

2013 年 12 月四级考试真题（第二套）

Part I Writing

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay based on the picture below. You should start your essay with a brief account of **the increasing use of the mobile phone in people's life** and **explain the Consequence of overusing it**. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.



People are crossing the street looking at their cell phones and using walking sticks in order to see.

Part II Listening Comprehension

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 I** with a single line through the centre.

1. A) go to a place he has visited
B) make her own arrangements
C) consult a travel agent
D) join in a package tour
2. A) They are on a long trip by car
B) they are stuck in a traffic jam
C) They are used to getting up early
D) they are tired of eating out at night
3. A) He is a person difficult to deal with
B) He dislikes any formal gathering
C) He is unwilling to speak in public
D) He often keeps a distance from others
4. A) Recruit graduate students.
B) Pursue further education
C) Work in another department
D) Take an administrative job
5. A) He would not be available to start the job in time.
B) He would like to leave some more time for himself offer held to others.

- C) He is not qualified for the art director position
- D) He will get his application letter ready for before May.1.
- 6. A) Porter B) Mechanic
- C) Salesman D) Cleaner
- 7. A) Get Laura to clean the apartment herself this time
- B) Help Laura with his term paper due this weekend
- C) Request one of the roommates to do the cleaning
- D) Ask Laura to put off the cleaning until another week
- 8. A) A problem caused by the construction B) An accident that occurred on the bridge
- C) The public transportation conditions D) The building prospect they are working on

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

- 9. A) To look for a job as a salesperson. B) To have a talk with Miss Thompson.
- C) To place an order for some products. D) To complain about a faulty appliance.
- 10. A) The person in charge is not in the office.
- B) The supplies are out of stock for the moment..
- C) They failed to reach an agreement on the price.
- D) The company in re-cataloging the items.
- 11. A) 0743,12536 extension 15. B) 0734,21653 extension 51.
- C) 0734,38750 extension 15. D) 0743,62135 extension 51.

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

- 12. A) Since he found a girlfriend.
- B) Since he began to exercise regularly.
- C) Since he started to live on his own.
- D) Since he took to heavy smoking.
- 13. A) He is getting too fat. B) He doesn' t eat vegetables.
- C) He smokes too much. D) He doesn' t look well at all.
- 14. A) They are overweight for their age. B) They are still in their early twenties.
- C) They are respectful to their parents. D) They dislike doing physical exercise.
- 15. A) To quit smoking. B) To reduce his weight.
- C) To find a girlfriend. D) To follow her advice.

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 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 16 to 19 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- 16. A) They have destroyed several small towns. B) They will soon spread to San Francisco.
- C) They have injured many residents. D) They are burning out of control
- 17. A) They have been hospitalized. B) They have got skin problems.

- C) They were choked by the thick smoke.
- D) They were poisoned by the burning chemicals.
- 18. A) It failed because of a sudden rocket explosion.
- B) It has been re-scheduled for a midday takeoff.
- C) It has been canceled due to technical problems.
- D) It was delayed for eleven hours and thirty minutes.
- 19. A) They made frequent long-distance calls to each other.
- B) They illegally used government computer in New Jersey.
- C) They were found to be smarter than computer specialists.
- D) They were arrested for stealing government information.

Passage Two

Questions 20 to 22 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- 20. A) Peaceful. B) Considerate.
- C) Generous. D) Cooperative.
- 21. A) Someone dumped the clothes left in the water and dryer.
- B) Someone broke the washer and dryer by overloading them.
- C) Mindy Lance's laundry blocked the way to the laundry room.
- D) Mindy Lance threatened to take revenge on her neighbors.
- 22. A) Asking the neighborhood committee for help.
- B) Limiting the amount of laundry for each wash.
- C) Informing the building manager of the matter.
- D) Installing a few more washers and dryers.

Passage Three

Questions 23 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard,

- 23. A) She is both a popular and a highly respected author.
- B) She is the most loved African novelist of all times.
- C) She is the most influential author since the 1930's.
- D) She is the first writer to focus on the fate of slaves.
- 24. A) The Book Critics Circle Award.
- B) The Nobel prize for literature.
- C) The Pulitzer prize for fiction.
- D) The National Book Award.
- 25. A) She is a relative of Morrison's. B) She is a slave from Africa.
- C) She is a skilled storyteller. D) She is a black woman.

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.*

Many college students today owe personal computers that cost anywhere from \$1,000 to

perhaps \$5,000 or more.(26)_____,at is not uncommon for them to purchase(27)_____costing another several hundred dollars. Twenty years ago, computers were(28)_____, but they were very large and extremely expensive. Few, if any,(29)_____purchased computers for home use . Over the years, the price of the “gats” of a computer-its memory-has declined to less than a thousandth of the price per unit of memory that prevailed twenty years ago. This is the main reason why computers cost so much less today than they used to. Moreover, (30)_____improvements have made it possible to (31)_____memory circuitry that is small enough to fit into the portable personal computers that many of us own and use. (32)_____, as the price of computation has declined the average consumer and business have spent more on purchasing computers.

(33)_____, improved agricultural technology, hybrid(杂交) seeds,(34)_____animal breeding, and so on have vastly increased the amount of output a typical farmer can produce. The prices of goods such as meats and grains have fallen sharply relative to the prices of most other goods and services. As agricultural prices have fallen, many households have decreased their total expenses on food. Even though the(35)_____of a product purchased generally increases when its price falls, total expenses on it may decline.

Part III Reading Comprehension

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.

What does it take to be a well-trained nurse? The answer used to be two-year associate's or four-year bachelor's degree programs. But as the nursing shortage 36. _____, a growing number of schools and hospitals are establishing “fast-track programs” that enable college graduates with no nursing 37. _____to become registered nurses with only a year or so of 38. _____ training.

In 1991, there were only 40 fast-track curricula; now there are more than 200. Typical is Columbia University's Entry to Practice program. Students earn their bachelor of science in nursing in a year. Those who stay on for an 39. _____ two years can earn a master's degree that 40. _____ them as nurse *practitioners* (执业护士) or clinical nurse specialists.

Many students are recent 41. _____; others are career switchers. Rudy Guardron, 32, a 2004 graduate of Columbia's program, was a premedical student in college and then worked for a *pharmaceutical* (药物的) research company. At Columbia, he was 42. _____ as a nurse practitioner, “I saw that nurses were in high 43. _____ and it looked like a really good opportunity,” he says. “Also, I didn't want to be in school for that long.”

The fast-track trend fills a need, but it's also creating some 44. _____ between newcomers and veterans. “Nurses that are still at the bedside 45. _____ these kids with suspicion,” says Linda Pellico, who has taught nursing at Yale University for 18 years, “They wonder, how can they do it quicker?” The answer is they don't,

A) additional	I) promote
B) applied	J) qualifies
C) demand	K) specialized
D) excessive	L) tension
E) experience	M) trained
F) explores	N) view
G) graduates	O) worsens
H) operations	

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**.*

The rise of the sharing economy

A) LAST night 40,000 people rented accommodation from a service that offers 250,000 rooms in 30,000 cities in 192 countries. They chose their rooms and paid for everything online. But their beds were provided by private individuals, rather than a hotel chain. Hosts and guests were matched up by Airbnb, a firm based in San Francisco. Since its launch in 2008 more than 4m people have used it—2.5million of them in 2012 alone. It is the most prominent example of a huge new “sharing economy”, in which people rent beds, cars, boats and other assets directly from each other, co-ordinated via the internet.

B) You might think this is no different from running a *bed-and-breakfast* (家庭旅店), owning a *timeshare* (分时度假房) or participating in a car pool. But technology has reduced transaction costs, making sharing assets cheaper and easier than ever—and therefore possible on a much larger scale. The big change is the availability of more data about people and things, which allows physical assets to be disaggregated and consumed as services. Before the internet, renting a surfboard, a power tool or a parking space from someone else was feasible, but was usually more trouble than it was worth. Now websites such as Airbnb, RelayRides and SnapGoods match up owners and renters; smartphones with GPS let people see where the nearest rentable car is parked; social networks provide a way to check up on people and build trust; and online payment systems handle the billing.

What’s mine is yours, for a fee

C) Just as peer-to-peer businesses like eBay allow anyone to become a retailer, sharing sites let individuals act as an *ad hoc* (临时的) taxi service, car-hire firm or *boutique hotel* (精品酒店) as and when it suits them. Just go online or download an app. The model works for items that are expensive to buy and are widely owned by people who do not make full use of them. Bedrooms and cars are the most obvious examples, but you can also rent camping spaces in Sweden, fields in

Australia and washing machines in France. As proponents of the sharing economy like to put it, access *trumps* (胜过) ownership.

D) Rachel Botsman, the author of a book on the subject, says the consumer peer-to-peer rental market alone is worth \$26 billion. Broader definitions of the sharing economy include peer-to-peer lending (though cash is hardly a spare fixed asset) or putting a solar panel on your roof and selling power back to the *grid* (电网). And it is not just individuals: the web makes it easier for companies to rent out spare offices and idle machines, too. But the core of the sharing economy is people renting things from each other.

E) Such “*collaborative* (合作的) consumption” is a good thing for several reasons. Owners make money from underused assets. Airbnb says hosts in San Francisco who rent out their homes do so for an average of 58 nights a year, making \$9,300. Car owners who rent their vehicles to others using RelayRides make an average of \$250 a month; some make more than \$1,000. Renters, meanwhile, pay less than they would if they bought the item themselves, or turned to a traditional provider such as a hotel or car-hire firm. (It is not surprising that many sharing firms got going during the financial crisis.) And there are environmental benefits, too: renting a car when you need it, rather than owning one, means fewer cars are required and fewer resources must be devoted to making them.

F) For sociable souls, meeting new people by staying in their homes is part of the charm. Curmudgeons (倔脾气的人) who imagine that every renter is Norman Bates can still stay at conventional hotels. For others, the web fosters trust. As well as the background checks carried out by platform owners, online reviews and ratings are usually posted by both parties to each transaction, which makes it easy to spot lousy drivers, bathrobe-pilferers and surfboard-wreckers. By using Facebook and other social networks, participants can check each other out and identify friends (or friends of friends) in common. An Airbnb user had her apartment trashed in 2011. But the remarkable thing is how well the system usually works. Peering into the future

Peering into the future

G) The sharing economy is a little like online shopping, which started in America 15 years ago. At first, people were worried about security. But having made a successful purchase from, say, Amazon, they felt safe buying elsewhere. Similarly, using Airbnb or a car-hire service for the first time encourages people to try other offerings. Next, consider eBay. Having started out as a peer-to-peer marketplace, it is now dominated by professional “power sellers” (many of whom started out as ordinary eBay users). The same may happen with the sharing economy, which also provides new opportunities for enterprise. Some people have bought cars solely to rent them out, for example.

H) Existing rental businesses are getting involved too. Avis, a car-hire firm, has a share in a sharing rival. So do GM and Daimler, two carmakers. In future, companies may develop *hybrid* (混合的) models, listing excess capacity (whether vehicles, equipment or office space) on peer-to-peer rental sites. In the past, new ways of doing things online have not displaced the old

ways entirely. But they have often changed them. Just as internet shopping forced Walmart and Tesco to adapt, so online sharing will shake up transport, tourism, equipment-hire and more.

I) The main worry is regulatory uncertainty (see Technology Quarterly article). Will room-renters be subject to hotel taxes, for example? In Amsterdam officials are using Airbnb listings to track down unlicensed hotels. In some American cities, peer-to-peer taxi services have been banned after lobbying by traditional taxi firms. The danger is that although some rules need to be updated to protect consumers from harm, incumbents will try to destroy competition. People who rent out rooms should pay tax, of course, but they should not be regulated like a Ritz-Carlton hotel. The lighter rules that typically govern bed-and-breakfasts are more than adequate.

J) The sharing economy is the latest example of the internet's value to consumers. This emerging model is now big and *disruptive* (颠覆性的) enough for regulators and companies to have woken up to it. That is a sign of its immense potential. It is time to start caring about sharing.

- 46. Sharing items such as cars does good to the environment.
- 47. Airbnb's success clearly illustrates the emergence of a huge sharing economy.
- 48. The major concern about the sharing economy is how the government regulates it.
- 49. The most frequently shared items are those expensive to buy but not fully used.
- 50. The sharing economy has a promising future.
- 51. Online sharing will change the way business is done in transportation, travel, rentals, etc.
- 52. Airbnb is a website that enables owners and renters to complete transactions online.
- 53. The sharing economy is likely to go the way of online shopping.
- 54. One advantage of sharing is that owners earn money from renting out items not made full use of.
- 55. Sharing appeals to the sociable in that they can meet new people.

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.

In recent years, a growing body of research has shown that our appetite and food intake are influenced by a large number of factors besides our biological need for energy, including our eating environment and our perception of the food in front of us.

Studies have shown, for instance, that eating in front of the TV (or a similar distraction) can increase both hunger and the amount of food consumed. Even simple visual cues, like plate size and lighting, have been shown to affect portion size and consumption.

A new study suggested that our short-term memory also may play a role in appetite. Several hours after a meal, people's hunger levels were predicted not by how much they'd eaten but rather

by how much food they'd seen in front of them—in other words, how much they remembered eating.

This *disparity* (差异) suggests the memory of our previous meal may have a bigger influence on our appetite than the actual size of the meal, says Jeffrey M. Brunstrom, a professor of experimental psychology at the University of Bristol.

“Hunger isn't controlled solely by the physical characteristics of a recent meal. We have identified an independent role for memory for that meal,” Brunstrom says. “This shows that the relationship between hunger and food intake is more complex than we thought.”

These findings echo earlier research that suggests our perception of food can sometimes trick our body's response to the food itself. In a 2011 study, for instance, people who drank the same 380-calorie (卡路里) milkshake on two separate occasions produced different levels of hunger-related *hormones* (荷尔蒙), depending on whether the shake's label said it contained 620 or 140 calories. Moreover, the participants reported feeling more full when they thought they'd consumed a higher-calorie shake.

What does this mean for our eating habits? Although it hardly seems practical to trick ourselves into eating less, the new findings do highlight the benefits of focusing on our food and avoiding TV and multitasking while eating.

The so-called mindful-eating strategies can fight distractions and help us control our appetite, Brunstrom says.

56. What is said to be a factor affecting our appetite and food intake?
- A) How we perceive the food we eat. B) What ingredients the food contains.
C) When we eat our meals. D) How fast we eat our meals.
57. What would happen at meal time if you remembered eating a lot in the previous meal?
- A) You would probably be more picky about food.
B) You would not feel like eating the same food.
C) You would have a good appetite.
D) You would not feel so hungry.
58. What do we learn from the 2011 study?
- A) Food labels may mislead consumers in their purchases.
B) Food labels may influence our body's response to food.
C) Hunger levels depend on one's consumption of calories.
D) People tend to take in a lot more calories than necessary.
59. What does Brunstrom suggest we do to control our appetite?
- A) Trick ourselves into eating less. B) Choose food with fewer calories.
C) Concentrate on food while eating. D) Pick dishes of the right size.
60. What is the main idea of the passage?
- A) Eating distractions often affect our food digestion.
B) Psychological factors influence our hunger levels.
C) Our food intake is determined by our biological needs.
D) Good eating habits will contribute to our health.

Passage Two

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

As a society we might want to rethink the time and money spent on education, so that these resources can benefit a greater percentage of the population. Ideally, both high schools and colleges can prepare individuals for the ever-changing roles that are likely to be expected of them.

High school degrees offer far less in the way of preparation for work than they might, or than many other nations currently offer, creating a growing skills gap in our economy. We encourage students to go on to college whether they are prepared or not, or have a clear sense of purpose or interest, and now have the highest college dropout rate in the world.

We might look to other countries for models of how high schools can offer better training, as well as the development of a *work ethic* (勤奋工作的美德) and the intellectual skills needed for continued learning and development. I recommend Harvard's 2011 "Pathways to Prosperity" report for more attention to the "forgotten half" (those who do not go on to college) and ideas about how to address this issue.

Simultaneously, the liberal arts become more important than ever. In a knowledge economy where professional roles change rapidly and many college students are preparing for positions that may not even exist yet, the skill set needed is one that prepares them for change and continued learning.

Learning to express ideas well in both writing and speech, knowing how to find information, and knowing how to do research are all solid background skills for a wide variety of roles, and such training is more important than any particular major in a liberal arts college. We need to continue to value broad preparation in thinking skills that will serve for a lifetime.

Students also need to learn to work independently and to make responsible decisions. The lengthening path to adulthood appears *exacerbated* (恶化) by parental involvement in the college years. Given the rising investment in college education, parental concern is not surprising, but learning where and when to *intervene* (干预) will help students take more ownership of the outcomes of these increasingly costly educations.

61. What kind of education does the author think is ideal?
- A) It benefits the great majority of the general population.
 - B) It prepares students to meet the future needs of society.
 - C) It encourages students to learn throughout their lives.
 - D) It ensures that students' expectations are successfully fulfilled.
62. What does the author say is the problem with present high school education?
- A) Ignoring the needs of those who don't go to college.
 - B) Teaching skills to be used right after graduation only.
 - C) Giving little attention to those having difficulty learning.
 - D) Creating the highest dropout rate in the developed world.
63. What characterizes a knowledge economy according to the passage?
- A) People have to receive higher education to qualify for a professional position.
 - B) Students majoring in liberal arts usually have difficulty securing a job.
 - C) New positions are constantly created that require people to keep learning.
 - D) Colleges find it hard to teach students how to cope with the changing economy.
64. What does the author think a liberal arts college should focus on?
- A) Solid background knowledge in a particular field.
 - B) Practical skills urgently needed in current society.

- C) Basic skills needed for change and lifelong learning.
 - D) Useful thinking skills for advanced academic research.
65. What suggestion does the author offer to parents?
- A) Rethinking the value of higher education.
 - B) Investing wisely in their children's education.
 - C) Helping their children to bring their talent into full play.
 - D) Avoiding too much intervention in their children's education.

Part IV Translation

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**.*

中国结 (the Chinese knot) 最初是由手工艺人发明的, 经过数百年不断的改进, 已经成为一种优雅多彩的艺术和工艺。在古代, 人们用它来记录事件, 但现在主要是用于装饰的目的。“结”在中文里意味这爱情、姻和团聚, 中国结常常作为礼物交换或作用饰品祈求好运 和辟邪。这种形式的手工艺 (handicraft) 代代相传, 现在已经在中国和世界各地越来越受欢迎。