

2016 年 6 月英语四级真题 第一套

**Part I Writing (30 minutes)**

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a letter to express your thanks to your parents or any family members upon making memorable achievement. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

**Part II Listening Comprehension (25 minutes)**

**Section A**

Directions: In this section, you will hear three news reports. At the end of each news report, you will hear two or three questions. Both the news report 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 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

1. A) The International Labor Organization's key objective.  
B) The basic social protection for the most vulnerable.  
C) Rising unemployment worldwide.  
D) Global economic recovery.
2. A) Many countries have not taken measures to create enough jobs.  
B) Few countries know how to address the current economic crisis.  
C) Few countries have realized the seriousness of the current crisis.  
D) Many countries need support to improve their people's livelihood.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

3. A) Serve standardized food nationwide.  
B) Put calorie information on the menu.  
C) Increase protein content in the food.  
D) Offer convenient food to customers.
4. A) They will be fined.  
B) They will be closed.  
C) They will get a warning.  
D) They will lose customers.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

5. A) Inability to implement their business plans.  
B) Inability to keep turning out novel products.  
C) Lack of a successful business model of their own.  
D) Failure to integrate innovation into their business.
6. A) It is the secret to business success.  
B) It is the creation of something new.  
C) It is a magic tool to bring big rewards.  
D) It is an essential part of business culture.
7. A) Its hardworking employees.

- B) Its flexible promotion strategy。
- C) Its innovation culture。
- D) Its willingness to make investments。

### Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation you will hear four questions. Both the conversations and the question-s 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 8 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

- 8. A) He's got addicted to technology。
- B) He is not very good at socializing。
- C) He is crazy about text-messaging。
- D) He does not talk long on the phone。
- 9. A) Talk big。
- B) Talk at length。
- C) Gossip a lot。
- D) Forget herself。
- 10. A) He thought it was cool。
- B) He needed the practice。
- C) He wanted to stay connected with them。
- D) He had an urgent message to send。
- 11. A) It poses a challenge to seniors。
- B) It saves both time and money。
- C) It is childish and unprofessional。
- D) It is cool and convenient。

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

- 12. A) He wants to change his job assignment。
- B) He is unhappy with his department manager。
- C) He thinks he deserves extra pay for overtime。
- D) He is often singled out for criticism by his boss。
- 13. A) His workload was much too heavy。
- B) His immediate boss did not trust him。
- C) His colleagues often refused to cooperate。
- D) His salary was too low for his responsibility。
- 14. A) He never knows how to refuse。
- B) He is always ready to help others。
- C) His boss has a lot of trust in him。
- D) His boss has no sense of fairness。
- 15. A) Put all his complaints in writing。
- B) Wait and see what happens next。
- C) Learn to say no when necessary。

D) Talk to his boss in person first.

### Section C

Directions: In this section, you will hear three 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 16 to 18 are based on the passage you have just heard.

16. A) The importance of sleep to a healthy life.

B) Reasons for Americans' decline in sleep.

C) Some tips to improve the quality of sleep.

D) Diseases associated with lack of sleep.

17. A) They are more health-conscious.

B) They are changing their living habits.

C) They get less and less sleep.

D) They know the dangers of lack of sleep.

18. A) Their weight will go down.

B) Their mind function will deteriorate.

C) Their work efficiency will decrease.

D) Their blood pressure will rise.

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

19. A) How much you can afford to pay.

B) What course you are going to choose.

C) Which university you are going to apply to.

D) When you are going to submit your application.

20. A) The list of courses studied.

B) The full record of scores.

C) The references from teachers.

D) The personal statement.

21. A) Specify what they would like to do after graduation.

B) Describe in detail how much they would enjoy studying.

C) Indicate they have reflected and thought about the subject.

D) Emphasize that they admire the professors in the university.

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

22. A) It was equipped with rubber tyres.

B) It was built in the late 19th century.

C) It was purchased by the Royal family.

D) It was designed by an English engineer.

23. A) They consumed lots of petrol.

B) They took two passengers only.

- C) They were difficult to drive。
- D) They often broke down。
- 24。 A) They were produced on the assembly line。
- B) They were built with less costly materials。
- C) They were modeled after British cars。
- D) They were made for ordinary use。
- 25。 A) It made news all over the world。
- B) It was built for the Royal family。
- C) It marked a new era in motor travel。
- D) It attracted large numbers of motorists。

### **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 passage you have just heard.

Physical activity does the body good, and there's growing evidence that it helps the brain too. Researchers in the Netherlands report that children who get more exercise, whether at school or on their own, (26) to have higher GPAs and better scores on standardized tests. In a (27) of 14 studies that looked at physical activity and academic (28), investigators found that the more children moved, the better their grades were in school, (29) in the basic subjects of math, English and reading.

The data will certainly fuel the ongoing debate over whether physical education classes should be cut as schools struggle to (30) on smaller budgets. The arguments against physical education have included concerns that gym time may be taking away from study time. With standardized test scores in the U.S. (31) in recent years, some administrators believe students need to spend more time in the classroom instead of on the playground. But as these findings show, exercise and academics may not be (32) exclusive. Physical activity can improve blood (33) to the brain, fueling memory, attention and creativity, which are (34) to learning. And exercise releases hormones that can improve (35) and relieve stress, which can also help learning. So while it may seem as if kids are just exercising their bodies when they're running around, they may actually be exercising their brains as well.

注意：此部分试题请在答题卡 2 上作答。

- A) attendance
- B) consequently
- C) current
- D) depressing
- E) dropping
- F) essential
- G) feasible

- H) flow
- I) mood
- J) mutually
- K) particularly
- L) performance
- M) review
- N) survive
- O) tend

## 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.

Finding the Right Home—and Contentment, Too

[A] When your elderly relative needs to enter some sort of long-term care facility—a moment few parents or children approach without fear—what you would like is to have everything made clear.

[B] Does assisted living really mark a great improvement over a nursing home, or has the industry simply hired better interior designers? Are nursing homes as bad as people fear, or is that an out-moded stereotype (固定看法)? Can doing one's homework really steer families to the best places? It is genuinely hard to know.

[C] I am about to make things more complicated by suggesting that what kind of facility an older person lives in may matter less than we have assumed. And that the characteristics adult children look for when they begin the search are not necessarily the things that make a difference to the people who are going to move in. I am not talking about the quality of care, let me hastily add. Nobody flourishes in a gloomy environment with irresponsible staff and a poor safety record. But an accumulating body of research indicates that some distinctions between one type of elder care and another have little real bearing on how well residents do.

[D] The most recent of these studies, published in The journal of Applied Gerontology, surveyed 150 Connecticut residents of assisted living, nursing homes and smaller residential care homes (known in some states as board and care homes or adult care homes). Researchers from the University of Connecticut Health Center asked the residents a large number of questions about their quality of life, emotional well-being and social interaction, as well as about the quality of the facilities.

[E] "We thought we would see differences based on the housing types," said the lead author of the study, Julie Robison, an associate professor of medicine at the university. A reasonable assumption—don't families struggle to avoid nursing homes and suffer real guilt if they can't?

[F] In the initial results, assisted living residents did paint the most positive picture. They were less likely to report symptoms of depression than those in the other facilities, for

instance, and less likely to be bored or lonely. They scored higher on social interaction.

[G] But when the researchers plugged in a number of other variables, such differences disappeared. It is not the housing type, they found, that creates differences in residents' responses. "It is the characteristics of the specific environment they are in, combined with their own personal characteristics—how healthy they feel they are, their age and marital status," Dr. Robison explained. Whether residents felt involved in the decision to move and how long they had lived there also proved significant.

[H] An elderly person who describes herself as in poor health, therefore, might be no less depressed in assisted living (even if her children preferred it) than in a nursing home. A person who had input into where he would move and has had time to adapt to it might do as well in a nursing home as in a small residential care home, other factors being equal. It is an interaction between the person and the place, not the sort of place in itself, that leads to better or worse experiences. "You can't just say, 'Let's put this person in a residential care home instead of a nursing home—she will be much better off,'" Dr. Robison said. What matters, she added, "is a combination of what people bring in with them, and what they find there."

[I] Such findings, which run counter to common sense, have surfaced before. In a multi-state study of assisted living, for instance, University of North Carolina researchers found that a host of variables—the facility's type, size or age; whether a chain owned it; how attractive the neighborhood was—had no significant relationship to how the residents fared in terms of illness, mental decline, hospitalizations or mortality. What mattered most was the residents' physical health and mental status. What people were like when they came in had greater consequence than what happened once they were there.

[J] As I was considering all this, a press release from a respected research firm crossed my desk, announcing that the five-star rating system that Medicare developed in 2008 to help families compare nursing home quality also has little relationship to how satisfied its residents or their family members are. As a matter of fact, consumers expressed higher satisfaction with the one-star facilities, the lowest rated, than with the five-star ones.

(More on this study and the star ratings will appear in a subsequent post.)

[K] Before we collectively tear our hair out—how are we supposed to find our way in a landscape this confusing?—here is a thought from Dr. Philip Sloane, a geriatrician (老年病学专家) at the University of North Carolina: "In a way, that could be liberating for families."

[L] Of course, sons and daughters want to visit the facilities, talk to the administrators and residents and other families, and do everything possible to fulfill their duties. But perhaps they don't have to turn themselves into private investigators or Congressional subcommittees. "Families can look a bit more for where the residents are going to be happy," Dr. Sloane said. And involving the future resident in the process can be very important.

[M] We all have our own ideas about what would bring our parents happiness. They have their ideas, too. A friend recently took her mother to visit an expensive assisted living/nursing home near my town. I have seen this place—it is elegant, inside and out. But nobody greeted the daughter and mother when they arrived, though the visit had been planned; nobody introduced them to the other residents. When they had lunch in the

dining room, they sat alone at a table。

[N] The daughter feared her mother would be ignored there, and so she decided to move her into a more welcoming facility。 Based on what is emerging from some of this research, that might have been as rational a way as any to reach a decision。

36。 Many people feel guilty when they cannot find a place other than a nursing home for their parents。

37.Though it helps for children to investigate care facilities, involving their parents in the decision-making process may prove very important。

38.It is really difficult to tell if assisted living is better than a nursing home。

39.How a resident feels depends on an interaction between themselves and the care facility they live in。

40.The author thinks her friend made a rational decision in choosing a more hospitable place over an apparently elegant assisted living home。

41.The system Medicare developed to rate nursing home quality is of little help to finding a satisfactory place。

42.At first the researchers of the most recent study found residents in assisted living facilities gave higher scores on social interaction。

43.What kind of care facility old people live in may be less important than we think。

44.The findings of the latest research were similar to an earlier multi-state study of assisted living。

45.A resident's satisfaction with a care facility has much to do with whether they had participated in the decision to move in and how long they had stayed there。

### **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。

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly sophisticated, there are growing concerns that robots could become a threat。 This danger can be avoided, according to computer science professor Stuart Russell, if we figure out how to turn human values into a programmable code。

Russell argues that as robots take on more complicated tasks, it's necessary to translate our morals into AI language。

For example, if a robot does chores around the house, you wouldn't want it to put the pet cat in the oven to make dinner for the hungry children。 "You would want that robot preloaded with a good set of values, " said Russell。

Some robots are already programmed with basic human values。 For example, mobile robots have been programmed to keep a comfortable distance from humans。 Obviously there are cultural differences, but if you were talking to another person and they came up close in your personal space, you wouldn't think that's the kind of thing a properly brought-up person would do。

It will be possible to create more sophisticated moral machines, if only we can find a way to set out human values as clear rules。

Robots could also learn values from drawing patterns from large sets of data on human behavior。 They are dangerous only if programmers are careless。

The biggest concern with robots going against human values is that human beings fail to do sufficient testing and they've produced a system that will break some kind of taboo (禁忌)。

One simple check would be to program a robot to check the correct course of action with a human when presented with an unusual situation。

If the robot is unsure whether an animal is suitable for the microwave, it has the opportunity to stop, send out beeps (嘟嘟声), and ask for directions from a human。 If we humans aren't quite sure about a decision, we go and ask somebody else。

The most difficult step in programming values will be deciding exactly what we believe in moral, and how to create a set of ethical rules。 But if we come up with an answer, robots could be good for humanity。

46.What does the author say about the threat of robots?

- A) It may constitute a challenge to computer programmers。
- B) It accompanies all machinery involving high technology。
- C) It can be avoided if human values are translated into their language。
- D) It has become an inevitable peril as technology gets more sophisticated。

47.What would we think of a person who invades our personal space according to the author?

- A) They are aggressive。
- B) They are outgoing。
- C) They are ignorant。
- D) They are ill-bred。

48.How do robots learn human values?

- A) By interacting with humans in everyday life situations。
- B) By following the daily routines of civilized human beings。
- C) By picking up patterns from massive data on human behavior。
- D) By imitating the behavior of properly brought-up human beings。

49.What will a well-programmed robot do when facing an unusual situation?

- A) keep a distance from possible dangers。
- B) Stop to seek advice from a human being。
- C) Trigger its built-in alarm system at once。
- D) Do sufficient testing before taking action。

50.What is most difficult to do when we turn human values into a programmable code?

- A) Determine what is moral and ethical。
- B) Design some large-scale experiments。
- C) Set rules for man-machine interaction。
- D) Develop a more sophisticated program。

## Passage Two



Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage。

Why do some people live to be older than others? You know the standard explanations: keeping a moderate diet, engaging in regular exercise, etc. But what effect does your personality have on your longevity (长寿)? Do some kinds of personalities lead to longer lives? A new study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society looked at this question by examining the personality characteristics of 246 children of people who had lived to be at least 100。

The study shows that those living the longest are more outgoing, more active and less neurotic (神经质的) than other people. Long-living women are also more likely to be sympathetic and cooperative than women with a normal life span. These findings are in agreement with what you would expect from the evolutionary theory: those who like to make friends and help others can gather enough resources to make it through tough times。

Interestingly, however, other characteristics that you might consider advantageous had no impact on whether study participants were likely to live longer. Those who were more self-disciplined, for instance, were no more likely to live to be very old. Also, being open to new ideas had no relationship to long life, which might explain all those bad-tempered old people who are fixed in their ways。

Whether you can successfully change your personality as an adult is the subject of a longstanding psychological debate. But the new paper suggests that if you want long life, you should strive to be as outgoing as possible。

Unfortunately, another recent study shows that your mother's personality may also help determine your longevity. That study looked at nearly 28, 000 Norwegian mothers and found that those moms who were more anxious, depressed and angry were more likely to feed their kids unhealthy diets. Patterns of childhood eating can be hard to break when we're adults, which may mean that kids of depressed moms end up dying younger。

Personality isn't destiny (命运), and everyone knows that individuals can learn to change. But both studies show that long life isn't just a matter of your physical health but of your mental health。

51. The aim of the study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society is\_\_\_\_\_。

- A) to see whether people's personality affects their life span
- B) to find out if one's lifestyle has any effect on their health
- C) to investigate the role of exercise in living a long life
- D) to examine all the factors contributing to longevity

52. What does the author imply about outgoing and sympathetic people?

- A) They have a good understanding of evolution。
- B) They are better at negotiating an agreement。
- C) They generally appear more resourceful。
- D) They are more likely to get over hardship。

53. What finding of the study might prove somewhat out of our expectation?

- A) Easy-going people can also live a relatively long life。
- B) Personality characteristics that prove advantageous actually vary with times。
- C) Such personality characteristics as self-discipline have no effect on longevity。
- D) Readiness to accept new ideas helps one enjoy longevity。

54. What does the recent study of Norwegian mothers show?

- A) Children's personality characteristics are invariably determined by their mothers。
  - B) People with unhealthy eating habits are likely to die sooner。
  - C) Mothers' influence on children may last longer than fathers'。
  - D) Mothers' negative personality characteristics may affect their children's life spans。
- 55.What can we learn from the findings of the two new studies?
- A) Anxiety and depression more often than not cut short one's life span。
  - B) Longevity results from a combination of mental and physical health。
  - C) Personality plays a decisive role in how healthy one is。
  - D) Health is in large part related to one's lifestyle。

#### **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 the ANSWER SHEET 2.

功夫 (Kong Fu) 是中国武术 (martial arts) 的俗称。中国武术的起源可以追溯到自卫的需要, 狩猎活动以及古代中国的军士训练。它是中国传统体育运动的一种, 年轻人和老年人都练。它已逐渐演变成了中国文化的独特元素。作为中国的国宝, 武术有上百种不同的风格, 是世界上练得最多的武术形式。有些风格模仿了动物的动作, 还有一些则受到了中国哲学思想, 神话和传说的启发。

### **2016 年 6 月英语四级真题 第二套**

#### **Part I Writing (30 minutes)**

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a letter to express your thanks to one of your school teachers upon entering college. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

#### **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.

Contrary to popular belief, older people generally do not want to live with their children. Moreover, most adult children \_\_\_\_ (26) every bit as much care and support to their aging parents as was the case in the "good old days", and most older people do not feel \_\_\_\_ (27).

About 80% of people 65 years and older have living children, and about 90% of them have \_\_\_\_ (28) contact with their children. About 75% of elderly parents who don't go to nursing homes live within 30 minutes of at least one of their children.

However, \_\_\_\_ (29) having contact with children does not guarantee happiness in old age. In fact, some research has found that people who are most involved with their families have the lowest spirits. This research may be \_\_\_\_ (30), however, as ill health often makes older people more \_\_\_\_ (31) and thereby increases contact with family members. So it is more likely that poor health, not just family involvement, \_\_\_\_ (32) spirits.

Increasingly, researchers have begun to look at the quality of relationships, rather than at the frequency of contact, between the elderly and their children. If parents and children share interests and values and agree on childrearing practices and religious \_\_\_\_ (33) they are

likely to enjoy each other's company. Disagreements on such matters can \_\_\_\_ (34) cause problems. If parents are angered by their daughter's divorce, dislike her new husband, and disapprove of how she is raising their grandchildren, \_\_\_\_ (35) are that they are not going to enjoy her visits.

- A.abandoned
- B.advanced
- C.biased
- D.chances
- E.commitment
- F.dampens
- G.dependent
- H.distant
- I.frequent
- J. fulfillment
- K.grant
- L.merely
- M.provide
- N.understandably
- O.unrealistically

## **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.

### **Could Food Shortages Bring Down Civilization?**

[A] For many years I have studied global agricultural, population, environmental and economic trends and their interactions. The combined effects of those trends and the political tensions they generate point to the breakdown of governments and societies. Yet I, too, have resisted the idea that food shortages could bring down not only individual governments but also our global civilization.

[B] I can no longer ignore that risk. Our continuing failure to deal with the environmental declines that are undermining the world food economy forces me to conclude that such a collapse is possible.

[C] As demand for food rises faster than supplies are growing, the resulting food-price inflation puts severe stress on the governments of many countries. Unable to buy grain or grow their own, hungry people take to the streets. Indeed, even before the steep climb in grain prices in 2008, the number of failing states was expanding. If the food situation continues to worsen, entire nations will break down at an ever increasing rate. In the 20th century the main threat to international security was superpower conflict; today it is failing states.

[D] States fail when national governments can no longer provide personal security, food security and basic social services such as education and health care. When governments lose

their control on power, law and order begin to disintegrate. After a point, countries can become so dangerous that food relief workers are no longer safe and their programs are halted. Failing states are of international concern because they are a source of terrorists, drugs, weapons and refugees(难民), threatening political stability everywhere.

[E] The surge in world grain prices in 2007 and 2008—and the threat they pose to food security—has a different, more troubling quality than the increases of the past. During the second of the 20th century, grain prices rose dramatically several times. In 1972, for instance, the Soviets, recognizing their poor harvest early, quietly cornered the world wheat market. As a result, wheat prices elsewhere more than doubled, pulling rice and corn prices up with them. But this and other price shocks were event-driven—drought in the Soviet Union, crop-shrinking heat in the U.S. Corn Belt. And the rises were short-lived: prices typically returned to normal with the next harvest.

[F] In contrast, recent surge in world grain prices is trend-driven, making it unlikely to reverse without a reversal in the trends themselves. On the demand side, those trends include the ongoing addition of more than 70 million people a year, a growing number of people wanting to move up the food chain to consume highly grain-intensive meat products, and the massive diversion(转向) of U.S. grain to the production of bio-fuel.

[G] As incomes rise among low-income consumers, the potential for further grain consumption is huge. But that potential pales beside the never-ending demand for crop-based fuels. A fourth of this year's U.S. grain harvest will go to fuel cars.

[H] What about supply? The three environmental trends—the shortage of fresh water, the loss of topsoil and the rising temperatures—are making it increasingly hard to expand the world's grain supply fast enough to keep up with demand. Of all those trends, however, the spread of water shortages poses the most immediate threat. The biggest challenge here is irrigation, which consumes 70% the world's fresh water. Millions of irrigation wells in many countries are now pumping water out of underground sources faster than rainfall can refill them. The result is falling water tables(地下水位) in countries with half the world's people, including the three big grain producers—China, India and the U.S.

[I] As water tables have fallen and irrigation wells have gone dry, China's wheat crop, the world's largest, has declined by 8% since it peaked at 123 million tons in 1997. But water shortages are even more worrying in India. Millions of irrigation wells have significantly lowered water tables in almost every state.

[J] As the world's food security falls to pieces, individual countries acting in their own self-interest are actually worsening the troubles of many. The trend began in 2007, when leading wheat-exporting countries such as Russia and Argentina limited or banned their exports, in hopes of increasing local food supplies and thereby bringing down domestic food prices. Vietnam banned its exports for several months for the same reason. Such moves may eliminate the fears of those living in the exporting countries, but they are creating panic in importing countries that must rely on what is then left for export.

[K] In response to those restrictions, grain-importing countries are trying to nail down long-term trade agreements that would lock up future grain supplies. Food-import anxiety is even leading to new efforts by food-importing countries to buy or lease farmland in other countries. In spite of such temporary measures, soaring food prices and spreading hunger in many other countries are beginning to break down the social order.

[L]Since the current world food shortage is trend-driven, the environmental trends that cause it must be reversed. We must cut carbon emissions by 80% from their 2006 levels by 2020, stabilize the world's population at eight billion by 2040, completely remove poverty, and restore forests and soils. There is nothing new about the four objectives. Indeed, we have made substantial progress in some parts of the world on at least one of these—the distribution of family-planning services and the associated shift to smaller families.

[M]For many in the development community, the four objectives were seen as positive, promoting development as long as they did not cost too much. Others saw them as politically correct and morally appropriate. Now a third and far more significant motivation presents itself: meeting these goals may necessary to prevent the collapse of our civilization. Yet the cost we project for saving civilization would amount to less than \$200 billion a year, 1/6 of current global military spending. In effect, our plan is the new security budget.

36.The more recent steep climb in grain prices partly results from the fact that more and more people want to consume meat products.

37.Social order is breaking down in many countries because of food shortages.

38.Rather than superpower conflict, countries unable to cope with food shortages now constitute the main threat to world security.

39.Some parts of the world have seen successful implementation of family planning.

40.The author has come to agree that food shortages could ultimately lead to the collapse of world civilization.

41.Increasing water shortages prove to be the biggest obstante to boosting the world's grain production.

42.The cost for saving our civilization would be considerably less than the world's current military spending.

43.To lower domestic food prices, some countries limited or stopped their grain exports.

44.Environmental problems must be solved to case the current global food shortage.

45.A quarter of this year's American grain harvest will be used to produce bio-fuel for cars.

## **Section C**

### **Passage One**

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Declining mental function is often seen as a problem of old age, but certain aspects of brain function actually begin their decline in young adulthood, a new study suggests.

The study, which followed more than 2,000 healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 60, found that certain mental functions—including measures of abstract reasoning, mental speed and puzzle-solving—started to dull as early as age 27.

Dips in memory, meanwhile, generally became apparent around age 37.

On the other hand, indicators of a person's accumulated knowledge—like performance on tests of vocabulary and general knowledge—kept improving with age, according to findings published in the journal *Neurobiology of Aging*.

The results do not mean that young adults need to start worrying about their memories. Most people's minds function at a high level even in their later years, according to researcher Timothy Salthouse.

"These patterns suggest that some types of mental flexibility decrease relatively early in adulthood, but that the amount of knowledge one has, and the effectiveness of integrating it with one's abilities, may increase throughout all of adulthood if there are no diseases," Salthouse said in a news release.

The study included healthy, educated adults who took standard tests of memory, reasoning and perception at the outset and at some point over the next seven years.

The tests are designed to detect subtle (细微的) changes in mental function, and involve solving puzzles, recalling words and details from stories, and identifying patterns in collections of letters and symbols.

In general, Salthouse and his colleagues found, certain aspects of cognition (认知能力) generally started to decline in the late 20s to 30s.

The findings shed light on normal age-related changes in mental function, which could aid in understanding the process of dementia (痴呆), according to the researchers.

"By following individuals over time," Salthouse said, "we gain insight in cognition changes, and may possibly discover ways to slow the rate of decline."

The researchers are currently analyzing the study participants' health and lifestyle to see which factors might influence age-related cognitive changes.

46. What is the common view of mental function?

- A. It varies from person to person.
- B. It weakens in one's later years.
- C. It gradually expands with age.
- D. It indicates one's health condition.

47. What does the new study find about mental functions?

- A. Some diseases inevitably lead to their decline.
- B. They reach a peak at the age of 20 for most people.
- C. They are closely related to physical and mental exercise.
- D. Some of them begin to decline when people are still young.

48. What does Timothy Salthouse say about people's minds in most cases?

- A. They tend to decline in people's later years.
- B. Their flexibility determines one's abilities.
- C. They function quite well even in old age.
- D. Their functioning is still a puzzle to be solved.

49. Although people's minds may function less flexibly as they age, they \_\_\_\_.

- A. may be better at solving puzzles
- B. can memorize things with more ease
- C. may have greater facility in abstract reasoning
- D. can put what they have learnt into more effective use

50. According to Salthouse, their study may help us \_\_\_\_.

- A. find ways to slow down our mental decline
- B. find ways to boost our memories
- C. understand the complex process of mental functioning
- D. understand the relation between physical and mental health

## Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The most important thing in the news last week was the rising discussion in Nashville about the educational needs of children. The shorthand(简写)educators use for this is "pre-K"—meaning instruction before kindergarten—and the big idea is to prepare 4-year-olds and even younger kids to be ready to succeed on their K-12 journey.

But it gets complicated. The concept has multiple forms, and scholars and policymakers argue about the shape, scope and cost of the ideal program.

The federal Head Start program, launched 50 years ago, has served more than 30 million children. It was based on concepts developed at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College by Susan Gray, the legendary pioneer in early childhood education research.

A new Peabody study of the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K program reports that pre-K works, but the gains are not sustained through the third grade. It seems to me this highlights quality issues in elementary schools more than pre-K, and indicates longer-term success must connect pre-K with all the other issues, related to educating a child.

Pre-K is controversial. Some critics say it is a luxury and shouldn't be free to families able to pay. Pre-K advocates insist it is proven and will succeed if integrated with the rest of the child's schooling. I lean toward the latter view.

This is, in any case, the right conversation to be having now as Mayor Megan Barry takes office. She was the first candidate to speak out for strong pre-K programming. The important thing is for all of us to keep in mind the real goal and the longer, bigger picture.

The weight of the evidence is on the side of pre-K that early intervention (干预)works. What government has not yet found is the political will to put that understanding into full practice with a sequence of smart schooling that provides the early foundation.

For this purpose, our schools need both the talent and the organization to educate each child who arrives at the schoolhouse door. Some show up ready, but many do not at this critical time when young brains are developing rapidly.

51.What does the author say about pre-kindergarten education?

- A.It should cater to the needs of individual children.
- B.It is essential to a person's future academic success.
- C.Scholars and policymakers have different opinions about it.
- D.Parents regard it as the first phase of children's development.

52.What does the new Peabody study find?

- A.Pre-K achievements usually do not last long.
- B.The third grade marks a new phase of learning.
- C.The third grade is critical to children's development.
- D.Quality has not been the top concern of pre-K programs.

53.When does the author think pre-K works the best?

- A.When it is accessible to kids of all families.
- B.When it is made part of kids' education.
- C.When it is no longer considered a luxury.
- D.When it is made fun and enjoyable to kids.

54.What do we learn about Mayor Megan Barry?

- A.She knows the real goal of education.
- B.She is a mayor of insight and vision.

- C.She has once run a pre-K program.  
D.She is a firm supporter of pre-K.
- 55.What does the author think is critical to kids' education?  
A.Teaching method.  
B.Kids' interest.  
C.Early intervention.  
D.Parents' involvement.

#### **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 the ANSWER SHEET 2.

在山东潍坊市, 风筝不仅仅是玩具, 而且还是这座城市文化的标志。潍坊以“风筝之都”而闻名, 已有将近 2400 年放飞风筝的历史。传说中国古代哲学家墨子用了三年时间在潍坊制作了世界上首个风筝, 但放飞的第一天风筝就坠落并摔坏了。也有人相信风筝是中国古代木匠鲁班发明的。据说他的风筝用木头和竹子制作, 飞了三天后才落地。

### **2016 年 6 月英语四级真题 第三套**

#### **Part I Writing (30 minutes)**

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a letter to express your thanks to one of your friends who helped you most when you were in difficulty. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

#### **Part III Reading Comprehension (40 minutes)**

##### **Section A**

Signs barring cell-phone use are a familiar sight to anyone who has ever sat in a hospital waiting room. But the\_\_\_\_(26)popularity of electronic medical records has forced hospital-based doctors to become\_\_\_\_(27)on computers throughout the day, and desktops-which keep doctors from besides-are\_\_\_\_(28)giving way to wireless devices.

As clerical loads increased, "something had to\_\_\_\_(29), and that was always face time with patients," says Dr. Bhakti Patel, a former chief resident in the University of Chicago's internal-medicine program. In fall 2010, she helped\_\_\_\_(30)a pilot project in Chicago to see if the iPad could improve working conditions and patient care. The experiment was so\_\_\_\_(31)that all internal-medicine program adopted the same\_\_\_\_(32)in 2011. Medical schools at Yale and Stanford now have paperless, iPad-based curriculums. "You'll want an iPad just so you can wear this" is the slogan for one of the new lab coats\_\_\_\_(33)with large pockets to accommodate tablet computers.

A study of the University of Chicago iPad project found that patients got tests and\_\_\_\_(34) faster if they were cared for by iPad-equipped residents. Many patients also\_\_\_\_(35) a better understanding of the illnesses that landed them in the hospital in the first place.



- A.dependent
- B.designed
- C.fast
- D.flying
- E.gained
- F.give
- G.growing
- H.launch
- I.policy
- J.prospect
- K.rather
- L.reliable
- M.signal
- N.successful
- O.treatments

## Section B

### Ancient Greek Wisdom Inspires Guidelines to Good Life

[A] Is it possible to enjoy a peaceful life in a world that is increasingly challenged by threats and uncertainties from wars, terrorism, economic crises and a widespread outbreak of infectious diseases? The answer is yes, according to a new book *The 10 Golden Rules: Ancient Wisdom from the Greek Philosophers on Living a Good Life*. The book is co-authored by Long Island University's philosophy professor Michael Soupios and economics professor Panos Mourdoukoutas.

[B] The wisdom of the ancient Greek philosophers is timeless, says Soupios. The philosophy professor says it is as relevant today as when it was first written many centuries ago. "There is no expiration(失效)date on wisdom," he says "There is no shelf life on intelligence. I think that things have become very gloomy these day, lots of misunderstanding, misleading cues, a lot of what the ancients would have called sophistry(诡辩). The nice thing about ancient philosophy as offered by the Greeks is that they tended to see life clear and whole, in a way that we tend not to see life today."

Examine your life

[C] Soupios, along with his co-author Panos Mourdoukoutas, developed their 10 golden rules by turning to the men behind that philosophy-Aristotle, Socrates, Epictetus and Pythagoras, among others. The first rule-examine your life-is the common thread that runs through the entire book. Soupios says that it is based on Plato's observation that the unexamined life is not worth living. "The Greek are always concerned about boxing themselves in, in terms of convictions(信念)," he says. "So take a step back, switch off the automatic pilot and actually stop and reflect about things like our priorities, our values, and our relationships."

Stop worrying about what you can not control

[D] As we begin to examine our life, Soupios says, we come to Rule No.2: Worry only about things that you can control. "The individual who promoted this idea was a Stoic

philosopher His name is Epictetus, "he says." And what the Stoics say in general is simply this. There is a larger plan in life. You are not really going to be able to understand all of the dimensions of this plan. You are not going to be able to control the dimensions of this plan."

[E]So, Soupios explains, it is not worth it to waste our physical, intellectual and spiritual energy worrying about things that are beyond our control. "I can not control whether or not I wind up getting the disease swine flu, for example." He says. "I mean, there are some cautious steps. I can take, but ultimately I can not guarantee myself that. So what Epictetus would say is sitting at home worrying about that would be wrong and wasteful and irrational. You should live your life attempting to identify and control those things which you can genuinely control."

Seek true pleasure

[F]To have a meaningful, happy life we need friends. But according to Aristotle-a student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great-most relationships don't qualify as true friendships. "Just because I have a business relationship with an individual and I can profit from that relationship, it does not necessarily mean that this person is my friend." Soupios says. "Real friendship is when two individuals share the same soul. It is a beautiful and uncharacteristically poetic image that Aristotle offers."

[G]In our pursuit of the good life, he says, it is important to seek out true pleasures-advice which was originally offered by Epicurus. But unlike the modern definition of Epicureanism as a life of indulgence(放纵)and luxury, for the ancient Greeks, it meant finding a state of calm, peace and mental ease.

[H]"This was the highest and most desirable form of pleasure and happiness for the ancient Epicureans." Soupios says. "This is something that is very much well worth considering here in the modern era. I do not think that we spend nearly enough time trying to concentrate on achieving a sort of calmness, a sort of contentment in mental and spiritual, which was identified by these people as the highest form of happiness and pleasure."

Do good to others

[I]Other golden rules counsel us to master ourselves, to avoid excess and not to be a prosperous(发迹的)fool. There are also rules dealing with interpersonal relationships. Be a responsible human being and do not do evil things to others.

[J]"This is Hesiod, of course, a younger contemporary poet, we believe, with Homer," Soupios says. "Hesiod offers an idea-which you very often find in some of the world's great religions, in the Judeo-Christian tradition and in Islam and others-that in some sense, when you hurt another human being, you hurt yourself. That damaging other people in your community and in your life, trashing relationships, results in a kind of self-inflicted(自己招致的)spiritual wound."

[K]Instead, Soupios says, ancient wisdom urges us to do good. Golden Rule No.10 for a good life is that kindness toward others tends to be rewarded.

[L]"This is Aesop, the fabulist(寓言家), the man of these charming little tales, often told in terms of animals and animal relationships." He says. "I think what Aesop was suggesting is that when you offer a good turn to another human being. One can hope that that good deed will come back and sort of pay a profit to you, the doer of the good deed. Even if there is no concrete benefit paid in response to your good deed. At the very least, the doer of the good deed has the opportunity to enjoy a kind of spiritually enlightened moment."

[M]Soupios say following the 10 Golden Rules based on ancient wisdom can guide us to the path of the good life where we stop living as onlookers and become engaged and happier human beings. And that, he notes, is a life worth living.

36. According to an ancient Greek philosopher, it is impossible for us to understand every aspect of our life.

37. Ancient Philosophers saw life in a different light from people of today.

38. Not all your business partners are your soul mates.

49. We can live a peaceful life despite the various challenges of the modern world.

40. The doer of a good deed can feel spiritually rewarded even when they gain no concrete benefits.

41. How to achieve mental calmness and contentment is well worth our consideration today.

42. Michael Soupios suggests that we should stop and think carefully about our priorities in life.

43. Ancient philosophers strongly advise that we do good.

44. The wise teachings of ancient Greek thinkers are timeless, and are applicable to contemporary life.

45. Do harm to others and you do harm to yourself.

## **Section C**

### **Passage One**

Attitudes toward new technologies often along generational lines. That is, generally, younger people tend to outnumber older people on the front end of a technological shift.

It is not always the case, though. When you look at attitudes toward driverless cars, there doesn't seem to be a clear generational divide. The public overall is split on whether they'd like to use a driverless car. In a study last year, of all people surveyed, 48 percent said they wanted to ride in one, while 50 percent did not.

The fact that attitudes toward self-driving cars appear to be so steady across generations suggests how transformative the shift to driverless cars could be. Not everyone wants a driverless car now-and no one can get one yet-but among those who are open to them, every age group is similarly engaged.

Actually, this isn't surprising. Whereas older generations are sometimes reluctant to adopt new technologies, driverless cars promise real value to these age groups in particular. Older adults, especially those with limited mobility or difficulty driving on their own, are one of the classic use cases for driverless cars.

This is especially interesting when you consider that younger people are generally more interested in travel-related technologies than older ones.

When it comes to driverless cars, differences in attitude are more pronounced based on factors not related to age. College graduates, for example, are particularly interested in driverless cars compared with those who have less education, 59 percent of college graduates said they would like to use a driverless car compared with 38 percent of those with a high-school diploma or less.

Where a person lives matters, too. More people who live in cities and suburbs said they

wanted to try driverless cars than those who lived in rural areas.

While there's reason to believe that interest in self-driving cars is going up across the board, a person's age will have little to do with how self-driving cars can be becoming mainstream. Once driverless cars are actually available for sale, the early adopters will be the people who can afford to buy them.

46. What happens when a new technology emerges?

- A. It further widens the gap between the old and the young.
- B. It often leads to innovations in other related fields.
- C. It contributes greatly to the advance of society as a whole.
- D. It usually draws different reactions from different age groups.

47. What does the author say about the driverless car?

- A. It does not seem to create a generational divide.
- B. It will not necessarily reduce road accidents.
- C. It may start a revolution in the car industry.
- D. It has given rise to unrealistic expectations.

48. Why does the driverless car appeal to some old people?

- A. It saves their energy.
- B. It helps with their mobility.
- C. It adds to the safety of their travel.
- D. It stirs up their interest in life.

49. What is likely to affect one's attitude toward the driverless car?

- A. The location of their residence.
- B. The amount of their special interest
- C. The amount of training they received.
- D. The length of their driving experience.

50. Who are likely to be the first to buy the driverless car?

- A. The senior.
- B. The educated.
- C. The wealthy.
- D. The tech fans.

### Passage Two

In agrarian(农业的), pre-industrial Europe, "you'd want to wake up early, start working with the sunrise, have a break to have the largest meal, and then you'd go back to work," says Ken Albala, a professor of history at the University of the Pacific, "Later, at 5 or 6, you'd have a smaller supper."

This comfortable cycle, in which the rhythms of the day helped shape the rhythms of the meals, gave rise to the custom of the large midday meal, eaten with the extended family, "Meal are the foundation of the family," says Carole Couniban, a professor at Millersville University in

Pennsylvania, "so there was a very important interconnection between eating together" and strength-eating family ties.

Since industrialization, maintaining such a slow cultural metabolism has been much

harder. With the long midday meal shrinking to whatever could be stuffed into a lunch bucket or bought at a food stand. Certainly, there were benefits. Modern techniques for producing and shipping food led to greater variety and quantity, including a tremendous, increase in the amount of animal protein and dairy products available, making us more vigorous than our ancestors.

Yet plenty has been lost too, even in cultures that still live to eat. Take Italy. It's no secret that the Mediterranean diet is healthy, but it was also a joy to prepare and eat. Italians, says Counihan, traditionally began the day with a small meal. The big meal came at around 1 p.m. In between the midday meal and a late, smaller dinner came a small snack. Today, when time zones have less and less meaning, there is little tolerance for offices' closing for lunch, and worsening traffic in cities means workers can't make it home and back fast enough anyway. So the formerly small supper after sundown becomes the big meal of the day. the only one at which the family has a chance to get together. "The evening meal carries the full burden that used to be spread over two meals" says Counihan.

51.What do we learn from the passage about people in pre-industrial Europe?

- A.They had to work from early morning till late at night.
- B.They were so busy working that they only ate simple meals.
- C.Their daily routine followed the rhythm of the natural cycle.
- D.Their life was much more comfortable than that of today.

52.What does Professor Carole Counihan say about. pre-industrial European families eating meals together?

- A.It was helpful to maintaining a nation's tradition.
  - B.It brought family members closer to each other.
  - C.It was characteristic of the agrarian culture.
  - D.It enabled families to save a lot of money.
- 53.What does "cultural metabolism"(Line 1 ,Para. 3) refer to?

- A.Evolutionary adaptation.
- B.Changes in lifestyle.
- C.Social progress.
- D.Pace of life.

54.What does the author think of the food people eat today?

- A.Its quality is usually guaranteed.
- B.It is varied, abundant and nutritious.
- C.It is more costly than what our ancestors ate.
- D.Its production depends too much on technology.

55.What does the author say about Italians of the old days.

- A.They enjoyed cooking as well as eating.
- B.They ate a big dinner late in the evening.
- C.They ate three meals regularly every day.
- D.They were expert at cooking meals.

#### **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 the ANSWER SHEET 2。

乌镇是浙江的一座古老水镇，坐落在京杭大运河畔。这是一处迷人的地方，有许多古桥、中式旅店和餐馆。在过去的一千年里，乌镇的水系和生活方式并未经历多少变化，是一座展现古文明的博物馆。乌镇所有房屋都用石木建造。数百年来，当地人沿着河边建起了住宅和集市。无数宽敞美丽的庭院藏身于屋舍之间，游客们每到一处都会有惊喜的发现。

## 2016 年 12 月大学英语四级真题（卷一）

### Part I Writing (30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay. Suppose you have two options upon graduation: one is to **work in a state-owned business and the other in a joint venture**. You are to make a choice between the two. Write an essay to explain the reasons for your choice. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

### Part II Listening Comprehension (25 minutes)

#### Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear three news reports. At the end of each news report, you will hear two or three questions. Both the news report 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 2 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. A) It was dangerous to live in. C) He could no longer pay the rent.  
B) It was going to be renovated. D) He had sold it to the royal family.
2. A) A strike. C) A forest fire.  
B) A storm. D) A terrorist attack.

Questions 3 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

3. A) They lost contact with the emergency department.  
B) They were trapped in an underground elevator.  
C) They were injured by suddenly falling rocks.  
D) They sent calls for help via a portable radio.
4. A) They tried hard to repair the elevator.  
B) They released the details of the accident.  
C) They sent supplies to keep the miners warm.  
D) They provided the miners with food and water.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

5. A) Raise postage rates.  
B) Improve its services.  
C) Redesign delivery routes.  
D) Close some of its post offices.
6. A) Shortening business hours.  
B) Closing offices on holidays.  
C) Stopping mail delivery on Saturdays.

- D) Computerizing mail sorting processes.
- 7. A) Many post office staff will lose their jobs.
- B) Many people will begin to complain.
- C) Taxpayers will be very pleased.
- D) A lot of controversy will arise.

### **Section B**

Directions: In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation you will hear four questions. Both the conversations and the question-s 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 8 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

- 8. A) He will be kept from promotion.
- B) He will go through retraining.
- C) He will be given a warning.
- D) He will lose part of his pay.
- 9. A) He is always on time.
- B) He is a trustworthy guy.
- C) He is an experienced press operator.
- D) He is on good terms with his workmates.
- 10. A) She is a trade union representative.
- B) She is in charge of public relations.
- C) She is a senior manager of the shop.
- D) She is better at handling such matters.
- 11. A) He is skilled and experienced.
- B) He is very close to the manager.
- C) He is always trying to stir up trouble.
- D) He is always complaining about low wages.

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

- 12. A) Open.
- B) Selfish.
- C) Friendly.
- D) Reserved.
- 13. A) They stay quiet.
- B) They read a book.
- C) They talk about the weather.
- D) They chat with fellow passengers.
- 14. A) She was always treated as a foreigner.
- B) She was eager to visit an English castle.
- C) She was never invited to a colleague's home.
- D) She was unwilling to make friends with workmates.
- 15. A) Houses are much more quiet.
- B) Houses provide more privacy.
- C) They want to have more space.

D) They want a garden of their own.

### Section C

Directions: In this section, you will hear three 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 16 to 18 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

16. A) They don't have much choice of jobs.  
B) They are likely to get much higher pay.  
C) They don't have to go through job interviews.  
D) They will automatically be given hiring priority.
17. A) Ask their professors for help.  
B) Look at school bulletin boards.  
C) Visit the school careers service.  
D) Go through campus newspapers.
18. A) Helping students find the books and journals they need.  
B) Supervising study spaces to ensure a quiet atmosphere.  
C) Helping students arrange appointments with librarians.  
D) Providing students with information about the library.

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

19. A) It tastes better.  
B) It is easier to grow.  
C) It may be sold at a higher price.  
D) It can better survive extreme weathers.
20. A) It is healthier than green tea.  
B) It can grow in drier soil.  
C) It will replace green tea one day.  
D) It is immune to various diseases.
21. A) It has been well received by many tea drinkers.  
B) It does not bring the promised health benefits.  
C) It has made tea farmers' life easier.  
D) It does not have a stable market.

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

22. A) They need decorations to show their status.  
B) They prefer unique objects of high quality.  
C) They decorate their homes themselves.  
D) They care more about environment.
23. A) They were proud of their creations.  
B) They could only try to create at night.  
C) They made great contributions to society.  
D) They focused on the quality of their products.
24. A) Make wise choices.  
B) Identify fake crafts.  
C) Design handicrafts themselves.



- D) Learn the importance of creation.
- 25. A) To boost the local economy.
- B) To attract foreign investments.
- C) To arouse public interest in crafts.
- D) To preserve the traditional culture.

**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 men and women have long bought into the idea that there are “male” and “female” brains, believing that explains just about every difference between the sexes. A new study 26 that belief, questioning whether brains really can be distinguished by gender.

In the study, Tel Aviv University researchers 27 for sex differences the entire human brain.

And what did they find? Not much. Rather than offer evidence for 28 brains as “male” or “female,” research shows that brains fall into a wide range, with most people falling right in the middle.

Daphna Joel, who led the study, said her research found that while there are some gender-based 29, many different types of brain can't always be distinguished by gender.

While the “average” male and “average” female brains were 30 different, you couldn't tell it by looking at individual brain scans. Only a small 31 of people had “all-male” or “all-female” characteristics.

Larry Cahill, an American neuroscientist (神经科学家), said the study is an important addition to a growing body of research questioning 32 beliefs about gender and brain function. But he cautioned against concluding from this study that all brains are the same, 33 of gender.

“There's a mountain of evidence 34 the importance of sex influences at all levels of brain function,” he told The Seattle Times.

If anything, he said, the study 35 that gender plays a very important role in the brain “even when we are not clear exactly how.”

- A) abnormal
- I) regardless
- B) applied
- J) searched
- C) briefly
- K) similarities
- D) categorizing
- L) slightly
- E) challenges
- M) suggests
- F) figure
- N) tastes
- G) percentage

O) traditional

H) proving

## 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 Burglars Jam Your Wireless Security System?

[A] Any product that promises to protect your home deserves careful examination. So it isn't surprising that you'll find plenty of strong opinions about the potential vulnerabilities of popular home-security systems.

[B] The most likely type of burglary (入室盗窃) by far is the unsophisticated crime of opportunity, usually involving a broken window or some forced entry. According to the FBI, crimes like these accounted roughly two-thirds of all household burglaries in the US in 2013. The wide majority of the rest were illegal, unforced entries that resulted from something like a window being left open. The odds of a criminal using technical means to bypass a security system are so small that the FBI doesn't even track those statistics.

[C] One of the main theoretical home-security concerns is whether or not a given system is vulnerable to being blocked from working altogether. With wired setups, the fear is that a burglar (入室盗贼) might be able to shut your system down simply by cutting the right cable. With a wireless setup, you stick battery-powered sensors up around your home that keep an eye on windows, doors, motion, and more. If they detect something wrong while the system is armed, they'll transmit a wireless alert signal to a base station that will then raise the alarm. That approach will eliminate most cord-cutting concerns—but what about their wireless equivalent, jamming? With the right device tuned to the right frequency, what's to stop a thief from jamming your setup and blocking that alert signal from ever reaching the base station?

[D] Jamming concerns are nothing new, and they're not unique to security systems. Any device that's built to receive a wireless signal at a specific frequency can be overwhelmed by a stronger signal coming in on the same frequency. For comparison, let's say you wanted to “jam” a conversation between two people—all you'd need to do is yell in the listener's ear.

[E] Security devices are required to list the frequencies they broadcast on—that means that a potential thief can find what they need to know with minimal Googling. They will, however, need to know what system they're looking for. If you have a sign in your yard declaring what setup you use, that'd point them in the right direction, though at that point, we're talking about a highly targeted, semi-sophisticated attack, and not the sort forced-entry attack that makes up the majority of burglaries. It's easier to find and acquire jamming equipment for some frequencies than it is for others.

[F] Wireless security providers will often take steps to help combat the threat of jamming attacks. SimpliSafe, winner of our Editor's Choice distinction, utilizes a special system that's capable of separating incidental RF interference from targeted jamming attacks. When the system thinks it's being jammed, it'll notify you via push alert (推送警报). From there, it's up to you to sound the alarm manually.

[G] SimpliSafe was singled out in one recent article on jamming, complete with a video

showing the entire system being effectively bypassed with handheld jamming equipment. After taking appropriate measures to contain the RF interference to our test lab, we tested the attack out for ourselves, and were able to verify that it's possible with the right equipment. However, we also verified that SimpliSafe's anti-jamming system works. It caught us in the act, sent an alert to my smartphone, and also listed our RF interference on the system's event log. The team behind the article and video in question make no mention of the system, or whether or not it detected them.

[H]We like the unique nature of that software. It means that a thief likely wouldn't be able to Google how the system works, then figure out a way around it. Even if they could, SimpliSafe claims that its system is always evolving, and that it varies slightly from system to system, which means there wouldn't be a universal magic formula for cracking it. Other systems also seem confident on the subject of jamming. The team at Frontpoint addresses the issue in a blog on its site, citing their own jam protection software and claiming that there aren't any documented cases of successful jam attack since the company began offering wireless security sensors in the 1980s.

[I] Jamming attacks are absolutely possible. As said before, with the right equipment and the right know-how, it's possible to jam any wireless transmission. But how probable is it that someone will successfully jam their way into your home and steal your stuff?

[J] Let's imagine that you live in a small home with a wireless security setup that offers a functional anti-jamming system. First, a thief is going to need to target your home, specifically. Then, he's going to need to know the technical details of your system and acquire the specific equipment necessary for jamming your specific setup. Presumably, you keep your doors locked at night and while you're away. So the thief will still need to break in. That means defeating the lock somehow, or breaking a window. He'll need to be jamming you at this point, as a broken window or opened door would normally release the alarm. So, too, would the motion detectors in your home, so the thief will need to continue jamming once he's inside and searching for things to steal. However, he'll need to do so without tripping the anti-jamming system, the details of which he almost certainly does not have access to.

[K]At the end of the day, these kinds of systems are primarily designed to protect against the sort of opportunistic smash-and-grab attack that makes up the majority of burglaries. They're also only a single layer in what should ideally be a many-sided approach to securing your home, one that includes common sense things like sound locks and proper exterior lighting at night. No system is impenetrable, and none can promise to eliminate the worst case completely. Every one of them has vulnerabilities that a knowledgeable thief could theoretically exploit. A good system is one that keeps that worst-case setting as improbable as possible while also offering strong protection in the event of a less-extraordinary attack.

36. It is possible for burglars to make jamming attacks with the necessary equipment and skill.

37. Interfering with a wireless security system is similar to interfering with a conversation.

38. A burglar has to continuously jam the wireless security device to avoid triggering the alarm, both inside and outside the house.

39. SimpliSafe provides devices that are able to distinguish incidental radio interference from targeted jamming attacks.

40. Only a very small proportion of burglaries are committed by technical means.

41. It is difficult to crack SimpliSafe as its system keeps changing.

42. Wireless devices will transmit signals so as to activate the alarm once something wrong

is detected.

43. Different measures should be taken to protect one's home from burglary in addition to the wireless security system.

44. SimpliSafe's device can send a warning to the house owner's cellphone.

45. Burglars can easily get a security device's frequency by Internet search.

### **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.

As a person who writes about food and drink for a living. I couldn't tell you the first thing about Bill Perry or whether the beers he sells are that great. But I can tell you that I like this guy. That's because he plans to ban tipping in favor of paying his servers an actual living wage.

I hate tipping.

I hate it because it's an obligation disguised as an option. I hate it for the post-dinner math it requires of me. But mostly, I hate tipping because I believe I would be in a better place if pay decisions regarding employees were simply left up to their employers, as is the custom in virtually every other industry.

Most of you probably think that you hate tipping, too. Research suggests otherwise. You actually love tipping! You like to feel that you have a voice in how much money your server makes. No matter how the math works out, you persistently view restaurants with voluntary tipping systems as being a better value, which makes it extremely difficult for restaurants and bars to do away with the tipping system.

One argument that you tend to hear a lot from the pro-tipping crowd seems logical enough: the service is better when waiters depend on tips, presumably because they see a benefit to successfully veiling their contempt for you. Well, if this were true, we would all be slipping a few 100-dollar bills to our doctors on the way out their doors, too. But as it turns out, waiters see only a tiny bump in tips when they do an exceptional job compared to a passable one. Waiters, keen observers of humanity that they are, are catching on to this; in one poll, a full 30% said they didn't believe the job they did had any impact on the tips they received.

So come on, folks: get on board with ditching the outdated tip system. Pay a little more upfront for your beer or burger. Support Bill Perry's pub, and any other bar or restaurant that doesn't ask you to do drunken math.

46. What can we learn about Bill Perry from the passage?

A) He runs a pub that serves excellent beer.

B) He intends to get rid of the tipping practice.

C) He gives his staff a considerable sum for tips.

D) He lives comfortably without getting any tips.

47. What is the main reason why the author hates tipping?

A) It sets a bad example for other industries.

B) It adds to the burden of ordinary customers.

C) It forces the customer to compensate the waiter.

- D) It poses a great challenge for customers to do math.
48. Why do many people love tipping according to the author?
- A) They help improve the quality of the restaurants they dine in.
- B) They believe waiters deserve such rewards for good service.
- C) They want to preserve a wonderful tradition of the industry.
- D) They can have some say in how much their servers earn.
49. What have some waiters come to realize according to a survey?
- A) Service quality has little effect on tip size.
- B) It is in human nature to try to save on tips.
- C) Tips make it more difficult to please customers.
- D) Tips benefit the boss rather than the employees.
50. What does the author argue for in the passage?
- A) Restaurants should calculate the tips for customers.
- B) Customers should pay more tips to help improve service.
- C) Waiters deserve better than just relying on tips for a living.
- D) Waiters should be paid by employers instead of customers.

### **Passage Two**

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

In the past, falling oil prices have given a boost to the world economy, but recent forecasts for global growth have been toned down, even as oil prices sink lower and lower. Does that mean the link between lower oil prices and growth has weakened?

Some experts say there are still good reasons to believe cheap oil should heat up the world economy. Consumers have more money in their pockets when they're paying less at the pump. They spend that money on other things, which stimulates the economy.

The biggest gains go to countries that import most of their oil like China, Japan, and India, But doesn't the extra money in the pockets of those countries' consumers mean an equal loss in oil producing countries, cancelling out the gains? Not necessarily, says economic researcher Sara Johnson. "Many oil producers built up huge reserve funds when prices were high, so when prices fall they will draw on their reserves to support government spending and subsidies(补贴)for their consumers."

But not all oil producers have big reserves, In Venezuela, collapsing oil prices have sent its economy into free-fall.

Economist Carl Weinberg believes the negative effects of plunging oil prices are overwhelming the positive effects of cheaper oil. The implication is a sharp decline in global trade, which has plunged partly because oil-producing nations can't afford to import as much as they used to.

Sara Johnson acknowledges that the global economic benefit from a fall in oil prices today is likely lower than it was in the past. One reason is that more countries are big oil producers now, so the nations suffering from the price drop account for a larger share of the global economy.

Consumers, in the U.S. at least, are acting cautiously with the savings they're getting at the gas pump, as the memory of the recent great recession is still fresh in their mind. And a number of oil-producing countries are trimming their gasoline subsidies and raising taxes, so the net savings for global consumers is not as big as the oil price plunge might suggest.

51. What does the author mainly discuss in the passage?

- A) The reasons behind the plunge of oil prices.
  - B) Possible ways to stimulate the global economy.
  - C) The impact of cheap oil on global economic growth.
  - D) The effect of falling oil prices on consumer spending.
52. Why do some experts believe cheap oil will stimulate the global economy?
- A) Manufacturers can produce consumer goods at a much lower cost.
  - B) Lower oil prices have always given a big boost to the global economy.
  - C) Oil prices may rise or fall but economic laws are not subject to change.
  - D) Consumers will spend their saving from cheap oil on other commodities.
53. What happens in many oil-exporting countries when oil prices go down?
- A) They suspend import of necessities from overseas.
  - B) They reduce production drastically to boost oil prices.
  - C) They use their money reserves to back up consumption.
  - D) They try to stop their economy from going into free-fall.
54. How does Carl Weinberg view the current oil price plunge?
- A) It is one that has seen no parallel in economic history.
  - B) Its negative effects more than cancel out its positive effects.
  - C) It still has a chance to give rise to a boom in the global economy.
  - D) Its effects on the global economy go against existing economic laws.
55. Why haven't falling oil prices boosted the global economy as they did before?
- A) People are not spending all the money they save on gas.
  - B) The global economy is likely to undergo another recession.
  - C) Oil importers account for a larger portion of the global economy.
  - D) People the world over are afraid of a further plunge in oil prices.

#### **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.

随着中国的改革开放，如今很多年轻人都喜欢举行西式婚礼。新娘在婚礼上穿着白色婚纱，因为白色被认为是纯洁的象征。然而在中国传统文化中，白色经常是葬礼上使用的颜色。因此务必记住，白花一定不要用作祝人康复的礼物，尤其不要送给老年人或危重病人。同样，礼金也不能装在白色的信封里，而要装在红色的信封里。