2013年6月六级考试真题（第三套）

PartI Writing

Directions: *For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay commenting on the remark "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed." You can cite examples to illustrate your point. You should write at least 150 words but no more than **200** words .*

Part II Listening Comprehension

说明：2013年6月六级真题全国共考了两套听力。本套（即第三套）的听力内容与第二套的内容完全相同，只是选项的顺序不一样而已，故在本套中没有重复给出。

Part III Reading Comprehension

Section A

Directions： *In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word far 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 36 to 45 are based on the following passage.

Children are losing the ability to play properly because they are being given too many toys, according to a new research. The studies show that children — especially those under five — are often__36__and actually play less than those with fewer toys.

"Our studies show that giving children too many toys or toys of the__37__type can actually be doing them harm. They get spoiled and cannot__38__on any one thing long enough to learn from it", said Lerner, a childhood development researcher. Her conclusions have been backed up by British research looking at children with__39__few toys, whose parents spend more time reading, singing or playing with them. It showed such children__40__youngsters from richer backgrounds — even those who had access to computers.

Kathy Sylva, professor of educational psychology at Oxford University, reached her__41__from a study of 3,000 children from the ages of three to five. In her opinion, there is a complex relationship between children's progress, the type of toys they are given and the time parents spend on them. When the children have a large number of toys there seems to be a distraction element, and when children are__42__they do not learn or play well.

Some parents notice the__43__ early. Orhan Ismail, a researcher from Colchester, Essex, saw a change for the worse in Cameron, his 10-month-old son, after he was given__44__toys last Christmas. He observed that if there are too many toys in front of Cameron, he will just keep moving round them and then end up going away and finding something like a slipper to play with.

Experts__45__to put a figure on the number of toys children should have, but many believe two dozen is enough for children of pre-school age.

A) impact	I) surpass
B) concentrate	J) innumerable
C) overwhelmed	K) decisions
D) reasonably	L) inaccurate
E) conclusions	M) relatively
F) exquisite	N) distracted
G) embarrassed	O) lag
H) hesitate	

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**.*

Norman Borlaug: "Father of the Green Revolution"

[A] Few people have quietly changed the world for the better more than this rural lad from the midwestem state of Iowa in the United States. The man in focus is Norman Borlaug, the "Father of the Green Revolution", who died on 12 September 2009 at age 95. Norman Borlaug spent most of his 60 working years in the farmlands of Mexico, South Asia and later in Africa, fighting world hunger, and saving by some estimates up to a billion lives in the process. An achievement, fit for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Early Years

[B] "I'm a product of the great depression" is how Borlaug described himself. A great-grandson of Norwegian immigrants to the United States, Borlaug was born in 1914 and grew up on a small farm in the northeastern comer of Iowa in a town called Cresco. His family had a 40-*hectrare*（公顷）farm on which they grew wheat, *maize*（玉米）and hay and raised pigs and cattle. Norman spent most of his time from age 7-17 on the farm, even as he attended a one-room, one-teacher school at New Oregon in Howard County.

[C] Borlaug didn't have money to go to college. But through a Great Depression era programme, known as the National Youth Administration, Borlaug was able to enroll in University of Minnesota at Minneapolis to study forestry. He excelled in studies and received his PhD in plant *pathology*（病理学）and genetics in 1942.

[D] From 1942 to 1944, Borlaug was employed as a microbiologist at DuPont in Wilmington. However, following the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Borlaug tried to join the military, but was rejected under wartime labour regulations.

In Mexico

[E] In 1944, many experts warned of mass starvation in developing nations where populations were expanding faster than crop production. Borlaug began work at a Rockefeller Foundation-funded project in Mexico to increase wheat production by developing higher-yielding varieties of the crop. It involved research in genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology, *entomology*（昆虫学）, *agronomy*（农艺学）,soil science, and cereal technology. The goal of the project was to boost wheat production in Mexico, which at the time was importing a large portion of its grain.

[F] Borlaug said that his first couple of years in Mexico were difficult. He lacked trained scientists and equipment. Native farmers were hostile towards the wheat programme because of serious crop losses from 1939 to 1941 due to stem rust.

[G] Wheat varieties that Borlaug worked with had tall, thin stalks. While taller wheat competed better for sunlight, they had a tendency to collapse under the weight of extra grain — a trait called lodging. To overcome this, Borlaug worked on breeding wheat with shorter and stronger stalks, which could hold on larger seed heads. Borlaug's new semi-dwarf, disease-resistant varieties, called Pitic 62 and Penjamo 62, changed the potential yield of Mexican wheat dramatically. By 1963 wheat production in Mexico stood six times more than that of 1944.

Green Revolution in India

[H] During the 1960s, South Asia experienced severe drought condition and India had been importing wheat on a large scale from the United States. Borlaug came to India in 1963 along with Dr Robert Anderson to duplicate his Mexican success in the sub-continent. The experiments began with planting a few of the high-yielding variety strains in the fields of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in New Delhi, under the supervision of Dr M. S. Swaminathan. These strains were subsequently planted in test plots at Ludhiana, Pantnagar, Kanpur, Pune and Indore. The results were promising, but large-scale success, however, was not instant. Cultural opposition to new agricultural techniques initially prevented Borlaug from going ahead with planting of new wheat strains in India. By 1965, when the drought situation turned alarming, the Government took the lead and allowed wheat revolution to move forward. By employing agricultural techniques he developed in Mexico, Borlaug was able to nearly double South Asian wheat harvests between 1965 and 1970.

[I] India subsequently made a huge commitment to Mexican wheat, importing some 18,000 tonnes of seed. By 1968, it was clear that the Indian wheat harvest was nothing short of revolutionary. It was so productive that there was a shortage of labour to harvest it, of bull carts to haul it to

the threshing *floor*（打谷场）of *jute*（黄麻）bags to store it. Local governments in some areas were forced to shut down schools temporarily to use them as store houses.

[J] United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) observed that in 40 years between 1961 and 2001,"India more than doubled its population, from 452 million to more than 1 billion. At the same time, it nearly tripled its grain production from 87 million tonnes to 231 million tonnes. It accomplished this feat while increasing cultivated grain *acreage*（土地面积）a mere 8 percent." It was in India that Norman Borlaug's work was described as the "Green Revolution."

In Africa

[K] Africa suffered widespread hunger and starvation through the 70s and 80s. Food and aid poured in from most developed countries into the continent, but thanks to the absence of efficient distribution system, the hungry remained empty-stomach. The then Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Ryoichi Sasakawa wondered why the methods used in Mexico and India were not extended to Africa. He called up Norman Borlaug, now leading a semi-retired life, for help. He managed to convince Borlaug to help with his new effort and subsequently founded the Sasakawa Africa Association. Borlaug later recalled, "but after I saw the terrible circumstances there, I said, 'Let's just start growing'".

[L] The success in Africa was not as spectacular as it was in India or Mexico. Those elements that allowed Borlaug's projects to succeed, such as well-organised economies and transportation and irrigation systems, were severely lacking throughout Africa. Because of this, Borlaug's initial projects were restricted to developed regions of the continent. Nevertheless, yields of maize, *sorghum*（高粱）and wheat doubled between 1983 and 1985.

Nobel Prize

[M] For his contributions to the world food supply, Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. Norwegian officials notified his wife in Mexico City at 4:00 am, but Borlaug had already left for the test fields in the Toluca valley, about 65km west of Mexico City. A chauffeur (司机) took her to the fields to inform her husband. In his acceptance speech, Borlaug said, "the first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind. Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world. Yet, 50 percent of the world population goes hungry."

Green Revolution vs Environmentalists

[N] Borlaug's advocacy of intensive high-yield agriculture came under severe criticism from environmentalists in recent years. His work faced environmental and socio-economic criticisms, including charges that his methods have created dependence on monoculture crops, unsustainable fanning practices, heavy indebtedness among subsistence farmers, and high levels of cancer among those who work with agriculture chemicals. There are also concerns about the long-term sustainability of fanning practices encouraged by the Green Revolution in both the developed and the developing world.

[O] In India, the Green Revolution is blamed for the destruction of India crop diversity, drought vulnerability, dependence on agro-chemicals that poison soils but reap large-scale benefits mostly to the American multi-national corporations. What these critics overwhelmingly advocate is a global movement towards "organic" or "sustainable" farming practices that avoid using chemicals and high technology in favour of natural fertilisers, cultivation and pest-control porgrammes.

46.Farmers' rejection of his planting techniques initially prevented Borlaug from achieving large-scale success in India.

47.In both developed and developing countries there are concerns whether in the long run Borlaug's farming practice will be sustainable.

48.Borlaug's Pitic 62 and Penjamo 62 has short and strong stems and can resist to diseases.

49.Borlaug's success in Africa was not as spectacular as in India or Mexico because Africa lacked the necessary supporting facilities.

50.In India, critics attribute the destruction of Indian crop diversity to the Green Revolution.

51.Borlaug emphasised that adequate food for all mankind is essential in ensuring social justice in

his Nobel Prize acceptance speech.

52.In recent years Borlaug's Green Revolution has been attacked by environmentalists.

53.Borlaug's wheat programme had been stuck in trouble during his first couple of years in Mexico.

54.According to United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation, in 40 years between 1961 and 2001 India's grain production increased nearly three times.

55.Norman Borlaug won a Nobel Prize for his 60 years work on combating world hunger.

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 56 to 60 are based on the following passage.

"Depression" is more than a serious economic downturn. What distinguishes a depression from a harsh recession is paralysing fear — fear of the unknown so great that it causes consumers, businesses, and investors to retreat and panic. They save up cash and desperately cut spending. They sell stocks and other assets. A shattering loss of confidence inspires behaviour that overwhelms the normal self-correcting mechanisms that usually prevent a recession from becoming deep and prolonged: a depression.

Comparing 1929 with 2007-09, Christina Romer, the head of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, finds the initial blow to confidence far greater now than then. True, stock prices fell a third from September to December 1929, but fewer Americans then owned stocks. Moreover, home prices barely dropped. From December 1928 to December 1929, total household wealth declined only 3%. By contrast, the loss in household wealth between December 2007 and December 2008 was 17%. Both stocks and homes, more widely held, dropped more. Thus *traumatised*（受到创伤）, the economy might have gone into a free fall ending in depression. Indeed, it did go into free fall. Shoppers refrained from buying cars, appliances, and other big-ticket items. Spending on such "durables" dropped at a 12% annual rate in 2008's third quarter, a 2 0% rate in the fourth. And businesses shelved investment projects.

That these huge declines didn't lead to depression mainly reflects, as Romer argues, counter-measures taken by the government. Private markets for goods, services, labor, and securities do mostly self-correct, but panic feeds on itself and disarms these stabilising tendencies. In this situation, only the government can protect the economy as a whole, because most individuals and companies are involved in the self-defeating behaviour of self-protection.

Government's failure to perform this role in the early 1930s transformed recession into depression. Scholars will debate which interventions this time — the Federal Reserve's support of a failing credit system, guarantees of bank debt, Obama's "stimulus" plan and bank "stress test" — counted most in preventing a recurrence. Regardless, all these complex measures had the same psychological purpose: to reassure people that the free fall would stop and, thereby, curb die fear that would *perpetuate*（使持久）a free fall.

All this improved confidence. But the consumer sentiment index remains weak, and all the rebound has occurred in Americans' evaluation of future economic conditions, not the present. Unemployment (9.8%) is *abysmal*（糟透的）, the recovery's strength unclear. Here, too, there is an echo from the 1930s. Despite bottoming out in 1933, the Depression didn't end until World War II. Some government policies aided recovery; some hindered it. The good news today is that the bad news is not worse.

56.Why do consumers, businesses and investors retreat and panic in times of depression?

A) They suffer great losses in stocks, property and other assets.

B) They find the self-correcting mechanisms dysfunctioning.

C) They are afraid the normal social order will be paralysed.

D) They don't know what is going to happen in the future.

57.What does Christina Romer say about the current economic recession?

A) Its severity is no match for the Great Depression of 1929.

B) Its initial blow to confidence far exceeded that of 1929.
C) It has affected house owners more than stock holders.
D) It has resulted in a free fall of the prices of commodities.
58.Why didn't the current recession turn into a depression according to Christina Romer?
A) The government intervened effectively.
B) Private markets corrected themselves.
C) People refrained from buying durables and big-ticket items.
D) Individuals and companies adopted self-protection measures.
59.What is the chief purpose of all the counter measures taken?
A) To create job opportunities.
B) To curb the fear of a lasting free fall.
C)To stimulate domestic consumption.
D)To rebuild the credit system.
60.What does the author think of today's economic situation?
A) It may worsen without further stimulation.
B) It will see a rebound sooner or later.
C)It has not gone from bad to worse.
D)It does not give people reason for pessimism.

Passage Two

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

"Usually when we walk through-the rain forest we hear a soft sound from all the moist leaves and organic debris on the forest floor," says ecologist Daniel Nepstad. " Now we increasingly get rustle and crunch. That's the sound of a dying forest."

Predictions of the collapse of the tropical rain forests have been around for years. Yet until recently the worst forecasts were almost exclusively linked to direct human activity, such as dear-cutting and burning for pastures or farms. Left alone, it was assumed, the world's rain forests would not only flourish but might even rescue us from disaster by absorbing the excess carbon dioxide and other planet-warming greenhouse gases. Now it turns out that may be wishful thinking. Some scientists believe that the rise in carbon levels means that the Amazon and other rain forests in Asia and Africa may go from being assets in the battle against rising temperatures to liabilities. Amazon plants, for instance, hold more than 100 billion metric tons of carbon, equal to 15 years of tailpipe and chimney emissions. If the collapse of the rain forests speeds up dramatically, it could eventually release 3.5-5 billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere each year — making forests the leading source of greenhouse gases.

Uncommonly severe droughts brought on by global climate change have led to forest-eating wildfires from Australia to Indonesia, but nowhere more acutely than in the Amazon. Some experts say that the rain forest is already at the brink of collapse.

Extreme weather and reckless development are plotting against the rain forest in ways that scientists have never seen. Trees need more water as temperatures rise, but the prolonged droughts have robbed them of moisture, making whole forests easily cleared of trees and turned into farmland. The picture worsens with each round of El Nino, the unusually warm currents in the Pacific Ocean that drive up temperatures and invariably *presage*（预示）droughts and fires in the rain forest. Runaway fires pour even more carbon into the air, which increases temperatures, starting the whole vicious cycle all over again.

More than paradise lost, a perishing rain forest could trigger a domino effect—sending winds and rains kilometres off course and loading the skies with even greater levels of greenhouse gases — that will be felt far beyond the Amazon basin. In a sense, we are already getting a glimpse of what's to come. Each burning season in the Amazon, fires deliberately set by frontier settlers and developers hurl up almost half a billion metric tons of carbon a year, placing Brazil among the top five contributors to greenhouse gases in the world.

61.We learn from the first paragraph that .
A) dead leaves and tree debris make the same sound
B) trees that are dying usually give out a soft moan
C) organic debris echoes the sounds in a rain forest
D) the sound of a forest signifies its health condition
62.In the second paragraph, the author challenges the view that .
A) the collapse of rain forests is caused by direct human interference

B) carbon emissions are the leading cause of current global warming
C) the condition of rain forests has been rapidly deteriorating
D) rain forests should not be converted into pastures or farms

63.The author argues that the rising carbon levels in rain forests may .
A) turn them into a major source of greenhouse gases
B) change the weather patterns throughout the world
C) pose a threat to wildlife
D) accelerate their collapse

64.What has made it easier to turn some rain forests into farmland?
A) Rapid rise in carbon levels.
C) Lack of rainfall resulting from global warming.
B) Reckless land development.
D) The unusual warm currents in the Pacific Ocean.

65.What makes Brazil one of the world's top five contributors to greenhouse gases?
A) The domino effect triggered by the perishing rain forests.
B) Its practice of burning forests for settlement and development.
C) The changed patterns of winds and rains in the Amazon area.
D) Its inability to curb the carbon emissions from industries.

Part IV Translation

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***.

中国是最早生产丝绸的国家。考古学家们认为，中国的桑蚕丝织技术，至少有 4000 多年的历史。丝绸很早就成为了古代宫廷贵族的主要衣料和对外贸易的重要商品。中国古代丝绸品种丰富多彩。西方人十分喜爱中国丝绸。据说，公元 1 世纪，一位古罗马皇帝曾穿着中国的丝绸袍去看戏，顿时轰动了整个剧场。从此，人们都希望能穿上中国的丝绸衣服，中国也因此被称为“丝国”。丝绸美化了人们的生活，也促进了中国和世界各国的友好往来。