2014年12月大学英语四级考试真题（第2套）

**Part Ⅰ Writing (30 minutes)**

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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 man is not good at balancing his budget.

B) She will go purchase the gift herself.

C) The gift should not be too expensive.

D) They are going to Jane's house-warming party.

2. A) He is quite willing to give the woman a hand.

B) It takes patience to go through the statistics.

C) He has prepared the statistics for the woman.

D) The woman should take a course in statistics.

3. A) Page 55 is missing from the woman's scripts.

B) They cannot begin their recording right away.

C) The woman does not take the recording seriously.

D) The man wants to make some changes in the scripts.

4. A) The date of Carl's wedding.

B) The birthday of Carl's bride.

C) A significant event in July.

D) Preparations for a wedding.

5. A) The woman forgot to tell the man in advance.

B) The man was absent from the weekly meeting.

C) The woman was annoyed at the man's excuse.

D) The man was in charge of scheduling meetings.

6. A) The woman is a marvelous cook.

B) The woman has just bought an oven

C) The man has to leave in half an hour.

D) The man cannot wait for his meal.

7. A) How she can best help the man.

B) Where the man got the bad news.

C) What items sell well in the store.

D) Whether the man can keep his job .

8. A) The woman can sign up for a swimming class.

B) He works in the physical education department.

C) The woman has the potential to swim like a fish.

D) He would like to teach the woman how to swim.

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

9. A) He teaches in a law school.

B) He loves classical music.

C) He is a diplomat.

D) He is a wonderful lecturer.

10. A) Went to see a play.

B) Watched a soccer game

C) Took some photos.

D) Attended a dance.

11. A) She decided to get married in three years.

B) Her mother objected to Eric's flying lessons.

C) She insisted that Eric pursue graduate studies.

D) Her father said she could marry Eric right away.

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

12. A) Editor.

B) Teacher .

C) Journalist.

D) Typist.

13. A) The beautiful Amazon rainforests.

B) A new railway under construction.

C) Big changes in the Amazon valley.

D) Some newly discovered scenic spot.

14. A) In news weeklies. .

B) In newspapers' Sunday editions

C) In a local evening paper.

D) In overseas editions of U. S. magazines.

15. A) To be employed by a newspaper. .

B) To become a professional writer.

C) To sell her articles to a news service

D) To get her life story published soon.

**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) Nodding one's head.

B) Waving one's hand.

C) Holding up the forefinger.

D) Turning the right thumb down.

17. A) Looking away from them.

B) Forming a circle with fingers.

C) Bowing one's head to them.

D) Waving or pointing to them.

18. A) Looking one's superior in the eye.

B) Keeping one's arms folded while talking.

C) Showing the sole of one's foot to a guest.

D) Using a lot of gestures during a conversation.

**Passage Two**

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

19. A) They had to beg for food after the harvest. .

B) They grew wheat and corn on a small farm.

C) They shared a small flat with their relatives

D) The children walked to school on dirt roads.

20. A) Tour Ecuador's Andes Mountains.

B) Earn an annual income of $2,800.

C) Purchase a plot to build a home on.

D) Send their children to school.

21. A) The achievements of the Trickle Up Program.

B) A new worldwide economic revolution.

C) Different forms of assistance to the needy.

D) The life of poor people in developing countries.

**Passage Three**

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

22. A) They are highly sensitive to cold.

B) They are vitally important to our life.

C) They are a living part of our body.

D) They are a chief source of our pain.

23. A) It has to be removed in time by a dentist.

B) It is a rare oral disease among old people.

C) It contains many nerves and blood vessels.

D) It is a sticky and colorless film on the teeth.

24. A) It can change into acids causing damage to their outer covering.

B) It greatly reduces their resistance to the attacks of bacteria.

C) It makes their nerves and blood vessels more sensitive to acid food.

D) It combines with food particles to form a film on their surface.

25. A) Food particles.

B) Gum disease.

C) Unhealthy living habits.

D) Chemical erosion.

**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.

Stunt people (替身演员) are not movie stars, but they are the hidden heroes of many movies. They were around long before films. Even Shakespeare may have used them in fight scenes. To be good, a fight scene has to look real. Punches must 26 enemies' jaws. Sword fights must be fought with 27 swords. Several actors are usually in a fight scene. Their moves must be set up so that no one gets hurt. It is almost like planning a dance performance.

If a movie scene is dangerous, stunt people usually 28 the stars. You may think you see Tom Cruise running along the top of a train. But it is 29 his stunt double. Stunt people must 30 the stars they stand in for. Their height and build should be about the same. But when close-ups are needed, the film 31 the star.

Some stunt people 32 in certain kinds of scenes. For instance, a stunt woman named Jan Davis does all kinds of jumps. She has leapt from planes and even off the top of a waterfall. Each jump required careful planning and expert 33 .

Yakima Canutt was a famous cowboy stunt man. Among other stunts, he could jump from a second story window onto a horse's back. He 34 the famous trick of sliding under a moving stagecoach. Canutt also 35 a new way to make a punch look real. He was the only stunt man ever to get an Oscar.

**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.**

As an Alaskan fisherman, Timothy June, 54, used to think that he was safe from industrial pollutants (污染物) at his home in Haines—a town with a population of 2, 400 people and 4, 000 eagles, with 8 million acres of protected wild land nearby. But in early 2007, June agreed to take part in a 36 of 35 Americans from seven states. It was a biomonitoring project, in which people's blood and urine (尿) were tested for 37 of chemicals—in this case, three potentially dangerous classes of compounds found in common household 38 like face cream, tin cans, and shower curtains. The results— 39 in November in a report called "Is It in Us?" by an environmental group—were rather worrying. Every one of the participants, 40 from an Illinois state senator to a Massachusetts minister, tested positive for all three classes of pollutants. And while the 41 presence of these chemicals does not 42 indicate a health risk, the fact that typical Americans carry these chemicals at all 43 June and his fellow participants.

Clearly, there are chemicals in our bodies that don't 44 there. A large, ongoing study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found 148 chemicals in Americans of all ages. And in 2005, the Environmental Working Group found an 45 of 200 chemicals in the blood of 10 new-borns. "Our babies are being born pre-polluted," says Sharyle Patton of Commonweal, which cosponsored "Is It in Us?" "This is going to be the next big environmental issue after climate change."

|  |
| --- |
| A) analyses B) average C) belong  D) demonstrated E) excess F) extending  G) habitually H) necessarily I) products  J) ranging K) released L) shocked  M) simple N) survey O) traces |

**Section B**

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

In Hard Economy for All Ages, Older Isn't Better... It's Brutal

**A)** Young graduates are in debt, out of work and on their parents’ couches. People in their 30s and 40s can't afford to buy homes or have children. Retirees are earning near-zero interest on their savings.

**B)** In the current listless (缺乏活力的) economy, every generation has a claim to having been most injured. But the Labor Department's latest jobs reports and other recent data present a strong case for crowning baby boomers (二战后生育高峰期出生的人) as the greatest victims of the recession and its dreadful consequences.

**C)** These Americans in their 50s and early 60s—those near retirement age who do not yet have access to Medicare and Social Security—have lost the most earnings power of any age group, with their household incomes 10 percent below what they made when the recovery began three years ago, according to Sentier Research, a data analysis company. Their retirement savings and home values fell sharply at the worst possible time: just before they needed to cash out. They are supporting both aged parents and unemployed young-adult children, earning them the unlucky nickname "Generation Squeeze."

**D)** New research suggests that they may die sooner, because their health, income security and mental well-being were battered (重创) by recession at a crucial time in their lives. A recent study by economists at Wellesley College found that people who lost their jobs in the few years before becoming qualified for Social Security lost up to three years from their life expectancy (预期寿命), largely because they no longer had access to affordable health care.

**E)** Unemployment rates for Americans nearing retirement are far lower than those for young people, who are recently out of school, with fewer skills and a shorter work history. But once out of a job, older workers have a much harder time finding another one. Over the last year, the average duration of unemployment for older people was 53 weeks, compared with 19 weeks for teenagers, according to the Labor Department's jobs report released on Friday.

**F)** The lengthy process is partly because older workers are more likely to have been laid off from industries that are downsizing, like manufacturing. Compared with the rest of the population, older people are also more likely to own their own homes and be less mobile than renters, who can move to new job markets.

**G)** Older workers are more likely to have a disability of some sort, perhaps limiting the range of jobs that offer realistic choices. They may also be less inclined, at least initially, to take jobs that pay far less than their old positions.

**H)** Displaced boomers also believe they are victims of age discrimination, because employers can easily find a young, energetic worker who will accept lower pay and who can potentially stick around for decades rather than a few years.

**I)** In a survey of older workers who were laid off during the recession, just one in six had found another job, and half of that group had accepted pay cuts. 14% of the re-employed said the pay in their new job was less than half what they earned in their previous job. "I just say to myself: 'Why me? What have I done to deserve this?'" said John Agati, 56, whose last full-time job, as a product developer, ended four years ago when his employer went out of business. That position paid $90,000, and his resume lists jobs at companies like American Express, Disney and USA Networks. Since being laid off, though, he has worked a series of part-time, low-wage, temporary positions, including selling shoes at Lord & Taylor and making sales calls for a car company.

**J)** The last few years have taken a toll not only on his family's finances, but also on his feelings of self- worth. "You just get sad," Mr. Agati said. "I see people getting up in the morning, going out to their careers and going home. I just wish I was doing that. Some people don't like their jobs, or they have problems with their jobs, but at least they're working, I just wish I was in their shoes." He said he cannot afford to go back to school, as many younger people without jobs have done. Even if he could afford it, economists say it is unclear whether older workers like him benefit much from more education.

**K)** "It just doesn't make sense to offer retraining for people 55 and older," said Daniel Hamermesh, an economics professor. "Discrimination by age, long-term unemployment, and the fact that they're now at the end of the hiring queue just don't make it sensible to invest in them."

**L)** Many displaced older workers are taking this message to heart and leaving the labor force entirely. The share of older people applying for Social Security early rose quickly during the recession as people sought whatever income they could find. The penalty they will pay is permanent, as retirees who take benefits at age 62 will receive as much as 30% less in each month's check for the rest of their lives than they would if they had waited until full retirement age (66 for those born after 1942).

**M)** Those not yet qualified for Social Security are increasingly applying for another, comparable kind of income support that often goes to people who expect never to work again: disability benefits. More than one in eight people in their late 50s is now on some form of federal disability insurance program, according to Professor Mark Duggan at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

**N)** The very oldest Americans, of course, were battered by some of the same ill winds that tormented (折磨) those now nearing retirement, but at least the most senior were cushioned by a more readily available social safety net. More important, in a statistical twist, they may have actually benefited from the financial crisis in the most fundamental way: longer lives. O) Death rates for people over 65 have historically fallen during recessions, according to a November 2011 study by economists at the University of California, Davis. Why? The researchers argue that weak job markets push more workers into accepting relatively undesirable work at nursing homes, leading to better care for residents.

**46. Greater mobility puts younger people at an advantage in seeking new jobs.**

**47. Many of the older workers laid off during the recession had to accept lower pay in their new jobs.**

**48. Those who lose their jobs shortly before retirement age live a shorter-than-average life.**

**49. Seniors at nursing homes could benefit from the weak job market.**

**50. Age discrimination in employment makes it pointless retraining older workers.**

**51. According to recent reports and data analyses, boomers suffer most from the weak economy.**

**52. Unemployed boomers are at a disadvantage in job-hunting because employers tend to hire younger workers.**

**53. People in their fifties and early sixties bear the heaviest family burdens.**

**54. People who take benefits from Social Security before official retirement age will get much less for the rest of their lives.**

**55. Older workers' choice of jobs can be limited because of disability.**

**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.**

Children are a delight. They are our future. But sadly, hiring someone to take care of them while you go to work is getting more expensive by the year.

Earlier this month, it was reported that the cost of enrolling an infant or small kid at a childcare center rose 3% in 2012, faster than the overall cost of living. There are now large strips of the country where daycare for an infant costs more than a tenth of the average married couple's income.

This is not necessarily a new trend, but it is a somewhat puzzling one. The price of professional childcare has been rising since the 1980s. Yet during that time, pay for professional childcare workers has stood still. Actually caregivers make less today, in real terms, than they did in 1990. Considering that labor costs are responsible for up to 80% of a daycare center's expenses, one would expect flat wages to have meant flat prices.

So who's to blame for higher childcare costs?

Childcare is a carefully regulated industry. States lay down rules about how many children each employee is allowed to watch over, the space care centers need per child, and other minute details. And the stricter the regulations, the higher the costs. If it has to hire a caregiver for every two children, it can't really achieve any economies of scale on labor to save money when other expenses go up. In Massachusetts, where childcare centers must hire one teacher for every three infants, the price of care averaged more than $ 16,000 per year. In Mississippi, where centers must hire one teacher for every five infants, the price of care averaged less than $5,000.

Unfortunately, I don't have all the daycare-center regulations handy. But I wouldn't be surprised if as the rules have become more elaborate, prices have risen. The tradeoff (交换) might be worth it in some cases; after all, the health and safety of children should probably come before cheap service. But certainly, it doesn't seem to be an accident that some of the cheapest daycare available is in the least regulated South.

56. What problem do parents of small kids have to face?

A) The ever-rising childcare prices.

B) The budgeting of family expenses.

C) The balance between work and family.

D) The selection of a good daycare center.

57. What does the author feel puzzled about?

A) Why the prices of childcare vary greatly from state to state.

B) Why increased childcare prices have not led to better service.

C) Why childcare workers' pay has not increased with the rising childcare costs.

D) Why there is a severe shortage of childcare professionals in a number of states.

58. What prevents childcare centers from saving money?

A) Steady increase in labor costs.

B) Strict government regulations.

C) Lack of support from the state.

D) High administrative expenses.

59. Why is the average cost of childcare in Mississippi much lower than in Massachusetts?

A) The overall quality of service is not as good.

B) Payments for caregivers there are not as high.

C) Living expenses there are comparatively low.

D) Each teacher is allowed to care for more kids.

60. What is the author's view on daycare service?

A) Caregivers should receive regular professional training.

B) Less elaborate rules about childcare might lower costs.

C) It is crucial to strike a balance between quality and costs.

D) It is better for different states to learn from each other.

**Passage Two**

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

Alex Pang's amusing new book The Distraction Addiction addresses those of us who feel panic without a cellphone or computer. And that, he claims, is pretty much all of us. When we're not online, where we spend four months annually, we're engaged in the stressful work of trying to get online.

The Distraction Addiction is not framed as a self-help book. It's a thoughtful examination of the dangers of our computing overdose and a historical overview of how technological advances change consciousness. A "professional futurist", Pang urges an approach which he calls "contemplative (沉思的) computing." He asks that you pay full attention to "how your mind and body interact with computers and how your attention and creativity are influenced by technology."

Pang's first job is to free you from the common misconception that doing two things at once allows you to get more done. What is commonly called multitasking is, in fact, switch-tasking, and its harmful effects on productivity are well documented. Pang doesn't advocate returning to a pre-Internet world. Instead, he asks you to "take a more ecological (生态的) view of your relationships with technologies and look for ways devices or media may be making specific tasks easier or faster but at the same time making your work and life harder."

The Distraction Addiction is particularly fascinating on how technologies have changed certain fields of labor—often for the worse. For architects, computer-aided design has become essential but in some ways has cheapened the design process. As one architect puts it, "Architecture is first and foremost about thinking... and drawing is a more productive way of thinking" than computer-aided design. Somewhat less amusing are Pang's solutions for kicking the Internet habit. He recommends the usual behavior-modification approaches, familiar to anyone who has completed a quit-smoking program. Keep logs to study your online profile and decide what you can knock out, download a program like Freedom that locks you out of your browser, or take a "digital Sabbath (安息日)". "Unless you're a reporter or emergency-department doctor, you'll discover that your world doesn't fall apart when you go offline."

61. Alex Pang's new book is aimed for readers who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

A) find their work online too stressful

B) go online mainly for entertainment

C) are fearful about using the cellphone or computer

D) can hardly tear themselves away from the Internet

62. What does Alex Pang try to do in his new book?

A) Offer advice on how to use the Internet effectively.

B) Warn people of the possible dangers of Internet use.

C) Predict the trend of future technological development.

D) Examine the influence of technology on the human mind.

63. What is the common view on multitasking?

A) It enables people to work more efficiently.

B) It is in a way quite similar to switch-tasking.

C) It makes people's work and life even harder.

D) It distracts people's attention from useful work.

64. What does the author think of computer-aided design?

A) It considerably cuts down the cost of building design.

B) It somewhat restrains architects' productive thinking.

C) It is indispensable in architects’ work process.

D) It can free architects from laborious drawing.

65. What is Alex Pang's recommendation for Internet users?

A) They use the Internet as little as possible.

B) They keep a record of their computer use time.

C) They exercise self-control over their time online.

D) They entertain themselves online on off-days only.

**Part Ⅳ Translation (30 minutes)**

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

中国的互联网社区是全世界发展最快的。2010年，中国约有4.2亿网民(netizen)，而且人数还在迅速增长。互联网的日渐流行带来了重大的社会变化。中国网民往往不同于美国网民。美国网民更多的是受实际需要的驱使，用互联网为工具发电子邮件、买卖商品、做研究、规划旅程或付款。中国网民更多是出于社交原因使用互联网，因而更广泛地使用论坛、博客、聊天室等。

2014年12月大学英语四级考试真题（第2套）参考答案

**Part Ⅰ**

高分范文

**A Course That Has Impressed Me Most in College**

①There are a variety of courses in college which provide students with multiple options to broaden their knowledge. ②They can choose different courses according to their own preference. ③It goes without saying that students really benefit from it in many respects.

④As far as I am concerned, I do harvest a lot from the courses I choose. ⑤Last semester, as a junior student, I chose the course of British Literature which has impressed me most. ⑥In the first place, I was deeply charmed by the scholarly image of the professor for this course—his broad range of knowledge and unusual but interesting teaching

method. ⑦In the second place, my vision has been definitely broadened by this course. Apart from the basic knowledge in our textbook, I have also learnt something practical and got an in-depth understanding of Britain. ⑧Last but not least, this course has aroused my enthusiasm for studying English well. This will help perfect my knowledge system.

⑨In general, I am satisfied with the broad range of courses offered by my college. ⑩And I am glad to have chosen the course of British Literature. It surely has a great effect on me.

**Part Ⅱ Listening Comprehension**

**Section A**

1. C

2. A

3. B

4. A

5. B

6. D

7. D

8. A

9. C

10. B

11. D

12. B

13. C

14. B

15. C

**Section B**

16. A

17. D

18. C

19. A

20. D

21. A

22. C

23. D

24. A

25. B

**Section C**

26. land on

27. sharp

28. fill in for

29. probably

30. resemble

31. focuses on

32. specialize

33. timing

34. invented

35. figured out

**Part Ⅲ Reading Comprehension**

**Section A**

36. N

37. O

38. I

39. K

40. J

41. M

42. H

43. L

44. C

45. B

**Section B**

46. F

47. I

48. D

49. O

50. K

51. B

52. H

53. C

54. L

55. G

**Section C**

56. A

57. C

58. B

59. D

60. B

61. D

62. D

63. A

64. B

65. C

**Part Ⅳ Translation**

**参考译文：**

The Internet community of China develops fastest all over the world. The number of Chinese netizens has reached about 420 million in 2010 and it is still on the dramatic increase. The growing popularity of the Internet results in great social changes. Chinese netizens are usually different from American netizens. The latter is more often driven by practical needs, using the Internet as a tool to send e-mails, buy and sell goods, make researches, arrange trips and make payments. The former are more likely to use the Internet for social contact reasons, so they use the forums, blogs and chatting rooms on a larger scale.