

五、閱讀測驗（占 24 分）

說明：第35題至第46題，每題2分。

第35至38題為題組

Standing proud in the savannah with their red blankets and painted shields, the Maasai people are one of the widely known symbols of East Africa. Their unique style, as remarked by Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, “has grown from the inside, and is an expression of the race and its history.”

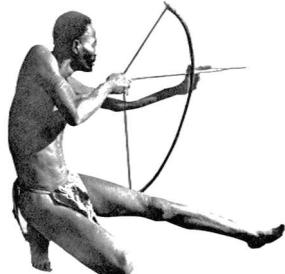
The Maasai are a semi-nomadic group in Kenya and northern Tanzania, wandering in bands and living almost entirely on the meat, blood, and milk of their herds. Over the years, the fearless tribesmen have stood strong against slavery, and resisted the urging of the Kenyan and Tanzanian governments to adopt a more modern lifestyle. In fact, they are one of the few tribes that have retained most of their traditions. Up until recently, the only way for a Maasai boy to achieve warrior status was to single-handedly kill a lion with his spear.

Maasai clothing varies with age, gender, and place. The most recognizable piece of clothing is the *shukà*, a sheet of fabric worn wrapped around the body. Red is a popular color, and women generally opt for checked, striped, or patterned pieces of cloth. Young men wear black for several months after their circumcision, a ritual signifying their coming of age. A Maasai warrior is rarely seen without his spear and shield. In Blixen’s words, “their weapons and finery are as much a part of their being as are a stag’s antlers” (a male deer’s horns).

Beadwork is an important part of Maasai culture. Beaded jewelry is made by women, and is famous for its complexity. Natural materials such as clay, shells, and ivory were used before trading with the Europeans in the 19th century. They were then replaced by colorful glass beads, allowing for more detailed beadwork and color patterns. Multicolored beadwork is popular among both men and women. Each color holds a special meaning: White stands for peace, green for land and production, while red—the most favored color among the Maasai—is the symbol of unity and bravery.

35. Which of the following pictures best represents the image of a typical Maasai warrior?

(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



36. What can we learn from the passage about the Maasai people?

- (A) They have been urged by governments to leave behind their traditions.
- (B) They resist foreign influence because they were enslaved in the past.
- (C) A boy has to kill a lion by himself before becoming an adult.
- (D) A Maasai woman is usually good at beadwork and farming.

37. Which of the following is true about Maasai clothing and beadwork?

- (A) Striped and patterned cloth is preferred by young adults.
- (B) Young men cannot wear black until they become warriors.
- (C) Colorful glass jewelry became popular after the 19th century.
- (D) The color of the *shukà* represented one's importance in the tribe.

38. Why does the author quote Blixen's comment at the end of the third paragraph?

- (A) To explain how Maasai warriors hunt for deer in the wild.
- (B) To exemplify the types of weapons used by Maasai warriors.
- (C) To emphasize that weapons are an inseparable part of a Maasai warrior's outfit.
- (D) To show the similarities between the behavior of a Maasai warrior and that of a male deer.

第 39 至 42 題為題組

A hard hat is a helmet used mostly at worksites to protect the head from injuries due to falling objects. Since its introduction in the early 20th century, the headgear has saved countless lives and is considered the number one safety tool for construction workers.

The hard hat was invented in 1919 by Edward W. Bullard, who had just returned from World War I. Before the war, workers used to smear their hats with coal tar for protection of their head. Bullard, having witnessed the life-saving power of the metal helmet in the War, decided to produce a head protection device that was affordable for every worker and lightweight enough to be worn all day long. The Hard Boiled Hat was thus born, using steamed canvas and leather, covered with black paint, and featuring a suspension system to reduce impact. Soon, hard hats became widely used. The headgear was later made mandatory at construction sites in major construction projects, such as the Hoover Dam in 1931 and the Golden Gate Bridge in 1933.

Over the past century, hard hats have advanced considerably, evolving from canvas and leather to aluminum, fiberglass, and, eventually, to thermoplastic. Recently, new models have been introduced and accessories added to meet the needs of laborers working on various job sites. For instance, a ventilated hard hat was developed to keep wearers cooler, and see-through face shields were attached to better see the hazards lurking above. Today, attachments include radios, sensors, cameras, and a lot more. A common color code has also been developed for recognizing people and their roles on site. Yellow is used for general laborers and contractors, white (or sometimes black) for supervisors and managers, and green for inspectors and new workers.

New products continue to expand the market. Global sales of hard hats totaled USD 2.1 billion in 2016, and are expected to reach USD 3.19 billion in 2025.

39. Which of the following aspects about hard hats is NOT discussed in the passage?
- (A) Their functions. (B) Their appearances. (C) Their materials. (D) Their limitations.
40. In what order did the following protective hats appear?
- a. fiberglass hats
b. hats with see-through shields
c. hats with canvas and leather
d. hats with tar over them
- (A) d→c→a→b (B) c→d→b→a (C) c→b→a→d (D) d→c→b→a
41. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true about the hard hat?
- (A) Global sales have doubled every ten years.
(B) The inspiration came from the inventor's wartime experience.
(C) It was standard equipment for construction workers in the 1920s.
(D) Different colors are used in different industries to signal the roles of people on site.
42. Which of the following words are used in the passage to refer to the hard hat?
- a. tool b. code c. device d. helmet e. accessory f. headgear
- (A) a, b, d, e (B) a, c, d, f (C) c, d, e, f (D) a, d, e, f

第 43 至 46 題為題組

Zebrafish, named for their characteristic stripes, have been a popular test subject for researchers. Only a few centimeters in length, the fish breed easily in captivity, grow quickly, and their transparent body makes it easy to study their organs. Above all, they possess some amazing “self-healing” power. When part of their heart is removed, they can grow it back in a matter of weeks. When blinded, they can quickly regain the ability to see.

Recent studies show that humans and zebrafish have the same major organs and share 70 percent of the genes. Moreover, 84 percent of human genes associated with disease find a counterpart in zebrafish. Scientists thus hope that understanding the self-healing mystery of the fish may one day allow humans to regenerate such organs as eyes, hearts, and spines.

Researchers at Vanderbilt University are particularly interested in zebrafish retina regeneration. They have learned that damage of retina can cause blindness in zebrafish, yet it only takes about three to four weeks before vision is restored. The structure and cell types of zebrafish retinas are almost identical to those of humans. If the process can be **replicated** in humans, it may give rise to new treatments for blindness caused by retinal damage.

In order to know exactly how zebrafish retina is regenerated, the team looked at the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), a chemical messenger in the brain that reduces the activity of neurons. They found that lowering GABA levels in zebrafish can trigger retina regeneration, while a high level of GABA concentration will suppress the regeneration process. This suggested that GABA plays an important role in the fish’s ability to regain their sight.

The team is beginning to test the GABA theory on mice. If that works, human trials will be next on the agenda. If the research proves successful in humans, some of the nearly 40 million blind people worldwide may one day have a tiny, striped fish to thank.

43. What can we learn about zebrafish from the passage?
- (A) How they should be studied in labs. (B) Where they derive their regenerative ability.
(C) Why they share humans’ genetic code. (D) What they may offer in medical advancements.
44. Which of the following statements is true regarding GABA in zebrafish?
- (A) Increasing GABA level facilitates neuron activities.
(B) There is a high level of GABA in the brain of zebrafish.
(C) Lowering GABA levels in the brain can stimulate retina regrowth.
(D) GABA contains chemical elements that trigger the growth of neurons.
45. Which of the following is closest in meaning to “**replicated**” in the third paragraph?
- (A) Reproduced. (B) Reassembled. (C) Recycled. (D) Restored.
46. According to the passage, which of the following is an opinion, but **NOT** a fact?
- (A) Humans and zebrafish have 70 percent of genes in common.
(B) Zebrafish can quickly recover vision after damage to the retina.
(C) Scientists are testing if the GABA theory works on mice as it does on zebrafish.
(D) Understanding regeneration in zebrafish may allow humans to regrow their organs.