Model Test Two

Part I Writing (30 minutes)

Directions: Suppose you are asked to give advice on **whether students should take a year off before entering college or go directly into college**. Write an essay to state your opinion. You should write at least150 words but no more than 200 words.

Part II Listening Comprehension (30 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear three news reports. At the end of each news report, you will hear two or three questions. Both the news report and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

1. A)The woman is a professor. B) The woman is the Dean's assistant.
   C) The man is a senior student. D) The man is in big trouble.
2. A)His qualification for graduation. B) The old curriculum requirements.
   C)His credits of optional courses. D) The reason for changing the curriculum.
3. A) It has nothing to do with the man's major.
   B) It is worthwhile to take the course.
   C) It is too difficult for the man to pass.
   D) It is a new course added to the curriculum.
4. A)Ask for professional advice from his seminar.
   B) Take one or two seminars before graduation.
   C) Turn to his teacher for filling instruction.
   D) Talk to someone from the Dean's office.

Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

5. A)The weather condition of an airport. C) The efficiency of an airport tower.
   B) The flow control of an airport. D) The number of planes at an airport.
6. A)He might not use the free-trip voucher during the next flight.
   B) He might not get the cash the airline promised to pay.
   C) He might not get on board even with confirmed reservation.
   D) He might not be guaranteed a seat on the next flight in advance.
7. A)Because airline's computer systems sell tickets randomly.
   B) Because airline clerks promote less popular flights.
   C) Because people are encouraged by their fellows.
   D) Because people are attracted by the lower price.
8. A)Choose big airports. B) Do not take luggage.
   C)Carry no more than two bags. D)Take only carry-on luggage.

Section B

Directions： In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you

must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C), and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

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

9. A)It advocates tilling the fields before planting.
   B) It is a long-held farming practice.
   C) It is economical.
   D) It requires less manpower.
10. A) They perfectly go with the law of nature.
   B) They promote planting the same crop every year.
   C) They can make the soil become damaged.
   D) They can keep the soil full of nutrition.
11. A) It is not meant to be harvested. B) It needs little fertilizer.
   C) It can keep the main crop warm. D) It can be harvested in off-season.

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

12. A)A second or two at most. B) Two seconds or three at most.
   C) Four seconds at most. D) Eight seconds at most.
13. A) Englishmen began to feel unsettled when a silence in talk stretched to 8.2 seconds.
   B) Englishmen began to feel unsettled when a silence in talk stretched to 4 seconds.
   C)Japanese people can bear the longest silence in talk in the world.
   D)Japanese people cannot bear long silences in business conferences.
14. A)Colonial Americans was a place of different peoples in history.
   B) Americans are eager to build mutual understanding quickly.
   C) Colonial Americans needed to clear the differences among them.
   D) Americans lack the patience to wait for others to ponder.
15. A)With people you have not met before. B) With people having the same culture background.
   C) With people having the same interest. D) With people you are familiar with.

Section C

Directions: In this section, you will hear three recordings of lectures or followed by three or four questions. The recordings will be played only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C), D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.

16. A)They are the smallest satellites. B) They are made by college students.
   C) They are powered by water. D) They are backed by NASA.
17. A) From a former Cornell University professor.
   B) From a science program on television.
   C) From a competition held by Cornell University.
   D) From a former NASA's chief technologist.
18. A)Using pictures of the sun, Earth and the moon to compare their positions and size.
   B) Using a special GPS system to fix the spacecraft's position in the space.
   C) Using the moon, sun and stars to fix the spacecraft's position in the space.
   D) Using remote operation system to direct the spacecraft to move in the right direction.

Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.

19. A)Healthy eating. B) Diet-related diseases.
   C) Eating disorders. D) Food-heath relationship.

20. A)It is causing more deaths around the world than tobacco.
B) It is more prominent in developing countries.
C) It includes two kinds of disease: heart disease and type 1 diabetes.
D) It can be cured now by some specific medicine.

21. A)They are targeting at young people. C) They can cure some skin problems.
B) They can lead to eating disorders. D) They are persuasive to older people.

22. A)Patients should not abandon using drugs. C)Morale and heath are connected.
B) Patients should eat light food. D) Food and health are connected.

Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.

23. A)Some of them are living in the wild in Hawaii.
B) None of them live in the wild.
C) They are the most valuable species of crows.
D) They live in deep holes on the rock.

24. A) They use their nails as tools. C) They are born to use tools.
B) They use their tongues as tools. D) They are trained to use tools.

25. A) They can use their claws as tools. C)Their claws are like human thumbs.
B) They have straight beaks. D)Their beaks are short but hard.

Part Ⅲ Reading Comprehension (40 minutes)

Section A

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

Questions 26 to 35 are based on the following passage.

A new study from researchers in Europe claims that the average IQ in Western nations dropped by a staggering 14.1 points over the past century.

"We tested the__26__that the Victorians were cleverer than modern populations using high-quality instruments, namely measures of simple visual reaction time in a meta-analytic study," the researchers wrote in the study, which was published online in the journal Intelligence on Thursday. "Simple reaction time measures corredlate__27__with measures of general intelligence and are considered elementary measures of __28__."

The results might surprise some. Especially if the researchers were simply measuring visual response times. After all, in a digital world constantly__29__for our attention, it would seem people generally respond more quickly to visual stimuli. However, the results appear to indicate something different.

The Victorian era ran roughly from 1837 to 1901, __30__with the reign of England's Queen Victoria. Some have credited the Reform Act of 1832 with sparking an era of previously__31__peace and prosperity in the U.K. The results were measured using data from 1889 to 2004 and were analyzed by Michael A. Woodley in Brussels.

So why has there been such a__32__drop? As UPI notes, previous research studies have found that women of higher intelligence tend to have fewer children on average, meaning that population growth may be driven by those with a lower IQ. And over time, the abundance of less intelligent__33__would affect the overall IQ average. On average, the general intelligence of those populations measured__34__by 1.23 points per decade. "These findings strongly indicate that with__35__to general intelligence the Victorians were substantially cleverer than modern Western populations," the study says.

A)aspect	I)insignificantly
B)climbed	J) offspring
C)cognition	K)respect
D)coinciding	L)sharp
E)competing	M)steady
F)completing	N)substantially
G)dropped	O)unprecedented
H)hypothesis	

Section B

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

Atomic Powers Stations out at Sea May Be Better than Inland Ones

[A]After the events of March 11th 2011, when an earthquake and tsunami led to a meltdown of three nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant in Japan, you might be forgiven for concluding that atomic power and seawater don't mix. Many engineers, though, do not agree. They would like to see more seawater involved, not less. In fact, they have plans to site nuclear power plants in the ocean rather floating on the surface or moored beneath it.

[B]At first, this sounds a mad idea. It is not. Land-based power stations are bespoke(定制的)structures, built by the techniques of civil engineering, in which each is slightly different and teams of specialists come and go according to the phase of the project. Marine stations, by contrast, could be mass-produced in factories using, if not the techniques of the assembly line, then at least those of the shipyard, with crews constantly employed.

[C]That would make power stations at sea cheaper than those on land Jacopo Buongiorno, a nuclear engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reckons that, when all is done and dusted, electricity from a marine station would cost at least a third less than that from a terrestrial equivalent. It would also make them safer. A reactor anchored on the seabed would never lack emergency cooling, the problem that caused the Fukushima meltdown. Nor would to be protected against the risk of terrorists flying an aircraft into it. It would be tsunami-proof, too. Though tsunamis become great and destructive waves when they arrive in shallow be tsunami-proof, too. Though tsunamis become great and destructive waves when they arrive in shallow water, in the open ocean they are mere ripples. Indeed, were it deep enough(100 metres or so), such a submarine reactor would not even be affected by passing storms.

[D]All these reasons, observes Jacques Chenais, an engineer at France's Atomic-Energy commission, CEA, make underwater nuclear power stations an idea worth investigating. Dr. Chenais is head of small reactors at CEA, and has had experience with one well-established type of underwater reactor—that powers submarines. He and his team are now assisting Naval Group, a French military contractor, to design reactors that will stay put instead of moving around on a boat. The plan is to encase(把……围住)a reactor and an electricity-generating steam turbine in a steel cylinder the length of a football pitch and with a weight of around 12,000 tonnes.

[E]The whole system, dubbed Flexblue, would be anchored to the seabed between five and 15km from the coast—far enough for safety in case of an emergency, but near enough to be serviced easily. The electricity generated(up to 250 megawatts, enough for 1m people)would be transmitted ashore by an undersea cable. For refueling and maintenance unmanageable from a submarine, the cylinder would be floated to the surface with air injected into its ballast tanks. And, when a station came to the end of its useful life, it could be towed to a specialist facility to be dismantled safely, rather than requiring yet another lot of civil engineers to demolish it.

[F]Naval Group has not, as yet, attracted any customers for its designs. But a slightly less ambitious approach to marine reactors—anchoring them on the surface rather than below it—is about to come to fruition(实现)in Russia. The first such, Akademik Lomonosov, is under construction at the Baltic Shipyard, in St. Petersburg. According to Andrey Bukhovtsev of Rosatom, the agency that runs Russia's civil nuclear program, it is 96% complete. It will be launched later this year, towed to Murmansk, and thence transported to Pevek, a port in Russia's Far East, where it will begin generating power in 2019.

[G]Akademik Lomonosov consists of two 35MW reactors mounted on a barge. The reactors are modified versions of those used to power Taymyr-class icebreakers. As such, they are designed to be able to take quite a battering, so the storms of the Arctic Ocean should not trouble them. To add to their safety, the barge bearing them will be moored, about 200 metrs from shore, behind a storm-and-tsunami-resistant breakwater.

[H]Altogether, Akademik Lomonosov will cost $ 480m to build and install—far less than would have to be spent constructing an equivalent power station on land in such a remote and hostile environment. And, on the presumption that the whole thing will work, plans for a second, similar plant are being laid.

[I] Nor is Russia alone in planning floating reactors. China has similar ambitions. Specifically, the Chinese government intends, during the 2020s, to build up to 20 floating nuclear plants, with reactors as powerful as 200MW, to supply artificial islands it is building as part of its plan to enforce the country's claim to much of the South China Sea.

[J]The firms involved in this project intend to tsunami-proof some of their reactors in the same way as the French, by stationing them in water too deep for massive tsunami waves to form. Because they are at the surface, though, that will not save them from storms—and locating them far from shore means the Russian approach of building sheltering breakwaters will not work either. That matters. Typhoons in the South China Sea can whip up waves with an amplitude enceeding 20 metres.

[K]To withstand such storms, the barges will have anchors that are attached to swiveling "mooring turrets" under their bows. These will cause a barge to behave like a weather vane, always pointing into the wind. Since that is the direction waves come from, it will remain bow-on to those waves, giving it the best chance of riding out any storm that nature cares to throw at it. The barges' bows will also be built high, in order to cut through waves. This way, claims Mark Tipping of Lloyd's Register, a British firm that is advising on the plants' design, they will be able to survive a "10,000-year storm."

[L]The South China Sea is also a busy area for shipping, so any floating power stations there will need to be able to withstand a direct hit by a heavy-laden cargo vessel travelling at a speed of, say, 20knots—whether that collision be accidental or the result of hostile action. One way to do this, says Chen Haibo, a naval architect working on the problem at Lloyd's Register's Beijing office, is to fit the barges with crumple zones packed with materials such as corrugated steel and wood.

[M]Not everyone is delighted with the idea of marine nuclear power. Rashid Alimov, head of energy projects at Greenpeace Russia, an environmental charity, argues that offshore plants could be boarded by pirates or terrorists, be struck by an iceberg or might evade safety rules that are hard to enforce at sea. On July 21st Greenpeace scored a victory when Rosatom said that Akademik Lomonosov's nuclear fuel would be loaded in an unpopulated area away from St. Petersburg.

[N]That, though, is a pinprick(小范围). The future of marine nuclear power stations is more likely to depend on the future of nuclear power itself than on the actions of pressure groups such as Greenpeace. If, as many who worry about the climate-changing potential of fossil-fuel power stations think, uranium has an important part to play in generating electricity over coming decades, then many new nuclear plants will be needed. And if that does turn out to be the case, siting such plants out at sea may well prove a good idea.

36. Compared with the atomic power stations at sea, inland ones cost much more.

37.Building floating power stations in the South China Sea must take into consideration the busy shipping there.

38.The demolition of an exhausted inland station still needs numbers of experts.

39.One of the discrepancies between marine power stations and land-based power stations is that the former could be mass-produced.

40. Constructing marine reactors on the surface of the water in Russia is to be complete later this year.

41.Marine reactors at the surface cannot keep them from the storm like typhoons.

42. Some Greenpeace organizations are against the construction of marine nuclear power stations and won success to some degree.

43.Akademik Lomonosov will cost, in total, a lot less than similar power stations on land.

44.Dr. Chenais has participated in the construction of underwater reactor that provides energy for submarines.

45.China is planning to construct twenty floating nuclear plants in the South China Sea.

Section C

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Amazon said it will cut prices on a range of popular goods as it completes its acquisition of Whole Foods, sending shares of rival grocers tumbling(跌倒，暴跌)on fears that brutal market share battles will intensify.

Amazon's $ 13.7 billion purchase of Whole Foods, which will be completed on Monday, has been hanging over a brick-and-mortar(有实体的)retail sector unsure of how to respond to the world's biggest online retailer. Shares of Kroger, the biggest United States supermarket operator, closed down 8 percent, while Wal-Mart, the biggest US food seller, closed down 2 percent.

Amazon said it will start selling Whole Foods brand products on its website, a move that sent down shares of packaged food sellers, including Kellogg. Amazon also said members of its $99-per-year Prime shopping club would eventually be rolled into Whole Foods' customer rewards program and be eligible for special offers and discounts. "There was never any doubt that Amazon would lower prices, and even offer further discounts in-store to Prime members," said Baird Equity Research analyst Colin Sebastian.

Starting on Monday, Amazon will cut prices on organic grocery staples such as bananas, avocados, brown eggs farmed salmon and tilapia, baby kale and lettuce, some apples, butter, and other products. Lowering prices could stem defections by price-sensitive Whole Foods shoppers and help the grocer shed its "Whole Paycheck" reputation for high prices that are generally 15 to 25 percent above rivals. It could also bring in new consumers who can then be urged to shop for food and other products online.

The planned price cuts would have been a tough sell to Whole Foods' investors, who had grown used to fat profits from the upscale chain, but are more in line with Amazon's broader strategy of sacrificing short-term profit for long-term market dominance. Amazon's willingness to take lower profit margins ups the ante(赌注)in the increasingly costly grocery price war.

Adding Whole Foods benefits should help Amazon attract more shoppers to its successful Prime shceme, which features two-day shipping for eligible purchases and unlimited streaming of movies and TV shows. Amazon has more than 60 million Prime members, according to analyst estimates. Whole Foods has rolled out a loyalty program at its smaller, lower-priced 365 by Whole Foods chain, which offers members 10 oercent off more than 100 items in the stores. The program is still being tested in the main Whole Foods chain.

Beyond that, some Whole Foods stores will get Amazon Lockers, where customers can receive online orders and make returns. John Mackey will remain chief executive of Whole Foods and the company will operate as a sucsidiary and continue to be headquartered in Austin, Texas, the companies said on Thursday.

46. What can we learn about “Whole Foods”?

A)It is purchased by Amazon at a high price.

B) It threatens the profits of the physical stores.

C) It mainly sells high-quality products online.

D) It is one of the biggest packaged food sellers.

47. What may be the impact of the price cutting policy of Amazon?

A)Causing defections of shoppers. B) Starting a new round of price wars.

C) Increasing Amazon’s annual sales. D) Attracting more target customers.

48. In the passage, “a tough sell”(Line 1, Para.5)is closest in meaning to_____.

A) impossible to profit B) eager to sell out

C) reluctant to invest D) hard to accept

49. Except for cutting prices, what else marketing program will Amazon introduce?

A) Seasonal discounts. B) Well-rounded member benefits.

C) Improved customer services. D) Shorter period of shipping.

50. What is the passage mainly about?

A) The fierce market battles in food sales industry.

B) Market reaction to the merge of online sellers.

C) The acquisition and reform of Whole Foods.

D)Market prospect after Amazon’s acquisition.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

The 17 trillion US gallons of rain, roughly 26m Olympic swimming pools, dumped on Texas by Hurricane Harvey has set a new high for a tropical system in the US, but it is unlikely to last long as rising man-made emissions push global climate deeper into uncharted territory.

Images of flooded streets in Texas are mirrored by scenes of inundated(洪泛的)communities in India and Bangladesh, the recent mudslides in Sierra Leone and last month’s deadly overflow of a Yangtze tributary(支流)in China. In part, these calamities are seasonal. In part, the impact depends on local factors. But scientists tell us such extremes are likely to become more common and more devastating as a result of rising global temperatures and increasingly intense rainfall.

Our planet is in an era of unwelcome records. For each of the past three years, temperatures have hit peaks not seen since the birth of meteorology(气象学),and probably not for more than 110,000 years. The amount of carbon dioxide in the air is at its highest level in 4m years. This does not cause storms like Harvey—there have always been storms and hurricanes at this time of year along the Gulf of Mexico—but it makes them wetter and more powerful.

“For large countries like the United States, we can expect further rainfall records—and not just for hurricanes,” said Friederike Otto, deputy director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford. This is part of a wider trend. “For the globe, we’ll see heat and extreme rainfall records fall for the foreseeable future,” she predicted. She cautioned that the situation is likely to be different from country to country. Many factors are involved, but human impact on the climate has added to the tendency for more severe droughts and fiercer storms.

A key focus now is whether climate change is connected to the “stalling” of storms. In the US, hurricanes usually move inland and diminish in power as they get further from the sea. Harvey, however, was stationary for several days—which is the main factor in its rainfall record.

Scientists have said this may be the single biggest question posed by Harvey. Researchers have recently identified a slowdown of atmospheric summer circulation in the mid-latitudes as a result of strong warming in the Arctic. But such studies of pressure patterns need more powerful analytical tools, including supercomputers.

In the US, however, such research has become highly politicized. President Donald Trump has announced that the US will pull out of the Paris climate treaty and cut funding for related research. “It shouldn’t be a political matter to try to understand how much more frequent events like Harvey will become in the future,” said Tim Palmer, a professor at the University of Oxford. “It appalls me how basic science has become involved in politics like this. ‘

51. What can we learn about Hurricane Harvey?

A) It destroyed about 26m Olympic swimming pools.

B) It brought a record-breaking amount of rainfall.

C) It was soon put to an end by climate change.

D) It also brought unprecedented disasters to Asia.

52. The disasters mentioned in Para. 2 serve as examples to show that_____.

A) disasters in different areas share high similarity

B) most of the worldwide calamities are seasonal

C) extreme weathers are becoming more common

D) rising temperatures cause more intense rainfall

53. Which of the following statements may Otto agree with?

A) Storms and hurricanes have been getting stronger and wetter.

B) More extreme temperatures and rainfall may come in future.

C) It is not clear what factors may be involved in climate change.

D) Hurricanes in the US tend to come into being in inland areas.

54. It is suggested that the root cause of the “stalling” of storms might be_____.

A) varied pressure patterns　　B) warmer ocean currents

C) improper human activities　　D) slower atmospheric circulation

55. What is the scientific community’s response to President Trump’s announcement?

A)Quite critical.　　C)Rather indifferent.

B)Pretty favorable.　　D) Slightly Skeptical.

Part Ⅳ　Translation　(30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

中国数千年的传统文化对于当代的年轻人来说是一笔宝贵的财富。它既体现在百花齐放的政治学和哲学之中，也融入在精美绝伦的手工制品之内。当代中国正以一种史无前例的速度急速发展，它急需寻找其独特的文化根基，同时它又需要中国人对自己的传统文化建立起信心和自豪感。此外，传统文化中蕴含的先贤之道可以帮助我们解决旷日持久的棘手问题。儒家（Confucius）的伦理学教会我们三省吾身的同时又要尊敬别人，而墨家（Mencius）的兼爱理论可以用来打破今日国际上的战争僵局。