

## 2017 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语(一)真题

### Section I Use of English

Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word (s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

Could a hug a day keep the doctor away? The answer may be a resounding “yes!” 1 helping you feel close and 2 to people you care about, it turns out that hugs can bring a 3 of health benefits to your body and mind. Believe it or not, a warm embrace might even help you 4 getting sick this winter.

In a recent study 5 over 400 healthy adults, researchers from Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania examined the effects of perceived social support and the receipt of hugs 6 the participants' susceptibility to developing the common cold after being 7 to the virus. People who perceived greater social support were less likely to come 8 with a cold, and the researchers 9 that the stress-reducing effects of hugging 10 about 32 percent of that beneficial effect. 11 among those who got a cold, the ones who felt greater social support and received more frequent hugs had less severe 12 .

“Hugging protects people who are under stress from the 13 risk for colds that's usually 14 with stress,” notes Sheldon Cohen, a professor of psychology at Carnegie. Hugging “is a marker of intimacy and helps 15 the feeling that others are there to help 16 difficulty.”

Some experts 17 the stress-reducing , health-related benefits of hugging to the release of oxytocin, often called “the bonding hormone” 18 it promotes attachment in relationships, including that between mother and their newborn babies. Oxytocin is made primarily in the central lower part of the brain, and some of it is released into the bloodstream. But some of it 19 in the brain, where it 20 mood, behavior and physiology.

- 1.[A] Unlike [B] Besides [C] Throughout [D] Despite  
2.[A] equal [B] restricted [C] connected [D] inferior  
3.[A] host [B] view [C] lesson [D] choice  
4.[A] recall [B] forget [C] avoid [D] keep  
5.[A] collecting [B] affecting [C] guiding [D] involving  
6.[A] on [B] in [C] at [D] of  
7.[A] devoted [B] exposed [C] lost [D] attracted  
8.[A] across [B] along [C] down [D] out  
9.[A] imagined [B] denied [C] doubted [D] calculated  
10.[A] served [B] explained [C] restored [D] required  
11.[A] Thus [B] Still [C] Rather [D] Even  
12.[A] defeats [B] symptoms [C] errors [D] tests  
13.[A] highlighted [B] minimized [C] controlled [D] increased  
14.[A] associated [B] equipped [C] presented [D] compared  
15.[A] assess [B] moderate [C] generate [D] record  
16.[A] in the face of [B] in the form of [C] in the way of [D] in the name of  
17.[A] attribute [B] commit [C] transfer [D] return  
18.[A] unless [B] because [C] though [D] until  
19.[A] emerges [B] vanishes [C] remains [D] decreases

20.[A] experiences [B] combines [C] justifies [D]influences

## 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

First two hours , now three hours—this is how far in advance authorities are recommending people show up to catch a domestic flight , at least at some major U.S. airports with increasingly massive security lines.

Americans are willing to tolerate time-consuming security procedures in return for increased safety. The crash of Egypt Air Flight 804, which terrorists may have downed over the Mediterranean Sea, provides another tragic reminder of why. But demanding too much of air travelers or providing too little security in return undermines public support for the process. And it should: Wasted time is a drag on Americans' economic and private lives, not to mention infuriating.

Last year, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) found in a secret check that undercover investigators were able to sneak weapons—both fake and real—past airport security nearly every time they tried. Enhanced security measures since then, combined with a rise in airline travel due to the improving economy and low oil prices, have resulted in long waits at major airports such as Chicago's O'Hare International. It is not yet clear how much more effective airline security has become—but the lines are obvious.

Part of the issue is that the government did not anticipate the steep increase in airline travel, so the TSA is now rushing to get new screeners on the line. Part of the issue is that airports have only so much room for screening lanes. Another factor may be that more people are trying to overpack their carry-on bags to avoid checked-baggage fees, though the airlines strongly dispute this.

There is one step the TSA could take that would not require remodeling airports or rushing to hire: Enroll more people in the PreCheck program. PreCheck is supposed to be a win-win for travelers and the TSA. Passengers who pass a background check are eligible to use expedited screening lanes. This allows the TSA to focus on travelers who are higher risk, saving time for everyone involved. The TSA wants to enroll 25 million people in PreCheck.

It has not gotten anywhere close to that, and one big reason is sticker shock. Passengers must pay \$85 every five years to process their background checks. Since the beginning, this price tag has been PreCheck's fatal flaw. Upcoming reforms might bring the price to a more reasonable level. But Congress should look into doing so directly, by helping to finance PreCheck enrollment or to cut costs in other ways.

The TSA cannot continue diverting resources into underused PreCheck lanes while most of the traveling public suffers in unnecessary lines. It is long past time to make the program work.

**21. The crash of Egypt Air Flight 804 is mentioned to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- [A] stress the urgency to strengthen security worldwide.
- [B] explain Americans' tolerance of current security checks.
- [C] highlight the necessity of upgrading major U.S airports.
- [D] emphasis the importance of privacy protection.

**22. Which of the following contributions to long waits at major airports?**

- [A] New restrictions on carry-on bags.
- [B] The declining efficiency of the TSA.
- [C] An increase in the number of travelers.
- [D] Frequent unexpected secret checks.

23. The word “expedited” (Line 4, Para.5) is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] quieter. [B] faster. [C] wider. [D] cheaper.

24. One problem with the PreCheck program is \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] A dramatic reduction of its scale. [B] Its wrongly-directed implementation.  
[C] The government’s reluctance to back it. [D] An unreasonable price for enrollment.

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

- [A] Getting Stuck in Security Lines [B] PreCheck—a Belated Solution  
[C] Less Screening for More Safety [D] Underused PreCheck Lanes

## Text 2

“The ancient Hawaiians were astronomers,” wrote Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii’s last reigning monarch, in 1897. Star watchers were among the most esteemed members of Hawaiian society. Sadly, all is not well with astronomy in Hawaii today. Protests have erupted over construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), a giant observatory that promises to revolutionize humanity’s view of the cosmos.

At issue is the TMT’s planned location on Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano worshiped by some Hawaiians as the piko, that connects the Hawaiian Islands to the heavens. But Mauna Kea is also home to some of the world’s most powerful telescopes. Rested in the Pacific Ocean, Mauna Kea’s peak rises above the bulk of our planet’s dense atmosphere, where conditions allow telescopes to obtain images of unsurpassed clarity.

Opposition to telescopes on Mauna Kea is nothing new. A small but vocal group of Hawaiians and environmentalists have long viewed their presence as disrespect for sacred land and a painful reminder of the occupation of what was once a sovereign nation.

Some blame for the current controversy belongs to astronomers. In their eagerness to build bigger telescopes, they forgot that science is not the only way of understanding the world. They did not always prioritize the protection of Mauna Kea’s fragile ecosystems or its holiness to the island’s inhabitants. Hawaiian culture is not a relic of the past; it is a living culture undergoing a renaissance today.

Yet science has a cultural history, too, with roots going back to the dawn of civilization. The same curiosity to find what lies beyond the horizon that first brought early Polynesians to Hawaii’s shores inspires astronomers today to explore the heavens. Calls to disassemble all telescopes on Mauna Kea or to ban future development there ignore the reality that astronomy and Hawaiian culture both seek to answer big questions about who we are, where we come from and where we are going. Perhaps that is why we explore the starry skies, as if answering a primal calling to know ourselves and our true ancestral homes.

The astronomy community is making compromises to change its use of Mauna Kea. The TMT site was chosen to minimize the telescope’s visibility around the island and to avoid archaeological and environmental impact. To limit the number of telescopes on Mauna Kea, old ones will be removed at the end of their lifetimes and their sites returned to a natural state. There is no reason why everyone cannot be welcomed on Mauna Kea to embrace their cultural heritage and to study the stars.

26. Queen Liliuokalani’s remark in Paragraph 1 indicates \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] its conservative view on the historical role of astronomy.  
[B] the importance of astronomy in ancient Hawaiian society.  
[C] the regrettable decline of astronomy in ancient times.  
[D] her appreciation of star watchers’ feats in her time.

27. Mauna Kea is deemed as an ideal astronomical site due to \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] its geographical features [B] its protective surroundings.  
[C] its religious implications. [D] its existing infrastructure.

28. The construction of the TMT is opposed by some locals partly because \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] it may risk ruining their intellectual life. [B] it reminds them of a humiliating history.  
[C] their culture will lose a chance of revival. [D] they fear losing control of Mauna Kea.

29. It can be inferred from Paragraph 5 that progress in today's astronomy \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] is fulfilling the dreams of ancient Hawaiians. [B] helps spread Hawaiian culture across the world.  
[C] may uncover the origin of Hawaiian culture. [D] will eventually soften Hawaiians' hostility.

30. The author's attitude toward choosing Mauna Kea as the TMT site is one of

- [A] severe criticism. [B] passive acceptance. [C] slight hesitancy. [D] full approval.

### Text 3

Robert F. Kennedy once said that a country's GDP measures "everything except that which makes life worthwhile." With Britain voting to leave the European Union, and GDP already predicted to slow as a result, it is now a timely moment to assess what he was referring to.

The question of GDP and its usefulness has annoyed policymakers for over half a century. Many argue that it is a flawed concept. It measures things that do not matter and misses things that do. By most recent measures, the UK's GDP has been the envy of the Western world, with record low unemployment and high growth figures. If everything was going so well, then why did over 17 million people vote for Brexit, despite the warnings about what it could do to their country's economic prospects?

A recent annual study of countries and their ability to convert growth into well-being sheds some light on that question. Across the 163 countries measured, the UK is one of the poorest performers in ensuring that economic growth is translated into meaningful improvements for its citizens. Rather than just focusing on GDP, over 40 different sets of criteria from health, education and civil society engagement have been measured to get a more rounded assessment of how countries are performing.

While all of these countries face their own challenges, there are a number of consistent themes. Yes, there has been a budding economic recovery since the 2008 global crash, but in key indicators in areas such as health and education, major economies have continued to decline. Yet this isn't the case with all countries. Some relatively poor European countries have seen huge improvements across measures including civil society, income equality and environment.

This is a lesson that rich countries can learn: When GDP is no longer regarded as the sole measure of a country's success, the world looks very different.

So, what Kennedy was referring to was that while GDP has been the most common method for measuring the economic activity of nations, as a measure, it is no longer enough. It does not include important factors such as environmental quality or education outcomes – all things that contribute to a person's sense of well-being.

The sharp hit to growth predicted around the world and in the UK could lead to a decline in the everyday services we depend on for our well-being and for growth. But policymakers who refocus efforts on improving well-being rather than simply worrying about GDP figures could avoid the forecasted doom and may even see progress.

**31. Robert F. Kennedy is cited because he \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A]praised the UK for its GDP.

[B]identified GDP with happiness .

[C]misinterpreted the role of GDP .

[D]had a low opinion of GDP .

**32. It can be inferred from Paragraph 2 that \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A]the UK is reluctant to remold its economic pattern.

[B]GDP as the measure of success is widely defied in the UK.

[C]the UK will contribute less to the world economy.

[D]policymakers in the UK are paying less attention to GDP.

**33. Which of the following is true about the recent annual study ?**

[A]It is sponsored by 163 countries .

[B]It excludes GDP as an indicator.

[C]Its criteria are questionable .

[D]Its results are enlightening .

**34. In the last two paragraphs, the author suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A]the UK is preparing for an economic boom.

[B]high GDP foreshadows an economic decline.

[C]it is essential to consider factors beyond GDP.

[D]it requires caution to handle economic issues.

**35. Which of the following is the best title for the text ?**

[A]High GDP But Inadequate Well-being, a UK Lesson

[B]GDP Figures , a Window on Global Economic Health

[C]Robert F. Kennedy , a Terminator of GDP

[D]Brexit, the UK's Gateway to Well-being

#### Text 4

In a rare unanimous ruling, the U.S Supreme Court has overturned the corruption conviction of a former Virginia governor, Robert McDonnell. But it did so while holding its nose at the ethics of his conduct, which included accepting gifts such as a Rolex watch and a Ferrari Automobile from a company seeking access to government.

The high court's decision said the judge in Mr. McDonnell's trial failed to tell a jury that it must look only at his "official acts," or the former governor's decisions on "specific" and "unsettled" issues related to his duties.

Merely helping a gift-giver gain access to other officials, unless done with clear intent to pressure those officials, is not corruption, the justices found.

The court did suggest that accepting favors in return for opening doors is "distasteful" and "nasty." But under anti-bribery laws, proof must be made of concrete benefits, such as approval of a contract or regulation. Simply arranging a meeting, making a phone call, or hosting an event is not an "official act".

The court's ruling is legally sound in defining a kind of favoritism that is not criminal. Elected leaders must be allowed to help supporters deal with bureaucratic problems without fear of prosecution of bribery." The basic compact underlying representative government," wrote Chief Justice John Roberts for the court," assumes that public officials will hear from their constituents and act on their concerns."

But the ruling reinforces the need for citizens and their elected representatives, not the courts, to ensure equality of access to government. Officials must not be allowed to play favorites in providing information or in arranging meetings simply because an individual or group provides a campaign donation or a personal gift. This type of integrity requires well-enforced laws in government transparency, such as records of official meetings, rules on lobbying, and information about each elected leader's source of wealth.

Favoritism in official access can fan public perceptions of corruption. But it is not always corruption. Rather officials must avoid double standards, or different types of access for average people and the wealthy. If connections can be bought, a basic premise of democratic society—that all are equal in treatment by government—is undermined. Good governance rests on an understanding of the inherent worth of each individual.

The court's ruling is a step forward in the struggle against both corruption and official favoritism.

**36. The underlined sentence (Para.1) most probably shows that the court \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A] avoided defining the extent of McDonnell's duties.

[B] made no compromise in convicting McDonnell.

[C] was contemptuous of McDonnell's conduct.

[D] refused to comment on McDonnell's ethics.

**37. According to Paragraph 4, an official act is deemed corruptive only if it involves \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A] leaking secrets intentionally.

[B] sizable gains in the form of gifts.

[C] concrete returns for gift-givers.

[D] breaking contracts officially.

**38. The court's ruling is based on the assumption that public officials are \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A] justified in addressing the needs of their constituents.

[B] qualified to deal independently with bureaucratic issues.

[C] allowed to focus on the concerns of their supporters.

[D] exempt from conviction on the charge of favoritism.

**39. Well-enforced laws in government transparency are needed to \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A] awaken the conscience of officials.

[B] guarantee fair play in official access.

[C] allow for certain kinds of lobbying.

[D] inspire hopes in average people.

**40. The author's attitude toward the court's ruling is \_\_\_\_\_.**

[A] sarcastic.

[B] tolerant.

[C] skeptical.

[D] supportive

## 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 to filling them into the numbered box. Paragraphs B and D have been correctly placed. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

[A]The first published sketch, "A Dinner at Poplar Walk" brought tears to Dickens's eyes when he discovered it in the pages of The Monthly Magazine. From then on his sketches, which appeared under the pen name "Boz" in The Evening Chronicle, earned him a modest reputation.

[B]The runaway success of The Pickwick Papers, as it is generally known today, secured Dickens's fame. There were Pickwick coats and Pickwick cigars, and the plump, spectacled hero, Samuel Pickwick, became a national figure.

[C] Soon after Sketches by Boz appeared, a publishing firm approached Dickens to write a story in monthly installments, as a backdrop for a series of woodcuts by the then-famous artist Robert Seymour, who had originated the idea for the story. With characteristic confidence, Dickens successfully insisted that Seymour's pictures illustrate his own story instead. After the first installment, Dickens wrote to the artist and asked him to correct a drawing Dickens felt was not faithful enough to his prose. Seymour made the change, went into his backyard, and expressed his displeasure by committing suicide. Dickens and his publishers simply pressed on with a new artist. The comic novel, *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, appeared serially in 1836 and 1837, and was first published in book form in 1837.

[D] Charles Dickens is probably the best-known and, to many people, the greatest English novelist of the 19th century. A moralist, satirist, and social reformer. Dickens crafted complex plots and striking characters that capture the panorama of English society.

[E] Soon after his father's release from prison, Dickens got a better job as errand boy in law offices. He taught himself shorthand to get an even better job later as a court stenographer and as a reporter in Parliament. At the same time, Dickens, who had a reporter's eye for transcribing the life around him especially anything comic or odd, submitted short sketches to obscure magazines.

[F] Dickens was born in Portsmouth, on England's southern coast. His father was a clerk in the British navy pay office—a respectable position, but with little social status. His paternal grandparents, a steward and a housekeeper possessed even less status, having been servants, and Dickens later concealed their background. Dickens's mother supposedly came from a more respectable family. Yet two years before Dickens's birth, his mother's father was caught stealing and fled to Europe, never to return. The family's increasing poverty forced Dickens out of school at age 12 to work in Warren's Blacking Warehouse, a shoe-polish factory, where the other working boys mocked him as "the young gentleman." His father was then imprisoned for debt. The humiliations of his father's imprisonment and his labor in the blacking factory formed Dickens's greatest wound and became his deepest secret. He could not confide them even to his wife, although they provide the unacknowledged foundation of his fiction.

[G] After *Pickwick*, Dickens plunged into a bleaker world. In *Oliver Twist*, he traces an orphan's progress from the workhouse to the criminal slums of London. *Nicholas Nickleby*, his next novel, combines the darkness of *Oliver Twist* with the sunlight of *Pickwick*. The popularity of these novels consolidated Dickens' as a nationally and internationally celebrated man of letters.

D → 41. → 42. → 43. → 44. → B → 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)

The growth of the use of English as the world's primary language for international communication has obviously been continuing for several decades.

(46) But even as the number of English speakers expands further there are signs that the global predominance of the language may fade within the foreseeable future.

Complex international, economic, technological and culture change could start to diminish the leading position of English as the language of the world market, and UK interests which enjoy advantage from the breath of English usage would consequently face new pressures. Those realistic possibilities are highlighted in the study presented by David Graddol.

(47) His analysis should therefore end any self-contentedness among those who may believe that the global position of English is so stable that the young generation of the United Kingdom do not need additional language capabilities.

David Graddol concludes that monoglot English graduates face a bleak economic future as qualified multilingual youngsters from other countries are proving to have a competitive advantage over their British

counterparts in global companies and organizations. Alongside that, (48) many countries are introducing English into the primary-school curriculum but British schoolchildren and students do not appear to be gaining greater encouragement to achieve fluency in other languages.

If left to themselves, such trends will diminish the relative strength of the English language in international education markets as the demand for educational resources in languages, such as Spanish, Arabic or Mandarin grows and international business process outsourcing in other language such as Japanese, French and German, spreads.

(49)The changes identified by David Graddol all present clear and major challenges to UK's providers of English language teaching to people of other countries and to broader education business sectors. The English language teaching sector directly earns nearly £1.3 billion for the UK in invisible exports and our other education related explores earn up to £10 billion a year more. As the international education market expands, the recent slowdown in the number of international students studying in the main English-speaking countries is likely to continue, especially if there are no effective strategic policies to prevent such slippage.

The anticipation of possible shifts in demand provided by this study is significant: (50) It gives a basis to all organizations which seek to promote the learning and use of English, a basis for planning to meet the possibilities of what could be a very different operating environment. That is a necessary and practical approach. In this as in much else, those who wish to influence the future must prepare for it.

### Section III Writing

#### Part A

##### 51. Directions:

You are to write an email to James Cook, a newly-arrived Australian professor, recommending some tourist attractions in your city. Please give reasons for your recommendation.

You should write neatly on the ANSWER SHEET.

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

Do not write the address. (10 points)

#### Part B

##### 52. Directions:

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

- 1)describe the pictures briefly,
- 2)interpret the meaning , and
- 3)give your comments.

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





# 2018 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语(一)真题

## Section I Use of English

### Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word (s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

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 represent 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 source, 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 administrations ability to handle information.
- [D] social media was 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 resources.
- [C] have s 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 drugs now can, big data may be expected to behave as a big pharm 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 pharma.
- [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 bankruptcies. 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 union.

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 life time was coincident with a period of extraordinary activity and achievement in the drama. 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

farical. 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 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 literature 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.

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### 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 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 picture below. In your essay, you should

1) describe the pictures briefly

2) interpret the meaning and

3) give your comments (20 points)

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



# 2019 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语(一)真题

## Section I Use of English

### Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word (s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

Today we live in a world where GPS systems, digital maps, and other navigation apps are available on our smart phone. \_\_\_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, we have 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<sub>2</sub>O 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] form        | [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 ANSWER SHEET. (40 points)

#### 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 institution. 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 to
- [A] enhance bankers’ 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 economic 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. “Untimely,” said Jack Miner, Ohio State University’s registrar, “we see students achieve more success because they retake a course and do better in subsequent contents 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 to 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 5, 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 centuries 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, identity, 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 "West world" 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 pledges 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 state’ 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' revolutions with states.
  - [B] put most online business in a dilemma.
  - [C] make more online shoppers pay sales tax.
  - [D] force 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 purchases.
  - [D] were consider 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] cities 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. Pairs 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 realized just how bad 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 favors.

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.

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.

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.

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.

49) This would be reasonable if it were not for the fact that scientists can easily arrange to cite themselves in their future publication or get associates to do so for them in return for similar favors.

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 the details of the project.

You should write about 100 words neatly 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 pictures briefly,
- 2) interpret the implied meaning, and
- 3) give your comments.

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



# 2020 年研究生入学统一考试试题（英语一）

## Section I Use of English

### Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word (s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

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. \_\_1\_\_ a cold winter's day, few culinary pleasures can \_\_2\_\_ it. Yet as we report now, the food police are determined our health. That this \_\_3\_\_ should be rendered yet another guilty pleasure \_\_4\_\_ to damage our health.

The Food Standards Authority (FSA) has \_\_5\_\_ a public warning about the risks of a compound called acrylamide that forms in some foods cooked \_\_6\_\_ high temperatures. This means that people should \_\_7\_\_ crisping their roast potatoes, spurn thin-crust pizzas and only \_\_8\_\_ toast their bread. But where is the evidence to support such alarmist advice? \_\_9\_\_ studies have shown that acrylamide can cause neurological damage in mice, there is no \_\_10\_\_ evidence that it causes cancer in humans.

Scientists say the compound is "\_\_11\_\_ to be carcinogenic" but have no hard scientific proof. \_\_12\_\_ the precautionary principle, it could be argued that it is \_\_13\_\_ to follow the FSA advice. \_\_14\_\_, it was rumored that smoking caused cancer for years before the evidence was found to prove a \_\_15\_\_.

Doubtless a piece of boiled beef can always be \_\_16\_\_ up on Sunday alongside some steamed vegetables, without the Yorkshire pudding and no wine. But would life be worth living? \_\_17\_\_, the FSA says it is not telling people to cut out roast foods \_\_18\_\_, but to reduce their lifetime intake. However, their \_\_19\_\_ risks coming across as exhortation and nannying. Constant health scares just \_\_20\_\_ 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] canceled       |
| 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] inconclusive   | [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 ANSWER SHEET. (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, out not to be confined to cities. Britain' town, it is true are not prevented from applying, but they generally lack the resources to put together a bid to beat their bigger competitions. 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 boon by 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 endless fever of self-celebration in its desperation to reinvent itself for the post-Brexit world: after town of culture, who knows that 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 power of art, music and theatre that it remains today.

A "town of culture" could be not just about the arts but about honoring 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 colleague argue that a "town of culture" award would \_\_\_\_.

- 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. endeavor to maintain its image
- B. meets the aspiration 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. Favorable 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 characteristics 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 wills \_\_\_\_\_

- [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 antiavoidance 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 Para 5 that the OECD'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 first 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 Auyeung 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 researchers, 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 OF 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 Translation

### 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 14th 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 17th century, with the arts and sciences flourishing extraordinarily among those with a more logical disposition. 46. With (the gap between) 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 in actual fact, 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. Galileo was excommunicated by the Church and imprisoned for life for his astronomical observations and his support of the heliocentric principle.

48. Despite attempts by the Church to strong-arm this new generation of logicians and rationalists, more explanations for how the universe functioned were being made, and at a rate that the people-including the Church -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 the 17th 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-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.

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## Section IV Writing

### Part A

#### 51.Directions:

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

Write your answer on the **ANSWER SHEET**.

Do not use your name in the notice.

### 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



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