdening of students with assignments that is causing all the problems). In addition, more TV watching and more electronic communication both correlated with lower wellbeing. All these effects held true for measures of happiness, life satisfaction and self-esteem, with the effects stronger in the 8th and 10th-graders.
- [F] Next, Twenge's team dug a little deeper into the data on screen time. They found that adolescents who spent a very small amount of time on digital devices — a couple of hours — had the highest wellbeing. Their wellbeing was even higher than those who never used such devices. However, higher doses of screen time were clearly associated with lower happiness. Those spending 10-19 hours per week on their devices were 41 percent more likely to be unhappy than lower-frequency users. Those who used such devices 40 hours a week or more (one in ten of teenagers) were twice as likely to be unhappy. The data was slightly complicated by the fact that there was a tendency for kids who were social in the real world to also use more online communication, but by bracketing out different cases it became clear that the real-world sociality component correlated with greater wellbeing, whereas greater time on screens or online only correlated with poorer wellbeing.
- [G] So far, so plausible. But the next question is, are the drops in average wellbeing happening at the same time as trends toward increased electronic device usage? It looks like it — after all, 2012 was the tipping point when more than half of Americans began owning smartphones. Twenge and her colleagues also found that across the key years of 2013-16, wellbeing was indeed lowest in years where adolescents spent more time online, on social media, and reading news online, and when more youth in the US had smartphones. And in a second analysis, they found that where technology went, dips in wellbeing followed. For instance, years with a larger increase in online usage were followed by years with lower wellbeing, rather than the other

way around. This does not prove causality, but is consistent with it. Meanwhile, TV use didn't show this tracking. TV might make you less happy, but this is not what seems to be driving the recent declines in young people's average happiness.

[H] A similar but reversed pattern was found for the activities associated with greater wellbeing. For example, years when people spent more time with friends were better years for wellbeing (and followed by better years). Sadly, the data also showed face-to-face socializing and sports activity had declined over the period covered by the survey.

[I] There is another explanation that Twenge and her colleagues wanted to address: the impact of the great recession of 2007-2009, which hit a great number of American families and might be affecting adolescents. The dataset they used didn't include economic data, so instead the researchers looked at whether the 2013-16 wellbeing decline was tracking economic indicators. They found some evidence that some crude measures, like income inequality, correlated with changes in wellbeing, but economic measures with a more direct impact, like family income and unemployment rates (which put families into difficulties), had no relationship with wellbeing. The researchers also note that the recession hit some years before we see the beginning of the wellbeing drop, and before the steepest wellbeing decline, which occurred in 2013.

[J] The researchers conclude that electronic communication was the only adolescent activity that increased at the same time psychological wellbeing declined. I suspect that some experts in the field will be keen to address alternative explanations, such as unassessed variables playing a role in the wellbeing decline. But the new work does go further than before and suggests that screen time should still be considered a potential barrier to young people's flourishing.

36. The year when most Americans began using smartphones was identified as a turning point in young Americans' level of happiness.

37. Scores in various wellbeing measures began to go downward among young Americans in recent years.

38. Unfortunately, activities involving direct contact with people, which contributed to better wellbeing, were found to be on the decline.

39. In response to past critics, Twenge and her co-researchers stress they are not trying to prove that the use of digital devices reduces young people's wellbeing.

40. In the last few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, living standards went up and economic depressions were largely averted in the US.

41. Contrary to popular belief, doing homework might add to students' wellbeing.

42. The author believes the researchers' new study has gone a step further regarding the impact of screen time on wellbeing.

43. The researchers found that extended screen time makes young people less happy.

44. Data reveals that economic inequality rather than family income might affect people's wellbeing.
45. Too much screen time is widely believed to be the cause of unhappiness among today's young people.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

"The dangerous thing about lying is people don't understand how the act changes us," said Dan Ariely, behavioral psychologist at Duke University. Psychologists have documented children lying as early as the age of two. Some experts even consider lying a developmental milestone, like crawling and walking, because it requires sophisticated planning, attention and the ability to see a situation from someone else's perspective to manipulate them. But, for most people, lying gets limited as we develop a sense of morality and the ability to self-regulate.

Harvard cognitive neuroscientist Joshua Greene says, for most of us, lying takes work. In studies, he gave study subjects a chance to deceive for monetary gain while examining their brains in a functional MRI machine, which maps blood flow to active parts of the brain. Some people told the truth instantly and instinctively. But others opted to lie, and they showed increased activity in their frontal parietal control network, which is involved in difficult or complex thinking. This suggests that they were deciding between truth and dishonesty — and ultimately opting for the latter. For a follow-up analysis, he found that people whose neural reward centers were more active when they won money were also more likely to be among the group of liars — suggesting that lying may have to do with the inability to resist temptation.

External conditions also matter in terms of when and how often we lie. We are more likely to lie, research shows when we are able to rationalize it, when we are stressed and fatigued or see others being dishonest. And we are less likely to lie when we have moral reminders or when we think others are watching. "We as a society need to understand that, when we don't punish lying, we increase the probability it will happen again," Ariely said.

In a 2016 study published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, Ariely and colleagues showed how dishonesty alters people's brains, making it easier to tell lies in the future. When people uttered a falsehood, the scientists noticed a burst of activity in their amygdala. The amygdala is a crucial part of the brain that produces fear, anxiety and emotional responses — including that sinking, guilty feeling you get when you lie. But when scientists had their subjects play a game in which

they won money by deceiving their partner, they noticed the negative signals from the amygdala began to decrease. Not only that, but when people faced no consequences for dishonesty, their falsehoods tended to get even more sensational. This means that if you give people multiple opportunities to lie for their own benefit, they start with little lies and get bigger and bigger over time.

46. Why do some experts consider lying a milestone in a child's development?
- A) It shows they have the ability to view complex situations from different angles.
  - B) It indicates they have an ability more remarkable than crawling and walking.
  - C) It represents their ability to actively interact with people around them.
  - D) It involves the coordination of both their mental and physical abilities.
47. Why does the Harvard neuroscientist say that lying takes work?
- A) It is hard to choose from several options.
  - B) It is difficult to sound natural or plausible.
  - C) It requires speedy blood flow into one's brain.
  - D) It involves lots of sophisticated mental activity.
48. Under what circumstances do people tend to lie?
- A) When they become too emotional.
  - B) When they face too much peer pressure.
  - C) When the temptation is too strong.
  - D) When the consequences are not imminent.
49. When are people less likely to lie?
- A) When they are worn out and stressed.
  - B) When they are under watchful eyes.
  - C) When they think in a rational way.
  - D) When they have a clear conscience.
50. What does the author say will happen when a liar does not get punished?
- A) They may feel justified.
  - B) They will tell bigger lies.
  - C) They will become complacent.
  - D) They may mix lies and truths.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Here's how the Pacific Northwest is preparing for "The Big One". It's the mother of all disaster drills for what could be the worst disaster in American history. California has spent years preparing for "The Big One" — the inevitable earthquake that will undoubtedly unleash all kinds of havoc along the famous San Andreas fault. But what if the fault that runs along the Pacific Northwest delivers a gigantic earthquake of its own? If the people of the Cascadia region have anything to do with it, they won't be caught unawares.

The region is engaged in a multi-day earthquake-and-tsunami drill involving around 20,000 people. The Cascadia Rising drill gives area residents and emergency responders a chance to practice what to do in case of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami along one of the nation's

dangerous — and underestimated — faults.

The Cascadia Earthquake Zone is big enough to compete with San Andreas (it's been called the most dangerous fault in America), but it's much lesser known than its California cousin. Nearly 700 miles long, the earthquake zone is located by the North American Plate off the coast of Pacific British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

Cascadia is what's known as a "megathrust" fault. Megathrusts are created in earthquake zones — land plate boundaries where two plates converge. In the areas where one plate is beneath another, stress builds up over time. During a megathrust event, all of that stress releases and some of the world's most powerful earthquakes occur. Remember the 9.1 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean off Sumatra in 2004? It was caused by a megathrust event as the India plate moved beneath the Burma micro-plate.

The last time a major earthquake occurred along the Cascadia fault was in 1700, so officials worry that another event could occur any time. To prevent that event from becoming a catastrophe, first responders will join members of the public in rehearsals that involve communication, evacuation, search and rescue, and other scenarios.

Thousands of deaths and other casualties are expected if a 9.0 earthquake were to occur. First, the earthquake would shake metropolitan areas including Seattle and Portland. This could trigger a tsunami that would create havoc along the coast. Not all casualties can necessarily be prevented — but by coordinating across local, state, and even national borders, officials hope that the worst-case scenario can be averted. On the exercise's website, officials explain that the report they prepare during this rehearsal will inform disaster management for years to come.

For hundreds of thousands of Cascadia residents, "The Big One" isn't a question of if, only when. And it's never too early to get ready for the inevitable.

51. What does "The Big One" refer to?

- A) A gigantic geological fault.
- B) A large-scale exercise to prepare for disasters.
- C) A massive natural catastrophe.
- D) A huge tsunami on the California coast.

52. What is the purpose of the Cascadia Rising drill?

- A) To prepare people for a major earthquake and tsunami.
- B) To increase residents' awareness of imminent disasters.
- C) To teach people how to adapt to post-disaster life.
- D) To cope with the aftermath of a possible earthquake.

53. What happens in case of a megathrust earthquake according to the passage?

- A) Two plates merge into one.
- B) Boundaries blur between plates.
- C) A variety of forces converge.
- D) Enormous stress is released.

54. What do the officials hope to achieve through the drills?

- A) Coordinating various disaster-relief efforts.

- B) Reducing casualties in the event of a disaster.  
C) Minimizing property loss caused by disasters.  
D) Establishing disaster and emergency management.
55. What does the author say about “The Big One”?
- A) Whether it will occur remains to be seen.      C) Its occurrence is just a matter of time.  
B) How it will arrive is too early to predict.      D) It keeps haunting Cascadia residents.

#### Part IV Translation

( 30 minutes )

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

牡丹 (peony) 花色艳丽，形象高雅，象征着和平与繁荣，因而在中国被称为“花中之王”。中国许多地方都培育和种植牡丹。千百年来，创作了许多诗歌和绘画赞美牡丹。唐代时期，牡丹在皇家园林普遍种植并被誉为国花，因而特别风行。十世纪时，洛阳古城成为牡丹栽培中心，而且这一地位一直保持到今天。现在，成千上万的国内外游客蜂拥到洛阳参加一年一度的牡丹节，欣赏洛阳牡丹的独特之美，同时探索九朝古都的历史。



## 23. 2019 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 2 套)

### Part I Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on *the importance of having a sense of social responsibility*. You are required to write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

#### Section A

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Question 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. A) It focuses exclusively on jazz.           | C) It has several branches in London.         |
| B) It sponsors major jazz concerts.             | D) It displays albums by new music talents.   |
| 2. A) It originated with cowboys.               | C) Its listeners are mostly young people.     |
| B) Its market has now shrunk.                   | D) It remains as widespread as hip hop music. |
| 3. A) Its definition is varied and complicated. | C) It is frequently accompanied by singing.   |
| B) It is still going through experimentation.   | D) Its style has remained largely unchanged.  |
| 4. A) Learn to play them.                       | C) Listen to them yourself.                   |
| B) Take music lessons.                          | D) Consul jazz musicians.                     |

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 5. A) She paid her mortgage.                        | C) She made a business plan.             |
| B) She called on the man.                           | D) She went to the bank.                 |
| 6. A) Her previous debt hadn't been cleared yet.    | C) She had apparently asked for too much |
| B) Her credit history was considered poor.          | D) She didn't pay her mortgage in time.  |
| 7. A) Pay a debt long overdue.                      | C) Start her own business.               |
| B) Buy a piece of property.                         | D) Check her credit history.             |
| 8. A) Seek advice from an expert about fundraising. |  |
| B) Ask for smaller loans from different lenders.    |  |
| C) Build up her own finances step by step.          |  |
| D) Revise her business proposal carefully.          |  |

#### Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear two passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear

three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. A) It is profitable and environmentally friendly.  
B) It is well located and completely automated.  
C) It is small and unconventional.  
D) It is fertile and productive.
10. A) Their urge to make farming more enjoyable.  
B) Their desire to improve farming equipment.  
C) Their hope to revitalize traditional farming.  
D) Their wish to set a new farming standard.
11. A) It saves a lot of electricity.  
B) It needs little maintenance.  
C) It causes hardly any pollution.  
D) It loosens soil while weeding.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. A) It has turned certain insects into a new food source.  
B) It has started to expand business outside the UK.  
C) It has imported some exotic foods from overseas.  
D) It has joined hands with Sainsbury's to sell pet insects.
13. A) It was really unforgettable.  
B) It was a pleasant surprise.  
C) It hurts his throat slightly.  
D) It made him feel strange.
14. A) They are more tasty than beef, chicken or pork.  
B) They are more nutritious than soups and salads.  
C) They contain more protein than conventional meats.  
D) They will soon gain popularity throughout the world.
15. A) It is environmentally friendly.  
B) It is a promising industry.  
C) It requires new technology.  
D) It saves huge amount of labor.

## Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or talks followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. A) To categorize different types of learners.

- B) To find out what students prefer to learn.  
C) To understand the mechanism of the human brain.  
D) To see if they are inherent traits affecting learning.
17. A) It was defective. C) It was original in design.  
B) It was misguided. D) It was thought-provoking.
18. A) Auditory aids are as important as visual aids.  
B) Visual aids are helpful to all types of learners.  
C) Reading plain texts is more effective than viewing pictures.  
D) Scientific concepts are hard to understand without visual aids.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. A) Not playing a role in a workplace revolution.  
B) Not benefiting from free-market capitalism.  
C) Not earning enough money to provide for the family.  
D) Not spending enough time on family life and leisure.
20. A) People would be working only fifteen hours a week now.  
B) The balance of power in the workplace would change.  
C) Technological advances would create many new jobs.  
D) Most workers could afford to have a house of their own.
21. A) Loss of workers' personal dignity. C) Deterioration of workers' mental health.  
B) Deprivation of workers' creativity. D) Unequal distribution of working hours.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. A) It is the worst managed airport in German history.  
B) It is now the biggest and busiest airport in Europe.  
C) It has become something of a joke among Germans.  
D) It has become a typical symbol of German efficiency.
23. A) The city's airports are outdated. C) The city wanted to boost its economy.  
B) The city had just been reunified. D) The city wanted to attract more tourists.
24. A) The municipal government kept changing hands.  
B) The construction firm breached the contract.  
C) Shortage of funding delayed its construction.  
D) Problems of different kinds kept popping up.
25. A) Tourism industry in Berlin suffers. C) Huge maintenance costs accumulate.  
B) All kinds of equipment gets rusted. D) Complaints by local residents increase.

**Part III Reading Comprehension**

**(40 minutes)**

## Section A

**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.

The persistent haze over many of our cities is a reminder of the polluted air that we breathe. Over 80% of the world's urban population is breathing air that fails to meet World Health Organization guidelines, and an estimated 4.5 million people died 26 from outdoor air pollution in 2015.

Globally, urban populations are expected to double in the next 40 years, and an extra 2 billion people will need new places to live, services and ways to move around their cities. What is more important, the decisions that we make now about the design of our cities will 27 the everyday lives and health of the coming generations. So what would a smog-free, or at least low-pollution, city be like?

Traffic has become 28 with air pollution, and many countries intend to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the next two decades. But simply 29 to electric cars will not mean pollution-free cities. The level of emissions they cause will depend on how the electricity to run them is 30, while brakes, tyres and roads all create tiny airborne 31 as they wear out.

Across the developed world, car use is in decline as more people move to city centers, while young people especially are 32 for other means of travel. Researchers are already asking if motor vehicle use has reached its 33 and will decline, but transport planners have yet to catch up with this 34, instead laying new roads to tackle traffic jams. As users of London's orbital M25 motorway will know, new roads rapidly fill with more traffic. In the US, studies have shown that doubling the size of a road can 35 double the traffic, taking us back to the starting point.

|              |               |                |               |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| A) alternate | E) locating   | I) particles   | M) switching  |
| B) crown     | F) merged     | J) peak        | N) synonymous |
| C) determine | G) miniatures | K) prematurely | O) trend      |
| D) generated | H) opting     | L) simply      |               |

## Section B

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the question by marking the

corresponding letter on *Answer Sheet 2*.

### How Much Protein Do You Really Need?

- [A] The marketing is tempting: Get stronger muscles and healthier bodies with minimal effort by adding protein powder to your morning shake or juice drink. Or grab a protein bar at lunch or for a quick snack. Today, you can find protein supplements everywhere — online or at the pharmacy, grocery store or health food store. They come in powders, pills and bars. With more than \$12 billion in sales this year, the industry is booming and, according to the market research company, Grand View Research, is on track to sell billions more by 2025. But do we really need all this supplemental protein? It depends. There are pros, cons and some other things to consider.
- [B] For starters, protein is critical for every cell in our body. It helps build nails, hair, bones and muscles. It can also help you feel fuller longer than eating foods without protein. And, unlike nutrients that are found only in a few foods, protein is present in all foods. “The typical American diet is a lot higher in protein than a lot of us think,” says registered dietitian Angela Pipitone. “It’s in foods many of us expect, such as beef, chicken and other types of meat and dairy. But it’s also in foods that may not come immediately to mind like vegetables, fruit, beans and grains.”
- [C] The U.S. government’s recommended daily allowance (RDA) for the average adult is 50 to 60 grams of protein a day. This may sound like a lot, but Pipitone says: “We get bits of protein here and there and that really adds up throughout the day.” Take, for example, breakfast. If you eat two eggs topped with a little bit of cheese and an orange on the side, you already have 22 grams of protein. Each egg gives you 7 grams, the cheese gives you about 6 grams and the orange — about 2 grams. Add a lunch of chicken, rice and broccoli, and you are already over the recommended 50 grams. “You can get enough protein and meet the RDA before you even get to dinner,” says Pipitone.
- [D] So if it’s so easy to get your protein in food, why add more in the form of powders, snack bars or a boost at your local juice bar? No need to, says Pipitone because, in fact, most of us already get enough protein in our diet. “Whole foods are always the best option rather than adding supplements,” she says, noting the FDA does not regulate supplements as rigorously as foods or drugs. So there could be less protein, more sugar and some additives you wouldn’t expect, such as caffeine.
- [E] If you are considering a supplement, read the list of ingredients, she says, although this is not always reliable. “I’ve seen very expensive protein supplements that claim to be high quality but they might not really be beneficial for the average healthy adult,” she says. “It could just be a waste of money.”
- [F] But there are certain situations that do warrant extra protein. “Anytime you’re repairing or building muscle,” Pipitone says, such as if you’re an extreme endurance athlete, training for a

marathon, or you're a body builder. If you're moderately exercising for 150 minutes a week, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends, or less than that, you're probably not an extreme athlete. Extreme athletes expend lots of energy breaking down and repairing and building muscles. Protein can give them the edge they need to speed that process.

- [G] Vegans can benefit from protein supplements since they do not eat animal-based protein sources like meat, dairy or eggs. And, for someone always on-the-go who may not have time for a meal, a protein snack bar can be a good option for occasional meal replacement. Also, individuals recovering from surgery or an injury can also benefit from extra protein. So, too, can older people. At around age 60, "muscles really start to break down," says Kathryn Starr, an aging researcher, "and because of that, the protein needs of an older adult actually increase."
- [H] In fact, along with her colleague Connie Bales, Starr recently conducted a small study that found that adding extra protein foods to the diet of obese older individuals who were trying to lose weight strengthened their muscles. Participants in the study were separated into two groups — one group was asked to eat 30 grams of protein per meal in the form of whole foods. That meant they were eating 90 grams of protein a day. The other group — the control group — was put on a typical low-calorie diet with about 50 to 60 grams of protein a day. After six months, researchers found the high protein group had significantly improved their muscle function — almost twice as much as the control group. "They were able to walk faster, had improved balance, and were also able to get up out of a chair faster than the control group," Starr says. All 67 participants were over 60 years of age, and both groups lost about the same amount of weight.
- [I] Starr is now looking into whether high-protein diets also improve the quality of the muscle itself in seniors. She's using CT scans to measure muscle size and fat, and comparing seniors on a high-protein diet to those on regular diets. She says her findings should be available in a couple of months.
- [J] In the meantime, 70-year-old Corliss Keith, who was in the high protein group in Starr's latest study, says she feels a big difference. "I feel excellent," she says. "I feel like I have a different body, I have more energy, I'm stronger." She says she is able to take Zumba exercise classes three times a week, work out on the treadmill, and take long, brisk walks. Keith also lost more than 15 pounds. "I'm a fashionable person, so now I'm back in my 3-inch heels," she says.
- [K] As people age, Starr says muscle strength is key to helping them stay strong and continue living on their own in their own home. "I feel very much alive now," says Keith. "I feel like I could stay by myself until I'm 100."
- [L] But can people overdo protein? Pipitone says you do have to be careful. Other researchers say too much protein can cause cramps, headaches, and fatigue. Dehydration is also a risk when you eat too much protein. Pipitone says if you increase protein, you also have to increase your fluid intake. "I always tell people to make sure they're drinking enough fluids," which for the



average person is 60 to 70 ounces a day, which translates into eight 8-ounce glasses of water or liquid per day.

[M] There have been some indications that extra protein makes the kidneys work harder, which could be problematic for individuals with a history of kidney disease and for them, the supplements may increase the risk of kidney stones, she says.

[N] Bottom line, if you think you need more protein in your diet, consider these questions: Are you an extreme athlete; are you recovering from injury or surgery; or are you 60 years or older? If so, adding high protein foods like eggs and meat products to your diet can be beneficial. And, if you're not sure, it is always a good idea to check with your primary care provider.

36. It is quite easy for one to take in the recommended amount of protein.

37. Pipitone claims that healthy adults need not spend money on protein supplements.

38. The protein supplement business is found to be thriving.

39. Protein can speed the repairing of damaged muscles.

40. Protein supplements may overburden some internal organ, thus leading to its malfunctioning.

41. Older adults need to take in more protein to keep their muscles strong.

42. Protein is found in more foods than people might realize.

43. Additional protein was found to help strengthen the muscles of overweight seniors seeking weight loss.

44. Pipitone believes that whole foods provide the best source of protein.

45. People are advised to drink more liquid when they take in more protein.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Last year, a child was born at a hospital in the UK with her heart outside her body. Few babies survive this rare condition, and those who do must endure numerous operations and are likely to have complex needs. When her mother was interviewed, three weeks after her daughter's birth, she was asked if she was prepared for what might be a daunting task caring for her. She answered without hesitation that, as far as she was concerned, this would be a "privilege".

Rarely has there been a better example of the power of attitude, one of our most powerful psychological tools. Our attitudes allow us to turn mistakes into opportunities, and loss into the chance for new beginnings. An attitude is a settled way of thinking, feeling and/or behaving

towards particular objects, people, events or ideologies. We use our attitudes to filter, interpret and react to the world around us. You weren't born with attitudes; rather they're all learned, and this happens in a number of ways.

The most powerful influences occur during early childhood and include both what happened to you directly, and what those around you did and said in your presence. As you acquire a distinctive identity, your attitudes are further refined by the behaviors of those with whom you identify — your family, those of your gender and culture, and the people you admire, even though you may not know them personally. Friendships and other important relationships become increasingly important, particularly during adolescence. About that same time and throughout adulthood, the information you receive, especially when ideas are repeated in association with goals and achievements you find attractive, also refines your attitudes.

Many people assume that our attitudes are internally consistent, that is, the way you think and feel about someone or something predicts your behavior towards them. However, many studies have found that feelings and thoughts don't necessarily predict behavior. In general, your attitudes will be internally consistent only when the behavior is easy, and when those around you hold similar beliefs. That's why, for example, many say they believe in the benefits of recycling or exercise, but don't behave in line with their views, because it takes awareness, effort and courage to go beyond merely stating you believe something is a good idea.

One of the most effective ways to change an attitude is to start behaving as if you already feel and think the way you'd prefer to. Take some time to reflect on your attitudes, to think about what you believe and why. Is there anything you consider a burden rather than a privilege? If so, start behaving — right now — as if the latter is the case.

46. What do we learn from the passage about attitude?

- A) It shapes our beliefs and ideologies.
- B) It improves our psychological wellbeing.
- C) It determines how we respond to our immediate environment.
- D) It changes the way we think, feel and interact with one another.

47. What can contribute to the refinement of one's attitude, according to the passage?

- A) Their idols' behaviors.
- B) Their educational level.
- C) Their contact with the opposite gender.
- D) Their interaction with different cultures.

48. What do many studies find about people's feelings and thoughts?

- A) They may not suggest how a person is going to behave.
- B) They are in a way consistent with a person's mentality.
- C) They may not find expression in interpersonal relations.
- D) They are in line with a person's behavior no matter what.

49. How come many people don't do what they believe is good?

- A) They can't afford the time.
- B) They have no idea how to.
- C) They are hypocritical.
- D) They lack willpower.

50. What is proposed as a strategy to change attitude?

- A) Changing things that require one's immediate attention.
- B) Starting to act in a way that embodies one's aspirations.
- C) Adjusting one's behavior gradually over a period of time.
- D) Considering ways of reducing one's psychological burdens.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Industrial fishing for krill in the unspoiled waters around Antarctica is threatening the future of one of the world's last great wildernesses, according to a new report.

The study by Greenpeace analyzed the movements of krill fishing vessels in the region and found they were increasingly operating "in the immediate vicinity of penguin colonies and whale-feeding grounds". It also highlights incidents of fishing boats being involved in groundings, oil spills and accidents, which posed a serious threat to the Antarctic ecosystem.

The report, published on Tuesday, comes amid growing concern about the impact of fishing and climate change on the Antarctic. A global campaign has been launched to create a network of ocean sanctuaries to protect the seas in the region and Greenpeace is calling for an immediate halt to fishing in areas being considered for sanctuary status.

Frida Bengtsson from Greenpeace's Protect the Antarctic campaign, said: "If the krill industry wants to show it's a responsible player, then it should be voluntarily getting out of any area which is being proposed as an ocean sanctuary, and should instead be backing the protection of these huge tracts of the Antarctic."

A global campaign has been launched to turn a huge tract of Antarctic seas into ocean sanctuaries, protecting wildlife and banning not just krill fishing, but all fishing. One was created in the Ross Sea in 2016, another reserve is being proposed in a vast area of the Weddell Sea, and a third sanctuary is under consideration in the area west of the Antarctic peninsula — a key krill fishing area.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) manages the seas around Antarctica. It will decide on the Weddell Sea sanctuary proposal at a conference in Australia in October, although a decision on the peninsula sanctuary is not expected until later.

Keith Reid, a science manager at CCAMLR said the organization sought "a balance between protection, conservation and sustainable fishing in the Southern Ocean." He said although more fishing was taking place nearer penguin colonies it was often happening later in the season when these colonies were empty.

“The creation of a system of marine protected areas is a key part of ongoing scientific and policy discussions in CCAMLR,” he added, “Our long-term operation in the region depends on a healthy and thriving Antarctic marine ecosystem, which is why we have always had an open dialogue with the environmental non-governmental organizations. We strongly intend to continue this dialogue, including talks with Greenpeace, to discuss improvements based on the latest scientific data. We are not the ones to decide on the establishment of marine protected areas, but we hope to contribute positively with our knowledge and experience.”

51. What does Greenpeace’s study find about krill fishing?
  - A) It caused a great many penguins and whales to migrate.
  - B) It was depriving penguins and whales of their habitats.
  - C) It was carried out too close to the habitats of penguins and whales.
  - D) It posed an unprecedented threat to the wildlife around Antarctica.
52. For what purpose has a global campaign been launched?
  - A) To reduce the impact of climate change on Antarctica.
  - B) To establish conservation areas in the Antarctic region.
  - C) To regulate krill fishing operations in the Antarctic seas.
  - D) To publicize the concern about the impact of krill fishing.
53. What is Greenpeace’s recommendation to the krill industry?
  - A) Opting to operate away from the suggested conservation areas.
  - B) Volunteering to protect the endangered species in the Antarctic.
  - C) Refraining from krill fishing throughout the breeding season.
  - D) Showing its sense of responsibility by leading the global campaign.
54. What did CCAMLR aim to do according to its science manager?
  - A) Raise public awareness of the vulnerability of Antarctic species.
  - B) Ban all commercial fishing operations in the Southern Ocean.
  - C) Keep the penguin colonies from all fishing interference.
  - D) Sustain fishing without damaging the Antarctic ecosystem.
55. How does CCAMLR define its role in the conservation of the Antarctic environment?
 

|   |  |
|---|--|
| A) A coordinator in policy discussions. | C) A provider of the needed expertise. |
| B) An authority on big data analysis.   | D) An initiator of marine sanctuaries. |

#### Part IV Translation

( 30 minutes )

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

荷花(lotus flower)是中国的名花之一,深受人们喜爱。中国许多地方的湖泊和池塘都适宜荷花生长。荷花色彩鲜艳,夏日清晨绽放,夜晚闭合,花期长达两三个月,吸引来自各

地的游客前往观赏。荷花具有多种功能，既能绿化水面，又能美化庭园，还可净化水质、减少污染、改善环境。荷花迎骄阳而不惧，出污泥而不染，象征纯洁、高雅，常常用来比喻人的高尚品德，历来是诗人画家创作的重要题材。荷花盛开的地方也是许多摄影爱好者经常光顾之地。

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 24. 2019 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题 (第 3 套)

### Part I Writing (30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on *the importance of having a sense of community responsibility*. You should write at least 150 words but no more than 200 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension (30 minutes)

说明：由于 2019 年 12 月六级考试全国共考了两套听力，故本套试题不再重复出现第 1 套或第 2 套的听力内容。

### Part III Reading Comprehension (40 minutes)

#### Section A

**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.

The number of devices you can talk to is multiplying — first it was your phone, then your car, and now you can tell your kitchen appliances what to do. But even without gadgets that understand our spoken commands, research suggests that, as bizarre as it sounds, under certain 26, people regularly ascribe human traits to everyday objects.

Sometimes we see things as human because we are 27. In one experiment, people who reported feeling isolated were more likely than others to attribute 28 to various gadgets. In turn, feeling close to objects can 29 loneliness. When college students were reminded of a time they had been 30 in a social setting, they compensated by exaggerating their number of friends — unless they were first given tasks that caused them to interact with their phone as if it had human qualities. According to the researchers, the participants' phones 31 substituted for real friends.

At other times, we personify products in an effort to understand them. One study found that three in four respondents yelled at their computer. Further, the more their computer gave them problems, the more likely the respondents were to report that it had its own “beliefs and 32.”

So how do people assign traits to an object? In part, we rely on looks. On humans, wide faces are 33 with dominance. Similarly, people rated cars, clocks, and watches with wide faces as more dominant-looking than narrow-faced ones, and preferred them — especially in 34 situations. An analysis of car sales in Germany found that cars with grills that were upturned like smiles sold best. The purchasers saw this 35 as increasing a car's friendliness.

A) alleviate

E) circumstances

I) desires

M) separate



|               |                  |             |                  |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| B) apparently | F) competitive   | J) excluded | N) spectacularly |
| C) arrogant   | G) conceded      | K) feature  | O) warrant       |
| D) associated | H) consciousness | L) lonely   |                  |

## Section B

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the question by marking the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2.*

### Why More Farmers are Switching to Grass-Fed Meat and Dairy

- [A] Though he didn't come from a farming family, from a young age Tim Joseph was fascinated by the idea of living off the land. Reading magazines like *The Stockman Grass Farmer* and *Graze*, he got hooked on the idea of grass-fed agriculture. The idea that all energy and wealth comes from the sun really intrigued him. He thought the shorter the distance between the sun and the end product, the higher the profit to the farmer.
- [B] Joseph wanted to put this theory to the test. In 2009, he and his wife Laura launched Maple Hill Creamery, an organic, all grass-fed yogurt company in northern New York. He quickly learned what the market has demonstrated: Demand for grass-fed products currently exceeds supply. Grass-fed beef is enjoying a 25-30% annual growth rate. Sales of grass-fed yogurt and kefir, on the other hand, have in the last year increased by over 38%. This is in comparison with a drop of just under 1% in the total yogurt and kefir market, according to natural and organic market research company SPINS. Joseph's top priority became getting his hands on enough grass-fed milk to keep customers satisfied, since his own 64-cow herd wasn't going to suffice.
- [C] His first partnership was with Paul and Phyllis Amburgh, owners of the Dharma Lea farm in New York. The Amburghs, too, were true believers in grass-fed. In addition to supplying milk from their own 85-head herd, they began to help other farmers in the area convert from conventional to certified organic and grass-fed in order to enter the Maple Hill supply chain. Since 2010, the couple has helped 125 small dairy farms convert to grass-fed, with more than 80% of those farms coming on board during the last two years.
- [D] All this conversion has helped Maple Hill grow 40-50% every year since it began, with no end in sight. Joseph has learned that a farmer has to have a certain mindset to successfully convert. But convincing open-minded dairy people is actually not that hard, when you look at the economics. Grass-fed milk can fetch up to 2.5 times the price of conventional milk. Another factor is the squeeze that conventional dairy farmers have felt as the price of grain they feed their cows has gone up, tightening their profit margins. By replacing expensive grain feed with regenerative management practices, grass-fed farmers are insulated from jumps in the price of

feed. These practices include grazing animals on grasses grown from the pastureland's natural seed bank, and fertilized by the cows' own fertilizer.

[E] Champions of this type of regenerative grazing also point to its animal welfare, climate and health benefits: Grass-fed animals live longer out of confinement. Grazing herds stimulate microbial activity in the soil, helping to capture water and separate carbon. And grass-fed dairy and meat have been shown to be higher in certain nutrients and healthy fats.

[F] In the grass-fed system, farmers are also not subject to the wildly fluctuating milk prices of the international commodity market. The unpredictability of global demand and the lag-time it takes to add more cows to a herd to meet demand can result in events like the recent cheese surplus. Going grass-fed is a safe refuge, a way for family-scale farms to stay viable. Usually a farmer will get to the point where financially, what they're doing is not working. That's when they call Maple Hill. If the farm is well managed and has enough land, and the desire to convert is sincere, a relationship can begin. Through regular regional educational meetings, a large annual meeting, individual farm visits and thousands of phone calls, the Amburghs pass on the principles of pasture management. Maple Hill signs a contract pledging to buy the farmer's milk at a guaranteed base price, plus quality premiums and incentives for higher protein, butter fat and other solids.

[G] While Maple Hill's conversion program is unusually hands-on and comprehensive, it's just one of a growing number of businesses committed to slowly changing the way America farms. Joseph calls sharing his knowledge network through peer-to-peer learning a core piece of the company's culture. Last summer, Massachusetts grass-fed beef advocate John Smith launched Big Picture Beef, a network of small grass-fed beef farms in New England and New York that is projected to bring to market 2,500 head of cattle from 125 producers this year. Early indications are that Smith will have no shortage of farm members. Since he began to informally announce the network at farming conferences and on social media, he's received a steady stream of inquiries from interested farmers.

[H] Smith says he'll provide services ranging from formal seminars to on-farm workshops on holistic management, to one-on-one hand-holding and an almost 24/7 phone hotline for farmers who are converting. In exchange, he guarantees an above-market price for each animal and a calf-to-customer electronic ear tag ID system like that used in the European Union.

[I] Though advocates portray grass-fed products as a win-win situation for all, they do have downsides. Price, for one, is an issue. Joseph says his products are priced 10-20% above organic versions, but depending on the product chosen, compared to non-organic conventional yogurt, consumers could pay a premium of 30-50% or more for grass-fed. As for the meat, Smith says his grass-fed hamburger will be priced 20-25% over the conventional alternative. But a look at the prices on online grocer Fresh Direct suggests a grass-fed premium of anywhere from 35-60%.

- [J] And not every farmer has the option of going grass-fed. For both beef and dairy production, it requires, at least in the beginning, more pastureland. Grass-fed beef production tends to be more labor-intensive as well. But Smith counters that if you factor in the hidden cost of government corn subsidies, environment degradation, and decreased human health and animal welfare, grass-fed is the more cost-effective model. “The sun provides the lowest cost of production and the cheapest meat,” he says.
- [K] Another grass-fed booster spurring farmers to convert is EPIC, which makes meat-based protein bars. Founders Taylor Collins and his wife, Katie Forrest, used to be endurance athletes; now they’re advocates of grass-fed meat. Soon after launching EPIC’S most successful product — the Bison Bacon Cranberry Bar — Collins and Forrest found they’d exhausted their sources for bison raised exclusively on pasture. When they started researching the supply chain, they learned that only 2-3% of all bison is actually grass-fed. The rest is feed-lot confined and fed grain and corn.
- [L] But after General Mills bought EPIC in 2016, Collins and Forrest suddenly had the resources they needed to expand their supply chain. So the company teamed up with Wisconsin-based rancher Northstar Bison. EPIC fronted the money for the purchase of \$2.5 million worth of young bison that will be raised according to its grass-fed protocols, with a guaranteed purchase price. The message to young people who might not otherwise be able to afford to break into the business is, “ ‘You can purchase this \$3 million piece of land here, because I’m guaranteeing you today you’ll have 1,000 bison on it.’ We’re bringing new blood into the old, conventional farming ecosystem, which is really cool to see,” Collins explains.
36. Farmers going grass-fed are not affected by the ever-changing milk prices of the global market.
37. Over the years, Tim Joseph’s partners have helped many dairy farmers to switch to grass-fed.
38. One advocate believes that many other benefits should be taken into consideration when we assess the cost-effectiveness of grass-fed farming.
39. Many dairy farmers were persuaded to switch to grass-fed when they saw its advantage in terms of profits.
40. Tim Joseph’s grass-fed program is only one example of how American farming practice is changing.
41. Tim Joseph was fascinated by the notion that sunlight brings energy and wealth to mankind.
42. One problem with grass-fed products is that they are usually more expensive than conventional ones.
43. Grass-fed products have proved to be healthier and more nutritious.
44. When Tim Joseph started his business, he found grass-fed products fell short of demand.
45. A snack bar producer discovered that the supply of purely grass-fed bison met was scarce.

## Section C

**Directions:** *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

### Passage One

**Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Schools are not just a microcosm of society: they mediate it too. The best seek to alleviate the external pressures on their pupils while equipping them better to understand and handle the world outside — at once sheltering them and broadening their horizons. This is ambitious in any circumstances, and in a divided and unequal society the two ideals can clash outright.

Trips that many adults would consider the adventure of a lifetime — treks in Borneo, a sports tour to Barbados — appear to have become almost routine at some state schools. Parents are being asked for thousands of pounds. Though schools cannot profit from these trips, the companies that arrange them do. Meanwhile, pupils arrive at school hungry because their families can't afford breakfast. The Child Poverty Action Group says nine out of 30 in every classroom fall below the poverty line. The discrepancy is startlingly apparent. Introducing a fundraising requirement for students does not help, as better-off children can tap up richer aunts and neighbors.

Probing the rock pools of a local beach or practicing French on a language exchange can fire children's passions, boost their skills and open their eyes to life's possibilities. Educational outings help bright but disadvantaged students to get better scores in A-level tests. In this globalised age, there is a good case for international travel and some parents say they can manage the cost of a school trip abroad more easily than a family holiday. Even in the face of immense and mounting financial pressures some schools have shown remarkable determination and ingenuity in ensuring that all their pupils are able to take up opportunities that may be truly life-changing. They should be applauded. Methods such as whole-school fundraising, with the proceeds pooled, can help to extend opportunities and fuel community spirit.

But £3,000 trips cannot be justified when the average income for families with children is just over £30,000. Such initiatives close doors for many pupils. Some parents pull their children out of school because of expensive field trips. Even parents who can see that a trip is little more than a party or celebration may well feel guilt that their child is left behind.

The Department for Education's guidance says schools can charge only for board and lodging if the trip is part of the syllabus, and that students receiving government aid are exempt from these costs. However, many schools seem to ignore the advice; and it does not cover the kind of glamorous, exotic trips, which are becoming increasingly common. Schools cannot be expected to bring together communities single-handed. But the least we should expect is that they do not foster divisions and exclude those who are already disadvantaged.

46. What does the author say best schools should do?
- A) Prepare students to both challenge and change the divided unequal society.
  - B) Protect students from social pressures and enable them to face the world.
  - C) Motivate students to develop their physical as well as intellectual abilities.
  - D) Encourage students to be ambitious and help them to achieve their goals.
47. What does the author think about school field trips?
- A) They enable students from different backgrounds to mix with each other.
  - B) They widen the gap between privileged and disadvantaged students.
  - C) They give the disadvantaged students a chance to see the world.
  - D) They only benefit students with rich relatives and neighbors.
48. What does the author suggest can help build community spirit?
- A) Events aiming to improve community services.
  - B) Activities that help to fuel students' ingenuity.
  - C) Events that require mutual understanding.
  - D) Activities involving all students on campus.
49. What do we learn about low-income parents regarding school field trips?
- A) They want their children to participate even though they don't see much benefit.
  - B) They don't want their kids to participate but find it hard to keep them from going.
  - C) They don't want their kids to miss any chance to broaden their horizons despite the cost.
  - D) They want their children to experience adventures but they don't want them to run risks.
50. What is the author's expectation of schools?
- A) Bringing a community together with ingenuity.
  - B) Resolving the existing discrepancies in society.
  - C) Avoiding creating new gaps among students.
  - D) Giving poor students preferential treatment.

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Rising temperatures and overfishing in the pristine waters around the Antarctic could see king penguin populations pushed to the brink of extinction by the end of the century, according to a new study. The study's report states that as global warming transforms the environment in the world's last great wilderness, 70 percent of king penguins could either disappear or be forced to find new breeding grounds.

Co-author Céline Le Bohec, from the University of Strasbourg in France, warned: "If there're no actions aimed at halting or controlling global warming, and the pace of the current human-induced changes such as climate change and overfishing stays the same, the species may soon

disappear.” The findings come amid growing concern over the future of the Antarctic. Earlier this month a separate study found that a combination of climate change and industrial fishing is threatening the krill population in Antarctic waters, with a potentially disastrous impact on whales, seals and penguins. But today’s report is the starkest warning yet of the potentially devastating impact of climate change and human exploitation on the Antarctic’s delicate ecosystems.

Le Bohec said: “Unless current greenhouse gas emissions drop, 70 percent of king penguins — 1.1 million breeding pairs — will be forced to relocate their breeding grounds, or face extinction by 2100.” King penguins are the second-largest type of penguin and only breed on specific isolated islands in the Southern Ocean where there is no ice cover and easy access to the sea. As the ocean warms, a body of water called the Antarctic Polar Front — an upward movement of nutrient-rich sea that supports a huge abundance of marine life — is being pushed further south. This means that king penguins, which feed on fish and krill in this body of water, have to travel further to their feeding grounds, leaving their hungry chicks for longer. And as the distance between their breeding grounds and their food grows, entire colonies could be wiped out.

Le Bohec said: “The plight of the king penguin should serve as a warning about the future of the entire marine environment in the Antarctic. Penguins, like other seabirds and marine mammals, occupy higher levels in the food chain and they are what we call bio-indicators of their ecosystems.” Penguins are sensitive indicators of changes in marine ecosystems. As such, they are key species for understanding and predicting impacts of global change on Antarctic and sub-Antarctic marine ecosystems. The report found that although some king penguins may be able to relocate to new breeding grounds closer to their retreating food source, suitable new habitats would be scarce. Only a handful of islands in the Southern Ocean are suitable for sustaining large breeding colonies.

51. What will happen by 2100, according to a new study?

- A) King penguins in the Antarctic will be on the verge of dying out.
- B) Sea water will rise to a much higher level around the Antarctic.
- C) The melting ice cover will destroy the great Antarctic wilderness.
- D) The pristine waters around the Antarctic will disappear forever.

52. What do we learn from the findings of a separate study?

- A) Shrinking krill population and rising temperatures could force Antarctic whales to migrate.
- B) Human activities have accelerated climate change in the Antarctic region in recent years.
- C) Industrial fishing and climate change could be fatal to certain Antarctic species.
- D) Krill fishing in the Antarctic has worsened the pollution of the pristine waters.

53. What does the passage say about king penguins?

- A) They will turn out to be the second-largest species of birds to become extinct.
- B) Many of them will have to migrate to isolated islands in the Southern Ocean.
- C) They feed primarily on only a few kinds of krill in the Antarctic Polar Front.



- D) The majority of them may have to find new breeding grounds in the future.
54. What happens when sea levels rise in the Antarctic?
- A) Many baby king penguins can't have food in time.  
B) Many king penguins could no longer live on krill.  
C) Whales will invade king penguins' breeding grounds.  
D) Whales will have to travel long distances to find food.
55. What do we learn about the Southern Ocean?
- A) The king penguins there are reluctant to leave for new breeding grounds.  
B) Its conservation is key to the sustainable propagation of Antarctic species.  
C) It is most likely to become the ultimate retreat for species like the king penguin.  
D) Only a few of its islands can serve as huge breeding grounds for king penguins.

#### Part IV Translation

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on *Answer Sheet 2*.

梅花(plum blossom)位居中国十大名花之首，源于中国南方，已有三千多年的栽培和种植历史。隆冬时节，五颜六色的梅花不畏严寒，迎着风雪傲然绽放。在中国传统文化中，梅花象征着坚强、纯洁、高雅，激励人们不畏艰难、砥砺前行。自古以来，许多诗人和画家从梅花中获取灵感，创作了无数不朽的作品。普通大众也都喜爱梅花，春节期间常用于家庭装饰。南京市已将梅花定为市花，每年举办梅花节，成千上万的人冒着严寒到梅花山踏雪赏梅。

### 2016 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题听力原文及参考答案（第 1 套）

#### Part I Writing

In the Internet age, it is not uncommon that some people are more connected to the virtual world rather than the real world. For them, communication with online friends takes priority over interacting with their real-life friends.

There is little doubt that the Internet has brought us great convenience in all aspects. Thanks to the Internet, we can get in touch with our friends wherever they are and keep track of the current affairs in almost every part of the world. However, if we spend too much time surfing online and are addicted to the virtual world, we will inevitably have less time to communicate face to face with our family members and friends and to actively participate in various social activities. Moreover, people addicted to the virtual world may create dishonest online profiles to make

themselves more attractive, contributing to the moral decline of the society. Finally, spending increasing amounts of time on the Internet is associated with a sedentary lifestyle, which does harm to people's health.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 2. A  | 3. D  | 4. B  | 5. A  |
| 6. B  | 7. C  | 8. C  | 9. B  | 10. A |
| 11. C | 12. A | 13. D | 14. D | 15. B |
| 16. D | 17. B | 18. A | 19. C | 20. B |
| 21. D | 22. D | 23. A | 24. A | 25. C |

| Part III Reading Comprehension |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. O                          | 27. K | 28. H | 29. J | 30. A |
| 31. N                          | 32. E | 33. M | 34. D | 35. B |
| 36. I                          | 37. C | 38. L | 39. D | 40. K |
| 41. E                          | 42. G | 43. A | 44. N | 45. J |
| 46. D                          | 47. C | 48. C | 49. B | 50. A |
| 51. B                          | 52. D | 53. A | 54. A | 55. C |

## Part IV Translation

Innovation in China is flourishing at an unprecedented speed. In order to catch up with and overtake the developed countries in science and technology as soon as possible, China has substantially increased investment in research and development funds in recent years. Chinese universities and research institutes are actively carrying out innovative researches. These researches cover various high-tech fields, ranging from large data to biochemistry, from new energy to robots. They are also cooperating with science and technology parks across China to commercialize the innovative products. Meanwhile, Chinese entrepreneurs are endeavoring to be the innovative pioneers no matter in products or business models, to meet the constantly changing and growing demands of consumer market both at home and abroad.

## Part II Listening Comprehension 听力原文

### Section A

Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

M: So, how long have you been a market research consultant?

W: Well, I started straight after finishing university.

M: Did you study market research?

W: Yeah, and it really helped me to get into the industry, but I have to say that it's more important to get experience in different types of market research to find out exactly what you're interested in.

M: So what are you interested in?

W: Well, at the moment, I specialize in quantitative advertising research, which means that I do two types of projects. Trackers, which are ongoing projects that look at trends or customer satisfaction over a long period of time. The only problem with trackers is that it takes up a lot of your time. But you do build up a good relationship with the client. I also do a couple of ad hoc jobs which are much shorter projects.

M: What exactly do you mean by ad hoc jobs?

W: It's basically when companies need quick answers to their questions about their consumers' habits. They just ask for one questionnaire to be sent out for example, so the time you spend on an ad hoc project tends to be fairly short.

M: Which do you prefer, trackers or ad hoc?

W: I like doing both and in fact I need to do both at the same time to keep me from going crazy. I need the variety.

M: Can you just explain what process you go through with a new client?

W: Well, together we decide on the methodology and the objectives of the research. I then design a questionnaire. Once the interviewers have been briefed, I send the client a schedule and then they get back to me with deadlines. Once the final charts and tables are ready, I have to check them and organize a presentation.

M: Hmm, one last question, what do you like and dislike about your job?

W: As I said, variety is important and as for what I don't like, it has to be the checking of charts and tables.

1: What position does the woman hold in the company?

2: What does the woman specialize in at the moment?

3: What does the woman say about trackers?

4: What does the woman dislike about her job?

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

W: Hello, I'm here with Frederick. Now Fred, you went to university in Canada?

M: Yeah, that's right.

W: OK, and you have very strong views about universities in Canada. Could you please explain?

M: Well, we don't have private universities in Canada. They're all public. All the universities are owned by the government, so there is the Ministry of Education in charge of creating the curriculum for the universities and so there is not much room for flexibility. Since it's a government-operated institution, things don't move very fast. If you want something to be done, then their staff do not have so much incentive to help you because he's a worker for the government. So I don't think it's very efficient. However, there are certain advantages of public universities, such as the fees being free. You don't have to pay for your education. But the system isn't efficient, and it does not work that well.

W: Yeah, I can see your point, but in the United States we have many private universities, and I

think they are large bureaucracies also. Maybe people don't act that much differently, because it's the same thing working for a private university. They get paid for their job. I don't know if they're that much more motivated to help people. Also, we have a problem in the United States that usually only wealthy kids go to the best schools and it's kind of a problem actually.

M: I agree with you. I think it's a problem because you're not giving equal access to education to everybody. It's not easy, but having only public universities also might not be the best solution. Perhaps we can learn from Japan where they have a system of private and public universities. Now, in Japan, public universities are considered to be the best.

W: Right. It's the exact opposite in the United States.

M: So, as you see, it's very hard to say which one is better.

W: Right, a good point.

5: What does the woman want Frederick to talk about?

6: What does the man say about the curriculum in Canadian universities?

7: On what point do the speakers agree?

8: What point does the man make at the end of the conversation?

## Section B

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

A recent International Labour Organization report says the deterioration of real wages around the world calls into question the true extent of an economic recovery, especially if government rescue packages are phased out too early.

The report warns the picture on wages is likely to get worse this year, despite indications of an economic rebound. Patrick Belser, an International Labour Organization specialist, says declining wage rates are linked to the levels of unemployment.

"The quite dramatic unemployment figures, which we now see in some of the countries, strongly suggest that there will be greater pressure on wages in the future as more people will be unemployed, more people will be looking for jobs and the pressure on employers to raise wages to attract workers will decline. So, we expect that the second part of the year will not be very good in terms of wage growth."

The report finds more than a quarter of the countries experienced flat or falling monthly wages in real terms. They include, the United States, Austria, Costa Rica, South Africa and Germany.

International Labour Organization economists say some nations have come up with policies to lessen the impact of lower wages during the economic crisis. An example of these is work sharing with government subsidies. Under this scheme, the number of individual working hours is reduced in an effort to avoid layoffs. For this scheme to work, the government must provide wage subsidies to compensate for lost pay due to the shorter hours.

9. What is the International Labor Organization's report mainly about?

10. According to an International Labor Organization's specialist, how will employers feel if there are more people looking for jobs?
11. What does the speaker mean by the work sharing scheme?

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

Is there really a magic memory pill or a herbal recall remedy? I have been frequently asked if these memory supplements work. You know, one of the first things I like to tell people when they ask me about these supplements is that a lot of them are promoted as a cure for your memory. But your memory doesn't need a cure. What your memory needs is a good workout. So really those supplements aren't going to give you that perfect memory in the way that they promise. The other thing is that a lot of these supplements aren't necessarily what they claim to be, and you really have to be wary when you take any of them. The science isn't there behind most of them. They're not really well-regulated unless they adhere to some industry standard. You don't really know that what they say is in there is in there. What you must understand is that those supplements, especially in some eastern cultures, are part of a medical practice tradition. People don't just go in a local grocery store and buy these supplements. In fact, they are prescribed and they're given at a certain level, a dosage that is understood by a practitioner who's been trained. And that's not really the way they're used in this country. The other thing people do forget is that these are medicines, so they do have an impact. A lot of times people are not really aware of the impact they have, or the fact that taking them in combination with other medications might put you at an increased risk for something that you wouldn't otherwise be countering or be at risk for.

12. What question is frequently put to the speaker?
13. What does the speaker say about most memory supplements?
14. What do we learn about memory supplements in eastern cultures?
15. What does the speaker say about memory supplements at the end?

**Section C**

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

The negative impacts of natural disasters can be seen everywhere. In just the past few weeks, the world has witnessed the destructive power of earthquakes in Indonesia, typhoons in the Philippines, and the destructive sea waves that struck Samoa and neighboring islands.

A study by the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters finds that, between 1980 and 2007, nearly 8,400 natural disasters killed more than two million people. These catastrophic events caused more than \$1.5 trillion in economic losses.

U.N. weather expert Geoffrey Love says that is the bad news. "Over the last 50 years, economic losses have increased by a factor of 50. That sounds pretty terrible, but the loss of life has decreased by a factor of 10 simply because we are getting better at warning people. We are making a difference. Extreme events, however, will continue to occur. But, the message is that they need not be disasters."

Love, who is director of Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction at the World Meteorological Organization, says most of the deaths and economic losses were caused by weather, climate, or water-related extremes. These include droughts, floods, windstorms, strong tropical winds and wildfires.

He says extreme events will continue. But, he says extreme events become disasters only when people fail to prepare for them. “Many of the remedies are well-known. From a planning perspective, it’s pretty simple. Build better buildings. Don’t build where the hazards will destroy them. From an early-warning perspective, make sure the warnings go right down to the community level. Build community action plans.”

The World Meteorological Organization points to Cuba and Bangladesh as examples of countries that have successfully reduced the loss of life caused by natural disasters by taking preventive action.

It says tropical storms formerly claimed dozens, if not hundreds of lives, each year, in Cuba. But, the development of an early-warning system has reversed that trend. In 2008, Cuba was hit by five successive hurricanes, but only seven people were killed.

Bangladesh also has achieved substantial results. Major storm surges in 1970 and 1991 caused the deaths of about 440,000 people. Through careful preparation, the death toll from a super tropical storm in November 2007 was less than 3,500.

16. What is the talk mainly about?

17. How can we stop extreme events from turning into disasters?

18. What does the example of Cuba serve to show?

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

As U.S. banks recovered with the help of the American government and the American taxpayer, President Obama held meetings with top bank executives, telling them it’s time to return the favor. “The way I see it—our banks now have a greater obligation to the goal of a wider recovery,” he said. But the President may be giving the financial sector too much credit. “It was in a free fall, and it was a very scary period.” Economist Martin Neil Baily said. After the failure of Lehman Brothers, many of the world’s largest banks feared the worst as the collapse of the housing bubble exposed investments in risky loans.

Although he says the worst is over, Baily says the banking crisis is not. More than 130 U.S. banks failed in 2009. He predicts high failure rates for smaller, regional banks in 2010 as Commercial Real Estate loans come due. “So there may actually be a worsening of credit availability to small- and medium-sized businesses in the next year or so.”

Analysts say the biggest problem is high unemployment, which weakens demand and makes banks reluctant to lend. But U.S. Bancorp chief Richard Davis sees the situation differently.

“We’re probably more optimistic than the experts might be. With that in mind, we’re putting in everything we can. Lending is the coal to our engine, so we want to make more loans. We have to find a way to qualify more people and not put ourselves at risk.”

While some economists predict continued recovery in the future, Baily says the only certainty



is that banks are unlikely to make the same mistakes twice. “You know, forecasting’s become a very hazardous business so I don’t want to commit myself too much. I don’t think we know exactly what’s going to happen but it’s certainly possible that we could get very slow growth over the next year or two.”

If the economy starts to shrink again, Bailly says it would make a strong case for a second stimulus—something the Obama administration hopes will not be necessary.

19. What does President Obama hope the banks will do?

20. What is Martin Neil Bailly's prediction about the financial situation in the future?

21. What does U.S. Bankcorp chief Richard Davis say about its future operation?

22. What does Martin Neil Bailly think of a second stimulus to the economy?

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

A new study has failed to find any conclusive evidence that lifestyle changes can prevent cognitive decline in older adults. Still there are good reasons to make positive changes in how we live and what we eat as we age.

Cognitive decline is the loss of ability to learn new skills, or recall words, names, and faces that is most common as we age. To reduce or avoid it, researchers have examined the effect of smoking, diet, brain-challenging games, exercise and other strategies.

Researchers at Duke University scrutinized more than 160 published studies and found an absence of strong evidence that any of these approaches can make a big difference.

Co-author James Burke helped design the study. “In the observational studies we found that some of the B vitamins were beneficial. Exercise, diet, cognitive stimulation showed some positive effects, although the evidence was not so strong that we could actually consider these firmly established.”

Some previous studies have suggested that challenging your brain with mentally stimulating activities might help. And Burke says that actually does seem to help, based on randomized studies—the researcher’s gold standard.

“Cognitive stimulation is one of the areas where we did find some benefit. The exact type of stimulation that an individual uses is not as important as being intellectually engaged.”

The expert review also found insufficient evidence to recommend any drugs or dietary supplements that could prevent or slow cognitive decline.

However, given that there is at least some evidence for positive effects from some of these lifestyle changes, plus other benefits apparently unrelated to cognitive decline, Burke was willing to offer some recommendations.

“I think that by having people adopt a healthy lifestyle, both from a medical standpoint as well as nutritional and cognitive stimulation standpoint, we can reduce the incidence of cognitive decline, which will be proof that these factors are, in fact, important.”

James Burke of Duke University is one of the authors of a study reviewing previous research on cognitive decline. The paper is published online by the Annals of Internal Medicine.

23. According to the speaker, what might be a symptom of cognitive decline in older adults?
24. According to James Burke, what does seem to help reduce cognitive decline?
25. What did James Burke recommend to reduce the incidence of cognitive decline?

This is the end of Listening Comprehension.

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2016 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题听力原文及参考答案（第 2 套）

### Part I Writing

E-learning is getting more and more popular with each passing day. For example, some college students use E-learning to supplement their school curriculum; more and more corporations offer online training for their employees.

Undoubtedly, e-learning has its distinctive advantages over any other type of learning. First and foremost, it is convenient and flexible since it allows users to learn at a time and place of the users' choosing as long as they own a computer and have an Internet connection. Another major benefit of e-learning is the accessibility it provides. For instance, students can take online courses given by prestigious professors at home and abroad. In addition, e-learning is cost effective. This is especially true for corporate training, because travel and accommodation expenses for trainers and employees can be cut. However, e-learning is far from for trainers and employees can be cut. However, e-learning is far from "one size fits all". It doesn't fit people who lack self-discipline and have difficulty in time management. Besides, people who value face-to-face interaction with their teachers and classmates may also find online learning unsatisfactory.

From my point of view, although e-learning has changed both education and corporate training, it will not replace the traditional in-class learning, but function as a complementary type of learning.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. B  | 3. C  | 4. D  | 5. A  |
| 6. B  | 7. B  | 8. C  | 9. C  | 10. D |
| 11. B | 12. A | 13. D | 14. A | 15. C |
| 16. A | 17. B | 18. C | 19. D | 20. D |
| 21. C | 22. D | 23. B | 24. D | 25. A |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. A | 27. D | 28. F | 29. O | 30. C |
| 31. H | 32. N | 33. J | 34. K | 35. L |
| 36. F | 37. J | 38. A | 39. G | 40. L |
| 41. H | 42. C | 43. I | 44. P | 45. K |
| 46. C | 47. C | 48. A | 49. B | 50. A |
| 51. D | 52. B | 53. D | 54. A | 55. B |

### Part IV Translation

Shenzhen is a newly-developed city in Guangdong Province of China. It was only a fishing village of more than 30,000 people before the Reform and Opening up. In the 1980s, Chinese government established Shenzhen Special Economic Zone as the experimental plot to implement market-

oriented economy with socialist features. Now, Shenzhen, with a population of over 10 million, has witnessed dramatic changes.

By 2014, the per-capital GDP of Shenzhen has reached 26 thousand dollars, the level of some developed countries in the world. In terms of the overall economic power, Shenzhen is listed among the top cities in China as well. Due to its unique status, the city is also an ideal place for the entrepreneurs at home and abroad to start their businesses.

## Part II Listening Comprehension 听力原文

### Section A

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

W: So, Mike, you manage the innovation project at CucinTech.

M: I did indeed.

W: Well then, first, congratulations. It seems to have been very successful.

M: Thanks. Yes, I really help things turn around at CucinTech.

W: Was the revival in their fortunes entirely due to strategic innovation?

M: Yes, yes, I think it was. CucinTech was a company who were very much following the pack, doing what everyone else was doing and getting rapidly left behind. I could see there was a lot of talent there, and some great potential, particularly in their product development. I just had to harness that somehow.

W: Was innovation at the core of the project?

M: Absolutely. If it doesn't sound like too much of a cliché, our world is constantly changing and it's changing quickly. We need to be innovating constantly to keep up with this. Stand still and you are lost.

W: No stopping to sniff the roses?

M: Well, I'll do that in my personal life. Sure. But as a business strategy, I'm afraid there is no stopping.

W: What exactly is strategic innovation then?

M: Strategic innovation is the process of managing innovation, of making sure it takes place at all levels of the company, and that is related to the company's overall strategy.

W: I see.

M: So, instead of innovation for innovation's sake and new products being created simply because the technology is there, the company culture must switch from these pointing-time innovations to continuous pipeline of innovations from everywhere and everyone.

W: How did you align strategies throughout the company?

M: I soon became aware that campaigning is useless. People take no notice. Simply, it came about through good practice trickling down. This built consent. People could see it was the best way to work.

W: Does innovation on the skill really give a competitive advantage?

M: I am certain of it, absolutely, especially if it's difficult for a competitor to copy. The risk is of

course that innovation may frequently lead to imitation.

W: But not if it's strategic?

M: Precisely.

W: Thanks for talking to us.

M: Sure.

1. What seems to have been very successful according to the woman speaker?
2. What did the company lack before the man's scheme was implemented?
3. What does the man say he should do in his business?
4. What does the man say is the risk of innovation?

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

M: Today, my guest is Dayna Ivanovich who has worked for the last twenty years as an interpreter. Dayna, welcome.

W: Thank you.

M: Now, I'd like to begin by saying that I have on occasions used an interpreter myself as a foreign correspondent. So I am full of admiration for what you do, but I think your profession is sometimes underrated, and many people think anyone who speaks more than one language can do it.

W: There aren't any interpreters I know who don't have professional qualifications and training. You only really get proficient after many years in the job.

M: And I'm right in saying you can divide what you do into two distinct methods —simultaneous and consecutive interpreting.

W: That's right. The techniques you use are different, and a lot of interpreters will say one is easier than the other, less stressful.

M: Simultaneous interpreting, putting someone's words into another language more or less as they speak, sounds to me like the more difficult.

W: Well, actually no. Most people in the business would agree that consecutive interpreting is the more stressful. You have to wait for the speaker to deliver quite a chunk of language before you then put it into the second language, which puts your short-term memory under intense stress.

M: You make notes, I presume.

W: Absolutely, anything like numbers, names, places have to be noted down. But the rest is never translated word for word. You have to find a way of summarizing it, so that the message is there. Turning every single word into the target language would put too much strain on the interpreter and slow down the whole process too much.

M: But, with simultaneous interpreting, you start translating almost as soon as the other person starts speaking. You must have some preparation beforehand.

W: Well, hopefully, the speakers will let you have an outline of the topic a day or two in advance. You have a little time to do research, prepare technical expressions and so on.

5. What are the speakers mainly talking about?
6. What does the man think of Dayna's profession?
7. What does Dayna say about the interpreters she knows?
8. What do most interpreters think of consecutive interpreting?

## Section B

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

Mothers have been warned for years that sleeping with their newborn infant is a bad idea, because it increases the risk that the baby might die unexpectedly during the night. But now Israeli researchers are reporting that even sleeping in the same room can have negative consequences: not for the child, but for the mother. Mothers who slept in the same room as their infants, whether in the same bed or just the same room, had poorer sleep than mothers whose babies slept elsewhere in the house: They woke up more frequently, were awake approximately 20 minutes longer per night, and had shorter periods of uninterrupted sleep. These results held true even taking into account that many of the women in the study were breast-feeding their babies. Infants, on the other hand, didn't appear to have worse sleep whether they slept in the same or different room from their mothers. The researchers acknowledge that since the families they studied were all middle-class Israelis, it's possible the results would be different in different cultures. Lead author, Liat Tikotzky, wrote in an email that the research team also didn't measure fathers' sleep, so it's possible that their sleep patterns could also be causing the sleep disruptions for moms. Right now, to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that mothers not sleep in the same bed as their babies but sleep in the same room. The Israeli study suggests that doing so maybe best for the baby, but may take a toll on mom.

9. What is the long-held view about mother sleeping with newborn babies?
10. What do Israeli researchers' findings show?
11. What does the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend mothers do?

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

The US has already lost more than a third of the native languages that existed before European colonization, and the remaining 192 are classed by UNESCO as ranging between "unsafe" and "extinct". "We need more funding and more effort to return these languages to everyday use," says Fred Nahwoosky of the National Museum of the American Indian. "We are making progress but money needs to be spent on revitalising languages, not just documenting them." Some 40 languages, mainly in California and Oklahoma where thousands of Indians were forced to relocate in the 19th century, have fewer than 10 native speakers. "Part of the issue is that tribal groups themselves don't always believe their languages are endangered until they're down to the last handful of speakers. But progress is being made through immersion schools, because if you teach children when they're young it will stay with them as adults and that's the future," says Mr. Nahwoosky, a Comanche Indian. Such schools have become a model in Hawaii. But the islanders' local language is still



classified by UNESCO as “critically endangered” because only 1,000 people speak it. The decline in American Indian languages has historical roots: In the mid-19th century, the US government adopted a policy of Americanising Indian children by removing them from their homes and culture. Within a few generations most had forgotten their native tongues. Another challenge to language survival is television. It has brought English into homes and pushed out traditional story-telling and family time together, accelerating the extinction of native languages.

12. What do we learn from the report?
13. For what purpose does Fred Nahwoosky appeal for more funding?
14. What is the historical cause of the decline in American Indian languages?
15. What does the speaker say about television?

### Section C

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

Gregg Rosen lost his job as a sales manager nearly three years ago and is still unemployed.

“It literally is like something in a dream, to remember what it’s like to actually be able to go out, and put in a day’s work and receive a day’s pay.”

At first, Rosen bought groceries and made house payments with the help from unemployment insurance. It pays laid off workers up to half of their previous wages while they look for work. But now, that insurance has run out for him, and he has to make tough choices. He’s cut back on medications and he no longer helps support his disabled mother.

It is a devastating experience.

New research says the US recession is now over, but many people remain unemployed. And unemployed workers face difficult odds.

There is literally only one job opening for every five unemployed workers, so four out of five unemployed workers have actually no chance of finding a new job.

Businesses have downsized or shut down across America, leaving fewer job opportunities for those in search of work. Experts who monitor unemployment statistics here in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, say about 28,000 people are unemployed, and many of them are jobless due to no fault of their own.

That’s where the Bucks County’s CareerLink comes in. Local director Elizabeth Walsh says they provide training and guidance to help unemployed workers find local job opportunities.

“So here’s the job opening, here’s the job seeker, match them together under one roof,” she says.

But the lack of work opportunities in Bucks County limits how much she can help.

Rosen says he hopes Congress will take action.

This month he launched the 99ers Union, an umbrella organization of 18 Internet-based grass roots groups of 99ers. Their goal is to convince lawmakers to extend unemployment benefits.

But Pennsylvania State Representative Scott Petri says governments simply do not have

enough money to extend unemployment insurance. He thinks the best way to help the long-term unemployed is to allow private citizens to invest in local companies that can create more jobs. But the boost in investor confidence needed for the plan to work will take time —time that Rosen says still requires him to buy food and make monthly mortgage payments.

Rosen says he'll use the last of his savings to try to hang onto the home he worked for more than 20 years to buy. But once that money is gone, he says he doesn't know what he'll do.

16. How does unemployment insurance help the unemployed?

17. What is local director Elizabeth Walsh of the Bucks County CareerLink doing?

18. What does Pennsylvania State Representative Scott Petri say is the best way to help the long-term unemployed?

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

Earlier this year, British explorer Pen Hadow and his team trekked for three months across the frozen Arctic Ocean, taking measurements and recording observations about the ice.

"Well, we'd been led to believe that we would encounter a good proportion of this older, thicker, technically multi-year ice that's been around for a few years and just gets thicker and thicker. We actually found there wasn't any multi-year ice at all."

Satellite observations and submarine surveys over the past few years had shown less ice in the polar region, but the recent measurements show the loss is more pronounced than previously thought.

"We're looking at roughly 80 percent loss of ice cover on the Arctic Ocean in 10 years, roughly 10 years, and 100 percent loss in nearly 20 years."

Cambridge scientist Peter Wadhams, who's been measuring and monitoring the Arctic since 1971 says the decline is irreversible.

"The more you lose, the more open water is created, the more warming goes on in that open water during the summer, the less ice forms in the winter, the more melt there is the following summer. It becomes a breakdown process where everything ends up accelerating until it's all gone."

Martin Sommerkorn runs the Arctic program for the environmental charity—the World Wildlife Fund.

"The Arctic sea ice holds a central position in the Earth's climate system and it's deteriorating faster than expected. Actually, it has to translate into more urgency to deal with the climate change problem and reduce emissions."

Sommerkorn says a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming needs to come out of the Copenhagen climate change summit in December.

"We have to basically achieve there, the commitment to deal with the problem now. That's the minimum. We have to do that equitably and we have to find a commitment that is quick."

Wadhams echoes the need for urgency.

"The carbon that we've put into the atmosphere keeps having a warming effect for 100 years, so we have to cut back rapidly now, because it will take a long time to work its way through into a

response by the atmosphere. We can't switch off global warming just by being good in the future. We have to start being good now."

Wadhams says there is no easy technological fix to climate change. He and other scientists say there are basically two options to replacing fossil fuels, generating energy with renewables, or embracing nuclear power.

19. What did Pen Hadow and his team do in the Arctic Ocean?

20. What does the report say about the Arctic region?

21. What does Cambridge scientist Peter Wadhams say in his study?

22. How does Peter Wadhams view climate change?

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

From a very early age, some children exhibit better self-control than others. Now, a new study that began with about 1,000 children in New Zealand has tracked how a child's low self-control can predict poor health, money troubles and even a criminal record in their adult years. Researchers have been studying this group of children for decades now. Some of their earliest observations have to do with the level of self-control the youngsters displayed. Parents, teachers, even the kids themselves, scored the youngsters on measures like "acting before thinking" and "persistence in reaching goals". The children of the study are now adults in their thirties. Terry Moffitt of Duke University and her research colleagues found that kids with self-control issues tended to grow up to become adults with far more troubling set of issues to deal with.

"The children who had the lowest self-control when they were aged three to ten, later on had the most health problems in their thirties and they had the worst financial situation and they were more likely to have a criminal record, and to be raising a child as a single parent on a very low income."

Speaking from New Zealand via Skype, Moffitt explained that self-control problems were widely observed, and weren't just a feature of a small group of misbehaving kids.

"Even the children who had above-average self-control as preschoolers could have benefited from more self-control training. They could have improved their financial situation and their physical and mental health situation thirty years later."

So, children with minor self-control problems were likely as adults to have minor health problems, and so on. Moffitt said it's still unclear why some children have better self-control than others, though she says other researchers have found that it's mostly a learned behavior, with relatively little genetic influence. But good self-control can be set to run in families in that children who have good self-control are more likely to grow up to be healthy and prosperous parents.

"Whereas some of the low self-control study members are more likely to be single parents with a very low income and the parent is in poor health and likely to be a heavy substance abuser. So that's not a good atmosphere for a child. So it looks as though self-control is something that in one generation can disadvantage the next generation."

But the good news is that Moffitt says self-control can be taught by parents, and through school curricula that have proved to be effective.

Terry Moffitt's paper on "The Link Between Childhood Self-control and Adults' Status Decades Later" is published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

23. What is the new study about?
24. What does the study seem to show?
25. What does Moffitt say is the good news from their study?

This is the end of listening comprehension

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2016 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题听力原文及参考答案（第 3 套）

### Part I Writing

With the rapid development of modern technology, robots are evolving in the direction of being omnipotent. We already have robots that can make cars, vacuum floors or serve as waiters in the restaurant. As robotic science and technology advance, robots will inevitably take away more jobs from human beings.

Undoubtedly, there are both advantages and disadvantages when more and more robots replace human beings in industry as well as people's daily lives. On the one hand, human beings can be freed from repetitive, tedious and hazardous jobs, so that they can have more time to enjoy their life or cultivate their creative ability. On the other hand, once robots in mounting numbers are put into wide use in the future, millions of people will lose their jobs, especially low-skilled jobs that machines can perform much better at than human beings. However, there will always be jobs that only humans can do well.

Confronted with such an issue, there are many things we need to do, but nothing would be more important than equipping ourselves with better education, more advanced professional skills and innovative spirit.

Only in this way can we ensure robots won't take over our lives.

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.N | 27.I | 28.D | 29.C | 30.B |
| 31.L | 32.E | 33.H | 34.A | 35.J |
| 36.I | 37.B | 38.F | 39.D | 40.C |
| 41.K | 42.A | 43.L | 44.E | 45.H |
| 46.C | 47.D | 48.C | 49.A | 50.B |
| 51.B | 52.B | 53.C | 54.D | 55.A |

### Part IV Translation

Qipao, an exquisite Chinese clothing, originates from China's Manchu Nationality. In the Qing Dynasty, it was a loose robe especially for the royal women. In the 1920s, influenced by Western clothing, it went through some changes. For example, the cuffs went narrower, and the dress got shorter. These changes enabled qipao to fully elaborate the beauty of female.

Nowadays, qipao quite often appears on world-class fashion shows. It is usually the first choice for Chinese women as they attend important social gathering. Many Chinese brides will also choose it as their wedding dress. Some influential people even suggest making qipao as the national costume for Chinese women.

## 2016 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 1 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

Inventions are significant in the progress of our society and play an important role in solving our problems. Wheel was invented so that people could travel long distance more quickly and conveniently; light bulb was invented so that people can make use of the time freely at night; the Internet was invented and information all over the world are at hand and people could communicate with others in the blink of an eye. All these illustrate that inventions have transformed our life dramatically and made our life easier and better.

Since inventions are crucial to all of us and the whole world we should encourage talented inventors to keep inventing things and exploit more inventors. In the first place, we should create an incentive mechanism to encourage new ideas and recognize the contributors by giving rich rewards. In this way we can expect more inventions could be made and benefits will be brought to the whole world. In the second place, inventions should be protected by patents granted on them and inventors could make profits by selling the patents.

To sum up, under no circumstances should we underestimate the power of invention. And everyone of us should make our efforts to think of new ideas, or respect others' new ideas at least.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B  | 2. A  | 3. D  | 4. A  | 5. C  |
| 6. B  | 7. A  | 8. B  | 9. D  | 10. C |
| 11. C | 12. C | 13. D | 14. D | 15. A |
| 16. C | 17. B | 18. D | 19. C | 20. B |
| 21. A | 22. C | 23. D | 24. A | 25. B |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. G | 27. B | 28. A | 29. C | 30. I |
| 31. D | 32. N | 33. E | 34. M | 35. F |
| 36. D | 37. K | 38. B | 39. L | 40. F |
| 41. A | 42. H | 43. E | 44. I | 45. C |
| 46. A | 47. C | 48. C | 49. B | 50. D |
| 51. C | 52. D | 53. B | 54. A | 55. B |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

With the improvement of living standards, travelling is occupying an increasingly important position in the lives of Chinese people. In the past, they spent most of their time making a living, with few opportunities to go travelling. This situation, however, has changed in the wave of the rapid development of Chinese tourism industry in recent years. The booming economy and the rising affluent middle class have provoked an unprecedented upsurge in tourism. Apart from



domestic travel, outbound travel is becoming more and more popular among Chinese tourist. During China's National Day holiday in 2016, the total tourism consumption exceeded 400 billion RMN. The WTO estimates that China will become the world's biggest spender on travel by 2020, with the fastest growing expenditures on outbound travel in the next few years.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

W: Professor Henderson, could you give us a brief overview of what you do, where you work and your main area of research?

M: Well, the center for climate research where I work links science and climate change to issues around economics and policy. Some of our research is to do with the likely impacts of climate change and all of the associated risks.

W: And how strong is the evidence that climate change is happening that it's really something we need to be worried about?

M: Well, most of the science of climate change, particularly that to do with global warming, is simply fact. But other aspects of the science are less certain or at least more disputed. And so we're rarely talking about risk. What the economics tells us is that it's probably cheaper to avoid climate change -- to avoid the risk -- than it is to deal with the likely consequences.

W: So what are we doing? What can we do about it?

M: Well, I would argue that we need to develop the science specifically to understand the likely impacts of climate change in different contexts. As I said, we need to understand the best ways of avoiding climate change. And this will involve a huge transition to low carbon energy systems. And the transition is a tremendous priority. And for this to happen, we may need action on a global scale. From a political perspective, we need to understand the terms on which major countries like China and the USA might sign up to a global agreement, because at the moment we don't have that consensus.

W: Right.

M: And we also need to plan ahead so that we are in a position to deal with the likely levels of climate change, which are already inevitable. And even more so, too, for the levels that are likely if we don't get those global agreements.

#### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. What does Professor Henderson say about his main area of research?
2. What does Professor Henderson say about climate change?
3. What does Professor Henderson say is a top priority in combating climate change?
4. What does Professor Henderson advise us to do to better deal with climate change?

#### Conversation Two

W: I have many business English students. When I teach the classroom, we often end up talking about things like success and what leads to success. And it's interesting that many of them mentioned the element of luck.

M: Right.

W: Luck is important to success, but since you have seen that fantastic video on the Ted Talk's website by Richard St. John...he doesn't mention luck at all.

M: Well, I'm a firm believer that people can make their own luck. I mean what people regard as luck you can actually create to a degree.

W: Sure. I think a lot of why people consider luck is attributed to how you respond to the opportunities that come your way.

M: Yes. Very good point.

W: Seizing the opportunities. But was there any point in the video that you thought was particularly interesting?

M: Yes, actually there was. Something very impressive to me is many people think that luck is important and that natural talent is something you must have in order to be successful. And in the video we saw, the point about getting good at something is not about having some natural talent, it's all about practice, practice, practice.

W: Definitely yeah, natural talent helps us in some way, but at the end of the day you really do need to work hard and get really, really good at what you do.

M: Sure.

W: I thought one interesting thing in the video was the idea of passion being so important, and there're people who really love what they do. Of course, you're going to want to work harder and put the time and effort into it. And the funny thing is that if you love what you do and are really passionate about it and work really hard, then money kind of comes automatically.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What are the speakers mainly talking about?
6. What is the woman's view of luck?
7. What is the chief point the Ted Talk's video makes?
8. What does the woman think is the funny thing in the Ted Talk's video?

**Section B**

**Passage One**

Devils Tower, the first national monument in America, could almost be mistaken for the stump of an enormous tree. Its sheer rock sides sweep up from a broad base until they cut off abruptly at the flat summit. Rising more than 1,000 feet in the middle of the gently rolling plains of Wyoming, the massive column of rock looks as though it was dropped down into this location from a different time and place.

In a sense, it was. Devils Tower is a relic of the past. When the molten rock of the earth's core forced its way to the surface to form the throat of a volcano. As the centuries passed, the rock cooled and hardened, shrinking and cracking into long columns, born in fire and fury, Devil's Tower was then shaped by the slow, gentle work of wind and water. The outer layers of the volcano were worn away, until the hard core stood completely exposed.

Small wonder that an Indian legend described Devils Tower as being formed by supernatural powers. The legend says that when seven girls were attacked by bears, they took refuge on top of a small rock, and they appealed to the Rock God for help. The god caused the rock to grow and to lift the girls far above the ground, while its sides were scored by the claws of the angry bears. Even

today, says the legend, the girls can be seen above the towering rock. As seven shining stars in the night sky.

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What does the Devils Tower look like?
10. What cause the volcano's outer layers to wear away?
11. What does the Indian legend say about the Devils Tower?
12. How did the Rock God help the seven girls in the Indian legend?

### **Passage Two**

It's no accident that most gas stations have convenience stores attached. Few of us can fill up the tank without buying a few snacks, cigarettes, soft drinks or other items we can live without. "I deserve it." That's what hard-working men and women say to justify their lavish vacations, big stereo systems or regular restaurant meals. They do deserve such indulgences. However, they also deserve a home of their own--a secure retirement and freedom from worrying about unpaid bills.

No one should have to live with what a Texas mother described as constant stress, tension, even fear about money. Sadly, the pleasure that comes from extravagances often disappears long before the bills do. The video camera that one single mother bought for a special occasion, for example, is not much fun now. She's figured out that it will take her another three years to pay it off at \$30 a month. And the New Yorkers who spent a bundle on an outdoor hot tub now admit they rarely use it, "because we can't afford to heat it in winter." The solution--set priorities, add up the annual cost of each item, then consider what else she could buy with the same money. That will help you decide which items are really worth it. One Chicago woman, for example, discovered that daily lunches with coworkers cost her \$2,000 a year; she decided to take lunch to work instead. "I now put \$20 a week into my vacation fund, and another 20 into retirement savings," she says. "Those mean more to me than lunch."

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

13. What does the speaker say about drivers who stop at gas stations?
14. What does the speaker say about extravagances?
15. What does a speaker want to show by the example of the Chicago woman?

## **Section C**

### **Recording One**

Let's say you start to brain storm a list of all the emotions you've ever experienced. Just for fun, try it now.

What's on your list? Chances are, you included things like: happy, sad, excited, angry, afraid, grateful, proud, scared, confused, stressed, relaxed and amazed. Now sort your list into two categories--positive emotions and negative emotions.

Feeling both positive and negative emotions is a natural part of being human. We might use the word "negative" to describe more difficult emotions, but it does not mean those emotions are bad or we shouldn't have them. Still, most people were probably rather feel a positive emotion than a negative one. It's likely you prefer to feel happy instead of sad or confident instead of insecure.

What matters is how our emotions are balanced--how much of each type of the emotion positive or negative we experience.

Negative emotions warn us of threats or challenges that we may need to deal with. For example, fear can alert us to possible danger. It's a signal that we might need to protect ourselves. Angry feelings warn us that someone is stepping on our toes, crossing a boundary, or violating our trust. Anger can be a signal that we might have to act on our own behalf.

Negative emotions focus our awareness. They help us to zero in on a problem so we can deal with it. But too many negative emotions can make us feel overwhelmed, anxious, exhausted or stressed out. When negative emotions are out of balance, problems might seem too big to handle.

The more we dwell on our negative emotions, the more negative we begin to feel. Focusing on negativity just keeps it going. Positive emotions balance out negative ones, but they have other powerful benefits, too.

Instead of narrowing our focus, like negative emotions do, positive emotions affect our brains in ways that increase our awareness, attention and memory. They help us take in more information, hold several ideas in mind at once and understand how different ideas relate to each other. When positive emotions open us up to new possibilities, we are more able to learn and build on our skills. That leads to doing better on tasks and tests.

People who have plenty of positive emotions in their everyday lives tend to be happier, healthier, learn better and get along well with others.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What does the speaker say about negative emotions?
17. What happens to people whose negative emotions are out of balance?
18. How do positive emotions affect us?

**Recording Two**

In the past few months, I've been travelling for weeks at a time with only one suitcase of clothes. One day, I was invited to an important event, and I wanted to wear something special for it. I looked through my suitcase but couldn't find anything to wear. I was lucky to be at the technology conference then, and I had access to 3D printers. So I quickly designed a skirt on my computer, and I loaded the file on the printer. It just printed the pieces overnight. The next morning, I just took all the pieces, assembled them together in my hotel room, and this is actually the skirt that I'm wearing right now.

So it wasn't the first time that I printed clothes. For my senior collection at fashion design school, I decided to try and 3D print an entire fashion collection from my home. The problem was that I barely knew anything about 3D printing, and I had only nine months to figure out how to print five fashionable looks.

I always felt most creative when I worked from home. I love experimenting with new materials, and I always tried to develop new techniques to make the most unique textiles for my fashion projects.

One summer break, I came here to New York for an internship at a fashion house in Chinatown. We worked on two incredible dresses that were 3D printed. They were amazing -- like you can see here. But I had a few problems with them. They were made from hard plastics and that's why they

were very breakable. The models couldn't sit in them, and they even got scratched from the plastics under their arms.

So now, the main challenge was to find the right material for printing clothes with, I mean the material you feed the printer with. The breakthrough came when I was introduced to Filaflex, which is a new kind of printing material. It's strong, yet very flexible. And with it, I was able to print the first garment, a red jacket that had the word "freedom" embedded into it. And actually, you can easily download this jacket, and change the word to something else, for example, your name or your sweetheart's name.

So I think in the future, materials will evolve, and they will look and feel like fabrics we know today, like cotton or silk.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What does the speaker say about the skirt she is wearing now?
20. When did the speaker start experimenting with 3D printing?
21. What was the problem with the material the speaker worked on at a New York fashion house?
22. What does the speaker say about Filaflex?

**Recording Three**

Welcome to the third lecture in our series on the future of small businesses in Europe. The purpose of today's lecture, as you have seen from the title and the abstract, is to examine in more detail the problems facing small and medium-sized enterprises which arise at least in part from having to adapt to rapid advances in technology. And I want to look at these both from a financial and from a personnel point of view and to offer a few hopefully effective solutions.

Here we have three of the most important problems facing small businesses that I want to look at today.

First, keeping up with the pace of technological change, recruiting high quality staff in a time of skills shortages in IT as a whole and in a highly competitive market, and the issue of retaining staff once they've been recruited and trained. Now all of these problems involve significant costs for all businesses. But they're a particularly challenging issue for small and medium-sized enterprises. And those costs will vary depending on the size and scale of the businesses.

So let's come to the first issue on our list which is keeping pace with developments in technology. Now we all know that the technology industry is intensely competitive with new products being launched all year round, as the various companies strive to compete with each other rather than say once a year or every couple of years. And this is a real headache for smaller businesses. So let's imagine we have a small company which is doing OK. It's just about making a profit, and it spends most of its income on overheads. So for a company in this situation, keeping up to date with the latest technology, even if it's only for the benefit of key staff, this can be hugely expensive.

So in my view, some creative thinking needs to come in here to find ways to help companies in this situation to stay ahead in the game. But at the same time to remain technologically competitive.

Well there's the possibility that small groups of companies with similar requirements, but not directly competing with each other, they could share the cost of upgrading in much the same way as let's say, an Internet operates within larger organizations. In fact, cost sharing could be a very

practical solution, especially in times of financial difficulty. If there's downward pressure on costs, because of a need for investment in other areas, I would argue that this is a perfectly feasible solution.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 23. What does the speaker say about the problems facing small and medium sized enterprises?
- 24. Why does the speaker's say about the technology industry?
- 25. What is a practical solution to the problems of small and medium-sized businesses?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心



## 2016 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 2 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

Along with the highly advanced society, the importance of innovation has been attached more and more significance in our country. Numerous novel gadgets abound in our daily life.

There exist countless contributors for this phenomenon mentioned above, while the following might be the most critical ones. To begin with, seen from the individual's perspective, once equipped with innovation, he could be compelled to be never satisfied with his status quo, which guarantees his personal success. Apart from that, innovation is the main driving force behind increased competitiveness. To be the unrivaled one in the whole world, a nation has to keep abreast with time, ensuring the dominance of creation.

To put all into a nutshell, it goes without saying that innovation does matter. On the one hand, relevant authorities are supposed to set up relevant rules and regulations so as to highlight innovation. on the other hand, we each individual should cultivate this kind of viewpoint since our childhood, by which means we could be bestowed with a bright and promising future!

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C  | 2. B  | 3. A  | 4. B  | 5. C  |
| 6. A  | 7. D  | 8. A  | 9. C  | 10. D |
| 11. B | 12. B | 13. D | 14. A | 15. B |
| 16. D | 17. B | 18. C | 19. B | 20. D |
| 21. C | 22. A | 23. A | 24. D | 25. D |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. D | 27. C | 28. A | 29. K | 30. E |
| 31. M | 32. J | 33. H | 34. L | 35. N |
| 36. F | 37. B | 38. M | 39. H | 40. E |
| 41. K | 42. C | 43. J | 44. D | 45. B |
| 46. B | 47. D | 48. C | 49. A | 50. A |
| 51. C | 52. B | 53. C | 54. A | 55. D |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

The number of Chinese language learners undergoes a dramatic rise as China's economy surges, which has turned Chinese into one of the most popular language among language learners across the world. In recent years, Chinese universities are moving up significantly in the world university rankings. Owing to the great advances in its educational system, China now ranks unsurprisingly as one of the most favored destinations for overseas students. In 2015, there were around 400,000 overseas students flocking to China to pursue their studies. They no longer restrict their interest to Chinese language and culture, instead, branching out into other subjects including science and engineering. Although the United States and the United Kingdom are still dominant in the global education market, China is catching up at a fast pace with them.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

M: Guess what? The worst food I ever had was in France.

W: Really? That's odd. I thought the French were all good cooks.

M: Yes, that's right. I suppose it's really like anywhere else, though. You know, some places are good, some bad. But it's really all our own fault.

W: What do you mean?

M: Well, it was the first time I'd been to France. This was years ago when I was at school. I went there with my parents' friends, from my father's school. They'd hired a coach to take them to Switzerland.

W: A school trip?

M: Right. Most of them had never been abroad before. We'd crossed the English Channel at night and we set off through France and breakfast time arrived, and the coach driver had arranged for us to stop at this little café. There we all were tired and hungry and then we made a great discovery.

W: What was that?

M: Bacon and eggs.

W: Fantastic! The real English breakfast.

M: Yes, anyway we didn't know any better--- so we had it, and ugh...!

W: What was it like? Disgusting?

M: Ah, it was incredible. They just got a bowl and put some fat in it. And then they put some bacon in the fat, broke an egg over the top and put the whole lot in the oven for about ten minutes.

W: In the oven? You're joking. You can't cook bacon and eggs in the oven!

M: Well, they must have done it that way. It was hot, but it wasn't cooked. There was just this egg floating about in gallons of fat and raw bacon.

W: Did you actually eat it?

M: No, nobody did. They all wanted to turn round and go home. You know, back to teabags and fish and chips. You can't blame them really. Anyway, the next night we were all given another foreign specialty.

W: What was that?

M: Snails--that really finished them off. Lovely holiday that was!

#### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. What did the woman think of the French?
2. Who did the man travel with on his first trip to Switzerland?
3. What does the man say about the breakfast at the little French café?
4. What did the man think of his holiday in France?

#### Conversation Two

M: You say your shop has been doing well. Could you give me some idea of what "doing well" means in facts and figures?

W: Well, "doing well" means averaging 1,200 pounds or more a week for about 7 years, making almost a quarter of a million pounds. And "doing well" means your earnings are rising. Last year

we did slightly over 50,000 and this year we hope to do more than 60,000. So that's good if we continue to rise.

M: Now that's growth on earnings, I assume. What about your expenses?

W: Yes, that's growth. The expenses of course go up steadily. And since we've moved to this new shop, the expenses have increased greatly because it's a much bigger shop. So I couldn't say exactly what our expenses are. There's something in the region of 6 or 7 thousand pounds a year, which is not high---commercially speaking, it's very low. And we try to keep our expenses as low as we can.

M: And your prices are much lower than the same goods in shops round about. How do the local shopkeepers feel about having a shop doing so well in their midst?

W: Perhaps a lot of them don't realize how well we're doing because we don't make a point of publicizing. That was a lesson we learned very early on. We were very friendly with all local shopkeepers and we have been to mention to a local shopkeeper how much we have made that week. He was very unhappy and never as friendly again. So we make a point of never publicizing the amount of the money we make. But we're on very good terms with all the shops; none of them have ever complained that we're putting them out of business or anything like that. I think it's a nice funny relationship. Maybe if they did know what we made, perhaps they wouldn't be so friendly.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What are the speakers mainly talking about?
6. What does the woman say her shop tries to do?
7. What do we learn about goods sold at the woman's shop?
8. Why doesn't the woman want to make known their earnings anymore?

## **Section B**

### **Passage One**

Birds are famous for carrying things around. Some, like homing pigeons, can be trained to deliver messages and packages. Other birds unknowingly carry seeds that cling to them for the ride. Canadian scientists have found a worrisome, new example of the power that birds have to spread stuff around. Way up north in the Canadian Arctic, seabirds are picking up dangerous chemicals in the ocean and delivering them to ponds near where the birds live.

Some 10,000 pairs of the birds, called fulmars, a kind of Arctic seabird, make their nests on Devon Island, north of the Arctic Circle. The fulmars travel some 400 kilometers over the sea to find food. When they return home, their droppings end up all around their nesting sites, including in nearby ponds.

Previously, scientists noticed pollutants arriving in the Arctic with the wind. Salmon also carry dangerous chemicals, as the fish migrate between rivers and the sea. The bodies of fish and other meat-eaters can build up high levels of the chemicals.

To test the polluting power of fulmars, researchers collected samples of deposits from 11 ponds on Devon Island. In ponds closest to the colony, the results showed that there were far more pollutants than in ponds less affected by the birds. The pollutants in the ponds appear to come from fish that fulmars eat when they're out on the ocean. People who live, hunt, or fish near bird colonies need to be careful, the researchers say. The birds don't mean to cause harm, but the chemicals they carry can cause major problems.

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What have Canadian scientists found about some seabirds?
10. What does the speaker say about the seabirds called fulmars?
11. What did scientists previously notice about pollutants in the Arctic?
12. What does the speaker warn about at the end of the talk?

### **Passage Two**

In recent years, the death rate among American centenarians -- people who have lived to age 100 or older--has decreased, dropping 14 percent for women and 20 percent for men from 2008 to 2014. The leading causes of death in this age group are also changing. In 2000, the top five causes of death for centenarians were heart disease, stroke, flu, cancer and Alzheimer's disease. But by 2014, the death rate from Alzheimer's disease for this age group had more than doubled-- increasing from 3.8 percent to 8.5 percent -- making the progressive brain disease the second leading cause of death for centenarians. One reason for the rise in deaths from Alzheimer's disease in this group may be that developing this condition remains possible even after people beat the odds of dying from other diseases such as cancer.

People physically fit enough to survive over 100 years ultimately give in to diseases such as Alzheimer's which effects the mind and cognitive function. In other words, it appears their minds give out before their bodies do. On the other hand, the death rate from flu dropped from 7.4 percent in 2000 to 4.1 percent in 2014. That pushed flu from the third leading cause of death to the fifth.

Overall, the total number of centenarians is going up. In 2014, there were 72,197 centenarians, compared to 50,281 in 2000. But because this population is getting larger, the number of deaths in this group is also increasing -- 18,434 centenarians died in 2000, whereas 25,914 died in 2014.

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

13. What does the speaker say about the risk of dying for American centenarians in recent years?
14. What does the speaker say about Alzheimer's disease?
15. What is characteristic of people who live up to 100 years and beyond?

## **Section C**

### **Recording One**

Okay. So let's get started. And to start things off I think what we need to do is consider a definition. I'm going to define what love is but then most of the experiments I'm going to talk about are really focused more on attraction than love. And I'm going to pick a definition from a former colleague, Robert Sternberg, who is now the dean at Tufts University but was here on our faculty at Yale for nearly thirty years. And he has a theory of love that argues that it's made up of three components: intimacy, passion, and commitment, or what is sometimes called decision commitment. And these are relatively straightforward. He argued that you don't have love if you don't have all three of these elements.

Intimacy is the feeling of closeness, of connectedness with someone, of bonding. Operationally, you could think of intimacy as you share secrets, you share information with this person that you don't share with anybody else. Okay. That's really what intimacy is, the bond that comes from sharing information that isn't shared with other people. The second element is passion.

Passion is the drive that leads to romance. You can think of it as physical attraction. And Sternberg argues that this is a required component of a love relationship. The third element of love in Sternberg's theory is what he calls decision commitment, the decision that one is in a love relationship, the willingness to label it as such, and a commitment to maintain that relationship at least for some period of time. Sternberg would argue it's not love if you don't call it love and if you don't have some desire to maintain the relationship. So if you have all three of these, intimacy, passion and commitment, in Sternberg's theory you have love. Now what's interesting about the theory is what do you have if you only have one out of three or two out of three? What do you have and how is it different if you have a different two out of three? What's interesting about this kind of theorizing is it gives rise to many different combinations that can be quite interesting when you break them down and start to look at them carefully. So what I've done is I've taken Sternberg's three elements of love, intimacy, passion and commitment, and I've listed out the different kinds of relationships you would have if you had zero, one, two or three out of the three elements.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What does the speaker say about most of the experiments mentioned in his talk?
17. What does Robert Sternberg argue about love?
18. What question does the speaker think is interesting about Sternberg's three elements of love?

### Recording Two

Hi, I'm Elizabeth Hoffler, Master of Social Work. I'm a social worker, a lobbyist and a special assistant to the Executive Director at the National Association of Social Workers. Today we are going to be talking about becoming a social worker. Social work is the helping profession. Its primary mission is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, with a particular focus on those who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. We often deal with complex human needs. Social work is different from other professions, because we focus on the person and environment. We deal with the external factors that impact a person's situation and outlook. And we create opportunity for assessment and intervention to help clients and communities cope effectively with their reality and change that reality when necessary.

In thousands of ways social workers help other people -- people from every age, every background, across the country. Wherever needed, social workers come to help. The most well-known aspect of the profession is that of a social safety net. We help guide people to critical resources and counsel them on life-changing decisions. There are more than six hundred thousand professional social workers in the country, and we all either have a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or a PhD in social work. There are more clinically-trained social workers than clinically-trained psychiatrists, psychologists and psychiatric nurses combined.

Throughout this series, you will learn more about the profession, the necessary steps to get a social work degree, the rich history of social work and many ways that social workers help others. Later in this series, you'll hear from Stacy Collins and Mel Wilson, fellow social workers at the National Association of Social Workers. Stacy is going to walk you through the step-by-step process of becoming a social worker, and Mel will tell you about the range of options you have once you get your social work degree, as well as the high standards of responsibility that social workers must adhere to.

The National Association of Social Workers represents nearly 145,000 social workers across the country. Our mission is to promote, protect and advance the social work profession. We hope you enjoy this series about how you can make a difference by becoming a social worker. Next, we are going to talk about choosing social work.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What does the speaker mainly talk about?
20. What do social workers mainly do?
21. What do professional social workers have in common according to the speaker?
22. What is Mell Wilson going to talk about in the series?

### **Recording Three**

Today, I'd like to talk about what happens when celebrity role models get behind healthy habits but at the same time promote junk food? Currently, there is mounting criticism of Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign, which fights childhood obesity by encouraging youngsters to become more physically active, and has signed on singer Beyoncé, and basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, both of whom also endorse sodas, which are a major contributor to the obesity epidemic. Now there's a lot more evidence of how powerful a celebrity -- especially a professional athlete -- can be in influencing children's behavior.

In a report published by the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, researchers studied 100 professional athletes and their endorsement contracts. The team focused on athletes since they are theoretically the best role models for active, healthy lifestyles for children. After sorting the deals by category, they determined that among the 512 brands associated with the athletes, most involved sporting goods, followed closely by food and beverage brands.

Sports drinks, which are often high in sugar and calories, made up most of the food and drink deals, with soft drinks and fast food filling out the remainder. Of the 46 beverages endorsed by professional athletes, 93% relied exclusively on sugar for all of their calories.

It's no surprise that high profile athletes can influence children's eating behaviors, but the scientists were able to quantify how prevalent these endorsements are in the children's environment. Advertisements featuring professional athletes and their endorsed products tend to get impressive exposure, on TV, radio, in print and online. And in 2010, the researchers reported that children ages 12 to 17 saw more athlete-endorsed food and beverage brand commercials than adults.

One reason any campaign wants a popular celebrity spokesperson is because kids are attracted to them no matter what they are doing. We can't expect kids to turn off that admiration when the same person is selling sugar. At best, kids might be confused. At worst, they'll think the messages about soda are the same as the messages about water. But those two beverages aren't the same.

If children are turning to athletes as role models, it's in their best interest if their idols are consistent. Consistent messaging of positive behaviors will show healthier lifestyles for kids to follow.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. What is the aim of Michelle Obama's campaign?
24. What does research find about advertisements featuring professional athletes?
25. What does the speaker think kids' idols should do?



新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2016 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 3 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

In this era of fast development of technology and people's pursuit of original products, creation and creativity has more and more become a leading force to drive the social progress.

Creation is essential to the development of individuals. It turns out that those with new ideas tend to achieve success more easily today. Those who dare to start their own businesses often find new way to earn money. And the young generation is keen on looking for new gadgets. Thus, creation has been an indispensable part of our life. For corporations and even a nation, creation plays a more important role. With new technology, new products or new business style, a corporation can set off a new trend, gain popularity among the public and outshine its competitors. A good case in point is Apple Inc. which has been leading the market for its continuous creation of electronic products. The same goes for a nation in the international arena. Without technological creation, a nation will stay stagnant and soon lag behind in international competition.

Therefore, it's vital to encourage creation in a corporation and a nation. Financial support and related training are crucial in for cultivating creativity which should be attached importance to. For individuals, one should be open to new ideas and dare to think outside the box.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

无

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.O | 27.M | 28.D | 29.K | 30.H |
| 31.L | 32.E | 33.F | 34.B | 35.G |
| 36.J | 37.C | 38.E | 39.G | 40.D |
| 41.I | 42.B | 43.H | 44.Q | 45.L |
| 46.D | 47.A | 48.B | 49.A | 50.C |
| 51.A | 52.D | 53.C | 54.B | 55.D |

### Part IV Translation

Agriculture is an important industry in China, employing over 0.3 billion people. China ranks the first place in agricultural output all over the world, producing primarily rice, wheat and beans. Although accounting for only 10 percent of the total arable land of the world, China provides food for 20 percent of the world's population. Chinese people began to grow rice as early as 7,700 years ago. Long before the use of machines and fertilizers, diligent Chinese farmers had innovatively adopted various methods to boost crop yield. Now, the latest agricultural development in China is organic agriculture, which serves multiple purposes, such as food safety, public health and sustainable development.

## 2017 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 1 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

In this day and age, students in high school have controversy on what kind of college they should choose. There is a vehement discussion on the issue. As for me, I will have no hesitation to choose a vocational college. The reasons why we ought to attend vocational college involve factors in mounting numbers. They can be briefly summed up as follows.

Perhaps the primary factor is that mastering a craftsmanship is harder than learning knowledge. You can comprehend knowledge from every aspect in life, but you can only learn professional skill in vocational college. Another important factor is that there are an increasing number of vocational colleges in China, such as well-known Lanxiang vocational school, New East Cuisine Training School. Graduated from these colleges, you can earn handsome salary in work.

It is time to take the advice of choosing what you like instead of traditional thoughts, such as what kind of college is more decent. We are supposed to put special emphasis on the improvement of vocational college and learn to be an individual with workmanship. In summary, it is more advisable to be a craftsman rather than a bookworm.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C  | 2. A  | 3. D  | 4. B  | 5. A  |
| 6. B  | 7. C  | 8. A  | 9. B  | 10. C |
| 11. D | 12. A | 13. D | 14. A | 15. D |
| 16. C | 17. B | 18. B | 19. A | 20. D |
| 21. C | 22. B | 23. C | 24. A | 25. D |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. L | 27. F | 28. E | 29. D | 30. H |
| 31. O | 32. B | 33. K | 34. C | 35. A |
| 36. D | 37. L | 38. J | 39. E | 40. H |
| 41. A | 42. G | 43. F | 44. O | 45. B |
| 46. D | 47. A | 48. C | 49. C | 50. B |
| 51. A | 52. B | 53. D | 54. D | 55. A |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

The Tang dynasty which began in 618 and ended in 907 is the most prosperous period in Chinese history. China has become the most prosperous country with great power over development of three hundred years, with its capital Chang'an being the largest city worldwide. During this period, economy boomed, business flourished, social order stabilized, and even the border was open. With the increasing wealth of urbanization, art and literature flourished. Li Bai and Du Fu were poets known for their concise and natural works. Scholars and ordinary people are touched by their poems which are still widely read and recited by children and adults even today.

听力原文

## Section A

### Conversation One

W: Welcome to Workplace, and in today's program we're looking at the results of two recently published surveys, which both deal with the same topic -- happiness at work. John, tell us about the first survey.

M: Well, this was done by a human resources consultancy who interviewed more than 1,000 workers, and established a top ten of the factors which make people happy at work. The most important factor for the majority of the people interviewed was having friendly, supportive colleagues. In fact, 73% of people interviewed put their relationship with colleagues as the key factor contributing to happiness at work, which is a very high percentage. The second most important factor was having work that is enjoyable. The two least important factors were having one's achievements recognized, and rather surprisingly, earning a competitive salary.

W: So, we are not mainly motivated by money?

M: Apparently not.

W: Any other interesting information in the survey?

M: Yes. For example, 25% of the working people interviewed described themselves as "very happy" at work. However, 20% of employees described themselves as being unhappy.

W: That's quite a lot of unhappy people at work every day.

M: It is, isn't it? And there were several more interesting conclusions revealed by the survey. First of all, small is beautiful. People definitely prefer working for smaller organizations or companies with less than 100 staff. We also find out that, generally speaking, women were happier in their work than men.

W: Yes, we are, aren't we?

M: And workers on part-time contracts, who only work 4 or 5 hours a day, are happier than those who work full-time. The researchers concluded that this is probably due to a better work-life balance.

W: Are bosses happier than their employees?

M: Yes, perhaps not surprisingly, the higher people go in a company, the happier they are. So senior managers enjoy their jobs more than people working under them.

### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. What is the No.1 factor that made employees happy according to the survey?
2. What is the percentage of the people surveyed who felt unhappy at work?
3. What kind of companies are popular with employees?
4. What is the possible reason for people on part-time contracts to be happier?

### Conversation Two

W: Mr. De Keyser, I'm a great lover of your book *Moments Before the Flood*. Can you tell us how you first became interested in this subject matter?

M: In 2006, when the concert hall of the city of Bruges asked me to take some pictures for a catalogue for a new concert season around the theme of water, I found myself working along the Belgian coastline. As there had been numerous alarming articles in the press about a climate catastrophe waiting to happen, I started looking at the sea and the beach very differently, a place

where I spent so many perfect days as a child. This fear of a looming danger became the subject of a large-scale photo project.

W: You wrote in the book, “I don’t want to photograph the disaster; I want to photograph the disaster waiting to happen.” Can you talk a bit about that?

M: It is clear now that it is a matter of time before the entire European coastline disappears under water. The same goes for numerous big cities around the world. My idea was to photograph this beautiful and very unique coastline, rich in history, before it’s too late -- as a last witness.

W: Can you talk a bit about how history plays a role in this project?

M: Sure. The project is also about the history of Europe looking at the sea and wondering when the next enemy would appear. In the images, you see all kinds of possible defense constructions to hold back the Romans, Germans, Vikings, and now nature as enemy number one. For example, there is the image of the bridge into the sea taken at the Normandy D-Day landing site. Also, Venice, the city eternally threatened by the sea, where every morning wooden pathways have to be set up to allow tourists to reach their hotels.

W: Thank you, Mr. De Keyzer. It was a pleasure to have you with us today.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What does the man say about the book *Moments before the Flood*?
6. When did the man get his idea for the work?
7. What will happen when the climate catastrophe occurs?
8. What does the man say about Venice?

**Section B**

**Passage One**

When facing a new situation, some people tend to rehearse their defeat by spending too much time anticipating the worst. I remember talking with a young lawyer who was about to begin her first jury trial. She was very nervous. I asked what impression she wanted to make on the jury. She replied, “I don’t want to look too inexperienced; I don’t want them to suspect this is my first trial.” This lawyer had fallen victims to the “don’ts” syndrome -- a form of negative goals setting. The “don’ts” can be self-fulfilling because your mind response to pictures.

Research conducted at Stanford University shows a mental image fires the nervous system the same way as actually doing something. That means when a golfer foretells himself: “Don’t hit the ball into the water”, his mind sees the image of the ball flying into the water. So guess where the ball will go?

Consequently, before going into any stressful situation, focus only on what you want to have happen. I asked the lawyer again how she wanted to appear at her first trial. And this time she said: “I want to look professional and self-assured.” I told her to create a picture of what self-assured would look like. To her, it meant moving confidently around the court room, using convincing body language and projecting her voice, so it could be heard from the judge’s bench to the back door. She also imagined a skillful closing argument and a winning trial. A few weeks after this positive stressful rehearsal, the young lawyer did win.

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What do some people do when they face a new situation?

10. What does the research conducted at Stanford University show?
11. What advice does the speaker give to people in a stressful situation?
12. What do we learn about the lawyer in the court?

### Passage Two

Most Americans don't eat enough fruits, vegetables or whole grains. Researcher now says adding fiber to teen diet may help lower the risk of breast cancer.

Conversations about the benefits of fiber are probably more common in nursing homes than high schools. But along comes a new study that could change that. Kristi King, a diet specialist at Texas Children's Hospital, finds it's hard to get teenager patients' attention about healthy eating but telling them that eating lots of high-fiber foods could reduce the risk of breast cancer before middle age. That's a powerful message.

The new finding is based on a study of 44,000 women. They were surveyed about their diets during high school, and their eating habits were tracked for two decades. It turns out that those who consumed the highest levels of fiber during adolescence had a lower risk of developing breast cancer, compared to the women who ate the least fiber. This important study demonstrates that the more fiber you eat during your high school years, the lower your risk is in developing breast cancer in later life.

The finding points to long-standing evidence that fiber may reduce circulating female hormone levels, which could explain the reduced risk. The bottom line here is the more fiber you eat, perhaps, a lower level of hormone in your body, and therefore, a lower lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. High-fiber diets are also linked to a reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes. That's why women are told to eat 25 grams a fiber a day -- men even more.

### Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.

13. What does the new study tell about adding fiber to the teen diet?
14. What do we learn about the survey of the 44,000 women?
15. What explanation does the speaker offer for the research finding?

## Section C

### Recording One

Well my current research is really about consumer behavior. So recently I've looked at young people's drinking and it's obviously a major concern to Government at the moment. I've also looked at how older people are represented in the media; again, it's of major current interest with older people becoming a much larger proportion of UK and indeed world society. I'm also interested in how consumers operate online, how that online behavior might be different from how they operate offline when they go to the shops.

Well, I think that the important thing here is to actually understand what's happening from the consumer's perspective. One of the things that businesses and indeed Government organizations often fail to do is to really see what is happening from the consumer's perspective. For example, in the case of young people's drinking, one of the things that we've identified is that drinking for people say between the ages of 18 and 24 is all about the social activity. A lot of the Government advertising has been about individual responsibility, but actually understanding that



drinking is very much about the social activity and finding ways to help young people get home safely and not end up in hospital is one of the things that we've tried to present there.

The key thing about consumer behavior is that it's very much about how consumers change. Markets always change faster than marketing; so we have to look at what consumers are doing. Currently I teach consumer behavior to undergraduates in their second year and we look at all kinds of things in consumer behavior and particularly how consumers are presented in advertising. So they get involved by looking at advertising and really critically assessing the consumer behavior aspects of it and getting involved sometimes doing primary research. For example, last year my students spent a week looking at their own purchasing and analyzed it in detail from shopping to the relationship that they have with their retail banks and their mobile phone providers. I think they found it very useful and it also helped them identify just what kind of budgets they had too. The fact of the matter is that there's a whole range of interesting research out there and I think as the years go on, there's going to be much more for us to consider and certainly much more for students to become involved in.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What is the speaker currently doing?
17. What has the speaker found about young people's drinking?
18. What does the speaker say that his students did last year?

### Recording Two

Sweden was the first European country to print and use paper money, but it may soon do away with physical currencies.

Banks can save a lot of money and avoid regulatory headaches by moving to a cash-free system, and they can also avoid bank robberies, theft, and dirty money.

Claer Barrett, the editor of *Financial Times Money*, says the Western world is headed toward a world without physical currency.

Andy Holder -- the chief economist at The Bank of England -- suggested that the UK move towards a government-backed digital currency. But does a cashless society really make good economic sense?

"The fact that cash is being drawn out of society, is less a feature of our everyday lives, and the ease of electronic payments -- is this actually making us spend more money without realizing it?"

Barrett wanted to find out if the absence of physical currency does indeed cause a person to spend more, so she decided to conduct an experiment a few months ago.

She decided that she was going to try to just use cash for two weeks to make all of her essential purchases and see what that would do to her spending. She found she did spend a lot less money because it is incredibly hard to predict how much cash one is going to need -- she was forever drawing money out of cash points. Months later, she was still finding cash stuffed in her trouser pockets and the pockets of her handbags.

During the experiment, Barrett took a train ride. On the way, there was an announcement that the restaurant car was not currently accepting credit cards. The train cars were filled with groans because many of the passengers were traveling without cash.

"It underlines just how much things have changed in the last generation," Barrett says. "My parents, when they were younger, used to budget by putting money into envelopes -- they'd get paid and they'd immediately separate the cash into piles and put them in envelopes, so they knew what they had to spend week by week. It was a very effective way for them to keep track of their spending. Nowadays, we're all on credit cards, we're doing online purchases, and money is kind of becoming a less physical and more imaginary type of thing that we can't get our hands around."

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What do we learn about Sweden?
20. What did Claer Barrett want to find out with her experiment?
21. What did Claer Barrett find on her train ride?
22. How did people of the last generation budget their spending?

**Recording Three**

Why should you consider taking a course in demography in college? You'll be growing up in a generation where the baby boomers are going into retirement and dying. You will face the problems in the aging of the population that have never been faced before. You will hear more and more about migration between countries and between rural areas and cities. You need to understand as a citizen and as a tax payer and as a voter what's really behind the arguments.

I want to tell you about the past, present and future of the human population. So let's start with a few problems. Right now, a billion people are chronically hungry. That means they wake up hungry, they are hungry all day, and they go to sleep hungry. A billion people are living in slums, not the same billion people, but there is some overlap. Living in slums means they don't have infrastructure to take the garbage away, they don't have secure water supplies to drink.

Nearly a billion people are illiterate. Try to imagine your life being illiterate. You can't read the labels on the bottles in the supermarket, if you can get to a supermarket. Two-thirds of those people who are illiterate are women and about 200 to 215 million women don't have access to birth control they want, so that they can control their own fertility. This is not only a problem in developing countries. About half of all pregnancies globally are unintended. So those are examples of population problems.

Demography gives you the tools to understand and to address these problems. It's not only the study of human population, but the populations of non-human species, including viruses like influenza, the bacteria in your gut, plants that you eat, animals that you enjoy or that provide you with meat. Demography also includes the study of non-living objects like light bulbs and taxi cabs, and buildings because these are also populations. It studies these populations, in the past, present and future, using quantitative data and mathematical models as tools of analysis.

I see demography as a central subject related to economics. It is the means to intervene more wisely and more effectively in the real world, to improve the wellbeing, not only of yourself -- important as that may be -- but of people around you and of other species with whom we share the planet.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. What is one of the problems the speaker mentions in his talk?

24. What does the speaker say about pregnancies?
25. How does the speaker view the study of populations?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2017 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 (第 2 套)

### Part I Writing 范文

The past few years have witnessed a mounting number of Chinese students attending college abroad. To this practice, people's attitudes differ considerably. Some applaud it warmly whereas others criticize and even condemn it harshly. Personally, I believe that we should not go to extremes, for studying abroad has both advantages and disadvantages.

On the one hand, going to college abroad is beneficial in many ways. Most importantly, the general level of education abroad is higher than that at home. Secondly, studying abroad can broaden one's horizon, which can also add to his or her edge of competition.

On the other hand, studying abroad has some demerits. In the first place, tuition fees abroad are much higher than those at home, which might prove a grave burden on most families. In the second place, students may find it difficult to adapt to the environment abroad, especially when they are weak in the foreign language.

Taking into consideration all the above-mentioned, we may come to the conclusion that studying abroad is a two-edged sword, which brings along both benefits and trouble. One should make his or her decision according to personal conditions. If he or she is not well prepared financially or has severe language barriers, he or she may well go to college at home. When time is ripe, he or she can choose to pursue graduate study abroad.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C  | 2. A  | 3. D  | 4. B  | 5. C  |
| 6. A  | 7. B  | 8. D  | 9. D  | 10. B |
| 11. D | 12. A | 13. D | 14. A | 15. A |
| 16. A | 17. D | 18. B | 19. A | 20. C |
| 21. B | 22. C | 23. B | 24. C | 25. C |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. K | 27. O | 28. M | 29. H | 30. I |
| 31. E | 32. L | 33. G | 34. B | 35. J |
| 36. F | 37. A | 38. I | 39. G | 40. L |
| 41. E | 42. J | 43. B | 44. M | 45. H |
| 46. B | 47. D | 48. C | 49. A | 50. C |
| 51. D | 52. D | 53. B | 54. C | 55. A |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

The Ming dynasty which ruled China for 276 years is described as one of the greatest eras of orderly government and social stability in human history. During this period, the growth of handicraft industry promoted market economy and urbanization. A variety of commodities including alcohol and silk were sold in markets. Meanwhile, a great many goods were imported, such as clocks and tobaccos. Large business centers like Beijing, Nanjing, Yangzhou and Suzhou formed successively. It was also in the Ming dynasty that Zheng He led seven enormous voyages

of exploration into the Indian Ocean. It is worth mentioning that three of the Four Great Classical Novels in Chinese literature were written during the Ming dynasty.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

W: Mr. Ishiguro, have you ever found one of your books at a secondhand bookstore?

M: Yes. That kind of thing is difficult. If they've got my book there, I think, "Well, this is an insult! Somebody didn't want to keep my book!" But if it's not there, I feel it's an insult too. I think, "Why aren't people exchanging my book? Why isn't it in this store?"

W: Does being a writer require a thick skin?

M: Yes, for example, my wife can be very harsh. I began working on my latest book, *The Buried Giant*, in 2004 but I stopped after I showed my wife a little section. She thought it was rubbish.

W: Even after you won a Booker Prize?

M: She's not intimidated at all and she criticizes me in exactly the same way that she did when I was first unpublished and I was starting.

W: But you would never compromise on your vision.

M: No, I wouldn't ever compromise on the essential, the ideas or the themes. This isn't really what my wife is trying to criticize me about. It's always about execution.

W: So why did you put your book *The Buried Giant* aside for so long? Apparently you started working on it over 10 years ago.

M: I've often stopped writing a book and left it for a few years. And by the time I come back to it, it may have changed. Usually my imagination has moved on and I can think of different contexts or a different way to do it.

W: What does it feel like when you finally finish a book?

M: It's funny you ask that because I never have this moment when I feel, "Ah, I've finished!" I watch footballers at the end of the match, you know, the whistle goes and they've won or lost. Until then they've been giving everything and at that moment they know it's over. It's funny for an author. There's never a finishing whistle.

#### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. How would the man feel if he found his book in a secondhand bookstore?
2. What does the man's wife think of his books?
3. What does the man do when he engages in writing?
4. What does the man want to say by mentioning the football match?

#### Conversation Two

W: According to a study of Race and Equity in Education, black athletes are dropping out of colleges across the country at alarming rates. With us to talk about these findings is Washington Post columnist Kevin Blackstone. Good morning.

M: Good morning, how are you?

W: Fine, thank you. What is new that you found in this study?

M: Well, this is Shaun Harper's study, and he points out that on major college campuses across the country, black males make up less than 3 percent of undergraduate enrollments. Yet, when you look at their numbers or percentages on the revenue-generating sports teams of football and basketball, they make up well into 50 and 60 percent of those teams. So the idea is that they are really there to be part of the revenue-generating working class of athletes on campus and not necessarily there to be part of the educating class as most students in other groups are.

W: Compared with other groups, I think the numbers in this group, at those 65 schools, are something like just barely more than half of the black male athletes graduate at all.

M: Exactly. And what's really bad about this is these athletes are supposedly promised at least one thing as reward for all their blood and sweat. And that is a college degree, which can be a transformative tool in our society when you talk about upward mobility. And that's really the troubling part about this.

W: Well, this has been talked about so much, really, in recent years. Why hasn't it changed?

M: Well, I think one of the reasons it hasn't changed is because there's really no economic pressure to change this. All of the incentive is really on winning and not losing on the field or on the court. Coaches do not necessarily have the incentive to graduate players.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What are the speakers talking about?
6. What is the new finding about black male athletes in this study?
7. What is the graduation rate of black male athletes?
8. What accounts for black athletes' failure to obtain a college degree according to the man?

## Section B

### Passage One

America's holiday shopping season started on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. It is the busiest shopping day of the year. Retailers make the most money this time of year, about 20 to 30 percent of annual revenue. About 136 million people will shop during the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. More and more will shop online. In an era of instant information, shoppers can use their mobile phones to find deals. About 183.8 million people will shop on Cyber Monday, the first Monday after Thanksgiving.

More than half of all holiday purchases will be made online. One-in-five Americans will use a tablet or smartphone. Online spending on Black Friday will rise 15 percent to hit \$2.7 billion this year. Cyber Monday spending will increase 12 percent to \$3 billion. For many, shopping online was "a more comfortable alternative" than crowded malls. The shift to online shopping has had a big impact on traditional shopping malls. Since 2010, more than 24 shopping malls have closed and an additional 60 are struggling.

However, *Fortune* says the weakest of the malls have closed. The sector is thriving again. The International Council of Shopping Centers said 94.2 percent of malls were full, or occupied, with shops by the end of 2014. That is the highest level in 27 years. Economist Gus Faucher said lower unemployment and rising wages could give Americans more money to spend. The average American consumer will spend about \$805 on gifts. That's about \$630.5 billion between November and December -- an increase of 3.7 percent from last year.

**Questions 9 to 12 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What is the speaker mainly talking about?
10. How many people will shop on Cyber Monday?
11. What does Fortune say about traditional shopping malls?
12. What is said to account for the increased number of shoppers?

### **Passage Two**

For years, many of us have relied on antibiotic use to treat various infections and the reality is that antibiotics have been responsible for saving millions of lives since penicillin, one of the earliest antibiotics, was first used on a clinical basis 70 years ago.

However, today is a new era in which taking antibiotics can cause some very dangerous and potentially life-threatening situations. In fact, you may have heard about the new “superbugs”, which are antibiotic-resistant bacteria that have developed as a result of overprescribed antibiotics. In the past, health experts warned us that the day would come in which it would become very difficult to provide medical care for even common problems such as lung infection or severe sore throat. And, apparently, that day has come because seemingly routine operations such as knee replacements are now much more hazardous due to the looming threat of these infections.

The problem has grown into such epidemic proportions that this severe strain of resistant bacteria is being blamed for nearly 700,000 deaths each year throughout the world; and, unfortunately, health experts worry that the number will rise to 10 million or more on a yearly basis by 2050. With such a large life-threatening epidemic, it is said to say that only 1.2% of budgetary money for the National Institutes of Health is currently being spent on research to tackle this problem, this is a far cry from the funds necessary for a problem of such magnitude.

**Questions 13 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

13. What do we learn about the “superbugs”?
14. What is the result of the overuse of antibiotics?
15. What is most urgently needed for tackling the large life-threatening epidemic according to the speaker?

## **Section C**

### **Recording One**

This is the reason you are herein a university. You are here to understand thinking better and to think better yourself. It's not a chance you're going to have throughout your lifetime. For the next few years, you have a chance to focus on thinking. I think about some of the students who took advantage of their opportunities in a university. One of the stories I always like to tell is of a freshman seminar that I had a chance to teach at Harvard when I was president of the university. I taught a seminar on globalization, and I assigned a reading that I had written about global capital flows. And as I did each week, I asked one of the students to introduce the readings.

And this young man in October of his freshman year said something like the following. “The reading by President Summers on the flow of capital across countries, it was kind of interesting, but the data did not come close to supporting the conclusions.” And I thought to myself, what a fantastic thing this was. How could somebody who had been there for five weeks, tell the person



who had the title “President,” that he didn’t really know what he was talking about. And it was a special moment.

Now, I don’t want to be misunderstood. I explained to my student that I actually thought he was rather more confused than I was and I argued back, but what was really important about that was the universities stand out as places that really are about the authority of ideas. You see it in faculty members who are pleased when their students make a discovery that undermines a cherished theory that they had put forward.

I think of another student I had who came to me one morning, one evening actually, walked into my office and said that I had written a pretty good paper, but that it had five important mistakes and that he wanted a job. You could debate whether they actually were mistakes, but you couldn’t debate that young man’s hunger to learn. You could not debate that that young man was someone who wanted to make a difference in economics and he is today a professor of economics. And his works are more cited as an economist than any other economist in the world.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What does the speaker say about the university?
17. What do we learn from the speaker’s stories about universities?
18. What does the speaker see in the young man who challenged his paper?

**Recording Two**

Psychological research shows we consistently underestimate our mental powers. If you think this does not apply to you, then here is a simple test to show you are wrong. Write down the names of all the American states you can remember. Put the list away and then set yourself the same task a week later. Provided you have not cheated by consulting an atlas, you will notice something rather surprising. The two lists will contain roughly the same number of states, but they will not be identical. Some names will have slipped away, but others will have replaced them.

This suggests that somewhere in your mind you may well have a record of virtually every state. So it is not really your memory letting you down; just your ability to retrieve information from it.

We would remember a lot more if we had more confidence in our memories and knew how to use them properly. One useful tip is that things are more likely to be remembered if you are in exactly the same state and place as you were when you learned them.

So if you are a student who always reviews over black coffee, perhaps it would be sensible to prime yourself with a cup before the exam. If possible, you should also try to learn information in the room where it is going to be tested. When you learn is also important. Lots of people swear they can absorb new information more efficiently at some times of a day than at others. Research shows this is not just imagination. There is a biological rhythm for learning, though it affects different people in different ways.

For most of us, the best plan is to take in, new information in the morning and then try to consolidate it into memory during the afternoon.

But this does not apply to everyone, so it is essential to establish your own rhythm. You can do this by learning a set number of lines of poetry at different times of the day and seeing when most lines stick. When you have done this, try to organise your life so that the time set aside for learning coincides with the time when your memory is at its best.

Avoid learning marathons -- they do not make the best use of your mind. Take plenty of breaks, because they offer a double bonus: the time off gives your mind a chance to do some preliminary consolidation and it also gives a memory boost to the learning.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What does the simple test suggest?
20. What do we learn about the two lists in the test?
21. What does the speaker suggest about preparing for and taking an exam?
22. What tips does the speaker give on learning?

**Recording Three**

Hello, today I am going to talk about poverty. Poverty has become a critical issue in today's world. It concerns not only us sociologists but also economists, politicians and business people. Poverty has been understood in many different ways. One useful way is to distinguish between three degrees of poverty, extreme poverty, moderate poverty and relative poverty.

The first type of poverty is extreme poverty. It's also called absolute poverty. In extreme poverty, households cannot meet basic needs for survival. People are chronically hungry. They are unable to access safe drinking water, let alone health care. They could not afford education for their children. In short, people who live in extreme poverty do not have even the minimum resources to support themselves and their families.

Where does extreme poverty occur? Well, you can find that only in developing countries.

Well, what about moderate poverty? Unlike extreme poverty, moderate poverty generally refers to conditions of life in which basic needs are met, but barely. People living in moderate poverty have the resources to keep themselves alive, but only at a very basic level. For example, they may have access to drinking water but not clean safe drinking water. They may have a home to shelter themselves but it does not have power of light, a telephone or plumbing.

The third kind of poverty is relative poverty. Relative poverty is generally considered to be a household income level which is below a given proportion of average family income. The relatively poor live in high income countries but they do not have a high income themselves. The method of calculating the poverty line is different from country to country but we can say that basically a family living relative poverty has less than a percentage of the average family income. For example, in the United States, a family can be considered poor if their income is less than 50% of the national average family income. They can meet their basic needs but they lack access to cultural goods, entertainment, and recreation. They also do not have access to equality health care or other prerequisites for upward social mobility.

Well, I have briefly explained to you how poverty can be distinguished as extreme poverty, moderate poverty, and relative poverty. We should keep these distinctions in mind when we research people's living conditions either in the developing or the developed world.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. What does the speaker do?
24. Where does the speaker say we can find extreme poverty?
25. What do we learn about American people living in relative poverty?

## 2017 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 (第 3 套)

### Part I Writing

There is no consensus among people as to the view that whether we should major in science or humanities in college. The opinions differ from person to person. Perhaps it is time to have a fresh look at the attitude that humanities are more significant than science, which is also my opinion. The answer to this problem involves many factors. They may be briefly summed up as follows.

It is the top cause that humanities can enhance spiritual world as well as personality cultivation. It ranks the second that humanities may lay a solid foundation for learning science. Moreover, it is more interesting and abstract than science to some young people who love culture and arts. Reading poems and writing novels can lead human beings to an emotional thinking model.

Were it left to me to give some proposals, I would list the following ones. College students ought to know their own interest before choosing the major. Their parents also should abandon the traditional thoughts that students learning science are easy to find decent jobs than Humanities students.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

无

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. F | 27. L | 28. O | 29. H | 30. J |
| 31. M | 32. A | 33. C | 34. D | 35. N |
| 36. G | 37. F | 38. M | 39. D | 40. G |
| 41. O | 42. K | 43. H | 44. B | 45. P |
| 46. A | 47. B | 48. C | 49. A | 50. D |
| 51. B | 52. C | 53. D | 54. B | 55. A |

### Part IV Translation

The Song dynasty began in 960 and continued until 1279. China's highly improved economy was the most advanced in the world during the Song Dynasty. Meanwhile China's science, technology, philosophy and mathematics were thriving. Song was the first government in the world to issue banknotes and it was in Song that China became the first country that utilized gunpowder and invented movable-type printing. The fertility grew rapidly, the urban population was increasing and there were busy and crowded entertainment places in cities. Social activities were full of variety. People gathered to admire and trade in valuable art works. The government system was advanced then, and all of governmental officials were selected and appointed by competitive examinations.

## 2017 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 1 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

Treat other people the way you want to be treated. The same holds true for respect which is undeniably the basis of interpersonal relationship and a traditional virtue of Chinese nation. Since respect is mutual, no wonder this saying can be heard from time to time that “*Respect others, and you will be respected.*”

Actually, all men are born to be equal and respect or esteem is the basic need for everyone. In other words, people who get involved in different social circles could hardly lead a free and comfortable life in the absence of respect from outside world. Taking a look around, we can find examples too many to enumerate. For instance, we are taught not to play jokes on others randomly or judge others' appearance, job, financial condition and educational background, for every member of the society has the right to be respected and fairly treated. Suppose our life is disastrously filled with endless quarrels, confrontations and hostility, how would we feel? Besides, respect can be manifested in some details such as expressing your gratitude for others' help and never rudely interrupting someone who is speaking.

It is not hard to find out the significance of mutual respect in social contact. Respect matters, and without it, one might lose friendship, confidence and even happiness. As for me, I am firmly convinced that those who respect others are certain to be respected.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B  | 2. A  | 3. D  | 4. C  | 5. C  |
| 6. A  | 7. B  | 8. A  | 9. D  | 10. C |
| 11. B | 12. D | 13. C | 14. A | 15. B |
| 16. A | 17. D | 18. B | 19. C | 20. D |
| 21. B | 22. C | 23. D | 24. A | 25. B |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. O | 27. L | 28. H | 29. D | 30. G |
| 31. A | 32. J | 33. B | 34. K | 35. F |
| 36. E | 37. M | 38. C | 39. H | 40. B |
| 41. J | 42. G | 43. P | 44. I | 45. D |
| 46. A | 47. C | 48. B | 49. A | 50. D |
| 51. B | 52. C | 53. A | 54. D | 55. C |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

Qinghai Lake is located about 100 kilometers west of Xining, the capital of Qinghai province, at an altitude of 3,205 meters. With an area of 4,317 square kilometers and a maximum depth of 25.5 meters, it is the largest saltwater lake in China. There are 23 rivers flowing into the lake, most of which are seasonal. Eighty percent of the lake's water comes from five major rivers. Qinghai Lake is at the intersection of several migratory routes of birds across Asia, making it a popular stopover for birds during migration. On the west side of the lake lie the famous "Bird Islands",

which attract the world's bird-watchers. Every summer, visitors also flock here for watch the international cycling competition.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

M: And now, for the lighter side of the news, Europe is setting an example for the rest of the world when it comes to food waste.

W: That's right, John. This week the Italian government passed legislation that aimed to dramatically reduce the amount of food wasted in the country. New laws have been put into place that would make it easier for farms and supermarkets to donate unsold foods to those who're in need.

M: Yes. In addition to this, businesses will now be rewarded for successful efforts to cut food waste.

W: Italy is not the only country to focus on reducing food waste. Just earlier this year, the European Parliament voted in favor of legislation that would stop grocery giants from unfair trading practices that resulting overproduction, thus creating waste.

M: In France, the government has banned supermarkets from throwing away edible foods and imposed harsh penalties on businesses that fail to comply with the regulations.

W: While there is still much progress to be made. Other countries could learn a thing or two from the example set by France and Italy. In the United States, up to 40 percent of all food goes uneaten. Despite the fact that one in seven American households lacks regular access to good food, one major cause of this problem is the confusion over food expiration labels, which are currently not regulated by the government.

M: All this could change soon. The wave of new laws in Europe will definitely put more pressure on law makers to reduce food waste here. We turn now to a spokesperson from Harvard University's Food Law and Policy Clinic for more on the story. And now, let's welcome Prof. Edward Becker to speak to us.

#### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. What does the woman say about the new laws in Italy?
2. What did the European Parliament do to reduce food waste?
3. What has the French government done recently?
4. What is the major cause of food waste in the United States?

#### Conversation Two

M: Thank you for calling Saks Fifth Avenue department store. How can I be of assistance to you today?

W: Hello, I was in your store this past weekend and bought a few items. Yesterday my friend told me that the annual anniversary sales had begun, it turned out she bought the same sweater as I did, but for a much lower price.

M: Yes. Our annual anniversary sales started on Monday. We do offer price adjustments within 7 days of purchase to ensure our customers' satisfaction. You said you did the purchase here this past weekend?

W: Yes. I was shopping in your store last Sunday afternoon.

M: That would definitely fall within the price adjustment window. Do you have an account with us? We can credit your account directly with the difference if you wish. Otherwise we can send a gift card by mail if you prefer.

W: Credit it in my account would be wonderful, thank you. Now that you mention there's a sale going on, I do remember a dress I quite like when I was in the shop on Sunday. Is it on offer as well?

M: Yes, ma'am. All the new arrivals are 15-20% off. In addition to the sale, we're running a promotion for complimentary tailor if you need it.

W: That's good news, the dress really caught my eye, but I did have some concerns about the length. How long will the alterations take?

M: Our tailoring department guarantees alterations to be completed within 5 working days. If you like, I can set one aside for you. If you're able to come this afternoon, you can give your name to the sales manager and they will be there to assist you.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What do we learn about Saks department store?
6. What does the man say Saks department store offers?
7. What does the woman want the store to do to address the price difference?
8. What is the service Saks department store offers in addition to the promotion sale?

## **Section B**

### **Passage One**

Barbie dolls have a particular look to them. They're thin, tall, long-legged and virtually unlike any real human being. Although over the years Barbie has more than 180 different careers, including football coach, sign language teacher, ambassador, president and astronaut, her body shape hasn't changed much.

Last year, Mattel, the company that makes Barbie dolls, added some Barbies to its line that have different skin tones and hair textures. There are now Barbies with one of 7 skin tones, 22 eye colours and 24 hair styles to choose from. Last year, Mattel also gave Barbie a flat foot, rather than forcing her to be "in heels" all the time like the original Barbie is.

Now they are introducing new Barbies with 3 slightly different body shapes while the original, tall and thin Barbies will continue to be sold.

In a statement on its website, the company says it wants Barbies to look more like real people and to give girls everywhere infinitely more ways to spark their imagination and play out their stories.

Although many people say the new Barbies are a step in the right direction. Some people say they don't go far enough. They say that the new body shapes could be even more different from the original, tall, thin Barbies.

Sales of Barbie dolls have been falling "every year since 2012," according to CBC news.

The toys aren't in stores yet, but they will be sold online at the Barbie website, starting this week for \$9.99.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What do we know about the original Barbie dolls?
10. Why do some people feel unsatisfied with the new Barbie dolls?
11. Where will the new Barbie dolls be sold first?

### Passage Two

The earliest printed book we know today appeared in China in the year 868 and metal type was used in Korea at the beginning of the fifteen century, but it was in Germany around the year 1450 that a printing press using movable metal type was invented. Capitalism turned printing from an invention into an industry. Right from the start, book printing and publishing were organized on capitalist lines. The biggest sixteen-century printer, Plantin of Antwerp, had 24 printing presses and employed more than 100 workers. Only a small fraction of the population was literate, but the production of books grew at an extraordinary speed.

By 1500 some 20 million volumes had already been printed. The immediate effect of printing was to increase the circulation of works that were already popular in a handwritten form, while less popular works went out of circulation. Publishers were interested only in books that would sell fairly quickly in sufficient numbers to cover the costs of production and make a profit. Thus, while printing enormously increased access to books by making cheap, high-volume production possible, it also reduced choice.

The great cultural impact of printing was that it facilitated the growth of national languages. Most early books were printed in Latin, but the market for Latin was limited, and in its pursuit of larger markets, the book trade soon produced translation into the national languages emerging at that time. Printing indeed played a key role in standardizing and stabilizing these languages by fixing them in print and producing dictionaries and grammar books.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What happened in Germany around the year 1450?
13. What does the speaker say about the printer, Plantin of Antwerp?
14. What was the immediate effect of printing?
15. What was the great cultural impact of printing?

### Section C

#### Recording One

You dream about being a movie star. You live in a big house in Hollywood, go to the Oscars every year--and win! You will be rich and famous. Wait a minute. You also hate having your photos taken and you are very shy. So how could you ever become a movie star?

Choosing a right career can be hard. Many people graduate from school or college not knowing what they want to do with their lives, and get a job without really thinking about it. For some, things work out fine, but others often find themselves stuck in a job they hate. Your working life lasts an average of 40 years, so it's important to find a job you like and feel enthusiastic about. Luckily, there are many ways you can get help to do this.

The Australian website, [www.careersonline.com](http://www.careersonline.com), compares choosing a career with going to the movies. Before you see a movie, you find out what films are showing. The site suggests you should do the same with your career--find out what jobs are available and what your options are. Next, decide which movie you like best; if you're not a romantic person, you won't want to see a



love story. In other words, with your career, you should decide which job will suit your personality. Finally, decide how to get movie tickets and find out where the theater is before you go. With your career, you need to find information about where you can work and how to get a job in that profession.

So, how do you start? Begin by asking yourself some questions, certain life experiences. Have you travelled overseas? Do you have any extra certificates at your degree? Such as the first aid license, for example. Your physical state and build can also affect which jobs you can do. A person, for example, who is allergic to cats will probably never become an animal doctor. Flight attendants, firefighters and police officers have to be over a certain height and be physically fit. Your personality matters too. Are you outgoing or shy? If you like working alone, a job that requires lots of team work might not suit you.

Choosing a career can take time and a lot of thought. However, when you know you can look forward to working in your dream job, you will be glad you thought it through.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What does the speaker say about many college graduates?
17. What does the Australian website suggest you do first to find a suitable job?
18. What should you think about when you look for the right job according to the Australian website?

**Recording Two**

Kwanzaa is a cultural festival during which African-Americans celebrate and reflect upon their rich heritage as the products of the two worlds. It begins December 26<sup>th</sup> and lasts for seven days.

Kwanzaa was founded in 1966 by Dr. Karenga, a college professor and African-American leader, who believed that a special holiday could help African-Americans meet their goals of building strong families, learning about their history and creating a sense of unity.

After conducting extensive research in which he studied the festivals of many African groups of people, he decided that the new holiday should be a harvest or “first fruits” celebration, incorporating ideas from many different harvest traditions. Kwanzaa is a KiSwahili word meaning “the first fruits of the harvest.”

The East African language of KiSwahili was chosen as the official language of Kwanzaa because it is a non-tribal language spoken by a large portion of the African population. Also its pronunciation is easy.

Kwanzaa is based on seven principles which are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. One principal is highlighted each day of the holiday.

In preparation for the celebration, a straw mat is placed on the table, along with the candle holder with seven candles, one black, three red and three green. The black candle represents the African-American people, the red is for their struggles, and the green represents their hopes for the future.

Other items placed on our table are a variety of fruit, ears of corns, gifts and a communal unity cup for pouring and sharing drinks.

Each day of Kwanzaa, usually before the evening meal, family and friends gather around the table and someone lights the candle, beginning with the black. After that, candles are lit alternately from left to right. While the candle is being lit, a principal is recited; then each person present takes turn to speak about the importance that principle has to himself or herself.

Next, the ceremony focuses on remembering those who've died. A selected person pours water or juice from the unity cup into a bowl. That person then drinks from the cup and raises it high saying "Harambee" which means "Let's all pull together." All repeat "Harambee" seven times and each person drinks from the cup. Then names of African-American leaders and heroes are called out, and everyone reflects upon the great things these people did. The ceremony is followed by a meal, and then singing and perhaps listening to African music.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What does the speaker say about Kwanzaa?
20. For what purpose did Dr. Karenga create the special holiday?
21. What does the word "Kwanzaa" mean?
22. What did people do while each candle was being lit at the Kwanzaa celebration?

**Recording Three**

The Mediterranean diet is based upon the eating patterns of traditional cultures in the Mediterranean region.

Several noted nutritionists and research projects have concluded that this diet is one of the most healthful in the world in terms of preventing such illnesses as heart disease and cancer, and increasing life expectancy.

The countries that have inspired Mediterranean diet all surround the Mediterranean Sea. These cultures have eating habits that developed over thousands of years. In Europe, parts of Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain and southern France adhere to principles of the Mediterranean diet, as do Morocco, Tunisia in North Africa. Parts of the Balkan region and Turkey follow the diet as well as Middle Eastern countries like Lebanon and Syria. The Mediterranean region is warm and sunny, and produces large supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables almost a year round that people eat many times a day. Wine, bread, olive oil and nuts are other staples of the region, and the Mediterranean Sea has historically yielded abundant quantities of fish.

International interest in therapeutic qualities of Mediterranean diet began back in the late 1950s when medical researchers started to link the currency of heart disease with diet. Dr. Ancel Keys performed the epidemiological analysis of diets around the world. Entitled *the Seven Countries Study*, it is considered one of the greatest studies of its kind ever performed. In it, Keys gathered data on heart disease and its potential causes from nearly 13,000 men in Greece, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Japan, Finland, the Netherlands and the United States. The study was conducted over a period of decades. It concluded that the Mediterranean people in the study enjoyed some significant health advantages. The Mediterranean groups have lower mortality rates in all age brackets and from all causes, particularly from heart disease. The study also showed that the Mediterranean diet is as high as or higher in fat than other diets, obtaining up to 40% of all its calories from fat. It has, however, different patterns of fat intake. Mediterranean cooking uses smaller amounts of saturated fat and higher amounts of unsaturated fat, mostly in the form of olive oil. Saturated fats are found principally in meat and dairy products, although some nuts and

vegetable oils also contain them. Saturated fats are used by the body to make cholesterol, and high levels of cholesterol have since been directly related to heart disease.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. What has research concluded about the Mediterranean diet?
24. What do we learn about the Seven Countries Study?
25. What do we learn about the Mediterranean people from the Seven Countries Study?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2017 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 2 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

Mutual understanding is the basis for harmonious interpersonal relationships and the solution to any conflict. As this simple yet thought-provoking saying puts, “*seek to understand others, and you will be understood*”, which reminds us of the necessity of “putting ourselves in others’ shoes”

and expressing great empathy with people around us.

Seeking to understand others may create a sound working environment. If the chief executive officer of a company seeks to understand the actual needs of his employees through frequent conversations and takes practical measures to solve problems they meet at work, then his employees will be more enthusiastic about their work with deeper gratitude and increased efficiency. Without understanding, conflicts erupt in people's social contact. So many quarrels start with misunderstanding, impatience and a lack of communication, ending up with the breakdown of a relationship and even worse consequences. For example, it is reported that two students got seriously injured because they resorted to violence instead of mutual understanding after one had unintentionally tracked up the other's clean shoes.

To sum up, mutual understanding plays an indispensable role in the establishment of a harmonious interpersonal relationship and a harmonious society at large. We should see things from others' perspective without preconception and learn to be a good listener. If we want to be understood by others, then we have to understand others first.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. D  | 3. B  | 4. C  | 5. B  |
| 6. A  | 7. C  | 8. D  | 9. B  | 10. C |
| 11. D | 12. A | 13. D | 14. C | 15. B |
| 16. C | 17. D | 18. A | 19. D | 20. A |
| 21. B | 22. C | 23. B | 24. D | 25. A |

## Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. C | 27. D | 28. K | 29. I | 30. G |
| 31. F | 32. L | 33. N | 34. A | 35. J |
| 36. E | 37. L | 38. I | 39. O | 40. B |
| 41. J | 42. F | 43. D | 44. L | 45. G |
| 46. D | 47. C | 48. A | 49. D | 50. A |
| 51. C | 52. B | 53. D | 54. C | 55. D |

## Part IV Translation 参考译文

Dongting Lake is a large but shallow lake situated in the northeast part of Hunan Province. As a natural reservoir to store floodwater from the Yangtze River, the lake expands and contracts largely depending on the season. The provinces of Hubei and Hunan are named after their locations relative to the lake: Hubei means "north of the lake", while Hunan refers to "south of the lake". Dongting Lake is well-known in Chinese culture as the birthplace of dragon boat race. It is said that dragon boat race began from the eastern shore of Dongting Lake as a search for the corpse of Qu Yuan, a Chu patriotic poet. Dragon boat race and Dongting Lake, together with the beautiful scenery around it, attract thousands of visitors at home and abroad every year.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

W: You're going to give a short speech of thanks for the speaker this evening, aren't you, Bill?

M: Yes.

W: You don't sound very enthusiastic. It's not that bad, is it?

M: No, I don't mind really. But I can never forget the first speech of thanks I did.

W: Why? What happened?

M: Well, I was in my early twenties. I joined the local history society.

W: Yes.

M: Anyway, I went along to a lecture by a Miss Bligh.

W: Oh. Do go on.

M: She was going to talk with slides about our town amid 18<sup>th</sup> century. She'd just published a book on the subject, which was reckoned to be quite good. So I went along. When I arrived, the secretary asked me if I could give the speech of thanks. Rather stupidly, I said yes.

W: We've all done it.

M: Anyway, from that point on, I was scared. What should I say? I decided to make notes during the lecture and refer to interesting parts and thank her on behalf of the society. In fact, by the time Miss Bligh stood up to talk, I was feeling much better. But she was so nervous that she kept forgetting what to say, and she spoke almost in a whisper. People at the back kept calling out "we can't hear." It was embarrassing.

W: I can imagine it.

M: At least the slides were good, that is, until the bulb in the projector blew. And she had to finish the talk with no illustration.

W: So what did you say in your speech of thanks?

M: What can you say? You have to be polite. I mentioned the interesting facts, referred to the excellent slides, and then finished up by saying "we'd all like to thank Miss Bligh for blowing out her slides."

W: Oh, no.

M: I felt terrible. I tried to apologize, not very successfully.

W: And the speech of thanks this evening?

M: I'll write down exactly what I'm going to say and read it carefully.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. What is the man asked to do this evening?
2. What do we learn about the man?
3. What does the man say about Miss Bligh?
4. What does the man say about the first time he gave a speech of thanks?

**Conversation Two**

W: Another cup of tea, Paul?

M: No, thanks. Well, what's new, Lorry?

W: Nothing dramatic. But there's something you should know about.

M: What's that?

W: Well, our rivals are offering extended credit terms to some of the retailers in the area.

M: Oh? Which rival is this? We only have two.

W: Barratt's Company.

M: Oh, them. Well, they're hardly a threat.

W: I know they're smaller than us, but we can't afford to ignore them.

M: Yes, you're right, Lorry. But I don't like extended credit. It ties up cash we could put to better use elsewhere. But, I'll look into it on Monday.

W: Yes. And there's something else.

M: Don't tell me! The letter from the tax revenue office?

W: Right. How did you know?

M: Terra told me. What's the problem?

W: Well, Tom got this letter late yesterday and then went frantic trying to find copies of last year's accounts.

M: Did he find them?

W: No. And he was away before I could get hold of the letter.

M: How about a drive down to the office now. And we'll see if everything's all right. There's another reason why I wanted a chat with you before Monday.

W: I thought as much. Well, go on, surprise me.

M: How about selling that new motorcycle of yours in Indonesia?

W: What? You mean export? Paul. I think you've been away too long. This is Jayal Motors. We've never sold a bike abroad.

M: Don't worry, Lorry. I'm not crazy. I've been studying the possibility and I think we should give it a go.

W: It's not as easy as that thought, is it? We'd have to reorganize the whole company.

M: Don't be silly. I don't intend starting next week. We'll have to plan it properly and there'll be a few problems.

W: A few problems? I can see hundreds! For one thing, transport. I have enough trouble delivering bikes to shops only 40 miles away--never mind 5,000 miles!

M: That's what forwarding agents are for.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What does the woman think the man should know?
6. What does the woman think of Barratt's company?
7. What did the woman say about the letter from the tax revenue office?
8. What is the man thinking of doing?

**Section B**

**Passage One**

A report on sleep and nutrition released this month found that people who consistently went to bed earlier than 11 p.m. took in fewer calories and ate more healthy food. In contrast, "night owls" who go to bed between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. tend to consume more coffee, alcohol, refined sugars, and processed meats than early risers. This report corresponds with the existing scientific literature on bedtime and wellness. The relationship between getting more sleep and making better food choices is well-documented. A study published last year in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* found that people who sleep more tend to eat less unhealthy food than their peers who don't get as much rest. And a 2015 study from the University of California, Berkeley, found that teens who go to bed late are more likely to gain weight over a five-year period. As a group, "night

owl” types tend to eat less healthy food and take in more calories overall than early risers. The later one goes to bed, the more calories one records the next day. It’s as yet a challenge to explain the cause-and-effect relationship between sleep and nutrition. There may be a third factor that impacts both of them, or the relationship could be reversed, that is, people who eat less fall asleep earlier. Still, if late sleepers want to lose a few pounds, they can go to bed earlier than they usually do, thereby reducing their chances of taking snacks before bedtime.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What do we learn about the report released this month?
10. What does the study from the University of California, Berkeley, find about teens who go to bed late?
11. What should “night owls” do to reduce their consumption of unhealthy food?

### **Passage Two**

Researchers have found not just a diversity problem in Hollywood, but actually an inclusion crisis. With less than a week before an Oscars ceremony that has already been criticized for an all-white slate of acting nominees, a study shows the film industry does worse than television. Just 3.4 percent of film directors were female, and only 7 percent of films had a cast whose balance of race and ethnicity reflected the country's diversity. When researchers looked at all TV shows, they also found that women of color over 40 were deemed “largely invisible” and just 22 percent of TV series creators were female. Overall, the study found half the films and TV shows had no Asian speaking characters and more than one-fifth of them had no black characters with dialogue. The film industry still functions as a straight, white, boy's club. When looking at how women are depicted, the study found female characters were four times more likely to be shown in sexy clothing, and nearly four times as likely to be referred to as physically attractive. But their results also indicated films and TV shows with women or people of color in the important jobs behind the scenes--director, producer or writer--tended to have better diversity numbers. Across TV and film, the underrepresentation of non-white characters falls mostly on Hispanics. Among more than 10,000 characters, proportions of white, black and Asian characters came close to U.S. population.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. Why has the Oscars ceremony been criticized?
13. What do we learn from the research?
14. Who are regarded as “largely invisible” on TV show?
15. What does the speaker say about Hispanics?

### **Section C**

#### **Recording One**

When purchasing life insurance, there are many important factors to consider: one should buy the policies that give the most protection at the least cost, insure the right family members, and consider the family’s financial needs. It’s important to buy the insurance from companies that are financially sound and that are represented by honest, well-trained agents. At various stages in a person’s life, different kinds of life insurance are needed for particular situations. Jerry is single and has no dependents, probably the only life insurance he needs is enough to cover his debts and



burial expenses. Insurance can be purchased at a lower rate during the young years, but by buying while young, the premiums are paid in for a longer period of time. In the end, the amount paid for premiums is about the same. A person shouldn't buy insurance protection that really isn't necessary. Suppose that Jerry marries Jeannette who is a college graduate and is working. Perhaps enough insurance would be needed to cover their debts and burial expenses. Now, Jeannette has quit work and their first child is on the way. They have purchased a home with a small down payment and a 30-year mortgage. The situation regarding life insurance takes on a different look. There are dependents who need financial protection. How much insurance is needed? As the family increases in size, it is essential to add more insurance on the breadwinner to protect the dependents. When the children are young and depend upon the family for financial needs, families with modest incomes have difficulty providing enough life insurance to protect the mother and the children. Families with modest incomes should insure the breadwinner or breadwinner first. When considering the amount of insurance for the mother with dependent children, substitute child care is a need that should be planned for until the children can care for themselves. The death of a small child would have no effect upon the income of the family. Perhaps a policy to meet funeral expenses would be sufficient for the young child, although most people do not take out insurance on their young children. As the children become financially independent of the family, the emphasis on family financial security would shift from protection to saving for the retirement years. Every family situation is different, but it is important that each family give adequate thought to planning its financial future.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What life insurance should a single person buy according to the speaker?
17. What should people do as their family increases in size?
18. When should one change their life insurance?

**Recording Two**

"Stereotype" may sound like a bad word, but there's nothing bad about it. For one thing, stereotypes are often accurate. When you ask people about their concept of stereotypes, they get it pretty much right. Also, stereotypes are often positive, particularly of groups that we ourselves belong to. Some of the statistical generalizations may be positive as some groups have reputations for being smart, for being loyal, for being brave, for all sorts of things that are not at all negative. And so there's nothing inherently wrong about stereotypes. But there are problems with stereotypes. For one thing, they're reliable insofar as they're based on unbiased samples. But a lot of the information we get about human groups is through biased sources like how they're represented in the media. And if these sources don't give you an accurate depiction, your stereotypes won't be accurate. For example, many Jews have been troubled by Shakespeare's depiction of Shylock. If the only Jew you know is Shakespeare's Shylock, it's going to be a very bad impression. So one problem with stereotypes is while we are good at drawing conclusions from them, often our information isn't reliable. A second problem is that stereotypes, regardless of whether or not they're accurate, can have a negative effect on the people that they apply to. And this is what psychologist, Claude Steele, described as stereotype threat. He has a vivid example of this. Here's how to make African-Americans do worse on a math test. You have the test and you put on the test that they have to identify their race. The very act of acknowledging that they are African-American when

given a test ignites in them thoughts of their own stereotype, which is negative regarding academics and that makes them do worse. Want to know how to make a woman do worse on a math test? Same thing, get her to write down her sex. One recent study found a sort of clever twist on this. When Asian-American women are given a test and they're asked to mark down their race, they do better than they would otherwise do. They're reminded of a positive stereotype that boosts their morale. You ask them, on the other hand, to mark down their sex, they do worse because they are reminded of a negative stereotype. That's an example of how stereotypes have a potentially damaging effect on people.

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What does the speaker say about stereotypes?
20. What leads to the bias of stereotypes?
21. What does the speaker say is a problem with stereotypes?
22. What did one recent study find about stereotypes?

**Recording Three**

Sometimes when you take a common drug, you may have a side effect. That is, the drug may cause some effect other than its intended one. When these side effects occur, they are called "adverse reactions". Whenever you have an adverse reaction, you should stop taking the drug right away. Ask your pharmacist whether he can suggest a drug that will relieve the symptoms but that will not cause the adverse reaction. If an adverse reaction to a drug is serious, consult your doctor for advice at once.

Drugs that are safe in the dosage stated on the label may be dangerous in large doses. For example, aspirin is seldom thought of as dangerous, but there are many reports of accidental poisoning of young children who take too many aspirin pills, as well as the possible development of Reye's syndrome in children with the flu. In adults, excessive use of some painkilling drugs may cause severe kidney damage. Some drugs for relief of stomach upsets, when taken in excess, can perhaps cause serious digestive problems. You should never use any over-the-counter drug on a regular, continued basis, or in large quantities, except on your doctor's advice. You could be suffering from a serious illness that needs a doctor's care.

Each drug you take not only acts on the body but may also alter the effect of any other drug you are taking. Sometimes this can cause dangerous or even fatal reactions. For example, aspirin increases the blood-thinning effect of drugs given to patients with heart disease. Therefore, a patient who has been taking such a drug may risk bleeding if he uses aspirin for a headache. Before using several drugs together you should ask your doctor and follow his advice. Your pharmacist can tell you whether certain drugs can safely be taken together.

Alcohol may increase the effect of a drug--sleeping pills combine with alcohol to produce a sleepy feeling. When taking any drug, you should ask your doctor whether drinking alcohol could be dangerous in combination with the medicine.

Experts believe there is a relationship between adult abuse of legitimate medicines and the drug culture that has swept our country. You can do your share to reduce the chances that your children will become part of the drug culture by treating all medicines with respect. Always let your children know that medicines and drugs should not be used carelessly.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. What does the speaker say you should do when you have an adverse reaction?
24. Where does the speaker say about alcohol drinking?
25. What does the speaker call on parents to do at the end of the talk?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2017 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 3 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

A profound notion has lasted for years regarding that “Help others, and you will be helped when you are in need.” It is known by us all that giving others a hand is a crucial process through one’s whole life. Personally, I side with the notion, in the belief that helping others will contribute to getting help in the current situation.

The implication underlying this sentence is rather conspicuous: giving a hand to others is of extremely significance in modern society. Why should we place such a high value on it? First and foremost, helping others enables people to acquire assistance and complete their mission more smoothly and rapidly; because those who are willing to help others are more likely to get helped from others when trapped in trouble. In addition, helping others is one of the most indispensable behaviors that people should learn in China. Without the process, people can hardly have a better understanding of relationship between others.

In order to achieve more help, people are supposed to devote to others first. Only in this way, can they open their mind and enjoy a comforting life.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

无

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.I | 27.O | 28.F | 29.C | 30.D |
| 31.E | 32.G | 33.M | 34.J | 35.N |
| 36.M | 37.G | 38.D | 39.A | 40.P |
| 41.L | 42.B | 43.O | 44.I | 45.F |
| 46.D | 47.D | 48.B | 49.A | 50.C |
| 51.D | 52.B | 53.C | 54.A | 55.A |

### Part IV Translation

Taihu Lake is a freshwater lake located in East China with an area of 2,250 square kilometers. It is the third largest freshwater lake in China, second only to Poyang Lake and Dongting Lake. There are about 90 islands in Taihu Lake ranging in size from a few square meters to several square kilometers. Taihu Lake is famous for its “Taihu Stone” which is often used in decorating traditional Chinese gardens. Taihu Lake is also well-known for its high-yielding fishing industry. Since the late 1970s, fishing and crabbing have been an important part of the residents nearby and have contributed enormously to the economy of surrounding area. As one of China’s major ceramics bases, the Taihu Lake region is home to the world-famous Yixing clay teapots produced by the ceramic manufacturers of Yixing.

## 2018 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 (第 1 套)

### Part I Writing 范文

The past few years have witnessed a mounting number of cases resulting from the conflicts between businesses and consumers. Taking a look around, one can find examples too many to enumerate. All these cases result in the loss of trust between the two sides.

A number of factors can account for this issue, but the leading reason is the cheating behavior of either the business or the consumer. On the one hand, some stores may have sold substandard commodities to their customers, which caused the latter to lose trust in the former. On the other hand, some customers might be too picky, which ruined their image in the seller's mind. Whatever the reason is, if the situation is allowed to continue, the consequence will be worrisome.

In view of the seriousness of the problem, effective measures must be taken before the situation deteriorates. First, it is imperative that laws and regulations be worked out and enforced to punish those who cheat in the market. Secondly, both businesses and consumers should enhance the awareness of mutual understanding and mutual respect. With these measures taken, we have every reason to believe that the problem will be remedied in the near future.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B  | 2. A  | 3. D  | 4. C  | 5. B  |
| 6. A  | 7. D  | 8. D  | 9. C  | 10. A |
| 11. C | 12. B | 13. C | 14. A | 15. B |
| 16. D | 17. A | 18. B | 19. D | 20. C |
| 21. A | 22. C | 23. A | 24. D | 25. B |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. K | 27. M | 28. A | 29. L | 30. F |
| 31. D | 32. I | 33. J | 34. E | 35. O |
| 36. H | 37. C | 38. L | 39. J | 40. G |
| 41. A | 42. I | 43. F | 44. K | 45. D |
| 46. C | 47. D | 48. C | 49. B | 50. A |
| 51. A | 52. D | 53. C | 54. B | 55. D |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

In the past, private cars were a luxury for most Chinese people, but today, they can be found everywhere in China. Having become an indispensable part of people's lives, cars are used not only for commuting, but also for travelling. In some cities, the number of cars is growing so fast that traffic congestion and shortage of parking spaces are increasingly serious problems. The governments of those cities have little choice but to introduce new policies to control the number of cars on the roads. As air pollution is getting worse, more and more people nowadays choose to buy new energy vehicles. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has also taken a series of measures to support the development of new energy vehicles.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

M: What's all that? Are you going to make a salad?

W: No I'm going to make a gazpacho.

M: What's that?

W: Gazpacho is a cold soup from Spain. It's mostly vegetables. I guess you could call it a liquid salad.

M: Cold soup? Sounds weird.

W: It's delicious. Trust me! I tried it for the first time during my summer vacation in Spain. You see, in the south of Spain, it gets very hot in the summer, up to 40 degree Celsius. So a cold gazpacho is very refreshing. The main ingredients are tomato, cucumber, bell peppers, olive oil and stale bread.

M: Stale bread? Surely you mean bread for dipping into the soup?

W: No. Bread is crushed and blended in, like everything else. It adds texture and thickness to the soup.

M: Um. And is it healthy?

W: Sure. As I said earlier it's mostly vegetables. You can also add different things if you like, such as hard-boiled egg or cured ham.

M: Cured ham? What's that?

W: That's another Spanish delicacy. Have you never heard of it? It is quite famous.

M: No. Is it good too?

W: Oh, yeah, definitely. It's amazing. It's a little dry and salty, and it's very expensive because it comes from a special type of pig that only eats a special type of food. The ham is covered in salt to dry and preserve it, and left hung for up to 2 years. It has a very distinct flavor.

M: Um. Sounds interesting. Where can I find some?

W: It used to be difficult to get Spanish produce here. But it's now a lot more common. Most large supermarket chains have cured ham in little packets but in Spain you can buy a whole leg.

M: A whole pig leg? Why would anybody want so much ham?

W: In Spain, many people buy a whole leg for special group events, such as Christmas. They cut it themselves into very thin slices with a long flat knife.

#### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. What do we learn about gazpacho?
2. For what purpose is stale bread mixed into gazpacho?
3. Why does the woman think gazpacho is healthy?
4. What does the woman say about cured ham?

#### Conversation Two

M: Hello, I wish to buy a bottle of wine.

W: Hi, yes. What kind of wine would you like?

M: I don't know, sorry. I don't know much about wine.

W: That's no problem at all. What's the occasion and how much would you like to spend?

M: It's for my boss. It's his birthday. I know he likes wine, but I don't know what type. I also do not want anything too expensive, maybe mid-range. How much would you say is a mid-range bottle of wine, approximately?

W: Well, it varies greatly. Our lowest prices are around \$6 a bottle, but those are table wines. They are not very special. And I would not suggest them as a gift. On the other hand, our most expensive bottles are over \$150. If you are looking for something priced in the middle, I would say anything between \$30 and \$60 would make a decent gift. How does that sound?

M: Um, yeah. I guess something in the vicinity of 30 or 40 would be good. Which type would you recommend?

W: I would say the safest option is always a red wine. They are generally more popular than whites, and can usually be paired with food more easily. Our specialty here are Italian wines, and these tend to be fruity with medium acidity. This one here is a Chianti which is perhaps Italy's most famous type of red wine. Alternatively, you may wish to try and surprise your boss with something less common, such as this Zinfandel. The grapes are originally native to Croatia but this winery is in eastern Italy and it has a more spicy and peppery flavor. So to summarize, the Chianti is more classical and the Zinfandel more exciting. Both are similarly priced at just under \$40.

M: I will go with Chianti then. Thanks.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What does the woman think of table wines?
6. What is the price range of wine the man will consider?
7. Why does the woman recommend red wines?
8. What do we learn about the wine the man finally bought?

## Section B

### Passage One

Many people enjoy secret codes. The harder the code, the more some people would try to figure it out. In wartime, codes are especially important. They help army send news about battles and the sizes of enemy forces. Neither side wants its code broken by the other. One very important code was never broken. It was used during World War Two by the Americans. It was spoken code, never written down and it was developed and used by Navajo Indians. They were called the Navajo code talkers. The Navajos created the codes in their own language. Navajo is hard to learn and only a few people know it. So it was pretty certain that the enemy would not be able to understand the code talkers.

In addition, the talkers used code words. They called a submarine an iron fish and a small bomb thrown by hand, a potato. If they wanted to spell something, they used code words for letters of the alphabet. For instance, the letter A was ant or apple or ax, the code talkers worked mostly in the islands in the Pacific. One or two would be assigned to a group of soldiers. They would send messages by field telephone to the code talker in the next group. And he would relay the information to his commander. The code talkers played an important part in several battles. They helped the troops coordinate their movements and attacks. After the war, the US governments honored them for what they had accomplished. Theirs was the most successful wartime code ever used.



**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What does the speaker say many people enjoy doing?
10. What do we learn about the Navajo code talkers?
11. What is the speaker mainly talking about?

### **Passage Two**

If you are young and thinking about your career, you'll want to know where you can make a living. Well, there's going to be a technological replacement of a lot of knowledge-intensive jobs in the next twenty years, particularly in the two largest sectors of the labor force with professional skills. One is teaching, and the other, health care. You have so many applications and software and platforms that are going to come in and provide information and service in these two fields, which means a lot of health care and education sectors would be radically changed, and lots of jobs will be lost. Now, where will the new jobs be found? Well, the one sector of the economy that can't be easily duplicated by even small technologies is the caring sector--the personal care sector. That is, you can't really get a robot to do a great massage or physical therapy. Or, you can't get the kind of personal attention you need with regard to therapy or any other personal service. There could be very high-end personal services.

Therapists do charge a lot of money. I think there's no limit to the amount of personal attention and personal care people would like if they could afford it. But the real question in the future is: How can people afford these things if they don't have money because they can't get a job that pays enough? That's why I wrote this book, which is about how to reorganize the economy for the future when technology brings about destructive changes to what we used to consider high income work.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What does the speaker say will happen in the next twenty years?
13. Where will young people have more chances to find jobs?
14. What does the speaker say about therapist?
15. What is the speaker's book about?

## **Section C**

### **Recording One**

American researchers have discovered the world's oldest paved road, a 4,600-year-old highway. It linked a stone pit in the Egyptian desert to waterways that carried blocks to monument sites along the Nile.

The eight-mile road is at least 500 years older than any previously discovered road. It is the only paved road discovered in ancient Egypt, said geologist Thomas Bown of the U.S. Geological Survey. He reported the discovery on Friday. "The road probably doesn't rank with the pyramids as a construction feat, but it is a major engineering achievement," said his colleague, geologist James Harrell of the University of Toledo. "Not only is the road earlier than we thought possible, we didn't even think they built roads."

The researchers also made a discovery in the stone pit at the northern end of the road: the first evidence that the Egyptians used rock saws. "This is the oldest example of saws being used for cutting stone," said Bown's colleague James Hoffmeier of Wheaton College in Illinois. "That's

two technologies we didn't know they had," Harrell said. "And we don't know why they were both abandoned."

The road was discovered in the Faiyum Depression, about 45 miles southwest of Cairo. Short segments of the road had been observed by earlier explorers, Bown said, but they failed to realize its significance or follow up on their observations. Bown and his colleagues stumbled across it while they were doing geological mapping in the region.

The road was clearly built to provide services for the newly discovered stone pit. Bown and Harrell have found the camp that housed workers at the stone pit. The road appears today to go nowhere, ending in the middle of the desert. When it was built, its terminal was a dock on the shore of Lake Moeris, which had an elevation of about 66 feet above sea level, the same as the dock.

Lake Moeris received its water from the annual floods of the Nile. At the time of the floods, the river and lake were at the same level and connected through a gap in the hills near the modern villages of el-Lahun and Hawara. Harrell and Bown believe that blocks were loaded onto barges during the dry season, then floated over to the Nile during the floods to be shipped off to the monument sites at Giza and Saqqara.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What do we learn from the lecture about the world's oldest paved road in Egypt?
17. What did the researchers discover in the stone pit?
18. For what purpose was the paved road built?

**Recording Two**

The thin, extremely sharp needles didn't hurt at all going in. Dr. Gong pierced them into my left arm, around the elbow that had been bothering me. Other needles were slipped into my left wrist and, strangely, into my right arm, and then into both my closed eyelids.

There wasn't any discomfort, just a mild warming sensation. However, I did begin to wonder what had driven me here, to the office of Dr. James Gong, in New York's Chinatown.

Then I remembered--the torturing pain in that left elbow. Several trips to a hospital and two expensive, uncomfortable medical tests had failed to produce even a diagnosis. "Maybe you lean on your left arm too much," the doctor concluded, suggesting I see a bone doctor.

During the hours spent waiting in vain to see a bone doctor, I decided to take another track and try acupuncture. A Chinese-American friend recommended Dr. Gong. I took the subway to Gong's second-floor office, marked with a hand-painted sign.

Dr. Gong speaks English, but not often. Most of my questions to him were greeted with a friendly laugh, but I managed to let him know where my arm hurt. He asked me to go into a room, had me lie down on a bed, and went to work. In the next room, I learned, a woman dancer was also getting a treatment. As I lay there a while, I drifted into a dream-like state and fantasized about what she looked like.

Acupuncturists today are as likely to be found on Park Avenue as on Mott Street. In all there are an estimated 10,000 acupuncturists in the country. Nowadays, a lot of medical doctors have learned acupuncture techniques; so have a number of dentists. Reason? Patient demand. Few, though, can adequately explain how acupuncture works.

Acupuncturists may say that the body has more than 800 acupuncture points. A life force called qi circulates through the body. Points on the skin are energetically connected to specific

organs, body structures and systems. Acupuncture points are stimulated to balance the circulation of qi.

The truth is, though acupuncture is at least 2,200 years old, “nobody really knows what’s happening,” says Paul Zmiewski, a Ph.D. in Chinese studies who practices acupuncture in Philadelphia.

After five treatments, there has been dramatic improvement in my arm, and the pain is a fraction of what it was. The mainly silent Dr. Gong finally even offered a diagnosis for what troubled me. “Pinched nerve,” he said.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What does the speaker find especially strange?

20. Why did the speaker go see Dr. Gong?

21. What account for the growing popularity of acupuncture in the United States, according to the speaker?

**Recording Three**

Ronald and Lois married for two decades consider themselves a happy couple. But in the early years of their marriage both were disturbed by persistent arguments that seemed to fade away without ever being truly resolved. They uncovered clues to what was going wrong by researching a fascinating subject: How birth order affects not only your personality but also how compatible you are with your mate.

Ronald and Lois are only children and “onlies” grow up accustomed to being the apple of parents’ eyes. Match two “onlies” and you have partners to subconsciously expect each other to continue fulfilling this expectation while neither has much experience in the giving end. Here’s a list of common birth-order characteristics--and some thoughts on the best (and worst) marital matches for each.

The oldest tends to be self-assured, responsible, a high achiever and relatively serious and reserved. He may be slow to make friends, perhaps content with only one companion. The best matches are with a youngest, an only, or a mate raised in a large family. The worst match is with another oldest, since the two will be too sovereign to share a household comfortably.

The youngest child of the family thrives on attention and tends to be outgoing, adventurous, optimistic, creative and less ambitious than others in the family. He may lack self-discipline and have difficulty making decisions on his own.

A youngest brother of brothers, often unpredictable and romantic, will match best with an oldest sister of brothers. The youngest sister of brothers is best matched with the oldest brother of sisters who will happily indulge these traits.

The middle child is influenced by many variables. However, “middles” are less likely to take initiative, and more anxious and self-critical than others. “Middles” often successfully marry other “middles”, since both are strong on tact, not so strong on the aggressiveness, and tend to crave for affection.

The only child is often most comfortable when alone. But since an only tends to be a well-adjusted individual, she’ll eventually learn to relate to any chosen spouse. The male only child expects his wife to make life easier without getting much in return. He is sometimes best matched with a younger sister of brothers. The female only child who tends to be slightly more flexible, is

well matched with an older man who will indulge her tendency to test his love. Her worst match? Another only. Of course.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

- 22. What does the speaker say about Ronald and Lois's early years of married life?
- 23. What do we learn about Ronald and Lois?
- 24. What does the speaker say about the oldest child in a family?
- 25. What does the speaker say about the only children?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2018 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 （第 2 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

The relationship between a teacher and a student can be good or bad, helpful or harmful. The relationship can affect a student for the rest of his or her life. A healthy and sound teacher-student relationship will make learning enjoyable and mutually understandable, whereas a bad one can discourage the student from learning and make teaching an unpleasant burden.

In order to have a good teacher-student relationship, it is important that teachers and students

should respect each other. At first, teachers do not have to force students to learn. In fact, many students will often work hard simply because they respect their teachers and want to please them. Teachers should motivate and encourage student, instead of giving them punishment and criticism. Secondly, the two sides need patience and understanding. Learning can be fun when the student has the right attitude towards it. As for students, they should respect their teachers, working hard on study as a reward for their teachers.

In conclusion, a good teacher-student relationship can be mutually beneficial. Students can gain much knowledge at an enjoyable atmosphere while teachers gain satisfaction from their job.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. D  | 3. B  | 4. C  | 5. B  |
| 6. A  | 7. B  | 8. D  | 9. A  | 10. B |
| 11. D | 12. C | 13. B | 14. C | 15. A |
| 16. C | 17. A | 18. D | 19. C | 20. B |
| 21. A | 22. B | 23. D | 24. C | 25. D |

## Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. K | 27. C | 28. M | 29. E | 30. H |
| 31. A | 32. N | 33. I | 34. F | 35. L |
| 36. C | 37. H | 38. A | 39. K | 40. E |
| 41. I | 42. G | 43. B | 44. F | 45. D |
| 46. A | 47. C | 48. D | 49. A | 50. B |
| 51. B | 52. A | 53. C | 54. C | 55. D |

## Part IV Translation 参考译文

China now boasts the world's largest and fastest high-speed rail network. The operating speed of high-speed trains will continue to be improved, and high-speed rail stations will be constructed in more cities. High-speed railway cuts people's travel time to a large degree. Its distinct advantage, compared with air travel, is punctuality because it is basically unaffected by weather or traffic control. High-speed rail has dramatically changed Chinese people's lifestyle. Today, it has become the preferred means of transportation for many people on business trips. Also, an increasing number of people would take high-speed trains for holiday travel. Some young people even choose to work in one city but live in another nearby and commute by high-speed train every day.

### 听力原文

#### Section A

##### Conversation One

M: Tonight, we have a special guest from a local establishment the Parisian Café. Welcome.

W: Hi, thanks for have a meal on your show.

M: Thank you for joining us. So please tell us. Why did you decide to open a café?

W: Well, we saw the opportunity to offer something a little special and different from other establishments. Cafés certainly are a very competitive market sector. There are more than plenty in our city, and we felt they are all rather similar to each other. Wouldn't you agree?

M: Certainly yes. So how is your establishment any different?

W: Well, simply put, we have rabbits wandering freely around the place; our customers come in and enjoy their food and drinks, while little rabbits play about and brush against their legs. There is no other place like it.

M: That's amazing. How did you come up with the idea?

W: We saw other cafés with cats in them. So we thought why not rabbits? People love rabbits, they are very cute animals.

M: But it is safe? Do the rabbit ever bite people or do any customers ever hurt the rabbits?

W: It is perfectly safe both for rabbits and our customers. Rabbits are very peaceful and certainly do not bite. Furthermore, our rabbits are regularly cleaned and have all received the required shots. So there is no health risk whatsoever. As for our customers, they are all animal lovers. So they would never try to hurt the rabbits. Sometimes a young child may get overexcited and be a little too rough, but it is never a serious matter. On the contrary, the Parisian Café offers a great experience for children--a chance for them to learn about rabbits and how to take care of them.

M: Well it is certainly the first time I've heard of a café like that.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. What do we learn about the woman?
2. What does the woman say about the café in her city?
3. How does Parisian Café guarantee that its rabbits pose no health threat?
4. What does the woman say about their customers?

**Conversation Two**

M: Hey there. How are you?

W: Oh, hi. I'm great, thanks. And you look great too.

M: Thank you. It's good to see you shopping in the organic section. I see you've got lots of healthy stuff. I wish I can buy more organic produce from here. But I find that kids don't like it. I don't know about yours, but mine are all about junk food.

W: Oh, trust me. I know exactly how you feel. My children are the same. What is it with kids these days that all like junk food they eat. I think it's all that advertising on TV. That's where they get it.

M: Yes, it must be. My children see something on TV and they immediately want it. It's like they don't realize it's just an advertisement.

W: Right, and practically everything that's advertised for children is unhealthy processed foods. No surprise then, it becomes a battle for us parents to feed our children ordinary fruit and vegetables.

M: That's just the thing. One never sees ordinary ingredients being advertised on TV. It's never a carrot or a peach, it's always some garbage like chocolate covered sweet. So unhealthy.

W: Exactly. And these big food corporations have so much money to spend on clever tactics designed to make young children want to buy their products. Children never stand the chance, it's really not fair.

M: You are so right. When we were children, we barely had any junk food available and we turned out just fine.

W: Yes, my parents don't understand any of it. Both the TV commercials and the supermarkets are alien to them. Their world was so different back when they were young.

M: I don't know what will happen to the next generation.

W: The world is going crazy.

M: You bet.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What do the speakers say about the food their children like?
6. According to the speakers, what affects children's choice of food most?
7. What do the speakers believe big food corporations are doing?
8. What do we know about the speakers when they were children?

## **Section B**

### **Passage One**

At some 2300 miles in length, the Mississippi is the longest river in the United States. At some 1000 miles, the Mackenzie is the longest river in Canada. But these waterways seem mute in comparison to the world's two longest rivers --- the Nile and the Amazon.

The Nile, which begins in central Africa and flows over 4100 miles north into the Mediterranean. Host to one of the world's great ancient civilizations along its shores, Calm and peaceful for most of the year, the Nile used to flood annually. There by creating, irrigating and caring new top soil to the nearby farmland on which ancient Egypt depended for a livelihood. As a means of transportation, the river carried various vessels up and down its length. A journey through the unconstructed part of this waterway today would pass by the splendid Valley of the Kings with tombs of many of these ancient monarchs, having stood for over 3000 years.

Great civilizations and intensive settlements are hardly associated with the Amazon. Yet this 4000-mile-long South American river carries about 20% of the world's fresh water, more than the Mississippi, Nile and the Mackenzie combined.

Other statistics are equally astonishing. The Amazon is so wide at some points that from its center neither shore can be seen. Each second the Amazon pours some 55 million gallons of water into the Atlantic. There, at its mouth stands one island larger than Switzerland. Most important of all, the Amazon irrigates the largest tropical rainforest on earth.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What can be found in the Valley of the Kings?
10. In what way is the Amazon different from other big rivers?
11. What does the speaker say about the Amazon?

### **Passage Two**

How often do you say to people "I'm busy" or "I haven't got time for that?" It's inevitable true that all of us live a life in the far slain, even though we know that being busy is not always particular healthy.

Growing-up in New Zealand, everything was always calm and slow, people enjoy the tranquility of a slower pace of life. But after I moved to the Tokyo and lived there in a number of years, I got used to having a pile to-do lists, and my calendar always looks like a mess, with loads of things to do written across it. I found myself filling my time up with endless work meetings and social events, rushing along as busy as a bee.

Then, one day, I came across a book, called *In Praise of Slowness* and realized that being busy is not only detrimental, but also has the danger of turning life into endless race. So, I started



practicing various practical steps, mentioned by the author in the book, and began to revolt against the very idea of being too busy. It doesn't mean that to-do lists no longer exist, but I've become more aware of the importance of slowing down and making sure that I enjoy the daily activities as I carry them out.

From now on, when someone asks you how your life is, try responding with the words like "exciting and fun" instead of the culture norm that says "busy". See if your experience that tranquility that follows.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What does the speaker think is inevitable truth?
13. What does the speaker think about her life in Tokyo?
14. What made the speaker change her lifestyle?
15. What happened after the speaker changed her lifestyle?

## Section C

### Recording One

Governments, private groups and individuals spend billions of dollars a year trying to root out non-native organisms that are considered dangerous to ecosystems and to prevent the introduction of new intruders.

But a number of scientists question the assumption that the presence of alien species can never be acceptable in a natural ecosystem. They say that portraying introduced species as inherently bad is an unscientific approach.

"Distinctions between exotic and native species are artificial", said Dr. Michael Rosenzweig, a professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona. Because they depend on picking a date and calling the plants and animals that show up after that date exotic. Ecosystems free of species defined as exotic are, by default, considered the most natural.

"You can't roll back the clock and remove all the exotics or fix habitats," Dr. Rosenzweig said, "Both native and exotic species can become invasive, and so they all have to be monitored and controlled when they begin to get out of hand."

At its core, the debate is about how to manage the world's remaining natural ecosystems and about how, and how much, to restore other habitats. Species that invade a territory can harm ecosystems, agriculture and human health. They can threaten some native species or even destroy and replace others. Next to habitat loss, these invasive species represent the greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide, many ecologists say.

Ecologists generally define an alien species as one that people accidentally or deliberately carried to its new location. Across the American continents, exotic species are those introduced after the first European contact. That date, rounded off to 1500 AD, represents what ecologists consider to have been a major shift in the spread of species, including crops and livestock, as they began to migrate with humans from continent to continent.

"Only a small percentage of alien species cause problems in their new habitats," said Don Smith, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee.

"Of the 7,000 alien species in the United States, out of a total of 150,000 species--only about 10% are invasive," he pointed out, "The other 90% have fit into their environments and are considered naturalized."

“Yet appearances can deceive,” ecologists caution, “and many these exotics may be considered acceptable only because no one has documented their harmful effects.

What is more, non-native species can appear harmless then turn invasive.”

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What assumption about introduced species is challenged by a number of scientists?
17. What does Dr. Michael Rosenzweig think of exotic and native species?
18. What does Professor Don Smith say about alien species?

**Recording Two**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And welcome to the third in our cities of business seminars in the program Doing Business Abroad. Today we are going to look for different culture awareness. That is the fact that not everyone is British, not everyone speaks English and not everyone does business in the British way. And why should they? If overseas business people are selling to us, then they will make every effort to speak English and to respect our traditions and methods. It is only polite for us to do the same when we visit them. It is not only polite. It is essential if we want to sell British products overseas.

First, a short quiz. Let's see how to inter-culturally aware you are. Question one: Where must you not drink alcohol on the first and seventh of every month? Question two: Where should you never admire your host's possessions? Question three: How should you attract the waiter during the business lunch in Bangkok? And question four: Where should you try to make all your appointments either before 2:00 or after 5:30 pm?

Okay, everyone has a chance to make some notes? Right, here are the answers. Although I'm sure the information could equally well apply to countries other than those I have chosen. So, No.1, you must not drink alcohol on the first and seventh of the month in Indian. In international hotels you may find it served. But if you are having a meal with an Indian colleague, remember to avoid asking for a beer if your arrival coincides with one of those dates. Two, in Arab countries, the politeness and generosity of the people is without parallel. If you admire your colleague's beautiful golden bowls, you may well find yourself being presented with them as a present. This is not a cheap way to do your shopping however, as your host will quite correctly expect you to respond by presenting him with a gift of equal worth and beauty. In Thailand, clicking the fingers, clapping your hands or just shouting “Waiter!” will embarrass your hosts, fellow diners, the waiter himself and most of all--you. Place your palm downward and make an inconspicuous waving gesture, which will produce instant and satisfying results. And finally, in Spain, some businesses maintain the pattern of working until 2 o'clock and then returning to the office from 5:30 to 8:00, 9:00 or 10:00 in the evening.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What should you do when doing business with foreigners?
20. What must you avoid doing with your Indian colleague?
21. What do we learn about some Spanish business people?

**Recording Three**

Shortly after he took over the Reader's Digest Association in 1984, George Grune unlocked the company's boardroom and announced that the room was now open to the employees. It was a symbolic act, indicating that under Grune's leadership, Reader's Digest was going to be different. True to his word, Grune has shaken up the culture here.

To get an idea of the culture we're talking about, consider the boardroom Grune opened up. It has artworks that any museum in the world would want to collect, paintings by many world-famous artists like Monet and Picasso. Its headquarters houses some 3,000 works of art. The main building is topped with a Georgian Tower with four sculptures of the mythical winged horse, the magazine corporate logo. It sits on 127 acres of well-trimmed lawns.

The editor's office used to be occupied by founder Dewitt Wallace, who, along with his wife, Lila Acheson Wallace, launched Reader's Digest in 1922 with condensed articles from other publications. It has become the world's most widely read magazine, selling 28 million copies each month in 17 languages and 41 different editions. The Wallaces, both children of church ministers, had a clearly defined formula for their "Little Magazine" as Reader's Digest was originally subtitled. Articles were to be short, readable and uplifting. Subjects were picked to inspire or entertain. The Wallaces didn't accept advertising in the US edition until 1955 and even then they didn't allow any ads for cigarettes, liquor or drugs. The Wallaces also had a clear sense of the kind of workplace they wanted. It started as a mom-and-pop operation, and the childless Wallaces always considered employees to be part of their family. Employees still tell stories of how the Wallaces would take care of their employees who had met with misfortunes and they showered their employees with unusual benefits like a turkey on Thanksgiving and Fridays off in May.

This cozy workplace no longer exists here. The Wallaces both died in their nineties in the early 1980s. George Grune, a former ad salesman who joined Reader's Digest in 1960 has his eyes focused on the bottom line. In a few short years, he turned the magazine on its head. He laid off several hundred workers. Especially hard hit were the blue- and pin-collar departments, such as subscription fulfillment.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. What did George Grune do in 1984?
23. How did the Wallaces define the formula for Reader's Digest?
24. What do we learn about the founder of Reader's Digest Dewitt Wallace?
25. What change took place in Reader's Digest after the Wallaces' death?

## 2018 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 (第 3 套)

### Part I Writing 范文

It is universally acknowledged that relationship between employers and employees plays a crucial role in our society. A well-known saying goes that trust is the glue of life and the foundational principle that holds all relationships, which proves building trust between employers and employees is imperative.

Firstly, if the two parties trust each other, employees would have more passion for work. As a result, employees will work more efficiently. Secondly, company can develop more quickly with trust. Mutual trust and respect can help the two communicate and cooperate well with each other. So it's very likely that the company can survive in the fierce competition in business. For example, Haidilao hot pot is a well-known company in China which attaches importance to mutual trust. If its employers and employees don't believe in each other, they cannot have developed fast in recent years. Thirdly, with trust, society can develop well and people can be much happier.

In a word, building trust between employers and employees is really essential. When trust is built, employers and employees can directly promote the rapid progress of the organization and eventually bring economic prosperity and social harmony.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

无

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.D | 27.A | 28.N | 29.L | 30.F |
| 31.E | 32.C | 33.B | 34.J | 35.O |
| 36.J | 37.G | 38.C | 39.K | 40.B |
| 41.H | 42.N | 43.A | 44.E | 45.I |
| 46.A | 47.D | 48.B | 49.D | 50.C |
| 51.A | 52.C | 53.B | 54.D | 55.A |

### Part IV Translation

Bicycles used to be the principal means of transportation in urban and rural areas of China which was once known as "the Bicycle Kingdom". Nowadays with the growing problems of traffic congestion and air pollution in cities, bicycles are coming back into vogue. A "shared bikes" business model was recently created by Chinese entrepreneurs by combining mobile Internet technology with traditional bicycles, which makes it more convenient to travel by bike. People only need a mobile phone to unlock a shared bicycle at any time. To encourage more citizens to take trips by bike, bicycle lanes have been constructed in many cities. Meanwhile, more and more Chinese people are getting interested in keeping fit through bicycling.

## 2018 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 1 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

It is believed that a healthy balance between academic study and extracurricular activities is key to an enjoyable and successful learning experience. Although many students find it difficult to strike a balance, there are always ways to achieve this goal.

An effective approach is to give priority to academic study. If we realize that our first and foremost goal of attending school is to get the most out of the classes, we will spend most of the time on study rather than on extracurricular activities. Developing a detailed schedule is also helpful since we plan out in advance what needs to be done and therefore, we could make better use of our time. Lastly, to balance academic and non-academic study, we need to be selective about which campus clubs to join. If we join only one or two clubs that really interest us, we still have sufficient time for study.

Overall, there are various ways to focus on study without missing extracurricular activities. One thing to bear in mind is that we should find ways that suit us in order to achieve the best effect.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. B  | 3. C  | 4. D  | 5. D  |
| 6. A  | 7. B  | 8. C  | 9. A  | 10. C |
| 11. B | 12. C | 13. D | 14. A | 15. B |
| 16. A | 17. D | 18. C | 19. D | 20. A |
| 21. B | 22. D | 23. A | 24. C | 25. B |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. A | 27. I | 28. F | 29. J | 30. B |
| 31. G | 32. K | 33. M | 34. D | 35. E |
| 36. D | 37. J | 38. L | 39. A | 40. E |
| 41. K | 42. I | 43. B | 44. G | 45. C |
| 46. B | 47. C | 48. D | 49. A | 50. D |
| 51. C | 52. D | 53. B | 54. A | 55. B |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

In China, public libraries are receiving an increasing amount of attention and people are encouraged to make full use of them. Statistics released recently show that the number of public libraries in China is growing year by year. Many libraries, through renovation and extension, provide readers with a quieter and more comfortable environment. Major public libraries not only offer access to a wide variety of reference materials but also regularly hold lectures, exhibitions and other activities. In recent years, the emergence of numerous digital libraries has saved space for storing books. To further meet the needs of their readers, some libraries have even introduced self-service system which makes it more convenient to borrow and return books.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

M: Hey, I just read a great book about physics. I think you'd like it. It is called *The Physics of the World*. It is written by a scientist named Sylvia Mundus.

W: Oh I read that book. It was great. The writer is a warm and competent guide to the mysteries of physics. I think it promises enrichment for any reader from those who know little about science to the career physicist.

M: And it's refreshing to see a strong curious clever woman adding her voice to the scientific discourse and a field that has been traditionally dominated by men. I think she has to be commended for making an effort to include anecdotes about little known female scientists. You know, they were often victims of a generation firmly convinced that the women's place was in the home.

W: I like how the book is clearly written with each chapter brought to life by pieces of fascinating knowledge. For example in one chapter, she exposes a myth that I've heard taught by university physics professors. I've often heard that medieval glass windows are thicker at the bottom because glass flows like fluid. This, she shows, is not true. The distortion is actually thanks to a peculiarity of the glassmakers' process.

M: Yeah, I like how she cultivates scientific engagement by providing the host of Do It Yourself experiments that bring the same foundation of principles of classical physics that govern everything from the solar system to your kitchen table. From using complex laws of physics to test whether a spinning egg is cooked, to measuring atmosphere pressure by lifting a piece of cardboard. Her hands-on examples make her book a truly interactive read.

W: Yes, I must say this equation-free book is an ideal read for scientists of all stripes, anyone teaching science and even people who dislike physics.

#### Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. What does the woman say about the book the man recommended?
2. What can we find in the book the man recommended?
3. How does the author bring her book to life?
4. How does the book cultivate readers' interest in physics?

#### Conversation Two

M: Hi professor! I was hoping I could have a moment of your time, if you are not too busy. I'm having some problems getting started on my dissertation and I was hoping you could give me some advice on how to begin.

W: Sure. I have quite a few students though. So can you remind me what your topic is?

M: The general topic I chose is aesthetics. But that's as far as I've got. I don't really know where to go from there.

W: Yeah, that's much too large a topic. You really need to narrow it down in order to make it more accessible, otherwise you will be writing a book.

M: Exactly. That's what I wanted to ask you about. I was hoping it would be possible for me to change topics. I'm really more interested in nature than beauty.

W: I'm afraid you have to adhere to the assigned topic. Still, if you are interested in nature, then that certainly can be worked into your dissertation. We've talked about Hume before in class right?

M: Oh yeah. He's the philosopher who wrote about where our ideas of beauty come from.

W: Exactly. I suggest you go to the library and get a copy of his biography. Start from there. But remember to stick to the parameters of the assignment. This paper is a large part of your accumulative grade, so make sure to follow the instructions. If you take a look at his biography, you can get a good idea of how his life experiences manifest themselves in his theories of beauty, specifically, the way he looked towards nature as the origin of what we find beautiful.

M: Great! Thanks for taking the time to answer my questions, professor. I'll let you get back to class now.

W: If there is anything else you need, please come see me in my office anytime.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What is the man's problem?
6. What does the professor think of the man's topic?
7. What is the man really more interested in?
8. What does the professor say the man has to do?

**Section B**

**Passage One**

During the Arctic winter from October to March, the average temperature in the frozen north typically hovers around minus 20 degrees Celsius. But this year, the Arctic is experiencing much higher temperatures.

On February 20th, the temperature in Greenland climbed above freezing or zero degree Celsius and it stayed there for over 24 hours. Then, on February 24th, the temperature on Greenland northern tip reached 6 degree Celsius. Climate scientists described the phenomenon as stunning.

Weather conditions that drive this bizarre temperature surge have visited the Arctic before. They typically appear about once in a decade. However, the last such increasing temperature took place two years ago.

This is troubling as climbing Arctic temperatures combined with rapid sea-ice loss are creating a new type of climate feedback loop which could accelerate Arctic warming. Indeed, sea-ice cover in the Arctic is melting faster than expected. Without those masses of cooling sea ice, warm air brought to the Arctic can penetrate further inland than it ever did before. The air can stay warmer, and longer too. This drives additional melting.

Overall, Earth is warming at a rapid pace — 2014 through 2017 rank as the hottest years on record —and the Arctic is warming twice as fast as anywhere else on Earth. This raises unique challenges for Arctic wildlife and indigenous people who depend on Arctic ecosystems to survive.

Previously, climate forecasts predicted that Arctic summer ice would disappear entirely by around 2060. But based on what scientists are seeing now, the Arctic may be facing summers without ice within 20 years.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What did climate scientists describe as stunning?
10. What does the passage say about the temperature surge in the Arctic?



11. What may occur in 20 years according to scientists' recent observations?

### Passage Two

A good dose of will power is often necessary to see any task through, whether it's sticking to a spending plan or finishing a great novel. And if you want to increase that will power, a new study suggests, you just simply have to believe you have it. According to the study, what matters most is what we think about our will power. If we believe it's a finite resource, we act that way. We feel exhausted any breaks between demanding mental tasks. However, people who view their will power as a limitless resource get energized instead. The researchers used a psychological assessment tool to test the validity of the study. They asked one thousand one hundred Americans and one thousand six hundred Europeans to grade different statements such as "after a challenging mental activity, my energy is depleted and I must rest to get it refueled again" or "I can focus on a mental task for long periods without feeling tired." Although there was little difference between men and women over all, Americans were more likely to admit to needing breaks after completing mentally challenging tasks. European participants, on the other hand, claimed they were able to keep going. Based on the findings, the researchers suggest that the key to boosting your will power is to believe that you have an abundant supply of it. Your feelings about your will power affect the way you behave. But these feelings are changeable, they said. Changing your beliefs about the nature of your self-control can have positive effects on character development. This leads to healthier behaviors and perceptions of other people.

Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.

12. What is often necessary for carrying through a task?
13. What is the finding of the new study?
14. What do we learn about European participants as compared with their American counterparts?
15. What do the researchers say concerning people's feelings about will power?

### Section C

#### Recording One

Here is my baby niece Sarah. Her Mom is a doctor and her dad is a lawyer. By the time Sarah goes to college, the jobs her parents do are going to look dramatically different. In 2013, researchers at Oxford University did a study on the future of work. They concluded that almost one in every two jobs have a high risk of being automated by machines. Machine learning is the technology that's responsible for most of this disruption. It's the most powerful branch of artificial intelligence. It allows machines to learn from data and copy some of the things that humans can do. My company, Kaggle, operates on the cutting edge of machine learning. We bring together hundreds of thousands of experts to solve important problems for industry and academia. This gives us a unique perspective on what machines can do, what they can't do and what jobs they might automate or threaten.

Machine learning started making its way into industry in the early 90's. It started with relatively simple tasks. It started with things like assessing credit risk from loan applications, sorting the mail by reading handwritten zip codes. Over the past few years, we have made dramatic breakthroughs. Machine learning is now capable of far, far more complex tasks. In 2012, Kaggle challenged its community to build a program that could grade high-school essays. The winning

programs were able to match the grades given by human teachers.

Now, given the right data, machines are going to outperform humans at tasks like this. A teacher might read 10,000 essays over a 40-year career. A machine can read millions of essays within minutes. We have no chance of competing against machines on frequent, high-volume tasks.

But there are things we can do that machines can't do. Where machines have made very little progress is in tackling novel situations. Machines can't handle things they haven't seen many times before. The fundamental limitations of machine learning is that it needs to learn from large volumes of past data. But humans don't. We have the ability to connect seemingly different threads to solve problems we've never seen before.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What did the researchers at Oxford University conclude?
17. What do we learn about Kaggle company's winning programs?
18. What is the fundamental limitation of machine learning?

**Recording Two**

We've talked recently about the importance of sustainable energy. We've also talked about the different theories on how that can be done. So far, our discussions have all been theoretical. Now I have a practical question for you all. Can you run a one hundred and forty thousand kilogram train on just the steam generated by solar power? Well, one engineer, Tim councilman believes it's possible.

And his home city of Sacramento, California should see the technologies first test as part of the upgrading of its rail yard. Councilman, who is an inventor and self-proclaimed steam visionary, is campaigning for a new steam train that runs without any fire and could run on an existing ten kilometer line, drawing tourists and perhaps offering city commuters a green alternative to their cars. Councilman wants to build an array of solar magnifying mirrors at one end of the line to collect and focus heat onto water filled tubes.

This would generate steam that could be used to fill tanks on a small steam train without the use of fire. Supplying power to trains in this way would offer the shortest distance from well to wheels, he says, with the least amount of energy lost, according to harry valentine, a Canadian engineer who was researching modern steam technology, a special tank measuring two by ten meters could store over seven hundred and fifty kilowatt hours of energy as high pressure steam enough to pull a two car train for an hour or so. Energy to drive a steam locomotive can be stored in other materials besides water.

For example, a team at Tohoku University in japan has studied materials that can store large amounts of heat. When he did, these materials turned from a solid into a liquid, absorbing energy as they change phase. The liquid is maintained above its melting point until steam is required, at which point the liquid is allowed to turn back into a solid, releasing its stored energy. Another team at Nagoya University in japan has tested calcium compound as an energy storage material, heating this chemical compound drives off carbon dioxide gas, leaving calcium oxide.

The gas can be stored under pressure in a tank to recover the energy. The gas is bent back over the calcium oxide. In theory, says Valentine, this can create a high enough temperature to generate superheated steam.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What has the speaker previously talked about?
20. What is Tim Councilman trying to do in Sacramento?
21. What has a Japanese research team tried to do?

### **Recording Three**

Today's crisis in care for older people in England has two main causes. First, people are living longer with a lot more complex needs. Second, they rely on a system that has long been marked by a poor relation between national health and social care services.

Current services originated in two key measures. They are the National Health Service and the 1948 National Assistance Act. This required local government to provide residential accommodation for older people and supervise care homes run by independent organizations. They also provide home and community services including meals, day centers and home helpers and other subsidized services. The National Health Service was free and wholly publicly provided. It delivered the best health care for all. No such vision guided residential and community care though. The care was substantially provided by voluntary services which work together with local authorities as they long had with eligibility based on income. Today, life expectancy has risen from 66 for a male at birth in 1948 to around 80 now. In addition, there is better overall health and improved medical knowledge in care. This means an unprecedented number of people are surviving longer in conditions requiring ex-birth support. Families provide at least as much of care as they ever did. Even so, they can rarely without subsidized support address serious personal needs. Care for older people faced persistent criticism as these trends became apparent. From the early nineteen sixties, local authorities were required to plan health and welfare services. The aim was to enable older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. But this increased concern about the lack of coordination between free health and paid for social care. Through the nineteen seventies, a number of measures sought to improve matters.

However, at a time of financial crisis, funding diminished and little changed. In the 1980s, the government cut spending. Meanwhile, preference for private over public services made management even more difficult. Simultaneously, the number of sick, older people grew. Governments emphasized the need to improve services. They did so though, while doing little to stop the erosion of available aid.

Services were irregular cross authorities unless you were prepared to pay. They were increasingly difficult to obtain for any but the most severely disabled. Why has sixty years of criticism produce so little change?

Discrimination against older people has a long history. Additionally, those affected by inadequate health and social care are too vulnerable to launch the protests that have addressed other forms of discrimination.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. What is one cause of the current crisis in care for the elderly in England?
23. What does the speaker say about residential and community care?
24. What made management of care toward elderly more difficult in the 1980s?
25. What does the speaker say about older people in England?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2018 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 2 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

In the modern world, work plays such an indispensable role in our life that we have no choice but to spend a large proportion of our time on it. However, personal interests are not meant to be ignored. Therefore, it is necessary for us to find ways to balance work and hobbies.

First of all, time management is key to work efficiency because it enables us to make the best use of our time. Therefore, no matter how busy we are with our work, taking time off to learn time management skills is always necessary and helpful. If we work efficiently, we are sure to have more time for personal interests. Another effective way to strike a balance between work and

hobbies is to find a job that matches our own ability. This is to ensure that we can finish the work required and meanwhile still have energy to develop personal interests.

As it is aptly put, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Therefore, it is essential that we find ways to balance what we do for a living and what we are enthusiastic about.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C  | 2. A  | 3. B  | 4. A  | 5. D  |
| 6. B  | 7. D  | 8. C  | 9. B  | 10. A |
| 11. C | 12. D | 13. B | 14. D | 15. C |
| 16. A | 17. B | 18. A | 19. C | 20. C |
| 21. D | 22. A | 23. B | 24. D | 25. C |

## Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. F | 27. B | 28. L | 29. H | 30. D |
| 31. A | 32. M | 33. K | 34. E | 35. G |
| 36. H | 37. M | 38. N | 39. E | 40. B |
| 41. A | 42. J | 43. L | 44. G | 45. D |
| 46. B | 47. A | 48. B | 49. D | 50. A |
| 51. D | 52. B | 53. A | 54. C | 55. D |

## Part IV Translation 参考译文

In recent years, the Chinese government has ramped up investment in gym construction to meet people's soaring demand for fitness. Apart from building new gyms, many cities have taken measures such as renovating derelict factories and commercial buildings to increase the number of local gyms. Supported by government funding, more and more gyms are open to the public for free or just for a tiny fee. A lot of gyms have significantly improved their service by applying modern information technology which enables people to book sporting fields and make payments online conveniently. It can be predicted that with the continuous improvement of sports facilities, there will be increasing numbers of people going to the gym for exercise.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

M: Do you mind taking my photo with the statue over there? I think it will make a great shot.

W: Sure, no worries. You're always taking photos. What do you do with all the photos you take?

M: Well, don't laugh. My dream is to become an online celebrity of sorts.

W: You're not serious, are you?

M: I am, completely. I just got the idea a few months ago after posting some holiday photos on my social media accounts. A lot of people liked my photos and started asking me for travel tips. So I figured I'd give it a go. I post a lot on social media anyway. So I've got nothing to lose.

W: I guess that's true. So what you have to do to become Internet famous.

M: Surprisingly, a lot more than I did as a hobby. Recently, I've been spending a lot more time editing photos, posting online and clearing storage on my phone. It's always full now.

W: That doesn't sound like too much work.

M: That's more to it. I spent all last weekend researching what topics are popular, what words to use in captions and similar accounts to follow. It really was a lot to take in. And I was up well past midnight. I'd say it's paying off though. I increased the number of people following my accounts by 15% already.

W: That is impressive. I guess I never thought much about all the effort behind the scene. Now that I think about it, there's always something wrong with my photos as it is—half smiles, closed eyes, messy hair. I hope you have better luck than I do. Then again, I think the only person interested in my photos is my mom.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. What does the man ask the woman to do?
2. What does the man dream of?
3. What has the man been busy doing recently?
4. What does the woman say about her photos?

**Conversation Two**

M: Good evening and welcome to Physics Today. Here we interview some of the greatest minds in physics as they help us to understand some of the most complicated theories. Today, I'm very pleased to welcome Dr. Melissa Phillips, professor of theoretical physics. She's here to tell us a little about what it is she studies. Dr Phillips, you seem to study everything.

W: I guess that would be fair to say, spend most of my time studying The Big Bang Theory and where our university came from.

M: Can you tell us a little about that?

W: Well, I'm very interested in why the universe exists at all. That may sound odd, but the fact is at the moment of the big bang, both matter and anti-matter were created for a short time, and I mean just a fraction of a second. The whole universe was a super-hot soup of radiation filled with these particles. So what's baffled scientists for so long is "why is there a universe at all?"

M: That's because matter and anti-matter are basically opposites of each other. They are exactly alike, except that they have opposite electrical charges. So when they collide, they destroy each other?

W: Exactly. So during the first few moments of the big bang, the universe was extremely hot and very small. Matter and the now more exotic anti-matter would have had little space to avoid each other. This means that they should have totally wiped each other out, leaving the universe completely barren.

M: But a recent study seems to point to the fact that when matter and anti-matter were first created, there were slightly more particles of matter, which allowed the universe we all live in to form?

W: Exactly. Because there was slightly more matter, the collisions quickly depleted all the anti-matter and left just enough matter to create stars, planets, and eventually us.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What does the man say is Physics Today?
6. What is the woman physicist's main research area?
7. What is the woman interested in?

8. What seems to be the finding of the recent study?

## Section B

### Passage One

In this week's edition of special series on *Bizarre Medical Conditions*, there's a report of the case of Michelle Myers. Myers is an American woman who woke up one day speaking with a British accent, even though she's lived in the United States all her life. In 2015, Myers went to bed with a terrible headache. She woke up sounding like someone from England. Her British accent has remained for the past two years. Previously, Myers had woken up speaking in Irish and Australian accents.

However, on both of those occasions, the accents lasted for only a week. Myers has been diagnosed with Foreign Accent Syndrome. It's a disorder in which a person experiences a sudden change to their speech so that they sound like they are speaking in a foreign accent. The condition is most often caused by a stroke or traumatic brain injury. Although people with the syndrome have intelligible speech, their manner of speaking is altered in terms of timing and tongue placement, which may distort their pronunciation. The result is that they may sound foreign when speaking their native language.

It's not clear whether Myers has experienced a stroke or other brain damage, but she also has separate medical condition which can result in loose joints, easily bruised skin and other problems. Foreign Accent Syndrome is rare, with only about 60 cases reported within the past century. However, a different American woman reportedly spoke with the Russian accent in 2010 after she fell down the stairs and hit her head.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What happened to Michelle Myers one day?

10. What does the passage say about Foreign Accent Syndrome?

11. What accent did another American woman speak with after a head injury?

### Passage Two

There is something about water that makes it a good metaphor for life. That may be one reason why so many people find relief in swimming when life's seas get rough. And it goes some way towards explaining why books about swimming, in which people tackle icy lakes, race in rivers, and overcome oceans while reflecting on their lives, have recently become so popular.

These books reflect a trend, particularly strong in Britain, where swimming in pools is declining, but more and more folks are opting for open water. "Wild swimming" seems to be especially popular among women. Jenny Landreth recently a guide to the best swimming spots in London. Her new book, *Swell*, interweaves her own story with a history of female pioneers, who accomplished remarkable feats and paved the way for future generations.

Notions of modesty restricted women in the Victorian era, but they still swam. A "bathing machine" was rolled down to the seashore so women would not be seen in swimwear. In 1892 *The Gentle woman's Book of Sport* described a woman swimming in a heavy dress, boots, hat, gloves and carrying an umbrella.

Eventually, swimming became freer. Mixed bathing was permitted on British beaches in 1901. Women won the right to swim in public pools, learned to swim properly, created appropriate



swimwear and, in time, even competed against men. The first woman to cross the English Channel was Gertrude Ederle in 1926. She beat the record by almost two hours and her father rewarded her with a red sports car.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What has become so popular recently?
13. What did Jenny Landreth do recently?
14. What do we learn about women in the Victorian era?
15. What does the passage say about Gertrude Ederle?

## **Section C**

### **Recording One**

Today I'm going to talk about a very special kind of person. Psychologists call them "masters of deception": those rare individuals with a natural ability to tell with complete confidence, when someone is telling a lie. For decades, researchers and law enforcement agencies have tried to build a machine that will do the same thing. Now a company in Massachusetts says that by suing magnetic brain scans, they can determine with 97 percent accuracy whether someone is telling the truth.

They hope that the technology will be cleared for use in American courts by early next year. But is this really the ultimate tool for you, the lawyers of tomorrow? You will not find many brain scientists celebrating this breakthrough. The company might be very optimistic, but the ability of their machine to detect deception has not provided credible proof. That's because the technology has not been properly tested in real world situations. In life, there are different kinds of lies and diverse contexts in which they're told. These differences may elicit different brain responses.

Does their hypothesis behind the test apply in every case? We don't know the answer, because studies done on how reliable this machine is have not yet been duplicated. Much more research is badly needed. Whether the technology is eventually deemed reliable enough for the courts will ultimately be decided by the judges. Let's hope they're wise enough not to be fooled by a machine that claims to determine truthfulness at the flip of a switch. They should also be sceptical of the growing tendency to try to reduce all human traits and actions to the level of brain activity. Often they do not map that easily. Moreover, understanding the brain is not the same as understanding the mind: some researchers have suggested that thoughts cannot properly be seen as purely "internal". Instead, thoughts make sense only in reference to the individual's external world. So while there may be insights to be gained from matching behavior to brain activity, those insights will not necessarily lead to justice in a court or law. Problems surround the use of machines to spot deception, at least until it has been rigorously tested. A high-tech test that can tell when a person is not telling the truth sounds too good to be true. And when something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What have researchers and law enforcement agencies tried to do?
17. How do many brain scientists respond to the Massachusetts company's so-called technological breakthrough?
18. What does the speaker think of using a high-tech test to determine whether a person is telling

the truth?

### Recording Two

Last week, I attended a research workshop on an island in the South Pacific. Thirty people were present, and all except me came from the island, called Makelua, in the nation of Vanuatu. They live 16 different communities and speak 16 distinct languages.

In many cases, you could stand at the edge of one village and see the outskirts of the next community. Yet the residents of each village speak a completely different language. According to recent work by my colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, this island, just 100 kilometers long and 20 kilometers wide, is home to speakers of perhaps 40 different indigenous languages. Why so many?

We could ask the same question of the entire globe. People don't speak one universal language, or even a handful. Instead, today our species collectively speaks over 7000 distinct languages.

And these languages are not spread randomly across the planet. For example, far more languages are found in tropical regions than in the mild zones. The tropical island of New Guinea is home to over 900 languages. Russia, 20 times larger, has 105 indigenous languages. Even within the tropics, language diversity varies widely. For example, the 250,000 people who live on Vanuatu's 80 islands speak 110 different languages, but in Bangladesh, a population 600 times greater speaks only 41 languages.

How come humans speak so many languages? And why are they so unevenly spread across the planet? As it turns out, we have few clear answers to these fundamental questions about how humanity communicates.

Most people can easily brainstorm possible answers to these intriguing questions. They hypothesize that language diversity must be about history, cultural differences, mountains or oceans dividing populations.

But when our diverse team of researchers from six different disciplines and eight different countries began to review what was known, we were shocked that only a dozen previous studies had been done, including one we ourselves completed on language diversity in the Pacific.

These prior efforts all examined the degree to which different environmental, social and geographic variables correlated with the number of languages found in a given location. The results varied a lot from one study to another, and no clear patterns emerged. The studies also ran up against many methodological challenges, the biggest of which centered on the old statistical saying—correlation does not equal causation.

### Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.

19. What does the speaker say about the island of Makelua?
20. What do we learn from the talk about languages in the world?
21. What have the diverse team of researchers found about the previous studies on language diversity?

### Recording Three

We often hear people say that America is a land of opportunity, a country built on hope to aspire the greatness on the American dream. But is the dream as we once knew it dying? Today's demographics show that the middle-class is disappearing and now the richest 1% of the population

has amassed more wealth than the bottom 90%。

Once upon a time, Americans thought that if they worked hard enough, even in the phase of adversity, they would be rewarded with success. These days though, the divide between rich and poor is greater than it has ever been. The question is: what is it going to take to change things? Maybe one day soon, real change will actually be made in our nation and the gap will be eradicated. But what happens in the mean time? Is there something that we can do to help close the gap? Is there something that we can do to prove that a little compassion goes a long way?

If we want to fix the problem of the income gap, first, we have to understand it. It is a grim reality that you can have one person who only makes around \$13,000 a year, while across town, another is making millions. For me, it is kind of astonishing. And if you ask low-income people what's the one thing that would change the life, they'll say "a full-time job". That's all they aspire to.

So, why is it so difficult for so many people to find employment? It partly comes down to profit-driven business models that are built around low-wage work and part-time jobs that don't provide benefits. Businesses, in order to boost their profits, hire employees as part-time workers only. This means they're paid the lowest legal wage and receive no health care or other benefits provided to full-time employees. Simultaneously, technological advancement and a global economy has reduced the demand for well-paying blue-collar jobs here in the United States. The cumulative effect of these two factors is that many Americans are forced to take two or more part-time jobs, just to make ends meet.

What has become obvious to me when it comes to the income gap is that there needs to be an opportunity for the people at the bottom to push them back up and push them into the middle-class to give them hope in their lives.

22. What do the surveys show about America according to the speaker?

Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.

23. What did Americans use to believe?

24. What do low-income people aspire to?

25. What do businesses do to increase their revenues?

## 2018 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 3 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

It is never easy to maintain a balance between work and play. Yet there are solutions to this problem.

First of all, it is helpful if we take on-job training from time to time to improve our job skills. Nowadays, what we have learned is soon outdated and therefore constant acquisition of new skills we are sure to work with higher efficiency and have more time. However, having time is not enough for recreational activities. Energy is another important factor in balancing work and leisure. With mounting work to do, we may easily feel drained or depressed, physically and mentally. Consequently, even if we have one or two days off each week, we are likely to feel fatigued and do not feel like doing anything. Yet if we make physical exercise a regular part of our lives, our energy will be boosted and there will be a different picture.

Overall, working hard and enjoying oneself are not usually exclusive. The point is that we need to find ways to strike a balance between the two.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

无

## Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.F | 27.C | 28.A | 29.E | 30.M |
| 31.K | 32.O | 33.N | 34.H | 35.L |
| 36.K | 37.I | 38.E | 39.M | 40.G |
| 41.O | 42.C | 43.L | 44.F | 45.D |
| 46.C | 47.A | 48.B | 49.A | 50.C |
| 51.B | 52.C | 53.D | 54.A | 55.C |

## Part IV Translation 参考译文

In recent years, with more and more museums open to the public for free in China, there has been a marked increase in the number of both museum exhibitions and visitors. Long queues have been commonplace in front of those popular museums which have to take measures to limit the number of visitors. Nowadays, the forms of exhibition are becoming increasingly diverse. Some large museums make use of advanced technologies such as multimedia and virtual reality to make exhibitions more attractive. Quite a few museums even hold online exhibitions which enable people to appreciate the valuable and rare exhibits via the Internet. Nevertheless, most visitors still find it more appealing to have a look at the exhibits in person.

## 2019 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 1 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

Nowadays, widespread social pressure to achieve excellent academic performance in conjunction with increasingly high expectations from their parents and teachers in a fast-moving world often causes students to be saddled with enormous academic tasks. As a result, arousing their motivation and teaching them some efficient methods prove to be especially crucial.

From my perspective, the importance of motivation and methods in study can be illustrated from the following two respects. For one thing, it is beyond dispute that methods enable us to enhance our efficiency, thus helping us achieve success in study. For another, motivation, undisputedly, is a prerequisite for achieving an outstanding academic performance. Those who have strong studying motivation are willing to spend more time and energy in learning various subjects, thus achieving greater academic performance. On the contrary, those who lack motive are

inclined to perform worse in study.

To put it in a nutshell, motivation and methods are of great significance to our academic performance. Accordingly, it is advisable for teachers and parents to arouse students' interest in study and teach them some useful ways to study.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C  | 2. A  | 3. B  | 4. A  | 5. C  |
| 6. D  | 7. B  | 8. D  | 9. A  | 10. B |
| 11. C | 12. D | 13. A | 14. D | 15. A |
| 16. B | 17. D | 18. C | 19. D | 20. B |
| 21. A | 22. A | 23. B | 24. C | 25. A |

## Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. I | 27. L | 28. B | 29. N | 30. G |
| 31. E | 32. O | 33. A | 34. D | 35. C |
| 36. M | 37. G | 38. D | 39. I | 40. C |
| 41. H | 42. F | 43. O | 44. A | 45. K |
| 46. B | 47. C | 48. A | 49. D | 50. C |
| 51. B | 52. C | 53. D | 54. A | 55. B |

## Part IV Translation 参考译文

As China boasts a vast land and a huge population, many people speak their own dialects, which vary greatly in pronunciation but slightly in vocabulary and grammar. Dialects extremely vary in pronunciation, while the difference between vocabulary and grammar is small. Some dialects, especially those of the north and the south, are so different that their speakers can hardly understand each other. Dialect is considered as an integral part of local culture, but the number of people who can speak in dialects has been decreasing in recent years. In order to encourage people to use more dialects, some local governments have taken measures for the purpose of preserving the local cultural heritage, such as dialect lessons and dialect programmers on TV or radio.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

**W:** Hi, my name's Cathy. Nice to meet you!

**M:** Nice to meet you too Cathy. My name's John. I'm a university friend of the bride. What about you? Who do you know at this party?

**W:** I am a colleague of Brenda. I was a little surprised to be invited, to be honest. We've only been working together the last six months, but we quickly became good friends. We just wrapped up a project with a difficult client last week. I bet Brenda is glad it's done with, and she can focus on wedding preparations.

**M:** Oh, yes. So you're Cathy from the office. Actually I've heard a lot about you in that project. The client sounded like a real nightmare.

**W:** Oh, he was... I mean we deal with all kinds of people on a regular basis—it's part of the job—but he was especially particular. Enough about that. What line of work are you in?

**M:** Well, right out of college I worked in advertising for a while. Recently though, I turn my photography hobby into a small business. I'll actually be taking photos during the big event as a wedding gift.

**W:** That sounds wonderful and very thoughtful of you I bake, just as a hobby. But Brenda has asked me to do the cake for the wedding. I was a bit nervous saying yes because I'm far from a professional.

**M:** Did you bake the cookies here at the party tonight?

**W:** Yes, I got the idea from a magazine.

**M:** They're delicious! You've got nothing to worry about. You are a natural.

**W:** You really think so?

**M:** If you hadn't told me that, I would've guessed they were baked by the restaurant. You know, with your event planning experience you could very well open your own shop.

**W:** (laughing) One step at a time. First, I'll see how baking the wedding cake goes. If it's not a disaster, maybe I'll give it some more thought.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. What did Cathy and Brenda finish doing last week?
2. What is John going to do for Brenda?
3. How did Cathy feel when asked to bake the cake?
4. What does the man suggest the woman do?

### Conversation Two

**M:** You're heading for a completely different world, now that you're about to graduate from high school.

**W:** I know it's the end of high school, but many of my classmates are going on to the same university, and we're still required to study hard. So what's the difference?

**M:** Many aspects are different here at university. The most important one is that you have to take more individual responsibility for your actions. It's up to your own self-discipline—how much effort you put into study. Living in college dormitories, there're no parents to tell you to study harder or stop wasting time. Lecturers have hundreds of students and they're not going to follow you up or question you if you miss their lectures.

**W:** Nobody cares, you mean?

**M:** It's not that nobody's concerned about you. It's just that suddenly at university you are expected to behave like an adult. That means concentrating on the direction of your life in general and your own academic performance specifically.

**W:** For example...?

**M:** Well, like you need to manage your daily, weekly and monthly schedules, so that you study regularly. Be sure to attend all classes and leave enough time to finish assignments and prepare well for examinations.

**W:** Ok, and what else is different?

**M:** Well, in college there're lots of distractions, and you need to control yourself. You will make interesting friends, but you need only keep the friends who respect your student commitments. Also, there are a lot of wonderful clubs, but you shouldn't allocate too much time to club activities, unless they're directly related to your study. It's also your choice if you want to go out at night, but

you would be foolish to let that affect your class performance during the day.

W: Well, I'm determined to do well at university and I guess I'm going to have to grow up fast.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What does the man say about college students as compared with high schoolers?
6. What are college students expected to do according to the man?
7. What kind of friends does the man suggest the woman make as a college student?
8. What kind of club activities should college students engage in according to the man?

**Section B**

**Passage One**

Most successful people are unorthodox persons whose minds wonder outside traditional ways of thinking. Instead of trying to refine old formulas, they invent new ones. When Jean-Claude Killy made the French national ski team in the early 1960s, he was prepared to work harder than anyone else to be the best. At the crack of dawn, he would run up the slopes with his skis on—an unbelievably backbreaking activity. In the evening, he would do weightlifting and running. But the other team members were working as hard and long as he was. He realized instinctively that simply training harder would never be enough. Killy then began challenging the basic theories of racing technique.

Each week, he would try something different to see if he could find a better, faster way down the mountain. His experiments resulted in a new style that was almost exactly opposite the accepted technique of the time. It involved skiing with his legs apart for better balance and sitting back on the skis when he came to a turn. He also used ski poles in an unorthodox way—to propel himself as he skied. The explosive new style helped cut Killy's racing time dramatically.

In 1966 and 1967, he captured virtually every major skiing trophy. The next year, he won three gold medals in the Winter Olympics, a record in ski racing that has never been topped. Killy learned an important secret shared by many creative people: innovations don't require genius, just a willingness to question the way things have always been done.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What does the speaker say about most successful people?
10. What does the speaker say about Killy's experiments?
11. What is said to be Killy's biggest honor in his skiing career?

**Passage Two**

Scientific experiments have demonstrated incredible ways to kill a guinea pig, a small furry animal. Emotional upsets generate powerful and deadly toxic substances. Blood samples taken from persons experiencing intense fear or anger when injected into guinea pigs have killed them in less than two minutes. Imagine what these poisonous substances can do to your own body.

Every thought that you have affects your body chemistry within a split second. Remember how you feel when you are speeding down the highway and a big truck suddenly brakes twenty meters in front of you. A shock wave shoots through your whole system. Your mind produces instant reactions in your body.

The toxic substances that fear, anger, frustration and stress produce not only kill guinea pigs



but kill us off in a similar manner. It is impossible to be fearful, anxious, irritated and healthy at the same time. It is not just difficult; it is impossible. Simply put, your body's health is a reflection of your mental health. Sickness will often then be a result of unresolved inner conflicts which in time show up in the body.

It is also fascinating how our subconscious mind shapes our health. Do you recall falling sick on a day when you didn't want to go to school? Headaches brought on by fear? The mind-body connection is such that if, for example, we want to avoid something, very often our subconscious mind will arrange it. Once we recognize that these things happen to us, we are half way to doing something about them.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What happens to guinea pigs when blood samples of angry people are injected into them?
13. What does the speaker say about every thought you have?
14. What does the speaker say is impossible?
15. What does the passage say about our mind and body?

## Section C

### Recording One

Teachers and students alike have experienced the curious paradox that beginners, as a rule, tend to think too little about what they are doing because they think too much about what they are doing. Take for example people who are learning to play basketball or the piano. They have to give so much thought and attention to the low-level mechanics of handling the ball or fingering the keys or reading the music, that they are unable to give any thought to the thing that matters—the game, or the music, respectively. With experts, it's just the other way around. They are open to the tactical possibilities and the musical challenges precisely because they are freed, through skill, from the need to pay attention to the low-level details of how to play. Indeed, when the expert pays attention to the mechanics, this is liable to disrupt performance.

This has led some to say that the expert operates in a zone 'beyond thought', in a state of flow. But this is misleading. Expert performance is not beyond thought. Smart basketball players or skilled musicians need to pay close attention to the demands of high performance, to the challenges to be overcome. What they don't need to do—what would be a distraction—is to have to think about where their fingers are, or how to control the ball while running. It's not mechanics, but the play itself, that absorbs the experts' intelligence. A nice video published online last month sheds light on expertise and the conscious mind. The video reports a new study using an eye-tracking device. It turns out that the less-skilled pianist spends more time looking at her fingers than does the expert who, in contrast, is more likely to be looking at the sheet music, or looking ahead at keys he's not yet playing. In general, the expert's gaze was calmer and more stable.

This is not a surprising finding. It supports what we might almost think of as conventional wisdom. But it's remarkable for all that, nonetheless. The eye tracker gives expert and learning performers a glimpse into what they do without thinking about it. The topic of the nature of skill—and the differences between beginners and experts has been one of considerable discussion in cognitive science and philosophy.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What does the speaker say about beginners and expert pianists?
17. What do smart basketball players do according to the speaker?
18. What do we learn about the new study published in an online video?

### Recording Two

Every summer when I top up my selection of summer outfits from the department stores, my eyes would nearly pop out of my head. [19]I'm overwhelmed with the wide range of different slimming products each year. And more shockingly, these products are often advocated by very slim models. Having lived in Asia for almost ten years now, I've seen various dieting tips come and go. I remember in Japan people heading directly to the fruit section in the supermarket when the banana diet was at its peak. Then, there was the black tea and oolong tea diet followed by the soybean diet and the tomato juice diet. The list goes on and on.

Apart from what people eat, I've also seen many interesting slimming products. In Hong Kong, I've seen girls wrapping their whole body or both legs up with a special type of slimming tape which is supposed to help make them thinner. But it just reminded me of the roasted ham my mother usually puts on the dinner table of Christmas. Then there were the face slimming rollers that were said to improve your blood circulation and make your face smaller. Personally, I do not believe in any of these slimming gadgets. And I think I have a very different perspective when it comes to the definition of what is beautiful. Asian women prefer to avoid the sun because being pale or white is considered beautiful, whereas a tanned complexion is considered much more beautiful and sexy in the west. It is most certainly shaped by a person's culture as well as how they were raised in their childhood. As each summer season approaches, there's no escape from it.

But it's not only women who are affected by this pressure to look good. Men aspire to be able to show off their six packs or their V-shape backs and there's a growing market of slimming pills aimed at men too. I think no matter what diets we follow or what slimming products we obsess ourselves with, at the end of the day there's no magic trick to shape up for the summer. Eat in a balanced way and incorporate the right level of physical activity. For me, this still seems to be the best plan.

### Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.

19. What overwhelms the speaker when she buys her summer outfits each year?
20. What does the speaker think of girls wrapping their legs up with slimming tape?
21. What does the speaker think affects people's interpretation of beauty?

### Recording Three

Skin may seem like a superficial human attribute, but it's the first thing we notice about anyone we meet. As a zoologist focusing on the studies of apes and monkeys, I've been studying why humans evolved to become the naked ape, and why skin comes in so many different shades around the world.

We can make a very good estimate from the fossil record that humans probably evolved naked skin around a million and a half years ago. And meanwhile, they mostly lost their coat of fur. Today, we have a few patches of hair remaining on various parts of our bodies. But compared with apes and monkeys, we have very little. Basically, we turned our skin darker to serve as a natural sun-protector in the place of the hair we lost. We think we lost this hair because of the need to keep

ourselves cool, when we were moving around vigorously in a hot environment. We can't really lose heat by breathing quickly and loudly like dogs. We have to do it by sweating. So we evolved the ability to sweat plentifully, and lost most of our fur.

Most animals protect themselves from the sun with fur. What we did in our ancestry was to produce more permanent natural coloring in our skin cells. This was really an important revolution in human history, because it allowed us to continue to evolve in equatorial environments. It really made it possible for us to continue along the path toward modern humans in Africa.

For most of the human history, we all had dark skin. What we see today is the product of evolutionary events, resulting from the dispersal of a few human populations out of Africa around 60,000 to 70,000 years ago. Our species originated around 200,000 years ago, and underwent tremendous diversification, culturally, technologically, linguistically, artistically, for 130,000 years. After that, a few small populations left Africa to populate the rest of the world. These early ancestors of modern Eurasians disperse into parts of the world that had more seasonal sunshine and much lower levels of sun radiation. It's in these populations that we begin to see real changes in the genetic makeup of natural coloring.

Today, skin color is evolving via new mixtures of people coming together and having children with new mixtures of skin color genes. We can see this in almost every large city worldwide. Not only the coloring genes, but lots of other genes are getting mixed up, too.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. What does the speaker mainly talk about?
23. What had probably caused humans to lose most of their hair one and a half million years ago?
24. What does the speaker say protected early humans from the sun?
25. What happened after humans migrated from Africa to other parts of the world?

## 2019年6月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 (第2套)

### Part I Writing 范文

Just as an old saying goes, understand and respect others, and you will be understood and respected. This thought-provoking remark intends to inform us that mutual understanding and respect matter a great deal in interpersonal relationships.

In my eyes, mutual understanding and respect prove to be the first step to building a harmonious relationship with others in the general routine of everyday living. Those who understand and respect others' differences and privacy tend to win their trust and favor, thus cultivating friendship with them. On the contrary, those who are self-centered and show no consideration and respect to the feelings of people around them are inclined to find it difficult to establish a harmonious relationship. Take my roommate—Li Ming—for example. He is always teasing his roommates about their different lifestyles and making some noises when they have a rest. His lack of understanding and respect for his roommates resulted in a tense relationship with them.

In light of what has been argued so far, mutual understanding and respect play an extremely vital role in our interpersonal relationships. Therefore, it is advisable for college students to learn

to understand and respect various lifestyles and values in the daily routine.

## Part II Listening Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D  | 2. B  | 3. A  | 4. D  | 5. A  |
| 6. C  | 7. B  | 8. D  | 9. C  | 10. B |
| 11. A | 12. C | 13. A | 14. D | 15. B |
| 16. A | 17. D | 18. C | 19. B | 20. A |
| 21. B | 22. C | 23. D | 24. C | 25. B |

## Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. I | 27. O | 28. J | 29. B | 30. C |
| 31. K | 32. H | 33. D | 34. A | 35. F |
| 36. C | 37. M | 38. E | 39. G | 40. N |
| 41. N | 42. H | 43. B | 44. J | 45. D |
| 46. D | 47. A | 48. C | 49. A | 50. B |
| 51. D | 52. C | 53. A | 54. D | 55. B |

## Part IV Translation 参考译文

Currently, Chinese is the language with the largest number of native speakers in the world. A great difference between Chinese and western languages is that Chinese is composed of characters rather than letters. Chinese is the oldest writing system still in use. People from different regions may not understand each other's dialects in China. However, they hardly have difficulty in communicating since Chinese characters have a unified writing form. Chinese has played an important role in uniting the Chinese nation. Currently, a growing number of people from other countries have begun to learn Chinese accompanied by China's booming economy and increasing global influence.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

W: Wow, I would give anything to be more like Audrey Hepburn.

M: I never really understood why so many girls were such big fans of her. I mean, I've seen the famous films, Roman Holiday, Breakfast at Tiffany's and a few others, but I still don't fully get it. Was she that great of an actress?

W: Well, for me, my adoration goes beyond her movies. She had such a classic elegance about her. She was always so poised, in part because she spent years training as a ballet dancer before becoming an actress.

M: Why didn't she stick to dancing as a career?

W: It seems it was fate. She suffered from inadequate nutrition during the war, and therefore a career as a professional dancer would have been too demanding on her body. So she focused on acting instead. Roman Holiday was her first big break which made her a star.

M: Was that the film that opened with her shopping for jewelry in New York City? You know, the scene—she was wearing a black dress and dark sunglasses with a pearl necklace and long black

gloves. I see the photo of her in that costume everywhere.

W: No, that one is Breakfast at Tiffany's. That costume is often referred to as the most famous little black dress of all time. Her character in that film is very outgoing and charming, even though in real life, Audrey always describe herself as shy and quiet.

M: So what did she do after her acting career?

W: She dedicated much of her life to helping children in need. Her family received international aid during the war when she was growing up. I think that left a big impression on her. That's where I got the idea to volunteer or children's charity next weekend.

M: I'll join you. I may not be as charming as Audrey Hepburn, but I'm all for supporting a good cause.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. What does the man say . What does the man sayd cau?
2. What prevented Audrey Hepburn from becoming a professional dancer?
3. What do we learn about Audrey Hepburn in real life?
4. Why did Audrey Hepburn devote much of her life to charity after her acting career?

**Conversation Two**

W: So, how is our presentation about the restructuring of the company coming along?

M: Fine. I'm putting the finishing touches to it now, but we'll have to be prepared for questions.

W: Yes, there's already a feeling that this is a top-down change. We really need to get everyone on board.

M: Well, there's been an extensive consultation period.

W: I know, but there's always the feeling that if it isn't broke, don't fix it.

M: People are worried about their jobs, too. I think we need to stress that while there'll be some job changes, there won't be anyone getting dismissed. In fact, we're looking to take on more staff.

W: Agreed. You can hardly blame people for worrying though. We need to make it clear that it's not just change for change's sake. In other words, we really must make the case for why we are doing it. So what's the outline of the presentation?

M: I'll start with a brief review of the reasons for the change that we really need to make a clean break to restart growth. After that I'll outline the new company structures and who's going where. Then I'll hand it over to you to discuss the timeline and summarize, and we'll take questions together at the end. Anything else?

W: Oh, yeah, we should let the staff know the channels of communication. You know, who they can contact or direct questions to about these changes?

M: Yes, and we can collect some frequently asked questions and present some general answers.

W: Um, and we'll make the presentation and the questions available via the company's own computer network, right?

M: Yes, we'll make a page on the network, where staff can download all the details.

W: All right, perhaps we should do a practice run of the presentation first.

M: You bet.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What is the man going to do?
6. What does the man say about the restructuring?
7. What will the man explain first?
8. How can the staff learn more about the company's restructuring?

## **Section B**

### **Passage One**

Airline passengers have to deal with a lot these days, getting bumped from flights and losing luggage on top of the general anxiety that nervous passengers always feel. At the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, miniature horses deliver a calming force two times a month.

Denver and Ruby are two of the 34 therapy horses brought in from a local farm. They can usually be found in the ticket counter area interacting with travelers. More than 30 airports across the country now have therapy dogs. San Francisco has a therapy pig. San Jose, California, began a dog program after the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Since its beginning, the program has now grown and has 21 therapy dogs and a therapy cat. The animals don't get startled. They have had hundreds of hours of airport training, so they are used to having luggage and people crowding around them.

These professional animals are probably better at finding their way in the airports than the most frequent of travelers. The passengers often say that seeing animals makes them feel much better and helps them to calm down before a flight. This little bit of support can sometimes make a big difference. Some passengers enjoy the animals so much that they call the airport to schedule flights around their visits. Visits to nursing homes and schools are also a regular part of the horses' schedule. Their owner is already working on a new idea for a therapy animal—donkeys.

### **Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What is special about the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport?
10. What are the trained animals probably capable of doing in an airport?
11. What do some passengers try to do?

### **Passage Two**

Hello, viewers. Today I'm standing at a 2,000-year-old Roman era site. Here, the brightly colored scenes that once decorated a mansion are being dug up. These scenes are turning up in the southern French city of Arles, surprising the historians who have been working here since 2014. Patches of paint still cling to the stone walls of the bedroom and reception hall.

Some of these painted walls are preserved in places to a height of one meter. In addition, thousands of fragments that fell off the walls have been recovered. These pieces have been put back together with great care and display a variety of images. Some of these images include figures never seen before in France, such as a woman playing a stringed instrument, possibly a character from mythology. The paintings were done with such skill and with such expensive dyes that experts believed the artists originally came from Italy. They were likely hired by one of the city's elite.

Perhaps a Roman official wanted Pompeii-like interior to remind him of home. He was probably stationed in this provincial trading port founded in 46 B.C. as a colony for veterans of the Roman army. Or maybe a wealthy local wanted to show off his worldly sophistication. The



paintings may yield even more stunning surprises as additional sections are put together like pieces of a puzzle. Whoever it was that created such magnificent pieces of art, they surely had no idea that their work would still be around thousands of years later.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. Where is the speaker standing?
13. What do the thousands of fragments display when they are put back together?
14. What makes experts think the paintings were done by artists from Italy?
15. What do we learn from the passage about the owner of the mansion?

## Section C

### Recording One

Good afternoon, class! Today I want to discuss with you a new approach to empirical research. In the past, scientists often worked alone. They were confined to the university or research center where they worked. Today, though, we are seeing mergers of some of the greatest scientific minds, regardless of their location. There has never been a better time for collaborations with foreign scientists. In fact, the European Union is taking the lead. Spurred on by funding policies, half of European research articles had international co-authors in 2007. This is more than twice the level of two decades ago.

The European Union's level of international co-authorship is about twice that of the United States, Japan and India. Even so, the levels in these countries are also rising. This is a sign of the continued allure of creating scientific coalitions across borders.

Andras Schubert, a researcher at the Institute for Science Policy Research, says that the rising collaboration is partly out of necessity. This necessity comes with the rise of 'big science'. Many scientific endeavours have become more complicated. These new complications require the money and labour of many nations. But he says collaborations have also emerged because of increased possibilities: the Internet allows like-minded scientists to find each other. Simultaneously, dramatic drops in communication costs ease long-distance interactions. And there's a reward: studies of citation counts show that internationally co-authored papers have better visibility. Schubert says "international collaboration is a way to spread ideas in wider and wider circles."

Caroline Wagner, a research scientist at George Washington University, notes that international collaborations offer additional flexibility. Whereas local collaborations sometimes persist past the point of usefulness because of social or academic obligations, international ones can be cultivated and dropped more freely.

The collaborative trend is true across scientific disciplines. Some fields, though, have a greater tendency for it. Particle physicists and astronomers collaborate often. This is because they must share expensive facilities. Mathematicians, by contrast, tend historically towards solitude. As a consequence, they lag behind other disciplines. However, Wagner says, partnerships are rising there, too.

The level of collaboration also varies from country to country. "There are historical and political reasons as to why collaborations emerge," says Wagner. This rise is also apparently boosted by policies embedded in European framework funding schemes. These policies underlie funding requirements that often require teamwork.



**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What do we learn about the research funding policies in the European Union?
17. Why do researchers today favor international collaboration?
18. What do we learn about the field of mathematics?

### **Recording Two**

Good evening! In 1959, on the day that I was born, a headline in *Life* magazine proclaimed "Target Venus: There May be Life There!" It told of how scientists rode a balloon to an altitude of 80,000 feet to make telescope observations of Venus's atmosphere and how their discovery of water raised hopes that there could be living things there. As a kid, I thrilled to tales of adventure in Isaac Asimov's juvenile science-fiction novel *Lucky Starr and the Oceans of Venus*.

For many of my peers, though, Venus quickly lost its romance. The very first thing that scientists discovered with a mission to another planet was that Venus was not at all the earthly paradise that fiction had portrayed. It is nearly identical to our own planet in bulk properties such as mass, density, and size. But its surface has been cooked and dried by an ocean of carbon dioxide. Trapped in the burning death-grip of a runaway greenhouse effect, Venus has long been held up as a cautionary tale for everything that could go wrong on a planet like Earth. As a possible home for alien life, it has been voted the planet least likely to succeed.

But I have refused to give up on Venus, and over the years my stubborn loyalty has been justified. The rocky views glimpsed by Venera 9 and other Russian landers suggested a tortured volcanic history. That was confirmed in the early 1990s by the American Magellan orbiter, which used radar to peer through the planet's thick clouds and map out a rich, varied and dynamic surface. The surface formed mostly in the last billion years, which makes it fresher and more recently active than any rocky planet other than Earth. Russian and American spacecraft also found hints that its ancient climate might have been wetter, cooler, and possibly even friendly to life. Measurements of density and composition implied that Venus originally formed out of basically the same stuff as Earth. That presumably included much more water than the tiny trace we find blowing in the thick air today.

Thus, our picture of Venus at around the time life was getting started on Earth is one of warm oceans, probably rich with organic molecules, splashing around rocky shores and volcanic vents. The sun was considerably less bright back then. So, Venus was arguably a cozier habitat for life than Earth.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What do we learn from the *Life* magazine article?
20. What are scientists' findings about Venus?
21. What information did Russian and American space probes provide about Venus?

### **Recording Three**

I'm a psychology professor at the University of British Columbia. I specialize in cultural psychology, examining similarities and differences between East Asians and North Americans.

Our research team has been looking at cultural differences in self-enhancing motivations, how people have positive feelings towards not only themselves but things connected to themselves. For example, when you own something, you view it as more valuable than when you don't own it. It's

called the "endowment effect". The strength of that effect is stronger in Western cultures than in East Asian cultures. So we've been looking at other ways of seeing whether this motivation to view oneself positively is shaped by cultural experiences.

We've also started to look at how culture shapes sleep. We're still in the exploratory stages of this project-although what's noteworthy is that East Asians on average sleep about an hour and a half less each night than North Americans do. And it's not a more efficient sleep, not like they're compressing relatively more value out of their hours. Other studies have found that even infants in East Asia sleep about an hour less than European infants. So we're trying to figure out how culture shapes the way you sleep.

Our experiment does not take place in a sleep lab. Instead, we lend people motion-detecting watches and they wear them for a week at a time-whenver they're not having a shower or swimming they keep it on. These kinds of watches are used in sleep studies as a way of measuring how long people are sleeping, how efficient their sleep is, and whether they're waking up in the night. Ideally I'd like to take this into a controlled lab environment. We'll see where the research points us. We usually start off with the more affordable methods, and if everything looks promising, then it'll justify trying to build a sleep lab and study sleep across cultures that way.

Why do we study sleep? Sleep is something that has really been an unexplored topic cross-culturally. I'm attracted to it because culture isn't something that only shapes the way our minds operate; it shapes the way our bodies operate too, and sleep is at the intersection of those.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. What does the speaker mainly study?
23. What does the speaker say about North Americans?
24. How did the speaker conduct the sleep?
25. What does the speaker say about research on sleep?

## 2019 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 3 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

With the rapid development of our economy and society has come a universal social tendency that the competition in the job market becomes increasingly fierce and the completion of a work task requires us to deal with a growing number of people. Therefore, team spirit and communication play an extremely crucial role in the contemporary corporate world.

As far as I am concerned, there are mainly two reasons accounting for the above-mentioned viewpoint. For one thing, excellent communication skills are beneficial to pooling together more resources and winning favor from our customers, which is a must for establishing ourselves in the fiercely competitive workplace. For another, it is self-evident that cooperation enables us to enhance work efficiency, thus helping us get promoted in the job market. Take my brother—a programming engineer in Huawei Corporation—for example. He is good at cooperation with his colleagues. It was due to his precious spirit that he succeeded in getting promoted from an ordinary engineer to a senior manager last month.

To sum up, team spirit and communication matter a great deal in the job market. Consequently, college students are supposed to participate in relevant activities to cultivate abilities in these two aspects.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

无

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. A | 27. J | 28. B | 29. E | 30. I |
| 31. N | 32. C | 33. G | 34. H | 35. K |
| 36. I | 37. C | 38. B | 39. E | 40. K |
| 41. F | 42. L | 43. G | 44. D | 45. J |
| 46. D | 47. A | 48. B | 49. C | 50. D |
| 51. B | 52. C | 53. D | 54. A | 55. D |

#### Part IV Translation 参考译文

Chinese idioms, mostly made up of four Chinese characters, are a unique expression in Chinese. Despite their high conciseness and regular form, they can usually vividly express profound meanings. Chinese idioms, mostly originating from literary works of ancient China, are usually related to some myths, legends or historical events. If one has no idea where Chinese idioms come from, it will be difficult for him to understand their precise meaning. Therefore, learning Chinese idioms helps people have a better understanding of Chinese traditional culture. Chinese idioms are widely used in the daily conversations and literary creation. Using them properly can enable one's language more expressive, and thus make the communication more effective.

### 2019 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 1 套）

#### Part I Writing 范文

Sense of responsibility, which literally means a duty to deal with something or take care of someone, is the basic quality one should possess and the guarantee of family harmony as well as social stability. Admittedly, the sense of family responsibility has exerted a subtle influence on every individual.

Apparently, sense of family responsibility really does matter, not only in families, but also in a broader sense. For one thing, sense of family responsibility acts as a guiding rule which defines what one should do and must do in a family relationship. To be specific, family members are expected to respect, protect and care each other under the regulation of this rule. For another, from a macro level, hardly can anyone make great social and academic achievements without a strong sense of family responsibility for the simple reason that it is actually the footing stone of a sound mind.

To sum up, it is of great necessity for us to develop sense of family responsibility. In response to such a situation, relying on the media's persuasion and the cultivation of individual awareness would be the best step.

#### Part II Listening Comprehension

|     |     |     |     |      |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 1.D | 2.C | 3.B | 4.A | 5.A  |
| 6.D | 7.D | 8.B | 9.C | 10.A |

|      |      |       |      |      |
|------|------|-------|------|------|
| 11.A | 12.B | 13.A  | 14.C | 15.D |
| 16.D | 17.C | 18.C  | 19.D | 20.A |
| 21.B | 22.B | 23. C | 24.A | 25.B |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.G | 27.J | 28.E | 29.A | 30.L |
| 31.B | 32.O | 33.C | 34.D | 35.N |
| 36.G | 37.C | 38.H | 39.D | 40.B |
| 41.E | 42.J | 43.F | 44.I | 45.A |
| 46.A | 47.D | 48.B | 49.B | 50.B |
| 51.C | 52.A | 53.D | 54.B | 55.C |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

With its rich colors and elegant images, the peony symbolizes peace and prosperity, and thus it is known as the “king of flowers” in China. The peony is cultivated and planted in many parts of China. For thousands of years, many poems and paintings have been created to praise the peony. During the Tang Dynasty, peonies were cultivated widely in royal gardens and were praised as “the national flower”, so they enjoyed great popularity. In the 10th century, the ancient city of Luoyang became the center for peony cultivation, and the position has been maintained till now. Now, thousands of tourists from home and abroad flock to Luoyang for the annual Peony Festival to enjoy the unique beauty of the peonies and explore the history of the ancient capital of nine dynasties.

### 听力原文

#### Section A

##### Conversation One

M: Today, our guest is Rosie Mullender, who works as a features editor for a fashion magazine. Hi Rosie, you're a features editor at one of the most widely-read women's magazines in the U.K. What kind of responsibilities does that job entail?

W: We spend our days looking at ideas from journalists, writing copy for the magazine and website and editing. We do random things like asking people in the street questions and testing sports clothing. We also do less tangible things like understanding what our readers want. It's certainly varied and sometimes bizarre.

M: During your working day what kind of work might you typically do?

W: My day mainly incorporates responding to emails, writing and editing stories and coming up with new feature ideas.

M: How does the job of features editor differ from that of fashion editor, or other editorial positions?

W: The features team deals with articles such as careers, reports, confidence and confessions — everything except fashion and beauty.

M: A lot of people believe that working at a magazine is a glamorous job. Is this an accurate representation of what you do?

W: I'd say it's glamorous to an extent, but not in the way it's portrayed in films. We do have our moments, such as interviewing celebrities and attending parties, which is a huge thrill. Ultimately, though, we're the same as our readers, but working in a job we're all very lucky to have.

M: Did you have to overcome any difficulties to reach this point in your career? How did you manage to do this?

W: I had to be really persistent and it was very hard work. After three years of working in a petrol station and doing unpaid work, I still hadn't managed to get an entry-level job. I was lucky that my last desperate attempt led to a job. I told myself that all experiences make you a better journalist in the long run. And luckily, I was right.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

- 1: What is the woman's profession?
- 2: What is one of the woman's main responsibilities?
- 3: What do many people think about the woman's job?
- 4: What helped the woman to get her current position?

**Conversation Two**

W: Are you watching any good shows these days?

M: Actually yes. I'm watching a great satire called *Frankie*. I think you'd like it.

W: Really? What's it about?

M: It's about a real guy named Frankie. He is a famous comedian in New York. And the show is a mixture of comedy and drama loosely depicting his life.

W: I'm sorry. Do you mean to say it's a real-life series about a real person? It's non-fiction, isn't it?

M: No ... Not really, no. It's a fiction as what happens in every episode is made up. However, the lead role is a comedian by the name of Frankie and he plays himself. So Frankie in both real life and in the TV show lives in New York City, is a comic, is divorced and has two little daughters. All those things are true. But aside from him, all his friends and family are played by actors. And the plots and the events that take place are also invented.

W: Oh, I think I see now. That sounds like a very original concept.

M: Yes, it is. In fact, the whole show is written, directed, edited and produced by him, and it's very funny and has won many awards.

W: That's cool. I will try to download it. I'm watching a comedy called *The Big Bang Theory*. It's a huge hit around the world.

M: Oh yes, I've heard of it, but never actually watched it.

W: Well, then you should check it out. It's also very funny. It's about four male scientists and a female waitress. The men are very socially awkward, but very bright. And this is contrasted by the lady's social skills and common sense. The show has been running for over ten years, and some of the actors are practically global superstars. Now that they are such famous celebrities.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. What does the man think of the satire *Frankie* he recently watched?
6. What does the man say is special about the satire *Frankie*?
7. What does the woman say she is going to do with the satire *Frankie*?
8. What does the woman say about the comedy *The Big Bang Theory*?

## Section B

### Passage One

Related to the use-it-or-lose-it law is the keep-moving principle. We learned about stagnation from nature: a river that stops moving gets smelly. The same thing happens to people who stop moving either mentally or physically. Those who play contact sports know that the player who usually gets hurt the most is the one who is standing still. Of course, you'll need some time to catch your breath every so often, but the essential message is keep moving, extending and learning. Ships last a lot longer when they go to sea than when they stay in the harbor. The same is true for airplanes. You don't preserve an airplane by keeping it on the ground, you preserve it by keeping it in service. We also get to live a long, healthy life by staying in service. Longevity statistics reveal that the average person doesn't last very long after retirement. The moral here is "don't retire". If a fellow says, "I'm 94 years old and I worked all my life", we need to realize that is how we got to be 94 — by staying involved. George Bernard Shaw won a Nobel Prize when he was nearly 70. Benjamin Franklin produced some of his best writings at the age of 84. And Pablo Picasso put brush to canvas right through his eighties. Isn't the issue how old we think we are? A bonus with the keep-moving principle is that while we keep moving, we don't have a chance to worry. Hence, we avoid the dreaded "paralyses by analysis".

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What does the speaker say about players of contact sports?
10. What do longevity statistics reveal about the average person?
11. What bonus does the keep-moving principle bring us according to the speaker?

### Passage Two

In 2014, one in sixteen Americans visited the hospital emergency room for home injuries. One



of the main causes of these accidents? A wandering mind. By one estimate, people daydream through nearly half of their waking hours. Psychologists have recently focused on the tendency to think about something other than the task one is doing. For one experiment, researchers developed an App to analyze the relationship between daydreaming and happiness. They found that the average person's mind wandered most frequently (about 65% of the time) during personal activities such as brushing their teeth and combing their hair. Respondents' minds tended to wander more when they felt upset rather than happy; they were more likely to wander toward pleasant topics than unpleasant ones. How do daydreams affect daydreamers? A wandering mind leaves us vulnerable when driving. In one study, researchers interviewed 955 people involved in traffic accidents. The majority of them reported having daydreamed just before the accident. Yet other research suggests that daydreaming has benefits. Researchers have found that it gives us a chance to think about our goals, and it also seems to increase creativity. In one experiment, 145 undergraduates completed four "unusual uses" tasks, each requiring them to list as many uses as possible for an everyday object. After the first pair of tasks was completed, one group of participants was assigned an undemanding activity intended to cause their minds to wander. When all the participants proceeded to the second pair of tasks, the daydreamers performed 40% better than the others.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What does the passage say about people's mind?
13. For what purpose did the researchers develop the new App?
14. How does daydreaming benefit people according to some researchers?
15. What was the finding of the experiment with 145 undergraduates?

## Section C

### Recording One

Dating from as far back as the 12th century, they are claimed to be the rarest historic buildings in western Europe. These buildings offer vital insight into Scandinavia's Viking past. But now, with only 30 wooden churches remaining and their condition deteriorating, experts are working to preserve the structures for future generations. Some of these spectacular churches are no more than small buildings, barely 4 meters wide and 6 meters tall. Others are much larger structures that soar up to 40 meters into the cold air. Most consist of timber frames that rest on stone blocks. This means that they have no foundations. Although many of the churches appear from the outside to be complex structures, they normally feature only a single storey but numerous different roof levels.

Staff from the Norwegian government have carried out conservation work on 10 of the churches over the past two years. Most of these churches date from between the 12th and 14th centuries. Other churches were conserved in previous years. So far, specialists have worked to add

preservative materials to the churches' exteriors. They also replaced rotting roofs and halted the sinking of the churches into the ground. In two cases, huge machines have been used to lift the buildings up to 30 centimeters into the air. This was accomplished so that the team could examine and repair the churches' original medieval stone blocks. The team plans to return to around a dozen of the buildings to assess progress and consider further action. The earliest free-standing wooden church was probably built in Norway in around 1080. However, the largest known wooden churches were built from the 1130s onwards. This period was one of inter-elite rivalry in which nobles sought to increase their influence by funding the construction of churches and other buildings.

The reason for constructing the buildings from wood is probably that ideally proportioned straight and slender timber was available in large quantities in Scandinavia's vast pine forests. As wood was so plentiful, it was cheaper to use than the stone used in the buildings of other European cultures. The area's ship-building tradition, partly established by the Vikings, also meant that sophisticated carpentry was a major aspect of the local culture. The complex style of the medieval wooden church carvings, and the skills used to make them, almost certainly derive from the ancient Viking tradition.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What does the speaker say about the Viking wooden churches?
17. What is special about most of the Viking wooden churches?
18. Why were the Viking churches constructed from wood?

**Recording Two**

In last week's lecture, we discussed the characteristics of the newly born offspring of several mammals. You probably remember that human infants are less developed physically than other mammals of the same age. But in today's lecture, we'll look at three very interesting studies that hint at surprising abilities of human babies. In the first study, three-year-olds watched two videos shown side by side, each featuring a different researcher, one of whom they'd met once two years earlier. The children spent longer watching the video showing the researcher they hadn't met. This is consistent with young children's usual tendency to look longer at things that aren't familiar. And really, this is amazing. It suggests the children remembered the researcher they'd met just one time when they were only one-year-olds. Of course, as most of us forget memories from our first few years as we grow older, these early long-term memories will likely be lost in subsequent years.

Our second study is about music. For this study, researchers played music to babies through speakers located on either side of a human face. They waited until the babies got bored and averted their gaze from the face. And then they changed the mood of the music, either from sad to happy or the other way around. This mood switch made no difference to the three-month-olds. But for the

nine-month-olds, it was enough to renew their interest and they started looking again in the direction of the face. This suggests that babies of that age can tell the difference between a happy melody and a sad tune.

Our final study is from 1980, but is still relevant today. In fact, it's one of the most famous pieces of research about infant emotion ever published. The study involved ordinary adults watching video clips of babies (nine months or younger). In the video clips, the babies made various facial expressions in response to real life events, including playful interactions and painful ones. The adult observers were able to reliably discern an assortment of emotions on the babies' faces. These emotions included interest, joy, surprise, sadness, anger, disgust, contempt and fear. Next week, we'll be looking at this last study more closely. In fact, we will be viewing some of the video clips from that study and together see how well we do in discerning the babies' emotions.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What are the three interesting studies about?
20. What does the second study find about nine-month-old babies?
21. What is the 1980 study about?

**Recording Three**

Today I'd like to talk about the dangers of being too collaborative. Being a good team player is an essential skill in our modern workplace. The ability to work well with others and collaborate on projects is a sought-after ability in nearly every position. However, placing too much emphasis on being a good team player can negatively affect your career growth. Don't be overly focused on gaining consensus. Don't be too concerned with the opinions of others. This can hinder your ability to make decisions, speak up and gain recognition for your individual skills and strengths. Some people are too subordinate to others' opinions, too focused on decision consensus, too silent about their own point of view, too agreeable to take things on when they don't have time or energy. This leads to building a brand of underconfident, submissive, low-impact non-leaders and hampers their growth and career advancement.

Collaboration certainly makes your individual competencies and contributions more difficult for outsiders to identify. Collaborative projects mean you're sharing the spotlight with others. Outsiders may then find it difficult to determine your contributions and strengths. This may end up costing you opportunities for promotions or pay raises. You certainly shouldn't ditch teamwork, but how can you avoid the hazards of being an over-collaborator? Working in a team can have huge benefits. Your team may have repeated successes and often gain recognition. You'll then have more opportunities to expand your professional network than if you worked alone. However, finding a balance between team efforts and individual projects that give you independent recognition is important for making a name for yourself and providing opportunities for advancement.

Be selective in who you work with. This will maximize the benefits and minimize the downsides of being a team player. Collaborate with people who have complementary expertise. Select projects where there is potential for mutual benefit. Perhaps you're bringing your unique knowledge and gaining access to someone else's professional network. Or maybe you're able to learn a new skill by working with someone. Seek out your teammates purposefully rather than jumping on every new group project opportunity. When we're too collaborative, we want everyone to agree with the decision before we proceed. This can create unnecessary delays as you hold meetings trying to achieve consensus. It's fine to be collaborative when seeking input. But put a deadline on the input stage and arrive at a decision, even if it's a decision that doesn't have consensus.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. What does the speaker say about being over collaborative?
23. What does the speaker say about people engaged in collaborative projects?
24. How do people benefit from working in a team?
25. Why is it undesirable to spend too much time trying to reach consensus?

新东方大学生学习与发展中心

## 2019 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案（第 2 套）

### Part I Writing 范文

Recent decades have witnessed a growing awareness of the significance of having a sense of social responsibility, which means that each individual is closely related to and bears obligations to others. I reckon that the sense of social responsibility can help us build a more prosperous society.

First and foremost, the sense of social responsibility is the promise of a harmonious society. To cast light on the point, I would like to give an example of Jack Ma, the founder of the largest e-commerce platform, who devotes himself into the charity work. It is due to his strong sense of responsibility that he offers assistance to people in needs, which is of great benefit for the society. Furthermore, the sense of social responsibility provides each individual with the drive to go forward and become a useful person. A person with a strong sense of social responsibility is naturally urged to leading a meaningful life and promotes the development of the world.

To put it in a nutshell, having a sense of responsibility is of great benefit for the development of every individual and the whole society. Hence, all walks of life are supposed to strengthen their sense of social responsibility.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1.A  | 2.B  | 3.A  | 4.C  | 5.D  |
| 6.B  | 7.C  | 8.B  | 9.C  | 10.D |
| 11.D | 12.A | 13.B | 14.C | 15.A |
| 16.D | 17.A | 18.B | 19.D | 20.A |
| 21.C | 22.C | 23.B | 24.D | 25.C |

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.K | 27.C | 28.N | 29.M | 30.D |
| 31.I | 32.H | 33.J | 34.O | 35.L |
| 36.C | 37.E | 38.A | 39.F | 40.M |
| 41.G | 42.B | 43.H | 44.D | 45.L |
| 46.C | 47.A | 48.A | 49.D | 50.B |
| 51.C | 52.B | 53.A | 54.D | 55.C |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

The lotus flower is one of the famous flowers in China, which is deeply loved by people. The lakes and ponds in many parts of China are hospitable for the lotus to grow. The lotus, which features bright color, blooms in the summer morning and closes in the evening with a flowering period of up to two to three months, attracting tourists across the country to appreciate it. The lotus has multiple functions. Not only can it green water and beautify courtyards, but it can also purify water, reduce pollution and improve the environment. The lotus does not fear the strong sunshine and comes out of the dirty mud unsoiled. Therefore, it is regarded as the symbol of purity and

elegance and is often used as metaphor for a person's noble character, making it evolve into a key theme in poetic and painting creation. The place where the lotus blooms is also a place frequented by many photography enthusiasts.

## 听力原文

### Section A

#### Conversation One

M: Excuse me. Where's your rock music section?

W: Rock music? I'm sorry, we're a Jazz store. We don't have any rock and roll.

M: Oh, you only have Jazz music? Nothing else?

W: That's right. We're the only record store in London dedicated exclusively to Jazz. Actually, we're more than just a record store. We have a cafe and library upstairs, and a ticket office down the hall where you can buy tickets to all the major Jazz concerts in the city. Also, we have our own studio next door, where we produce albums for up-and-coming artists. We are committed to fostering new music talent.

M: Wow! That's so cool. I guess there's not much of a Jazz scene anymore. Not like they used to be. But here you are trying to promote this great music genre.

W: Yes, indeed, nowadays most people like to listen to pop and rock music. Hip hop music from America is also getting more and more popular. So, as a result, there are fewer listeners of Jazz, which is a great shame, because it's an incredibly rich genre. But that's not to say there isn't any good new Jazz music being made out there anymore — far from it. It's just a much smaller market today.

M: So how would you define Jazz?

W: Well interestingly enough, there is no agreed-upon definition of Jazz. Indeed, there are many different styles of Jazz. Some have singing, but most don't. Some are electric and some aren't, some contain live experimentation, but not always. While there is no simple definition for it and while there are many different styles of Jazz, you simply know it when you hear it. Honestly, the only way to know what Jazz is is listen to it yourself. As the great trumpet player Louis Armstrong said, "if you gotta ask, you'll never know".

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1: What do we learn about the woman's store?

2: What does the man say about Jazz music?

3: What does the woman say about Jazz?

4: What should you do to appreciate different styles of Jazz according to the woman?

#### Conversation Two



M: How did it go at the bank this morning?

W: Not well, my proposal was rejected.

M: Really, but why?

W: Bunch of reasons. For starters, they said my credit history was not good enough.

M: Do they say how you could improve that?

W: Yes, they said that after five more years of paying my mortgage, then I would become a more viable candidate for a business loan. But right now, it's too risky for them to lend me money. They fear I will default on any business loan I'm given.

M: Well, that doesn't sound fair. Your business idea is amazing. Did you show them your business plan? What did they say?

W: They didn't really articulate any position regarding the actual business plan. They simply looked at my credit history and determined it was not good enough. They said the bank has strict guidelines and requirements as to who they can lend money to. And I simply don't meet their financial threshold.

M: What if you asked for a smaller amount? Maybe you could gather capital from other sources, smaller loans from more lenders?

W: You don't get it. It doesn't matter the size of the loan I asked for or the type of business I propose. That's all inconsequential. The first thing every bank will do is study how much money I have and how much debt I have before they decide whether or not to lend me any more money. If I want to continue ahead with this dream of owning my own business, I have no other choice but to build up my own finances. I need around 20% more in personal savings and 50% less debt. That's all there is to it.

M: I see now. Well, it's a huge pity that they rejected your request, but don't lose hope. I still think that your idea is great and that you would turn it into a phenomenal success.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5: What did the woman do this morning?

6: Why was the woman's proposal rejected?

7: What is the woman planning to do?

8: What does the man suggest the woman do?

## **Section B**

### **Passage One**

There's a lot about Leo Sanchez and his farm in Salinas, California, that seems unusual. The national average farm size is around 440 acres, but his is only one acre. The average age of farmers hovers around 58 years old, but he is just 26. And Sanchez constantly attempts to improve everything from seeding techniques out in the field to the promotion and sale of his produce online.

This is evidence of an experimental approach. It's an approach not dictated by the confines of conventional, large scale agriculture led by international corporations.

While farming is often difficult for both the body and mind, Sanchez says he and many of his fellow young farmers are motivated by desire to set a new standard for agriculture. Many of them are employing a multitude of technologies, some new and some... not so new. Recently, Sanchez bought a hand-operated tool which pulls out weeds and loosens soil. It actually dates back to at least 1701. It stands in sharp contrast to Sanchez's other gadget: a gas-powered flame weed killer invented in 1997. He simply doesn't discriminate when it comes to the newness of tools. If it works, it works. Farmers have a long history of invention, and it's no different today. Young farmers are guided by their love for agriculture and aided by their knowledge of technology. To find inexpensive and appropriately-sized tools, they collaborate and innovate. Sometimes the old stuff just works better or more efficiently.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9: What do we learn about Leo Sanchez's farm?

10: What has motivated Leo Sanchez and his fellow young farmers to engage in farming?

11: Why did Leo Sanchez buy a hand-operated weeding tool?

### **Passage Two**

Eat Grub is Britain's first new food company that breaks western food boundaries by introducing edible insects as a new source of food. And Sainsbury's is the first UK supermarket to stock the company's crunchy roasted crickets.

Sainsbury's insists that such food is no joke and could be a new sustainable source of protein. Out of curiosity, I paid a visit to Sainsbury's. As I put my hand into a packet of crickets with their tiny eyes and legs, the idea of one going in my mouth made me feel a little sick. But the first bite was a pleasant surprise. A little dry and lacking of taste, but at least a wing didn't get stuck in my throat. The roasted seasoning largely overpowered any other flavour, although there was a slightly bitter aftertaste. The texture was crunchy but smelt a little of cat food. Eat Grub also recommends the crickets as a topping for noodles, soups and salads.

The company boasts that its dried crickets contain more protein than beef, chicken and pork, as well as minerals like iron and calcium. Unlike the production of meat, bugs do not use up large amounts of land, water or feed and insect farming also produces far fewer greenhouse gases. However, despite 2 billion people worldwide already supplementing their diet with insects, "consumer disgust" remains a large barrier in many western countries. I'm not sure bugs will become a popular snack anytime soon, but they're definitely food for thought.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12: What do we learn from the passage about the food company Eat Grub?

13: What does the speaker say about his first bite of roasted crickets?

14: What does Eat Grub say about his dried crickets?

15: What does the passage say about insect farming?

## Section C

### Recording One

Have you ever had someone try to explain something to you a dozen times with no luck, but then when you see a picture, the idea finally clicks? If that sounds familiar, maybe you might consider yourself a visual learner. Or if reading or listening does the trick, maybe you feel like you're a verbal learner. We call these labels learning styles. But is there really a way to categorize different types of students? Well, it actually seems that multiple presentation formats, especially if one of them is visual, help most people learn.

When psychologists and educators test for learning styles, they're trying to figure out whether these are inherent traits that affect how well students learn, instead of just a preference. Usually they start by giving a survey to figure out what style a student favors, like visual or verbal leaning. Then they try to teach the students something with a specific presentation style, like using visual aids, and do a follow-up test to see how much they learned. That way, the researchers can see if the self-identified verbal learners really learned better when the information was just spoken aloud, for example.

But, according to a 2008 review, only one study that followed this design found that students actually learned best with their preferred style. But the study had some big flaws. The researchers excluded two-thirds of the original participants because they didn't seem to have any clear learning style from the survey at the beginning, and they didn't even report the actual test scores in the final paper. So... it doesn't really seem like learning styles are an inherent trait that we all have. But that doesn't mean that all students will do amazingly if they just spend all their time reading from a textbook.

Instead, most people seem to learn better if they're taught in several ways — especially if one is visual. In one study, researchers tested whether students remembered lists of words better if they heard them, saw them, or both. And everyone seemed to do better if they got to see the words in print, even the self-identified auditory learners. Their preference didn't seem to matter. Similar studies tested whether students learned basic physics and chemistry concepts better by reading plain text or viewing pictures, too. And everyone did better with the help of pictures.

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on recording you have just heard.**

16: Why do psychologists and educators study learning styles?

17: What does the speaker say about one study mentioned in the 2008 review?

18. What message does the speaker want to convey about learning at the end of the talk?

### **Recording Two**

Free-market capitalism hasn't freed us; it has trapped us. It's imperative for us to embrace a workplace revolution. We are unlikely to spend our last moments regretting that we didn't spend enough of our lives slaving away at work. We may instead find ourselves feeling guilty about the time we didn't spend watching our children grow, or with our loved ones, or travelling, or on the cultural or leisure pursuits that bring us happiness. Unfortunately, the average full-time employee in the world works 42 hours a week — well over a third of the time we're awake. Some of our all too precious time is being stolen; office workers do around 2 billion hours of unpaid overtime each year. So it's extremely welcome that some government coalitions have started looking into potentially cutting the working week to four days.

The champions of free market capitalism promised their way of life would bring us freedom. But it wasn't freedom at all: from the lack of secure, affordable housing to growing job insecurity and rising personal debt, the individual is trapped. Nine decades ago, leading economists predicted that technological advances and rising productivity would mean that we'd be working a 15 hour week by now: that target has been somewhat missed.

Here is the most malignant threat to our personal freedom, particularly as the balance of power in the workplace has been shifted so dramatically from worker to boss. A huge portion of our lives involves the surrender of our freedom and personal autonomy. It's time in which we are directed by the needs and desires of others, and denied the right to make our own choices. That's bad for us: it's hardly surprising that over half a million workers suffer from work-related mental health conditions each year, or that 15.4 million working days were lost to work-related stress last year, a jump of nearly a quarter.

Yes, there are those who, far from being overworked, actually seek more hours. But a shorter working week would enable us to redistribute hours from the overworked to the underworked. We need to look at ways of cutting the working week without slashing living standards: after all, the world's workers have already suffered the worst deduction in wages since the early 1800s. And cutting the working week would be conducive to the individual, giving millions of workers more time to spend as they see fit.

**Questions 19 to 21 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19: What do people often feel guilty about according to the speaker?

20: What did leading economists predict 90 years ago?

21: What is the result of denying workers' right to make their own choices?

### **Recording Three**

Today I'm going to talk about Germany's dream airport in Berlin. The airport looks exactly like every other major modern airport in Europe, except for one big problem: more than seven years after it was originally supposed to open, it still stands empty.

Germany is known for its efficiency and refined engineering, but when it comes to its new ghost airport this reputation could not be further from the truth. Plagued by long delays, perpetual mismanagement and ever-soaring costs, the airport has become something of a joke among Germans — and a source of frustration for local politicians, business leaders and residents alike.

Planning for the new airport began in 1989. At the time, it became clear that the newly-reunified Berlin would need a modern airport with far greater capacity than its existing airports. The city broke ground on the new airport in 2006.

The first major sign of problems came in summer 2010, when the construction corporation pushed the opening from October 2011 to June 2012. In 2012, the city planned an opening ceremony. But less than a month beforehand, inspectors found significant problems with the fire safety system and pushed the opening back again to 2013. It wasn't just the smoke system: many other major problems subsequently emerged. More than 90 metres of cable were incorrectly installed; 4,000 doors were wrongly numbered; escalators were too short. And there was a shortage of check-in desks.

So why, with so many problems discovered, didn't the airport corporation decide to give up on the project and start over? The reason is simple: people are often hesitant to terminate a project when they've already invested time or resources into it, even if it might make logical sense to do so.

The longer the delays continued, the more problems inspectors found. Leadership of the planning corporation has changed hands nearly as many times as the opening date has been pushed back. Initially, rather than appointing a general contractor to run the project, the corporation decided to manage it themselves despite lack of experience with an undertaking of that scale.

To compound the delays, the unused airport is resulting in massive costs. Every month it remains unopened costs between €9m and €10m.

Assuming all goes well, the airport should open in October 2020. But the still-empty airport stand as the biggest embarrassment to Germany's reputation for efficiency — and a continuing drain on city and state resources.

**Questions 22 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

22. What does the speaker say about the dream airport in Berlin?
23. Why was there a need for a new airport in Berlin?
24. Why did Berlin postpone the opening of its dream airport again and again?
25. What happens while the airport remains unused?

## 2019 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题参考答案 (第 3 套)

### Part I Writing 范文

With regards to sense of community responsibility, it is universally acknowledged as the moral obligation and solicitude for others in a certain society. Admittedly, the sense of community responsibility has exerted enormous effect on every individual's life and the advancement of society.

Sense of community responsibility really does matter and is required for every individual from all walks of life. As matter of fact, hardly can anyone lead a life without communicating and interacting with others. In this situation, being responsible for others equals to being responsible to ourselves. To be specific, in the face of emergent situations and group tasks, it is everyone's duty to do their bit to solve the problem with concerted efforts. If everyone refuses to shoulder such a responsibility and relies on others' acts, it is impossible for us to tackle the challenges.

In a nutshell, it is of great necessity for everyone to cultivate sense of community responsibility. Therefore, the universities authorities and the mass media are also expected to undertake the corresponding duty to promote such an atmosphere. At any rate, only by taking a devoted heart to those who are in need and the matter demanding our attention can we guarantee an ever more promising and advanced society.

### Part II Listening Comprehension

无

### Part III Reading Comprehension

|      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 26.E | 27.L | 28.H | 29.A | 30.J |
| 31.B | 32.I | 33.D | 34.F | 35.K |
| 36.F | 37.C | 38.J | 39.D | 40.G |
| 41.A | 42.I | 43.E | 44.B | 45.K |
| 46.B | 47.B | 48.D | 49.A | 50.C |
| 51.A | 52.C | 53.D | 54.A | 55.D |

### Part IV Translation 参考译文

The plum blossom, which ranks first among the top ten famous flowers in China, originated in the South of China and has been cultivated and planted for more than 3,000 years. In the middle of winter, colorful plum blossoms brave the cold weather and blossom proudly against the wind and snow. In traditional Chinese culture, the plum blossom symbolizes toughness, purity and elegance, inspiring people to brave hardships and forge ahead. Since ancient times, many poets and painters have drawn inspiration from the plum blossom and created countless immortal works. The common people also love plum blossoms, which are often used as home decorations during the Spring Festival. The city of Nanjing has designated the plum blossom as its city flower and holds a plum blossom festival every year, during which thousands of people brave the bitter cold to take a walk in the snow and enjoy the plum blossom on the Meihua Mountain.