2018 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（一）试题

Section I   Use of English

Trust is a tricky business. On the one hand, it's a necessary condition 1 many worthwhile things: child care, friendships, etc. On the other hand, putting your 2, in the wrong place often carries a high 3.

4, why do we trust at all? Well, because it feels good. 5 people place their trust in an individual or an institution, their brains release oxytocin, a hormone that 6 pleasurable feelings and triggers the herding instinct that prompts humans to 7 with one another. Scientists have found that exposure 8 this hormone puts us in a trusting 9: In a Swiss study, researchers sprayed oxytocin into the noses of half the subjects; those subjects were ready to lend significantly higher amounts of money to strangers than were their 10 who inhaled something else.

11 for us, we also have a sixth sense for dishonesty that may 12 us. A Canadian study found that children as young as 14 months can differentiate 13 a credible person and a dishonest one. Sixty toddlers were each 14 to an adult tester holding a plastic container. The tester would ask, "What's in here?" before looking into the container, smiling, and exclaiming, "Wow!" Each subject was then invited to look 15. Half of them found a toy; the other half 16 the container was empty-and realized the tester had 17 them.

Among the children who had not been tricked, the majority were 18 to cooperate with the tester in learning a new skill, demonstrating that they trusted his leadership. 19, only five of the 30 children paired with the "20"tester participated in a follow-up activity.

1. [A] on	[B] like	[C] for	[D] from
2. [A] faith	[B] concern	[C] attention	[D] interest
3. [A] benefit	[B] debt	[C] hope	[D] price
4. [A] Therefore	[B] Then	[C] Instead	[D] Again
5. [A] Until	[B] Unless	[C] Although	[D] When
6. [A] selects	[B] produces	[C] applies	[D] maintains
7. [A] consult	[B] compete	[C] connect	[D] compare
8. [A] at	[B] by	[C] of	[D] to
9. [A] context	[B] mood	[C] period	[D] circle
10.[A] counterparts	[B] substitutes	[C] colleagues	[D] supporters
11.[A] Funny	[B] Lucky	[C] Odd	[D] Ironic
12.[A] monitor	[B] protect	[C] surprise	[D] delight
13.[A] between	[B] within	[C] toward	[D] over
14.[A] transferred	[B] added	[C] introduced	[D] entrusted
15.[A] out	[B] back	[C] around	[D] inside
16.[A] discovered	[B] proved	[C] insisted	[D] remembered
17.[A] betrayed	[B] wronged	[C] fooled	[D] mocked
18.[A] forced	[B] willing	[C] hesitant	[D] entitled
19.[A] In contrast	[B] As a result	[C] On the whole	[D] For instance
20.[A] inflexible	[B] incapable	[C] unreliable	[D] unsuitable

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

Among the annoying challenges facing the middle class is one that will probably go unmentioned in the next presidential campaign: What happens when the robots come for their jobs?

Don't dismiss that possibility entirely. About half of U.S. jobs are at high risk of being automated, according to a University of Oxford study, with the middle class disproportionately squeezed. Lower-income jobs like gardening or day care don't appeal to robots. But many middle-class occupations－trucking, financial advice, software engineering—have aroused their interest, or soon will. The rich own the robots, so they will be fine.

This isn't to be alarmist. Optimists point out that technological upheaval has benefited workers in the past. The Industrial Revolution didn't go so well for Luddites whose jobs were displaced by mechanized looms, but it eventually raised living standards and created more jobs than it destroyed. Likewise, automation should eventually boost productivity, stimulate demand by driving down prices, and free workers from hard, boring work. But in the medium term, middle-class workers may need a lot of help adjusting.

The first step, as Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee argue in *The Second Machine Age*, should be rethinking education and job training. Curriculums—from grammar school to college－should evolve to focus less on memorizing facts and more on creativity and complex communication. Vocational schools should do a better job of fostering problem-solving skills and helping students work alongside robots. Online education can supplement the traditional kind. It could make extra training and instruction affordable. Professionals trying to acquire new skills will be able to do so without going into debt.

The challenge of coping with automation underlines the need for the U.S. to revive its fading business dynamism: Starting new companies must be made easier. In previous eras of drastic technological change, entrepreneurs smoothed the transition by dreaming up ways to combine labor and machines. The best uses of 3D printers and virtual reality haven't been invented yet. The U.S. needs the new companies that will invent them.

Finally, because automation threatens to widen the gap between capital income and labor income, taxes and the safety net will have to be rethought. Taxes on low-wage labor need to be cut, and wage subsidies such as the earned income tax credit should be expanded: This would boost incomes, encourage work, reward companies for job creation, and reduce inequality.

Technology will improve society in ways big and small over the next few years, yet this will be little comfort to those who find their lives and careers upended by automation. Destroying the machines that are coming for our jobs would be nuts. But policies to help workers adapt will be indispensable.

21. Who will be most threatened by automation?

[A] Leading politicians.　　　　[B] Low-wage laborers.

[C] Robot owners.　　　　[D] Middle-class workers.

22.Which of the following best represents the author's view?

[A] Worries about automation are in fact groundless.

[B] Optimists' opinions on new tech find little support.

[C] Issues arising from automation need to be tackled.

[D] Negative consequences of new tech can be avoided.

23. Education in the age of automation should put more emphasis on_____

[A] creative potential.　　　　[B] job-hunting skills.

[C] individual needs.　　　　[D] cooperative spirit.

24. The author suggests that tax policies be aimed at_____

[A] encouraging the development of automation.

[B] increasing the return on capital investment.

[C] easing the hostility between rich and poor.

[D] preventing the income gap from widening.

25. In this text, the author presents a problem with_____

[A] opposing views on it.　　　　[B] possible solutions to it.

[C] its alarming impacts.　　　　[D] its major variations.

Text 2

A new survey by Harvard University finds more than two-thirds of young Americans disapprove of President Trump's use of Twitter. The implication is that Millennials prefer news from the White House to be filtered through other sources, not a president's social media platform.

Most Americans rely on social media to check daily headlines. Yet as distrust has risen toward all media, people may be starting to beef up their media literacy skills. Such a trend is badly needed. During the 2016 presidential campaign, nearly a quarter of web content shared by Twitter users in the politically critical state of Michigan was fake news, according to the University of Oxford. And a survey conducted for BuzzFeed News found 44 percent of Facebook users rarely or never trust news from the media giant.

Young people who are digital natives are indeed becoming more skillful at separating fact from fiction in cyberspace. A Knight Foundation focus-group survey of young people between ages 14 and 24 found they use "distributed trust" to verify stories. They cross-check sources and prefer news from different perspectives—especially those that are open about any bias. "Many young people assume a great deal of personal responsibility for educating themselves and actively seeking out opposing viewpoints," the survey concluded.

Such active research can have another effect. A 2014 survey conducted in Australia, Britain, and the United States by the University of Wisconsin-Madison found that young people's reliance on social media led to greater political engagement.

Social media allows users to experience news events more intimately and immediately while also permitting them to re-share news as a projection of their values and interests. This forces users to be more conscious of their role in passing along information. A survey by Barna research group found the top reason given by Americans for the fake news phenomenon is "reader error," more so than made-up stories or factual mistakes in reporting. About a third say the problem of fake news lies in "misinterpretation or exaggeration of actual news" via social media. In other words, the choice to share news on social media may be the heart of the issue. "This indicates there is a real personal responsibility in counteracting this problem," says Roxanne Stone, editor in chief at Barna Group.

So when young people are critical of an over-tweeting president, they reveal a mental discipline in thinking skills—and in their choices on when to share on social media.

26. According to the Paragraphs 1 and 2, many young Americans cast doubts on_____
[A] the justification of the news-filtering practice.
[B] people's preference for social media platforms.
[C] the administration's ability to handle information.
[D] social media as a reliable source of news.

27. The phrase "beef up" (Line 2, Para. 2) is closest in meaning to_____
[A] sharpen   [B] define   [C] boast   [D] share

28. According to the Knight Foundation survey, young people_____
[A] tend to voice their opinions in cyberspace.
[B] verify news by referring to diverse sources.
[C] have a strong sense of responsibility.
[D] like to exchange views on "distributed trust"

29. The Barna survey found that a main cause for the fake news problem is_____
[A] readers' outdated values.
[B] journalists' biased reporting.
[C] readers' misinterpretation.
[D] journalists' made-up stories.

30. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?
[A] A Rise in Critical Skills for Sharing News Online
[B] A Counteraction Against the Over-tweeting Trend
[C] The Accumulation of Mutual Trust on Social Media
[D] The Platforms for Projection of Personal Interests

Text 3

Any fair-minded assessment of the dangers of the deal between Britain's National Health Service (NHS) and DeepMind must start by acknowledging that both sides mean well. DeepMind is one of the leading artificial intelligence (AI) companies in the world. The potential of this work

applied to healthcare is very great, but it could also lead to further concentration of power in the tech giants. It is against that background that the information commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, has issued her damning verdict against the Royal Free hospital trust under the NHS, which handed over to DeepMind the records of 1.6 million patients in 2015 on the basis of a vague agreement which took far too little account of the patients' rights and their expectations of privacy.

DeepMind has almost apologized. The NHS trust has mended its ways. Further arrangements －and there may be many－between the NHS and DeepMind will be carefully scrutinised to ensure that all necessary permissions have been asked of patients and all unnecessary data has been cleaned. There are lessons about informed patient consent to learn. But privacy is not the only angle in this case and not even the most important. Ms. Denham chose to concentrate the blame on the NHS trust, since under existing law it "controlled" the data and DeepMind merely "processed" it. But this distinction misses the point that it is processing and aggregation, not the mere possession of bits, that gives the data value.

The great question is who should benefit from the analysis of all the data that our lives now generate. Privacy law builds on the concept of damage to an individual from identifiable knowledge about them. That misses the way the surveillance economy works. The data of an individual there gains its value only when it is compared with the data of countless millions more.

The use of privacy law to curb the tech giants in this instance feels slightly maladapted. This practice does not address the real worry. It is not enough to say that the algorithms DeepMind develops will benefit patients and save lives. What matters is that they will belong to a private monopoly which developed them using public resources. If software promises to save lives on the scale that dugs now can, big data may be expected to behave as a big pharma has done. We are still at the beginning of this revolution and small choices now may turn out to have gigantic consequences later. A long struggle will be needed to avoid a future of digital feudalism. Ms. Denham's report is a welcome start.

31. What is true of the agreement between the NHS and DeepMind ?
[A] It caused conflicts among tech giants.
[B] It failed to pay due attention to patient's rights.
[C] It fell short of the latter's expectations.
[D] It put both sides into a dangerous situation.

32. The NHS trust responded to Denham's verdict with_____
[A] empty promises.   [B] tough resistance.
[C] necessary adjustments.   [D] sincere apologies.

33. The author argues in Paragraph 2 that_____
[A] privacy protection must be secured at all costs.
[B] leaking patients' data is worse than selling it.
[C] making profits from patients' data is illegal.
[D] the value of data comes from the processing of it.

34. According to the last paragraph, the real worry arising from this deal is_____

[A] the vicious rivalry among big pharmas.

[B] the ineffective enforcement of privacy law.

[C] the uncontrolled use of new software.

[D] the monopoly of big data by tech giants.

35. The author's attitude toward the application of AI to healthcare is_____

[A] ambiguous.　　[B] cautious.　　[C] appreciative.　　[D] contemptuous.

Text 4

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) continues to bleed red ink. It reported a net loss of $5.6 billion for fiscal 2016, the 10th straight year its expenses have exceeded revenue. Meanwhile, it has more than $120 billion in unfunded liabilities, mostly for employee health and retirement costs. There are many reasons this formerly stable federal institution finds itself on the verge of bankruptcy. Fundamentally, the USPS is in a historic squeeze between technological change that has permanently decreased demand for its bread-and-butter product, first-class mail, and a regulatory structure that denies management the flexibility to adjust its operations to the new reality.

And interest groups ranging from postal unions to greeting-card makers exert self-interested pressure on the USPS's ultimate overseer—Congress—insisting that whatever else happens to the Postal Service, aspects of the status quo they depend on get protected. This is why repeated attempts at reform legislation have failed in recent years, leaving the Postal Service unable to pay its bills except by deferring vital modernization.

Now comes word that everyone involved—Democrats, Republicans, the Postal Service, the unions and the system's heaviest users—has finally agreed on a plan to fix the system. Legislation is moving through the House that would save USPS an estimated $28.6 billion over five years, which could help pay for new vehicles, among other survival measures. Most of the money would come from a penny-per-letter permanent rate increase and from shifting postal retirees into Medicare. The latter step would largely offset the financial burden of annually pre-funding retiree health care, thus addressing a long-standing complaint by the USPS and its unions.

If it clears the House, this measure would still have to get through the Senate—where someone is bound to point out that it amounts to the bare, bare minimum necessary to keep the Postal Service afloat, not comprehensive reform. There's no change to collective bargaining at the USPS, a major omission considering that personnel accounts for 80 percent of the agency's costs. Also missing is any discussion of eliminating Saturday letter delivery. That common-sense change enjoys wide public support and would save the USPS $2 billion per year. But postal special-interest groups seem to have killed it, at least in the House. The emerging consensus around the bill is a sign that legislators are getting frightened about a politically embarrassing short-term collapse at the USPS. It is not, however, a sign that they're getting serious about transforming the postal system for the 21st century.

36. The financial problem with the USPS is caused partly by_____

[A] its unbalanced budget.

[B] its rigid management.

[C] the cost for technical upgrading.

[D] the withdrawal of bank support.

37. According to Paragraph 2, the USPS fails to modernize itself due to_____

[A] the interference from interest groups.

[B] the inadequate funding from Congress.

[C] the shrinking demand for postal service.

[D] the incompetence of postal unions.

38. The long-standing complaint by the USPS and its unions can be addressed by_____

[A] removing its burden of retiree health care.

[B] making more investment in new vehicles.

[C] adopting a new rate-increase mechanism.

[D] attracting more first-class mail users.

39. In the last paragraph, the author seems to view legislators with_____

[A] respect.   [B] tolerance.   [C] discontent.   [D] gratitude.

40. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

[A] The USPS Starts to Miss Its Good Old Days

[B] The Postal Service: Keep Away from My Cheese

[C] The USPS: Chronic Illness Requires a Quick Cure

[D] The Postal Service Needs More than a Band-Aid

Part B
Directions:

The following paragraphs are given in a wrong order. For Questions 41-45, you are required to reorganize these paragraphs into a coherent article by choosing from the list A-G and filling them into the numbered boxes. Paragraphs C and F have been correctly placed. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

[A] In December of 1869, Congress appointed a commission to select a site and prepare plans and cost estimates for a new State Department Building. The commission was also to consider possible arrangements for the War and Navy Departments. To the horror of some who expected a Greek Revival twin of the Treasury Building to be erected on the other side of the White House, the elaborate French Second Empire style design by Alfred Mullett was selected, and construction of a building to house all three departments began in June of 1871.

[B] Completed in 1875, the State Department's south wing was the first to be occupied, with its elegant four-story library (completed in 1876), Diplomatic Reception Room, and Secretary's office decorated with carved wood, Oriental rugs, and stenciled wall patterns. The Navy

Department moved into the east wing in 1879, where elaborate wall and ceiling stenciling and marquetry floors decorated the office of the Secretary.

[C] The State, War, and Navy Building, as it was originally known, housed the three Executive Branch Departments most intimately associated with formulating and conducting the nation's foreign policy in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century-the period when the United States emerged as an international power. The building has housed some of the nation's most significant diplomats and politicians and has been the scene of many historic events.

[D] Many of the most celebrated national figures have participated in historical events that have taken place within the EEOB's granite walls. Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Lyndon B. Johnson, Gerald Ford, and George H. W. Bush all had offices in this building before becoming president. It has housed 16 Secretaries of the Navy, 21 Secretaries of War, and 24 Secretaries of State. Winston Churchill once walked its corridors and Japanese emissaries met here with Secretary of State Cordell Hull after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

[E] The Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) commands a unique position in both the national history and the architectural heritage of the United States. Designed by Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Alfred B. Mullett, it was built from 1871 to 1888 to house the growing staffs of the State, War, and Navy Departments, and is considered one of the best examples of French Second Empire architecture in the country.

[F] Construction took 17 years as the building slowly rose wing by wing. When the EEOB was finished, it was the largest office building in Washington, with nearly 2 miles of black and white tiled corridors. Almost all of the interior detail is of cast iron or plaster; the use of wood was minimized to insure fire safety. Eight monumental curving staircases of granite with over 4,000 individually cast bronze balusters are capped by four skylight domes and two stained glass rotundas.

[G] The history of the EEOB began long before its foundations were laid. The first executive offices were constructed between 1799 and 1820. A series of fires (including those set by the British in 1814) and overcrowded conditions led to the construction of the existing Treasury Building. In 1866, the construction of the North Wing of the Treasury Building necessitated the demolition of the State Department building.

41.	C	42.	43.	F	44.	45.

Part C

Directions:

Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

Shakespeare's lifetime was coincident with a period of extraordinary activity and achievement in the drama. (46)By the date of his birth Europe was witnessing the passing of the religious drama, and the creation of new forms under the incentive of classical tragedy and comedy. These new forms were at first mainly written by scholars and performed by amateurs, but in England, as everywhere else in western Europe, the growth of a class of professional actors was threatening to make the drama popular, whether it should be new or old, classical or medieval, literary or farcical. Court, school, organizations of amateurs, and the traveling actors were all rivals in supplying a widespread desire for dramatic entertainment; and (47) no boy who went to a grammar school could be ignorant that the drama was a form of literature which gave glory to Greece and Rome and might yet bring honor to England.

When Shakespeare was twelve years old the first public playhouse was built in London. For a time literature showed no interest in this public stage. Plays aiming at literary distinction were written for school or court, or for the choir boys of St. Paul's and the royal chapel, who, however, gave plays in public as well as at court. (48) but the professional companies prospered in their permanent theaters, and university men with literary ambitions were quick to turn to these theaters as offering a means of livelihood. By the time Shakespeare was twenty-five, Lyly, Peele, and Greene had made comedies that were at once popular and literary; Kyd had written a tragedy that crowded the pit; and Marlowe had brought poetry and genius to triumph on the common stage—where they had played no part since the death of Euripides. (49)A native literary drama had been created, its alliance with the public playhouses established, and at least some of its great traditions had been begun.

The development of the Elizabethan drama for the next twenty-five years is of exceptional interest to students of literary history, for in this brief period we may trace the beginning, growth, blossoming, and decay of many kinds of plays, and of many great careers. We are amazed today at the mere number of plays produced, as well as by the number of dramatists writing at the same time for this London of two hundred thousand inhabitants. (50) To realize how great was the dramatic activity, we must remember further that hosts of plays have been lost, and that probably there is no author of note whose entire work has survived.

Section III Writing

Part A

51. Directions：

Write an email to all international experts on campus, inviting them to attend the graduation ceremony. In your email, you should include the time, place and other relevant information about the ceremony.

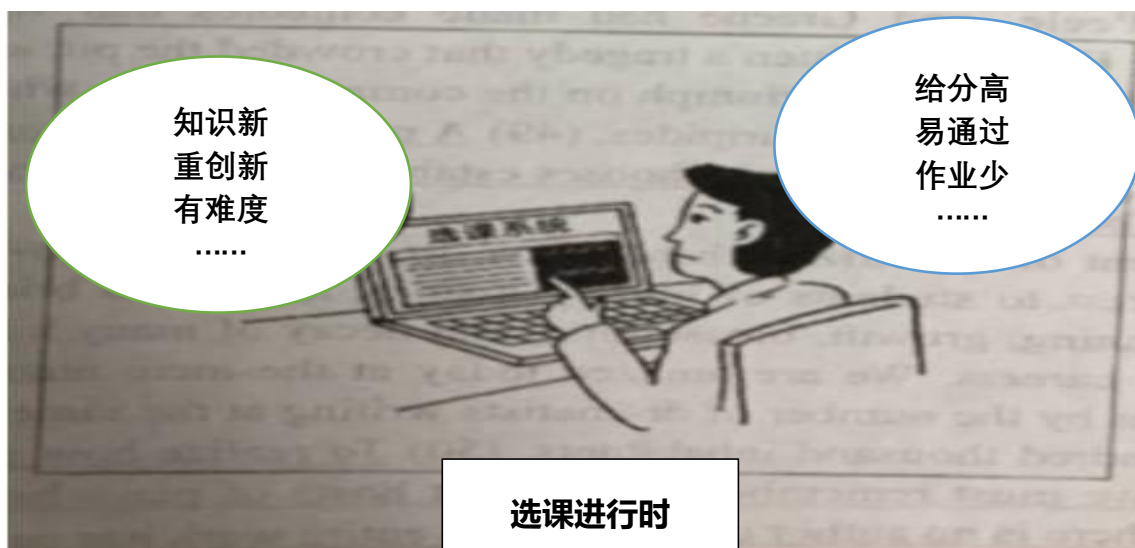You should write about 100 words neatly on the ANSWER SHEET.

Do not use your own name at the end of the email. Use "Li Ming" instead. (10 points)

Part B

52. Directions：

Write an essay of 160—200 words based on the following picture in your essay, you should

　1) describe the pictures briefly,

　2) interpret its intended meaning, and

　3) give your comments.

2019 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（一）试题

Section I Use of English

Today we live in a world where GPS systems, digital maps, and other navigation apps are available on our smart phones. __1__ of us just walk straight into the woods without a phone. But phones __2__ on batteries, and batteries can die faster than we realize. __3__ you get lost without a phone or a compass, and you __4__ can't find north, a few tricks to help you navigate __5__ to civilization, one of which is to follow the land...

When you find yourself well __6__ a trail, but not in a completely __7__ area, you have to answer two questions: Which __8__ is downhill, in this particular area? And where is the nearest water source? Humans overwhelmingly live in valleys, and on supplies of fresh water. __9__ , if you head downhill, and follow any H_2O you find, you should __10__ see signs of people.

If you've explored the area before, keep an eye out for familiar sights—you may be __11__ how quickly identifying a distinctive rock or tree can restore your bearings.

Another __12__ : Climb high and look for signs of human habitation. __13__ , even in dense forest, you should be able to __14__ gaps in the tree line due to roads, train tracks, and other paths people carve __15__ the woods. Head toward these __16__ to find a way out. At night, scan the horizon for __17__ light sources, such as fires and streetlights, then walk toward the glow of light pollution.

__18__ , assuming you're lost in an area humans tend to frequent, look for the __19__ we leave on the landscape. Trail blazes, tire tracks, and other features can __20__ you to civilization.

1. [A] Some   [B] Most   [C] Few   [D] All
2. [A] put   [B] take   [C] run   [D] come
3. [A] Since   [B] If   [C] Though   [D] Until
4. [A] formally   [B] relatively   [C] gradually   [D] literally
5. [A] back   [B] next   [C] around   [D] away
6. [A] onto   [B] off   [C] across   [D] alone
7. [A] unattractive [B] uncrowded   [C] unchanged   [D] unfamiliar
8. [A] site   [B] point   [C] way   [D] place
9. [A] So   [B] Yet   [C] Instead   [D] Besides
10. [A] immediately [B] intentionally [C] unexpectedly [D] eventually
11. [A] surprised   [B] annoyed   [C] frightened   [D] confused
12. [A] problem   [B] option   [C] view   [D] result
13. [A] Above all   [B] In contrast   [C] On average   [D] For example
14. [A] bridge   [B] avoid   [C] spot   [D] separate
15. [A] from   [B] through   [C] beyond   [D] under
16. [A] posts   [B] links   [C] shades   [D] breaks
17. [A] artificial   [B] mysterious   [C] hidden   [D] limited
18. [A] Finally   [B] Consequently [C] incidentally [D] Generally
19. [A] memories   [B] marks   [C] notes   [D] belongings
20. [A] restrict   [B] adopt   [C] lead   [D] expose

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. (40points)

Text 1

Financial regulators in Britain have imposed a rather unusual rule on the bosses of big banks. Starting next year, any guaranteed bonus of top executives could be delayed 10 years if their banks are under investigation for wrongdoing. The main purpose of this "clawback" rule is to hold bankers accountable for harmful risk-taking and to restore public trust in financial institutions. Yet officials also hope for a much larger benefit: more long term decision-making not only by banks but by all corporations, to build a stronger economy for future generations.

"Short-termism" or the desire for quick profits, has worsened in publicly traded companies, says the Bank of England's top economist, Andrew Haldane. He quotes a giant of classical economics, Alfred Marshall, in describing this financial impatience as acting like "children who pick the plums out of their pudding to eat them at once" rather than putting them aside to be eaten last.

The average time for holding a stock in both the United States and Britain, he notes, has dropped from seven years to seven months in recent decades. Transient investors, who demand high quarterly profits from companies, can hinder a firm's efforts to invest in long-term research or to build up customer loyalty. This has been dubbed "quarterly capitalism".

In addition, new digital technologies have allowed more rapid trading of equities, quicker use of information, and thus shorter attention spans in financial markets. "There seems to be a predominance of short-term thinking at the expense of long-term investing," said Commissioner Daniel Gallagher of the US Securities and Exchange Commission in a speech this week.

In the US, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has pushed most public companies to defer performance bonuses for senior executives by about a year, slightly helping reduce "short-termism." In its latest survey of CEO pay, The Wall Street Journal finds that "a substantial part" of executive pay is now tied to performance.

Much more could be done to encourage "long-termism," such as changes in the tax code and quicker disclosure of stock acquisitions. In France, shareholders who hold onto a company investment for at least two years can sometimes earn more voting rights in a company.

Within companies, the right compensation design can provide incentives for executives to think beyond their own time at the company and on behalf of all stakeholders. Britain's new rule is a reminder to bankers that society has an interest in their performance, not just for the short term but for the long term.

21. According to Paragraph 1, one motive in imposing the new rule is the_____.

[A] enhance banker's sense of responsibility

[B] help corporations achieve larger profits

[C] build a new system of financial regulation

[D] guarantee the bonuses of top executives

22. Alfred Marshall is quoted to indicate_____.

[A] the conditions for generating quick profits

[B] governments' impatience in decision-making

[C] the solid structure of publicly traded companies

[D] "short-termism" in economics activities

23. It is argued that the influence of transient investment on public companies can be_____.

[A] indirect

[B] adverse

[C] minimal

[D] temporary

24. The US and France examples are used to illustrate_____.

[A] the obstacles to preventing "short-termism".

[B] the significance of long-term thinking.

[C] the approaches to promoting "long-termism".

[D] the prevalence of short-term thinking.

25. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

[A] Failure of Quarterly Capitalism   [B] Patience as a Corporate Virtue

[C] Decisiveness Required of Top Executives   [D] Frustration of Risk-taking Bankers

Text 2

Grade inflation — the gradual increase in average GPAs (grade-point averages) over the past few decades — is often considered a product of a consumer era in higher education, in which students are treated like customers to be pleased. But another, related force — a policy often buried deep in course catalogs called "grade forgiveness" — is helping raise GPAs.

Grade forgiveness allows students to retake a course in which they received a low grade, and the most recent grade or the highest grade is the only one that counts in calculating a student's overall GPA.

The use of this little-known practice has accelerated in recent years, as colleges continue to do their utmost to keep students in school (and paying tuition) and improve their graduation rates. When this practice first started decades ago, it was usually limited to freshmen, to give them a second chance to take a class in their first year if they struggled in their transition to college-level courses. But now most colleges, save for many selective campuses, allow all undergraduates, and even graduate students, to get their low grades forgiven.

College officials tend to emphasize that the goal of grade forgiveness is less about the grade itself and more about encouraging students to retake courses critical to their degree program and graduation without incurring a big penalty. "Ultimately," said Jack Miner, Ohio State University's registrar, "we see students achieve more success because they retake a course and do better in subsequent courses or master the content that allows them to graduate on time."

That said, there is a way in which grade forgiveness satisfies colleges' own needs as well. For public institutions, state funds are sometimes tied partly to their success on metrics such as

graduation rates and student retention — so better grades can, by boosting figures like those, mean more money. And anything that raises GPAs will likely make students — who, at the end of the day, are paying the bill — feel they've gotten a better value for their tuition dollars, which is another big concern for colleges.

Indeed, grade forgiveness is just another way that universities are responding to consumers' expectations for higher education. Since students and parents expect a college degree to lead a job, it is in the best interest of a school to turn out graduates who are as qualified as possible — or at least appear to be. On this, students' and colleges' incentives seem to be aligned.

26. What is commonly regarded as the cause of grade inflation?
[A] The change of course catalogs.
[B] Students' indifference to GPAS.
[C] Colleges' neglect of GPAS.
[D] The influence of consumer culture.

27. What was the original purpose of grade forgiveness?
[A] To help freshmen adapt to college learning.
[B] To maintain colleges' graduation rates.
[C] To prepare graduates for a challenging future.
[D] To increase universities' income from tuition.

28. According to Paragraph 5, grade forgiveness enables colleges to_____.
[A] obtain more financial support   [B] boost their student enrollments
[C] improve their teaching quality   [D] meet local governments' needs

29. What does the phrase "to be aligned" (Line 4, Para.6) most probably mean?
[A] To counterbalance each other.   [B] To complement each other.
[C] To be identical with each other.   [D] To be contradictory to each other.

30. The author examines the practice of grade forgiveness by_____.
[A] assessing its feasibility   [B] analyzing the causes behind it
[C] comparing different views on it   [D] listing its long-run effects

Text 3

This year marks exactly two countries since the publication of "*Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, " by Mary Shelley. Even before the invention of the electric light bulb, the author produced a remarkable work of speculative fiction that would foreshadow many ethical questions to be raised by technologies yet to come.

Today the rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) raises fundamental questions: "What is intelligence, identify, or consciousness? What makes humans humans?"

What is being called artificial general intelligence, machines that would imitate the way humans think, continues to evade scientists. Yet humans remain fascinated by the idea of robots

that would look, move, and respond like humans, similar to those recently depicted on popular sci-fi TV series such as "Westworld" and "Humans".

Just how people think is still far too complex to be understood, let alone reproduced, says David Eagleman, a Stanford University neuroscientist. "We are just in a situation where there are no good theories explaining what consciousness actually is and how you could ever build a machine to get there."

But that doesn't mean crucial ethical issues involving AI aren't at hand. The coming use of autonomous vehicles, for example, poses thorny ethical questions. Human drivers sometimes must make split-second decisions. Their reactions may be a complex combination of instant reflexes, input from past driving experiences, and what their eyes and ears tell them in that moment. AI "vision" today is not nearly as sophisticated as that of humans. And to anticipate every imaginable driving situation is a difficult programming problem.

Whenever decisions are based on masses of data, "you quickly get into a lot of ethical questions," notes Tan Kiat How, chief executive of a Singapore-based agency that is helping the government develop a voluntary code for the ethical use of AI. Along with Singapore, other governments and mega-corporations are beginning to establish their own guidelines. Britain is setting up a data ethics center. India released its AI ethics strategy this spring.

On June 7 Google pledged not to "design or deploy AI" that would cause "overall harm," or to develop AI-directed weapons or use AI for surveillance that would violate international norms. It also pledged not to deploy AI whose use would violate international laws or human rights.

While the statement is vague, it represents one starting point. So does the idea that decisions made by AI systems should be explainable, transparent, and fair.

To put it another way: How can we make sure that the thinking of intelligent machines reflects humanity's highest values? Only then will they be useful servants and not Frankenstein's out-of-control monster.

31. Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* is mentioned because it_____

[A] fascinates AI scientists all over the world.

[B] has remained popular for as long as 200 years.

[C] involves some concerns raised by AI today.

[D] has sparked serious ethical controversies.

32. In David Eagleman's opinion, our current knowledge of consciousness_____

[A] helps explain artificial intelligence.

[B] can be misleading to robot making.

[C] inspires popular sci-fi TV series.

[D] is too limited for us to reproduce it.

33. The solution to the ethical issues brought by autonomous vehicles_____

[A] can hardly ever be found.

[B] is still beyond our capacity.

[C] causes little public concern.

[D] has aroused much curiosity.

34. The author's attitude toward Google's pledge is one of_____

[A] affirmation.　　[B] skepticism.　　[C] contempt.　[D] respect.

35. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

[A] AI's Future: In the Hands of Tech Giants

[B] *Frankenstein*, the Novel Predicting the Age of AI

[C] The Conscience of AI: Complex But Inevitable

[D] AI Shall Be Killers Once Out of Control

Text 4

States will be able to force more people to pay sales tax when they make online purchases under a Supreme Court decision Thursday that will leave shoppers with lighter wallets but is a big financial win for states.

The Supreme Court's opinion Thursday overruled a pair of decades-old decisions that states said cost them billions of dollars in lost revenue annually. The decisions made it more difficult for states to collect sales tax on certain online purchases.

The cases the court overturned said that if a business was shipping a customer's purchase to a state where the business didn't have a physical presence such as a warehouse or office, the business didn't have to collect sales tax for the state. Customers were generally responsible for paying the sales tax to the state themselves if they weren't charged it, but most didn't realize they owed it and few paid.

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that the previous decisions were flawed. "Each year the physical presence rule becomes further removed from economic reality and results in significant revenue losses to the States," he wrote in an opinion joined by four other justices. Kennedy wrote that the rule "limited states' ability to seek long-term prosperity and has prevented market participants from competing on an even playing field."

The ruling is a victory for big chains with a presence in many states, since they usually collect sales tax on online purchases already. Now, rivals will be charging sales tax where they hadn't before. Big chains have been collecting sales tax nationwide because they typically have physical stores in whatever state a purchase is being shipped to. Amazon.com, with its network of warehouses, also collects sales tax in every state that charges it, though third-party sellers who use the site don't have to.

Until now, many sellers that have a physical presence in only a single state or a few states have been able to avoid charging sales taxes when they ship to addresses outside those states. Sellers that use eBay and Etsy, which provide platforms for smaller sellers, also haven't been collecting sales tax nationwide. Under the ruling Thursday, states can pass laws requiring out-of-state sellers to collect the state's sales tax from customers and send it to the state.

 Retail trade groups praised the ruling, saying it levels the playing field for local and online businesses. The losers, said retail analyst Neil Saunders, are online-only retailers, especially smaller ones. Those retailers may face headaches complying with various state sales tax laws. The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council advocacy group said in a statement, "Small businesses and internet entrepreneurs are not well served at all by this decision."

36. The Supreme Court decision Thursday will_____.

[A] better business' relations with states

[B] put most online business in a dilemma

[C] make more online shoppers pay sales tax

[D] forces some states to cut sales tax

37. It can be learned from paragraphs 2 and 3 that the overruled decisions_____.

[A] have led to the dominance of e-commerce

[B] have cost consumers a lot over the years

[C] were widely criticized by online purchasers

[D] were considered unfavorable by states

38. According to Justice Anthony Kennedy, the physical presence rule has_____.

[A] hindered economic development

[B] brought prosperity to the country

[C] harmed fair market competition

[D] boosted growth in states' revenue

39. Who are most likely to welcome the Supreme Court ruling?

[A] Internet entrepreneurs.

[B] Big-chain owners.

[C] Third-party sellers.

[D] Small retailers.

40. In dealing with the Supreme Court decision Thursday, the author_____.

[A] gives a factual account of it and discusses its consequences

[B] describes the long and complicated process of its making

[C] presents its main points with conflicting views on them

[D] cites some cases related to it and analyzes their implications

Part B
Directions:

　　The following paragraphs are given in a wrong order. For Questions 41-45, you are required to reorganize these paragraphs into a coherent article by choosing from the list A-G and filling them into the numbered boxes. Paragraphs C and F have been correctly placed. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

[A] These tools can help you win every argument-not in the unhelpful sense of beating your opponents but in the better sense of learning about the issues that divide people. Learning why they disagree with us and learning to talk and work together with them. If we readjust our view of arguments—from a verbal fight or tennis game to a reasoned exchange through which we all gain mutual respect, and understanding—then we change the very nature of what it means to "win" an argument.

[B] Of course, many discussions are not so successful. Still, we need to be careful not to accuse opponents of bad arguments too quickly. We need to learn how to evaluate them properly. A large part of evaluation is calling out bad arguments, but we also need to admit good arguments by opponents and to apply the same critical standards to ourselves. Humility requires you to recognize weakness in your own arguments and sometimes also to accept reasons on the opposite side.

[C] None of these will be easy but you can start even if others refuse to. Next time you state your position, formulate an argument for what you claim and honestly ask yourself whether your argument is any good. Next time you talk with someone who takes a stand, ask them to give you a reason for their view. Spell out their argument fully and charitably. Assess its strength impartially. Raise objections and listen carefully to their replies.

[D] Carnegie would be right if arguments were fights, which is how we often think of them. Like physical fights, verbal fights can leave both sides bloodied. Even when you win, you end up no better off. Your prospects would be almost as dismal if arguments were even just competitions-like, say, tennis games. Paris of opponents hit the ball back and forth until one winner emerges from all who entered. Everybody else loses. This kind of thinking is why so many people try to avoid arguments, especially about politics and religion.

[E] In his 1936 work How to Win Friends and Influence People , Dale Carnegie wrote: "there is only one way…to get the best of an argument-and that is to avoid it." This aversion to arguments is common, but it depends on a mistaken view of arguments that causes profound problems for our personal and social lives- and in many ways misses the point of arguing in the first place.

[F] These views of arguments also undermine reason. If you see a conversation as a fight or competition, you can win by cheating as long as you don't get caught. You will be happy to convince people with bad arguments. You can call their views stupid, or joke about how ignorant they are. None of these tricks will help you understand them, their positions or the issues that divide you, but they can help you win-in one way.

[G] There is a better way to win arguments. Imagine that you favor increasing the minimum wage in our state, and I do not. If you yell, "yes," and I yell. "No," neither of us learns anything. We neither understand nor respect each other, and we have no basis for compromise or cooperation. In contrast, suppose you give a reasonable argument: that full-time workers should not have to live in poverty. Then I counter with another reasonable argument: that a higher minimum wage will force businesses to employ fewer people for less time. Now we can understand each other's positions and recognize our shared values, since we both care about needy workers.

41.　　→42.　　　→F→43.　　→44.　　→C→45.

Part C
Directions:

Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

It was only after I started to write a weekly column about the medical journals, and began to read scientific papers from beginning to end, that I realised just how bad much of the medical literature frequently was. I came to recognise various signs of a bad paper: the kind of paper that purports to show that people who eat more than one kilo of broccoli a week were 1.17 times more likely than those who eat less to suffer late in life from pernicious anaemia. (46) There is a great deal of this kind of nonsense in the medical journals which, when taken up by broadcasters and the lay press, generates both health scares and short-lived dietary enthusiasms.

Why is so much bad science published? A recent paper, titled "The Natural Selection of Bad Science", published on the Royal Society's open science website, attempts to answer this intriguing and important question. It says that the problem is not merely that people do bad science, but that our current system of career advancement positively encourages it. What is important is not truth, but publication, which has become almost an end in itself. There has been a kind of inflationary process at work: (47) nowadays anyone applying for a research post has to have published twice the number of papers that would have been required for the same post only 10 years ago. Never mind the quality, then, count the number.

(48) Attempts have been made to curb this tendency, for example, by trying to incorporate some measure of quality as well as quantity into the assessment of an applicant's papers. This is the famed citation index, that is to say the number of times a paper has been quoted elsewhere in the scientific literature, the assumption being that an important paper will be cited more often than one of small account. (49) This would be reasonable if it were not for the fact that scientists can easily arrange to cite themselves in their future publications, or get associates to do so for them in return for similar favours.

Boiling down an individual's output to simple metrics, such as number of publications or journal impacts, entails considerable savings in time, energy and ambiguity. Unfortunately, the long-term costs of using simple quantitative metrics to assess researcher merit are likely to be quite great. (50) If we are serious about ensuring that our science is both meaningful and reproducible, we must ensure that our institutions encourage that kind of science.

Section III Writing

Part A

51. Directions:

Suppose you are working for the "Aiding Rural Primary School" project of your university. Write an email to answer the inquiry from an international student volunteer, specifying details of the project.

Do not sign your own name at the end of the email. Use "Li Ming" instead. (10 points)

Part B

52. Directions:

Write an essay of 160-200 words based on the following picture. In your essay, you should

1) describe the picture briefly,

2) interpret the meaning, and

3) give your comments.

You should write neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (20 points)

途 中

2020 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（一）试题

Section I   Use of English

Even if families don't sit down to eat together as frequently as before, millions of Britons will nonetheless have got a share this weekend of one of that nation's great traditions: the Sunday roast.<u>1</u> a cold winter's day, few culinary pleasures can <u>2</u> it. Yet as we report now, the food police are determined that this <u>3</u> should be rendered yet another guilty pleasure <u>4</u> to damage our health.

The Food Standards Authority (FSA) has <u>5</u> a public warning about the risks of a compound called acrylamide that forms in some foods cooked <u>6</u> high temperatures. This means that people should <u>7</u> crisping their roast potatoes, reject thin -crust pizzas and only <u>8</u> toast their bread. But where is the evidence to support such alarmist advice? <u>9</u> studies have shown that acrylamide can cause neurological damage in mice, there is no <u>10</u> evidence that it causes cancer in humans.

Scientists say the compound is <u>11</u> to cause cancer but have no hard scientific proof. <u>12</u> the precautionary principle it could be argued that it is <u>13</u> to follow the FSA advice. <u>14,</u> it was rumoured that smoking caused cancer for years before the evidence was found to prove a <u>15</u>.

Doubtless a piece of boiled beef can always be <u>16</u> up on Sunday alongside some steamed vegetables, without the Yorkshire pudding and no wine. But would life be worth living? <u>17</u>, the FSA says it is not telling people to cut out roast foods <u>18</u>, but reduce their lifetime intake. However, their <u>19</u> risks coming a cross as being pushy and overprotective. Constant health scares just <u>20</u> with no one listening.

1. [A] In [B] Towards [C] On [D] Till
2. [A] match [B] express [C] satisfy [D] influence
3. [A] patience [B] enjoyment [C] surprise [D] concern
4. [A] intensified [B] privileged [C] compelled [D] guaranteed
5. [A] issued [B] received [C] ignored [D] cancelled
6. [A] under [B] at [C] for [D] by
7. [A] forget [B] regret [C] finish [D] avoid
8. [A] partially [B] regularly [C] easily [D] initially
9. [A] Unless [B] Since [C] If [D] While
10.[A] secondary [B] external [C] conclusive [D] negative
11.[A] insufficient [B] bound [C] likely [D] slow
12.[A] On the basis of [B] At the cost of [C] In addition to [D] In contrast to
13.[A] interesting [B] advisable [C] urgent [D] fortunate
14.[A] As usual [B] In particular [C] By definition [D] After all
15.[A] resemblance [B] combination [C] connection [D] pattern
16.[A] made [B] served [C] saved [D] used
17.[A] To be fair [B] For instance [C] To be brief [D] In general
18.[A] reluctantly [B] entirely [C] gradually [D] carefully
19.[A] promise [B] experience [C] campaign [D] competition
20.[A] follow up [B] pick up [C] open up [D] end up

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

A group of labour MPs, among them Yvette Cooper, are bringing in the new year with a call to institute a UK "town of culture" award. The proposal is that it should sit alongside the existing city of culture title, which was held by Hull in 2017 and has been awarded to Coventry for 2021. Cooper and her colleagues argue that the success of the crown for Hull, where it brought in £220m of investment and an avalanche of arts, ought not to be confined to cities. Britain's towns, it is true, are not prevented from applying, but they generally lack the resources to put together a bit to beat their bigger competitors. A town of culture award could, it is argued, become an annual event, attracting funding and creating jobs.

Some might see the proposal as a booby prize for the fact that Britain is no longer be able to apply for the much more prestigious title of European capital of culture, a sought-after award bagged by Glasgow in 1990 and Liverpool in 2008. A cynic might speculate that the UK is on the verge of disappearing into an endlessly regressive frenzy of self-celebration in its desperation to reinvent itself for the post-Brexit world: after town of culture, who knows what will follow—village of culture? Suburb of culture? Hamlet of culture?

It is also wise to recall that such titles are not a cure-all. A badly run "year of culture" washes in and out of a place like the tide, bringing prominence for a spell but leaving no lasting benefits to the community. The really successful holders of such titles are those that do a great deal more than fill hotel bedrooms and bring in high-profile arts events and good press for a year. They transform the aspirations of the people who live there; they nudge the self-image of the city into a bolder and more optimistic light. It is hard to get right, and requires a remarkable degree of vision, as well as cooperation between city authorities, the private sector, community groups and cultural organisations. But it can be done: Glasgow's year as European capital of culture can certainly be seen as one of complex series of factors that have turned the city into the powerhouse of art, music and theatre that it remains today.

A "town of culture" could be not just about the arts but about honouring a town's peculiarities—helping sustain its high street, supporting local facilities and above all celebrating its people and turn it into action.

21. Cooper and her colleagues argue that a "town of culture" award could_____
[A] consolidate the town-city ties in Britain.
[B] promote cooperation among Britain's towns.
[C] increase the economic strength of Britain's towns.
[D] focus Britain's limited resources on cultural events.

22. According to Paragraph 2, the proposal might be regarded by some as_____
[A] a sensible compromise.　　　　[B] a self-deceiving attempt.
[C] an eye-catching bonus.　　　　[D] an inaccessible target.

23. The author suggests that a title holder is successful only if it_____

[A] endeavours to maintain its image.

[B] meets the aspirations of its people.

[C] brings its local arts to prominence.

[D] commits to its long-term growth.

24. Glasgow is mentioned in Paragraph 3 to present_____

[A] a contrasting case.   [B] a supporting example.

[C] a background story.   [D] a related topic.

25. What is the author's attitude towards the proposal?

[A] Skeptical   [B] Objective   [C] Favourable   [D] Critical

Text 2

Scientific publishing has long been a licence to print money. Scientists need journals in which to publish their research, so they will supply the articles without monetary reward. Other scientists perform the specialised work of peer review also for free, because it is a central element in the acquisition of status and the production of scientific knowledge.

With the content of papers secured for free, the publisher needs only find a market for its journal. Until this century, university libraries were not very price sensitive. Scientific publishers routinely report profit margins approaching 40% on their operations, at a time when the rest of the publishing industry is in an existential crisis.

The Dutch giant Elsevier, which claims to publish 25% of the scientific papers produced in the world, made profits of more than £900m last year, while UK universities alone spent more than £210m in 2016 to enable researchers to access their own publicly funded research; both figures seem to rise unstoppably despite increasingly desperate efforts to change them.

The most drastic, and thoroughly illegal, reaction has been the emergence of Sci-Hub, a kind of global photocopier for scientific papers, set up in 2012, which now claims to offer access to every paywalled article published since 2015. The success of Sci-Hub, which relies on researchers passing on copies they have themselves legally accessed, shows the legal ecosystem has lost legitimacy among its users and must be transformed so that it works for all participants.

In Britain the move towards open access publishing has been driven by funding bodies. In some ways it has been very successful. More than half of all British scientific research is now published under open access terms: either freely available from the moment of publication, or paywalled for a year or more so that the publishers can make a profit before being placed on general release.

Yet the new system has not worked out any cheaper for the universities. Publishers have responded to the demand that they make their product free to readers by charging their writers fees to cover the costs of preparing an article. These range from around £500 to $5,000. A report last year pointed out that the costs both of subscriptions and of these "article preparation costs" had been steadily rising at a rate above inflation. In some ways the scientific publishing model resembles the economy of the social Internet: labour is provided free in exchange for the hope of status, while huge profits are made by a few big firms who run the market places. In both cases,

we need a rebalancing of power.

26. Scientific publishing is seen as "a licence to print money" partly because_____
[A] its funding has enjoyed a steady increase.
[B] its marketing strategy has been successful.
[C] its payment for peer review is reduced.
[D] its content acquisition costs nothing.

27. According to Paragraphs 2 and 3, scientific publishers Elsevier have_____
[A] thrived mainly on university libraries.
[B] gone through an existential crisis.
[C] revived the publishing industry.
[D] financed researchers generously.

28. How does the author feel about the success of Sci-Hub?
[A] Relieved.　　　[B] Puzzled.　　　[C] Concerned.　　　[D] Encouraged.

29. It can be learned from Paragraphs 5 and 6 that open access terms_____
[A] allow publishers some room to make money.
[B] render publishing much easier for scientists.
[C] reduce the cost of publication substantially.
[D] free universities from financial burdens.

30. Which of the following characterises the scientific publishing model?
[A] Trial subscription is offered.　　　　[B] Labour triumphs over status.
[C] Costs are well controlled.　　　　　 [D] The few feed on the many.

Text 3

Progressives often support diversity mandates as a path to equality and a way to level the playing field. But all too often such policies are an insincere form of virtue-signaling that benefits only the most privileged and does little to help average people.

A pair of bills sponsored by Massachusetts state Senator Jason Lewis and House Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad, to ensure "gender parity" on boards and commissions, provide a case in point.

Haddad and Lewis are concerned that more than half the state-government boards are less than 40 percent female. In order to ensure that elite women have more such opportunities, they have proposed imposing government quotas. If the bills become law, state boards and commissions will be required to set aside 50 percent of board seats for women by 2022.

The bills are similar to a measure recently adopted in California, which last year became the first state to require gender quotas for private companies. In signing the measure, California Governor Jerry Brown admitted that the law, which expressly classifies people on the basis of sex, is probably unconstitutional.

The US Supreme Court frowns on sex-based classifications unless they are designed to

address an "important" policy interest. Because the California law applies to all boards, even where there is no history of prior discrimination, courts are likely to rule that the law violates the constitutional guarantee of "equal protection".

But are such government mandates even necessary? Female participation on corporate boards may not currently mirror the percentage of women in the general population, but so what?

The number of women on corporate boards has been steadily increasing without government interference. According to a study by Catalyst, between 2010 and 2015 the share of women on the boards of global corporations increased by 54 percent.

Requiring companies to make gender the primary qualification for board membership will inevitably lead to less experienced private sector boards. That is exactly what happened when Norway adopted a nationwide corporate gender quota.

Writing in *The New Republic*, Alice Lee notes that increasing the number of opportunities for board membership without increasing the pool of qualified women to serve on such boards has led to a "golden skirt" phenomenon, where the same elite women scoop up multiple seats on a variety of boards.

Next time somebody pushes corporate quotas as a way to promote gender equity, remember that such policies are largely self-serving measures that make their sponsors feel good but do little to help average women.

31. The author believes that the bills sponsored by Lewis and Haddad will_____
[A] help little to reduce gender bias.
[B] pose a threat to the state government.
[C] raise women's position in politics.
[D] greatly broaden career options.

32. Which of the following is true of the California measure?
[A] It has irritated private business owners.
[B] It is welcomed by the Supreme Court.
[C] It may go against the Constitution.
[D] It will settle the prior controversies.

33. The author mentions the study by Catalyst to illustrate_____
[A] the harm from arbitrary board decision.
[B] the importance of constitutional guarantees.
[C] the pressure on women in global corporations.
[D] the needlessness of government interventions.

34. Norway's adoption of a nationwide corporate gender quota has led to_____
[A] the underestimation of elite women's role
[B] the objection to female participation on boards.
[C] the entry of unqualified candidates into the board.
[D] the growing tension between labor and management.

35. Which of the following can be inferred from the text?

[A] Women's need in employment should be considered.

[B] Feasibility should be a prime concern in policymaking.

[C] Everyone should try hard to promote social justice.

[D] Major social issues should be the focus of legislation.

Text 4

Last Thursday, the French Senate passed a digital services tax, which would impose an entirely new tax on large multinationals that provide digital services to consumers or users in France. Digital services include everything from providing a platform for selling goods and services online to targeting advertising based on user data, and the tax applies to gross revenue from such services. Many French politicians and media outlets have referred to this as a "GAFA tax", meaning that it is designed to apply primarily to companies such as Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon—in other words, multinational tech companies based in the United States.

The digital services tax now awaits the signature of President Emmanuel Macron, who has expressed support for the measure, and it could go into effect within the next few weeks. But it has already sparked significant controversy, with the United States trade representative opening an investigation into whether the tax discriminates against American companies, which in turn could lead to trade sanctions against France.

The French tax is not just a unilateral move by one country in need of revenue. Instead, the digital services tax is part of a much larger trend, with countries over the past few years proposing or putting in place an alphabet soup of new international tax provisions. These have included Britain's DPT (diverted profits tax), Australia's MAAL (multinational anti-avoidance law), and India's SEP (significant economic presence) test, to name but a few. At the same time, the European Union, Spain, Britain and several other countries have all seriously contemplated digital services taxes.

These unilateral developments differ in their specifics, but they are all designed to tax multinationals on income and revenue that countries believe they should have a right to tax, even if international tax rules do not grant them that right. In other words, they all share a view that the international tax system has failed to keep up with the current economy.

In response to these many unilateral measures, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is currently working with 131 countries to reach a consensus by the end of 2020 on an international solution. Both France and the United States are involved in the organization's work, but France's digital services tax and the American response raise questions about what the future holds for the international tax system.

France's planned tax is a clear warning: Unless a broad consensus can be reached on reforming the international tax system, other nations are likely to follow suit, and American companies will face a cascade of different taxes from dozens of nations that will prove burdensome and costly.

36. The French Senate has passed a bill to_____

[A] regulate digital services platforms.

[B] protect French companies' interests.

[C] impose a levy on tech multinationals.

[D] curb the influence of advertising.

37. It can be learned from Paragraph 2 that the digital services tax_____

[A] may trigger countermeasures against France.

[B] is apt to arouse criticism at home and abroad.

[C] aims to ease international trade tensions.

[D] will prompt the tech giants to quit France.

38. The countries adopting the unilateral measures share the opinion that_____

[A] redistribution of tech giants' revenue must be ensured.

[B] the current international tax system needs upgrading.

[C] tech multinationals' monopoly should be prevented.

[D] all countries ought to enjoy equal taxing rights.

39. It can be learned from Paragraph 5 that the OECO's current work_____

[A] is being resisted by US companies.　　　　[B] needs to be readjusted immediately.

[C] is faced with uncertain prospects.　　　　[D] needs to involve more countries.

40. Which of the following might be the best title for this text?

[A] France Is Confronted with Trade Sanctions

[B] France leads the Charge on Digital Tax

[C] France Says "NO" to Tech Multinationals

[D] France Demands a Role in the Digital Economy

Part B

Directions:

In the following text, some sentences have been removed. For Questions 41-45, choose the most suitable one from the fist A-G to fit into each of the numbered blanks. There are two extra choices, which do not fit in any of the gaps. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

[A] Eye fixations are brief.

[B] Too much eye contact is instinctively felt to be rude.

[C] Eye contact can be a friendly social signal.

[D] Personality can affect how a person reacts to eye contact.

[E] Biological factors behind eye contact are being investigated.

[F] Most people are not comfortable holding eye contact with strangers.

[G] Eye contact can also be aggressive.

In a social situation, eye contact with another person can show that you are paying attention in a friendly way. But it can also be antagonistic such as when a political candidate turns toward their competitor during a debate and makes eye contact that signals hostility. Here's what hard science reveals about eye contact:

41._____

We know that a typical infant will instinctively gaze into its mother's eyes, and she will look back. This mutual gaze is a major part of the attachment between mother and child. In adulthood, looking someone else in a pleasant way can be a complimentary sign of paying attention. It can catch someone's attention in a crowded room, "Eye contact and smile" can signal availability and confidence, a common-sense notion supported in studies by psychologist Monica Moore.

42._____

Neuroscientist Bonnie Augeung found that the hormone oxytocin increased the amount of eye contact from men toward the interviewer during a brief interview when the direction of their gaze was recorded. This was also found in high-functioning men with some autistic spectrum symptoms, who may tend to avoid eye contact. Specific brain regions that respond during direct gaze are being explored by other researches, using advanced methods of brain scanning.

43._____

With the use of eye-tracking technology, Julia Minson of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government concluded that eye contact can signal very different kinds of messages, depending on the situation. While eye contact may be a sign of connection or trust in friendly situations, it's more likely to be associated with dominance or intimidation in adversarial situations. "Whether you're a politician or a parent, it might be helpful to keep in mind that trying to maintain eye contact may backfire if you're trying to convince someone who has a different set of beliefs than you," said Minson.

44._____

When we look at a face or a picture, our eyes pause on one spot at a time, often on the eyes or mouth. These pauses typically occur at about three per second, and the eyes then jump to another spot, until several important points in the image are registered like a series of snapshots. How the whole image is then assembled and perceived is still a mystery although it is the subject of current research.

45._____

In people who score high in a test of neuroticism, a personality dimension associated with self-consciousness and anxiety, eye contact triggered more activity associated with avoidance, according to the Finnish researcher Jari Hietanen and colleagues. "Our findings indicate that people do not only feel different when they are the centre of attention but that their brain reactions also differ." A more direct finding is that people who scored high for negative emotions like anxiety looked at others for shorter periods of time and reported more comfortable feelings when others did not look directly at them.

Part C

Directions: Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

Following the explosion of creativity in Florence during the 14h century known as the Renaissance, the modern world saw a departure from what it had once known. It turned from God and the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and instead favoured a more humanistic approach to being. Renaissance ideas had spread throughout Europe well into the 17h century, with the arts and sciences flourishing extraordinarily among those with a more logical disposition. (46) with the Church's teachings and ways of thinking being eclipsed by the Renaissance, the gap between the Medieval and modern periods had been bridged, leading to new and unexplored intellectual territories.

During the Renaissance, the great minds of Nicolaus Copernicus, Johannes Kepler and Galileo Galilei demonstrated the power of scientific study and discovery. (47) Before each of their revelations, many thinkers at the time had sustained more ancient ways of thinking, including the geocentric view that the Earth was at the centre of our universe. Copernicus theorized in 1543 that all of the planets that we knew of revolved not around the Earth, but the Sun, a system that was later upheld by Galileo at his own expense. Offering up such a theory during a time of high tension between scientific and religious minds was branded as heresy and any such heretics that continued to spread these lies were to be punished by imprisonment or even death.

(48) Despite attempts by the Church to suppress this new generation of logicians and rationalists, more explanations for how the universe functioned were being made at a rate that the people could no longer ignore.

It was with these great revelations that a new kind of philosophy founded in reason was born.

The Church's long-standing dogma was losing the great battle for truth to rationalists and scientists. This very fact embodied the new ways of thinking that swept through Europe during most of 17h century. (49) As many took on the duty of trying to integrate reasoning and scientific philosophies into the world, the Renaissance was over and it was time for a new era一the Age of Reason.

The 17th and 18th centuries were times of radical change and curiosity. Scientific method, reductionism and the questioning of Church ideals was to be encouraged, as were ideas of liberty, tolerance and progress. (50) Such actions to seek knowledge and to understand what information we already knew were captured by the Latin phrase "sapere aude" or "dare to know", after Immanuel Kant used it in his essay "An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?". It was the purpose and responsibility of great minds to go forth and seek out the truth, which they believed to be founded in knowledge.

Section III Writing

Part A

51. Directions:

The Student Union of your university has assigned you to inform the international students about an upcoming singing contest. Write a notice in about 100 words.

Write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET.

Do not use your own name in the notice. (10 points)

Part B

52. Directions:

Write an essay of 160-200 words based on the pictures below. In your essay, you should

1) describe the pictures briefly,

2) interpret the implied meaning, and

3) give your comments.

Write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET. (20 points)

习惯

2021 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语（一）试题

Section I Use of English

Fluid intelligence is the type of intelligence that has to do with short-term memory and the ability to think quickly, logically, and abstractly in order to solve new problems. It_1_in young adulthood, levels out for a period of time, and then_2_starts to slowly decline as we age. But_3_ aging is inevitable, scientists are finding that certain changes in brain function may not be.

One study found that muscle loss and the_4_of body fat around the abdomen are associated with a decline in fluid intelligence. This suggests the_5_that lifestyle factors might help prevent or _6_this type of decline.

The researchers looked at data that_7_measurements of lean muscle and abdominal fat from more than 4,000 middle-to-older-aged men and women and_8_that data to reported changes in fluid intelligence over a six-year period. They found that middle-aged people_9_higher measures of abdominal fat_10_worse on measures of fluid intelligence as the years_11_.

For women, the association may be_12_to changes in immunity that resulted from excess abdominal fat; in men, the immune system did not appear to be_13_. It is hoped that future studies could_14_these differences and perhaps lead to different_15_for men and women.

_16_there are steps you can_17_to help reduce abdominal fat and maintain lean muscle mass as you age in order to protect both your physical and mental_18. The two highly recommended lifestyle approaches are maintaining or increasing your_19_of aerobic exercise and following Mediterranean-style_20_that is high in fiber and eliminates highly processed foods.

1. [A] pauses	[B] return	[C] peaks	[D] fades
2. [A] alternatively	[B] formally	[C] accidentally	[D] generally
3. [A] while	[B] since	[C] once	[D] until
4. [A] detection	[B] accumulation	[C] consumption	[D] separation
5.[A] possibility	[B] decision	[C] goal	[D] requirement
6. [A] delay	[B] ensure	[C] seek	[D] utilize
7. [A] modify	[B] supported	[C] included	[D] predicted
8. [A] devoted	[B] compared	[C] converted	[D] applied
9.[A] with	[B] above	[C] by	[D] against
10.[A] lived	[B] managed	[C] scored	[D] played
11.[A] ran out	[B] set off	[C] drew in	[D] went by
12.[A] superior	[B] attributable	[C] parallel	[D] resistant
13.[A] restored	[B] isolated	[C] involved	[D] controlled
14.[A] alter	[B] spread	[C] remove	[D] explain
15.[A] compensations	[B] symptoms	[C] demands	[D] treatments
16.[A] Likewise	[B] Meanwhile	[C] Therefore	[D] Instead
17.[A] change	[B] watch	[C] count	[D] take
18. [A] well-being	[B] process	[C] formation	[D] coordination
19. [A] level	[B] love	[C] knowledge	[D] space
20. [A] design	[B] routine	[C] diet	[D] prescription

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

How can the train operators possibly justify yet another increase to rail passenger fares? It has become a grimly reliable annual ritual: every January the cost of travelling by train rises，imposing a significant extra burden on those who have no option but to use the rail network to get to work or otherwise. This year's rise, an average of 2.7 percent, may be a fraction lower than last year', but it is still well above the official Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation.

Successive governments have permitted such increases on the grounds that the cost of investing in and running the rail network should be borne by those who use it, rather than the general taxpayer. Why, the argument goes, should a car-driving pensioner from Lincolnshire have to subsidise the daily commute of a stock broker from Surrey? Equally, there is a sense that the travails of commuters in the South East, many of whom will face among the biggest rises， have received too much attention compared to those who must endure the relatively poor infrastructure of the Midlands and the North .

However, over the past 12 months, those commuters have also experienced some of the worst rail strikes in years. It is all very well train operators trumpeting the improvements the are making to the network, but passengers should be able to expect a basic level of service for the substantial sums they are now paying to travel. The responsibility for the latest wave of strikes rests on the unions. However, there is a strong case that those who have been worst affected by industrial action should receive compensation for the disruption they have suffered .

The Government has pledged to change the law to introduce a minimum service requirement so that, even when strikes occur, services can continue to operate. This should form part of a wider package of measures to address the long-running problems on Britain's railways. Yes, more investment is needed, but passengers will not be willing to pay more indefinitely if they must also endure cramped, unreliable services, punctuated by regular chaos when timetables are changed, or planned maintenance is managed incompetently. The threat of nationalisation may have been seen off for now, but it will return with a vengeance if the justified anger of passengers is not addressed in short order .

21.The author holds that this year's increase in rail passengers fares_____.

[A] will ease train operation's burden

[B] has kept pace with inflation

[C] is a big surprise to commuters

[D] remains an unreasonable measure

22.The stockbroker in paragraph 2 is used to stand for_____.

[A] car drivers   [B] rail travellers

[C] local investors   [D] ordinary taxpayers

23.It is indicated in paragraph 3 that train operators_____.

[A] are offering compensations to commuters

[B] are trying to repair relations with the unions

[C] have failed to provide an adequate service

[D] have suffered huge losses owing to the strikes

24. If unable to calm down passengers, the railways may have to face_____.

[A] the loss of investment   [B] the collapse of operations

[C] a reduction of revenue   [D] a change of ownership

25. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

[A] Who Are to Blame for the Strikes?

[B] Constant Complaining Doesn't Work

[C] Can Nationalization Bring Hope?

[D] Ever-rising Fares Aren't Sustainable

Text 2

Last year marked the third year in a row that Indonesia's bleak rate of deforestation has slowed in pace. One reason for the turnaround may be the country's antipoverty program.

In 2007, Indonesia started phasing in a program that gives money to its poorest residents under certain conditions, such as requiring people to keep kids in school or get regular medical care. Called conditional cash transfers or CCTs, these social assistance programs are designed to reduce inequality and break the cycle of poverty. They're already used in dozens of countries worldwide. In Indonesia, the program has provided enough food and medicine to substantially reduce severe growth problems among children .

But CCT programs don't generally consider effects on the environment. In fact, poverty alleviation and environmental protection are often viewed as conflicting goals, says Paul Ferraro, an economist at Johns Hopkins University.

That's because economic growth can be correlated with environmental degradation, while protecting the environment is sometimes correlated with greater poverty. However, those correlations don't prove cause and effect. The only previous study analyzing causality, based on an area in Mexico that had instituted CCTs, supported the traditional view. There, as people got more money, some of them may have more cleared land for cattle to raise for meat, Ferraro says.

Such programs do not have to negatively affect the environment, though. Ferraro wanted to see if Indonesia's poverty-alleviation program was affecting deforestation. Indonesia has the third-largest area of tropical forest in the world and one of the highest deforestation rates.

Ferraro analyzed satellite data showing annual forest loss from 2008 to 2012—including during Indonesia's phase-in of the antipoverty program—in 7,468 forested villages across 15 provinces and multiple islands. The duo separated the effects of the CCT program on forest loss from other factors, like weather and macroeconomic changes, which were also affecting forest loss. With that, "we see that the program is associated with a 30 percent reduction in deforestation," Ferraro says.

That's likely because the rural poor are using the money as makeshift insurance policies

against inclement weather, Ferraro says. Typically, if rains are delayed, people may clear land to plant more rice to supplement their harvests. With the CCTs, individuals instead can use the money to supplement their harvests.

Whether this research translates elsewhere is anybody's guess. Ferraro suggests the importance of growing rice and market access. And regardless of transferability, the study shows that what's good for people may also be good for the environment, Ferraro says. Even if this program didn't reduce poverty, he says, "the value of the avoided deforestation just for carbon dioxide emissions alone is more than the program costs."

26. According to the first two paragraphs, CCT programs aim to_____.
[A] facilitate healthcare reform
[B] help poor families get better off
[C] improve local education systems
[D] lower deforestation rates

27. The study based on an area in Mexico is cited to show that_____.
[A] cattle rearing has been a major means of livelihood for the poor
[B] CCT programs have helped preserve traditional lifestyles
[C] antipoverty efforts require the participation of local farmers
[D] economic growth tends to cause environmental degradation

28. In his study about Indonesia, Ferraro intends to find out_____.
[A] its acceptance level of CCTs
[B] its annual rate of poverty alleviation
[C] the relation of CCTs to its forest loss
[D] the role of its forests in climate change

29. According to Ferraro, the CCT program in Indonesia is most valuable in that_____.
[A] it will benefit other Asian countries   [B] it will reduce regional inequality
[C] it can protect the environment .   [D] it can boost grain production

30. What is the text centered on?
[A] The effects of a program.   [B] The debates over a program.
[C] The process of a study.   [D] The transferability of a study .

Text 3

As a historian who's always searching for the text or image that makes us re-evaluate the past, I've become preoccupied with looking for photographs that show our Victorian ancestors smiling (what better way to shatter the image of 19th-century prudery?). I've found quite a few, and—since I started posting them on Twitter—they have been causing quite a stir. People have been surprised to see evidence that Victorians had fun and could, and did, laugh. They are noting that the Victorians suddenly seem to become more human as the hundred-or-so years that separate us fade away through our common experience of laughter.

Of course, I need to concede that my collection of 'Smiling Victorians' makes up only a tiny percentage of the vast catalogue of photographic portraiture created between 1840 and 1900, the majority of which show sitters posing miserably and stiffly in front of painted backdrops, or staring absently into the middle distance. How do we explain this trend?

During the 1840s and 1850s, in the early days of photography, exposure times were notoriously long: the daguerreotype photographic method (producing an image on a silvered copper plate) could take several minutes to complete, resulting in blurred images as sitters shifted position or adjusted their limbs. The thought of holding a fixed grin as the camera performed its magical duties was too much to contemplate, and so a non-committal blank stare became the norm.

But exposure times were much quicker by the 1880s, and the introduction of the Box Brownie and other portable cameras meant that, though slow by today's digital standards, the exposure was almost instantaneous. Spontaneous smiles were relatively easy to capture by the 1890s, so we must look elsewhere for an explanation of why Victorians still hesitated to smile.

One explanation might be the loss of dignity displayed through a cheesy grin. "Nature gave us lips to conceal our teeth," ran one popular Victorian saying, alluding to the fact that before the birth of proper dentistry, mouths were often in a shocking state of hygiene. A flashing set of healthy and clean, regular 'pearly whites' was a rare sight in Victorian society, the preserve of the super-rich (and even then, dental hygiene was not guaranteed).

A toothy grin (especially when there were gaps or blackened teeth) lacked class: drunks, tramps and music hall performers might gurn and grin with a smile as wide as Lewis Carrol's gum-exposing Cheshire Cat, but it was not a becoming look for properly bred persons. Even Mark Twain, a man who enjoyed a hearty laugh, said that when it came to photographic portraits there could be "nothing more damning than a silly, foolish smile fixed forever."

31. According to Paragraph 1, the author's posts on Twitter_____.
[A] changed people's impression of the Victorians
[B] highlighted social media's role in Victorian studies
[C] re-evaluated the Victorians' notion of public image
[D] illustrated the development of Victorian photography

32.What does the author say about the Victorian portraits he has collected?
[A] They are in popular use among historians.
[B] They are rare among photographs of that age.
[C] They mirror 19th- century social conventions.
[D] They show effects of different exposure times.

33. What might have kept the Victorians from smiling for pictures in the 1890s?
[A] Their inherent social sensitiveness.
[B] Their tension before the camera.
[C] Their distrust of new inventions.
[D] Their unhealthy dental condition.

34. Mark Twain is quoted to show that the disapproval of smiles in pictures was_____.

[A] a deep-root belief   [B] a misguided attitude

[C] a controversial view   [D] a thought-provoking idea

35. Which of the following questions does the text answer?

[A] Why did most Victorians look stern in photographs?

[B] Why did the Victorians start to view photographs?

[C] What made photography develop slowly in the Victorian period?

[D] How did smiling in photographs become a post-Victorian norm?

Text 4

From the early days of broadband, advocates for consumers and web-based companies worried that the cable and phone companies selling broadband connections had the power and incentive to favor affiliated websites over their rivals. That's why there has been such a strong demand for rules that would prevent broadband providers from picking winners and losers online, preserving the freedom and innovation that have been the lifeblood of the internet.

Yet that demand has been almost impossible to fill—in part because of pushback from broadband providers, anti-regulatory conservatives and the courts. A federal appeals court weighed in again Tuesday, but instead of providing a badly needed resolution, it only prolonged the fight. At issue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit was the latest take of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on net neutrality, adopted on a party-line vote in 2017. The Republican-penned order not only eliminated the strict net neutrality rules the FCC had adopted when it had a Democratic majority in 2015, but rejected the commission's authority to require broadband providers to do much of anything. The order also declared that state and local governments couldn't regulate broadband providers either.

The commission argued that other agencies would protect against anti-competitive behavior, such as a broadband-providing conglomerate like AT&T favoring its own video-streaming service at the expense of Netflix and Apple TV. Yet the FCC also ended the investigations of broadband providers that imposed data caps on their rivals' streaming services but not their own.

On Tuesday, the appeals court unanimously upheld the 2017 order deregulating broadband providers, citing a Supreme Court ruling from 2005 that upheld a similarly deregulatory move. But Judge Patricia Millett rightly argued in a concurring opinion that "the result is unhinged from the realities of modern broadband service," and said Congress or the Supreme Court could intervene to "avoid trapping Internet regulation in technological anachronism."

In the meantime, the court threw out the FCC's attempt to block all state rules on net neutrality, while preserving the commission's power to preempt individual state laws that undermine its order. That means more battles like the one now going on between the Justice Department and California, which enacted a tough net neutrality law in the wake of the FCC's abdication.

The endless legal battles and back-and-forth at the FCC cry out for Congress to act. It needs to give the commission explicit authority once and for all to bar broadband providers from meddling in the traffic on their network and to create clear rules protecting openness and innovation online .

36. There has long been concern that broadband provides would_____.

[A] bring web-based firms under control

[B] slow down the traffic on their network

[C] show partiality in treating clients

[D] intensify competition with their rivals

37. Faced with the demand for net neutrality rules, the FCC_____.

[A] sticks to an out-of-date order

[B] takes an anti-regulatory stance

[C] has issued a special resolution

[D] has allowed the states to intervene

38. What can be learned about AT&T from Paragraph 3?

[A] It protects against unfair competition.

[B] It engages in anti-competitive practices.

[C] It is under the FCC's investigation.

[D] It is in pursuit of quality service.

39. Judge Patricia Millett argues that the appeals court's decision_____.

[A] focuses on trivialities

[B] conveys an ambiguous message

[C] is at odds with its earlier rulings

[D] is out of touch with reality

40. What does the author argue in the last paragraph?

[A] Congress needs to take action to ensure net neutrality.

[B] The FCC should be put under strict supervision.

[C] Rules need to be set to diversify online services.

[D] Broadband providers' rights should be protected.

Part B

Directions: *In the following text, some sentences have been removed. For Questions 41~45, choose the most suitable one from the list A~G to fit into each of the numbered blanks. There are two extra choices, which do not fit in any of the blanks. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

In the movies and on television, artificial intelligence is typically depicted as something sinister that will upend our way of life. When it comes to AI in business, we often hear about it in relation to automation and the impending loss of jobs, but in what ways is AI changing companies and the larger economy that don't involve doom-and-gloom mass unemployment predictions?

A recent survey of manufacturing and service industries from Tata Consultancy Services found that companies currently use AI more often in computer-to-computer activities than in automating human activities. One common application? Preventing electronic security breaches, which, rather than eliminating IT jobs, actually makes those personnel more valuable to employers,

because they help fims prevent hacking attempts.

Here are a few other ways AI is aiding companies without replacing employees:

Better hiring practices

Companies are using artificial intelligence to remove some of the unconscious bias from hiring decisions. "There are experiments that show that, naturally, the results of interviews are much more biased than what AI does," says Pédro Domingos, author of The Master Algorithon: How the Qust for the Ultimate learning Machine Will Reambe Our World and a computer science 41_____ One company that's doing this is called Blendoor. It uses analytics to help identify where there may be bias in the hiring process.

More effective marketing

Some AI software can analyze and optimize marketing email subject lines to increase open rates. One company in the UK, Phrasee claims their software can outperform humans by up to 10 percent when it comes to email open rates. This can mean millions more in revenue. 42_____These are "tools that help people use data, not a replacement for people," says Patrick H. Winston, a professor of artificial intelligence and computer science at MIT.

Saving customers money

Energy companies can use AI to help customers reduce their electricity bills, saving them money while helping the environment. Companies can also optimize their own energy use and cut down on the cost of electricity. Insurance companies, meanwhile, can base their premiums on AI models that more accurately access risk. says Domingos, "43_____"

Improved accuracy

"Machine learning often provides a more reliable form of statistics which makes data more valuable," says Winston. "It helps people make smarter decisions."44_____

Protecting and maintaining infrastructure

A number of companies, particularly in energy and transportation, use Al image processing technology to inspect infrastructure and prevent equipment failure or leaks before they happen. "If they fail first and then you fix them, it's very expensive," says Domingos."45_____

[A] AI replaces the boring parts of your job. If you're doing research you can have AI go out and look for relevant sources and information that otherwise you just wouldn't have time for.

[B] One accounting firm, EY, uses an AI system that helps review contracts during an audit. This process, along with employees reviewing the contracts, is faster and more accurate.

[C] There are also companies like Acquisio, which analyzes advertising performance across multiple channels like Adwords, Bing and social media and makes adjustments or suggestions about where advertising funds will yield best results.

[D] You want to predict if something needs attention now and point to where it' s useful for employees to go to.

[E] Before, they might not insure the ones who felt like a high risk or charge them too much, or they would charge them too little and then it would cost the company money.

[F] We're also giving our customers better channels versus picking up the phone to accomplish something beyond human scale.

[G] AI looks at résumés in greater numbers than humans would be able to, and selects the more promising candidates.

Part C

Directions: *Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

WWII was the watershed event for higher education in modern Western societies. (46) Those societies came out of the war with levels of enrollment that had been roughly constant at 3-5% of the relevant age groups during the decades before the war. But after the war, great social and political changes arising out of the successful war against Fascism created a growing demand in European and American economies for increasing numbers of graduates with more than a secondary school education. (47) And the demand that rose in those societies for entry to higher education extended to groups and social classes that had not thought of attending a university before the war. These demands resulted in a very rapid expansion of the systems of higher education, beginning in the 1960s and developing very rapidly though unevenly in the 1970s and 1980s.

The growth of higher education manifests itself in at least three quite different ways, and these in turn have given rise to different sets of problems. There was first the rate of growth: (48) in many countries of Western Europe, the numbers of students in higher education doubled within five-year periods during the 1960s and doubled again in seven, eight, or 10 years by the middle of the 1970s. Second, growth obviously affected the absolute size both of systems and individual institutions. And third, growth was reflected in changes in the proportion of the relevant age group enrolled in institutions of higher education.

Each of these manifestations of growth carried its own peculiar problems in its wake. For example, a high growth rate placed great strains on the existing structures of governance, of administration, and above all of socialization. When a faculty or department grows from, say, five to 20 members within three or four years, (49) and when the new staff are predominantly young men and women fresh from postgraduate study, they largely define the norms of academic life in that faculty. And if the postgraduate student population also grows rapidly and there is loss of a close apprenticeship relationship between faculty members and students, the student culture becomes the chief socializing force for new postgraduate students, with consequences for the intellectual and academic life of the institution－this was seen in America as well as in France, Italy, West Germany, and Japan. (50) High growth rates increased the chances for academic innovation; they also weakened the forms and processes by which teachers and students are admitted into a community of scholars during periods of stability or slow growth. In the 1960s and 1970s, European universities saw marked changes in their governance arrangements, with the empowerment of junior faculty and to some degree of students as well.

Section III Writing

Part A

51. **Directions:**

A foreign friend of yours has recently graduated from college and intends to find a job in China. Write him/her an email to make some suggestions.

You should write about 100 words on ANSWER SHEET.

Do not sign your own name at the end. Use "Li Ming" instead. (10 points)

Part B

52. **Directions:**

Write an essay of 160-200 words based on the following drawing. In your essay, you should

1) describe the drawing briefly,

2) interpret the intended meaning, and then

3) give your comments.

You should write neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (20 points)

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

The idea that plants have some degree of consciousness first took root in the early 2000s. The term "plant neurobiology" was __1__ around the notion that some aspects of plant behavior could be __2__ to intelligence in animals. __3__ plants lack brains, the firing of electrical signals in their stems and leaves nonetheless triggered responses that __4__ consciousness, researchers previously reported.

But such an idea is untrue, according to a new opinion article. Plant biology is complex and fascinating, but it __5__ so greatly from that of animals that so-called __6__ of plants' intelligence is inconclusive, the author wrote.

Beginning in 2006, some scientists have __7__ that plants possess neuron-like cells that interact with hormones and neurotransmitters, __8__ "a plant nervous system, __9__ to that in animals," said lead study author Lincoln Taiz. "They __10__ claimed that plants have 'brain- like command centers' at their root tips."

This __11__ makes sense if you simplify the workings of a complex brain, __12__ it to an array of electrical pulses; cells in plants also communicate through electrical signals. __13__, the signaling in a plant is only __14__ similar to the firing in a complex animal brain, which is more than "a mass of cells that communicate by electricity," Taiz said.

"For consciousness to evolve, a brain with a threshold __15__ of complexity and capacity is required," he __16__. "Since plants don't have nervous systems, the __17__ that they have consciousness are effectively zero."

And what's so great about consciousness, anyway? Plants can't run away from __18__, so investing energy in a body system which __19__ a threat and can feel pain would be a very __20__ evolutionary strategy, according to the article.

1.[A] coined	[B] discovered	[C] collected	[D] issued
2.[A] attributed	[B] directed	[C] compared	[D] confined
3.[A] Unless	[B] When	[C] Once	[D] Though
4.[A] coped with	[B] consisted of	[C] hinted at	[D] extended to
5.[A] suffers	[B] benefits	[C] develops	[D] differs
6.[A] acceptance	[B] evidence	[C] cultivation	[D] creation
7.[A] doubted	[B] denied	[C] argued	[D] requested
8.[A] adapting	[B] forming	[C] repairing	[D] testing
9.[A] analogous	[B] essential	[C] suitable	[D] sensitive
10.[A] just	[B] ever	[C] still	[D] even
11.[A] restriction	[B] experiment	[C] perspective	[D] demand
12.[A] attaching	[B] reducing	[C] returning	[D] exposing
13.[A] However	[B] Moreover	[C] Therefore	[D] Otherwise
14.[A] temporarily	[B] literally	[C] superficially	[D] imaginarily
15.[A] list	[B] level	[C] label	[D] load
16.[A] recalled	[B] agreed	[C] questioned	[D] added
17.[A] chances	[B] risks	[C] excuses	[D] assumptions
18.[A] danger	[B] failure	[C] warning	[D] control
19.[A] represents	[B] includes	[C] reveals	[D] recognizes
20.[A] humble	[B] poor	[C] practical	[D] easy

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

People often complain that plastics are too durable. Water bottles, shopping bags, and other trash litter the planet, from Mount Everest to the Mariana Trench, because plastics are everywhere and don't break down easily. But some plastic materials change over time. They crack and frizzle. They "weep" out additives. They melt into sludge. All of which creates huge headaches for institutions, such as museums, trying to preserve culturally important objects. The variety of plastic objects at risk is dizzying: early radios, avant-garde sculptures, celluloid animation stills from Disney films, the first artificial heart.

Certain artifacts are especially vulnerable because some pioneers in plastic art didn't always know how to mix ingredients properly, says Thea van Oosten, a polymer chemist who, until retiring a few years ago, worked for decades at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. "It's like baking a cake: If you don't have exact amounts, it goes wrong," she says. "The object you make is already a time bomb."

And sometimes, it's not the artist's fault. In the 1960s, the Italian artist Piero Gilardi began to create hundreds of bright, colorful foam pieces. Those pieces included small beds of roses and other items as well as a few dozen "nature carpet" — large rectangles decorated with foam pumpkins, cabbages, and watermelons. He wanted viewers to walk around on the carpets — which meant they had to be durable.

Unfortunately, the polyurethane foam he used is inherently unstable. It's especially vulnerable to light damage, and by the mid-1990s, Gilardi's pumpkins, roses, and other figures were splitting and crumbling. Museums locked some of them away in the dark.

So van Oosten and her colleagues worked to preserve Gilardi's sculptures. They infused some with stabilizing and consolidating chemicals. Van Oosten calls those chemicals "sunscreens" because their goal was to prevent further light damage and rebuild worn polymer fibers. She is proud that several sculptures have even gone on display again, albeit sometimes beneath protective cases.

Despite success stories like van Oosten's, preservation of plastics will likely get harder. Old objects continue to deteriorate. Worse, biodegradable plastics, designed to disintegrate, are increasingly common.

And more is at stake here than individual objects. Joana Lia Ferreira, an assistant professor of conservation and restoration at the NOVA School of Science and Technology, notes that archaeologists first defined the great material ages of human history — Stone Age, Iron Age, and so on — after examining artifacts in museums. We now live in an age of plastic, she says, "and what we decide to collect today, what we decide to preserve ... will have a strong impact on how in the future we'll be seen."

21. According to Paragraph 1, museums are faced with difficulties in_____.

[A] maintaining their plastic items

[B] obtaining durable plastic artifacts

[C] handling outdated plastic exhibits

[D] classifying their plastic collections

22. Van Oosten believes that certain plastic objects are_____.

[A] immune to decay   [B] improperly shaped

[C] inherently flawed   [D] complex in structure

23. Museums stopped exhibiting some of Gilardi's artworks to _____.

[A] keep them from hurting visitors   [B] duplicate them for future display

[C] have their ingredients analyzed   [D] prevent them from further damage

24. The author thinks that preservation of plastics is_____.

[A] costly   [B] unworthy   [C] unpopular   [D] challenging

25. In Ferreia's opinion, preservation of plastic artifacts_____.

[A] will inspire future scientific research

[B] has profound historical significance

[C] will help us separate the material ages

[D] has an impact on today's cultural life

Text 2

As the latest crop of students pen their undergraduate application form and weigh up their options, it may be worth considering just how the point, purpose and value of a degree has changed and what Generation Z need to consider as they start the third stage of their educational journey.

Millennials were told that if you did well in school, got a decent degree, you would be set up for life. But that promise has been found wanting. As degrees became universal, they became devalued. Education was no longer a secure route of social mobility. Today, 28 per cent of graduates in the UK are in non-graduate roles, a percentage which is double the average among OECD countries.

This is not to say that there is no point in getting a degree, but rather stress that a degree is not for everyone, that the switch from classroom to lecture hall is not an inevitable one and that other options are available.

Thankfully, there are signs that this is already happening, with Generation Z seeking to learn from their millennial predecessors, even if parents and teachers tend to be still set in the degree mindset. Employers have long seen the advantages of hiring school leavers who often prove themselves to be more committed and loyal employees than graduates. Many too are seeing the advantages of scrapping a degree requirement for certain roles.

For those for whom a degree is the desired route, consider that this may well be the first of many. In this age of generalists, it pays to have specific knowledge or skills. Postgraduates now

earn 40 per cent more than graduates. When more and more of us have a degree, it makes sense to have two.

It is unlikely that Generation Z will be done with education at 18 or 21; they will need to be constantly up-skilling throughout their career to stay employable. It has been estimated that this generation, due to the pressures of technology, the wish for personal fulfilment and desire for diversity, will work for 17 different employers over the course of their working life and have five different careers. Education, and not just knowledge gained on campus, will be a core part of Generation Z's career trajectory.

Older generations often talk about their degree in the present and personal tense: 'I am a geographer' or 'I am a classist'. Their sons or daughters would never say such a thing; it's as if they already know that their degree won't define them in the same way.

26. The author suggests that Generation Z should _____.
[A] be careful in choosing college
[B] be diligent at each educational stage
[C] reassess the necessity of college education
[D] postpone their undergraduate application

27. The percentage of UK graduates in non-graduate roles reflects _____.
[A] Millennials' opinions about work
[B] the shrinking value of a degree
[C] public discontent with education
[D] the desired route of social mobility

28. The author considers it a good sign that _____.
[A] Generation Z are seeking to earn a decent degree
[B] school leavers are willing to be skilled workers
[C] employers are taking a realistic attitude to degrees
[D] parents are changing their minds about education

29. It is advised in Paragraph 5 that those with one degree should _____.
[A] make an early decision on their career
[B] attend on-the-job training programs
[C] team up with high-paid postgraduates
[D] further their studies in a specific field

30. What can be concluded about Generation Z from the last two paragraphs?
[A] Lifelong learning will define them.
[B] They will make qualified educators.
[C] Degrees will no longer appeal to them.
[D] They will have a limited choice of jobs.

Text 3

Enlightening, challenging, stimulating, fun. These were some of the words that *Nature* readers used to describe their experiences of art-science collaborations in a series of articles on partnerships between artists and researchers. Nearly 40% of the roughly 350 people who responded to an accompanying poll said they had collaborated with artists; and almost all said they would consider doing so in future.

Such an encouraging result is not surprising. Scientists are increasingly seeking out visual artists to help them to communicate their work to new audiences. "Artists help scientists reach a broader audience and make emotional connections that enhance learning," one respondent said.

One example of how artists and scientists have together rocked the senses came last month when the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed a reworked version of Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. They reimagined the 300-year-old score by injecting the latest climate prediction data for each season — provided by Monash University's Climate Change Communication Research Hub. The performance was a creative call to action ahead of November's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UK.

But a genuine partnership must be a two-way street. Fewer artists than scientists responded to the *Nature* poll; however, several respondents noted that artists do not simply assist scientists with their communication requirements. Nor should their work be considered only as an object of study. The alliances are most valuable when scientists and artists have a shared stake in a project, are able to jointly design it and can critique each other's work. Such an approach can both prompt new research as well as result in powerful art.

More than half a century ago, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology opened its Center for Advanced Visual Studies (CAVS) to explore the role of technology in culture. The founders deliberately focused their projects around light — hence the 'visual studies' in the name. Light was a something that both artists and scientists had an interest in, and therefore could form the basis of collaboration. As science and technology progressed, and divided into more sub-disciplines, the centre was simultaneously looking to a time when leading researchers could also be artists, writers and poets, and vice versa.

Nature's poll findings suggest that this trend is as strong as ever, but, to make a collaboration work, both sides need to invest time, and embrace surprise and challenge. The reach of art–science tie-ups needs to go beyond the necessary purpose of research communication, and participants must not fall into the trap of stereotyping each other. Artists and scientists alike are immersed in discovery and invention, and challenge and critique are core to both, too.

31. According to Paragraph 1, art-science collaborations have _____.
[A] caught the attention of critics   [B] received favorable responses
[C] promoted academic publishing   [D] sparked heated public disputes

32. The reworked version of *The Four Seasons* is mentioned to show that _____.
[A] art can offer audiences easy access to science
[B] science can help with the expression of emotions
[C] public participation in science has a promising future
[D] art is effective in facilitating scientific innovations

33. Some artists seem to worry that in the art-science partnership _____.

[A] their role may be underestimated

[B] their reputation may be impaired

[C] their creativity may be inhibited

[D] their work may be misguided

34. What does the author say about CAVS?

[A] It was headed alternately by artists and scientists.

[B] It exemplified valuable art-science alliances.

[C] Its projects aimed at advancing visual studies.

[D] Its founders sought to raise the status of artists.

35. In the last paragraph, the author holds that art-science collaborations _____.

[A] are likely to go beyond public expectations

[B] will intensify interdisciplinary competition

[C] should do more than communicating science

[D] are becoming more popular than before

Text 4

The personal grievance provisions of New Zealand's Employment Relations Act 2000 (ERA) prevent an employer from firing an employee without good cause. Instead, dismissals must be justified. Employers must both show cause and act in a procedurally fair way.

Personal grievance procedures were designed to guard the jobs of ordinary workers from "unjustified dismissals". The premise was that the common law of contract lacked sufficient safeguards for workers against arbitrary conduct by management. Long gone are the days when a boss could simply give an employee contractual notice.

But these provisions create difficulties for businesses when applied to highly paid managers and executives. As countless boards and business owners will attest, constraining firms from firing poorly performing, high-earning managers is a handbrake on boosting productivity and overall performance. The difference between C-grade and A-grade managers may very well be the difference between business success or failure. Between preserving the jobs of ordinary workers or losing them. Yet mediocrity is no longer enough to justify a dismissal.

Consequently — and paradoxically — laws introduced to protect the jobs of ordinary workers may be placing those jobs at risk.

If not placing jobs at risk, to the extent employment protection laws constrain business owners from dismissing underperforming managers, those laws act as a constraint on firm productivity and therefore on workers' wages. Indeed, in "An International Perspective on New Zealand's Productivity Paradox" (2014), the Productivity Commission singled out the low quality of managerial capabilities as a cause of the country's poor productivity growth record.

Nor are highly paid managers themselves immune from the harm caused by the ERA's unjustified dismissal procedures. Because employment protection laws make it costlier to fire

an employee, employers are more cautious about hiring new staff. This makes it harder for the marginal manager to gain employment. And firms pay staff less because firms carry the burden of the employment arrangement going wrong.

Society also suffers from excessive employment protections. Stringent job dismissal regulations adversely affect productivity growth and hamper both prosperity and overall wellbeing.

Across the Tasman Sea, Australia deals with the unjustified dismissal paradox by excluding employees earning above a specified "high-income threshold" from the protection of its unfair dismissal laws. In New Zealand, a 2016 private members' Bill tried to permit firms and high-income employees to contract out of the unjustified dismissal regime. However, the mechanisms proposed were unwieldy and the Bill was voted down following the change in government later that year.

36. The personal grievance provisions of the ERA are intended to _____.
[A] punish dubious corporate practices
[B] improve traditional hiring procedures
[C] exempt employers from certain duties
[D] protect the rights of ordinary workers

37. It can be learned from Paragraph 3 that the provisions may _____.
[A] hinder business development
[B] undermine the managers' authority
[C] affect the public image of the firms
[D] worsen labor-management relations

38. Which of the following measures would the Productivity Commission support?
[A] Imposing reasonable wage restraints.
[B] Enforcing employment protection laws.
[C] Limiting the powers of business owners.
[D] Dismissing poorly performing managers.

39. What might be an effect of the ERA's unjustified dismissal procedures？
[A] Highly paid managers lose their jobs.
[B] Employees suffer from salary cuts.
[C] Society sees a rise in overall wellbeing.
[D] Employers need to hire new staff.

40. It can be inferred that the "high-income threshold" in Australia _____.
[A] has secured managers' earnings
[B] has produced undesired results
[C] is beneficial to business owners
[D] is difficult to put into practice

Part B

Directions: *Read the following comments on an article titled "Cases Against Zoos" by Emma Marris and a list of statements summarizing the comments. Choose the best statement from the list A-G for each numbered name (41—45). There are two extra choices which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

(41) Teri Byrd

I was a zoo and wildlife park employee for years. Both the wildlife park and zoo claimed to be operating for the benefit of the animals and for conservation purposes. This claim was false. Neither one of them actually participated in any contributions to animal research or conservation. They are profitable institutions whose bottom line is much more important than the condition of the animals.

Animals despise being captives in zoos. No matter how you "enhance" enclosures, they do not allow for freedom, a natural diet or adequate exercise. Animals end up stressed and unhealthy or dead. It's past time for transparency with these institutions, and it's past time to eliminate zoos from our culture.

(42) Karen R. Sime

As a zoology professor, I agree with Emma Marris that zoo displays can be sad and cruel. But she underestimates the educational value of zoos.

The zoology program at my university attracts students for whom zoo visits were the crucial formative experience that led them to major in biological sciences. These are mostly students who had no opportunity as children to travel to wilderness areas, wildlife refuges or national parks. Although good TV shows can help stir children's interest in conservation, they cannot replace the excitement of a zoo visit as an intense, immersive and interactive experience. Surely there must be some middle ground that balances zoos' treatment of animals with their educational potential.

(43) Greg Newberry

Emma Marris's article is an insult and disservice to the thousands of passionate, dedicated people who work tirelessly to improve the lives of animals and protect our planet. She uses outdated research and decades-old examples to undermine the noble mission of organizations committed to connecting children to a world beyond their own.

Zoos are at the forefront of conservation and constantly evolving to improve how they care for animals and protect each species in its natural habitat. Are there tragedies? Of course. But they are the exception, not the norm that Ms. Marris implies. A distressed animal in a zoo will get as good or better treatment than most of us at our local hospital.

(44) Dean Gallea

As a fellow environmentalist, animal-protection advocate and longtime vegetarian, I could properly be in the same camp as Emma Marris on the issue of zoos. But I believe that well-run zoos, and the heroic animals that suffer their captivity, do serve a higher purpose. Were it not for opportunities to observe these beautiful, wild creatures close to home, many more people would be driven by their fascination to travel to wild areas to seek out, disturb and even hunt them down.

Zoos are, in that sense, similar to natural history and archaeology museums, serving to satisfy our need for contact with these living creatures while leaving the vast majority undisturbed in their natural environments.

(45) **John Fraser**

Emma Marris selectively describes and misrepresents the findings of our research. Our studies focused on the impact of zoo experiences on how people think about themselves and nature, and the data points extracted from our studies do not, in any way, discount what is learned in a zoo visit.

Zoos are tools for thinking. Our research provides strong support for the value of zoos in connecting people with animals and with nature. Zoos provide a critical voice for conservation and environmental protection. They afford an opportunity for people from all backgrounds to encounter a range of animals, from drone bees to springbok or salmon, to better understand the natural world we live in.

[A] Zoos, which spare no effort to take care of animals, should not be subjected to unfair criticism.

[B] To pressure zoos to spend less on their animals would lead to inhumane outcomes for the precious creatures in their care.

[C] While animals in captivity deserve sympathy, zoos play a significant role in starting young people down the path of related sciences.

[D] Zoos save people trips to wilderness areas and thus contribute to wildlife conservation.

[E] For wild animals that cannot be returned to their natural habitats, zoos offer the best alternative.

[F] Zoos should have been closed down as they prioritize moneymaking over animals' wellbeing.

[G] Marris distorts our findings, which actually prove that zoos serve as an indispensable link between man and nature.

Part C

Directions: *Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written neatly on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)*

Between 1807 and 1814 the Iberian Peninsula (comprising Spain and Portugal) was the scene of a titanic and merciless struggle. It took place on many different planes: between Napoleon's French army and the angry inhabitants; between the British, ever keen to exacerbate the emperor's difficulties, and the marshals sent from Paris to try to keep them in check; between new forces of science and meritocracy and old ones of conservatism and birth. (46) It was also, and this is unknown even to many people well read about the period, a battle between those who made codes and those who broke them.

I first discovered the Napoleonic code-breaking battle a few years ago when I was reading Sir Charles Oman's epic *History of the Peninsular War*. In volume V he had attached an appendix, "The Scovell Ciphers." (47) It listed many documents in code that had been captured from the French army of Spain, and whose secrets had been revealed by the work of one George Scovell, an officer in British headquarters. Oman rated Scovell's significance highly, but at the same time, the general nature of his *History* meant that (48) he could not analyze carefully what this obscure officer may or may not have contributed to that great struggle between nations or indeed tell us anything much about the man himself. Keen to read more, I was surprised to find that Oman's appendix, published in 1914, was the only considered thing that had been written about this secret war.

I became convinced that this story was every bit as exciting and significant as that of Enigma and the breaking of German codes in the Second World War. The question was, could it be told?

Studying Scovell's papers at the Public Record Office, London, I found that he had left an extensive journal and copious notes about his work in the peninsula. What was more, many original French dispatches had been preserved in this collection, which, I realized, was priceless. (49) There may have been many spies and intelligence officers during the Napoleonic Wars, but it is usually extremely difficult to find the material they actually provided or worked on.

As I researched Scovell's story, I found far more of interest besides his intelligence work. His status in Lord Wellington's headquarters and the recognition given to him for his work were bound up with the class politics of the Army at the time. His story of self-improvement and hard work would make a fascinating biography in its own right, but represents something more than that. (50) Just as the code-breaking has its wider relevance in the struggle for Spain, so his attempts to make his way up the promotion ladder speak volumes about British society.

Section III Writing

Part A

51. Directions:

Write an email to a professor at a British university, inviting him/her to organize a team for the international innovation contest to be held at your university.

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

52. Directions:

Write an essay of 160-200 words based on the picture below. In your essay, you should:

1) describe the picture briefly,

2) interpret the implied meaning, and

3) give your comments.

Write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET. (20 points)

附录 1：新题型真题及补充练习

2006 年新题型

On the north bank of the Ohio River sits Evansville, Ind., home of David Williams, 52, and of a riverboat casino (a place where gambling games are played). During several years of gambling in that casino, Williams, a state auditor earning $35,000 a year, lost approximately $175,000. He had never gambled before the casino sent him a coupon for $20 worth of gambling.

He visited the casino, lost the $20 and left. On his second visit he lost $800. The casino issued to him, as a good customer, a "Fun Card," which when used in the casino earns points for meals and drinks, and enables the casino to track the user's gambling activities. For Williams, these activities become what he calls "electronic heroin."

(41)_____. In 1997 he lost $21,000 to one slot machine in two days. In March 1997 he lost $72,186. He sometimes played two slot machines at a time, all night, until the boat docked at 5 a.m., then went back aboard when the casino opened at 9 a.m. Now he is suing the casino, charging that it should have refused his patronage because it knew he was addicted. It did know he had a problem.

In March 1998, a friend of Williams' got him involuntarily confined to a treatment center for addictions, and wrote to inform the casino of Williams' gambling problem. The casino included a photo of Williams among those of banned gamblers, and wrote to him a "cease admissions" letter. Noting the "medical / psychological" nature of problem gambling behaviors, the letter said that before being readmitted to the casino he would have to present medical / psychological information demonstrating that patronizing the casino would pose no threat to his safety or well-being.

(42)_____.

The Wall Street Journal reports that the casino has 20 signs warning:"Enjoy the fun. . . and always bet with your head, not over it." Every entrance ticket lists a toll-free number for counseling from the Indiana Department of Mental Health. Nevertheless, Williams' suit charges that the casino, knowing he was "helplessly addicted to gambling," intentionally worked to "lure" him to "engage in conduct against his will." Well.

(43)_____.

The fourth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders says "pathological gambling" involves persistent, recurring and uncontrollable pursuit less of money than of the thrill of taking risks in quest of a windfall.

(44)_____. Pushed by science, or what claims to be science, society is reclassifying what once were considered character flaws or moral failings as personality disorders akin to physical disabilities.

(45)_____.

Forty-four states have lotteries, 29 have casinos, and most of these states are to varying degrees dependent on—you might say addicted to—revenues from wagering. And since the first Internet gambling site was created in 1995, competition for gamblers' dollars has become intense. The Oct. 28 issue of NEWSWEEK reported that 2 million gamblers patronize 1,800 virtual casinos every week. With $3.5 billion being lost on Internet wagers this year, gambling has passed pornography as the Web's most profitable business.

[A] Although no such evidence was presented, the casino's marketing department continued to pepper him with mailings. And he entered the casino and used his Fun Card without being detected.

[B] It is unclear what luring was required, given his compulsive behavior. And in what sense was his will operative?

[C] By the time he had lost $5,000 he said to himself that if he could get back to even, he would quit. One night he won $5,500, but he did not quit.

[D] Gambling has been a common feature of American life forever, but for a long time it was broadly considered a sin, or a social disease. Now it is a social policy: the most important and aggressive promoter of gambling in America is the government.

[E] David Williams' suit should trouble this gambling nation. But don't bet on it.

[F] It is worrisome that society is medicalizing more and more behavioral problems, often defining as addictions what earlier, sterner generations explained as weakness of will.

[G] The anonymous, lonely, undistracted nature of online gambling is especially conducive to compulsive behavior. But even if the government knew how to move against Internet gambling, what would be its grounds for doing so?

2009 年新题型

Coinciding with the groundbreaking theory of biological evolution proposed by British naturalist Charles Darwin in the 1860s, British social philosopher Herbert Spencer put forward his own theory of biological and cultural evolution. Spencer argued that all worldly phenomena, including human societies, changed over time, advancing toward perfection.　(41) _____

American social scientist Lewis Henry Morgan introduced another theory of cultural evolution in the late 1800s. Morgan helped found modern anthropology—the scientific study of human societies, customs and beliefs—thus becoming one of the earliest anthropologists. In his work, he attempted to show how all aspects of culture changed together in the evolution of societies. (42) _____

In the early 1900s in North America, German-born American anthropologist Franz Boas developed a new theory of culture known as historical particularism. Historical particularism, which emphasized the uniqueness of all cultures, gave new direction to anthropology. (43)

_____

Boas felt that the culture of any society must be understood as the result of a unique history and not as one of many cultures belonging to a broader evolutionary stage or type of culture. (44)

_____

Historical particularism became a dominant approach to the study of culture in American anthropology, largely through the influence of many students of Boas. But a number of anthropologists in the early 1900s also rejected the particularist theory of culture in favor of diffusionism. Some attributed virtually every important cultural achievement to the inventions of a few, especially gifted peoples that, according to diffusionists, then spread to other cultures. (45)

_____

Also in the early 1900s, French sociologist Emile Durkheim developed a theory of culture that would greatly influence anthropology. Durkheim proposed that religious beliefs functioned to reinforce social solidarity. An interest in the relationship between the function of society and culture—known as functionalism—became a major theme in European, and especially British, anthropology.

[A] Other anthropologists believed that cultural innovations, such as inventions, had a single origin and passed from society to society. This theory was known as diffusionism.

[B] In order to study particular cultures as completely as possible, he became skilled in linguistics, the study of languages, and in physical anthropology, the study of human biology and anatomy.

[C] He argued that human evolution was characterized by a struggle he called the "survival of the fittest," in which weaker races and societies must eventually be replaced by stronger, more advanced races and societies.

[D] They also focused on important rituals that appeared to preserve a people's social structure, such as initiation ceremonies that formally signify children's entrance into adulthood.

[E] Thus, in his view, diverse aspects of culture, such as the structure of families, forms of marriage, categories of kinship, ownership of property, forms of government, technology, and systems of food production, all changed as societies evolved.

[F] Supporters of the theory viewed cultures a collection of integrated parts that work together to keep a society functioning.

[G] For example, British anthropologists Grafton Elliot Smith and W.J. Perry incorrectly suggested, on the basis of inadequate information, that farming, pottery making, and metallurgy all originated in ancient Egypt and diffused throughout the world. In fact, all of these cultural developments occurred separately at different times in many parts of the world.

七选五第 1 篇：

The simple and the wise have long contemplated two related questions: What is sleep and why do we need it? An obvious answer to the latter is that adequate sleep is necessary to stay alert and awake. That response, however, dodges the issue and is the equivalent of saying that you eat to keep from being hungry or breathe to ward off feelings of suffocation. The real function of eating is to supply nutrients, and the function of breathing is to take in oxygen and expel carbon dioxide. But we have no comparably straightforward explanation for sleep. That said, sleep research—less than a century old as a focused field of scientific inquiry—has generated enough insight for investigators to at least make reasonable proposals about the function of the somnolent state that consumes one third of our lives.

Recently, Medical News Today reported on a study that found that specialized immune cells are more active in the brain during sleep, busy performing maintenance work.

Researchers know that sleep is important — not just in terms of allowing the brain to start working again, but also for "making space" for "cleaning" processes to take place.

41._____

Now, researchers at Boston University in Massachusetts have found a special substance, the cerebrospinal fluid. It is a clear fluid that surrounds the brain and provides the organ with protection and support. The fluid is produced in a central section of the brain called the choroid plexus. During sleep the cerebrospinal fluid washes in and out, like waves, helping the brain get rid of accumulated metabolic "trash."

42._____ But before now, we didn't realize that there are actually waves in the cerebrospinal fluid, too," study co-author Laura Lewis explains.

The new study — the results of which appear in the journal Science — included 13 participants ages 23–33 who agreed to undergo brain scans while asleep.

43._____ This waste includes potentially toxic proteins that may otherwise form buildups that can impair the flow of information between neurons.

44._____ According to statistics, as the most common cause of dementia, a general term for memory loss and other cognitive abilities serious enough to interfere with daily life, this disease accounts for 60 percent to 80 percent of dementia cases.

They also explain that normal aging may be associated with poorer self-cleaning in the brain.

45._____

"It's such a dramatic effect," emphasizes Lewis. "Cerebrospinal fluid pulsating in the brain during sleep was something we didn't know happened at all, and now we can just glance at one brain region and immediately have a readout of the brain state someone's in."

[A] These findings, the researchers add, could also shed fresh light on the underlying mechanisms in conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, in which toxic protein plaques play a key role in memory loss and other cognitive impairments.

[B] During wakefulness, breathing is controlled by two interacting systems. The first is an automatic, metabolic system whose control is centered in the brain stem.

[C] "We've known for a while that there are these electrical waves of activity in the neurons.

[D] They saw that cerebrospinal fluid appears to "synchronize" with brainwaves, which likely helps remove brain waste.

[E] However, many of the mechanisms through which this clearing out of brain waste takes place during sleep remain unclear.

[F] With age, human brains tend to generate fewer slow waves, which may reduce blood flow in the brain, as well as cerebrospinal fluid pulsations.

[G] Measurements of brain activity support this notion, revealing that brain regions linked with emotion and memory consolidation are periodically more active during sleep.

七选五第 2 篇：

Clothing rental is a hot new industry and retailers are clamoring to get on board in hopes of attracting newly conscientious shoppers. This past summer alone, Urban Outfitters, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, American Eagle, and Banana Republic have all announced rental subscription services – a sure sign of changing times.

41._____Journalist and author Elizabeth Cline delved into this question in a feature article for Elle, and she concluded that it's not as sustainable as it seems.

42._____Cline writes that consumer transportation has the second largest footprint of our collective fashion habit after manufacturing.

She writes that an item ordered online and then returned can emit 20 kilograms of carbon each way, and spirals up to 50 kilograms for rush shipping. 43._____

Then there's the burden of washing, which has to happen for every item when it's returned, regardless of whether or not it was worn. 44._____All the rental services that Cline looked into have replaced perchloroethylene, a carcinogenic air pollutant that's still used by 70 percent of US dry cleaners, with 'hydrocarbon alternatives', although these aren't great either.

"They can produce hazardous waste and air pollution if not handled correctly, and they're often paired with stain removers that are more toxic than the solvents themselves."

Le Tote is the only service that uses 'wet cleaning' for 80 percent of its items and strives to avoid dry cleaning unless absolutely necessary.

Lastly, Cline fears that rental services will increase our appetite for fast fashion, simply because it's so easily accessible. 45._____ Uber is one example of this, advertised as "a way to share rides and curb car ownership," and yet "it has been proven to discourage walking, bicycling, and public transportation use."

Renting clothes is still preferable to buying them cheap and pitching them in the trash after a few wears, but we shouldn't let the availability of these services make us complacent. There's an even better step – and that's wearing what is already in the closet.

[A] For most rental services, this usually means dry-cleaning, a high-impact and polluting process.

[B] But is renting fashion actually more environmentally-friendly than buying it, and if so, how much more?

[C] There's something called 'share-washing' that makes people engage in more wasteful behaviors precisely because a product or service is shared and thus is perceived as more eco-friendly.

[D] Renting houses, wedding dresses and videos, renting luxurious handbags, high-grade clothing and cameras has become a trend. A "rental lifestyle" emerges in China has become the new fashion.

[E] The possible value of the clothing rental market in the UK is predicted to be £923m and the model is already well-established for certain items, such as dinner jackets and wedding suits for men.

[F] By comparison, the carbon impact of a pair of jeans purchased outright (presumably from a brick and mortar store) and washed and worn at home is 33.4 kilograms.

[G] Take shipping, for example, which has to go two ways if an item is rented – receiving and returning.

七选五第 3 篇：

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. 41._____ 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. 42._____

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 as part of a team. 43._____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. 44._____ 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. 45._____ 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.

[A] The specific instructions varied from one study to the next, but across experiments, participants could gain money through honesty and teamwork.

[B] The gap in emissions between electric and gasoline-powered vehicles has narrowed in recent years. In Europe, carmakers have been required to meet EU carbon reduction standards. They have made their gasoline engines more fuel-efficient.

[C] 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.

[D] But when the cars hit the road, their emissions rates were much higher than allowable standards.

[E] 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.

[F] Businesses value collaboration. The latest survey by the Financial Times of what employers want from MBA graduates found that the ability to work in a team, to work with a wide variety of people and to build, sustain and expand a network of people were three of the top five skills that mangers wanted.

[G] On top of that, we discovered that when it comes to collaborative dishonesty, the gender and age of the group members mattered.

排序题第 1 篇：

[A] This depressing trend is part of a wider pattern. The deliberate commercialisation of higher education is steadily reducing the value of a degree to the bottom line of what job and salary it unlocks. As Sheffield Hallam called time on English literature, it emerged that the number of graduates owing more than £100,000 in student loans rose exponentially over the past year. It is understandable that young people from lower-income backgrounds, contemplating a working career shadowed by debt and punitive interest rates, might think twice about taking a non-vocational course. Applications for English studies, including English literature, have fallen steadily since 2012, when the cap on tuition fees was lifted to £9,000. There have also been drop-offs in other humanities subjects. Anxious that as many graduates as possible pay off their loans – for which the Treasury is ultimately on the hook – the government has focused on the virtues of Stem subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

[B] What's more, it will radically shrink the cultural horizons and options of those outside that elite group. After a decade of marketisation, a grimly utilitarian worldview is beginning to exercise a suffocating chokehold over much of England's higher education sector. But the intrinsic quality and worth of a course cannot be fairly judged by reference to employment statistics and labour market outcomes.

[C] As Walt Whitman wrote in Leaves of Grass: "I am large, I contain multitudes." The study of literature allows us to glimpse universal truths as well as encounter the diversity of human experience in all its fascinating particularity. With expert guidance, an immersion in great novels, plays and poems can deliver a sense of spiritual headroom and wellbeing which lasts a lifetime.

[D] Meanwhile, those supposedly "dead end" university courses – those which fail to deliver an instant graduate premium in the job market – are coming under increasingly aggressive scrutiny. This year, the Office for Students set out plans to remove funding for "low quality" courses, defined as those where less than 60% of participants go into good jobs or further study soon after graduating. The strategic approach appears to be to bully non-Russell Group institutions down a more vocational route.

[E] This piece of news prompted an outpouring of frustration from lecturers, and criticism from writers such as James Graham and Philip Pullman. It follows a similar move by the University of Cumbria last year and mounting cuts to humanities provision elsewhere. In May, recruitment for all performing arts courses at the University of Wolverhampton was suspended. One lecturer at Sheffield Hallam tweeted despairingly that the humanities were being subjected to "cultural vandalism".

[F] Overall, such approach is both wrong-headed and shortsighted. As Mr. Graham points out, the arts and entertainment industry has become one of the few booming areas of the economy in which Britain can claim to be world-leading. Fundamentally, narrowing the humanities talent pool to a privileged subset of students will, in this sense, be self-defeating.

[G] Such benefits – intangible but very real – were sadly not enough to persuade Sheffield Hallam University to continue to offer a standalone English literature degree to undergraduates. Amid falling demand generally for arts and humanities courses, a university spokesperson this week announced that the course was being suspended.

41.→42.→E→43.→44.→45.→B

排序题第 2 篇：

[A] She also said that her interpretation of the analysis is that the tight labour market is certainly playing a role," she said. I hope she is right. Despite years of research showing a good job helps to reduce prison recidivism, employers remain reluctant to hire people with a jail record. I called BlueTriton, a US owner of bottled water brands such as Poland Spring that has placed a large number of adverts welcoming applicants with a criminal history, to answer the question whether labour shortages influenced their move.

[B] Similar trends have emerged in other countries. "We've definitely seen a compromise on certain experiences and qualifications," says Chris Gray, UK director of the ManpowerGroup recruitment company. He says employers are taking on people who might only meet 60 per cent of a job description, then training them over the next three to six months. A public sector employer looking for an IT expert to work on a digital project might now be prepared to hire someone with only private sector experience, for example.

[C] They will undoubtedly do so again. As chronic staff shortages shut down swimming pools and restaurants, and leave crops to rot in fields, some researchers say there is rising interest in people with a criminal past. "Employers seem to be warming up a little bit more to this group," says Ann Elizabeth Konkel, an economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab, a research arm of the Indeed jobs site.

[D] Here is a sentence you do not see in every job advertisement: "Applicants with criminal histories are welcome to apply." Those words appeared in US adverts last week for everything from a forklift driver in Florida to a brand designer in New York and a recruitment manager in Illinois.

[E] However it is still a small percentage and the battle to hire staff means employers may be willing to overlook more than criminal histories. There are also signs of rising interest in people who lack formal qualifications. In Canada, which had the highest job vacancy rates in the OECD earlier this year, separate Indeed research last month showed a striking 78 per cent of employers were open to hiring candidates without a relevant degree or certifications. And 37 per cent said they would sacrifice years of experience.

[F] Her analysis of the site's May data shows the share of job searches with phrases such as "felon friendly" and "no background check" has risen 45 per cent since May last year and 117 per cent since May 2019.This might be partly due to so-called "fair-chance" hiring policies aimed at helping the nearly one in three US adults believed to have a prior arrest or conviction record, she told me over Zoom last week.

[G] "As an employer of choice, it's always been our practice at BlueTriton Brands to attract the widest pool of qualified applicants possible," Chris Buhl, the group's chief human resources officer, said in an emailed reply. "It allows us to solve for labour shortage challenges while also providing a new, exciting and potentially life-changing opportunity for applicants to develop personally and professionally." I think that counts as a "yes". About 2.5 per cent of Indeed postings in May mentioned fair chance hiring. That is up from 1.9 per cent in May 2019.

41.→42.→43.→44. →G→45.→B

排序题第 3 篇：

[A] Prince George's County, Maryland, is a majority-Black county—home to doctors, lawyers, politicians, and other Black professionals. The Black characters I saw on television didn't reflect the rich, diverse, and joyful lives I saw around me. Why does the media put people of color into boxes? How do these stereotypes harm us as individuals and a society?

[B] In one test, I focused on White Americans. White people are subject to stereotypes, too. They're labeled as more competent than Black people and Latina/os, and White people think that other racial groups see them as racist and entitled. I predicted that White Americans, particularly those who want to connect across racial divides—White liberals—try to reverse these stereotypes through the very words that they use. I asked over two thousand White Americans to introduce themselves to a Black or White person online. As predicted, White liberals used fewer words related to competence (like "competitive" or "powerful") when speaking to a Black person.

[C] As a social psychologist at Yale University, I am figuring out exactly how stereotypes hold us back, and what we can do about it. When I was a young Black girl growing up in Prince George's County, Maryland, I loved the movies. Each year, my brothers and I would gleefully wait in line to get the best seat in the theater for the latest Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, or superhero film.

[D] Aiming to answer these questions I became a social psychologist. Twenty years later, I now study stereotypes, determining how they maintain inequality and worm their way into day-to-day interactions. Across dozens of studies featuring thousands of participants, I find that stereotypes influence how we relate to others, leaking into conversations through the very words that people use.

[E] This "competence downshift" isn't limited to a lab. I analyzed over 20 years of campaign speeches by White Democratic and Republican presidential candidates and found that White Democrats used fewer words related to competence when addressing mostly-minority audiences (e.g., NAACP) versus mostly-White ones (e.g., American Federation of Teachers). White Republicans didn't downshift competence, likely because they're less interested in getting along with people of color. Sure enough, White Democrats were more likely to address audiences of color than Republicans.

[F] Even then, I was struck by those characters I saw. Few looked like me or my family. Those that did were one-dimensional, with limited speaking roles, often playing supporting roles to White characters. They were disproportionately poor and often criminal. They were rarely desired, easily disposed of, and never granted the nuanced and flawed inner worlds granted to White characters. These stereotypes puzzled me.

[G] From the first instant our eyes alight on a television or phone screen, we are inundated with a curated set of images that (supposedly) depict the world around us. These images often show people of color through a stereotypical lens, and these stereotypes bleed into our everyday lives—our workplaces, our social lives, our politics.

41.→42.→F→43.→D→44. →45.

排序题第 4 篇：

[A] Systemic barriers mean that women and people of colour, and especially women of colour, are under-represented in science in high-income nations. But this alone doesn't suffice as an explanation for award-givers, because even when the imbalance is taken into account, women remain under-represented in prizes. According to an analysis of 141 top prizes awarded over the period from 2001 to 2020, the proportion given to women fell short of the proportion of female professors in several fields.

[B] Universities can also play a part, particularly in boosting diversity in awards for which nominations are open, rather than invitation-only. Institutions can encourage a wider range of staff to submit nominations by training them in how to do it successfully, helping them with the administrative burden and encouraging them to put forward colleagues from under-represented groups.

[C] Prize-givers need to widen their nomination pools. In 2019, Nature suggested that award organizers might cast their nets wider when seeking nominations3 by approaching networks that include academies of science in low- and middle-income countries, such as the International Science Council and the World Academy of Sciences. This is still not happening on the scale that it needs to. Of the three major prize-awarding organizations approached by Nature, only the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, which is responsible for the Kavli prizes and the Abel Prize, does so; it has done this since at least 2018.

[D] This is clearly a problem, but awareness of the situation opens the door to fixing it. Although women are still under-represented in EGU nominations, their share of awards is now approaching their representation among EGU members, thanks to corrective measures taken by the organization's awards committee. Sadly, however, the EGU is among the outliers — most scientific societies do not make nomination data public. They should consider doing so, because understanding patterns in nominations and nominees is integral to determining why members of groups that are marginalized in science remain under-represented among prizewinners.

[E] Prizes boost careers and create role models. But some of the most prestigious awards are also among those with the most secretive selection processes — and that fuels the under-representation of women and people from minority groups among winners. At its annual general assembly in Vienna last month, the European Geosciences Union (EGU) did something unusual. The chair of its awards committee, Thomas Blunier, presented a breakdown, by gender, of prize nominees and nominators since 2014. The data were revealing. Although women make up 37% of the society's members, they made just 20% of nominations — suggesting that women are less likely to nominate than men. The data also showed that people tend to favour their own gender when making nominations — with men most likely to nominate other men.

[F] Sadly, these measures will not make science prizes match global diversity, at least not straight away. Many prizes are based on work carried out decades ago, when the barriers to entering science were even higher than they are today for people from under-represented groups and

countries. Excellent science and scientists exist everywhere. At the very least, professional societies must ensure that their nomination pools are representative of their communities. Greater transparency and a wider, more-diverse pool of nominees increases the chance of awards rewarding excellence, rather than amplifying existing networks of prestige.

[G] The situation could well be even worse for minority genders and people of colour, but the data needed to assess this are rarely collected. The authors of an unpublished analysis of almost 9,000 winners of science prizes dating back to the eighteenth century (presented at this year's EGU meeting) managed to identify just one woman of colour.

41.__→D → 42. __→ 43. __→ 44. __→ 45. __→ F

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.

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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.