2012 年 12 月大学英语四级真题(3)

Part I Writing (30 minutes)

注意:此部分试题在答题卡1上,请在答题卡1上作答。

Direction: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition entitled **Education Pays** based on the statistics provided in the chart below (Weekly earnings of 2010).

Please write at least **120** words but no more than **180** words.

Education: A Worthy Investment

Weekly earnings in 2010(\$)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics **Education Pays**

Part II Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning) (15 minutes) Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer sheet 1. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Suffering in silence

Despite a law designed to protect them, many people with disabling conditions are unaware of their rights. Carole Concha-Bell tells of her experiences.

Being diagnosed with a disabling condition is always a shock. Learning to live without the guarantee of health is like having to unlearn a previous life. The implications for your working life may seem intimidating.

There is the disability Discrimination Act (DDA), of course. But does it really provide the

protection in the workplace that parliament intended? Are employers merely paying lip service to the DDA? Or are they even aware of an employer's legal duties and responsibilities?

In my experience, it is the latter. I have received little support from employers to whom I have revealed my condition. This has often left me feeling at a disadvantage and wondering why I bothered doing so in the first place.

I had been struggling with illness long before I was diagnosed. In practical terms the diagnosis did little to aid me. Of course, it enabled me to understand my body, my limitations and set me on a course to stabilize my symptoms. But it brought a new dilemma. Where I had previously struggled to work while ill, ignorant of why my body was misbehaving, I now had a name for my daily struggle: *Lupus* (狼疮). This is a *chronic* (慢性的), auto-immune disorder that can affect virtually any system in the body. It also leaves a huge, dark question hanging over my head when seeking employment: should I tell my employers I have a condition? It is a dilemma that continues to be a root cause of anxiety both for myself and for thousands of other UK employees.

The rocky road to my unfortunate enlightenment about work and disability began just after graduation when I'd set my sights on a career in communications and landed my dream job with a respected public relations *consultancy* (咨询公司) in Bristol. But while I was learning the art of media relations, my body wasn't quite making it in health terms. I often went to work with swollen limbs and fevers. At my first and last performance review, my boss was amazed that, despite my many capabilities, I hadn't quite taken control of my responsibilities. A few months later, my contract wasn't renewed and I plunged further into new depths of ill health.

However, I was determined not to be beaten and returned to the interview trail. My next job was in publishing. But despite a shining performance at the interview, I felt like a fraud. How long would it be before I sank into ill health and depression again?

The job was to end with a monumental bang when I became so poorly I could no longer function. A few feverish weeks in bed ended in a specialist appointment, where I was diagnosed with Lupus and rushed into hospital for fear that it may have attacked my internal organs.

The next 12 months were filled with confusion. I had no idea about benefits, felt *alienated* (被视为另类) by the medical establishment and lived off my savings until I was broke. I realized I needed help from my family and moved to London.

As soon as I felt better, I marched into a marketing recruitment consultancy and, within 10 minutes, I had impressed the interviewer enough to be offered a job with the agency. We agreed on a decent salary and I told him had *arthritis* (关节炎) and would need to work a four-day week.

Things went well at the start but soon the client meetings began to fall on my day off, and I rarely left the office on time. I began to slip both in health and professional terms. The 10-hour days crashed around my head; no amount of make-up could disguise my ill health as I battled against the odds to prove to myself that I cold still make it in the business world. I often cried on the bus on the way back from work.

Not long before my contract was due to be made permanent, I was called to the boss's office and given the "talk" abut how my performance was slipping, how awful I looked. I felt too weak to fight back and agreed to leave. No attempts to offer adjustments to my job, such as being able to work from home, were ever made. I had a case for unfair dismissal under the DDA, but was ignorant of this at the time.

An estimated 10 million people in UK, or 17% of the population, qualify for disability status

under the DDA. I have encountered a number of them: the liver-diseased boss; the co-worker with a heart condition; and my *asthmatic* (哮喘的) trainee-teacher friend. None had *disclosed* (透露) their conditions to employers, and all were feeling the strain of not doing so.

To access your rights under the DDA and to request "reasonable adjustments" to your working conditions or your workplace requires disclosure. I had warned my former employer about my condition but it served little purpose. They were ignorant about their obligations to their disabled staff.

However, there are plenty of forward-thinking organizations that have inclusive recruitment policies; are more likely to employ a worker with a disability; and are more aware of their legal duties. The public sector out-performs the private, but not always the voluntary, according to studies for the Disabilities Rights Commission.

I decided to give the voluntary sector a go and was surprised to be offered flexible working conditions and other solutions to meet my needs as an employee. But given the choice, I would still prefer a career in the private sector, which for me is more dynamic, has more attractive salaries and offers better prospects than the voluntary or public sectors.

Despite the advances of the DDA, there will always be an army of workers who will soldier on, maybe aware of their rights but choosing to remain silent for personal reasons. It is important, though, to recognize the significance of the act, the protection it affords and the obligations that employers have to us as employees and as human beings.

注意: 此部分试题请在答题卡1上作答。

- 1. What is people's immediate response when they are first diagnosed with a disabling condition?

 [A] They report the situation on their employers.

 [B] They come to realize the value of good health.

 [C] They feel nervous about their work prospects.

 [D] They try to seek protection from the DDA.

 2. When the author revealed her condition to her employers, they _____.

 [A] were quite sympathetic toward her

 [B] did not give her the support she needed.

 [C] made adjustments to meet her needs

 [D] were annoyed not to be informed earlier

 3. When the author was diagnosed with Lupus, she was in a dilemma whether she should _____.

 [A] ask for assistance from her fellow workers

 [B] find employment at a different company
- 4. The author lost her job at the public relations consultancy in Bristol because _____
 - [A] her boss had fund a much better replacement

[C] ignore her limitations and struggle to work[D] inform her employers of her disability status

- [B] she was in no mood at all to discharge her duties
- [C] her performance was disappointing to her boss

	v up for her performance rev feel like a fraud when she g		
[A] She knew she v	would fall ill any time again.		
[B] She was not as	competent as she appeared t	o be.	
[C] She concealed	the fact that she had just bee	n fired.	
[D] She pretended	to be very keen on the job.		
6. Why did the author	move to London?		
[A] To get help from	m her family.	[B] To receive better medica	al care.
[C] To start a consu	ulting business.	[D] To seek a more suitable	job.
7. The author worked	hard at the marketing recrui	tment consultancy in order to	·
[A] earn the boss's	appreciation and clients' rec	ognition	
[B] demonstrate he	r strong willpower to conque	er illness	
[C] provide for her	self without protection from	the DDA	
[D] prove herself c	apable of success in the busi	ness world	
	ople qualify for disability s	tatus in the UK, they would	rather not tell their
	-	ditions in the voluntary secto	
10. The author stresse their disabled emp		gnize employers'	to
Part Ⅲ	Listening Comp	rehension	(35 minutes)
Section A			
end of each convocation and pause. During the	ersation, one or more quest the question will be spoke e pause, you must read the f t answer. Then mark the co	rt conversations and 2 long coions will be asked about what n only once. After each quest our choices marked A),B),C) or rresponding letter on Answe	was said. Both the ion there will be a and D), and decide
注意:此部分试题证	青在 答题卡 2 上作答。		
	ther week for the painting. won't open until next week.	[B] The painting was comple [D] His artistic work has been	-
12. [A] Go camping. [C] Decorate his h	iouse.	[B] Rent a tent.[D] organize a party.	
13. [A] She talked wi	th Mr. Wright on the phone.	[B] She is about to call Mr.	Wright's secretary.

[C] She will see Mr. Wright at lunch time. [D] She failed to reach Mr. Wright. 14. [A] He is actually very hardworking. [B] He has difficulty finishing his project. [C] He needs to spend more time in the lab. [D] He seldom tells the truth about himself. 15. [A] Rules restricting smoking. [B] Ways to quit smoking. [C] Smokers' health problems. [D] Hazards of passive smoking. 16. [A] He is out of town all morning. [B] He is tied up in family matters. [C] He has been writing a report. [D] He has got meetings to attend. 17. [A] He is not easy-going. [B] He is the speakers' boss. [C] He is not at home this weekend. [D] He seldom invites people to his home. 18. [A] Take a break. [B] Refuel his car. [C] Ask the way. [D] Have a cup of coffee. Questions 19 to 21 are based on the passage you have just heard. [B] They give youngsters a thrill. 19. [A] They are as good as historical films. [C] They have greatly improved. [D] They are better than comics on film. 20. [A] The effects were very good. [B] The acting was just so-so. [D] The characters were lifelike. [C] The plot was too complicated. 21. [A] They triumphed ultimately over evil in the battle. [B] They played the same role in War of the Worlds. [C] They are popular figures among young people. [D] They are two leading characters in the film. Questions 22 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard. 22. [A] It is scheduled on Thursday night. [B] It is supposed to last nine weeks. [C] It takes place once a week. [D] It usually starts at six. 23. [A] To make good use of her spare time in the evening. [B] To meet the requirements of her in-service training. [C] To improve her driving skills as quickly as possible. [D] To get some basic knowledge about car maintenance. 24. [A] Participate in group discussions. [B] Take turns to make presentations. [C] Listen to the teacher's explanation. [D] Answer the teacher's questions. 25. [A] Most of them are female. [B] Some have a part-time job.

[D] A few of them are old chaps.

[C] They plan to buy a new car.

Section B

Direction: 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 the **Answer Sheet** with a single line through the center.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡2上作答。

Passage One

Questions 26 to 29 are based on the passage you have just heard.

26. [A] She is not good at making friends. [B] She is not well off.

[C] She enjoys company. [D] She likes to go to concerts alone.

27. [A] Their similar social status. [B] Their interdependence.

[C] Their common interest. [D] Their identical character.

28. [A] Invite Pat to a live concert. [B] Buy some gifts for Pat's kids.

[C] Help take care of Pat's kids. [D] Pay for Pat's season tickets.

29. [A] It can develop between people with a big different in income.

[B] It can be maintained among people of different age groups.

[C] It cannot last long without similar family background.

[D] It cannot be sustained when friends move far apart.

Passage Two

Questions 300 32are based on the passage you have just heard.

- 30. [A] Priority of students' academic achievements.
 - [B] Equal education opportunities to all children.
 - [C] Social equality between teachers and students.
 - [D] Respect for students' individuality.

31. [A] Efficient. [B] Complicated.

[C] Lengthy. [D] Democratic.

- 32. [A] To help them acquire hands-on experience.
 - [B] To try to cut down its operational expenses.
 - [C] To provide part-time jobs for needy students.
 - [D] To enable them to learn to take responsibility.

Passage Three

Questions 33to 35 are based on the passage you have just heard.

Section A		
Part IV	Reading Compre	ehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)
these foods have	e greatly increased in re	ecent years.
		hicken, turkey and fish have become more popular. Sales o
	-	ople eating, but also tells us about the changes in attitude
	•	and kinds of food that people consume. (45) This
times a week on		. Moreover, Americans eat out nearly four
-		ver before to spend preparing food. (44)
_		t (43) meals or sometimes simply go without them
		ilies. These changing lifestyles are (42) for the
	• •	g numbers of people who live alone, (41) parent
0 1	tities of sweets and sod show that the way peo	as. ple live (40) the way they eat. American lifestyle
		ever before. At the same time, Americans (39)
		a broader (37) of nutrition (营养), so they buy
	=	ating habits than they had in the past. There is a wide (36)
注意:此部分记	式题在 答题卡 2 上作名	学。
third time, y	ou should check what	you have written.
	-	your own words. Finally, when the passage is read for the
-	-	ank, you can either use the exact words you have just heard
	-	anks numbered from 44 to 46 you are required to fill in the
		fully for its general idea. When the passage is read for the fill in the blanks numbered from 36 to 43 with the exac
	•	hear a passage three times. When the passage is read for the
Section C		
[B] Learning	g by doing.	[D] Using proven methods.
35. [A] Practicii		[B] Working by oneself.
[-]		L
	ou compete with other	-
	ou try to figure out a co ou already know how to	
	ou feel encouraged by	
[D] Improve	ements on the classification	ation of human behavior.
	=	greatly to psychology.
	al doing better in front	
33. [A] The best	t way to work through	a tinger maze.

Direction: In this section, there is a passage with 10 blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word blank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the blank is identified by a letter. Please make the corresponding letter for each item on Answer sheet 2 with a single line through the center. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 47 to 56 are based on the following passage.

So many people use the cell phone so frequently every day. But ___47__ little is certain about the health effects of its use. Manufacturers ___48__ that cell phones meet government standards for safe radio-frequency radiation emission, but enough studies are beginning to document a possible __49__ in rate brain tumors (肿瘤), headaches and behavioral disorders in children to cause concern. So far, the evidence isn't __50__ on whether the use of cell phone 51__ to any increased risk of cancer. In a new trial, researchers asked 47 volunteers to __52__ in a project to measure glucose (葡萄糖) consumption in the brain by scanning the brain to see how sells use energy. For both 50-minute scans, the volunteers had a cell phone __53__ to each ear. During the first scan, the devices were turned off, but for the second scan, the phone on the right ear was __54__ on and received a recorded-message call, although the volume was muted (消音) so the noise wouldn't bias the results. The results of the second scan showed that the __55__ of the brain nearest to the device had higher rates of glucose consumption than the rest of the brain. The study shows that cell phones can change brain activity, and __56__ a whole new avenue for scientific inquiry, though it doesn't say anything about whether cell-phone radiation can cause cancer.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡2上作答。

A) conclusive	I) mission
B) contributes	J) participate
C) derive	K) particular
D) expresses	L) provides
E) fixed	M) regions
F) immensely	N) surprisingly
G) increase	O) switched
H) maintain	

Section B

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 center.

Passage One

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

It's no secret that some of the resolutions that many of us vowed to pursue in the new year — eat healthy, lose weight, quit smoking, save more money — have already fallen by the wayside.

Many of them are likely the same resolutions that we abandoned last January. And it's a good thing for whose who sell health club memberships, quit-smoking programs and other products that help us think we can improve our lives.

Many gyms see new memberships double in January, making up for the third of their members who do not renew each year.

And many who sign up in January will be no-shows by February.

"If I try one quick fix and it doesn't work, I may be more likely to try the next quick fix," Lisa Lahey, who coaches executives how to sustain behavior change, told *The Times*.

The Biggest Loser Resort at Fitness Ridge doesn't offer any quick fixes, just a 12-hour schedule full of exercise, a 1,200-calories-a-day diet and a fee of \$2,000 a week. The resort teaches its clients that "weight management" is a combination of fitness, diet and emotional health.

"Given my recent weight gain, and the fact that I was turning 50," Jennifer Conlin wrote in *The Time*, "I wanted to start a program that would make 2012 the year I finally got in shape."

"For years, the advice to eh overweight people has been that we simply need to eat less ad exercise more," Tara Parker-Pope wrote. "While there is truth to this guidance, it fails to take into account that the human body continues to fight against weight loss long after dieting has stopped. This translates into a *sobering* (令人清醒的) reality: once we become fat, most of us, despite out best efforts, will probably stay fat."

Of course this *revelation* (揭示), if proven true by further study, is not good news for the weight-loss industry. But chances are it won't have much impact on the human tendency to resolve to get to the gym more and avoid chocolate cake when the clock strikes midnight on December 31.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡2上作答。

- 57. What do we learn from the first paragraph about new year resolutions?
 - [A] They are hard to sustain.

[B] They test one's strength.

[C] They help shed bad habits.

[D] They promise a good year.

- 58. Who do new year resolutions eventually benefit?
 - [A] Society in general.

[B] Business executives.

[C] Health club members.

[D] Health industries.

- 59. What is special about the Biggest Loser Resort's weight management program?
 - [A] It gives top priority to emotional health.

[B] It does not resort to any quick fixes.

[C] It focuses on one's behavior change.

[D] It is not cheap but extremely effective.

- 60. What happens when people stop dieting?
 - [A] They regain their appetite.

[B] They usually stay in shape.

- 61. What do people tend to do about new year resolutions?
 - [A] They keep making them year after year.
 - [B] They abandon them once progress is made.
 - [C] They keep trying until they finally succeed.
 - [D] They make them for the sake of making them.

Passage Two

Questions 62 to 66 are based on the following passage.

When University of California-Berkeley released a study this month showing alarmingly high teacher *turnover* (人员流动) rates at Los Angeles charter schools, I wasn't surprised.

That's not a slam at local charter schools. It's just that the study echoed something I'd observed many times, starting with my niece.

Bright and cheerful, my niece longed to teach high-needs children. She started out in the San Francisco public schools, where she was assigned to the district's toughest elementary school. Fifth-graders threw chairs across the room — and at her. Parents refused to show up for conferences.

She wasn't willing to deal with this level of indifference and teacher abuse, so she switched to a highly regarded charger elementary school in the Bay Area where she poured her energy into her job and it showed. Her students' test scores were high as those in a nearby wealthy school district, despite the obstacles these children faced.

Yet by her fourth year, my niece was worn out, *depleted* (耗尽) of the energy it took to work with a classroom of sweet but deeply needy children who pleaded to stay in her classroom when it was time to leave. The principal's offer of a \$10,000 raise couldn't stop her from giving notice. She went to work at that wealthy school district next door — for less money.

Over the years, I've met many *impassioned* (充满激情的) teachers at charter schools, only to call them the next year and find they've left. The authors of the Berkeley study theorize that the teachers leave because of the extraordinary demands: long hours, intense involvement in students' complicated lives, continual searches for new ways to raise scores. Even the strongest supporters of the reform movement concede that the task of raising achievement among disadvantaged students is hard work.

It's unlikely that we can build large-scale school reform on a platform of continual new demands on teachers — more time, more energy, more devotion, more responsibility — even if schools find ways to pay them better. This is the bigger challenge facing schools. We need a more useful answer to the Berkeley study than "Yea, its really hard work."

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡2上作答。

- 62. Why wasn't the author surprised at the high teacher turnover rates at Los Angles charter schools?
 - [A] She had participated in the Berkeley study.
 - [B] She had noticed the phenomenon repeatedly.

- [C] She had been involved in the local school reform.
- [D] She had been informed of the problem by her niece.
- 63. What do we learn about the students in the public school the author's niece taught?
 - [A] They were undisciplined.
- [B] They were tough and strong.
- [C] Many of them enjoyed less parental care. [D] Many of hem dropped out of school halfway.
- 64. What does the author say about her niece's work in the charter elementary school?
 - [A] It won high praise from her school and colleagues.
 - [B] It was cited by the Berkeley study as an example.
 - [C] It contributed to the success of the school reform.
 - [D] It was well received by the disadvantaged children.
- 65. Why were the teacher turnover rates so high according to the Berkeley study?
 - [A] The students were indifferent to learning.
 - [B] Teachers' salary was not high enough.
 - [C] Teachers' work was too demanding.
 - [D] Jobs elsewhere were too meaningful.
- 66. What is the author's comment on the current school reform movement?
 - [A] It will give rise to more problems.
 - [B] It is not likely to be successful.
 - [C] It will have a positive impact on education.
 - [D] It demands the local authorities' support.

Part V Cloze (15 minutes)

Directions: There are 20 blanks in the following passage. For each blank there are four choices marked A),B),C) and D) on the right side of the paper. You should choose the ONE that best fits into the passage. Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer sheet 2** with a single line through the center.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡2上作答。

Like many of the protesters at Occupy Wall Street in New York, Amanda Vodola is young, underemployed and loaded with student debt. She spends her days running around, helping 67 the movement, and her evenings waiting tables at a restaurant in Brooklyn. Last spring, she graduated from Fordham University 68 a degree in English. "I grew up with this narrative that to get a good job I need to go to school," she says. But the job she has "is not

67. [A] organize [B] establish
[C] integrate [D] assemble
68. [A] under [B] on
[C] over [D] with

69. [A] puzzled [B] interrupted

86. [A] intensified [C] soared	[B] flown [D] broken
86. [A] intensified	[B] flown
[C] indication	[D] inspiration
85. [A] investment	[B] instrument
[C] brick	[D] ticket
84. [A] sign	[B] label
[C] against	[D] into
83. [A] towards	[B] from
[C] throughout	[D] beyond
82. [A] among	[B] amid
[C] revealed	[D] burdened
81. [A] rejected	[B] cleared
[C] diagrams	[D] abstracts
80. [A] statistics	[B] graphs
[C] transfer	[D] progress
79. [A] advance	[B] increase
[C] hit	[D] pound
78. [A] blow	[B] knock
[C] of	[D] for
77. [A] in	[B] to
[C] appreciate	[D] instruct
76. [A] command	[B] predict
[C] publicity	[D] security
75. [A] possibility	[B] stability
[C] collapsed	[D] slimmed
74. [A] dropped	[B] reversed
[C] borrowers	[D] holders
73. [A] lenders	[B] owners
[C] rearranging	[D] rating
72. [A] raising	[B] repaying
[C] off	[D] out
71. [A] down	[B] up
[C] costs	[D] accounts
70. [A] collects	[B]owes
[C] worried	[D] distracted
	70. [A] collects [C] costs 71. [A] down [C] off 72. [A] raising [C] rearranging 73. [A] lenders [C] borrowers 74. [A] dropped [C] collapsed 75. [A] possibility [C] publicity 76. [A] command [C] appreciate 77. [A] in [C] of 78. [A] blow [C] hit 79. [A] advance [C] transfer 80. [A] statistics [C] diagrams 81. [A] rejected [C] revealed 82. [A] among [C] throughout 83. [A] towards [C] against 84. [A] sign [C] brick

Directions: Complete the sentences by translating into English the Chinese given in brackets. Please write your translation on **Answer Sheet 2**.

注意:此部分试题请在 答题卡 2 上作答,只需写出译文部分。 87. Only when you have passed the tests required	上能 申
88. Working mothers today feel it is difficult to事业和家庭之间的平衡).	(保持
89. We (本来可以避免犯这个愚蠢的错误), but we follow his advice.	didn't
90. He is well into his thirties. It's about time he (安顿了开始创业).	下来,
91. If you (发现自己在排长队等候 supermarket checkout counter, are you likely to get impatient?	t) at a