

全国 2016 年 4 月高等教育自学考试

英语阅读(二)试题

课程代码:00596

请考生按规定用笔将所有试题的答案涂、写在答题纸上。全部题目用英文作答(翻译题除外)。

选择题部分

注意事项:

1. 答题前,考生务必将自己的考试课程名称、姓名、准考证号用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔填写在答题纸规定的位置上。
2. 每小题选出答案后,用 2B 铅笔把答题纸上对应题目的答案标号涂黑。如需改动,用橡皮擦干净后,再选涂其他答案标号。不能答在试题卷上。

I. Reading Comprehension. (50 points, 2 points for each)

Directions: In this part of the test, there are five passages. Following each passage, there are five questions with four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best answer and then write the corresponding letter on your Answer Sheet.

Passage One

Today, there's scarcely an aspect of our life that isn't being upended by the torrent of information available on the hundreds of millions of sites crowding the Internet, not to mention its ability to keep us in constant touch with each other via electronic mail. "If the automobile and aerospace technology had exploded at the same pace as computer and information technology," says Microsoft, "a new car would cost about \$2 and go 600 miles on a thimbleful of gas. And you could buy a Boeing 747 for the cost of a pizza."

Probably the biggest payoff, however, is the billions of dollars the Internet is saving companies in producing goods and serving for the needs of their customers. Nothing like it has been seen since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution,

when power-driven machines began producing more in a day than men could turn out in nearly a year. “We view the growth of the Internet and e-commerce as a global megatrend,” says Merrill Lynch, “along the lines of the printing press, the telephone, the computer, and electricity.”

You would be hard pressed to name something that isn’t available on the Internet. Consider: books, health care, movie tickets, construction materials, baby clothes, stocks, cattle feed, music, electronics, antiques, tools, real estate, toys, autographs of famous people, wine and airline tickets. And even after you’ve moved on to your final resting place, there’s no reason those you love can’t keep in touch. A company called FinalThoughts.com offers a place for you to store “afterlife e-mails” you can send to Heaven with the help of a “guardian angel”.

Kids today are so computer savvy that it virtually ensures the United States will remain the unchallenged leader in cyberspace for the foreseeable future. Nearly all children in families with incomes of more than \$75,000 a year have home computers, according to a study by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Youngsters from ages 2 to 17 at all income levels have computers, with 52% of those connected to the Internet. Most kids use computers to play games (some for 30 hours or more a week), and many teenage girls think nothing of rushing home from school to have e-mail chats with friends they have just left.

What’s clear is that, whether we like it or not, the Internet is an ever growing part of our lives and there is no turning back. “The Internet is just 20% invented,” says cyber pioneer Jake Winebaum. “The last 80% is happening now.”

Questions 1-5 are based on Passage One.

1. What can we learn from Microsoft’s remark?
 - A. Information technology is developing at an amazing speed.
 - B. Nowadays cars and airplanes are outrageously overpriced.
 - C. There’s more competition in information technology industry.
 - D. Information technology has reached the point where improvement is difficult.

2. According to the author, the biggest benefit of the Internet is that ____.
- A. it provides easy access to information
 - B. it brings people incredible convenience
 - C. it accelerates the speed of profit making
 - D. it saves companies huge amounts of money
3. The example of FinalThoughts.com is given to make the point that ____.
- A. some websites provide novel services to increase hits
 - B. people can find good bargains on the Internet
 - C. almost anything is available on the Internet
 - D. there are some genius ideas on the Internet
4. What can we learn from paragraph 4?
- A. There is no link between income and computer ownership.
 - B. Many American children don't put computers to good use.
 - C. Studies show that boys are more computer savvy than girls.
 - D. The U.S. will stay ahead in information technology in years.
5. What is the message the author intends to convey in this passage?
- A. The Internet is going to get firm hold of our lives some day.
 - B. The Internet is going to change our lives even more profoundly.
 - C. We should have a positive attitude towards the changes the Internet brings.
 - D. Children should be well prepared for the challenges in the information age.

Passage Two

Many Americans harbor a grossly distorted and exaggerated view of most of the risks surrounding food. Fergus Clydesdale, head of the department of food science and nutrition at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, says bluntly that if the dangers from bacterially contaminated chicken were as great as some people believe, "the streets would be littered with people lying here and there."

Though the public increasingly demands no-risk food, there is no such thing. Bruce Ames, chairman of the biochemistry department at the University of

California, Berkeley, points out that up to 10% of a plant's weight is made up of natural pesticides. He says, "Since plants do not have jaws or teeth to protect themselves, they employ chemical warfare." And many naturally produced chemicals, though occurring in tiny amounts, prove in laboratory tests to be strong carcinogens – substance which can cause cancer. Mushrooms might be banned if they were judged by the same standards that apply to food additives. Declares Christina Stark, a nutritionist at Cornell University, "We've got far worse natural chemicals in the food supply than anything man-made."

Yet the issues are not that simple. While Americans have no reason to be terrified to sit down at the dinner table, they have every reason to demand significant improvements in food and water safety. They unconsciously and unwillingly take in too much of too many dangerous chemicals. If food already contains natural carcinogens, it does not make much sense to add dozens of new man-made ones. Though most people will withstand the small amount of contaminants generally found in food and water, at least a few individuals will probably get cancer one day because of what they eat and drink.

To make good food and water supplies even better, the Government needs to tighten its regulatory standards, stiffen its inspection program and strengthen its enforcement policies. The food industry should modify some long-accepted practices or turn to less hazardous alternatives. Perhaps most important, consumers will have to do a better job of learning how to handle and cook food properly. The problems that need to be tackled exist all along the food-supply chain, from fields to processing plants to kitchens.

Questions 6-10 are based on Passage Two.

6. The author thinks that many Americans ____.
- A. overestimate the hazards of their food
 - B. overlook the risks of the food they eat
 - C. are overoptimistic about the safety of the food they eat
 - D. overstate the Government's interference with the food industry

7. The author considers it impossible to obtain no-risk food because ____.
- A. almost all foods have additives and preservatives
 - B. no food is free from pollution in the environment
 - C. pesticides are presently widely used in agriculture
 - D. many vegetables contain dangerous natural chemicals
8. By saying “they employ chemical warfare” (Para. 2), Bruce Ames means ____.
- A. plants make use of natural chemicals to promote their growth
 - B. plants produce certain chemicals to combat pests and diseases
 - C. farmers use man-made chemicals to dissolve the natural chemicals in plants
 - D. farmers use man-made chemicals to protect plants against pests and diseases
9. The word “withstand” in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to ____.
- A. bear
 - B. oppose
 - C. resist
 - D. uphold
10. What is the message the author wants to convey in this passage?
- A. Eating and drinking have become more hazardous.
 - B. Health food is no longer a dream in modern society.
 - C. There is no cause for alarm about food consumption.
 - D. Measures must be taken to improve food production.

Passage Three

My mother used to tell my father that he was a very good mother. This was her way of praising his attendance at every concert and game, his patience and care. In those days, “good mother” was the highest domestic achievement; to have called him a good father, given how low the bar was set, wouldn’t have done him justice.

But that was long, long ago. Now fathers sing to their babies in uteri, come to birthing class, coach mom through delivery (as opposed to the days of the hospital clubs, where fathers smoked and paced while mothers delivered their offspring). They can buy strap-on breasts, so they can share in the bonding. And baby toupees, for those sensitive about hairlessness. I can’t help thinking that the

increased engagement of fathers has some direct connection to the increased availability of baby gadgets, since having two fanatically engaged parents offers twice the target for retailers.

The typical father spends about seven hours per week in “primary child care”, which doesn’t sound like a lot until you realize it’s more than twice as much as in 1965.

Among other things, this all means fathers are now much better positioned to write parenting books like Michael Lewis’ *Home Game* and Sam Apple’s *American Parent: My Strange and Surprising Adventures in Modern Babyland*.

The dad diarists approach their subject like anthropologists, engaged in rational inquiry into an alien culture and the nature of nurture. Thus I learned from Apple things I never knew from reading *What to Expect When You’re Expecting*, like the fact that in the 1st century Pliny the Elder recommended that women in labor drink goose semen mixed with water to ease the process along.

Maybe the respectful distance men keep reflects the obvious ambivalence so many women show about male involvement. We talk about fathers like puppies tripping over their big paws, a portrait long mirrored in a culture in which “Father Knows Least”. We diminish with faint praise; dads still get points for returning children at the end of the day with all their limbs in place. But the more engaged fathers become, the more women have to reckon with what a true parenting partnership would look like.

Questions 11-15 are based on Passage Three.

11. Why did the author’s mother call her father a “very good mother”?
- A. Her mother said that as a joke.
 - B. Her mother wanted to console him.
 - C. Her father was always very tough with children.
 - D. Her father took care of the children most of the time.
12. When the author mentions “the increased availability of baby gadgets” (Para. 2), her tone is ____.
- A. critical
 - B. sarcastic
 - C. humorous
 - D. approving

13. Fathers are better positioned to write parenting books today because ____.
- A. they do more housework
 - B. they are more eager to get involved
 - C. they are better informed in child care
 - D. they spend more time with their children
14. According to the passage, Michael Lewis and Sam Apple ____.
- A. focus on fathers' role over mothers' in child raising
 - B. approach the subject of baby care with rational inquiry
 - C. include in their books things most readers don't expect
 - D. take unbiased attitude dealing with the subject of baby care
15. What can we learn from paragraph 6?
- A. Children are shown safer under mothers' care.
 - B. Fathers are not as skillful as mothers in childcare.
 - C. Most mothers think fathers should be more involved.
 - D. Mothers are happy about fathers' involvement in childcare.

Passage Four

That experiences influence subsequent behavior is evidence of an obvious but nevertheless remarkable activity called remembering. Learning could not occur without the function popularly named memory. Constant practice has such an effect on memory as to lead to skilful performance on the piano, to recitation of a poem, and even to reading and understanding these words. So-called intelligent behavior demands memory, remembering being a primary requirement for reasoning. The ability to solve any problem or even to recognize that a problem exists depends on memory. Typically, the decision to cross a street is based on remembering many earlier experiences.

Practice (or review) tends to build and maintain memory for a task or for any learned material. Over a period of no practice what has been learned tends to be forgotten, and the adaptive consequences may not seem obvious. Yet, dramatic instances of sudden forgetting can be seen to be adaptive. In this sense, the ability to forget can be interpreted to have survived through a process of natural selection

in animals. Indeed, when one's memory of an emotionally painful experience leads to serious anxiety, forgetting may produce relief. Nevertheless, an evolutionary interpretation might make it difficult to understand how the commonly gradual process of forgetting survived natural selection.

In thinking about the evolution of memory together with all its possible aspects, it is helpful to consider what would happen if memories failed to fade. Forgetting clearly aids orientation in time, since old memories weaken and the new tend to stand out, providing clues for inferring duration. Without forgetting, adaptive ability would suffer, for example, learned behavior that might have been correct a decade ago may no longer be. Cases are recorded of people who (by ordinary standards) forgot so little that their everyday activities were full of confusion. This forgetting seems to serve that survival of the individual and the species.

Another line of thought assumes a memory storage system of limited capacity that provides adaptive flexibility specifically through forgetting. In this view, continual adjustments are made between learning or memory storage (input) and forgetting (output). Indeed, there is evidence that the rate at which individuals forget is directly related to how much they have learned. Such data offers gross support of contemporary models of memory that assume an input-output balance.

Questions 16-20 are based on Passage Four.

16. From the evolutionary point of view, ____.
- A. sudden forgetting may bring about adaptive consequences
 - B. forgetting for lack of practice tends to be obviously inadapative
 - C. gradual forgetting is an indication of an individual's adaptability
 - D. if a person gets very forgetful all of a sudden he must be very adaptive
17. We can infer from paragraph 3 that, if a person never forgot, ____.
- A. he would survive best
 - B. he would have a lot of trouble
 - C. his ability to learn would be enhanced
 - D. his memory storage system would stop developing

18. From paragraph 4 we know that ____.
- A. forgetfulness is a response to learning
 - B. memory is a compensation for forgetting
 - C. the capacity of a memory storage system is limited
 - D. the memory storage system is almost always balanced
19. The tone of this passage can be best described as ____.
- A. humorous
 - B. exaggerative
 - C. theoretical
 - D. threatening
20. The author's main purpose in writing this passage is to ____.
- A. illustrate the process of adapting
 - B. interpret the function of forgetting
 - C. explain the performance of memory
 - D. emphasize the importance of learning

Passage Five

Most of us lead unhealthy lives: we spend far too much time sitting down. If, in addition, we are careless about our diets, our bodies soon become flabby and our system sluggish. The guilt feelings start: "I must go on a diet", "I must try to lose weight", "I must get more fresh air and exercise", "I must stop smoking", "I must try to keep fit". There are some aspects of our unhealthy lives that we cannot avoid.

I am thinking of such features of modern urban life as pollution, noise, rushed meals and stress. But keeping fit is a way to minimize the effects of these evils.

The usual suggestion for a person who is looking for a way to keep fit is to take up some sport or other. While it is true that every weekend you will find people playing football and tennis in the local park, they are outnumbered a hundred to one by the people who are simply watching them. It is an illusion to think that you will get fit by going to watch the football match every Saturday, unless you count the effort required to fight your way through the crowds to get to the best seats.

For those who do not particularly enjoy competitive sports – and it is especially difficult to do so if you are not good at them – there are such solitary

activities as cycling, walking and swimming. What often happens, though, is that you do them in such a leisurely way, so slowly, that it is doubtful if you are doing yourself much good, apart from the fact that you have at least managed to get up out of your armchair. Of course you can be very thorough about exercises. Many sports shops now sell frightening pieces of apparatus, chest-expanders and other mysterious gadgets of shiny spring steel, which, according to the advertisements, will bring you up to an Olympic standard of fitness, provided programs generally involve long periods of time bending these curious bits of metal into improbable shapes.

It all strikes me as utterly boring and also time-consuming. Somebody suggested recently that all such effort was pointless anyway because if you spend half an hour every day jogging round the local park, you will add to your life exactly the number of hours that you wasted during the “jogging” in the first place. The argument is false even if the facts are correct, but there is no doubt that exercise in itself can be boring.

Even after you have found a routine for keeping in shape, through sport or gymnastics, you are still only half way to good health, because, according to the experts, you must also master the art of complete mental and physical relaxation.

Now this does not mean snoozing in the armchair or going dancing. It has something to do with deep breathing, emptying your mind of all thoughts, medication and so on.

Questions 21-25 are based on Passage Five.

21. If you want to keep fit, you should ____.

- A. not be very careful about your diet
- B. not spend long hours sitting in your armchair
- C. not put on too much weight around your waist
- D. not only do competitive sports, but solitary ones

22. The tone of the underlined sentence in paragraph 3 is ____.

- A. ironic
- B. serious
- C. critical
- D. doubtful

23. The author's point of view on solitary sports is that _____.
A. they are completely a waste of time
B. they can at least do some good to one's health
C. they can be done at any time and in any place
D. they are not helpful in building up one's shape
24. The word "apparatus" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. organs
B. organization
C. system
D. equipment
25. This passage tells us that _____.
A. relaxation, like sports, is equally important in keeping fit
B. going to football matches can help to keep you healthy
C. sports apparatus are indispensable to keeping fit
D. competitive sports are difficult and boring

非选择题部分

注意事项:

用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔将答案写在答题纸上,不能答在试题卷上。

II. Vocabulary. (10 points, 1 point for each)

Directions: Scan the following passage and find the words which have roughly the same meanings as those given below. The number in the brackets after each word definition refers to the number of paragraph in which the target word is. Write the word you choose on the Answer Sheet.

Pollution is a "dirty" word. To pollute means to contaminate – to spoil something by introducing impurities, which make it unfit or unclean to use. Pollution comes in many forms. We see it, smell it, taste it, drink it, and stumble through it. We literally live in and breathe pollution, and, not surprisingly, it is beginning to threaten our health, our happiness, and our very civilization.

Once we thought of pollution as meaning simply smog – the choking, stinging, dirty air that hovers over cities. But air pollution, while it is still the most dangerous, is only one type of contamination among several which attack the most basic life functions.

Through the uncontrolled use of insecticides, man has polluted the land, killing the wildlife. By dumping sewage and chemicals into rivers and lakes, we have contaminated our drinking water. We are polluting the ocean, too, killing the fish and thereby depriving ourselves of an invaluable food supply.

Part of the problem is our exploding population. More and more people produce more wastes. But this problem is intensified by our “throw-away” technology. Each year Americans dispose of 7 million autos, 20 million tons of waste paper plates. It is easier and cheaper to buy a new one and discard the old, even though 95 percent of its parts may still be functioning. Baby’s diapers, which used to be made of reusable cloth, are now paper throwaways. Soon we will wear clothing made of paper: “Wear it once and throw it away” will be the slogan of the fashion conscious.

Where is this all to end? Are we turning the world into a gigantic dump, or is there hope that we can solve the pollution problem? Fortunately, solutions are in sight. A few of them are positively ingenious.

26. destroy the quality of (Para. 1)
27. actually (Para. 1)
28. polluted air that looks like a mixture of smoke and fog (Para. 2)
29. remains in one place in the air (Para. 2)
30. disposing of (Para. 3)
31. taking something away from someone (Para.3)
32. made to be more serious (Para. 4)
33. concerned about (Para. 4)
34. extremely large (Para. 5)
35. clever, original and inventive (Para. 5)

III. Summarization. (20 points, 2 points for each)

Directions: In this section of the test, there are ten paragraphs. Each of the paragraphs is followed by an incomplete phrase or sentence which summarizes the main idea of the paragraph. Spell out the missing letters of the word on your Answer Sheet.

Paragraph One

The term “Grit” first appeared on the Canadian political scene in 1849 to describe the more progressive members of the Upper Canada Reform Party. They saw themselves as genuine reformers, “all sand and no dirt, clear grit all the way through,” as David Christie, one of the reformers, put it.

36. O ____ of a political term.

Paragraph Two

Accidents and illnesses are unhappy things to talk about, but no one can expect to live a lifetime without having some kind of accident or becoming ill. Some accidents and illnesses are serious and may result in long periods of recovery from poor health.

37. Accidents and illnesses are u ____.

Paragraph Three

Researchers tested obese men before and after they joined a one-year modest walking plan. The result: Their blood pressure improved and the amount of body fat around their abdomen – the dangerous kind of fat that leads to higher rates of heart disease and diabetes – significantly decreased.

38. The amazing e ____ of modest walking on health.

Paragraph Four

High salaries in the electricity, telecommunications and other monopoly industries have drawn strong criticism in China, where the Gini coefficient now stands at 0.46, exceeding the internationally recognized alarm level of 0.45. So China is considering cutting wages in monopoly industries to reduce the country’s widening income gap. A draft directive document has been worked out for this purpose.

39. A measure taken to n ____ the income gap.

Paragraph Five

Quite a number of people believe that women's abilities are not so good as men's. As a result, most employers do not choose women to be in charge of important projects. But I think such a view is ridiculous. Everyone is born equal and the ability is cultivated later through education, social action and communication.

40. The a ____ towards working women should be changed.

Paragraph Six

Change is the most changeless thing in the universe. We need to accept all changes – welcome or unwelcome – with the understanding that nothing comes to stay, but only to pass. As two things can never occupy the same space at the same time, one change makes way for the next.

41. Change is i ____.

Paragraph Seven

Researchers found that of all the forms of inactivity they examined, television-viewing was the worst. It was linked to significantly higher blood pressure in children – the more TV kids watched, the higher their blood pressure – and the effect held true regardless of whether a child was heavy or at a healthy weight.

42. The c ____ between TV watching and high blood pressure in children.

Paragraph Eight

One of the most influential studies of human performance find that one less hour of sleep is not equal to an extra hour of achievement. In many cases the opposite occurs. When you lose an hour of sleep, it decreases your well-being, productivity, health, and ability to think the following day.

43. Insufficient sleep, p ____ performance.

Paragraph Nine

Soil conservation methods help farmers protect their land from the damage caused by farming and the forces of nature. One method of soil conservation is the use of windbreaks. Windbreaks are barriers formed by trees and other plants. Farmers plant these barriers around their fields.

44. Windbreaks may stop the wind from b ____ soil away.

Paragraph Ten

On your interview day, you should arrive at least half an hour earlier. Tell the secretary at the reception desk about your arranged interview as soon as you get there, and wait in the lounge just to relax. But while waiting, watch your posture. When your name is called, let your interviewer see a candidate full of confidence and ready for nothing else but the interview.

45. T ____ for interviews.

IV. Translation. (20 points, 4 points for each)

Directions: In the following passage, there are five groups of underlined sentences. Read the passage carefully and translate these sentences into Chinese. Write the Chinese version on your Answer Sheet.

Girls are overly concerned about weight and body shape. 46. They strive for the “perfect” body and judge themselves by their looks, appearance, and above all thinness. But boys don’t escape either. They are concerned with the size and strength of their body. There has been a shift in the male body image. Boys live in a culture that showcases males as glamorous “macho” figures who have to be “tough”, build muscles and sculpt their bodies – if they want to fit in. They think they have to be a “real” man, but many admit being confused as to what that means or what’s expected of them. This confusion can make it harder than ever to feel good about themselves.

Most of our cues about what we should look like come from the media, our parents, and our peers. This constant obsession with weight, the size of our bodies and longing for a different shape or size can be painful.

Where do these negative perceptions come from?

The media plays a big part. 47. Surrounded by thin models and TV stars, teenage girls are taught to achieve an impossible goal. As a result, many teenage girls intensely dislike their bodies and can tell you down to the minutest detail what’s wrong with it. Most teens watch an average of 22 hours of TV a week and are deluged with images of fat-free bodies in the pages of health, fashion and teen

magazines. The “standard” is impossible to achieve. A female should look like, and have the same dimensions as Barbie, and a male should look like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

48. Western society places a high value upon appearance. Self-worth is enhanced for those who are judged attractive. Those who are deemed unattractive can feel at a disadvantage. The message from the media, fashion and our peers can create a longing to win the approval of our culture and fit in at any cost. And that can be disastrous to our self-esteem.

Parents can give mixed messages, too. Especially if they’re constantly dieting or have body or food issues of their own. How we perceive and internalize these childhood messages about our bodies determines our ability to build self-esteem and confidence in our appearance.

49. Why is a positive body image so important? Psychologists and counselors agree that a negative body image is directly related to self-esteem. The more negative the perception of our bodies, the more negative we feel about ourselves.

When most people think about body image they think about aspects of physical appearance, attractiveness, and beauty. But body image is much more. It is the mental picture a person has of his/her body as well as their thoughts, feelings, judgments, sensations, awareness and behavior. Body image is developed through interactions with people and the social world. It’s our mental picture of ourselves; it’s what allows us to become ourselves.

50. Body image influences behavior, self-esteem, and our psyche. When we feel bad about our body, our satisfaction and mood plummet. If we are constantly trying to push, reshape or remake our bodies, our sense of self becomes unhealthy. We lose confidence in our abilities. It’s not uncommon for people who think poorly of their bodies to have problems in other areas of their lives, including sexuality, careers and relationships.