**Text　Ａ**

**I. Reading comprehension**

**Reference answers:**

1. There is a moment when the freshmen probably feel a sense of thrill, luck as well as uncertainty and doubt.

2. It is used as exaggeration to suggest that many years have passed since the speaker attended college.

3. “Humility” means forgetting about one’s ego and opening oneself to new knowledge, new ideas and new possibilities.

4. Because it sounds as if her president was scolding and rebuking her students for not being humble enough.

5. The goal of Harvard is to push everyone beyond his ability, to make sure everyone makes the most of himself, to encourage everyone to be adventurous, to be willing to fail in order to achieve success

6. It means when you are at Harvard, it’s like you’ve bought insurance for your future success, and your future success is guaranteed.

7. The students believe that a degree from Harvard guarantees their future success, whereas the President thinks Harvard is safe because it will help students develop their potential, to take risks and to challenge themselves.

8. The main idea of paragraph 9 is to try new things in various fields, not just in academics.

9. They mean one should not be overconfident about himself/herself; instead one should be ready to ask questions and learn from others.

10. She means it’s important to be yourself, to make your own choices and to find your own path.

**II. Outline and summary of the text**

**1. Outline of the text**

**Reference answer:**

**Introduction (Para. 1-3)**

A. Opening remark (Para 1.)

B. You students probably all feel uncertain and doubtful. (Para. 2)

C. Thesis: I am going to talk about a new sense of what success means. (Para. 3)

**Body: Advice to the Class of 2016 (Para. 4-12)**

A. Advice from my former president:

1) humility (Para. 4)

2) “your work” (effort + creativity) (Para. 5)

B. Advice from Harvard Dean Harris: integrity (Para. 6)

C. My message to you:

1) What is meant by success? (Para. 7-8)

Success means willingness to fail and to leave your comfort zones.

2) What should you be doing? (Para. 9-12)

a. Try new things. Experiment. (Para. 9)

b. Explore without ego. (Para. 10-11)

c. Cultivate independent thinking. Find your own path. (Para. 12)

**Conclusion:** Looking toward the following four years. (Para. 13-15)

**IV. Words and phrases in use**

**1.**

**Group 1**

1) prowess 2) hectic 3) humility 4) chasten 5) vulnerable

6) inexplicable 7) composed 8) encompasses 9) vertigo 10) reverential

**Group 2**

1) underscored 2) asset 3) sage 4) shaped 5) intuition

6) marveled 7) thrill 8) self-conscious 9) constitute 10) reflected

**2.**

1) owe to 2) out of his element 3) let in on 4) took a chance on

5) bear on/bore on 6) in terms of 7) made the most of 8) embark on

**V. Translation**

**Reference answer:**

In the United States, an undergraduate student at a four-year college/university earns a bachelor's degree, Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts. Those who continue in college/university may earn a master's degree after two or three more years of study. Many Americans earn master's degrees at night or on the weekends while they are working. The highest degree that a student can earn is a doctorate. Some doctorates are professional degrees, like MD (Medicinae Doctor) received by medical students. More students receive academic doctorates, known as PhD (Doctor of Philosophy). The term dates back to the Middle Ages when many areas of study were called philosophy. Students can receive a PhD in many fields such as electronic engineering, economics, education, music, and history.