

2024 年 12 月大学英语四级考试真题(一)



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Part I Writing (30 minutes)

Directions: Suppose the business school of your university is conducting a survey to collect students' opinions on the express delivery service industry in China. You are to write a response about its recent development and its impact on people's lives. You will have 30 minutes to write the essay. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

Part II Listening Comprehension (25 minutes)



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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 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

1. A) She is making a special effort to be recognized.
B) She has been living in Fayetteville for 25 years.
C) She has been driving a school bus ever since 2009.
D) She is the longest-serving bus driver in Fayetteville.
2. A) The importance of their service to the city.
B) The number of riders they serve in the city.
C) The new proclamation issued early this week.
D) The significance of the event to take place March 18.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

3. A) Budgeted \$ 56.7 million for the coming school year.
B) Requested to raise teachers' salaries by 3 percent.
C) Proposed a spending increase by 5.99 percent.
D) Kept raising funds for at least 8 budget cycles.
4. A) Decrease in salaries for school administrators. C) Firing of less qualified faculty members.
B) Reduction in federal and state funding. D) Closing down of some less competitive schools.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

5. A) They often take place in the Scottish highlands.
B) They usually happen in the middle of the night.
C) Their damage can be as serious as that of bombs.
D) Their loud claps can be confused with explosions.
6. A) They sent out a message to calm them down.
B) They promised to stop the construction work.

- C) They told them the military exercise was over.
 D) They set off to inspect the site of the plane crash.
7. A) Keep warm. B) Take caution. C) Avoid driving. D) Use rail service.

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

8. A) Why the man is so anxious to buy a new phone.
 B) How the man could possibly afford a new phone.
 C) How the man got into the habit of being wasteful.
 D) Why the man is so fond of using his credit card.
9. A) It is not in fashion any more. C) It is not as fancy as his colleagues'.
 B) It goes out of order frequently. D) It lacks functions office work requires.
10. A) It enables him to buy a new phone at a more favorable price.
 B) It is a special offer to recent college graduates working in offices.
 C) It is available to office workers who have a good enough credit score.
 D) It allows him to borrow money without paying interest for six months.
11. A) She borrowed money to pay her debt. C) She enjoys buying a lot of fancy things.
 B) She developed a habit of overspending. D) She regrets ignoring the woman's advice.

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

12. A) Blog writing and natural resources saving.
 B) Joint efforts to improve the local community.
 C) Audience participation in *The Morning Show*.
 D) Home ownership and environmental protection.
13. A) Not a realistic size for families. C) Only fit for families of four or less.
 B) Not welcomed by most Americans. D) Only suitable for renting to the poor.
14. A) It should be changed. C) It will come true sooner or later.
 B) It isn't easy to realize. D) It doesn't appeal to average families.
15. A) They help to lower housing prices. C) They are a good choice for many people.
 B) They help to save up for larger houses. D) They are vital to reducing waste worldwide.

Section C

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

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

16. A) Play outdoors and enjoy themselves. C) Take care of their well-being.
 B) Beat challenges and take risks. D) Grow up strong and healthy.
17. A) Enable them to develop their motor skills. C) Reduce their stress and depression.
 B) Help them to conceal their frustration. D) Prevent them from feeling lonely.
18. A) It begins early. C) It calls for lifelong efforts.
 B) It proves demanding. D) It lies in nature experiences.

Questions 19 to 21 are based on the passage you have just heard.

19. A) When companies share their information online.
B) When their job search criteria are met fully.
C) When companies embrace greater diversity.
D) When they find job postings visually attractive.
20. A) Emails in the normal format. C) All companies in the same sector.
B) Major companies in one location. D) Various aspects of a company's workforce.
21. A) Job security. C) Minimum base salary.
B) Potential pay raises. D) Information about diversity.

Questions 22 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.

22. A) Positive. B) Original. C) Important. D) Surprising.
23. A) Dogs match their behavior with kids as much as with adults.
B) Kids and adults alike find in dogs a source of attachment.
C) Kids' attitude to dogs is influenced by adults.
D) Dogs can help kids in many ways.
24. A) Dogs pay much attention to the kids they live with.
B) Dogs view both adults and kids as social companions.
C) Kids differ from adults in their behavior towards dogs.
D) Kids need to be aware of the risks in playing with dogs.
25. A) Understanding dogs. C) Taking care of dogs.
B) Training dogs. D) Associating with dogs.

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.

Scientists have known that depriving adult mice of vision can increase the sensitivity of individual *neurons* (神经元) in the part of the brain devoted to hearing. New research from biologists at the University of Maryland 26 that sight deprivation also changes the way brain cells 27 with one another, shifting the mice's sensitivity to different frequencies.

"This study 28 what we are learning about how manipulating vision can have a 29 effect on the ability of an animal to hear long after the window for *auditory* (听觉的) learning was thought to have 30," said Patrick Kanold, senior author of the study.

It was once thought that the sensory regions of the brain were not 31 after a critical period in childhood. This is why children learn languages much more 32 than adults. Kanold's earlier research disproved this idea by showing that depriving adult mice of vision for a short period increased the sensitivity of individual neurons in the auditory *cortex* (皮质), which is devoted to hearing.

Young brains wire themselves according to the sounds they hear frequently, assigning areas of the auditory cortex to 33 frequencies based on what they are used to hearing. The researchers found that, in adult mice, a week in the dark also changed the 34 of space to different frequencies.

“We don’t know why we are seeing these patterns,” Kanold said. “We 35 that it may have to do with what the mice are paying attention to while they are in the dark.”

A) adaptable	I) readily
B) closed	J) registered
C) distribution	K) reinforces
D) interact	L) revealed
E) narration	M) significant
F) neutral	N) specific
G) permanently	O) speculate
H) prescribes	

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**.

Why it’s wrong to look at work-life balance as an achievement

- A) Few topics have been so endlessly analysed as work-life balance. The quest to attain this mysterious state has dominated discussion around careers for years—especially for working parents. The concept is often presented as something to achieve, or a goal to reach. And once you’ve reached it, congratulations: you’ve made it; you’re a successful human being of the 21st century.
- B) But the problem is that we often tell ourselves: “I’m going to put in eight hours’ worth of work, and then I’m going to put in eight hours’ worth of ‘me time’, which will include my family, my hobbies, my workout, my everything,” says Anat Lechner, clinical associate professor of management at New York University. “I don’t think it’s such a simple formula.”
- C) And, according to new findings, it may not be. Some researchers are now encouraging us to stop thinking about work-life balance as an achievement that you either hit or don’t. Instead, they suggest it may be more of a lifelong process—a continuous, never-ending exercise that requires self-awareness and timely adjustments. Researchers Ioana Lupu and Mayra Ruiz-Castro argue that work-life balance is “a cycle, not an achievement”. In their 2020 study, the researchers interviewed nearly 80 employees at two London-based firms—an equal number of men and women between the ages of 30 and 50, all with at least one dependent child—who worked in middle or senior management roles.
- D) Although it sounds like the respondents had a lot in common, here’s what separated them: about 30% of the men and 50% of the women reported resisting working long hours. The other respondents, meanwhile, all worked long hours because they thought that’s what successful professionals should do.
- E) Lupu and Ruiz-Castro looked at those who rejected the long hours and they found that those workers actually had strikingly similar strategies for maintaining their work-life balance. They had a tendency to reflect and question assumptions in the name of self-awareness and regularly took steps to adjust the things standing in their way to work-life balance.
- F) Lupu and Ruiz-Castro identified five steps that the respondents in the study who had better work-life balance used in their jobs. First, they paused and reconsidered beliefs such as “I’m a professional, so I should work, work, work”, and asked themselves questions like, “What’s currently causing me stress?” Second, after identifying the cause, they zeroed in on their resultant emotions. Did they feel

angry, sad, energised? Third, they reprioritised, asking “Is working long hours really worth cutting back on family time?”, for example. Fourth, they considered their alternatives: is there anything at work that could be changed to accommodate these new priorities? And finally, they implemented changes, like asking their supervisor for greater flexibility, or deciding not to take on every project that comes their way.

- G) This five-step process is something anyone can adopt. Going through the steps, and constantly checking in with yourself, can help you shift and adapt your professional life to something that will better harmonise with your personal one. “Awareness of your emotional state is essential in order to determine the changes you want to make in your work and in your life,” says Lupu.
 - H) New York University’s Lechner agrees that finding that balance is an ongoing pursuit. It’s not simply about dividing up the hours in your day between work, the gym, kids and chores. If the underlying emotional sources of stress are still there, then the time you actually spend at home may not be enjoyable. “We come home and even though physically we are there, mentally we still may be processing things that happened at work. We’re not present,” she says. What we call “work-life balance” is actually just a substitute to having a sense of fulfillment and contentment.
 - I) Of course, finding that balance probably shouldn’t be something you have to do by yourself. Research by Erin Kelly, professor of work and organisation studies at MIT, shows companies and managers can play a key role in creating a better environment for workers. For her book *Overload: How Good Jobs Went Bad and What to Do about It*, she and co-author Phyllis Moen split more than 1,000 employees at a Fortune 500 company into two groups, one that worked under a management redesign and one that continued working within the existing management structure.
 - J) Under the management redesign, many steps were taken to ensure better work-life balance and prevent *burnout* (精疲力竭). Managers were regularly reminded to explicitly support their employees. Workers were allowed to make changes, like cancelling 9 am meetings. All of this was done in the name of increasing job satisfaction and giving workers greater flexibility, and to assure workers that it was something management was committed to. Unsurprisingly, Kelly and Moen found that employees in the redesign group reported less stress and less burnout. They were less likely to quit their jobs; indeed, over the next four years, they were 40% less likely to quit than those who kept working under the old policies.
 - K) “Work-life balance is understood to be an individual’s response, so people think ‘it’s up to me to manage the craziness of my work life’”, says Kelly. But organisations need to examine the demands they’re placing on employees. “The root problem is not how the two pieces of work and life come together. It’s that we have unrealistic expectations of what we’re asked to do on the work side.” If your workplace isn’t an environment where work-life balance is possible in the first place, any effort you attempt to make toward it on a personal level will be in vain.
 - L) That’s a conversation that appears to be gathering pace. The new prevalence of remote and flexible working models will likely all play important roles in how we balance our professional and personal lives. And if it seems like finding that perfect balance remains difficult to achieve, the experts say that keeping some perspective can help. For millions of people, work is about being able to put food on the table. Talking about work-life balance “is a very privileged conversation”, says Lechner. “If we’re reflecting, maybe we should also reflect on that.”
36. According to a management expert, work-life balance is not as simple as giving equal amounts of time to work and personal life.
37. Research found that those who are given greater flexibility at work are less stressed and more likely to stay in their jobs.

38. Workers who rejected working long hours tended to make regular adjustments in order to achieve work-life balance.
39. Talking about work-life balance is said to be a privilege reserved for the better-off, not for those who barely make a living.
40. Knowing one's emotional state is of utmost importance in deciding what changes to make for a better work-life balance.
41. More female professionals reported being reluctant to work overtime than their male counterparts.
42. Without organisational support any personal effort to maintain work-life balance will be unsuccessful.
43. The question of how to achieve work-life balance has long been the main subject of discussion among workers.
44. You may not actually experience emotional wellbeing at home if you remain occupied with what happened at work.
45. Some researchers suggest that work-life balance is not a goal to achieve, but a process for life to be adjusted promptly.

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.

As a university student, I've come to realise just how little I know about money. I've come to the brutal realisation that Australia's youth are being done a great disservice by not receiving any consistent financial education.

Diving headfirst into the crash course of starting university, I've quickly tried to get myself up to speed with the financial terms of the modern era to help manage my personal finances.

I've read some financial education books, done some online learning, and have spoken to my nearest and dearest for their pearls of financial wisdom.

There are undoubtedly hundreds of great resources out there for those wishing to improve their financial literacy, but while I was researching, I still kept wishing that I didn't have to play catch-up with the money world. I felt that I was sailing the financial seas with no skills and no life jacket!

However, after talking to my friends who felt the same, I quickly realised that it wasn't my ignorance but the lack of financial education in our schooling system that is leaving high schoolers seriously behind in the modern world of money.

Let's compare a theoretical financial education subject to the standard compulsory English class. On average, English may not be the most popular subject, but it's consistently on the schedule throughout high school, with all students graduating fluent in English.

A financial education subject should do just the same. It shouldn't be just a one-day event but a course integrated throughout the whole of high school that would allow students to gradually expand their financial literacy, and would prevent the need for a 'catch up' phase once we're out on our own after graduation.

In the same way that learning a language or new skills takes time, building financial skills requires practice and years to gradually accumulate bits and pieces of knowledge.

Giving young people the opportunity to become familiar with the world of money would provide them with a great advantage to enter adulthood with confidence and security so that they are able to manage their own money and look after themselves.

46. What has the author come to realise since entering university?

- A) He needs a crash course on financial terms.
- B) He is very much lacking in financial literacy.
- C) It requires consistent education to be financially independent.
- D) It is unrealistic to give all Australian youth a financial education.

47. How did the author feel in today's money world?

- A) Badly equipped to survive.
- B) Ignorant of financial literature.
- C) Barely capable of moving ahead.
- D) Overwhelmed by the resources online.

48. What did the author realise after talking to his friends?

- A) They were as keen as he was on financial matters.
- B) The schooling system was to blame for his trouble.
- C) High schoolers knew nothing about the modern financial world.
- D) Financial courses were as unpopular as compulsory English classes.

49. What is the author's idea of a financial education course?

- A) It should foresee students' needs after graduation.
- B) It should provide students with some basic knowledge.
- C) It should be taught the same way as English is taught.
- D) It should be integrated into high school education.

50. What would financial literacy do to young people?

- A) Allow them to enter adulthood with financial security.
- B) Enable them to look after themselves without worrying about money.
- C) Render them confident and secure in terms of money management.
- D) Help them become familiar with the world of money.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Chocolates save us from many things, especially emotional distress. They comfort us in times of trouble, calming down a racing heart by channelling happy calories inside us. We all have faith in chocolates to delight us in an instant!

Recently, chocolate lovers were heartbroken as scientists claimed that they can become extinct by 2050! But hey, we have some happy news for you. Scientists can still help save chocolates from dying out! If you are not aware as to why scientists made the statement about the death of this wonderful thing, let us tell you the facts. Chocolate trees, whose seeds are used to make chocolate, grow in the tropical plant world and require very specific weather conditions to prosper.

Now, fifty percent of the world's *cocoa* (可可) beans come from two countries in West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Scientists believe that both of these countries will experience a 3.8 °F temperature increase by 2050 due to global warming, endangering the *cacao* (可可树) farms in the rainforests. These farms will then have to be shifted to cooler mountainous areas, which are the natural habitat of wildlife. This will lead to some tough decisions: whether to grow chocolate or save wildlife.

Unfortunately, the crisis of global warming has already had a serious negative impact on cacao farms' yields, leading to the prices of chocolates skyrocketing.

Scientists, however, are trying to find a long-term and eco-friendly solution to this problem! They are trying to modify the species with a gene-editing technology, which will transform the seedlings into a species that survives even in a drier and warmer climate.

According to a report by *The Business Insider*, in the University of California's new bio-sciences building, tiny green cacao seedlings are lined up in refrigerated greenhouses for a new experiment by using a technology called CRISPR. By manipulating the DNA of plants, this technology is already being used across the world to make plants tougher and cheaper. Similarly, in this unconventional experiment, scientists will make tiny, precise changes to the DNA of the seedlings to make the cocoa crops survive in warmer and drier climates.

51. What do people believe chocolates can do?
- A) Cheer them up instantly. C) Conceal emotional distress.
B) Create happy calories. D) Relieve them of heart trouble.
52. What was scientists' recent assertion about chocolates?
- A) They could become a rare treat in the near future.
B) They could calm people down a bit in times of crisis.
C) They could prevent people from getting heartbroken.
D) They could become unavailable in less than 30 years.
53. What would happen if the cacao farms were shifted to cooler mountainous areas?
- A) The natural habitat of wildlife there would be ruined.
B) The cacao farmers would have a tough time to adapt.
C) The rainforests would be shrinking dramatically.
D) The quality of cocoa beans would suffer greatly.
54. What do we learn about the cacao farms in the crisis of global warming?
- A) They try to seek help from gene-editing scientists.
B) They decide to move to cooler mountainous areas.
C) They have suffered a lot due to a decrease in produce.
D) They have benefited by raising prices of cocoa beans.
55. What are scientists trying to do in the University of California's new bio-sciences building?
- A) Build rows of refrigerated greenhouses for research on cacao seedlings.
B) Gene-edit cacao seedlings for them to withstand a drier, warmer climate.
C) Produce chocolates with the latest gene-editing technology.
D) Transplant the genes of tougher plants to cacao seedlings.

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**.

中国政府十分重视环境保护。近年来,中国在减少空气、水和土壤污染上取得了显著成效。为了不断改善人们的生活环境,中国采取了一系列有效措施,包括大力发展清洁能源,改善公共交通,推广共享单车,实施垃圾分类。通过这些措施,中国的城市和农村正在绿起来、美起来。中国还积极参与国际合作,为全球环境保护做出了重要贡献。

2024 年 12 月大学英语四级考试真题(二)



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Part I Writing (30 minutes)

Directions: Suppose the university newspaper is inviting submissions from the students for its coming edition on how to enrich students' knowledge of traditional Chinese culture. You are now to write an essay for submission. You will have 30 minutes to write the essay. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.



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Part II Listening Comprehension (25 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 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

1. A) They will see a 27% higher price to buy natural gas.
B) They will have insufficient heating oil to keep warm.
C) They will have a costly bill to pay to heat their homes.
D) They will experience the coldest winter in four decades.
2. A) Provided additional funding to Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
B) Assured U.S. citizens of an increase in energy supplies by the end of this year.
C) Predicted a 10% jump in heating bills for most U.S. households this winter.
D) Decided on this year's energy assistance package of \$ 8 billion in total.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

3. A) They care less about their diet now than before.
B) They may lack adequate knowledge of healthy food.
C) They may hold too optimistic a view about their diet.
D) They pay insufficient attention to their choice of food.
4. A) Those who finished 24-hour food questionnaires.
B) Those who fully understood the rating scale.
C) Those who cared about food quality.
D) Those who rated their diet as poor.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

5. A) They experienced a heartbreaking moment.
B) They gathered together to rescue an elephant.
C) They heard a noise from the bottom of a well.
D) They found an elephant wandering around a well.

6. A) To borrow their crane. C) To report the strange noise.
 B) To ask them for help. D) To get food for the elephant.
7. A) The elephant was able to return to the jungle.
 B) The army officers were examined for injuries.
 C) The army officers were rewarded for their rescue efforts.
 D) The elephant was given medical treatment for many days.

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

8. A) He found it had caused him much inconvenience.
 B) It led him to spend more money than necessary.
 C) It was much less secure than paying with cash.
 D) He wanted to be less dependent on his phone.
9. A) Living beyond her means. C) Fashion addiction.
 B) Lack of budgeting strategies. D) Impulse purchasing.
10. A) Eat healthier food with less money. C) Avoid getting addicted to junk food.
 B) Order food like burgers and chips. D) Pay either in cash or with his phone.
11. A) Making a shopping list. C) Withdrawing cash only once a month.
 B) Sticking to his budget. D) Thinking twice before buying something.

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

12. A) He does not enjoy any ball games. C) He has breathing problems.
 B) He has to prepare for the future. D) He is not up to anything challenging.
13. A) Soccer. B) Badminton. C) Volleyball. D) Basketball.
14. A) The possibilities of joining the school sports team.
 B) The opportunities of winning some championships.
 C) The chances of getting an athletic scholarship later on.
 D) The odds of becoming a professional sportsman someday.
15. A) It differs entirely from indoor volleyball.
 B) It appeals to both schoolgirls and schoolboys.
 C) It is less popular than indoor sports in the country.
 D) It is completely different from other outdoor games.

Section C

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

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

16. A) It usually requires years of preparations.
 B) It does a lot of harm to the environment.

- C) It often burns over three hundred tonnes of refined fuel.
 D) It proves to be the most complicated stage of space missions.
17. A) They are burnt up in outer space. C) They are reused up to 100 times.
 B) They are guided back to Earth. D) They are treated as expendable.
18. A) New technologies for bringing back space vehicles for recycling.
 B) The technology for meeting the needs of commercial space travel.
 C) Many of the technologies to limit the impact of space travel on Earth.
 D) The technology for effectively protecting ozone from being destroyed.

Questions 19 to 21 are based on the passage you have just heard.

19. A) It can help unskilled readers feel more secure.
 B) It can encourage reluctant readers to read aloud.
 C) It can strengthen children's confidence in others.
 D) It can boost children's interest in communication.
20. A) By motivating children to find out about their favourite pets.
 B) By taking children to the library to borrow books on animals.
 C) By allowing children to surf the internet about pets by themselves.
 D) By showing children how to acquire knowledge about healthy pets.
21. A) By learning that raising pets can do much good.
 B) By watching how healthy pets are brought up.
 C) By hearing about their peers' passion for pets.
 D) By visiting friends who have household pets.

Questions 22 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.

22. A) Send would-be students a packet of information.
 B) Update regularly all information on their websites.
 C) Inform prospective students of their yearly enrollment.
 D) Answer questions raised by applicants and their parents.
23. A) Oversee private institutions directly. C) Supervise all schools consistently.
 B) Follow other states' example. D) Regulate public institutions by law.
24. A) They are resourceful.
 B) They are competitive.
 C) They provide the best opportunity to realize one's dream.
 D) They appeal most to students from other states in the U.S.
25. A) Some students waste much time surfing the net.
 B) Students may need to visit too many websites.
 C) Students have to search for the information.
 D) Some students may lack adequate access.

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.

When Toni Morrison died in 2019, the world lost one of its most influential authors. But Morrison was not an early success. Her first novel was not published until she was 39, and her last appeared when she was 84. And Morrison was not 26 in this regard. Numerous writers produce masterpieces well into their 70s and beyond. Such 27 accomplishments highlight an important point. Our capacity to speak, write and learn new vocabulary does not seem to 28 with age. Our eyesight may dim and our recall may weaken, but, by comparison, our ability to produce and to 29 language is well preserved into older adulthood.

Indeed, the latest research that has emerged on language and aging shows that language mastery is a 30 that we begin as infants and continue on for the rest of our lives. Some aspects of our language abilities, such as our knowledge of word meanings, 31 improve during middle and late adulthood. One study, for example, found that adults over sixty had an average vocabulary size of over 21,000 words. The researchers also studied a 32 of college students and found that their average vocabulary contained 33 16,000 words. In another study, older adults, with an average age of 75, 34 better than participants in their youth or middle years on tasks that required them to determine the meaning of words. Thus, language seems to be a skill that, contrary to what many might 35, does not weaken with age.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| A) actually | I) literary |
| B) approximately | J) performed |
| C) assume | K) rarely |
| D) component | L) sample |
| E) comprehend | M) undermined |
| F) deteriorate | N) unique |
| G) equivalent | O) unit |
| H) journey | |

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**.*

If we care about plastic waste, why won't we stop drinking bottled water?

We have all seen the damage plastic waste is doing around the world, but sales of bottled water have continued to grow.

- A) For all the innovation and choice that define the food and drink industries, if you want to make money, you could do a lot worse than fill a bottle with water and sell it. A litre of tap water, the stuff we have cleverly piped into our homes, costs less than half a penny. A litre of bottled water can cost well over a pound, especially for something fancy that has been sucked through a mountain.
- B) Yet the bottled water market is livelier than ever. It defies our increasing awareness of the harm plastics do to the environment and a broader, growing sense that something has to change. Sales in the UK were worth a record £558.4 million this past year, an increase of 7%, according to the latest figures from the market analyst Kantar. Separate data from other analysts show that last year the British consumed more than 2.2 billion litres of bottled water, including “take-home” and “on-the-go” products. That’s an annual rise in volume of 8.5%.
- C) Environmental campaigners are struggling to understand why nations blessed with clean tap water grow only fonder of the bottle. “It’s very surprising to me,” says Sam Chetan-Walsh, a political adviser at

Greenpeace and campaigner against ocean plastic. “Public awareness has never been higher, but the message is not quite reaching all the people it needs to.” Where it is heard, the message is causing concern. Plastic water bottles require oceans of fossil fuels to make and ship. Additionally, single-use plastics of all types are polluting our cities and seas. Numerous documentaries have shown how plastic is ultimately killing wildlife.

- D) Moves against various plastics have gathered pace, from shopping bags to straws and plastic-lined coffee cups. Chetan-Walsh argues that bottled water is different because the alternatives are so obvious. “If a product that is so nakedly unnecessary can exist, then the whole system is failing,” he says.
- E) Hope is not entirely out of reach. The rate of growth has begun to ease (sales were up 7% in the year, compared with 8% the previous year).
- F) But even if large numbers of people are quitting bottled water because of care for the environment, others are taking it up. The introduction of the “sugar tax” on juices and soda drinks has pushed more people to bottled water, while health awareness has boosted its desirability. Tap water consumption is growing at roughly the same pace (UK consumers still drink almost three times as much tap water as bottled water).
- G) So the plastic tide only creeps higher. The industry is quick to point out that all its bottles are recyclable. “But collection rates are, at the most generous estimates, 56%, so the actual recycling rate will be lower than that,” Chetan-Walsh says. And while bottles may be recyclable, very few are made of recycled plastic. One water bottle company launched recycled half-litre “eco” bottles alongside its standard bottles. Another has pledged to use only recycled plastic across its range by 2025. Chetan-Walsh believes in a ban on single-use bottles. Bans do exist in some places. Organisers of a famous music festival announced that water bottles will not be sold this summer. San Francisco has banned them from city property and events. Last year, the UK government set out plans to ban single-use plastic from its estate.
- H) Water bottlers, unsurprisingly, don’t support bans. But they raise concerns about health rather than profit margins. Last month one chief executive of a water bottling company said that bans would “result in greater consumption of sugary drinks, adding to all the health dangers of obesity, diabetes and tooth decay”. Kinvara Carey, general manager of an association of the biggest bottled water manufacturers, cites a survey in which people were asked what they would do if bottled water were not available. “Forty-four per cent would buy another drink, which is not great, 14% would go without and 4.5% said they would find a fountain,” she says. “The choice is important.”
- I) What if fountains were more numerous, and tap water more clearly available in cafes, restaurants and elsewhere? Dozens of fountains are being installed in London. There are similar initiatives elsewhere. Before plastic and the marketing that made people think they needed bottled water in the first place, fountains were an urban fixture. Greenpeace, among others, is also pushing for a “deposit return” scheme. This would mean tax on bottled water would be refunded to customers who returned the plastic for recycling.
- J) Even if bottled water sales are growing slightly more slowly, the industry is racing to adapt to changing concerns and tastes. Flavoured water is booming; sales of the sparkling variety shot up by 20%, according to the latest analyst data. Meanwhile, international water brands, as well as a range of new companies, are selling high-end reusable bottles. And if you must fill them with tap water, why not add flavouring?
- K) As the owner of multiple sugary drink brands and bottled water, PepsiCo is facing challenges on health and environmental fronts. Last year, the company bought SodaStream (a drinks company that sells

machines for making tap water bubbly and then consumers add flavours) for \$ 3.2 billion. It also launched a range of fancy bottles that work with tap water and flavour packets. The bottle is reusable. The packets? Not so much, and, yes, they are made of plastic, although the company invites users to post them back for recycling.

- L) As is so often the case, clever marketing can beat reason; awareness is rarely enough. “There is always this kind of slip between concern, intent and changed behaviour,” says Giles Quick, an analyst of bottled water. “The best example is five a day, the recommendation to have at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. Almost everyone is aware of this, but something like 15% of us achieve it.” Unless a far-reaching bottle ban does come into force, it will be up to consumers to not only demand change—but to act themselves.
36. Judging from the slowing rate of sales growth, there is still hope to combat bottled water.
37. Bottled water manufacturers base their arguments against bans of plastic bottles on health concerns rather than on profits.
38. Sales of bottled water in Britain hit a record high last year even though people are increasingly aware that plastics are environmentally unfriendly.
39. It often happens that people can lack reason when faced with skillful marketing.
40. One city on the west coast of America has banned single-use bottles from its property and events.
41. Manufacturing and shipping of plastic water bottles consume a tremendous amount of fossil fuels.
42. One large beverage company has adapted its operations when confronted with challenges from health and environmental advocates.
43. Bottled water is considerably more expensive than tap water.
44. Fountains could be seen in cities before bottled water became popular.
45. More people have taken to bottled water because of their health awareness.

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.

The weakening of the human connection to nature might be good for economic growth but is bad for people. A tipping point was reached in 2020 when human-made materials—such as steel, concrete and plastic—were found to weigh more than all life on Earth. Continuing to grow concrete forests rather than real ones is shortsighted. Simply being in the nearest wood has such health benefits that the Woodland Trust successfully lobbied for it to be prescribed by doctors.

Yet slipping from popular culture is the wonder and beauty of the natural world. For every three nature-related words in hit songs of the 1950s, researchers found, there was only slightly more than one 50 years later. It is not a moment too soon that teenagers will be able to take a natural history test, given that for decades children have been able to name more video game characters than wildlife species.

Part of remedying this social disease would be for parliament to pass a “right to grow” law, allowing anyone to turn underused public spaces into vegetable and fruit gardens. The idea is for people to get back in touch with the soil—while producing food sustainably.

Vegetable planting has a respectable tradition. In April 1649, locals responded to high prices and food shortages by cultivating vegetables on common land in Southern England. The practice of throwing seed bombs to turn vacant plots of land green took off in 1970s New York, and has been *revived* (使复活) by

*green-thumb*ed (有园艺才能的) social media influencers who defy local U.S. regulations in a war on ugly spots in cities.

Apart from the urgent task of providing more healthy nutrients to those who increasingly can't afford them, publicly accessible fruit and vegetable gardens connect what we eat to where it comes from—the means of production, if you will. They can make unlovely spaces lovely, and marry use and beauty as well as help promote a sense of community. Plants are also, of course, our first defence against species loss and climate change. Such planting is a small step for humanity—in the right direction.

46. What does the author want to emphasise in the first paragraph?

- A) The year 2020 was a big turning point in human history.
- B) Economic growth benefits people little in the long run.
- C) It is unwise to weaken the human connection to nature.
- D) It is harmful to mankind to use human-made materials.

47. What did researchers find about popular culture?

- A) It is increasingly detached from the natural world.
- B) It is filled with all kinds of video game characters.
- C) It is especially appealing to the taste of teenagers.
- D) It is still impacted by the hit songs of the 1950s.

48. What does the author propose people do?

- A) Take measures to ensure sustainable food development.
- B) Reconnect with nature through the right to grow.
- C) Stand by the parliament in fighting social diseases.
- D) Cover public spaces with fruit trees and vegetable plants.

49. What do we learn from the passage about vegetable planting?

- A) It all started in 1649 in Southern England.
- B) It is protected by U.S. government regulations.
- C) It has long been used to increase food supply and improve urban landscape.
- D) It has been popularised worldwide with the increasing influence of social media.

50. What can publicly accessible fruit and vegetable gardens do apart from their practical functions?

- A) Raise people's environmental awareness.
- B) Add to the great variety of plant species.
- C) Act as the first defence against natural disasters.
- D) Enhance people's community spirit.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Engineering in the U.S. has long been a male-dominated profession. Fifty years ago, it looked like that might change.

In 1970, the percentage of women majoring in engineering was less than 1%. In 1979, that number was 9%. Many hoped women would continue to enter the field at the same rate. But that's not what happened. Today, only 21% of engineering majors are women, a number largely unchanged since 2000.

I am a historian who, along with my colleagues, surveyed 251 women engineers who graduated from college in the 1970s. These pioneers reflected on the challenges they faced—and had advice for women entering the field today.

One survey taker explained, "The greatest challenge for me was continuing to believe in myself, when all the messages I was getting were that I would never be taken seriously or promoted or given raises at the same rate as men, who were clearly less qualified and not as smart as I was."

A chemical engineer who worked in manufacturing agreed, "You have to prove yourself just because you are female. And you have to work twice as hard!"

A civil engineer said, "We are 'women engineers.' People don't refer to a man as a 'man engineer'—he's an engineer. We are constantly reminded that we don't truly belong." Another civil engineer stated, "On many levels, you're never quite one of the group."

Women also talked about family caregiving responsibilities. A retired vice president from a major chemical company stated, "Young women engineers are on an equal footing until they have children, then they struggle to balance work and family—and compete with men who don't have the same household responsibilities."

But over the years things have changed a lot. Young women engineers are more accepted mostly because there are just more of them.

Many women engineers hailed the benefits of their chosen career. A program manager in manufacturing stated that engineering is the best degree. A mechanical engineer said, "It will give you the flexibility to do almost anything. It is also satisfying to see the effects of what you have done."

51. What does the passage say about the engineering profession in the United States?

- A) It has seen a change in attitude towards women engineers since 1979.
- B) It witnessed a significant increase in women engineers in the 1970s.
- C) It has experienced the gradual weakening of male dominance.
- D) It boasted the largest number of engineering majors in 2000.

52. What does one survey taker say was her greatest challenge?

- A) Not to feel superior to less qualified male engineers.
- B) Not to take seriously all the messages she was getting.
- C) Not to think highly of her qualifications when promoted or given a pay raise.
- D) Not to lose self-confidence though constantly discouraged or unfairly treated.

53. How do women engineers frequently feel according to the two civil engineers?

- A) Disqualified on many levels.
- B) Excluded from the group.
- C) Overworked by their organizations.
- D) Looked down upon by male colleagues.

54. What probably makes young women engineers more accepted nowadays?

- A) Their success in gaining an equal footing.
- B) Their ability to balance work and family.
- C) The change in their responsibilities.
- D) The increase in their number.

55. What can we conclude about many female engineers from the statement of a mechanical engineer?

- A) They take great pride in their chosen career.
- B) They have reaped the benefits of being flexible.
- C) They enjoy doing engineering to the best degree.
- D) They have proved capable of doing almost anything.

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**.

敦煌莫高窟(Mogao Grottoes)数字展示中心于2014年开放启用,是莫高窟保护利用工程的重要组成部分。展示中心采用数字技术和多媒体展示手段,使游客进入洞窟参观之前就能了解莫高窟的历史文化,鉴赏莫高窟的艺术经典。这将减少开放洞窟的数量,缩短游客在洞窟内的逗留时间,减轻参观对莫高窟造成的影响,以使这一世界文化遗产得到妥善保护、长久利用。