**2017年6月大学英语六级考试真题(第3套)**

**Part I Writing (30 minutes)**

**Directions:** *Suppose you are asked to give advice on whether to major in science or humanities at college, write an essay to state your opinion. You are required to write at least* ***150*** *words but no more than* ***200*** *words.*

**Part II Listening Comprehension (30 minutes)**

（说明：由于2017年6月六级考试全国共考了2套听力，本套真题听力与前2套内容完全一样，只是顺序不一样，因此在本套真题中不再重复出现）

**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 26 to 35 are based on the following passage.**

Half of your brain stays alert and prepared for danger when you sleep in a new place, a study has revealed. This phenomenon is often 26 to as the "first-night-effect". Researchers from Brown University found that a network in the left hemisphere of the brain "remained more active" than the network in the right side of the brain. Playing sounds into the right ears (stimulating the left hemisphere) of 27 was more likely to wake them up than if the noises were played into their left ears.

It was 28 observed that the left side of the brain was more active during deep sleep. When the researchers repeated the laboratory experiment on the second and third nights they found the left hemisphere could not be stimulated in the same way during deep sleep. The researchers explained that the study demonstrated when we are in a 29 environment the brain partly remains alert so that humans can defend themselves against any 30 danger.

The researchers believe this is the first time that the 'first-night-effect' of different brain states has been 31 in humans. It isn't, however, the first time it has ever been seen. Some animal 32 also display this phenomenon. For example, dolphins, as well as other 33 animals, shut down one hemisphere of the brain when they go to sleep. A previous study noted that dolphins always 34 control their breathing. Without keeping the brain active while sleeping, they would probably down. But, as the human study suggests, another reason for dolphins keeping their eyes open during sleep is that they can look out for 35 while asleep. It also keeps their physiological processes working.

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| A) classified  B) consciously  C) dramatically  D) exotic  E) identified  F) inherent  G) marine  H) novel | I) potential  J) predators  K) referred  L) species  M) specifically  N) varieties  O) volunteers |

**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 Price of Oil and the Price of Carbon**

1. Fossil fuel prices are likely to stay “low for long.” Notwithstanding important recent progress in developing renewable fuel sources, low fossil fuel prices could discourage further innovation in, and adoption of, cleaner energy technologies. The result would be higher emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
2. Policymakers should not allow low energy prices to derail the clean energy transition. Action to restore appropriate price incentives, notably through corrective carbon pricing, is urgently needed to lower the risk of irreversible and potentially devastating effects of climate change. That approach also offers fiscal benefits.
3. Oil prices have dropped by over 60% since June 2014. A commonly held view in the oil industry is that “the best cure for low oil prices is low oil prices.” The reasoning behind this saying is that low oil prices discourage investment in new production capacity, eventually shifting the oil supply curve backward and bringing prices back up as existing oil fields—which can be tapped at relatively low marginal cost—are depleted. In fact, in line with past experience, capital expenditure in the oil sector has dropped sharply in many producing countries, including the United States. The dynamic adjustment to low oil prices may, however, be different this time around.
4. Oil prices are expected to remain lower for longer. The advent of new technologies has added about 4.2 million barrels per day to the crude oil market, contributing to a global over-supply. In addition, other factors are putting downward pressure on oil prices: change in the strategic behavior of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the projected increase in Iranian exports, the scaling-down of global demand (especially from emerging markets), the long-term drop in petroleum consumption in the United States, and some displacement of oil by substitutes. These likely persistent forces, like the growth of shale (页岩), point to a “low for long” scenario. Futures markets, which show only a modest recovery of prices to around $60 a barrel by 2019, support this view.
5. Natural gas and coal—also fossil fuels—have similarly seen price declines that look to be long-lived. Coal and natural gas are mainly used for electricity generation, whereas oil is used mostly to power transportation, yet the prices of all these energy sources are linked. The North American shale gas boom has resulted in record low prices there. The recent discovery of the giant Zohr gas field off the Egyptian coast will eventually have impact on pricing in the Mediterranean region and Europe, and there is significant development potential in many other places, notably Argentina. Coal prices also are low, owing to over-supply and the scaling-down of demand, especially from China, which burns half of the world’s coal.
6. Technological innovations have unleashed the power of renewables such as wind, hydro, solar, and geothermal (地热). Even Africa and the Middle East, home to economies that are heavily dependent on fossil fuel exports, have enormous potential to develop renewables. For example, the United Arab Emirates has endorsed an ambitious target to draw 24% of its primary energy consumption from renewable sources by 2021.
7. Progress in the development of renewables could be fragile, however, if fossil fuel prices remain low for long. Renewables account for only a small share of global primary energy consumption, which is still dominated by fossil fuels—30% each for coal and oil, 25% for natural gas. But renewable energy will have to displace fossil fuels to a much greater extent in the future to avoid unacceptable climate risks.
8. Unfortunately, the current low prices for oil, gas, and coal may provide little incentive for research to find even cheaper substitutes for those fuels. There is strong evidence that both innovation and adoption of cleaner technology are strongly encouraged by higher fossil fuel prices. The same is true for new technologies for alleviating fossil fuel emissions.
9. The current low fossil fuel price environment will thus certainly delay the energy transition from fossil fuel to clean energy sources. Unless renewables become cheap enough that substantial carbon deposits are left underground for a very long time, if not forever, the planet will likely be exposed to potentially catastrophic climate risks.
10. Some climate impacts may already be discernible. For example, the United Nations Children's Fund estimates that some 11 million children in Africa face hunger, disease, and water shortages as a result of the strongest El Niño (厄尔尼诺) weather phenomenon in decades. Many scientists believe that El Niño events, caused by warming in the Pacific, are becoming more intense as a result of climate change.
11. Nations from around the world have gathered in Paris for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21, with the goal of a universal and potentially legally-binding agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We need very broad participation to fully address the global tragedy that results when countries fail to take into account the negative impact of their carbon emissions on the rest of the world. Moreover, non-participation by nations, if sufficiently widespread, can undermine the political will of participating countries to act.
12. The nations participating at COP 21 are focusing on quantitative emissions-reduction commitments. Economic reasoning shows that the least expensive way for each country is to put a price on carbon emissions. The reason is that when carbon is priced, those emissions reductions that are least costly to implement will happen first. The International Monetary Fund calculates that countries can generate substantial fiscal revenues by eliminating fossil fuel subsidies and levying carbon charges that capture the domestic damage caused by emissions. A tax on upstream carbon sources is one easy way to put a price on carbon emissions, although some countries may wish to use other methods, such as emissions trading schemes. In order to maximize global welfare, every country’s carbon pricing should reflect not only the purely domestic damage from emissions, but also the damage to foreign countries.
13. Setting the right carbon price will therefore efficiently align the costs paid by carbon users with the true social opportunity cost of using carbon. By raising relative demand for clean energy sources, a carbon price would also help align the market return to clean-energy innovation with its social return, spurring the refinement of existing technologies and the development of new ones. And it would raise the demand for technologies such as carbon capture and storage, spurring their further development. If not corrected by the appropriate carbon price, low fossil fuel prices are not accurately signaling to markets the true social profitability of clean energy. While alternative estimates of the damage from carbon emissions differ, and it’s especially hard to reckon the likely costs of possible catastrophic climate events, most estimates suggest substantial negative effects.
14. Direct subsidies to research and development have been adopted by some governments but are a poor substitute for a carbon price: they do only part of the job, leaving in place market incentives to over-use fossil fuels and thereby add to the stock of atmospheric greenhouse gases without regard to the collateral (附带的) costs.
15. The hope is that the success of COP 21 opens the door to future international agreement on carbon prices. Agreement on an international carbon-price floor would be a good starting point in that process. Failure to address comprehensively the problem of greenhouse gas emissions, however, exposes all generations, present and future, to incalculable risks.
16. A number of factors are driving down the global oil prices not just for now but in the foreseeable future.
17. Pricing carbon proves the most economical way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
18. It is estimated that extreme weather conditions have endangered the lives of millions of African children.
19. The prices of coal are low as a result of over-supply and decreasing demand.
20. Higher fossil fuel prices prove to be conducive to innovation and application of cleaner technology.
21. If fossil fuel prices remain low for a long time, it may lead to higher emissions of greenhouse gases.
22. Fossil fuels remain the major source of primary energy consumption in today’s world.
23. Even major fossil exporting countries have great potential to develop renewable energies.
24. Greenhouse gas emissions, if not properly dealt with, will pose endless risks for mankind.
25. It is urgent for governments to increase the cost of using fossil fuels to an appropriate level to lessen the catastrophic effects of climate change.

**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 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.**

Tennessee’s technical and community college will not *outsource* （外包）management of their facilities to a private company, a decision one leader said was bolstered by an analysis of spending at each campus.

In an email sent Monday to college presidents in the Tennessee Board of Regents system, outgoing Chancellor John Morgan said an internal analysis showed that each campus’ spending on facilities management fell well below the industry standards identified by the state. Morgan said those findings—which included data from the system’s 13 community colleges, 27 technical colleges and six universities—were part of the decision not to move forward with Governor Bill Haslam’s proposal to privatize management of state buildings in an effort to save money.

“While these numbers are still being validated by the state, we feel any adjustments they might suggest will be immaterial,” Morgan wrote to the presidents. “System institutions are operating very efficiently based on this analysis, raising the question of the value of pursing a broad scale outsourcing initiative.”

Workers’ advocates have criticized Haslam’s plan, saying it would mean some campus workers would lose their jobs or benefits. Haslam has said colleges would be free to opt in or out of the outsourcing plan, which has not been finalized.

Morgan notified that Haslam administration of his decision to opt out in a letter sent last week. That letter, which includes several concerns Morgan has with the plan, was originally obtained by *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis.

In an email statement from the state’s Office of Customer Focused Government, which is examining the possibility of outsourcing, spokeswoman Michelle R. Martin said officials were still working to analyze the data from the Board of Regents. Data on management expenses at the college system and in other state departments will be part of a “business justification” the state will use as officials deliberate the specifics of an outsourcing plan.

“The state’s facilities management project team is still in the process of developing its business justification and expects to have that completed and available to the public at the end of February,” Martin said. “At this time there is nothing to take action on since the analysis has yet to be completed.”

Morgan’s comments on outsourcing mark the second time this month that he has come out against one of Haslam’s plans for higher education in Tennessee. Morgan said last week that he would retire at the end of January because of the governor’s proposal to split off six universities of the Board of Regents system and create separate governing boards for each of them. In his resignation letter, Morgan called the reorganization “unworkable”.

46. What do we learn about the decision of technical and community colleges in Tennessee?

A) It is backed by a campus spending analysis.

B) It has been flatly rejected by the governor.

C) It has neglected their faculty’s demands.

D) It will improve their financial situation.

47. What does the campus spending analysis reveal?

A) Private companies play a big role in campus management.

B) Facilities management by colleges is more cost-effective.

C) Facilities management has greatly improved in recent years.

D) College exercise full control over their own financial affairs.

48. Workers’ supporters argue that Bill Haslam’s proposal would\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) deprive colleges of the right to manage their facilities

B) make workers less motivated in performing duties

C) render a number of campus workers jobless

D) lead to the privatization of campus facilities

49. What do we learn from the state spokeswoman’s response to John Morgan’s decision?

A) The outsourcing plan is not yet finalized.

B) The outsourcing plan will be implemented.

C) The state officials are confident about the outsourcing plan.

D) The college spending analysis justifies the outsourcing plan.

50. Why did John Morgan decide to resign?

A) He had lost confidence in the Tennessee state government.

B) He disagreed with the governor on higher education policies.

C) He thought the state’s outsourcing proposal was simply unworkable.

D) He opposed the governor’s plan to reconstruct the college board system.

**Passage Two**

**Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.**

Macy’s reported its sales plunged 5.2% in November and December at stores open more than a year, a disappointing holiday season performance that capped a difficult year for a department store chain facing wide-ranging challenges. Its flagship stores in major U.S. cities depend heavily on international tourist spending, which shrank at many retailers due to a strong dollar. Meanwhile, Macy’s has simply struggled to lure consumers who are more interested in spending on travel or dining out than on new clothes or accessories.

The company blamed much of the poor performance in November and December on unseasonably warm weather. “About 80% of our company’s year-over-year declines in comparable sales can be attributed to *shortfalls* (短缺) in cold-weather goods,” said chief executive Terry Lundgren in a press release. This prompted the company to cut its forecasts for the full fourth quarter.

However, it’s clear that Macy’s believes its troubles run deeper than a temporary *aberration* (偏离) off the thermometer. The retail giant said the poor financial performance this year has pushed it to begin implementing $400 million in cost-cutting measures. The company pledged to cut 600 back-office positions, though some 150 workers in those roles would be reassigned to other jobs. It also plans to offer “voluntary separation” packages to 165 senior executives. It will slash staffing at its fleet of 770 stores, a move affecting some 3,000 employees.

The retailer also announced the locations of 36 stores it will close in early 2016. The company had previously announced the planned closures, but had not said which locations would be affected. None of the chain’s stores in the Washington metropolitan area are to be closed.

Macy’s has been moving aggressively to try to remake itself for a new era of shopping. It has plans to open more locations of Macy’s Backstage, a newly-developed off-price concept which might help it better compete with ambitious T. J. Maxx. It’s also pushing ahead in 2016 with an expansion of Bluemercury, the beauty chain it bought last year. At a time when young beauty shoppers are often turning to Sephora or Ulta instead of department store beauty counters, Macy’s hopes Bluemercury will help strengthen its position in the category.

One relative bright spot for Macy’s during the holiday season was the online channel, where it rang up “double-digit” increases in sales and a 25% increase in the number of orders it filled. That relative strength would be consistent with what was seen in the wider retail industry during the early part of the holiday season. While Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday all saw record spending online, in-store sales plunged over the holiday weekend.

51. What does the author say about the shrinking spending of international tourists in the U.S.?

A) It is attributable to the rising value of the U.S. dollar.

B) It is a direct result of the global economic recession.

C) It reflects a shift of their interest in consumer goods.

D) It poses a potential threat to the retail business in the U.S..

52. What does Macy’s believe about its problems?

A) They can be solved with better management.

B) They cannot be attributed to weather only.

C) They are not as serious in its online stores.

D) They call for increased investments.

53. In order to cut costs, Macy’s decided to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A) cut the salary of senior executives

B) relocate some of its chain stores

C) adjust its promotion strategies

D) reduce the size of its staff

54. Why does Macy’s plan to expand Bluemercury in 2016?

A) To experiment on its new business concept.

B) To focus more on beauty products than clothing.

C) To promote sales of its products by lowering prices.

D) To be more competitive in sales of beauty products.

55. What can we learn about Macy’s during the holiday season?

A) Sales dropped sharply in its physical stores.

B) Its retail sales exceeded those of T. J. Maxx.

C) It helped Bluemercury establish its position worldwide.

D) It filled its stores with abundant supply of merchandise.

**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.***

明朝统治中国276年，被人们描绘成人类历史上治理有序、社会稳定的最伟大的时代之一。这一时期，手工业的发展促进了市场经济和城市化。大量商品，包括就和丝绸，都在市场销售。同时，还进口许多外国商品，如时钟和烟草。北京、南京、扬州、苏州这样的大商业中心相继形成。也是在明代，由郑和率领的船队曾到印度洋进行了七次大规模探险航行。还值得一提的是，中国文学的四大经典名著中有三部写于明代。