2018 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（二）试题

Section I   Use of English

Why do people read negative Internet comments and do other things that will obviously be painful? Because humans have an inherent need to 1 uncertainty, according to a recent study in Psychological Science. The new research reveals that the need to know is so strong that people will 2 to satisfy their curiosity even when it is clear the answer will 3 .

In a series of four experiments, behavioral scientists at the University of Chicago and the Wisconsin School of Business tested student's willingness to 4 themselves to unpleasant stimuli in an effort to satisfy curiosity. For one 5 , each participant was shown a pile of pens that the researcher claimed were from a previous experiment. The twist? Half of the pens would 6 an electric shock when clicked.

Twenty-seven students were told which pens were electrified; another twenty-seven were told only that some were electrified 7 left alone in the room, the students who did not know which ones would shock them clicked more pens and incurred more shocks than the students who knew what would 8 . Subsequent experiments reproduced this effect with other stimuli, 9 the sound of finger nails on a chalkboard and photographs of disgusting insects.

The drive to 10 is deeply rooted in humans, much the same as the basic drives for 11 or shelter, says Christopher Hsee of the University of Chicago. Curiosity is often considered a good instinct-it can 12 New Scientific advances, for instance-but sometimes such 13 can backfire. The insight that curiosity can drive you to do 14 things is a profound one.

Unhealthy curiosity is possible to 15 , however, in a final experiment, participants who were encouraged to 16 how they would feel after viewing an unpleasant picture were less likely to 17 to see such an image. These results suggest that imagining the 18 of following through on one's curiosity ahead of time can help determine 19 it is worth the endeavor. " Thinking about long-term 20 is key to reducing the possible negative effects of curiosity. Hsee says "in other words, don't read online comments".

1. [A] protect	[B] resolve	[C] discuss	[D] ignore
2. [A] refuse	[B] wait	[C] regret	[D] seek
3. [A] hurt	[B] last	[C] mislead	[D] rise
4. [A] alert	[B] tie	[C] treat	[D] expose
5. [A] message	[B] review	[C] trial	[D] concept
6. [A] remove	[B] weaken	[C] interrupt	[D] deliver
7. [A] when	[B] if	[C] though	[D] unless
8. [A] continue	[B] happen	[C] disappear	[D] change
9. [A] rather than	[B] regardless of	[C] such as	[D] owing to
10.[A] discover	[B] forgive	[C] forget	[D] disagree
11.[A] pay	[B] marriage	[C] schooling	[D] food
12.[A] lead to	[B] rest on	[C] learn from	[D] begin with
13.[A] withdrawal	[B] persistence	[C] inquiry	[D] diligence
14.[A] self-reliant	[B] self-destructive	[C] self-evident	[D] self-deceptive
15.[A] define	[B] resist	[C] replace	[D] trace
16.[A] overlook	[B] predict	[C] design	[D] conceal

17.[A] remember   [B] promise   [C] choose   [D] pretend

18.[A] relief   [B] plan   [C] duty   [D] outcome

19.[A] why   [B] whether   [C] where   [D] how

20.[A] consequences   [B] investments   [C] strategies   [D] limitations

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions: *Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing [A] ,[B] ,[C] or[D] . Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.(40 points)*

Text 1

It is curious that Stephen Koziatek feels almost as though he has to justify his efforts to give his students a better future.

Mr. Koziatek is part of something pioneering. He is a teacher at a New Hampshire high school where learning is not something of books and tests and mechanical memorization, but practical. When did it become accepted wisdom that students should be able to name the 13th president of the United States but be utterly overwhelmed by a busted bike chain?

As Koziatek knows, there is learning in just about everything. Nothing is necessarily gained by forcing students to learn geometry at a graffitied desk stuck with generations of discarded chewing gum. They can also learn geometry by assembling a bicycle.

But he's also found a kind of insidious prejudice. Working with your hands is seen as almost a mark of inferiority. Schools in the family of vocational education "have that stereotype ... that it's for kids who can't make it academically," he says.

On one hand, that viewpoint is a logical product of America's evolution. Manufacturing is not the economic engine that it once was. The job security that the US economy once offered to high school graduates has largely evaporated. More education is the new principle. We want more for our kids, and rightfully so.

But the headlong push into bachelor's degrees for all—and the subtle devaluing of anything less—misses an important point: That's not the only thing the American economy needs. Yes, a bachelor's degree opens more doors. But even now, 54 percent of the jobs in the country are middle-skill job, such as construction and high-skill manufacturing. But only 44 percent of workers are adequately trained.

In other words, at a time when the working class has turned the country on its political head, frustrated that the opportunity that once defined America is vanishing, one obvious solution is staring us in the face. There is a gap in working-class jobs, but the workers who need those jobs most aren't equipped to do them. Koziatek's Manchester School of Technology High School is trying to fill that gap.

Koziatek's school is wake-up call. When education becomes one-size-fits-all, it risks overlooking a nation's diversity of gifts.

21. A broken bike chain is mentioned to show students' lack of_____.

[A] academic training   [B] practical ability

[C] pioneering spirit   [D] mechanical memorization

22. There exists the prejudice that vocational education is for kids who_____.

[A] have a stereotyped mind   [B] have no career motivation

[C] are financially disadvantaged   [D] are not academically successful

23. We can infer from Paragraph 5 that high school graduates_____.

[A] used to have more job opportunities

[B] used to have big financial concerns

[C] are entitled to more educational privileges

[D] are reluctant to work in manufacturing

24. The headlong push into bachelor's degrees for all_____.

[A] helps create a lot of middle-class jobs

[B] may narrow the gap in working-class jobs

[C] indicates the overvaluing of higher education

[D] is expected to yield a better-trained workforce

25. The author's attitude toward Koziatek's school can be described as_____.

[A] tolerant   [B] cautious   [C] supportive   [D] disappointed

Text 2

While fossil fuels—coal, oil, gas—still generate roughly 85 percent of the world's energy supply, it's clearer than ever that the future belongs to renewable sources such as wind and solar. The move to renewable is picking up momentum around the world: They now account for more than half of new power sources going on line.

Some growth stems from a commitment by governments and farsighted businesses to fund cleaner energy sources. But increasingly the story is about the plummeting prices of renewables, especially wind and solar. The cost of solar panels has dropped by 80 percent and the cost of wind turbines by close to one-third in the past eight years.

In many parts of the world renewable energy is already a principal energy source. In Scotland, for example, wind turbines provide enough electricity to power 95 percent of homes. While the rest of the world takes the lead, notably China and Europe, the United States is also seeing a remarkable shift. In March, for the first time, wind and solar power accounted for more than 10 percent of the power generated in the US, reported the US Energy Information Administration.

President Trump has underlined fossil fuels—especially coal—as the path to economic growth. In a recent speech in Iowa, he dismissed wind power as an unreliable energy source. But that message did not play well with many in Iowa, where wind turbines dot the fields and provide 36 percent of the state's electricity generation—and where tech giants like Microsoft are being attracted by the availability of clean energy to power their data centers.

The question "what happens when the wind doesn't blow or the sun doesn't s shine?" has provided a quick put-down for skeptics. But a boost in the storage capacity of batteries is making their ability to keep power flowing around the clock more likely.

The advance is driven in part by vehicle manufacturers, who are placing big bets on battery-powered electric vehicles. Although electric cars are still a rarity on roads now, this

massive investment could change the picture rapidly in coming years.

While there's a long way to go, the trend lines for renewables are spiking. The pace of change in energy sources appears to be speeding up—perhaps just in time to have a meaningful effect in slowing climate change. What Washington does—or doesn't do—to promote alternative energy may mean less and less at a time of a global shift in thought.

26. The word "plummeting" (Line 3, Para.2) is closest in meaning to_____.
[A] stabilizing   [B] changing   [C] falling   [D] rising

27. According to Paragraph 3, the use of renewable energy in America_____.
[A] is progressing notably   [B] is as extensive as in Europe
[C] faces many challenges   [D] has proved to be impractical

28. It can be learned that in Iowa, ____.
[A] wind is a widely used energy source   [B] wind energy has replaced fossil fuels
[C] tech giants are investing in clean energy [D] there is a shortage of clean energy supply

29. Which of the following is true about clean energy according to Paragraphs 5 & 6?
[A] Its application has boosted battery storage.
[B] It is commonly used in car manufacturing.
[C] Its continuous supply is becoming a reality.
[D] Its sustainable exploitation will remain difficult.

30. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that renewable energy____.
[A] will bring the US closer to other countries
[B] will accelerate global environmental change
[C] is not really encouraged by the US government
[D] is not competitive enough with regard to its cost

Text 3

The power and ambition of the giants of the digital economy is astonishing—Amazon has just announced the purchase of the upmarket grocery chain Whole Foods for $13.5bn, but two years ago Facebook paid even more than that to acquire the WhatsApp messaging service, which doesn't have any physical product at all. What WhatsApp offered Facebook was an intricate and finely detailed web of its users' friendships and social lives.

Facebook promised the European commission then that it would not link phone numbers to Facebook identities, but it broke the promise almost as soon as the deal went through. Even without knowing what was in the messages, the knowledge of who sent them and to whom was enormously revealing and still could be. What political journalist, what party whip, would not want to know the makeup of the WhatsApp groups in which Theresa May's enemies are currently plotting? It may be that the value of Whole Foods to Amazon is not so much the 460 shops it owns, but the records of which customers have purchased what.

Competition law appears to be the only way to address these imbalances of power. But it is

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clumsy. For one thing, it is very slow compared to the pace of change within the digital economy. By the time a problem has been addressed and remedied it may have vanished in the marketplace, to be replaced by new abuses of power. But there is a deeper conceptual problem, too. Competition law as presently interpreted deals with financial disadvantage to consumers and this is not obvious when the users of these services don't pay for them. The users of their services are not their customers. That would be the people who buy advertising from them—and Facebook and Google, the two virtual giants, dominate digital advertising to the disadvantage of all other media and entertainment companies.

The product they're selling is data, and we, the users, convert our lives to data for the benefit of the digital giants. Just as some ants farm the bugs called aphids for the honeydew they produce when they feed, so Google farms us for the data that our digital lives yield. Ants keep predatory insects away from where their aphids feed; Gmail keeps the spammers out of our inboxes. It doesn't feel like a human or democratic relationship, even if both sides benefit.

31. According to Paragraph1, Facebook acquired WhatsApp for its_____.
[A] digital products   [B] user information
[C] physical assets   [D] quality service

32. Linking phone numbers to Facebook identities may _____.
[A] worsen political disputes
[B] mess up customer records
[C] pose a risk to Facebook users
[D] mislead the European commission

33. According to the author, competition law _____.
[A] should serve the new market powers
[B] may worsen the economic imbalance
[C] should not provide just one legal solution
[D] cannot keep pace with the changing market

34. Competition law as presently interpreted can hardly protect Facebook users because _____.
[A] they are not defined as customers
[B] they are not financially reliable
[C] the services are generally digital
[D] the services are paid for by advertisers

35. The ants analogy is used to illustrate _____.
[A] a win-win business model between digital giants
[B] a typical competition pattern among digital giants
[C] the benefits provided for digital giants' customers
[D] the relationship between digital giants and their users

Text 4

To combat the trap of putting a premium on being busy, Gal Newport, anther of *Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Districted World*, recommends building a habit of "deep work", —the ability to focus without distraction.

There are a number of approaches to mastering the art of deep work—be it lengthy retreats dedicated to a specific task; developing a daily ritual; or taking a "journalistic" approach to seizing moments of deep work when you can throughout the day. Whichever approach, the key is to determine your length of focus time and stick to it.

Newport also recommends "deep scheduling" to combat constant interruptions and get more done in less time. "At any given point, I should have deep work scheduled for roughly the next month. Once on the calendar, I protect this time like I would a doctor's appointment or important meeting," he writes.

Another approach to getting more done in less time is to rethink how you prioritize your day—in particular how we craft our to-do lists. Tim Harford, author of *Messy: The Power of Disorder to Transform Our Lives*, points to a study in the early 1980s that divided undergraduates into two groups: some were advised to set out monthly goals and study activities; others were told to plan activities and golds in much time detail, day by day.

While the researchers assumed that the well-structured daily plans would be most effective when it came to the execution of tasks, they were wrong: the detailed daily plans demotivated students. Harford argues that inevitable distractions often render the daily to-do list ineffective, while living room for improvisation in such a list can reap the best results.

In order to make the most of our focus and energy, we also need to embrace downtime, or as Newport suggests, "be lazy."

"Idleness is not just a vacation, an indulgence or a vice; it is indispensable to be brain as Vitamin D is to the body… [idleness] is, paradoxically, necessary to getting any work done, " he argues.

Sriri Pillay, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, believes this counter-intuitive link between downtime and productivity may be due to the way our brains operate. When our brains switch between being focused and unfocused on a task, they tend to be more efficient.

"What people don't realise is that, in order to complete these tasks, they need to use both the focus and unfocus circuits in their brain", says Pillay.

36.The key to mastering the art of deep work is to_____.

[A] keep to your focus time　　　　[B] list your immediate tasks

[C] make specific daily plans　　　　[D] seize every minute to work

37. The study in the early 1980s cited by Harford shows that_____.

[A] distractions may actually increase efficiency

[B] daily schedules are indispensable to studying

[C] students are hardly motivated by monthly goals

[D] detailed plans many not be as fruitful as expected

38. According to Newport, idleness is _____ .

[A] a desirable mental state for busy people

[B] a major contributor to physical health

[C] an effective way to save time and energy

[D] an essential factor in accomplishing any work.

39.Pillay believes that our brains' shift between being focused and unfocused_____ .

[A] can result in psychological will-being   [B] can bring about greater efficiency

[C] is aimed at a better balance in work   [D] is driven by task urgency

40. This text is mainly about_____ .

[A] ways to relieve the tension of busy life   [B] approaches to getting more done in less time

[C] the key to eliminating distractions   [D] the cause of the lack of focus time

Part B

Directions: *Read the following text and match each of the numbered items in the left column to its corresponding information in the right column. There are two extra choices in the right column. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

[A] Just say it

[B] Be present

[C] Pay a unique compliment

[D] Name, places, things

[E] Find the "me too"s

[F] Skip the small talk

[G] Ask for an opinion

Five ways to make conversation with anyone

Conversations are links, which means when you have a conversation with a new person a link gets formed and every conversation you have after that moment will strengthen the link.

You meet new people every day: the grocery worker, the cab driver, new people at work or the security guard at the door. Simply starting a conversation with them will form a link.

Here are five simple ways that you can make the first move and start a conversation with strangers.

41._____

Suppose you are in a room with someone you don't know and something within you says "I want to talk with this person"- this is something the mostly happens with all of us. You wanted to say something- the first word- but it just won't come out. It feels like it is stuck somewhere, I know the feelings and here is my advice just get it out.

Just think: that is the worst that could happen? They won't talk with you? Well, they are not talking with you now!

I truly believe that once you get that first word out everything else will just flow. So keep it simple: "Hi", "Hey" or "Hello"—— do the best you can to gather all of the enthusiasm and energy you can, put on a big smile and say "Hi".

42._____

It's a problem all of us face: you have limited time with the person that you want to talk with and you want to make this talk, memorable.

Honestly, if we got stuck, in the rut, of "hi", "hello", "how are you" "and what's going on?" you will fail to give the initial Jolt to the conversation that can make it so memorable.

So don't be afraid, to ask more personal questions. Trust me, you'll be surprised to see how much people are willing to share if you just ask.

43._____

When you meet a person for the first time, make an effort to find the things which you and that person, have in common so that you can build the conversation, from that point. When you start a conversation from there and then move outward, you will find all of a sudden that the conversation becomes a lot easier.

44._____

Imagine you are pouring your heart out to someone and they are just busy on their phone, and if you ask, for their attention, you get the response "I can Multitask".

So when someone tries, to communicate with you, just be in that communication wholeheartedly. Make eye contact, you can feel the conversation.

45._____

You all came into a conversation, where you first met the person, but after some time you may have met again, and have forgotten their name. Isn't that awkward!

So remember the little details of the people you might, or you talked with; perhaps the places they have been to, the place they want to go, the things they like, the thing they hate - whatever you talk about.

When you remember such thing you can automatically become investor in their wellbeing. So they feel a responsibility to you to keep bad relationship going

That's it. Five amazing ways that you can make conversation with almost anyone. Every person is a really good book to read, or to have a conversation with!

Section III Translation

46.Directions:

Translate the following text from English into Chinese. Write your   translation on   ANSWER SHEET 2.(15 points)

A fifth grader gets a homework assignment to select his future career path from a list of occupations. He ticks "astronaut" but quickly adds "scientist" to the list and selects it as well. The boy is convinced that if he reads enough, he can explore as many career paths as he likes. And so he reads – everything from encyclopedias to science fiction novels. He reads so passionately that his parents have to institute a "no reading policy" at the dinner table.

That boy was Bill Gates, and he hasn't stopped reading yet – not even after becoming one of the most successful people on the planet. Nowadays, his reading material has changed from science fiction and reference books: recently, he revealed that he reads at least 50 nonfiction books a year. Gates chooses nonfiction titles because they explain how the world works.

"Each book opens up new avenues of knowledge to explore", Gates says.

Section IV   Writing

Part A

47. Directions:

Suppose you have to cancel your travel plan and will not be able to visit professor Smith. Write him an email to

1) apologize and explain the situation;

2) suggest a future meeting.

You should write about 100 words on the ANSWER SHEET.

Don't use your own name. Use "Li Ming" instead.
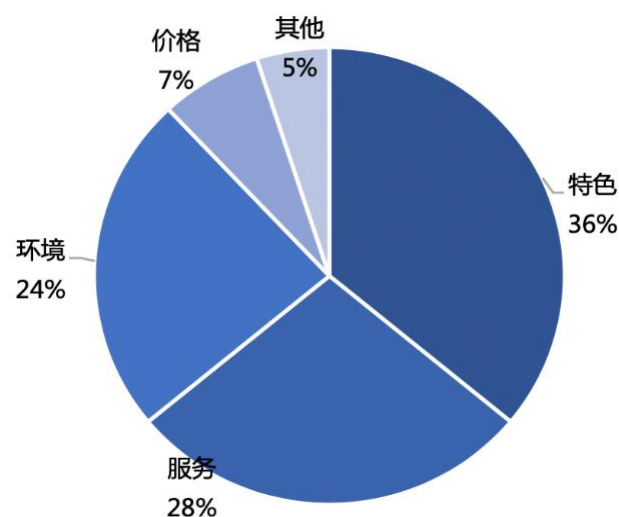
Don't write your address. (10 points)

Part B

48. Directions:

Write an essay based on the following chart. In your essay, you should

1) interpret the chart, and

2) give your comments.

You should write about 150 words neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

2017年某市消费者选择餐厅时的关注因素

价格 7%

其他 5%

特色 36%

环境 24%

服务 28%

2019年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（二）试题

Section I　Use of English

Weighing yourself regularly is a wonderful way to stay aware of any significant weight fluctuations. 1 , when done too often, this habit can sometimes hurt more that it 2 .

As for me, weighing myself every day caused me to shift my focus from being generally healthy and physically active to focusing 3 on the scale. That was bad to my overall fitness goals. I had gained weight in the form of muscle mass, but thinking only of 4 the number on the scale, I altered my training program. That conflicted with how I needed to train to 5 my goals.

I also found that weighing myself daily did not provide an accurate 6 of the hard work and progress I was making in the gym. It takes about three weeks to a month to notice any significant changes in your weight 7 altering your training program. The most 8 changes will be observed in skill level, strength and inches lost.

For these 9 I stopped weighing myself every day and switched to a bimonthly weighing schedule 10 . Since weight loss is not my goal, it is less important for me to 11 my weight each week. Weighing every other week allows me to observe and 12 any significant weight changes. That tells me whether I need to 13 my training program.

I use my bimonthly weight-in 14 to get information about my nutrition as well. If my training intensity remains the same, but I'm constantly 15 and dropping weight, this is a 16 that I need to increase my daily caloric intake.

The 17 to stop weighing myself every day has done wonders for my overall health, fitness and well-being. I'm experiencing increased zeal for working out since I no longer carry the burden of a 18 morning weigh-in. I've also experienced greater success in achieving my specific fitness goals. 19 I'm training according to those goals, not the numbers on a scale.

Rather than 20 over the scale, turn your focus to how you look, feel, how your clothes fit and your overall energy level.

1. [A] Therefore　　　　[B] Otherwise　　　　[C] However　　　　[D] Besides
2. [A] cares　　　　　　[B] warns　　　　　　[C] reduces　　　　　[D] helps
3. [A] solely　　　　　　[B] occasionally　　　　[C] formally　　　　　[D] initially
4. [A] lowering　　　　　[B] explaining　　　　　[C] accepting　　　　　[D] recording
5. [A] set　　　　　　　 [B] review　　　　　　[C] reach　　　　　　[D] modify
6. [A] depiction　　　　　[B] distribution　　　　[C] prediction　　　　[D] definition
7. [A] regardless of　　　[B] aside from　　　　 [C] along with　　　　[D] due to
8. [A] rigid　　　　　　 [B] precise　　　　　　[C] immediate　　　　[D] orderly
9. [A] judgments　　　　 [B] reasons　　　　　　[C] methods　　　　　[D] claims
10. [A] though　　　　　 [B] again　　　　　　　[C] indeed　　　　　 [D] instead
11. [A] track　　　　　　[B] overlook　　　　　 [C] conceal　　　　　 [D] report
12. [A] approve of　　　　[B] hold onto　　　　　[C] account for　　　 [D] depend on
13. [A] share　　　　　　[B] adjust　　　　　　 [C] confirm　　　　　 [D] prepare
14. [A] features　　　　　[B] rules　　　　　　　[C] tests　　　　　　[D] results
15. [A] anxious　　　　　[B] hungry　　　　　　 [C] sick　　　　　　　[D] bored
16. [A] secret　　　　　 [B] belief　　　　　　　[C] sign　　　　　　　[D] principle
17. [A] necessity　　　　 [B] decision　　　　　　[C] wish　　　　　　 [D] request
18. [A] surprising　　　　[B] restricting　　　　　[C] consuming　　　　[D] disappointing
19. [A] because　　　　　[B] unless　　　　　　 [C] until　　　　　　　[D] if
20. [A] dominating　　　　[B] puzzling　　　　　　[C] triumphing　　　　[D] obsessing

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions: *Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing [A] ,[B] ,[C] or[D] . Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.(40 points)*

Text 1

Unlike so-called basic emotions such as sadness, fear, and anger, guilt emerges a little later, in conjunction with a child's growing grasp of social and moral norms. Children aren't born knowing how to say "I'm sorry"; rather, they learn over time that such statements appease parents and friends—and their own consciences. This is why researchers generally regard so-called moral guilt, in the right amount, to be a good thing.

In the popular imagination, of course, guilt still gets a bad rap. It is deeply uncomfortable—it's the emotional equivalent of wearing a jacket weighted with stones. Yet this understanding is outdated. "There has been a kind of revival or a rethinking about what guilt is and what role guilt can serve," says Amrisha Vaish, a psychology researcher at the University of Virginia, adding that this revival is part of a larger recognition that emotions aren't binary—feelings that may be advantageous in one context may be harmful in another. Jealousy and anger, for example, may have evolved to alert us to important inequalities. Too much happiness can be destructive.

And guilt, by prompting us to think more deeply about our goodness, can encourage humans to make up for errors and fix relationships. Guilt, in other words, can help hold a cooperative species together. It is a kind of social glue.

Viewed in this light, guilt is an opportunity. Work by Tina Malti, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto, suggests that guilt may compensate for an emotional deficiency. In a number of studies, Malti and others have shown that guilt and sympathy may represent different pathways to cooperation and sharing. Some kids who are low in sympathy may make up for that shortfall by experiencing more guilt, which can rein in their nastier impulses. And vice versa: High sympathy can substitute for low guilt.

In a 2014 study, for example, Malti looked at 244 children. Using caregiver assessments and the children's self-observations, she rated each child's overall sympathy level and his or her tendency to feel negative emotions after moral <u>transgressions</u>. Then the kids were handed chocolate coins, and given a chance to shared them with an anonymous child. For the low-sympathy kids, how much they share appeared to turn on how inclined they were to feel guilty. The guilt-prone ones shared more, even though they hadn't magically become more sympathetic to the other child's deprivation

"That's good news," Malti says. "We can be prosocial because we caused harm and we feel regret."

21.Researchers think that guilt can be a good thing because it may help____

[A] foster a child's moral development   [B] regulate a child's basic emotions

[C] improve a child's intellectual ability   [D] intensity a child's positive feelings

22.According to paragraph 2, many people still consider guilt to be____

[A] inexcusable   [B] deceptive   [C] addictive   [D] burdensome

23. Vaish holds that the rethinking about guilt comes from an awareness that_____

[A] emotions are context-independent

[B] an emotion can play opposing roles

[C] emotions are socially constructive

[D] emotional stability can benefit health

24. Malti and others have shown that cooperation and sharing_____

[A] may help correct emotional deficiencies

[B] can result from either sympathy or guilt

[C] can bring about emotional satisfaction

[D] may be the outcome of impulsive acts

25. The word "transgressions" (Line 3, Para. 5) is closest in meaning to___

[A] teachings   [B] discussions   [C] restrictions   [D] wrongdoings

Text 2

Forests give us shade, quiet and one of the harder challenges in the fight against climate change. Even as we humans count on forests to soak up a good share of the carbon dioxide we produce, we are threatening their ability to do so. The climate change we are hastening could one day leave us with forests that emit more carbon than they absorb.

Thankfully, there is a way out of this trap—but it involves striking a subtle balance. Helping forests flourish as valuable "carbon sinks" long into the future may require reducing their capacity to absorb carbon now. California is leading the way, as it does on so many climate efforts, in figuring out the details.

The state's proposed Forest Carbon Plan aims to double efforts to thin out young trees and clear brush in parts of the forest. This temporarily lowers carbon-carrying capacity. But the remaining trees draw a greater share of the available moisture, so they grow and thrive, restoring the forest's capacity to pull carbon from the air. Healthy trees are also better able to fend off insects. The landscape is rendered less easily burnable. Even in the event of a fire, fewer trees are consumed.

The need for such planning is increasingly urgent. Already, since 2010, drought and insects have killed over 100 million trees in California, most of them in 2016 alone, and wildfires have burned hundreds of thousands of acres.

California plans to treat 35,000 acres of forest a year by 2020, and 60,000 by 2030—financed from the proceeds of the state's emissions-permit auctions. That's only a small share of the total acreage that could benefit, about half a million acres in all, so it will be vital to prioritize areas at greatest risk of fire or drought.

The strategy also aims to ensure that carbon in woody material removed from the forests is locked away in the form of solid lumber or burned as biofuel in vehicles that would otherwise run on fossil fuels. New research on transportation biofuels is already under way.

State governments are well accustomed to managing forests, but traditionally they've focused on wildlife, watersheds and opportunities for recreation. Only recently have they come to see the

vital part forests will have to play in storing carbon. Califormia's plan, which is expected to be finalized by the governor next year, should serve as a model.

26. By saying "one of the harder challenges ," the author implies that_____
[A] global climate change may get out of control
[B] people may misunderstand global warming
[C] extreme weather conditions may arise
[D] forests may become a potential threat

27. To maintain forests as valuable "carbon sinks," we may need to_____
[A] preserve the diversity of species in them
[B] accelerate the growth of young trees
[C] strike a balance among different plants
[D] lower their present carbon-absorbing capacity

28. California's Forest Carbon Plan endeavors to_____
[A] cultivate more drought-resistant trees   [B] reduce the density of some of its forests
[C] find more effective ways to kill insects   [D] restore its forests quickly after wildfires

29. What is essential to California's plan according to Paragraph 5?
[A] To handle the areas in serious danger first.   [B] To carry it out before the year of 2020.
[C] To perfect the emissions-permit auctions.   [D] To obtain enough financial support.

30. The author's attitude to California's plan can best be described as_____
[A] ambiguous   [B] tolerant   [C] supportive   [D] cautious

Text 3

American farmers have been complaining of labor shortages for several years. The complaints are unlikely to stop without an overhaul of immigration rules for farm works.

Congress has obstructed efforts to create a more straightforward visa for agricultural workers that would let foreign workers stay longer in the U.S. and change jobs within the industry. If this doesn't change, American businesses, communities, and consumers will be the losers.

Perhaps half of U.S. farm laborers are undocumented immigrants. As fewer such workers enter the country, the characteristics of the agricultural workforce are changing. Today's farm laborers, while still predominantly born in Mexico, are more likely to be settled rather than migrating and more likely to be married than single. They're also aging. At the start of this century, about one-third of crop workers were over the age of 35. Now more than half are. And picking crops is hard on older bodies. One oft-debated cure for this labor shortage remains as implausible as it's been all along: Native U.S. workers won't be returning to the farm.

Mechanization is not the answer either—not yet, at least. Production of corn, cotton, rice, soybeans, and wheat has been largely mechanized, but many high-value, labor-intensive crops, such as strawberries, need labor. Even dairy farms, where robots do a small share of milking, have a long way to go before they're automated.

As a result, farms have grown increasingly reliant on temporary guest workers using the H-2A visa to fill the gaps in the workforce. Starting around 2012, requests for the visas rose sharply; from 2011 to 2016 the number of visas issued more than doubled.

The H-2A visa has no numerical cap, unlike the H-2B visa for nonagricultural work which is limited to 66,000 a year. Even so, employers complain they aren't given all the workers they need. The process is cumbersome, expensive, and unreliable. One survey found that bureaucratic delays led the average H-2A worker to arrive on the job 22 days late. The shortage is compounded by federal immigration raids, which remove some workers and drive others underground.

In a 2012 survey, 71 percent of tree-fruit growers and nearly 80 percent of raisin and berry growers said they were short of labor. Some western farmers have responded by moving operations to Mexico. From 1998-2000, 14.5 percent of the fruit Americans consumed was imported. Little more than a decade later, the share of imports was 25.8 percent.

In effect, the U.S. can import food or it can import the workers who pick it.

31. What problem should be addressed according to the first two paragraphs?
[A] Discrimination against foreign workers in the U.S.
[B] Biased laws in favor of some American businesses.
[C] Flaws in U.S. immigration rules for farm workers.
[D] Decline of job opportunities in U.S. agriculture.

32. One trouble with U.S. agricultural workforce is_____
[A] the rising number of illegal immigrants
[B] the high mobility of crop workers
[C] the lack of experienced laborers
[D] the aging of immigrant farm workers

33. What is the much-argued solution to the labor shortage in U.S farming?
[A] To attract younger laborers to farm work.
[B] To get native U.S. workers back to farming.
[C] To use more robots to grow high-value crops.
[D] To strengthen financial support for farmers.

34. Agricultural employers complain about the H-2A visa for its_____
[A] slow granting procedures
[B] limit on duration of stay
[C] tightened requirements
[D] control of annual admissions

35. Which of the following could be the best title for this text?
[A] U.S. Agriculture in Decline?
[B] Import Food or Labor?
[C] America Saved by Mexico?
[D] Manpower vs. Automation?

Text 4

Amold Schwarzenegger, Dia Mirza and Adrian Grenier have a message for you: It's easy to beat plastic. They're part of a bunch of celebrities starring in a new video for World Environment Day—encouraging you, the consumer, to swap out your single-use plastic staples to combat the plastics crisis.

The key messages that have been put together for World Environment Day do include a call for governments to enact legislation to curb single-use plastics. But the overarching message is directed at individuals.

My concern with leaving it up to the individual, however, is our limited sense of what needs to be achieved. On their own, taking our own bags to the grocery store or quitting plastic straws, for example, will accomplish little and require very little of us. They could even be harmful, satisfying a need to have "done our bit" without ever progressing onto bigger, bolder, more effective actions—a kind of "moral licensing" that eases our concerns and stops us doing more and asking more of those in charge.

While the conversation around our environment and our responsibility toward it remains centered on shopping bags and straws, we're ignoring the balance of power that implies that as "consumers" we must shop sustainably, rather than as "citizens" hold our governments and industries to account to push for real systemic change.

It's important to acknowledge that the environment isn't everyone's priority—or even most people's. We shouldn't expect it to be. In her latest book, *Why Good People Do Bad Environmental Things*, Wellesley College professor Elizabeth R. DeSombre argues that the best way to collectively change the behavior of large numbers of people is for the change to be structural.

This might mean implementing policy such as a plastic tax that adds a cost to environmentally problematic action, or banning single-use plastics altogether. India has just announced it will "eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by 2022." There are also incentive-based ways of making better environmental choices easier, such as ensuring recycling is at least as easy as trash disposal.

DeSombre isn't saying people should stop caring about the environment. It's just that individual actions are too slow, she says, for that to be the only, or even primary, approach to changing widespread behavior.

None of this is about writing off the individual. It's just about putting things into perspective. We don't have time to wait. We need progressive policies that shape collective action, alongside engaged citizens pushing for change.

36. Some celebrities star in a new video to_____
[A] demand new laws on the use of plastics   [B] urge consumers to cut the use of plastics
[C] invite public opinion on the plastics crisis   [D] disclose the causes of the plastics crisis

37. The author is concerned that "moral licensing" may_____
[A] mislead us into doing worthless things   [B] prevent us from making further efforts
[C] weaken our sense of accomplishment   [D] suppress our desire for success

38. By pointing out our identity as "citizens", the author indicates that_____

[A] our focus should be shifted to community welfare

[B] our relationship with local industries is improving

[C] we have been actively exercising our civil rights

[D] we should press our government to lead the combat

39. DeSombre argues that the best way for a collective change should be_____

[A] a win-win arrangement

[B] a self-driven mechanism

[C] a cost-effective approach

[D] a top-down process

40. The author concludes that individual efforts_____

[A] can be too aggressive

[B] can be too inconsistent

[C] are far from sufficient

[D] are far from rational

Part B

Directions:

You are going to read a list of headings and a text. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A-G for each numbered paragraph (41-45). Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET.(10 points)

How seriously should parents take kids' opinions when searching for a home?

In choosing a new home, Camille MeClain's kids have a single demand: a backyard.

MeClain's little ones aren't the only kids who have an opinion when it comes to housing, and in many cases youngsters' views weigh heavily on parents' real estate decisions, according to a 2018 Harris Poll survey of more than 2,000 U.S. adults.

While more families buck an older-generation proclivity to leave kids in the dark about real estate decisions, realty agents and psychologists have mixed views about the financial, personal and long-term effects kids' opinions may have.

The idea of involving children in a big decision is a great idea because it can help them feel a sense of control and ownership in what can be an overwhelming process, said Ryan Hooper, a clinical psychologist in Chicago.

"Children may face serious difficulties in coping with significant moves, especially if it removes them from their current school or support system," he said.

Greg Jaroszewski, a real estate brokers with Gagliardo Realty Associates, said he's not convinced that kids should be involved in selecting a home --- but their opinions should be considered in regards to proximity to friends and social activities, if possible,

Younger children should feel like they're choosing their home—without actually getting a choice in the matter, said Adam Bailey, a real estate attorney based in New York.

Asking them questions about what they like about the backyard of a potential home will make them feel like they're being included in the decision-making process, Bailey said.

Many of the aspects of home buying aren't a consideration for children, said Tracey Hampson, a real estate agent based in Santa Clarita, Calif. And placing too much emphasis on their opinions can ruin a fantastic home purchase.

"Speaking with your children before you make a real estate decision is wise, but I wouldn't base the purchasing decision solely on their opinions." Hampson said.

The other issue is that many children - especially older ones--may base their real estate knowledge on HGTV shows,said Aaron Norris of The Norris Group in Riverside ,Calif

"They love Chip and Joanna Gaines just as much as the rest of us," he said. "HGTV has seriously changed how people view real estate. It's not shelter , it's a lifestyle. With that mindset change come some serious money consequences."

Kids tend to get stuck in the features and the immediate benefits to them personally, Norris said.Parents need to remind their children that their needs. and desires may change over time, said Julie Gumer, a real estate analyst with FitSmallBusincss.com.

"Their opinions can change tomorrow," Gumer said. "Harsh as it may be to say, that decision should likely not be made contingent on a child's opinions, but rather made for them with great consideration into what home can meet their needs best--and give them an opportunity to customize it a bit and make it their own."

This advice is more relevant now than ever before, even as more parents want to embrace the ideas of their children,despite the current housing crunch.

	[A] remarks that significant moves may pose challenges to children.
41. Ryan Hooper	[B] says that it is wise to leave kids in the dark about real estate decisions.
42. Adam Bailey	[C] advises that home purchases should not be based only on children's opinions.
43. Tracey Hampson	[D] thinks that children should be given a sense of involvement in homebuying decisions.
44. Aaron Norris	notes that aspects like children's friends and social activities should be considered upon home buying.
45. Julie Gumer	[F] believes that home buying decisions should be based on children's needs rather than their opinions.
	[G] assumes that many children's views on real estate are influenced by the media.

Section III Translation

46.Directions:

Translate the following text into Chinese. Write your translation neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

It is easy to underestimate English writer James Herriot. He had such a pleasant, readable style that one might think that anyone could imitate it. How many times have I heard people say, "I could write a book. I just haven't the time." Easily said. Not so easily done. James Herriot, contrary to popular opinion, did not find it easy in his early days of, as he put it, "having a go at the writing game". While he obviously had an abundance of natural talent, the final, polished work that he gave to the world was the result of years of practising, re-writing and reading. Like the majority of authors, he had to suffer many disappointments and rejections along the way, but these made him all the more determined to succeed. Everything he achieved in life was earned the hard way and his success in the literary field was no exception.

Section IV Writing

Part A

47. Directions:

Suppose professor Smith asked you to plan a debate on the theme of city traffic. Write an email to him to

1) suggest a topic with your reasons, and

2) tell him about your arrangements.

You should write about 100 words on the ANSWER SHEET.

Don't use your own name. Use "Zhang Wei" instead. Don't write your address. (10 points)

Part B

48. Directions:

Write an essay based on the following chart. In your essay, you should

1) interpret the chart, and

2) give your comments.

You should write about 150 words neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

某高校2013年和2018年本科毕业生去向统计

- 就业: 2013年 68.1%, 2018年 60.7%
- 升学: 2013年 26.3%, 2018年 34.0%
- 创业: 2013年 1.3%, 2018年 2.6%

■2013年 □2018年
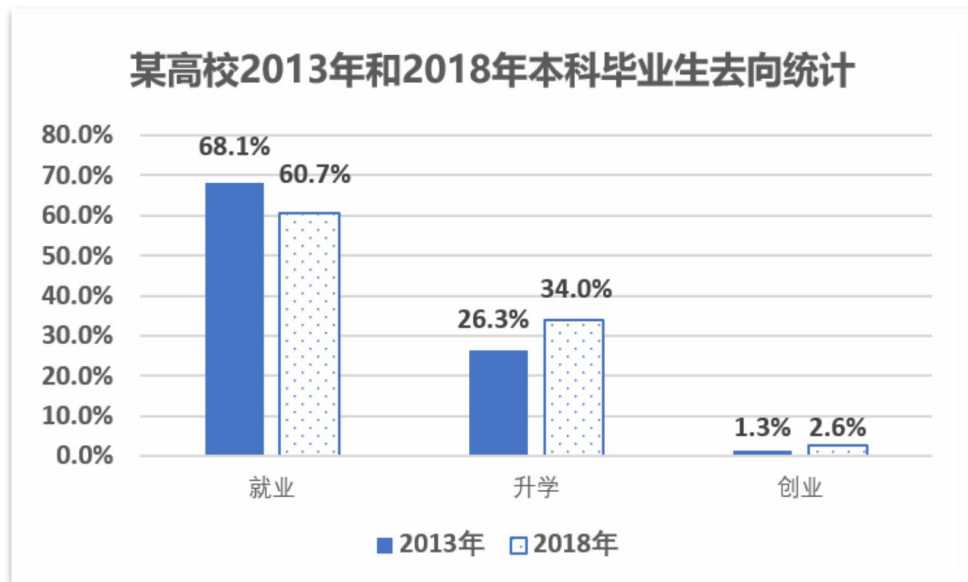
2020 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（二）试题

Section I Use of English

Being a good parent is what every parent would like to be. But defining what it means to be a good parent is undoubtedly very _1_, particularly since children respond differently to the same style of parenting. A calm, rule-following child might respond better to a different sort of parenting than, _2_ a younger one.

_3_, there's another sort of parent that's a bit easier to _4_; a patient parent. Children of every age benefit from patient parenting. Still, _5_ every parent would like to be patient，this is no easy _6_. Sometimes, parents get exhausted and frustrated and are unable to maintain a _7_ and composed style with their kids. I understand this.

You're only human, and sometimes your kids can _8_ you just a little too far. And then the _9_ happens: You lose your patience and either scream at your kids or say something that was a bit too _10_ and does nobody any good. You wish that you could _11_ the clock and start over. We've all been there.

_12_, even though it's common, it's important to keep in mind that in a single moment of fatigue, you can say something to your child that you may _13_ for a long time. This may not only do damage to your relationship with your child but also _14_ your child's self-esteem.

If you consistently lose your _15_ with your kids，then you are inadvertently modeling a lack of emotional control for your kids. We are all becoming increasingly aware of the _16_ of modeling tolerance and patience for the younger generation. This is a skill that will help them all throughout life. In fact, the ability to emotionally regulate or maintain emotional control when _17_ by stress is one of the most important of all life's skills.

Certainly, it's incredibly _18_ to maintain patience at all times with your kids. A more practical goal is to try to be as calm as you can when faced with _19_ situations involving your children. I can promise you this: As a result of working toward this goal, you and your children will benefit and _20_ from stressful moments feeling better physically and emotionally.

1.[A] pleasant	[B] tricky	[C] tedious	[D] instructive
2.[A] at once	[B] in addition	[C] for example	[D] by accident
3.[A] Fortunately	[B] Occasionally	[C] Accordingly	[D] Eventually
4.[A] amuse	[B] train	[C] assist	[D] describe
5.[A] once	[B] because	[C] unless	[D] while
6.[A] choice	[B] answer	[C] task	[D] access
7.[A] formal	[B] tolerant	[C] rigid	[D] critical
8.[A] move	[B] send	[C] drag	[D] push
9.[A] inevitable	[B] illogical	[C] mysterious	[D] suspicious
10.[A] boring	[B] harsh	[C] naive	[D] vague
11.[A] turn back	[B] take apart	[C] set aside	[D] cover up
12.[A] Overall	[B] Instead	[C] otherwise	[D] However
13.[A] believe	[B] regret	[C] miss	[D] like
14.[A] justify	[B] raise	[C] affect	[D] reflect
15.[A] bond	[B] time	[C] race	[D] cool
16.[A] nature	[B] secret	[C] context	[D] importance
17.[A] confronted	[B] defeated	[C] cheated	[D] confused
18.[A] strange	[B] terrible	[C] hard	[D] wrong
19.[A] exciting	[B] trying	[C] surprising	[D] changing
20.[A] withdraw	[B] hide	[C] emerge	[D] escape

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions: *Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A,B,C or D. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.(40 points)*

Text 1

Rats and other animals need to be highly attuned to social signals from others so thay can identify friends to cooperate with and enemies to avoid. To find out if this extends to non-living beings, Laleh Quinn at the University of California, San Diego, and her colleagues tested whether rats can detect social signals from robotic rats.

They housed eight adult rats with two types of robotic rat—one social and one asocial—for four days. The robots rats were quite minimalist, resembling a chunkier version of a computer mouse with wheels to move around and colorful markings.

During the experiment, the social robot rat followed the living rats around, played with the same toys, and opened cage doors to let trapped rats escape. Meanwhile, the asocial robot simply moved forwards and backwards and side to side.

Next, the researchers trapped the robots in cages and gave the rats the opportunity to release them by pressing a lever. Across 18 trials each, the living rats were 52 percent more likely on average to set the social robot free than the asocial one. This suggests that the rats perceived the social robot as a genuine social being. They may have bonded more with the social robot because it displayed behaviors like communal exploring and playing. This could lead to the rats better remembering having freed it earlier, and wanting the robot to return the favour when they get trapped, says Quinn.

"Rats have been shown to engage in multiple forms of reciprocal help and cooperation, including what is referred to as direct reciprocity where a rat will help another rat that has previously helped them," says Quinn.

The readiness of the rats to befriend the social robot was surprising given its minimal design. The robot was the same size as a regular rat but resembled a simple plastic box on wheels. "We'd assumed we'd have to give it a moving head and tail, facial features, and put a scent on it to make it smell like a real rat, but that wasn't necessary," says Janet Wiles at the University of Queensland in Australia, who helped with the research.

The finding shows how sensitive rats are to social cues, even when they come from basic robots. Similarly, children tend to treat robots as if they are fellow beings, even when they display only simple social signals. "We humans seem to be fascinated by robots, and it turns out other animals are too," says Wiles.

21. Quinn and her colleagues conducted a test to see if rats can _____.
[A] pick up social signals from non-living rats   [B] distinguish a friendly rat from a hostile one
[C] attain sociable traits through special training [D] send out warning messages to their fellows

22. What did the asocial robot do during the experiment?
[A] It followed the social robot.   [B] It played with some toys.
[C] It set the trapped rats free.   [D] It moved around alone.

23. According to Quinn, the rats released the social robot because they_____.

[A] tried to practice a means of escape

[B] expected it to do the same in return

[C] wanted to display their intelligence

[D] considered that an interesting game

24. Janet Wiles notes that rats_____.

[A] can remember other rats' facial features   [B] differentiate smells better than sizes

[C] respond more to actions than to looks   [D] can be scared by a plastic box on wheels

25. It can be learned from the text that rats _____.

[A] appear to be adaptable to new surroundings

[B] are more socially active than other animals

[C] behave differently from children in socializing

[D] are more sensitive to social cues than expected

Text 2

It is true that CEO pay has gone up—top ones may make 300 times the pay of typical workers on average, and since the mid-1970s CEO pay for large publicly traded American corporations has, by varying estimates, gone up by about 500%. The typical CEO of a top American corporation now makes about $18.9 million a year.

The best model for understanding the growth of CEO pay is that of limited CEO talent in a world where business opportunities for the top firms are growing rapidly. The efforts of America's highest-earning 1% have been one of the more dynamic elements of the global economy. It's not popular to say, but one reason their pay has gone up so much is that CEOs really have upped their game relative to many other workers in the U.S. economy.

Today's CEO, at least for major American firms, must have many more skills than simply being able to "run the company". CEOs must have a good sense of financial markets and maybe even how the company should trade in them. They also need better public relations skills than their predecessors, as the costs of even a minor slipup can be significant. Then there's the fact that large American companies are much more globalized than ever before, with supply chains spread across a larger number of countries. To lead in that system requires knowledge that is fairly mind-boggling. Plus, virtually all major American companies are becoming tech companies, one way or another. Beyond this, major CEOs still have to do all the day-to-day work they have always done.

The common idea that high CEO pay is mainly about ripping people off doesn't explain history very well. By most measures, corporate governance has become a lot tighter and more rigorous since the 1970s. Yet it is principally during this period of stronger governance that CEO pay has been high and rising. That suggests it is in the broader corporate interest to recruit top candidates for increasingly tough jobs.

Furthermore, the highest CEO salaries are paid to outside candidates, not to the cozy insider picks, another sign that high CEO pay is not some kind of depredation at the expense of the rest of the company. And the stock market reacts positively when companies tie CEO pay to, say, stock prices, a sign that those practices build up corporate value not just for the CEO.

26. Which of the following has contributed to CEO pay rise?

[A] The growth in the number of corporations

[B] The general pay rise with a better economy

[C] Increased business opportunities for top firms

[D] Close cooperation among leading economies

27. Compared with their predecessors, today's CEOs are required to _____.

[A] foster a stronger sense of teamwork   [B] finance more research and development

[C] establish closer ties with tech companies   [D] operate more globalized companies

28. CEO pay has been rising since the 1970s despite _____.

[A] continual internal opposition   [B] strict corporate governance

[C] conservative business strategies   [D] repeated government warnings

29. High CEO pay can be justified by the fact that it helps_____.

[A] confirm the status of CEOs   [B] motivate inside candidates

[C] boost the efficiency of CEOs   [D] increase corporate value

30. The most suitable title for this text would be_____.

[A] CEOs Are Not Overpaid

[B] CEO Pay: Past and Present

[C] CEOs' Challenges of Today

[D] CEO Traits: Not Easy to Define

Text 3

Madrid was hailed as a public health beacon last November when it rolled out ambitious restrictions on the most polluting cars. Seven months and one election day later, a new conservative city council suspended enforcement of the clean air zone, a first step toward its possible demise.

Mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida made opposition to the zone a centrepiece of his election campaign, despite its success in improving air quality. A judge has now overruled the city's decision to stop levying fines, ordering them reinstated. But with legal battles ahead, the zone's future looks uncertain at best.

Among other weaknesses, the measures cities must employ when left to tackle dirty air on their own are politically contentious, and therefore vulnerable. That's because they inevitably put the costs of cleaning the air on to individual drivers—who must pay fees or buy better vehicles—rather than on to the car manufacturers whose cheating is the real cause of our toxic pollution.

It's not hard to imagine a similar reversal happening in London. The new ultra-low emission zone (Ulez) is likely to be a big issue in next year's mayoral election. And if Sadiq Khan wins and extends it to the North and South Circular roads in 2021 as he intends, it is sure to spark intense opposition from the far larger number of motorists who will then be affected.

It's not that measures such as London's Ulez are useless. Far from it. Local officials are using

the levers that are available to them to safeguard residents' health in the face of a serious threat. The zones do deliver some improvements to air quality, and the science tells us that means real health benefits—fewer heart attacks, strokes and premature births, less cancer, dementia and asthma. Fewer untimely deaths.

But mayors and councilors can only do so much about a problem that is far bigger than any one city or town. They are acting because national governments—Britain's and others across Europe—have failed to do so.

Restrictions that keep highly polluting cars out of certain areas—city centres, "school streets", even individual roads—are a response to the absence of a larger effort to properly enforce existing regulations and require auto companies to bring their vehicles into compliance. Wales has introduced special low speed limits to minimise pollution. We're doing everything but insist that manufacturers clean up their cars.

31. Which of the following is true about Madrid's clean air zone?
[A] Its effects are questionable   [B] It has been opposed by a judge
[C] It needs tougher enforcement   [D] Its fate is yet to be decided

32. Which is considered a weakness of the city-level measures to tackle dirty air?
[A] They are biased against car manufacturers.
[B] They prove impractical for city councils.
[C] They are deemed too mild for politicians.
[D] They put too much burden on individual motorists.

33. The author believes that the extension of London's Ulez will_____.
[A] arouse strong resistance.   [B] ensure Khan's electoral success.
[C] improve the city's traffic.   [D] discourage car manufacturing.

34. Who does the author think should have addressed the problem?
[A] Local residents   [B] Mayors.   [C] Councilors.   [D] National governments.

35. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that auto companies_____.
[A] will raise low-emission car production
[B] should be forced to follow regulations
[C] will upgrade the design of their vehicles
[D] should be put under public supervision

Text 4

Now that members of Generation Z are graduating college this spring—the most commonly-accepted definition says this generation was born after 1995, give or take a year—the attention has been rising steadily in recent weeks. Gen Zs are about to hit the streets looking for work in a labor market that's tighter than it's been in decades. And employers are planning on hiring about 17 percent more new graduates for jobs in the U.S. this year than last, according to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Everybody wants to

know how the people who will soon inhabit those empty office cubicles will differ from those who came before them.

If "entitled" is the most common adjective, fairly or not, applied to millennials (those born between 1981 and 1995), the catchwords for Generation Z are practical and cautious. According to the career counselors and experts who study them, Generation Zs are clear-eyed, economic pragmatists. Despite graduating into the best economy in the past 50 years, Gen Zs know what an economic train wreck looks like. They were impressionable kids during the crash of 2008, when many of their parents lost their jobs or their life savings or both. They aren't interested in taking any chances. The booming economy seems to have done little to assuage this underlying generational sense of anxious urgency, especially for those who have college debt. College loan balances in the U.S. now stand at a record $1.5 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve.

One survey from Accenture found that 88 percent of graduating seniors this year chose their major with a job in mind. In a 2019 survey of University of Georgia students, meanwhile, the career office found the most desirable trait in a future employer was the ability to offer secure employment (followed by professional development and training, and then inspiring purpose). Job security or stability was the second most important career goal (work-life balance was number one), followed by a sense of being dedicated to a cause or to feel good about serving the greater good.

That's a big change from the previous generation. "Millennials wanted more flexibility in their lives," notes Tanya Michelsen, Associate Director of YouthSight, a UK-based brand manager that conducts regular 60-day surveys of British youth, in findings that might just as well apply to American youth. "Generation Zs are looking for more certainty and stability, because of the rise of the gig economy. They have troubles seeing a financial future and they are quite risk averse."

36. Generation Zs graduating college this spring _____.
[A] are recognized for their abilities [B] are in favor of office job offers
[C] are optimistic about the labor market [D] are drawing growing public attention

37. Generation Zs are keenly aware_____.
[A] what a tough economic situation is like [B] what their parents expect of them
[C] how they differ from past generations [D] how valuable a counselor's advice is

38. The word "assuage" (line 7, para 2) is closet in meaning to_____.
[A] define [B] relieve [C] maintain [D] deepen

39. It can be learned from Paragraph 3 that Generation Zs _____.
[A] care little about their job performance
[B] give top priority to professional training
[C] think it hard to achieve work-life balance
[D] have a clear idea about their future job.

40. Michelsen thinks that compared with millennials, Generation Zs are_____.
[A] less realistic [B] less adventurous [C] more diligent [D] more generous

Part B

Directions: *Read the following text and answer the questions by choosing the most suitable subheading from the list A-G for each numbered paragraphs (41-45). There are two extra subheadings, which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

[A] Give compliments, just not too many.

[B] Put on a good face, always.

[C] Tailor your interactions.

[D] Spend time with everyone.

[E] Reveal, don't hide, information.

[F] Slow down and listen.

[G] Put yourselves in others' shoes.

Five Ways to Win Over Everyone in the Office

Is it possible to like everyone in your office? Think about how tough it is to get together 15 people, much less 50, who all get along perfectly. But unlike in friendships, you need coworkers. You work with them every day and you depend on them just as they depend on you. Here are some ways that you can get the whole office on your side.

41._____

If you have a bone to pick with someone in your workplace, you may try stay tight-lipped around them. But you won't be helping either one of you. A Harvard Business School study found that observers consistently rated those who were frank about themselves more highly, while those who hid lost trustworthiness. The lesson is not that you should make your personal life an open book, but rather, when given the option to offer up details about yourself or painstakingly conceal them, you should just be honest.

42._____

Just as important as being honest about yourself is being receptive to others. We often feel the need to tell others how we feel, whether it's a concern about a project, a stray thought, or a compliment. Those are all valid, but you need to take time to hear out your coworkers, too. In fact, rushing to get your own ideas out there can cause colleagues to feel you don't value their opinions. Do your best to engage coworkers in a genuine, back-and-forth conversation, rather than prioritizing your own thoughts.

43._____

It's common to have a "cubicle mate" or special confidant in a work setting. But in addition to those trusted coworkers, you should expand your horizons and find out about all the people around you. Use your lunch and coffee breaks to meet up with colleagues you don't always see. Find out about their lives and interests beyond the job. It requires minimal effort and goes a long way. This will help to grow your internal network, in addition to being a nice break in the work day.

44._____

Positive feedback is important for anyone to hear. And you don't have to be someone's boss to tell them they did an exceptional job on a particular project. This will help engender good will in others. But don't overdo it or be fake about it. One study found that people responded best to comments that shifted from negative to positive, possibly because it suggested they had won somebody over.

45._____

This one may be a bit more difficult to pull off, but it can go a long way to achieving results. Remember in dealing with any coworker what they appreciate from an interaction. Watch out for how they verbalize with others.

Some people like small talk in a meeting before digging into important matters, while other are more straightforward. Jokes that work one person won't necessarily land with another. So, adapt your style accordingly to type. Consider the person that you' re dealing with in advance and what will get you to your desired outcome.

Section III Translation

46. Directions:

Translate the following text from English into Chinese. Write your translation on ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

It's almost impossible to go through life without experiencing some kind of failure. But, the wonderful thing about failure is that it's entirely up to us to decide how to look at it.

We can choose to see failure as "the end of the world". Or, we can look at failure as the incredible learning experience that it often is. Every time we fail at something, we can choose to look for the lesson we' re meant to learn. These lessons are very important; they' re how we grow, and how we keep from making that same mistake again. Failures stop us only if we let them.

Failure can also teach us things about ourselves that we would never have learned otherwise. For instance, failure can help you discover how strong a person you are. Failing at something can help you discover your truest friends, or help you find unexpected motivation to succeed.

Section IV Writing

Part A

47. Directions: Suppose you are planning a tour of a historical site for a group of international students. Write an email to
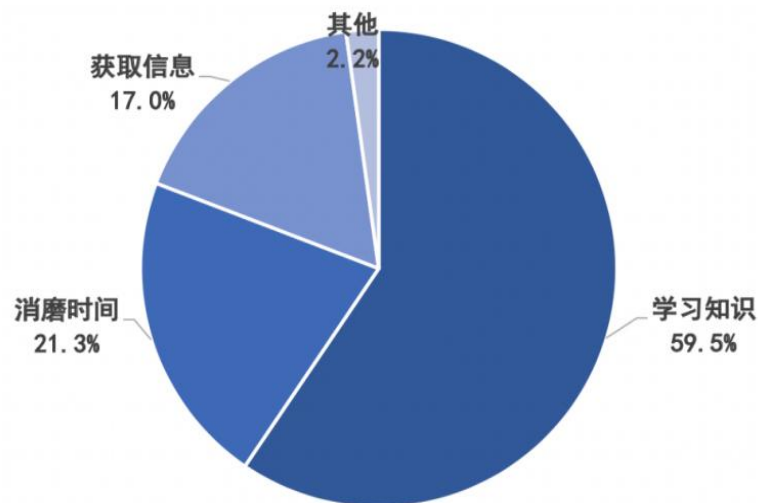
    1) tell them about the site, and

    2) give them some tips for the tour. Please write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET.

    Do not use your own name. Use "Li Ming" instead. (10 points)

Part B

48. Directions: Write an essay based on the following chart. In your writing, you should

1) interpret the chart, and

2) give your comments.

You should write about 150 words on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

某高校学生手机阅读目的调查

2021 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（二）试题

Section I Use of English

It's not difficult to set targets for staff. It is much harder, 1 , to understand their negative consequences. Most work-related behaviors have multiple components. 2 one and the others become distorted.

Travel on a London bus and you'll 3 see how this works with drivers. Watch people get on and show their tickets. Are they carefully inspected? Never. Do people get on without paying? Of course! Are there inspectors to 4 that people have paid? Possibly, but very few. And people who run for the bus? They are 5 . How about jumping lights? Buses do so almost as frequently as cyclists.

Why? Because the target is 6 . People complained that buses were late and infrequent. 7 , the number of buses and bus lanes were increased, and drivers were 8 or punished according to the time they took. And drivers hit these targets. But they 9 hit cyclists. If the target was changed to 10 , you would have more inspectors and more sensitive pricing. If the criterion changed to safety, you would get more 11 drivers who obeyed traffic laws. But both these criteria would be at the expense of time.

There is another 12 : people became immensely inventive in hitting targets. Have you 13 that you can leave on a flight an hour late but still arrive on time? Tailwinds? Of course not! Airlines have simply changed the time a 14 is meant to take. A one-hour flight is now ballad as a two-hour flight.

The 15 of the story is simple. Most jobs are multidimensional, with multiple criteria. Choose one criterion and you may well 16 others. Everything can be done faster and made cheaper, but there is a 17 . Setting targets can and does have unforeseen negative consequences.

This is not an argument against target-setting. But it is an argument for exploring consequences first. All good targets should have multiple criteria 18 critical factors such as time, money, quality and customer feedback. The trick is not only to 19 just one or even two dimensions of the objective, but also to understand how to help people better 20 the objective.

1. [A] therefore   [B] however   [C] again   [D] moreover
2. [A] Emphasize   [B] Identify   [C] Assess   [D] Explain
3. [A] nearly   [B] curiously   [C] eagerly   [D] quickly
4. [A] claim   [B] prove   [C] check   [D] recall
5. [A] threatened   [B] ignored   [C] mocked   [D] blamed
6. [A] punctuality   [B] hospitality   [C] competition   [D] innovation
7. [A] Yes   [B] So   [C] Besides   [D] Still
8. [A] hired   [B] trained   [C] rewarded   [D] grouped
9. [A] only   [B] rather   [C] once   [D] also
10. [A] comfort   [B] revenue   [C] efficiency   [D] security
11. [A] friendly   [B] quiet   [C] cautious   [D] diligent
12. [A] purpose   [B] problem   [C] prejudice   [D] policy
13. [A] reported   [B] revealed   [C] admitted   [D] noticed
14. [A] break   [B] trip   [C] departure   [D] transfer
15. [A] moral   [B] background   [C] style   [D] form

16. [A] interpret   [B] criticize   [C] sacrifice   [D] tolerate

17. [A] task   [B] secret   [C] product   [D] cost

18. [A] leading to   [B] calling for   [C] relating to   [D] accounting for

19. [A] specify   [B] predict   [C] restore   [D] create

20. [A] modify   [B] review   [C] present   [D] achieve

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions: *Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A,B,C or D. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**.(40 points)*

Text 1

"Reskilling" is something that sounds like a buzzword but is actually a requirement if we plan to have a future where a lot of would-be workers do not get left behind. We know we are moving into a period where the jobs in demand will change rapidly, as will the requirements of the jobs that remain. Research by the World Economic Forum finds that on average 42 per cent of the "core skills" within job roles will change by 2022. That is a very short timeline.

The question of who should pay for reskilling is a thorny one. For individual companies, the temptation is always to let go of workers whose skills are no longer in demand and replace them with those whose skills are. That does not always happen. AT&T is often given as the gold standard of a company that decided to do a massive reskilling program rather than go with a fire-and-hire strategy. Other companies had also pledged to create their own plans. When the skills mismatch is in the broader economy, though, the focus usually turns to government to handle. Efforts in Canada and elsewhere have been arguably languid at best, and have given us a situation where we frequently hear of employers begging for workers, even at times and in regions where unemployment is high.

With the pandemic, unemployment is very high indeed. In February, at 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively, unemployment rates in Canada and the United States were at generational lows and worker shortages were everywhere. As of May, those rates had spiked up to 13.3 per cent and 13.7 per cent, and although many worker shortages had disappeared, not all had done so. In the medical field, to take an obvious example, the pandemic meant that there were still clear shortages of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel.

Of course, it is not like you can take an unemployed waiter and train him to be a doctor in a few weeks. But even if you cannot close that gap, maybe you can close others, and doing so would be to the benefit of all concerned. That seems to be the case in Sweden: When forced to furlough 90 per cent of their cabin staff, Scandinavian Airlines decided to start up a short retraining program that reskilled the laid-off workers to support hospital staff. The effort was a collective one and involved other companies as well as a Swedish university.

21. Research by the World Economic Forum suggests _____.

[A] a controversy about the "core skills"

[B] an increase in full-time employment

[C] an urgent demand for new job skills

[D] a steady growth of job opportunities

22. AT&T is cited to show _____.

[A] an immediate need for government support

[B] an alternative to the fire-and-hire strategy

[C] the characteristics of reskilling programs

[D] the importance of staff appraisal standards

23. Efforts to resolve the skills mismatch in Canada _____.

[A] have appeared to be insufficient

[B] have driven up labour costs

[C] have proved to be inconsistent

[D] have met with fierce opposition

24. We can learn from Paragraph 3 that there was _____.

[A] a sign of economic recovery

[B] a call for policy adjustment

[C] a change in hiring practices

[D] a lack of medical workers

25. Scandinavian Airlines decided to _____.

[A] create job vacancies for the unemployed

[B] retrain their cabin staff for better services

[C] prepare their laid-off workers for other jobs

[D] finance their staff's college education

Text 2

With the global population predicted to hit close to 10 billion by 2050, and forecasts that agricultural production in some regions will need to nearly double to keep pace, food security is increasingly making headlines. In the UK, it has become a big talking point recently too, for a rather particular reason: Brexit.

Brexit is seen by some as an opportunity to reverse a recent trend towards the UK importing food. The country produces only about 60 per cent of the food it eats, down from almost three-quarters in the late 1980s. A move back to self-sufficiency, the argument goes, would boost the farming industry, political sovereignty and even the nation's health. Sounds great—but how feasible is this vision?

According to a report on UK food production from the University of Leeds, UK, 85 per cent of the country's total land area is associated with meat and dairy production. That supplies 80 per cent of what is consumed, so even covering the whole country in livestock farms wouldn't allow us to cover all our meat and dairy needs.

There are many caveats to those figures, but they are still grave. To become much more self-sufficient, the UK would need to drastically reduce its consumption of animal foods, and probably also farm more intensively—meaning fewer green fields, and more factory-style production.

But switching to a mainly plant-based diet wouldn't help. There is a good reason why the UK is dominated by animal husbandry: most of its terrain doesn't have the right soil or climate to grow crops on a commercial basis. Just 25 per cent of the country's land is suitable for crop-growing, most of which is already occupied by arable fields. Even if we converted all the suitable land to fields of fruit and veg—which would involve taking out all the nature reserves and removing thousands of people from their homes—we would achieve only a 30 per cent boost in crop production.

Just 23 per cent of the fruit and vegetables consumed in the UK are currently home-grown, so even with the most extreme measures we could meet only 30 per cent of our fresh produce needs. That is before we look for the space to grow the grains, sugars, seeds and oils that provide us with the vast bulk of our current calorie intake.

26. Some people argue that food self-sufficiency in the UK would_____
[A] be hindered by its population growth
[B] contribute to the nation's well-being
[C] become a priority of the government
[D] post a challenge to its farming industry

27. The report by the University of Leeds showed that in the UK_____
[A] farmland has been inefficiently utilized
[B] factory-style production needs reforming
[C] most land is used for meat and dairy production
[D] more green fields will be converted for farming

28. Crop-growing in the UK is restricted due to_____
[A] its farming technology
[B] its dietary tradition
[C] its natural conditions
[D] its commercial interests

29. It can be learned from the last paragraph that British people_____
[A] rely largely on imports for fresh produce
[B] enjoy a steady rise in fruit consumption
[C] are seeking effective ways to cut calorie intake
[D] are trying to grow new varieties of grains

30. The author's attitude to food self-efficiency in the UK is_____
[A] defensive   [B] doubtful   [C] tolerant   [D] optimistic

Text 3

When Microsoft bought task management app Wunderlist and mobile calendar Sunrise in 2015, it picked up two newcomers that were attracting considerable buzz in Silicon Valley. Microsoft's own Office dominates the market for "productivity" software, but the start-ups

represented a new wave of technology designed from the ground up for the smartphone world.

Both apps, however, were later scrapped, after Microsoft said it had used their best features in its own products. Their teams of engineers stayed on, making them two of the many "acqui-hires" that the biggest companies have used to feed their insatiable hunger for tech talent.

To Microsoft's critics, the fates of Wunderlist and Sunrise are examples of a remorseless drive by Big Tech to chew up any innovative companies that lie in their path. "They bought the seedlings and closed them down," complained Paul Arnold, a partner at San Francisco-based Switch Ventures, putting an end to businesses that might one day turn into competitors. Microsoft declined to comment.

Like other start-up investors, Mr Arnold's own business often depends on selling start-ups to larger tech companies, though he admits to mixed feelings about the result: "I think these things are good for me, if I put my selfish hat on. But are they good for the American economy? I don't know."

The US Federal Trade Commission says it wants to find the answer to that question. This week, it asked the five most valuable US tech companies for information about their many small acquisitions over the past decade. Although only a research project at this stage, the request has raised the prospect of regulators wading into early-stage tech markets that until now have been beyond their reach.

Given their combined market value of more than \$5.5tn, rifling through such small deals—many of them much less prominent than Wunderlist and Sunrise—might seem beside the point. Between them, the five biggest tech companies (Apple, Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Facebook) have spent an average of only \$3.4bn a year on sub-\$1bn acquisitions over the past five years—a drop in the ocean compared with their massive financial reserves, and the more than \$130bn of venture capital that was invested in the US last year.

However, critics say that the big companies use such deals to buy their most threatening potential competitors before their businesses have a chance to gain momentum, in some cases as part of a f "buy and kill" tactic to simply close them down.

31. What is true about Wunderlist and Sunrise after their acquisitions_____
[A] Their market values declined.   [B] Their tech features improved
[C] Their engineers were retained   [D] Their products were re-priced.

32. Microsoft's critics believe that the big tech companies tend to_____
[A] ignore public opinions   [B] treat new tech talent unfairly
[C] exaggerate their product quality   [D] eliminate their potential competitors.

33. Paul Arnold is concerned that small acquisitions might_____
[A] harm the national economy   [B] worsen market competition
[C] discourage start-up investors   [D] weaken big tech companies.

34. The US Federal Trade Commission intends to_____
[A] examine small acquisitions   [B] limit Big Tech's expansion
[C] supervise start-ups' operations   [D] encourage research collaboration

35. For the five biggest tech companies, their small acquisition have_____

[A] brought little financial pressure

[B] raised few management challenges

[C] set an example for future deals

[D] generated considerable profits

Text 4

We're fairly good at judging people based on first impressions, thin slices of experience ranging from a glimpse of a photo to five-minute interaction, and deliberation can be not only extraneous but intrusive. In one study of the ability she dubbed "thin slicing," the late psychologist Nalini Ambady asked participants to watch silent 10-second video clips of professors and to rate the instructor's overall effectiveness. Their ratings correlated strongly with students' end-of-semester ratings. Another set of participants had to count backward from 1,000 by nines as they watched the clips, occupying their conscious working memory. Their ratings were just as accurate, demonstrating the intuitive nature of the social processing.

Critically, another group was asked to spend a minute writing down reasons for their judgment, before giving the rating. Accuracy dropped dramatically. Ambady suspected that deliberation focused them on vivid but misleading cues, such as certain gestures on utterances, rather than letting the complex interplay of subtle signals form a holistic impression. She found similar interference when participants watched 15-second clips of pairs of people and judged whether they were strangers, friends, or dating partners.

Other research shows we're better at detecting deception and sexual orientation from thin slices when we rely on intuition instead of reflection. "It's as if you're driving a stick shift," says Judith Hall, a psychologist at Northeastern University, "and if you start thinking about it too much, you can't remember what you're doing. But if you go on automatic pilot, you're fine. Much of our social life is like that."

Thinking too much can also harm our ability to form preferences. College students' ratings of strawberry jams and college courses aligned better with experts' opinions when the students weren't asked to analyze their rationale. And people made car-buying decisions that were both objectively better and more personally satisfying when asked to focus on their feelings rather than on details, but only if the decision was complex—when they had a lot of information to process.

Intuition's special powers are unleashed only in certain circumstances. In one study, participants completed a battery of eight tasks, including four that tapped reflective thinking (discerning rules, comprehending vocabulary) and four that tapped intuition and creativity (generating new products or figures of speech). Then they rated the degree to which they had used intuition ("gut feelings," "hunches," "my heart"). Use of their gut hurt their performance on the first four tasks, as expected, and helped them on the rest. Sometimes the heart is smarter than the head.

36. Nalini Ambaby's study deals with_____

[A] instructor-student interaction

[B] the power of people's memory

[C] the reliability of first impressions

[D] people's ability to influence others

37. In Ambaby's study, rating accuracy dropped when participants_____
[A] gave the rating in limited time
[B] focused on specific details
[C] watched shorter video clips
[D] discussed with on another

38. Judith Hall mentions driving to show that_____
[A] memory can be selective
[B] reflection can be distracting
[C] social skills must be cultivated
[D] deception is difficult to detect

39. When you are making complex decisions, it is advisable to_____
[A] follow your feelings
[B] list your preferences
[C] seek expert advice
[D] collect enough data

40. what can we learn from the last paragraph?
[A] Generating new products takes time.
[B] Intuition may affect reflective tasks.
[C] Vocabulary comprehension needs creativity.
[D] Objective thinking may boost intuitiveness

Part B
Directions: *Read the following text and answer the questions by choosing the most suitable subheading from the list A-G for each numbered paragraphs (41-45). There are two extra subheadings, which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

[A] Stay calm
[B] Stay humble
[C] Don't make judgments
[D] Be realistic about the risks
[E] Decide whether to wait
[F] Ask permission to disagree
[G] Identify a shared goal

How to Disagree with Someone More Powerful than You

Your boss proposes a new initiative you think won't work. Your senior colleague outlines a project timeline you think is unrealistic. What do you say when you disagree with someone who has more power than you do? How do you decide whether it's worth speaking up? And if you do, what exactly should you say? Here's how to disagree with someone more powerful than you.

41._____

You may decide it's best to hold off on voicing your opinion. Maybe you haven't finished thinking the problem through, the whole discussion was a surprise to you, or you want to get a clearer sense of what the group thinks. If you think other people are going to disagree too, you might want to gather your army first. People can contribute experience or information to your thinking—all the things that would make the disagreement stronger or more valid. It's also a good idea to delay the conversation if you're in a meeting or other public space. Discussing the issue in private will make the powerful person feel less threatened.

42._____

Before you share your thoughts, think about what the powerful person cares about—it may be the credibility of their team or getting a project done on time. You're more likely to be heard if you can connect your disagreement to a higher purpose. When you do speak up, don't assume the link will be clear. You'll want to state it overtly, contextualizing your statements so that you're seen not as a disagreeable underling but as a colleague who's trying to advance a shared goal. The discussion will then become more like a chess game than a boxing match.

43._____

This step may sound overly deferential, but it's a smart way to give the powerful person psychological safety and control. You can say something like, "I know we seem to be moving toward a first-quarter commitment here. I have reasons to think that won't work. I'd like to lay out my reasoning. Would that be OK?" This gives the person a choice, allowing them to verbally opt in. And, assuming they say yes, it will make you feel more confident about voicing your disagreement.

44._____

You might feel your heart racing or your face turning red, but do whatever you can to remain neutral in both your words and actions. When your body language communicates reluctance or anxiety, it undercuts the message. It sends a mixed message, and your counterpart gets to choose what to read. Deep breaths can help, as can speaking more slowly and deliberately. When we feel panicky we tend to talk louder and faster. Simply slowing the pace and talking in an even tone helps the other person calm down and does the same for you. It also makes you seem confident, even if you aren't.

45._____

Emphasize that you're offering your opinion, not gospel truth. It may be a well-informed, well-researched opinion, but it's still an opinion, so talk tentatively and slightly understate your confidence. Instead of saying something like, "If we set an end-of-quarter deadline, we'll never make it," say, "This is just my opinion, but I don't see how we will make that deadline." Having asserted your position (as a position, not as a fact) demonstrates equal curiosity about other views. Remind the person that this is your point of view, and then invite critique. Be open to hearing other opinions.

Section III Translation

46. Directions:

Translate the following text from English into Chinese. Write your translation on ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

We tend to think that friends and family members are our biggest sources of connection, laughter and warmth. While that may well be true, researchers have also recently found that interacting with strangers actually brings a boost in mood and feelings of belonging that we didn't expect.

In one series of studies, researchers instructed Chicago-area commuters using public transportation to strike up a conversation with someone near them. On average, participants who followed this instruction felt better than those who had been told to stand or sit in silence. The researchers also argued that when we shy away from casual interactions with strangers, it is often due to a misplaced anxiety that they might not want to talk to us. Much of the time, however, this belief is false. As it turns out, many people are actually perfectly willing to talk 一and may even be flattered to receive your attention.

Section IV Writing

Part A

47. **Directions:**

Suppose you are organizing an online meeting. Write an email to Jack, an international student, to

1) invite him to participate, and

2) tell him about the details.

You should write about 100 words on the ANSWER SHEET. Do not use your own name in the email; use "Li Ming" instead. (10 points)
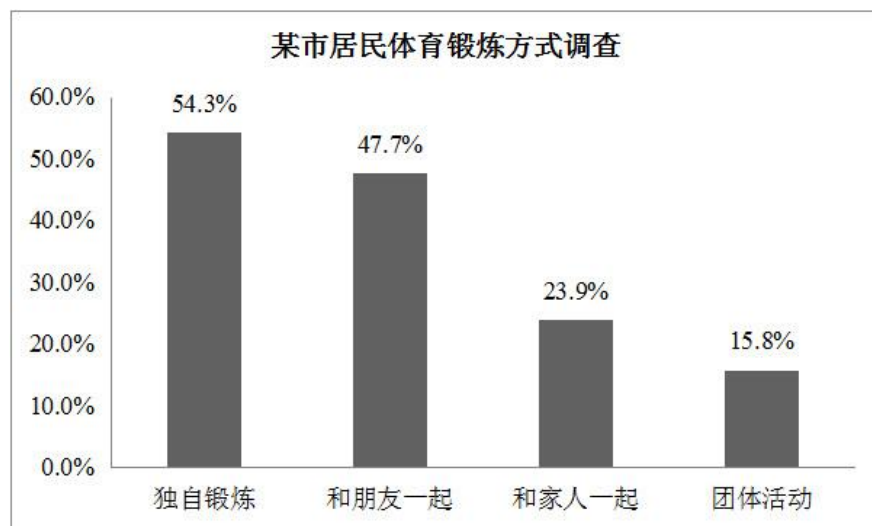
Part B

48. **Directions:**

Write an essay based on the following chart. In your writing, you should

1) interpret the chart, and

2) give your comments.

You should write about 150 words on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

某市居民体育锻炼方式调查

锻炼方式	百分比
独自锻炼	54.3%
和朋友一起	47.7%
和家人一起	23.9%
团体活动	15.8%

2022 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（一）试题

Section I   Use of English

Harlan Coben believes that if you're a writer, you will find the time; and that if you can't find the time, then writing isn't a priority and you're not a writer. For him, writing is a 1 job—a job like any other. He has 2 it with plumbing, pointing out that a plumber doesn't wake up and say that he can't work with pipes today.

 3 , like most writers these days, you're holding down a job to pay the bills, it's not 4 to find the time to write. But it's not impossible. It requires determination and single-mindedness. 5 that most bestselling authors began writing when they were doing other things to earn a living. And today, even writers who are fairly 6 often have to do other work to 7 their writing income.

As Harlan Coben has suggested, it's a 8 of priorities. To make writing a priority, you'll have to 9 some of your day-to-day activities and some things you really enjoy. Depending on your 10 and your lifestyle, that might mean spending less time watching television or listening to music, though some people can write 11 they listen to music. You might have to 12 the amount of exercise or sports you do. You'll have to make social media an 13 activity rather than a daily, time-consuming 14 . There'll probably have to be less socializing with your friends and less time with your family. It's a 15 learning curve, and it won't always make you popular.

There's just one thing you should try to keep at least some time for, 16 your writing—and that's reading. Any writer needs to read as much and as widely as they can; it's the one 17 supporter—something you can't do without.

Time is finite. The older you get, the 18 it seems to go. We need to use it as carefully and as 19 as we can. That means prioritizing our activities so that we spend most time on the things we really want to do. If you're a writer, that means— 20 —writing.

1. [A] difficult   [B] normal   [C] steady   [D] pleasant
2. [A] combined   [B] compared   [C] confused   [D] confronted
3. [A] If   [B] Though   [C] Once   [D] Unless
4. [A] enough   [B] strange   [C] wrong   [D] easy
5. [A] Accept   [B] Explain   [C] Remember   [D] Suppose
6. [A] well-known   [B] well-advised   [C] well-informed   [D] well-chosen
7. [A] donate   [B] generate   [C] supplement   [D] calculate
8. [A] cause   [B] purpose   [C] question   [D] condition
9. [A] highlight   [B] sacrifice   [C] continue   [D] explore
10. [A] relations   [B] interests   [C] memories   [D] skills
11. [A] until   [B] because   [C] while   [D] before
12. [A] put up with   [B] make up for   [C] hang on to   [D] cut down on
13. [A] intelligent   [B] occasional   [C] intensive   [D] emotional
14. [A] habit   [B] test   [C] decision   [D] plan
15. [A] tough   [B] gentle   [C] rapid   [D] funny
16. [A] in place of   [B] in charge of   [C] in response to   [D] in addition to
17. [A] indispensable   [B] innovative   [C] invisible   [D] instant
18. [A] duller   [B] harder   [C] quieter   [D] quicker
19. [A] peacefully   [B] generously   [C] productively   [D] gratefully
20. [A] at most   [B] in turn   [C] on average   [D] above all

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the ANSWERSHEET. (40 points)

Text 1

On a recent sunny day, 13,000 chickens roam over Larry Brown's 40 windswept acres in Shiner, Texas. Some rest in the shade of a parked car. Others drink water with the cows. This all seems random, but it's by design, part of what the $6.1 billion U.S. egg industry bets will be its next big thing: climate-friendly eggs.

These eggs, which are making their debut now on shelves for as much as $8 a dozen, are still labeled organic and animal-friendly, but they're also from birds that live on farms using regenerative agriculture — special techniques to cultivate rich soils that can trap green-house gases. Such eggs could be marketed as helping to fight climate change.

"I'm excited about our progress," says Brown, who is adding more cover crops that draw worms and crickets for the chickens to eat. The birds' waste then fertilizes fields. Such improvements "allow our hens to forage for higher-quality natural feed that will be good for the land, the hens, and the eggs that we supply to our customers."

The egg industry's push is the first major test of whether animal products from regenerative farms can become the next premium offering. In barely more than a decade, organic eggs went from being dismissed as a niche product in natural foods stores to being sold at Walmart. More recently there were similar doubts about probiotics and plant-based meats, but both have exploded into major supermarket categories. If the sustainable-egg rollout is successful, it could open the floodgates for regenerative beef, broccoli, and beyond.

Regenerative products could be a hard sell, because the concept is tough to define quickly, says Julie Stanton, associate professor of agricultural economics at Pennsylvania State University Brandywine. Such farming also brings minimal, if any, improvement to the food products (though some producers say their eggs have more protein).

The industry is betting that the same consumers paying more for premium attributes such as free-range, non-GMO, and pasture-raised eggs will embrace sustainability. Surveys show that younger generations are more concerned about climate change, and some of the success of plant-based meat can be chalked up to shoppers wanting to signal their desire to protect the environment. Young adults "really care about the planet," says John Brunnquell, president of Egg Innovations. "They are absolutely altering the food chain beyond what I think even they understand what they're doing."

21. The climate-friendly eggs are produced _____.

[A] at a considerably low cost

[B] at the demand of regular shoppers

[C] as a replacement for organic eggs

[D] on specially designed farms

22. Larry Brown is excited about his program in _____.

[A] reducing the damage of worms

[B] accelerating the disposal of waste

[C] creating a sustainable system

[D] attracting customers to his products

23. The example of organic eggs is used in Paragraph4 to suggest_____.

[A] the doubts over natural foods

[B] the setbacks in the egg industry

[C] the potential of regenerative products

[D]the promotional success of supermarkets

24. It can be learned from the last paragraph that young people_____.

[A] are reluctant to change their diet

[B] are likely to buy climate-friendly eggs

[C] are curious about new foods

[D] are amazed at agricultural advances

25. John Brunnquell would disagree with Julie Stanton over regenerative products'_____.

[A] market prospects

[B] nutritional value

[C] standard definition

[D] moral implications

Text 2

More Americans are opting to work well into retirement, a growing trend that threatens to upend the old workforce model.

One in three Americans who are at least 40 have, or plan to have a job in retirement to prepare for a longer life, according to a survey conducted by Harris Poll for TD Ameritrade. Even more surprising is that more than half of "unretirees" — those who plan to work in retirement or went back to work after retiring — said they would be employed in their later years even if they had enough money to settle down, the survey showed.

Financial needs aren't the only culprit for the "unretirement" trend. Other reasons, according to the study, include personal fulfillment such as staying mentally fit, preventing boredom or avoiding depression.

"The concept of retirement is evolving," said Christine Russell, senior manager of retirement at TD Ameritrade. "It's not just about finances. The value of work is also driving folks to continue working past retirement."

One reason for the change in retirement patterns: Americans are living longer. Older Americans are also the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. workforce. The percentage of retirement-age people in the labor force has doubled over the past three decades. About 20% of people 65 and older were in the workforce in February 2019, up from an all-time low of 10% in January 1985, according to money manager United Income.

Because of longer life spans, Americans are also boosting their savings to preserve their nest eggs, the TD Ameritrade study showed, which surveyed 2,000 adults between 40 to 79. Six in 10 "unretirees" are increasing their savings in anticipation of a longer life. Among the most popular ways they are doing this, the company said, is by reducing their overall expenses, securing life

insurance or maximizing their contributions to retirement accounts.

Unfortunately, many people who are opting to work in retirement are preparing to do so because they are worried about making ends meet in their later years, said Brent Weiss, a co-founder at Baltimore-based financial-planning firm Facet Wealth. He suggested that pre-retirees should speak with a financial adviser to set long-term financial goals.

"The most challenging moments in life are getting married, starting a family and ultimately retiring," Weiss said. "It's not just a financial decision, but an emotional one. Many people believe they can't retire."

26. The survey conducted by Harris Poll indicates that_____.

[A] over half of the retirees are physically fit for work

[B] the old worker is as active as younger one

[C] one in three Americas enjoy earlier retirement

[D] more Americans are willing to work in retirement

27.It can be inferred from Paragraph 3 that Americans tend to think that_____.

[A] retirement may cause problems for them

[B] boredom can be relieved after retirement

[C] the mental health of retirees is overlooked

[D] "unretirement" contributes to the economy

28. Retirement patterns are changing partly due to_____.

[A] labor shortages

[B] population growth

[C] longer life expectancy

[D] rising living costs

29. Many "unretirees" are increasing their saving by_____.

[A] investing more in stocks

[B] taking up odd jobs

[C] getting well-paid work

[D] spending less

30. With regard to the retirement, Brent Weiss think that many people are_____.

[A] unprepared

[B] unafraid

[C] disappointed

[D] enthusiastic

Text 3

We have all encountered them, in both our personal and professional lives. Think about the times you felt tricked or frustrated by a membership or subscription that had a seamless signup process but was later difficult to cancel. Something that should be simple and transparent can be

complicated, intentionally or unintentionally, in ways that impair consumer choice. These are examples of dark patterns.

First coined in 2010 by user experience expert Harry Brignull, "dark patterns" is a catch-all term for practices that manipulate user interfaces to influence the decision-making ability of users. Brignull identifies 12 types of common dark patterns, ranging from misdirection and hidden costs to "roach motel," where a user experience seems easy and intuitive at the start, but turns difficult when the user tries to get out.

In a 2019 study of 53,000 product pages and 11,000 websites, researchers found that about one in 10 employs these design practices. Though widely prevalent, the concept of dark patterns is still not well understood. Business and nonprofit leaders should be aware of dark patterns and try to avoid the gray areas they engender.

Where is the line between ethical, persuasive design and dark patterns? Businesses should engage in conversations with IT, compliance, risk, and legal teams to review their privacy policy, and include in the discussion the customer/user experience designers and coders responsible for the company's user interface, as well as the marketers and advertisers responsible for sign-ups, checkout baskets, pricing, and promotions. Any or all these teams can play a role in creating or avoiding "digital deception."

Lawmakers and regulators are slowly starting to address the ambiguity around dark patterns, most recently at the state level. In March, the California Attorney General announced the approval of additional regulations under the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) that "ensure that consumers will not be confused or misled when seeking to exercise their data privacy rights." The regulations aim to ban dark patterns — this means prohibiting companies from using "confusing language or unnecessary steps such as forcing them to click through multiple screens or listen to reasons why they shouldn't opt out."

As more states consider promulgating additional regulations, there is a need for greater accountability from within the business community. Dark patterns also can be addressed on a self-regulatory basis, but only if organizations hold themselves accountable, not just to legal requirements, but also to industry best practices and standards.

31. It can be learned from the first two paragraphs that dark patterns_____.
[A] improve user experiences
[B] leak user information for profit
[C] undermine users' decision-making
[D] remind users of hidden costs

32. The 2019 study on dark patterns is mentioned to show_____.
[A] their major flaws   [B] their complex designs
[C] their severe damage   [D] their strong presence

33. To handle digital deception, businesses should _____.
[A] listen to customer feedback   [B] talk with relevant teams
[C] turn to independent agencies   [D] rely on professional training

34. The additional regulations under the CCPA are intended to_____.

[A] guide users through opt-out processes   [B] protect consumers from being tricked

[C] grant companies data privacy rights   [D] restrict access to problematic content

35. According to the last paragraph, a key to coping with dark patterns is_____.

[A] new legal requirements

[B] businesses' self-discipline

[C] strict regulatory standards

[D] consumers' safety awareness

Text 4

Although ethics classes are common around the world, scientists are unsure if their lessons can actually change behavior; evidence either way is weak, relying on contrived laboratory tests or sometimes unreliable self-reports. But a new study published in Cognition found that, in at least one real-world situation, a single ethics lesson may have had lasting effects.

The researchers investigated one class session's impact on eating meat. They chose this particular behavior for three reasons, according to study co-author Eric Schwitzgebel, a philosopher at the University of California, Riverside: students' attitudes on the topic are variable and unstable, behavior is easily measurable, and ethics literature largely agrees that eating less meat is good because it reduces environmental harm and animal suffering. Half of the students in four large philosophy classes read an article on the ethics of factory-farmed meat, optionally watched an 11-minute video on the topic and joined a 50-minute discussion. The other half focused on charitable giving instead. Then, unknown to the students, the researchers studied their anonymized meal-card purchases for that semester—nearly 14,000 receipts for almost 500 students.

Schwitzgebel predicted the intervention would have no effect; he had previously found that ethics professors do not differ from other professors on a range of behaviors, including voting rates, blood donation and returning library books. But among student subjects who discussed meat ethics, meal purchases containing meat decreased from 52 to 45 percent — and this effect held steady for the study's duration of several weeks. Purchases from the other group remained at 52 percent.

"That's actually a pretty large effect for a pretty small intervention," Schwitzgebel says. Psychologist Nina Strohminger at the University of Pennsylvania, who was not involved in the study, says she wants the effect to be real but cannot rule out some unknown confounding variable. And if real, she notes, it might be reversible by another nudge: "Easy come, easy go."

Schwitzgebel suspects the greatest impact came from social influence — classmates or teaching assistants leading the discussions may have shared their own vegetarianism, showing it as achievable or more common. Second, the video may have had an emotional impact. Least rousing, he thinks, was rational argument, although his co-authors say reason might play a bigger role. Now the researchers are probing the specific effects of teaching style, teaching assistants' eating habits and students' video exposure. Meanwhile Schwitzgebel — who had predicted no effect — will be eating his words.

36. Scientists generally believe that the effects of ethics classes are_____.

[A] hard to determine

[B] narrowly interpreted

[C] difficult to ignore

[D] poorly summarized

37. Which of the following is the reason for researchers to study meat eating?

[A] It is common among students.

[B] It is a behavior easy to measure.

[C] It is important for students' health.

[D] It is a hot topic in ethic classes.

38. Eric Schwitzgelbel's previous findings suggest that ethic professors_____.

[A] are seldom critical of their students

[B] are less sociable than other professors

[C] are not sensitive to political issues

[D] are not necessarily ethically better

39. Nina Strohminger thinks the effect of the intervention is_____.

[A] permanent

[B] predictable

[C] uncertain

[D] unrepeatable

40. Eric Schwitzgebel suspects that the students' change in behavior_____.

[A] can bring psychological benefits

[B] can be analyzed statistically

[C] is a result of multiple factors

[D] is a sign of self-development

Part B

Directions:

Read the following text and answer the questions by choosing the most suitable subheading from the list A-G for each of the numbered paragraphs (41-45). There are two extra subheadings which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

[A] Make it a habit

[B] Don't go it alone

[C] Start low, go slow

[D] Talk with your doctor

[E] Listen to your body

[F] Go through the motions

[G] Round out your routine

How to Get Active Again

Getting back into exercise after a break can be a challenge in the best of times, but with gyms and in-person exercise classes off-limits to many people these days, it can be tricky to know where to start. And it is important to get the right dose of activity. "Too much too soon either results in injury or burnout," says Mary Yoke, PhD, a faculty member in the kinesiology department at Indiana University in Bloomington. The following simple strategies will help you return to exercise safely after a break.

41. _____.

Don't try to go back to what you were doing before your break. If you were walking 3 miles a day, playing 18 holes of golf three times a week, or lifting 10-pound dumbbells for three sets of 10 reps, reduce activity to half a mile every other day, or nine holes of golf once a week with short walks on other days, or use 5-pound dumbbells for one set of 10 reps. Increase time, distance, and intensity gradually. "This isn't something you can do overnight," says Keri L. Denay, MD, lead author of a recent American College of Sports Medicine advisory that encourages Americans to not overlook the benefits of activity during the pandemic. But you'll reap benefits such as less anxiety and improved sleep right away.

42. _____.

If you're breathing too hard to talk in complete sentences, back off. If you feel good, go a little longer or faster. Feeling wiped out after a session? Go easier next time. And stay alert to serious symptoms, such as chest pain or pressure, severe shortness of breath or dizziness, or faintness, and seek medical attention immediately.

43. _____.

Consistency is the key to getting stronger and building endurance and stamina. Ten minutes of activity per day is a good start, says Marcus Jackovitz, DPT, a physical therapist at the University of Miami Hospital. All the experts we spoke with highly recommend walking because it's the easiest, most accessible form of exercise. Although it can be a workout on its own, if your goal is to get back to Zumba classes, tennis, cycling, or any other activity, walking is also a great first step.

44. _____.

Even if you can't yet do a favorite activity, you can practice the moves. With or without a club or racket, swing like you're hitting the ball. Paddle like you're in a kayak or canoe. Mimic your favorite swimming strokes. The action will remind you of the joy the activity brought you and prime your muscles for when you can get out there again.

45. _____.

Exercising with others "can keep you accountable and make it more fun, so you're more likely to do it again," Jackovitz says. You can do activities such as golf and tennis or take a walk with others and still be socially distant. But when you can't connect in person, consider using technology. Chat on the phone with a friend while you walk around your neighborhood. FaceTime with a relative as you strength train or stretch at home. You can also join a livestream or on-demand exercise class.

Section III Translation

46. **Directions:**

Translate the following text into Chinese. Write your translation on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

Although we try our best, sometimes our paintings rarely turn out as originally planned. Changes in the light, the limitations of your painting materials, and the lack of experience and technique mean that what you start out trying to achieve may not come to life the way that you expected.

Although this can be frustrating and disappointing, it turns out that this can actually be good for you. Unexpected results have two benefits: you pretty quickly learn to deal with disappointment and realise that when one door closes, another opens. You also quickly learn to adapt and come up with creative solutions to the problems the painting presents, and thinking outside the box will become your second nature.

In fact, creative problem-solving skills are incredibly useful in daily life, with which you're more likely to be able to find a solution when a problem arises.

Section III Writing

Part A

47. **Directions:**

Suppose you are planning a campus food festival. Write an email to the international students in your university to

1) introduce the food festival, and

2) invite them to participate.

You should write about 100 words on the ANSWER SHEET.

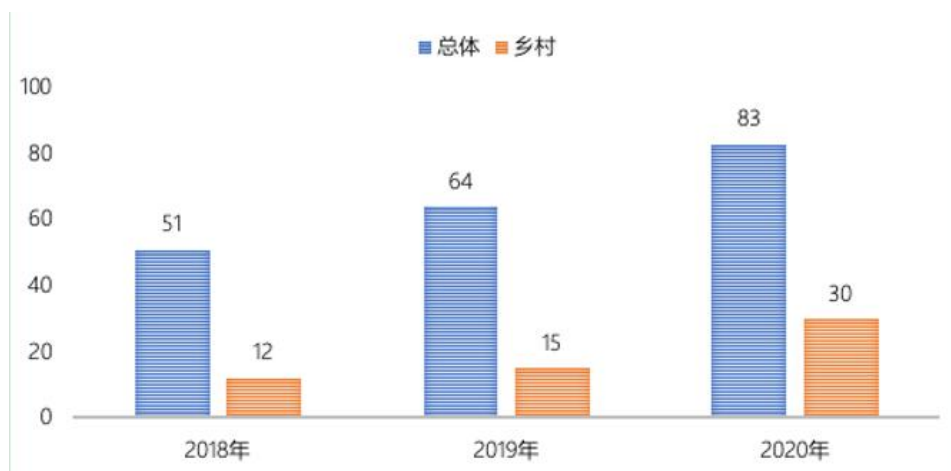Do not use your own name. Use "Li Ming" instead. (10 points)

Part B

48. **Directions:**

Write an essay based on the chart blow. In your writing, you should

1) interpret the chart, and

2) give your comments.

You should write about 150 words on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

2018-2020 年我国快递业务量变动情况
（单位：10 亿件）

附录 1：新题型补充练习

多项对应第 1 篇：

Being socially active in your 50s and 60s may help lower the risk of developing dementia (a serious mental disorder) in later life, a study has found.

Researchers led by Dr. Andrew Sommerlad of the University of London studied data that tracked more than 10,000 people from 1985 to 2013. The participants answered a questionnaire every five years about the frequency of their social contact with friends and relatives. They were also subject to cognitive testing, and electronic health records were searched for dementia diagnoses.

The results published in the journal Plos Medicine showed that seeing friends almost daily at aged 60 was associated with a 12% lower likelihood of developing dementia in later life, compared with those who saw only one or two friends every few months. Seeing relatives, on the other hand, did not show the same beneficial association.

Another researcher Elijah Lowenstein involved in this study said that practising using the brain for memory and language during social contact can build so-called cognitive reserve. Tara Spires-Jones, a professor of neurodegeneration at the University of Edinburgh who was not involved in the work, explained: "Learning new things builds connections between brain cells, and so does social contact. The biology underlying this study is that the people who are socially active keep their brains better connected. If you have a better-connected network in your brain, it can resist pathology for longer."

Clive Ballard, a professor of age-related disorders at the University of Exeter, who was also not involved in the work, said: "Social isolation is a risk factor. The strength of this work is the large population studied, and that the assessment of social contact was done so long before the cognitive assessment bit. It makes the direction of causality much stronger."

The authors note that the data does not include detail on the quality of social contact, and that dementia cases may have been missed if participants did not present to their general practitioner (GP).

Other sociologists pointed out that there may also be overlapping factors at play: "It is known that depression is a significant risk factor, and our work has shown that hearing loss is also a significant risk factor. Both of those might lead to social isolation. It's likely to be a cluster of things which are not totally independent." said one of the authors.

Similar benefits were seen for those who saw friends when they were aged 50 and 70, although the association was not strong enough to be statistically significant.

"This is due to the statistical uncertainty involved in the study," said Dr. Andrew Sommerlad. "There's no conceivable reason why it'd be important at 60 and not other age points." He concluded, "We need to be conscious that we're in a society in which social isolation and loneliness are becoming more common. We hope that at a community level and policy level work will be done to make it easier for older people to stay connected."

Men's Sheds was founded in Australia in the late 1990s to provide social and community opportunities – primarily for men over 50. Sociologist Anna Ploszajski pointed out that "It's very difficult for older people to make new friends. This is a place for that opportunity to keep on happening. It's almost like a place of hope."

[A] pointed out that there may also be overlapping factors at play.

41. Dr. Andrew Sommerlad

[B] held that practising of the brain during social contact can build so-called cognitive reserve.

42. Elijah Lowenstein

[C] said social isolation is a risk factor for dementia.

43. Tara Spires-Jones

[D] viewed Men's Sheds as a place of hope for elderly people.

[E] hoped that something should be done to make it easier for older people to stay connected at a community level and policy level.

44. Clive Ballard

[F] said that similar benefits were seen for those who saw friends when they were aged 50 and 70.

45. Anna Ploszajski

[G] believed that social contact builds connections between brain cells.

多项对应第 2 篇：

Netflix Aims to Launch Cheaper, Ad-Supported Plan in Early 2023

Netflix is angling to win over a new bloc of value-conscious consumers — and help turn around its declining subscriber numbers — with a new ad-supported streaming package set to debut in early 2023.The company, in announcing Q2 earnings, said it's targeting the launch of the ad-supported plan "around the early part of 2023."

Netflix has not revealed pricing for the ad-supported plan, but it's promised to be less than the streamer's most popular plan without any commercials: the Standard package ($15.49/month in the U.S.), which includes two HD streams.

On the company's Q2 earnings interview, COO and chief product officer Greg Peters said Netflix believes the per-subscriber economics on the ad-supported plan will be "neutral" with or better than what it sees with traditional subscribers.

Netflix last week announced a pact with Microsoft to serve as its exclusive advertising partner. Peters confirmed that, at least initially, Netflix ads will be sold exclusively by Microsoft.

Ted Sarandos, co-CEO and chief content officer, acknowledged that Netflix is in discussions with some of its content providers on rights issues as the streamer plans its advertising-supported tier. According to industry practice, such a move would be considered a second-window event that typically comes with payments to studios and creative talent.

"The vast majority of what people watch on Netflix we can include in the ad-supported tier today. Some things we're in conversations with studios on," Sarandos said in the recorded earnings interview. "We will clear some additional content. Not all of it. I don't think it's a material hold-back to the business."

Netflix CFO Spencer Neumann also downplayed the potential for higher costs to come with the ad expansion. "We can launch today without any content-clearance rights," he said. Discussions are under way with outside partners but Neumann assured analysts, "We'll be disciplined."

In the Q2 letter, Netflix said that Microsoft is "investing heavily to expand their multibillion [dollar] advertising business into premium television video, and we are thrilled to be working with such a strong global partner. We're excited by the opportunity given the combination of our very engaged audience and high-quality content, which we think will attract premium CPMs [cost per thousand impressions] from brand advertisers."

Wall Street analysts have expressed confidence that Netflix's advertising tier won't cannibalize its existing subscriber base. Indeed, Netflix's ad-based plan could result in Netflix adding 4.3 million incremental U.S./Canada subs in 2023 and generating "significant upside" to revenue, Cowen's John Blackledge wrote in a July 8 research note.

Morgan Stanley estimated that Netflix could charge $10/month in the U.S. for the ad-based plan, which could generate $7/month per subscriber in ad revenue. And the streaming giant could see ad revenue quickly ramp from $150 million in 2023 to $1.8 billion in 2025, according to projections last month by research firm Moffett Nathanson.

With its move to launch a cheaper, ad-supported plan, Netflix is late to the party. Streamers that already offer lower-cost options with ads include Hulu, HBO Max, Paramount+, Discovery+, and Peacock; meanwhile, Disney is shooting to bow an ad-supported version of Disney+ in late 2022.

41. Creg Peters	[A] Advertising-supported tier would be considered a second-window event.
	[B] Netflix's advertising tier won't cannibalize its existing subscriber base.
42. Ted Sarandos	[C] Pre-subscriber economics will be better than traditional subscribers.
43. Spencer Neumann	[D] Netflix will be disciplined though they can launch without any content-clearance rights.
44. Wall Street Analysts	[E] Some additional content will be cleared.
45. Moffett Nathanson	[F] Netflix could generate $7/month per subscriber in ad revenue
	[G] Netflix could see ad revenue quickly rise.

多项对应第 3 篇：

The age taboo in workplaces means we miss out on talent

Would you apply for a job which requires you to be "dynamic" or a "digital native"? If you're over 40, it might not be worth bothering. Until recently, it looked as though Generation X had never had it so good. But age discrimination is alive and well — and the exodus of older workers in the pandemic may be more of a Great Clear-Out than a Great Resignation.

As the diversity and inclusion agenda spawns a million training courses and reports into race and gender, age remains taboo. Amazon has agreed to audit its racial diversity, under pressure from shareholders, following similar moves at Apple and JPMorgan. But discrimination against older workers rarely features. Even though Google and other companies have been successfully sued for it, a 2020 survey of global employers revealed that most do not include age in their diversity and inclusion policies.

It has been assumed that the mass resignation of baby boomers in the pandemic was a choice, made by thrill-seeking oldsters who had saved enough money to kick the rat race. But what if employers used the pandemic to quietly shed older workers who cost more than younger ones? Analysis by the US Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis suggests that not all of the exodus was voluntary. Of the 1mn Americans aged between 55 and 74 who have left the job market since March 2020, according to Schwartz, about 400,000 were people who lost their job, and a year later still couldn't find another one. In the UK, the number of 50 to 64-year-olds who are no longer looking for work has risen to 228,000, according to the Centre for Ageing Better, which says that over-50s were half as likely as younger workers to be re-employed during the pandemic.

Is this prejudice? Research by two Harvard psychologists, Tessa Charlesworth and Mahzarin Banaji, suggests that negative stereotypes of ageing are actually more persistent than those about race and gender. Drawing on data from more than 4mn tests of conscious and unconscious bias, they have found that attitudes to sexual orientation, race and skin tone have improved during the past decade, compared to stubborn biases about age and disability, and increasing negativity about people who are overweight. Charlesworth and Banaji predict that anti-gay bias could reach "neutrality" in 20 years' time, but that on current trends it will take 150 years for the same to happen to ageism.

The raw reality is that older workers tend to be more expensive than younger ones, and are more vulnerable to cuts to middle management. But it may be a false economy to lower initial salary costs by hiring the young, if familiarity with procedures and teamwork are lost.

This should not be a zero-sum game. If older workers are pushed out too early, we miss out on talent and shore up bills for the taxpayer. In the west, we are obsessed with youth, tech and flexibility, and fear that longevity means stagnation. But it also means institutional memory and experience — which is surely part of the diversity organisations claim to want.

Campaign groups make a mistake, I think, if they try to present everyone in a certain category as brilliant. Lee Iacocca, the former Chrysler boss, once told Wired magazine that he was against using chronological dates to farm people out. "I had people at Chrysler who were 40 but acted 80," he said, "and I had 80-year-olds who could do everything a 40-year-old can". I met a host of such types when I was writing a book about the ageing world. One, Bette Nash, was still flying as an air stewardess after 60 years. Another, an experienced executive called Clare, had

joined a youthful charity aged 70, and she put the dilemma shrewdly. "They'd only just got rid of someone called Sue, who was 60 and hopeless," she said. "They were afraid I was another Sue. Who can blame them?"

Employers face a genuine problem with senior people who have grown stale — and who can end up pricing themselves out if they keep demanding higher pay. But when society is making such strides in seeing the individual behind the label, we need to remind ourselves that wrinkles are superficial too. Once older people give up looking for work, they drop out of the unemployment statistics. But that doesn't mean they're not still there — or that we don't need them.

[A] Over-50s were less likely to get a new job during the pandemic

41. Amazon   [B] Employers used the pandemic to shed older workers.

42. US Schwartz Center   [C] negative stereotypes of ageing are actually more persistent than those about race and gender

43. Center for Ageing Better [D] Feel pressure to check its diversity of race

44. Charlesworth and Banaji [E] Chronological age should not be used to fire people.

45. Lee Iacocca   [F] Quite a lot of people were out of employment not by choice

[G] older workers tend to be more expensive than younger ones

多项对应第 4 篇：

Texting While Walking Is Dangerous

You're walking around and a thought occurs: "I should check my phone." The phone comes out of your pocket. You type a message. Then your eyes remain glued to the screen, even when you walk across the street.

The behavior has spawned debates among lawmakers about whether walking and texting should be illegal. Some cities, such as Honolulu and Rexburg, Idaho, have gone beyond talk and banned distracted walking altogether. "We know research-wise it's not a good idea, and common-sense-wise it can't be a good idea," said Ken Kolosh, a manager of statistics at the National Safety Council, a nonprofit that focuses on eliminating preventable deaths. "We don't ever want to blame the victim, but there's personal responsibility all of us have."

So why do we do it? People are, by nature, information-seeking creatures. When we regularly check our phones, we are snacking on information from devices that offer an all-you-can-eat buffet of information. Our information-foraging tendencies evolved from the behavior of animals foraging for food for survival, said Dr. Adam Gazzaley, a neuroscientist and co-author of the book "The Distracted Mind: Ancient Brains in a High-Tech World." Studies have shown that our brains feel rewarded when we receive information, which drives us to seek more. That's similar to how our appetites feel sated after we eat. So we get stuck in cycles. At what point is this considered addiction?

Not all constant phone use was considered addictive, said Steven Sussman, a professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California. External pressures, like a demanding job, could force people to frequently check their phones. But when people check their devices just to enhance their mood, this could be a sign of a developing problem. Another signal of addictive behavior is becoming preoccupied with smartphone use when you should be doing something else. An even clearer indicator is what happens when the phone is taken away.

Jim Steyer, the chief executive of Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that evaluates tech products and media for families, said there needed to be a broad public awareness campaign over the dangers of walking and texting in parallel with distracted driving. "You have distracted pedestrians and distracted drivers, so it's the double whammy," he said. "Tech addiction hits in both ways."

Obviously, the answer to not getting into dangerous situations by walking and texting is not to walk and text at the same time. But that's easier said than done, since people have trouble reining in their tech use. So several experts recommended exercises in self-control.

The National Safety Council said that when pedestrians have to check their phones, they should stop walking and stand in a safe place. It also advised people wearing earphones to listen at a low volume. Chris Marcellino, a former Apple engineer who led the development of the original iPhone's notifications, recommended going into the phone's settings and switching off notifications for all apps except those that are most important to you, like work-related apps. "These are things that aren't pertinent to your life that are bombarding you all the time," he said. Other tools, like the "do not disturb" function on both iPhones and Android phones, can be set to shush notifications temporarily.

	[A] frequently checking phones due to one's work can be considered to be addictive behavior.
41. Ken Kolosh argued	[B] being preoccupied with smartphone use at inappropriate times and places is an indicator of addictive behavior.
42.Dr. Adam Gazzaley claimed	[C] to control excessive use of phones, people can reset their phones by leaving the important apps open and switching off the less important ones.
43.Steven Sussman supposed	[D] wearing earphones to listen at a low volume is a safe way to use phones.
44.Jim Steyer suggested	[E] each person should bear the responsibility of their own behavior.
45.Chris Marcellino proposed	[F] the public should be warned the dangers of walking and texting like distracted driving.
	[G] the reason why we stick to our phones is that we human beings are instinctively prone to seek information.

多项对应第 5 篇：

Do You Have a Strong Circle of Friends?

We are in a rare moment when we can rebuild our social networks better than they were before the pandemic. Many of us have reflected over the past two years on the things that are truly important and make us happiest at work and at home. Now it is time to do this with our friendships, weighing who matters, what is missing and how to build our A-team.

The variety and quality of the friends we have, not the number, is most important, friendship experts say. Research shows that people with varied relationships have better physical and mental health. Studies show that people who have different friends who help them moderate different moods report greater well-being in life, a concept some have called "emotionships." But your dream team won't be that big. We have the capacity to maintain about 15 core friendships, including five or so intimate ones, according to research by Robin Dunbar, author of "Friends: Understanding the Power of Our Most Important Relationships" and emeritus professor at the University of Oxford.

You'll need best friends, who know you well. Think of these as 3 a.m. friends, or the ones you can call in the middle of the night. You'll also need friends from different areas of your life: co-workers, who can help you process life at work; neighbors, to foster a sense of community; people who share your hobbies and interests. And it is important to have friends in the same life stage as you. Are you a new parent? Recently divorced? Mourning the loss of a loved one? "You need people who understand and can relate," says Marissa King, a professor at the Yale School of Management who studies social networks.

Here's some advice for rounding out your circle of friends.

Make a list of the different areas in your life, including family, home, work, hobbies and interests, and emotional life, suggests Geoffrey Greif, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Think carefully about the friends in each category. Do you have an ally at work? A friend with kids at the same school as yours? A ski buddy? This will help identify the holes in your network, says Dr. Greif, author of "Buddy System: Understanding Male Friendships."

Contact with your friends and start with those you miss most. Rekindling a relationship is easier than starting one, says Yale's Dr. King, author of "Social Chemistry: Decoding the Patterns of Human Connection." You can say something simple: "I miss you" or "It's been a while. Want to get together?" Don't worry about the other person's reaction—the worry will make you act stiff or cold. "If it's someone you deeply care about and really miss, they are going to be thrilled to hear from you," she says.

Once you've identified the types of friends you need, take action to find them. Start with the area of your life that feels loneliest and Show up regularly. Research shows that friendship happens more organically with repeated interaction and vulnerability, says Marisa G. Franco, a counseling psychologist and author of the coming book "Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make—and Keep—Friends".

"Your team of friends needs different players with different strengths," says Mahzad Hojjat, a social psychologist at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and co-editor of "The Psychology of Friendship." "No one person can do it all." Don't limit yourself by age, race, gender or anything else. Often, the people who most expand our world are different from us.

[A] you need friends who share the same life stage and are able to understand your feelings.

41.Robin Dunbar argued

[B] frequent communication over vulnerability helps you find the friends you need.

42.Geoffrey Greif claimed

[C] you need to branch out your friend circle.

[D] you should try to find a friend sharing the same age, race and gender with you.

43.Dr. King supposed

[E] you should not feel worried to reach out to your friends and rekindle your friendship.

44.Marisa G. Franco suggested

[F] you are supposed to take an inventory to identify the holes of your network.

45.Mahzad Hojjat proposed

[G] the number of friends is not crucially important and we have the capacity to keep our friendships to a dozen essential ones.

多项对应第 6 篇：

We all feel like we're addicted to our phones at times, mindlessly scrolling through Instagram or chiming in on the latest Twitter scandal—even when we suspect we shouldn't. How we address our behavior depends on whether we truly have an addiction, or an unhealthy habit we can kick with a few adjustments.

People throw around the word addiction loosely, but few people are truly dependent on social media, according to mental-health experts. Addiction itself is a spectrum disorder that can range from mild to severe, and treatment can require therapy and a lengthy break.

Even if we're not addicted, it's clear that we're all using social media a lot. A Pew Research Center study last year found that 70% of Facebook users visit the site every day, and that almost half of those daily users access it several times a day.

Here are three general signs that a bad habit might be developing into something more serious—plus tips on how to slow your scroll.

You use social media compulsively.

It's hard to leave our phones behind when we go anywhere anymore because of the pressure to always be reachable by our bosses, our partners, our kids. When we carry our phones around with us like an extra appendage, it's hard not to fill free moments by checking social media during an elevator ride, a trip to the bathroom or a stroll in the park.

So what constitutes compulsive use? A 2019 paper in the journal Neuropsychology Review defined compulsive behavior as the feeling we have to do something repeatedly, even when we know we really don't have to.

When the compulsion to scroll overrides our better judgment, causing us to do dangerous things such as checking notifications while driving or crossing the road, that's a reason to pay attention. (On recent mornings, I've seen a woman pushing her baby stroller along a busy street in my neighborhood while staring at her phone.)

Habits aren't easy to kick because they tend to be done on autopilot, said Phil Reed, chair of the psychology department at Swansea University in Wales, who has been studying the root causes of unhealthy social-media use. "The way to treat habits is to bring them into consciousness and make yourself aware of what you're doing," he said.

Tips: Try logging how often you check your feeds in a day, including those brief glances during spare moments. Turn off app notifications, set a blanket Do Not Disturb, or customize Focus settings on Apple devices to automatically turn on during work hours or when you're driving.

Next, fill the time you normally spend on social media with other activities.

"If you don't increase other things as you reduce social media, almost any other attempt to reduce it won't work," said Cal Newport, an associate professor of computer science at Georgetown University and author of "Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World."

Your social-media use is getting in the way of life.

Anna Lembke, a professor of psychiatry and addiction medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine, relies on this simple definition of addiction: "The continued compulsive use of a substance or behavior despite harm to self and/or others."

Scrolling through interior-design photos on Instagram before bed (um, totally speaking for a

friend here) likely won't hurt you, as long as you're not delaying sleep too much.

If your social-media use is hurting your relationships, your work, your sleep or other aspects of your health—but you scroll anyway because you feel you can't stop—it's time to take action.

Tips: Dr. Lembke recommends that people who want to kick a habit do what she calls a "24-hour dopamine fast" by not touching any screen-related devices for a day.

41.Anna Lembke	[A] It is vain for people to spend less time on social media with no other activity.
42.Neuropsychology Review	[B] Addition means that people who consistently use a substance or behavior with aim to harm self and/or others."
43.Cal Newport	[C] A "24-hour dopamine fast", not touching any screen-related devices for a day，is a recommended way to give up social media.
44.Phil Reed	[D] People use the word addiction frequently, but there are few people really depending on social media.
45.mental-health experts	[E] It is hard to get rid of habits in that people are driven by them naturally.
	[F] It is vain to attempt to increase other things and social media simultaneously.
	[G] People with compulsive behavior have the feeling that we have to do something repeatedly, even there is no need to do so.

小标题第 1 篇：

[A] Research Careers

[B] Estimate Future Earnings

[C] Consider Your Skills

[D] Look at Rankings

[E] Find the Right Colleges for Your Major

[F] Consider the Cost

[G] Decide How Much Time You Can Dedicate to School

What Should I Major In? How To Choose A College Major

Choosing a major is one of the biggest decisions a high school or college student is asked to make. And it's one that many wish they could redo—61% of college grads would change their major if they could go back, according to one survey.

But not everyone has a case of buyer's remorse after graduation. Here are the most important factors to take into account before choosing a major, and how to pick the right college once you've decided what to study.

41.＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Start by making a list of your strengths and interests. Once you're done, ask your close friends and family members what they would say about you. Sometimes it takes a third party to remind us of the talents and skills we take for granted.

42.＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Once you've made a list of your interests and passions, look at what jobs fit those passions. For example, if you're interested in music, you can work as a music teacher, club promoter or find a job at a music-related nonprofit. Consider shadowing people in those jobs so you can understand what it's really like to work there. Seeing how real people work can give you a better sense of whether you're actually interested. If shadowing someone isn't an option, contact people via email or LinkedIn and set up a phone call to ask them questions directly.

43.＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

While future revenue shouldn't be your only motivator for a certain career, it is an important factor to consider. Knowing this information can help you decide how much is wise to invest in your secondary education. Also, consider what you want your life to look like after college. If you hope to live in a major city, travel extensively or start a family, for example, you'll need a job that pays you enough to afford those things.

44.＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

Not every major is created equal. Some programs, like pre-med, require substantially more work than others. Also research any advanced degrees you'll need after college to get to work in your desired field. If you need to pursue a professional or master's degree to reach your career goals, account for the extra time and money that will require before you make a final decision on your bachelor degree major.

45.＿＿＿＿＿＿＿

When it comes to universities, you can find specific rankings for degree programs like business, engineering and computer science. And your high school counselor or advisor may have suggestions on which colleges are most appropriate for what you're interested in. If you'll need an

advanced degree, consider prioritizing an affordable school for your undergraduate degree. Try to minimize how much you borrow in student loans and make sure to apply for as many scholarships and grants as possible.

It's normal to pick a major, go to college and discover you're not as interested as you thought you would be. Keep an open mind and don't force yourself to stick out the degree path you chose when you were a high school senior. You'll likely spend about a third of your life at work, so don't force yourself to stay with a major you don't enjoy.

小标题第 2 篇：

[A] Stress is hostile

[B] Accelerate Your Metabolism

[C] Take care of abdominal fat storage

[D] Limit Your Bad Habits

[E] Watch Your Temper

[F] Lighten Your Dark Moods

[G] Flatten That Belly

41. _____

Scientists have long believed that Type A's—those people driven by ambition, hard work and tight deadlines—were most prone to heart attacks. But it's not striving for goals that leads to disease; rather, it's being hostile, angry and cynical. Suggests Mittleman: if stress mounts so high that you begin snapping at people, "Ask yourself, 'Is it worth having a heart attack over this?'"

42._____

For years, evidence linking depression to an increased risk of heart attack has been growing. Johns Hopkins researchers interviewed 1551 people who were free of heart disease in the early 1980s and again 14 years later. Those who reported having experienced major depression were four times as likely to have a heart attack as those who had not been depressed. Exercise is an often overlooked antidepressant. In a study at Duke University, 60 percent of clinically depressed people who took a brisk 30- minute walk or jog at least three times a week were no longer depressed after 16 weeks.

43. _____

More than 50 years ago French scientist Jean Vague noted that people with a lot of upper-body fat (those who looked like apples rather than pears) often developed heart disease, diabetes and other ailments. But it wasn't until the introduction of CT and MRI scans that doctors discovered that a special kind of fat, visceral fat, located within the abdomen, was strongly linked to these diseases. According to the National Institutes of Health, there's trouble brewing when your waist measures 35 inches or more if you're a woman, and 40 inches or more if you're a man. And that's regardless of height.

44. _____

Heavy drinking. Moderate drinkers may be the least likely to develop Metabolic Syndrome, while alcoholics are the most likely. In part that's because, pound for pound, they carry more abdominal fat. In one Swedish study, researchers found that male alcoholics carried 48 percent of

their body fat within the abdomen, compared with 38 percent for teetotalers. Cigarette smoking. Smoking is dangerous for reasons besides lung cancer or emphysema. Some 60 minutes after smoking a cigarette, one study revealed, smokers still showed elevated levels of cortisol, which promotes abdominal fat storage. Over- caffeinating. Moderate caffeine consumption doesn't seem to be harmful for most people. But recent studies suggest that when men who have both high blood pressure and a family history of hypertension drink a lot of caffeinated coffee while under job stress, they may experience a dangerous rise in blood pressure.

45. _____

A new understanding of how disease sets up shop in your body focuses on metabolism—the sum of physical and chemical reactions necessary to maintain life. This approach reveals that a healthy metabolic profile counts for more than cardiovascular fitness or weight alone. As Glenn A. Gasser, professor of exercise physiology at the University of Virginia, notes, "Metabolic fitness is one of the best safeguards against heart disease, stroke and diabetes. "

小标题第 3 篇：

[A] Scientific claims are outdated.

[B] Female fertility has improved.

[C] Consensus may be credible.

[D] Be careful with thin studies.

[E] Scientific claims are seldom based on old data.

[F] Stress faced by man and women is inequality.

[G] Scientific claims are right to a certain degree.

Why do fitness device makers claim you need to take 10,000 steps every day? Do you also really need to drink eight glasses of water daily? The scientific basis for popular health claims is often thin. A piece in the New York Times, for example, notes that the idea of 10,000 steps was based more on marketing—it was the name of an early pedometer—than science. Data point to clear benefits from moderate exercise—perhaps 7,000 steps or so but not necessarily more.

41._____

Often popular wisdom turns out to be only sort of true. The emphasis on so many steps is one instance. Glasses of water is another. If you let yourself get too thirsty, you may be tempted to reach for sodas or sugary coffee drinks, and that's not good. But a scientific review in 2002 found "no scientific studies" that support the eight-glass claim for healthy adults in a temperate climate. That doesn't mean it's wrong, but it does mean we probably shouldn't worry if we drink only six.

42._____

You can sometimes discover that a claim stems from outdated and poorly applied evidence. This is what happened with a famous and specious claim about female fertility. But, the notion stems largely from a 2004 paper based on records from 1670 through 1830. Many things have changed since then, including medical care and nutrition. In wealthier nations, people are now healthier overall and likely to be more fertile for longer periods of their lives. Systematic data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics demonstrate that from 1980 to 2002 fertility rates for women aged 30 and older were going up. It is also worth noting that when fertility

treatments started to become more common and more clinics began opening in the 1980s and 1990s, alarms over biological clocks were being sounded by this growing industry with a self-interest in the matter.

43._____

Despite the importance of childbearing to so many people— and although infertility treatments are costly, have only modest success rates and are not risk-free—the sad fact is that robust studies of age-dependent infertility are scant. The data we do have tend to show that although fertility does decline slightly at older ages, most women continue to be fertile well into their 30s, and for many people that is a good time to have children. There's a long-standing cultural tendency to blame infertility on women, but when a couple is infertile it is equally likely that the cause can be traced to the man. Male fertility also declines with age, but how often do you hear warnings about the male biological clock?

44._____

Like the female clock or the 10,000 steps, many health beliefs have shallow and flimsy roots. But sometimes the wisdom of the crowd is supported by facts: most of us do need around eight hours of sleep a night, for instance. So where does this leave someone trying to make sense of what they hear or read?

45._____

Well, for one thing, people should be skeptical of any large claim based on one study. Good science requires building a multifaceted and detailed case, which takes time and is almost never achieved in a single piece of research. The online medical library PubMed.gov enables people to find out if a subject is well studied or not. And the National Institutes of Health has a medical consensus program that has published more than 160 statements on various diseases and their treatments. Some of them are actually readable, and none relies solely on data from more than a century ago.

附录 2： 题源话题预测

第一章 社会类

第一节 合作的阴暗面

Between 2008 and 2015, groups of engineers at Volkswagen repeatedly faked car-engine emissions levels during laboratory tests. Engineers manipulated the vehicles to release pollutants at low levels in the lab so they could meet emissions standards in the U.S. and Europe. But when the cars hit the road, their emissions rates were much higher than allowable standards. The scam, dubbed "Dieselgate" in the press, had severe consequences.

Dieselgate is just one example of what researchers call "collaborative dishonesty." My colleagues and I pooled together data from many past studies to understand the forces that shape and underlie group dishonesty. Our work uncovered that unethical behavior is common in collaboration, but there are limits to the amount of lying that occurs—a finding that may help teams avoid falling into problematic behavior in the future.

We analyzed 34 relevant research articles that involved more than 10,000 participants altogether. In these experiments, scientists asked people to play economic games or carry out decision-making tasks while part of a team. The specific instructions varied from one study to the next, but across experiments, participants could gain money through honesty and teamwork. In addition, they had opportunities to earn some additional money as a group by lying.

Across all studies and tasks, we found that groups tended to lie. On average, they earned 35.6 percent of the extra profits available to them above what they could make from simply telling the truth. The good news is that there was a limit to this deceit, which suggests people care about moral considerations to some extent. Additionally, when studies added ethical costs for dishonesty, such as informing people that lies would harm other participants or have negative consequences for a charity donation, groups lied less. On top of that, we discovered that when it comes to collaborative dishonesty, the gender and age of the group members mattered. The more women that a group had, and the older the group members were, the less the group lied.

Collaborative dishonesty is clearly a hazard of group work. But our findings point to specific ways people could encourage honesty when groups work together. For instance, our discovery that collaborative dishonesty is contagious and escalates over time suggests that people should detect and act on early signs of dishonesty in groups. Several strategies could help. Managers can implement zero-tolerance policies toward even small acts of deceit to deter its escalation and spread. To increase early detection of dishonesty, they can put policies in place that forgive whistleblowers for their part in wrongdoing when they come forward about dishonest deeds. Finally, just as some managers ask their employees to report mistakes as soon as they occur to avoid larger downstream effects, a similar approach can be adopted when it comes to untruthful behavior. Catching collaborative dishonesty before it spreads could better nip it in the bud.

第二节 网络安全

It is impossible to know, in December 2021, how we will look back in five or 20 years' time at the period during which social media companies such as Meta (owner of Facebook) and Google were allowed to become some of the most powerful businesses in the world, with minimal regulation. But the online safety bill now working its way through the UK parliament should be a line in the sand. Evidence of the damage inflicted by these companies, which make vast amounts of money from advertising, is not new. But with the onslaught of anti-vaxx content during the pandemic, and shocking evidence from whistleblower Frances Haugen, who told legislators in the US and UK that Facebook's algorithms "make hate worse", the warnings have become harder to ignore.

The bill would create a new regulatory framework, and the prospect of named safety officers at the big digital businesses facing criminal prosecution if their employers break the law. The overall aim is to bring democratic accountability and oversight to a sphere of life that has to a shocking extent been allowed to operate without them. No longer will giants including Facebook and Google be allowed to regard themselves as neutral "platforms". Instead, they will be compelled to take far greater responsibility for the content that appears on their sites and feeds, and also for associated activity such as messaging.

Children are a key focus. Rightly, the MPs on the committee propose a broader age assurance framework, which would protect children's privacy and ensure that service providers treat them appropriately and differently from adults.

Transparency is another theme. Researchers and regulators must be granted more access to information, including about the operation of the algorithms that guide so many of our online "choices". More openness is also needed about the micro-targeting of advertisements.

There is a role for the information commissioner in relation to the use of personal data by advertisers. A dedicated digital media investigator is expected. The powers of the secretary of state for culture, Nadine Dorries, will be increased. But the lion's share of the new regulatory function will fall to Ofcom, which must cooperate with other regulators in order to do the job effectively, and will need qualified staff, sufficient resources and safeguards against regulatory capture.

This bill will not solve all the problems created by social media. But it could, if properly enforced, improve lives in the UK – and set a useful example internationally. These companies and their services have become an important part of billions of lives. The case for increased oversight is overwhelming.

第二章 科技类

第一节 人工智能医疗诊断

The different parts of a health-care system have different focuses. A hospital's dementia unit keeps records of patients' mental abilities. The stroke unit monitors blood flow in the brain. The cardiac unit is interested in that same flow, but through and from the heart. Each agglomeration of equipment and data is effective in its own domain, but for the most part has little relevance to other bits of the body and the conditions that plague them. Thus, like the proverbial blind men feeling an elephant, modern health care offers many fragmented pictures of a patient, but rarely a useful cohesive one.

On top of all this, the instruments that doctors use to monitor health are often expensive, as is the training required to wield them. That combined cost is too high for the medical system to scan regularly, for early signs of illness, all patients at risk of dementia, heart disease or a stroke. Rather, doctors work to manage symptoms after a disease has obviously taken hold.

An unusual research project called AlzEye, run from Moorfields Eye Hospital in London may change this. It is attempting to use the eye as a window through which to detect signals about the health of other organs. The doctors in charge of it are linking Moorfields' database of eye scans, which offer a detailed picture of the health of the retina, with information about other aspects of its patients' health garnered from other hospitals around England. This will allow them to look for signs of disease in the eye scans.

The data set includes every one of the 300,000 patients who visited Moorfields between 2008 and 2018 and was over the age of 40. The idea is to examine changes to people's eyes within that ten-year period, and correlate these with, say, the emergence of Alzheimer's disease in the same patient.

The doctors are searching for patterns in the eye that betray the emergence of disease elsewhere in the body, and are focusing first, as the name AlzEye suggests, on Alzheimer's disease. They will seek such patterns with the help of machine-learning algorithms that can crunch through imagery far faster than any human being, and which can spot far tinier variations. Although there is circumstantial evidence that the back of the eye does change as its owner develops Alzheimer's, it may be that the changes are too subtle to be detected reliably enough for diagnosis. If such patterns could be recognised reliably, though, the potential impact would be huge. Even in rich countries, between 50% and 80% of Alzheimer's cases go undiagnosed. Moreover, even if the technique does not work for Alzheimer's, it might work for something else. The doctors therefore plan further searches for patterns related to strokes and heart disease. Even one relevant pattern would constitute a remarkable diagnostic leap forward.

第二节 未来的工作

Innovations are not always welcome. In 1589 William Lee made his way to the English court, hoping to be granted a patent for his invention, a knitting machine. Howe ver Queen Elizabeth I turned him down for fearing it would deprive her subjects of employment. The fears of Queen Elizabeth I have echoed down the centuries —from the Luddites, who smashed textile machinery in the early 19th century, to John F. Kennedy, who warned of the dangers of automation during his presidential campaign of 1960. In the 21st century the concerns have switched to robots and artificial intelligence; 30% of American workers believe their jobs are likely to be replaced by robots and computer s in their lifetime.

Daniel Susskind has written about this issue before in one book, which focused on the threat posed by machine-learning to doctors, lawyers and the like. His new book is a much broader look at the economic and social consequences of aut omation.

In the past the relationship between machine and human labour has been driven by two factors: the substituting effect, which caused people to lose jobs, and the complementing effect, which allowed employees to do their work more productively. The author worries that, in the future, the substituting effect will dominate. Advances in AI have been so rapid that machines will eventually be better than people at most activities, he says, and so will be the "default choice" for performing them.

Mr Susskind thinks that this scenario will require a change in political thinking. Part of his answer would be a "conditional basic income", paid by the government and financed by taxes on the better-off. Rather than being universal, this would come with provisos: recipients would have to make some contribution to society, such as providing social care or teaching children.

This gloomy view of the impact of technology is plausible. But so is a more optimistic outlook, as the economist Roger Bootle argued that AI and robotics would improve productivity and economic growth, and release people from performing the most humdrum tasks. As for employment, there will always be demand for services with the human touch, just as there is an appetite for "artisanal" loaves as well as sliced white bread.

Which of these visions is right? Recent history has not vindicated either the optimists or the pessimists. Employment has surged in both America and Britain, suggesting that technology has not led to widespread labour replacement. On the other hand, growth in productivity has consistently been extremely disappointing, indicating that technology is not yielding the hoped-for increases in prosperity. Perhaps the truth is that it is impossible to be sure whether the latest advances will in the end have mainly benign or malign economic effects. Books like Mr Susskind's are a useful summary of the current debate on an important subject. But they are not crystal balls.

第三章 人文类

第一节 弹性工作制

Long before the 2020 pandemic made remote work a necessity, employees across Anglo-America said that they wanted more flexibility about where and when they work. A 2017 Gallup poll in the United States found that 51 per cent of workers would be willing to change jobs for one that allowed them some control over their hours, and 35 per cent for one in which the location was flexible. While flexibility was originally associated with women seeking to combine paid work with unpaid childcare, it's since become a key item on the list of desirable perks for all workers. In the 21st century, flexible work culture has found its peak in large tech companies that have embraced notions such as work-life balance, family-friendliness and employee wellness as guiding principles.

Yet even those employees who enjoy the benefits of flexibility have found that it doesn't necessarily mean their working lives have become easier or better. Flexibility can make it hard to draw boundaries around paid employment, and difficult to disaggregate work from the rest of the day. Nor has flexibility at work solved the pressing problems of child or eldercare, or shifted the gendered division of housework. The abrupt restructuring of daily working life for tens of millions due to the COVID-19 pandemic has also dramatised just how different 'flexible' work is in different contexts: liberating for some, imprisoning for others.

Modern-day flexible work policies didn't arise in a sudden moment of crisis, but from the slow burn of second-wave feminist activism. In the 1970s, even though growing numbers of women had entered the paid workforce, they continued to do a disproportionate share of the childcare and housework. In the consciousness-raising and campaign groups that cropped up in the US and Europe, women increasingly recognised that what felt 'merely' personal was, in fact, political. A new generation of activists pushed for changes in the structure and conditions of paid work. The idea was to render it more suited to the needs of workers with caring responsibilities and allow women of all backgrounds to participate in the economy on equal terms with men. Meanwhile, men would be urged to share more fully in maintaining home and family. Feminist activism for what we now call 'flexibility' was part of a vision for remaking communities and supporting the needs of workers as whole human beings.

In the decades since feminists first challenged the structures governing paid work, the vision at the heart of their campaigning has been lost. While employers have adopted some feminist ideas for reforming the workplace, for the most part they've strategically bracketed the question of who ends up looking after the children. Ironically, using feminists' ideas about transforming paid work has done more to contribute to a 24/7 work culture than it has to opening up new options for women.

第二节 英国的图书馆

Libraries are romantic yet prosaic places. The romance is that of reading, and the wealth of human imagining and learning that is contained in them. Access to the knowledge and literary art in a library is precious – and particularly valuable to young minds and people of any age with an interest in education. "The library was the place I went to find out what there was to know. It was absolutely essential," said the novelist Zadie Smith of her own early life. The prosaic side of libraries is more physical. This is the world of buildings, shelving, books as objects, library cards, fines, computers – and people with bodies that take up space as well as minds that can be opened.

It would be hard to find anyone who actively disapproves of libraries, and the principles of self-improvement and pleasure that libraries stand for. But when it comes to practicalities, Britain's libraries are on less solid ground. The sector has been cut massively in the past decade, with around 800 libraries across England, Scotland and Wales disappearing.

The first Covid lockdown prompted a new surge of interest in reading, as the idea took hold that people forced to stay at home would spend more time with their noses in books – both finding out more about viral pandemics and escaping from them. But the latest data regarding libraries is sobering reading for anyone who values them as bricks-and-mortar places to go, and as places to sit, use the internet, or seek advice from a librarian – as well as databases. The number of books borrowed in the year ending in March 2021 was 72.9m, down 56% on the previous year. Physical visits also collapsed, from 214.6m to 59.7m, with a glint of silver lining in the fact that website visits grew by 18% to 154.7m.

Of course, this is the behaviour that one would expect during a pandemic. Many libraries were closed during this period, while people were discouraged from unnecessary mixing. Book sales climbed to their highest in a decade in 2021, with fiction especially buoyant, which suggests that some former users of libraries may have bought books instead.

Like any other service, libraries need users. And while booksellers might in one sense be regarded as rivals, in fact the vast majority of those involved in the trade, from publishers to poets, are library lovers. This has something to do with the romantic notion of the reader as explorer, with every book a door to a new store of feeling or understanding. But it also embodies the recognition that if books are to form part of our mutual life, there must be space in the public realm for them. Books can be treasured possessions, but there is also something special about a copy that arrives in your hands having passed through those of others – and that will go on being passed between strangers who share your curiosity.

第四章 商经类

第一节 好莱坞巨星风光不再

Hollywood labour disputes have a certain theatrical flair. When Scarlett Johansson sued Disney in July, claiming she had been underpaid for her role in "Black Widow", the studio launched an Oscar-worthy attack on the actress's "insensitive disregard for the horrific and prolonged global effects of the covid-19 pandemic". When WarnerMedia decided to release "Dune" on its streaming service on the same day it hit cinemas on October 21st, the movie's director said indignantly that "to watch 'Dune' on a television is to drive a speedboat in your bathtub."

The streaming revolution has sent money gushing into Hollywood as studios vie to attract subscribers. According to Bloomberg, streaming firms' content spending could reach $50bn this year. Yet despite the generosity it is a turbulent time in Hollywood, as everyone from A-list stars to the crews who style their hair goes to war with the film studios. Some of the disputes have arisen from the pandemic, which has upended production and release schedules. But the tension has a deeper cause. As streaming disrupts the TV and movie business, the way talent is compensated is changing. Most workers are better off, but megastars' power is fading.

The streamers' payment model is creating new winners and losers. Creative stars used to get an upfront fee and a "back-end" deal that promised a share of the project's future earnings. For streamers, a show's value is harder to calculate, lying in its ability to recruit and retain subscribers rather than draw customers to the box office. Studios also want the freedom to send their content straight to streaming without arguing with a star like Ms Johansson, whose pay is linked to box-office takings. The upshot is that studios are following Netflix's lead in "buying out" talent with big upfront fees, followed by minimal if any bonuses if a project does well.

That suits most creatives just fine. Buy-outs have been very good for talent. Instead of waiting up to ten years for your money, you're getting it the day the show drops. For the top actors and writers, however, the new system is proving costly. The old contracts were like a "lottery ticket". Create a hit show that ran for six or seven seasons and you might earn $100m on the back end.

But streamers' unwillingness to venerate A-listers has an economic rationale. The star system was created by studios to de-risk the financially perilous business of movie-making. A blockbuster, which today might cost $200m to shoot plus the same in marketing, has one fleeting chance to break even at the box office. The gamble is less risky if a star guarantees an audience. Today, studios are de-risking their movies not with stars but with intellectual property. Disney, which dominates the box office, relies on franchises such as Marvel. Amazon's priciest project so far is a $465m "Lord of the Rings" spin-off with no megastar attached.

What's more, streaming's approach to generating hits is different. Whereas winning at the box office required betting big on a few mammoth projects, Netflix's method is more like a random walk where "hits" are first discovered by their users, then amplified by algorithms. Netflix served up 824 new episodes in the third quarter of this year, more than four times as many as Amazon Prime or Disney+. Its biggest success, "Squid Game", has a cast that is largely unknown outside South Korea. Competition is not limited to who has the best content; it also depends on who has the best tech for discovering it. In the new Hollywood, stars are neither made nor born: they are algorithmically generated.

第二节 商界中的空泛用语

Fire-fighting foam starves the flames of oxygen. A handful of overused words have the same deadening effect on people's ability to think. These are words like "innovation", "collaboration", "flexibility", "purpose" and "sustainability". They coat consultants' websites, blanket candidates' CVs and spray from managers' mouths. They are insipid to the point of being useless.

These words are ubiquitous in part because they are so hard to argue against. Who really wants to be the person making the case for silos? Which executive secretly thirsts to be chief stagnation officer? Is it even possible to have purposelessness as a goal? Just as Karl Popper, a philosopher, made falsifiability a test of whether a theory could be described as scientific, antonymy is a good way to work out whether an idea has any value. Unless its opposite could possibly have something to recommend it, a word is too woolly to be truly helpful.

Woolliness is the enemy of accuracy as well as utility. A word like "sustainability" is so fuzzy that it is used to encompass everything from a business that thinks sensibly about the long term to the end of capitalism. The lack of precision opens the door to grandstanding and greenwashing. Earlier this year Morningstar, a data provider, culled 1,200 funds from its European sustainable- investment list after a closer review of their prospectuses and annual reports.

Woolliness also smothers debate about whether you can have too much of a good thing. Take "innovation", for example. Too much innovation can be a turn-off for customers. A recent study from University of Cambridge looks at the effect of perceived novelty on the response of audiences to films. The researchers find that there is a sweet spot in experimentation, where films are distinctive enough to arouse curiosity but not so radical that they up-end expectations. In that space between "Home Alone 4" and "Tenet" lie the real moneymaking opportunities.

Innovation can also be trying for employees. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recently looked at factors that predicted high levels of reduction among companies' workforces. To their surprise, they found that employees were more likely to leave firms—like Tesla and Nvidia—with high levels of innovation. The authors hypothesise that the long hours and high pressure that typify innovative cultures can lead to higher staff turnover.

Traits like innovativeness are still qualities for firms to aspire to. And this is not an argument for constant qualification of what is meant: the one way to make "purpose" more annoying is to put the word "SMART" in front of it. But it is a plea for managers to use woolly words thoughtfully. They are not going away, but they do not have to suffocate mental activity.