2014年12月大学英语四级考试真题（第1套）

**Part Ⅰ Writing (30 minutes)**

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay about **a classmate of yours who has influenced you most in college.** You should state the reasons and write at least **120** words but no more than **180** words.

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**Part Ⅱ Listening Comprehension (30 minutes)**

**Section A**

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer** **Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

1. A) The woman is fussy about the cleanness of the apartment.

B) He has not cleaned the apartment since his mother's visit.

C) He does not remember when his mother came over.

D) His mother often helps him to clean the apartment.

2. A) The bus stop is only two minutes' walk.

B) The running made him short of breath.

C) They might as well take the next bus.

D) The woman is late by a couple of minutes.

3. A) She is suffering a pain in her neck. .

B) She is likely to replace Miss Smith.

C) She has to do extra work for a few days

D) She is quite sick of working overtime.

4. A) Change her job.

B) Buy a dishwasher.

C) Open a flower shop.

D) Start her own business

5. A) He forgot where he had left the package.

B) He slipped on his way to the post office.

C) He wanted to deliver the package himself.

D) He failed to do what he promised to do.

6. A) The speakers do not agree with each other.

B) The woman does not like horror films.

C) The man pays for the tickets as a rule.

D) The speakers happened to meet in the cinema.

7. A) The woman is just as unlucky as the man.

B) The woman is more sensitive than the man.

C) The speakers share a common view on love.

D) The speakers are unhappy with their marriage.

8. A) Preparations for a forum.

B) Participants in the forum.

C) Organizers of a forum.

D) Expectations of the forum.

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

9. A) France.

B) Scandinavia.

C) Russia.

D) East Europe.

10. A) More women will be promoted in the workplace.

B) More women will overcome their inadequacies.

C) More women will receive higher education.

D) More women will work outside the family.

11. A) Try hard to protect women's rights.

B) Educate men to respect women more.

C) Help women acquire more professional skills.

D) Spend more time changing women's attitudes.

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

12. A) In a restaurant. .

B) In a hotel lobby.

C) At the man's office

D) At the woman's place.

13. A) He is the chief designer of the latest bike model.

B) He has completed an overseas market survey.

C) He is the Managing Director of Jayal Motors.

D) He has just come back from a trip to Africa.

14. A) To select the right model. .

B) To get a good import agent.

C) To convince the board members

D) To cut down production costs.

15. A) His flexibility.

B) His vision.

C) His intelligence.

D) His determination .

**Section B**

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some 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.

**Passage One**

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

16. A) How being an identical twin influences one's identity.

B) Why some identical twins keep their identities secret.

C) Why some identical twins were separated from birth.

D) How identical twins are born, raised and educated.

17. A) Their second wives were named Linda. .

B) They grew up in different surroundings.

C) Their first children were both daughters

D) They both got married when they were 39.

18. A) They want to find out the relationship between environment and biology.

B) They want to see what characteristics distinguish one from the other.

C) They want to understand how twins communicate when far apart.

D) They want to know whether twins can feel each other's pain.

**Passage Two**

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

19. A) It is especially attractive to children and the young.

B) It is the first choice of vacationers on the Continent.

C) It is as comfortable as living in a permanent house.

D) It is an inexpensive way of spending a holiday.

20. A) It has a solid plastic frame.

B) It consists of an inner and an outer tent.

C) It is very convenient to set up.

D) It is sold to many Continental countries.

21.A) A groundsheet.

B) A gas stove

C) A kitchen extension..

D) A spare tent.

**Passage Three**

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

22. A) It covers 179 square miles.

B) It is as big as New York City.

C) It covers 97 square kilometers.

D) It is only half the size of Spain.

23. A) Its geographic features attracted many visitors.

B) Its citizens enjoyed a peaceful, comfortable life.

C) It imported food from foreign countries.

D) It was cut off from the rest of the world.

24. A) The fast development of its neighboring countries.

B) The increasing investment by developed countries.

C) The building of roads connecting it with neighboring countries.

D) The establishing of diplomatic relations with France and Spain.

25. A) They work on their farms.

B) They work in the tourist industry.

C) They raise domestic animals.

D) They make traditional handicrafts.

**Section C**

**Directions:** In this section, you will hear a passage three times. When the passage is read for the first time, you should listen carefully for its general idea. When the passage is read for the second time, you are required to fill in the blanks with the exact words you have just heard. Finally, when the passage is read for the third time, you should check what you have written.

"Don't take many English courses; they won't help you get a decent job." "Sign up for management classes, so you'll be ready to join the family business when you graduate."

Sound 26 ? Many of us have heard suggestions like these 27 by parents or others close to us. Such comments often seem quite reasonable.

Why, then, should suggestions like these be taken with 28 ? The reason is they relate to decisions you should make. You are the one who must 29 their consequences.

One of the worst reasons to follow a particular path in life is that other people want you to. Decisions that affect your life should be your decisions—decisions you make after you've considered various 30 and chosen the path that suits you best.

Making your own decisions does not mean that you should 31 the suggestions of others. For instance, your parents do have their own unique experiences that may make their advice helpful, and having 32 in a great deal of your personal history, they may have a clear view of your strengths and weaknesses. Still, their views are not necessarily accurate. They may still see you as a child, 33 care and protection. Or they may see only your strengths. Or, in some unfortunate cases, they may 34 your flaws and shortcomings.

People will always be giving you advice. Ultimately, though, you have to make your own 35 .

**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 36 to 45 are based on the following passage.**

One principle of taxation, called the benefits principle, states that people should pay taxes based on the benefits they receive from government services. This principle tries to make public goods similar to 36 goods. It seems reasonable that a person who often goes to the movies pays more in 37 for movie tickets than a person who rarely goes. And 38 , a person who gets great benefit from a public good should pay more for it than a person who gets little benefit.

The gasoline tax, for instance, is sometimes 39 using the benefits principle. In some states, 40 from the gasoline tax are used to build and maintain roads. Because those who buy gasoline are the same people who use the roads, the gasoline tax might be viewed as a 41 way to pay for this government service.

The benefits principle can also be used to argue that wealthy citizens should pay higher taxes than poorer ones, 42 because the wealthy benefit more from public services. Consider, for example, the benefits of police protection from 43 . Citizens with much to protect get greater benefit from police than those with less to protect. Therefore, according to the benefits principle, the wealthy should 44 more than the poor to the cost of 45 the police force. The same argument can be used for many other public services, such as fire protection, national defense, and the court system.

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| --- |
| A) adapt B) contribute C) exerting  D) expenses E) fair F) justified  G) maintaining H) private I) provided  J) revenues K) similarly L) simply  M) theft N) total 0) wealth |

**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.**

**Growing Up Colored**

**A)** You wouldn't know Piedmont anymore—my Piedmont, I mean—the town in West Virginia where I learned to be a colored boy.

**B)** The 1950s in Piedmont was a time to remember, or at least to me. People were always proud to be from Piedmont—lying at the foot of a mountain, on the banks of the mighty Potomac. We knew God gave America no more beautiful location. I never knew colored people anywhere who were crazier about mountains and water, flowers and trees, fishing and hunting. For as long as anyone could remember, we could outhunt, outshoot, and outswim the white boys in the valley.

**C)** The social structure of Piedmont was something we knew like the back of our hands. It was an immigrant town; white Piedmont was Italian and Irish, with a handful of wealthy WASPs (盎格鲁撒克逊裔的白人新教徒) on East Hampshire Street, and "ethnic" neighborhoods of working-class people everywhere else, colored and white.

**D)** For as long as anyone can remember, Piedmont's character has been completely bound up with the Westvaco paper mill: its prosperous past and doubtful future. At first glance, the town is a typical dying mill center. Many once beautiful buildings stand empty, evidencing a bygone time of spirit and pride. The big houses on East Hampshire Street are no longer proud, as they were when I was a kid.

**E)** Like the Italians and the Irish, most of the colored people migrated to Piedmont at the turn of the 20th century to work at the paper mill, which opened in 1888. All the colored men at the paper mill worked on "the platform"—loading paper into trucks until the craft unions were finally integrated in 1968. Loading is what Daddy did every working day of his life. That's what almost every colored grown-up I knew did.

**F)** Colored people lived in three neighborhoods that were clearly separated. Welcome to the Colored Zone, a large stretched banner could have said. And it felt good in there, like walking around your house in bare feet and underwear, or snoring (打鼾) right out loud on the couch in front of the TV—enveloped by the comforts of home, the warmth of those you love.

**G)** Of course, the colored world was not so much a neighborhood as a condition of existence. And though our own world was seemingly self-contained, it impacted on the white world of Piedmont in almost every direction. Certainly, the borders of our world seemed to be impacted on when some white man or woman showed up where he or she did not belong, such as at the black Legion Hall. Our space was violated when one of them showed up at a dance or a party. The rhythms would be off. The music would sound not quite right. Everybody would leave early.

**H)** Before 1955, most white people were just shadowy presences in our world, vague figures of power like remote bosses at the mill or clerks at the bank. There were exceptions, of course, the white people who would come into our world in routine, everyday ways we all understood. Mr. Mail Man, Mr. Insurance Man, Mr. White-and-Chocolate Milk Man, Mr. Landlord Man, Mr. Police Man: we called white people by their trade, like characters in a mystery play. Mr. Insurance Man would come by every other week to collect payments on college or death policies, sometimes 50 cents or less.

**I)** "It's no disgrace to be colored," the black entertainer Bert Williams famously observed early in the century, "but it is awfully inconvenient." For most of my childhood, we couldn't eat in restaurants or sleep in hotels, we couldn't use certain bathrooms or try on clothes in stores. Mama insisted that we dress up when we went to shop. She was carefully dressed when she went to clothing stores, and wore white pads called shields under her arms so her dress or blouse would show no sweat. "We'd like to try this on," she'd say carefully, uttering her words precisely and properly. "We don't buy clothes we can't try on," she'd say when they declined, and we'd walk out in Mama's dignified (有尊严的) manner. She preferred to shop where we had an account and where everyone knew who she was.

**J)** At the Cut-Rate Drug Store, no one colored was allowed to sit down at the counter or tables, with one exception: my father. I don't know for certain why Carl Dadisman, the owner, wouldn't stop Daddy from sitting down. But I believe it was in part because Daddy was so light-colored, and in part because, during his shift at the phone company, he picked up orders for food and coffee for the operators. Colored people were supposed to stand at the counter, get their food to go, and leave. Even when Young Doc Bess would set up the basketball team with free Cokes after one of many victories, the colored players had to stand around and drink out of paper cups while the white players and cheerleaders sat down in comfortable chairs and drank out of glasses.

**K)** I couldn't have been much older than five or six as I sat with my father at the Cut-Rate one afternoon, enjoying ice cream. Mr. Wilson, a stony-faced Irishman, walked by. "Hello, Mr. Wilson," my father said. "Hello, George."

**L)** I was genuinely puzzled. Mr. Wilson must have confused my father with somebody else, but who? There weren't any Georges among the colored people in Piedmont. "Why don't you tell him your name, Daddy?" I asked loudly. "Your name isn't George."

"He knows my name, boy," my father said after a long pause. "He calls all colored people George."

**M)** I knew we wouldn't talk about it again; even at that age, I was given to understand that there were some subjects it didn't do to worry to death about. Now that I have children, I realize that what distressed my father wasn't so much the Mr. Wilsons of the world as the painful obligation to explain the racial facts of life to someone who hadn't quite learned them yet. Maybe Mr. Wilson couldn't hurt my father by calling him George; but I hurt him by asking to know why.

**46. The author felt as a boy that his life in a separated neighborhood was casual and cozy.**

**47. There is every sign of decline at the paper mill now.**

**48. One reason the author's father could sit and eat at the drug store was that he didn't look that dark.**

**49. Piedmont was a town of immigrants from different parts of the world.**

**50. In spite of the awful inconveniences caused by racial prejudice, the author's family managed to live a life of dignity.**

**51. The author later realized he had caused great distress to his father by asking why he was wrongly addressed.**

**52. The author took pride in being from Piedmont because of its natural beauty.**

**53. Colored people called white people by the business they did.**

**54. Colored people who lived in Piedmont did heavy manual jobs at the paper mill.**

**55. The colored people felt uneasy at the presence of the whites in their neighborhoods.**

**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.**

The rise of the Internet has been one of the most transformative developments in human history, comparable in impact to the invention of the printing press and the telegraph. Over two billion people worldwide now have access to vastly more information than ever before, and can communicate with each other instantly, often using Web-connected mobile devices they carry everywhere. But the Internet's tremendous impact has only just begun.

"Mass adoption of the Internet is driving one of the most exciting social, cultural, and political transformations in history, and unlike earlier periods of change, this time the effects are fully global," Schmidt and Cohen write in their new book, The New Digital Age.

Perhaps the most profound changes will come when the five billion people worldwide who currently lack Internet access get online. The authors do an excellent job of examining the implications of the Internet revolution for individuals, governments, and institutions like the news media. But if the book has one major shortcoming, it's that the authors don't spend enough time applying a critical eye to the role of Internet businesses in these sweeping changes.

In their book, the authors provide the most authoritative volume to date that describes—and more importantly predicts—how the Internet will shape our lives in the coming decades. They paint a picture of a world in which individuals, companies, institutions, and governments must deal with two realities, one physical, and one virtual.

At the core of the book is the idea that "technology is neutral, but people aren't." By using this concept as a starting point, the authors aim to move beyond the now familiar optimist vs. pessimist dichotomy (对立观点) that has characterized many recent debates about whether the rise of the Internet will ultimately be good or bad for society. In an interview with TIME earlier this week, Cohen said although he and his co-author are optimistic about many aspects of the Internet, they're also realistic about the risks and dangers that lie ahead when the next five billion people come online, particularly with respect to personal privacy and state surveillance (监视).

56. In what way is the rise of the Internet similar to the invention of the printing press and the telegraph?

A) It transforms human history.

B) It facilitates daily communication.

C) It is adopted by all humanity.

D) It revolutionizes people's thinking.

57. How do Schmidt and Cohen describe the effects of the Internet?

A) They are immeasurable.

B) They are worldwide.

C) They are unpredictable.

D) They are contaminating.

58. In what respect is the book The New Digital Age considered inadequate?

A) It fails to recognize the impact of the Internet technology.

B) It fails to look into the social implications of the Internet.

C) It lacks an objective evaluation of the role of Internet businesses.

D) It does not address the technical aspects of Internet communication.

59. What will the future be like when everybody gets online?

A) People will be living in two different realities.

B) People will have equal access to information.

C) People don't have to travel to see the world.

D) People don't have to communicate face to face.

60. What does the passage say about the authors of The New Digital Age?

A) They leave many questions unanswered concerning the Internet.

B) They are optimistic about the future of the Internet revolution.

C) They have explored the unknown territories of the virtual world.

D) They don't take sides in analyzing the effects of the Internet.

**Passage Two**

**Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.**

In 1950, a young man would have found it much easier than it is today to get and keep a job in the auto industry. And in that year the average autoworker could meet monthly mortgage (抵押贷款) payments on an average home with just 13.4 percent of his take-home pay. Today a similar mortgage would claim more than twice that share of his monthly earnings.

Other members of the autoworker's family, however, might be less inclined to trade the present for the past. His retired parents would certainly have had less economic security back then. Throughout much of the 1960s, more than a quarter of men and women age 65 and older lived below the poverty level, compared to less than 10 percent in 2010.

In most states, his wife could not have taken out a loan or a credit card in her own name. In 42 states, a homemaker had no legal claim on the earnings of her husband. And nowhere did a wife have legal protection against family violence.

Most black workers would not want to return to a time when, on average, they earned 40 percent less than their white counterparts (职位相当的人), while racially restrictive agreements largely prevented them from buying into the suburban neighborhoods being built for white working-class families.

Today, new problems have emerged in the process of resolving old ones, but the solution is not to go back to the past. Some people may long for an era when divorce was still hard to come by. The spread of no-fault divorce has reduced the bargaining power of whichever spouse is more interested in continuing the relationship. And the breakup of such marriages has caused pain for many families.

The growing diversity of family life comes with new possibilities as well as new challenges. According to a recent poll, more than 80 percent of Americans believe that their current family is as close as the one in which they grew up, or closer. Finding ways to improve the lives of the remaining 20 percent seems more realistic than trying to restore an imaginary golden age.

61. What do we learn about American autoworkers in 1950?

A) They had less job security than they do today.

B) It was not too difficult for them to buy a house.

C) Their earnings were worth twice as much as today.

D) They were better off than workers in other industries.

62. What does the author say about retired people today?

A) They invariably long to return to the golden past.

B) They do not depend so much on social welfare.

C) They feel more secure economically than in the past.

D) They are usually unwilling to live with their children.

63. Why couldn't black workers buy a house in a white suburban neighborhood?

A) They lacked the means of transportation.

B) They were subjected to racial inequality.

C) They were afraid to break the law.

D) They were too poor to afford it.

64. What is the result of no-fault divorce?

A) Divorce is easier to obtain.

B) Domestic violence is lessened.

C) It causes little pain to either side.

D) It contributes to social unrest.

65. What does the author suggest society do?

A) Get prepared to face any new challenges.

B) Try to better the current social security net.

C) Narrow the gap between blacks and whites.

D) Improve the lives of families with problems.

**Part Ⅳ Translation (30 minutes)**

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

越来越多的中国年轻人正对旅游产生兴趣，这是近年来的新趋势。年轻游客数量的不断增加，可以归因于他们迅速提高的收入和探索外部世界的好奇心。随着旅行多了，年轻人在大城市和著名景点花的时间少了，他们反而更为偏远的地方所吸引。有些人甚至选择长途背包旅行。最近调查显示，很多年轻人想要通过旅行体验不同的文化、丰富知识、拓宽视野。

2014年12月大学英语四级考试真题（第1套）参考答案

**Part Ⅰ**

**高分范文**

A Classmate Who Has Influenced Me Most in College

①Once upon a time, I was not so confident about my study and was subject to being pessimistic when confronted with frustrations. ②However, I found myself gradually changing as Tom, one of my classmates in college, strived to encourage me. ③I really appreciate his help.

④I used not to be good at English; however, whenever I was confused about the teacher's explanation, he always interpreted it to me in an explicit way. Gradually, I found English not so difficult and made progress day by day. ⑤In addition, it was Tom who kept guiding me how to live through all kinds of setbacks and frustrations in life. ⑥I'll never forget the very day when I failed my speech contest and was overwhelmed and ashamed. ⑦Tom told me that nobody can defeat a person if he is determined to stand up to every failure. ⑧With his encouragement, I regained confidence in learning, realizing that optimism was always the key to success.

⑨Thanks to Tom, I eventually learned the significance of self-confidence and optimism. They not only serve as indispensable characteristics of personality but also will benefit people all his life.

**Part Ⅱ Listening Comprehension**

**Section A**

1. B

2. C

3. C

4. A

5. D

6. B

7. C

8. A

9. B

10. D

11. D

12. A

13. C

14. B

15. D

**Section B**

16. A

17. B

18. A

19. D

20. B

21. C

22. A

23. D

24. C

25. B

Section C

26. familiar

27. put forward

28. caution

29. live with

30. alternatives

31. ignore

32. participated

33. in need of

34. focus only on

35. judgments

**Part Ⅲ Reading Comprehension**

**Section A**

36. H

37. N

38. K

39. F

40. J

41. E

42. L

43. M

44. B

45. G

**Section B**

46. F

47. D

48. J

49. C

50. I

51. M

52. B

53. H

54. E

55. G

**Section C**

56. B

57. B

58. C

59. A

60. D

61. B

62. C

63. B

64. A

65. D

**Part Ⅳ Translation**

**参考译文**

More and more Chinese young people are getting interested in traveling, which is a new trend in recent years. The increasing number of young travelers can be attributed to the rapid growth of their income and their curiosity for exploring the outside world. With traveling more, youngsters spend less time in big cities and famous scenic spots. Instead, they are attracted to remoter places. Some of them would even choose long-distance backpacking. A recent survey shows that many young people want to experience a different culture, enlarge their knowledge, and broaden their horizons through traveling.