Abandon of the bitterest and most time-worm debates in student union bars up and down the country is resolved as academic research confirms that in financial terms at least, arts degrees are a complete waste of time.Getting through university boosts students’earnings by 25%, on a weighted average, or $220,000 over theirlifetime, according to Professor Ian Walker of Warwick University-but if they study Shakespeare or the peasants’revolt instead of anatomy of contract law, those gains are likely to be completely wiped out.

　　The government is about to allow universities to charge students up to $3,000 a year for their degrees, arguing that it’s a small price to pay compared with the financial rewards graduates reap later in life. But Prof. Walker’s research shows there are sharp variations in returns according to which subject a student takes.

　　Law, medicine and economics or business are the most lucrative choices, making their average earnings 25% higher, according to the article, published in the office for national statistics’monthly journal. Scientists get 10-15% extra. At the bottom of the list are arts subjects, which make only a “small ”differenceto earnings- a small negative one, in fact. Just ahead are degrees in education-which leave hard pressed teachers anaverage of 5% better off a year than if they had left school at 18.

　　“it’s hard to resist the conclusion that what students learn does matter a lot; and some subject areas givemore modest financial returns than others,” Prof. Walker said. As an economist, he was quick to point outthat students might gain non-financial returns from arts degrees:”Studying economics might be very dull, forexample, and studying post-modernism might be a lot of fun.”Direction： There are 2 passages in this section。 Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statement。 For each of them there are four choice and our marked A），B），C） and D）。You should decide on the best choice and nark the corresponding letter on Answer sheet2 with a single line through the centre。

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage。

Losing your ability to think and remember is pretty scary。 We know the risk of dementia （痴呆） increases with age。 But if you have memory slips， you probably needn’t worry。 There are pretty clear differences between signs of dementia and age-related memory loss。

After age 50， it’s quite common to have trouble remembering the names of people， places and thing quickly， says Dr。 Kirk Daffner of Brigham and Woman’s Hospital in Boston。

The brain ages just like the rest of the body。 Certain parts shrink， especially areas in the brain that are important to learning， memory and planning。 Changes in brain cells can affect communication between different regions of the brain。 And blood flow can be reduced as blood vessels narrow。

Forgetting the name of an actor in a favorite movie， for example， is nothing to worry about。 But if you forget the plot of the movie or don’t remember even seeing it， that’s far more concerning， Daffner says。

When you forget entire experiences， he says， that’s “a red flag that something more serious may be involved。” Forgetting how to operate a familiar object like a microwave oven， or forgetting how to drive to the house of a friend you’ve visited many times before can also be signs of something going wrong。

But even then， Daffner says， people shouldn’t panic。 There are many things that can cause confusion and memory loss， including health problems like temporary stoppage of

Defense against memory loss is to try to prevent it by building up your brain’s cognitive （认知的） reserve， Daffner says。

“Read books， go to movies， take on new hobbies or activities that force one to think in novel ways，” he says。 In other words， keep your brain busy and working。 And also get physically active， because exercise is a known brain booster。