

绝密 ★ 考试结束前

2023 年 4 月高等教育自学考试  
**英语阅读(二) 试题**  
课程代码:00596

1. 请考生按规定用笔将所有试题的答案涂、写在答题纸上。
2. 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。

**选择题部分**

注意事项:

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. (40 points, 2 points for each)**

*Directions: In this part of the test, there are four 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

Instead of producing goods or services—the traditional economic model “products”—older persons may contribute a “product” that has value to society, such as caring for children, caring for other older persons, caring for the oldest old, providing community leadership, mentoring or being an effective role model. But in spite of their significant human and economic benefits, such contributions have not been figured into an economy’s gross national product. And they have not been appropriately valued.

Over the past several decades, most industrialized countries have experienced a substantial drop in the average age at which individuals retire from the labour market. Longer life expectancy and better health have not been accompanied by longer working lives. As a consequence, these countries are facing serious concerns about the viability of social security systems. A key challenge for these countries is to mitigate the effects of a drop in the working age

population by increasing and prolonging the participation of older people in the labour market.

Social protection is a basic component of decent work. The objective of most social protection schemes is to provide access to health care and income security. But today more than half the world's population is excluded from any type of social security protection.

In most developing countries, no more than 20 per cent—and sometimes as few as 5 per cent—of older persons can expect to receive a pension or adequate health care. People working in the informal economy, predominantly women, are likely to have very low or no income in old age.

For older persons, the main expenditure tends to be on health. Health care is an essential part of social protection in any society, and as the global population ages, it is essential that health services adapt to new demands. Even in countries where the family takes on the responsibility of caring for frail older people, global pressures and trends suggest that the elderly will increasingly be forced to rely on themselves, as younger people move from rural to urban areas for economic reasons.

A growing sector of the population that will certainly require care is the oldest old, those 80 years of age or older. Some have developed strategies for caring for themselves and for each other, and are thus able to receive and give care and support, to remain independent and to have control over their own lives. But the percentage of the oldest old is growing very rapidly, and there is an urgent need, particularly in developing countries, to expand care and security networks.

***Questions 1-5 are based on Passage One.***

1. According to Paragraph 1, older persons \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. serve as role models for their grandchildren only
  - B. usually use raw materials to produce goods for the market
  - C. make contributions to an economy's gross national product
  - D. have values which are neglected by the society to some extent
2. What can we learn from Paragraph 2?
  - A. Longer life expectancy means longer working lives.
  - B. Older people are willing to prolong their working lives.
  - C. People retire from the labor market much earlier than they used to.
  - D. Older people have no choice but to participate in the labor market.

3. Most older people in developing countries \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. receive a pension  
B. receive health care  
C. have steady income  
D. have no social protection
4. We can learn from Paragraph 5 that health care \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. ensures income security of the elderly  
B. provides protection for the elderly only  
C. is the most important part of social protection  
D. defines the family's duty of caring for the elderly
5. What can be inferred from the last paragraph?  
A. Most older people can take care of themselves.  
B. It is essential that social protection meet new requirements.  
C. Older people have been a heavy burden for the whole society.  
D. It is urgent for younger people to provide finance for the elderly.

#### Passage Two

In life, once on a path, we tend to follow it, for better or worse. What's sad is that even if it's the latter, we often accept it anyway because we are so accustomed to the way things are that we don't even recognize that they could be different. This is a phenomenon psychologists call functional fixedness.

This classic experiment will give you an idea of how it works and a sense of whether you may have fallen into the same trap: People are given a box of tacks and some matches and asked to find a way to attach a candle to a wall so that it burns properly. Typically, the subjects try tacking the candle to the wall or lighting it to affix it with melted wax. The psychologists had, of course, arranged it so that neither of these obvious approaches would work. The tacks are too short, and the paraffin doesn't bind to the wall. So how can you accomplish the task? The successful technique is to use the tack box as a candle-holder. You empty it, tack it to the wall, and stand the candle inside it. To think of that, you have to look beyond the box's usual role as a receptacle just for tacks and re-imagine it serving an entirely new purpose. That is difficult because we all suffer to one degree or another from functional fixedness. The inability to think in new ways affects people in every corner of society.

The political theorist Hannah Arendt coined the phrase frozen thoughts to describe deeply held ideas that we no longer question but should. In Arendt's eyes,

the complacent reliance on such accepted “truths” also made people blind to ideas that didn’t fit their worldview, even when there was ample evidence for them. Frozen thinking has nothing to do with intelligence, she said. “It can be found in highly intelligent people.” Arendt was particularly interested in the origins of evil, and she considered critical thinking to be a moral imperative—in its absence, a society could go the way of Nazi Germany.

Fortunately, psychologists have found that anyone can unfreeze his or her thinking. One of the most effective ways is to introduce a little discord to one’s intellectual interactions. What this all means is that, as difficult as it can sometimes be, talking to people who disagree with you is good for your brain. So if you hate conspiracy theories and run into someone who believes that we faked the moon landing, don’t walk away. Have tea with him or her. It can broaden your thinking in countless ways.

**Questions 6-10 are based on Passage Two.**

6. In Paragraph 1, by saying “functional fixedness” the author means that \_\_\_\_.
- A. we always follow the worse path in life
  - B. it is essential for us to lead a different kind of life
  - C. it is difficult for us to adapt to something different
  - D. we seldom make changes to the ways that things are
7. The experiment in Paragraph 2 tells us that \_\_\_\_.
- A. the paraffin can attach the candle to the wall
  - B. functional fixedness leads to the failure of some subjects
  - C. psychologists hope that the subjects stick to functional fixedness
  - D. tacking the candle to the wall is the only way to complete the task
8. In Paragraph 2, the word “receptacle” means \_\_\_\_.
- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. container | B. support  |
| C. stand     | D. ornament |
9. What can we learn from Paragraph 3?
- A. One can get rid of frozen thinking if he is wise and rational.
  - B. We should be capable of questioning every idea in our minds.
  - C. Some ideas are so deeply held in our minds that we never question them.
  - D. Critical thinking is quite often developed among highly intelligent people.

10. What can we do to unfreeze our thinking?

- A. We should make friends with those who agree with us.
- B. We should walk away from people who hate interactions.
- C. We should listen to different ideas in order to think creatively.
- D. We should have tea with someone who believes in conspiracy theories.

### Passage Three

For expat parents, passing on their native languages can be a struggle. Not sharing your first language with loved ones is hard. Not passing it on to your own child can be especially tough. Many expat and immigrant parents feel a sense of failure; they wring their hands and share stories on parenting forums and social media, hoping to find the secret to nurturing bilingual children successfully.

Children are linguistic sponges, but this doesn't mean that cursory exposure is enough. They must hear a language quite a bit to understand it—and use it often to be able to speak it comfortably. This is mental work, and a child who doesn't have a motive to speak a language—either a need or a strong desire—will often avoid it. Children's brains are already busy enough.

So languages often wither and die when parents move abroad. Consider America. The foreign-born share of the population is 13.7%, and has never been lower than 4.7% (in 1970). And yet foreign language speakers don't accumulate: today just 25% of the population speaks another language. That's because, typically, the first generation born in America is bilingual, and the second is monolingual—in English, the children often struggling to speak easily with their immigrant grandparents.

In the past, governments discouraged immigrant families from keeping their languages. Teddy Roosevelt worried that America would become a “polyglot boarding-house”. These days, officials tend to be less interventionist; some even see a valuable resource in immigrants' language abilities. Yet many factors conspire to ensure that children still lose their parents' languages, or never learn them.

A big one is institutional pressure. A child's time spent with a second language is time not spent on their first. So teachers often discourage parents from speaking their languages to their children. (This is especially true if the second



15. Passing on the native languages to immigrant children is important because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. bilinguals enjoy cognitive advantages
  - B. language can tie up parents and children
  - C. language identifies the symbol of intimacy
  - D. acquisition of a language is beneficial for health

Passage Four

Recent scandals show that limiting ad partners' access to your data isn't enough to protect it. Facebook Inc., which turned 15 on Feb. 4, spent the past year peppering you with apologies and promises about protecting your personal data from others. The company wants you to know that it doesn't sell your data to advertisers, per se, and that you can limit data sharing with some other apps. It's going to keep paying for pop-up kiosks and subway ads to reinforce that the thickets of data growing in its garden now are (imagine!) under your control.

But Facebook still isn't being transparent about the ways it collects information on you, and it's quietly stepping up efforts to grab lots more. The company's knowledge goes far beyond status updates. It tracks people across the Internet on other companies' websites and apps. It uses IP addresses to target ads to people who turned off location-based tracking on their phones. It's been caught collecting call and text histories from users' Android devices. It's stored facial data from people who never agreed to biometric scans. It was just caught monitoring the phone activity of some kids as young as 13.

On Feb.7, Germany's antitrust regulator was expected to announce the results of a three-year investigation into whether the company has illegally used its market power to coerce data sharing consent. No wonder Facebook wants to have a different discussion about privacy. From his Senate testimony last year to a Wall Street Journal op-ed last month, Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg has stressed that Facebook isn't selling user data.

In privacy terms, this is a largely semantic distinction. Facebook does sell clients your attention, tailoring ads to what your online behavior suggests you might like. The less data the company shares—due to privacy concerns or anything else—the more it can charge for exclusive access to its 2.7 billion global users.

Europe is a step ahead: Under the General Data Protection Regulation enacted last year, Facebook has to more clearly disclose what data it's gathering and why when requesting that users click OK. Irish authorities already have seven investigations open on Facebook's tactics. If the company is in violation, it could be fined a maximum of 4 per cent of its global revenue. Of course, it's difficult to imagine any regulator conjuring a fine big enough to upend the data hungry business model of a company that made \$21.7 billion in profit last year. And as long as Facebook is unwilling to limit its collection practices, we'll all have little choice in what we share.

***Questions 16-20 are based on Passage Four.***

16. What can we learn from Paragraph 1?
- A. Facebook admitted selling its users' data to advertisers.
  - B. Facebook made promises to protect its users' personal data.
  - C. Facebook made an apology for failing in protecting its users.
  - D. Facebook was trustworthy because it didn't disclose its users' data.
17. According to Paragraph 2, Facebook \_\_\_\_.
- A. updates its status to keep data safe
  - B. collects its users' information secretly
  - C. tracks people in public in an illegal way
  - D. makes the public know about how it collects data
18. The word "coerce" in Paragraph 3 means \_\_\_\_.
- A. to force
  - B. to claim
  - C. to require
  - D. to threat
19. In Paragraph 4, by saying "semantic distinction" the author means \_\_\_\_.
- A. there are different interpretations for privacy
  - B. Facebook traces its users' online behavior
  - C. there are various ways to access its users' data
  - D. Facebook ensures the safety of its users' information
20. What can be inferred from the last paragraph?
- A. Facebook will be under the control of Irish authorities.
  - B. Facebook will be involved in a lawsuit because of its practices.
  - C. Facebook will pay 4 per cent of its global revenue for penalty.
  - D. Facebook will go through a tough time in the following years.



## 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. (15 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.*

Not change for change's sake, but change to preserve America's ideals—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Though we march to the music of our time, our mission is timeless.

Each generation of Americans must define what it means to be an American.

On behalf of our nation, I salute my predecessor, President Bush, for his half-century of service to America.

And I thank the millions of men and women whose steadfastness and sacrifice triumphed over depression and fascism.

Today, a generation raised in the shadows of the Cold War assumes new responsibilities in a world warmed by the sunshine of freedom but threatened still by ancient hatreds and new plagues.

Raised in unrivaled prosperity, we inherit an economy that is still the world's strongest, but is weakened by business failures, stagnant wages, increasing inequality, and deep divisions among our people.

When George Washington first took the oath I have just sworn to uphold, news traveled slowly across the land by horseback and across the ocean by boat. Now, the sights and sounds of this ceremony are broadcast instantaneously to billions around the world.

Communications and commerce are global; investment is mobile; technology is almost magical; and ambition for a better life is now universal. We earn our livelihood in peaceful competition with people all across the earth. Profound and powerful forces are shaking and remaking our world, and the urgent question of our time is whether we can make change our friend and not our enemy.

This new world has already enriched the lives of millions of Americans who are able to compete and win in it. But when most people are working harder for less; when others cannot work at all; when the cost of health care devastates families and threatens to bankrupt many of our enterprises, great and small; when fear of crime robs law-abiding citizens of their freedom; and when millions of poor children cannot even imagine the lives we are calling them to lead—we have not made change our friend.

We know we have to face hard truths and take strong steps. But we have not done so. Instead, we have drifted, and that drifting has eroded our resources, fractured our economy, and shaken our confidence.

Though our challenges are fearsome, so are our strengths. And Americans have ever been a restless, questing, hopeful people. We must bring to our task today the vision and will of those who came before us.

21. the ideas of something that is perfect (Para. 1)
22. one who held an official position before you (Para. 3)
23. gained complete success or victory (Para. 4)
24. very old (Para. 5)
25. an economic state of growth with rising profits (Para. 6)
26. not growing or developing (Para. 6)
27. stand up for (Para. 7)
28. immediately (Para. 7)
29. of worldwide scope or applicability (Para. 8)
30. engage in a contest (Para. 9)
31. have insufficient assets to cover the debts (Para. 9)
32. moved about aimlessly (Para. 10)
33. broke into pieces (Para. 10)
34. searching for (Para. 11)
35. a vivid mental image (Para. 11)

### **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**

In 1897, eight-year-old Virginia wrote a short, inquisitive letter to the editor of New York's newspaper, *The Sun*, in which she sought confirmation of Santa Claus's existence. The paper's editor, Francis P. Church, soon replied to Virginia's letter by way of an editorial, titled "Is There a Santa Claus?", which in fact remains to this day, the most reprinted English-language editorial in history.

36. A letter to i\_\_\_\_\_ about the existence of Santa Claus.

## Paragraph Two

FareShare has been running as an independent charity since 2004. It collects food from supermarkets, cafe chains, bakeries and other retailers that would otherwise be thrown away and distributes it to 2,020 charities across the country. Last year it redistributed 7,360 tons of food, providing 15.3m meals and saving the British voluntary sector an estimated £ 19m.

37. FareShare's fighting against food w\_\_\_\_\_.

## Paragraph Three

One way to get people to produce less garbage is to charge them for it. So-called pay-as-you-throw programs—in which municipalities bill residents for their garbage—have been around for decades but are becoming more widespread. And they work. Now that (people) are aware that trash has a cost, they begin looking for alternatives to putting things in a trash can.

38. Putting a p\_\_\_\_\_ on trash.

## Paragraph Four

Drones are being used by tech-savvy farmers to monitor and spray crops, by researchers to measure environmental pollution and by Hollywood studios to capture action-packed footage for blockbuster movies. Drones are even saving lives, as first responders to coordinate operations and search for missing hikers. And of course, drones are being flown by hundreds of thousands of amateurs.

39. Drones are used in a variety of f\_\_\_\_\_.

## Paragraph Five

It stands to reason that countries with larger populations might enjoy long-run economic advantages. People are the raw material of economic growth, after all. The more there are, the greater the likelihood that one becomes a Gutenberg or a Watt. In a world without much international trade, populous countries offer the largest markets, and comparatively more opportunity to boost economic output through specialization and trade.

40. Population is a d\_\_\_\_\_ factor of economic growth.

## Paragraph Six

On paper, it looks as if San Francisco shouldn't have a homelessness problem. There are as many permanent housing beds as people who need them. The city spends hundreds of millions of dollars to help get people off the streets. Yet there are about 7,500 homeless in the city because of soaring rents and the difficulty of treating substance abuse, mental illness, and other health concerns.

41. Homelessness problem e\_\_\_\_\_ in San Francisco.

### Paragraph Seven

When Ottessa Moshfegh published her debut novel, “Eileen,” last August, she did so without an online publicity apparatus. *Vanity Fair* noted that Ms. Moshfegh, 34, was an anomaly because she had neither social media profiles nor a website. There wasn’t much personal information floating around about her, either. Ms. Moshfegh had made herself (apart from her work) somewhat un-Googleable.

42. Ottessa Moshfegh doesn’t release her i\_\_\_\_\_ into the digital world.

### Paragraph Eight

The many different things a language can and must do are the subject of *Are Some Languages Better than Others?*, a book from 2016 by R.M.W. Dixon of James Cook University in Australia. Mr. Dixon dispels old colonialist prejudices that European languages are sophisticated and indigenous ones primitive. Indeed, many of the most nuanced discriminations are required not by French or German but among isolated traditional communities.

43. A book about whether some languages are s\_\_\_\_\_ to others.

### Paragraph Nine

I wonder what life will be left for me in China in the future. I’ve long nursed vague plans of moving back to China to live for a few years, to get to know it better and solidify my place there. But with each year that passes in the U.S. , such a move gets harder and harder to make.

44. The h\_\_\_\_\_ of a Chinese emigrant to the U.S.

### Paragraph Ten

Academic economics recruits too few women. Also, many of those who do work in the profession say they are treated unfairly and that their talents are not fully realized. As a result, economics has fewer good ideas than it should and suffers from a skewed viewpoint. It is time for the dismal science to improve its dismal record on gender.

45. The p\_\_\_\_\_ against women in workplace.

#### IV. Translation. (25 points, 4 points each for 46-50, 5 points for 51)

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

Although the actual extent of computer crime is difficult to measure, most experts agree that it is one of the fastest growing areas of illegal activity. The principal reason for both the growth and the lack of accurate measurement is the difficulty in detecting a well-executed theft. Losses per incident thus tend to be higher than in other types of theft. 46. Once the computer criminal has compromised the system, it is just as easy to steal a great sum as it is to steal a little, and to continue stealing long after the initial theft. Indeed, the computer criminal may find it more difficult to stop his illicit activity than to start it.

47. Computer criminals are, for the most part, well-educated and highly intelligent, and have the analytical skills that make them valued employees. The fact that computer criminals do not fit criminal stereotypes helps them to obtain the positions they require to carry out crimes. Being intelligent, they have fertile imaginations, and the variety of ways in which they use equipment to their advantage is constantly being extended. In addition to direct theft of funds, the theft of data (“program-napping”) for corporate espionage or extortion is becoming widespread, and can obviously have a substantial effect on a company’s finances. 48. Another lucrative scheme, often difficult to detect, involves accumulating fractions of pence from individual payroll accounts, with electronic transfer of the accumulated amount to the criminal’s payroll. Employers are hardly concerned with pence, much less fractions of pence. In addition, of course, the company’s total payroll is unaffected.

Guarding against computer abuse—whether deliberate or accidental—involves attention to the following areas: (1) Protection of hardware from physical damage; (2) Protection of software and data.

49. The protection of hardware from accidental or intentional damage is a function of the environment in which the equipment is kept. The computer must be isolated from other company facilities, and access should be strictly controlled. No unauthorized person should ever be admitted to the computer area. Many insurance companies and security firms offer free evaluation of the physical protection of computer installations.

The protection of software is a more difficult problem. 50. Some risks are reduced by controlling physical access by unauthorized personnel, but most damage to software, accidental and intentional, is caused by those whose jobs require at least some access to the computer. The writer of the program is often the one responsible for its misuse. Programs devised exclusively for a particular company are therefore far more vulnerable to abuse and accident than standard software packages produced by external suppliers.

A unique program is both difficult and expensive to replace. Accidental erasure, sabotage, or physical removal of a single disk or tape could mean that a whole system has to be rebuilt, followed by a lengthy testing process. 51. The creators of a custom-made program are almost always company employees, who may or may not have a vested interest in the program's function. Moreover, they can alter the program at will, and there is little management that one can do to make sure that alterations in a unique program are always legitimate.