

全国 2015 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), 否则不计分。

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 or incomplete statements with four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best answer and then mark the corresponding letter on your Answer Sheet.*

Passage One

It's early August and the countryside appears peaceful. Planting has long been finished and the fields are alive with strong, healthy crops. Soybeans and wheat are flourishing under the hot summer sun, and the corn, which was "knee-high by the fourth of July", is now well over six feet tall. Herds of dairy and beef cattle are grazing peacefully in rolling pastures which surround big, red barns and neat, white farmhouses. Everything as far as the eye can see radiates a sense of prosperity. Welcome to the Midwest – one of the most fertile agricultural regions of the world.

The tranquility of the above scene is misleading. Farmers in the Midwest put in some of the longest workdays of any profession in the United States. In addition to caring for their crops and livestock, they have to keep up with new farming techniques, such as those for combining soil erosion and increasing livestock production. It is essential that farmers adopt these advances in technology if they want to continue to meet the growing demands of a hungry world.

Agriculture is the number one industry in the United States and agricultural products are the country's leading export. American farmers manage to feed not only the total population of the United States, but also millions of other people throughout the rest of the world. Corn and soybean exports alone account for approximately 75 percent of the amount sold in world markets.

This productivity, however, has its price. Intensive cultivation exposes the earth to the damaging forces of nature. Every year wind and water remove tons of

rich soil from the nation's croplands, with the result that soil erosion has become a national problem concerning everyone from the farmer to the consumer.

Each field is covered by a limited amount of topsoil, the upper layer of earth which is richest in the nutrient and minerals necessary for growing crops. Ever since the first farmers arrived in the Midwest almost 200 years ago, cultivation and, consequently, erosion have been depleting the supply of topsoil. In the 1830s, nearly two feet of rich, black top soil covered the Midwest. Today the average depth is only eight inches, and every decade another inch is blown or washed away. This erosion is steadily decreasing the productivity of valuable cropland. A United States Agricultural Department survey states that if erosion continues at its present rate, corn and soybean yields in the Midwest may drop as much as 30 percent over the next 50 years.

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

1. The underlined sentence in Para. 1 implies that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the Midwest is the most prosperous in the US
  - B. the Midwest is the most fertile in the world
  - C. the Midwest is expecting a good harvest
  - D. the Midwest is within reach of prosperity
2. What does the author say about the farmers in Para. 2?
  - A. They live a tranquil but industrious life.
  - B. They work very hard and learn new skills.
  - C. They work longer hours during weekdays.
  - D. They have to compete with farmers in other countries.
3. From Para. 3, we can learn that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. American farmers feed almost three quarters of the world population
  - B. 75 percent of corn and soybeans in the world market come from the US
  - C. American agricultural exports have a share of 75% in the global market
  - D. corn and soybeans take up about three quarters of American agricultural exports
4. According to Para. 4, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. soil deterioration is becoming a serious problem
  - B. climate change reduces the area of the croplands
  - C. customers have to pay more for agricultural products
  - D. high productivity comes along with damaging forces of nature

5. The purpose of this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. to show the necessity to improve farming methods
  - B. to persuade farmers to adopt new farming techniques
  - C. to inform people of the side effect of intensive cultivation
  - D. to intensify people's awareness of land erosion in the US

### Passage Two

Like many other small boys, I was fascinated by cars, not least because my oldest brother was a bit of a car guy and subscribed to cool magazines like *Car and Driver* and *Motor Trend*. Every so often, one of those magazines would run an article on the "Car of the Future". They featured unconventional styling and things like small nuclear reactors as power sources. Yet, frankly, my car doesn't do anything that my brother's Studebaker didn't do. It goes, it stops, it burns gasoline, and it plays music. I still have to steer it, and it still runs into things if I don't steer it carefully.

But guess what? All of these things are subject to change in the not-so-distant future. It will still go and stop, but it may not burn gasoline, I may not have to steer it, and it may be a lot better at not running into things.

Airbags aren't the be-all and end-all in safety. In fact, considering the recent news about people occasionally being killed by their airbags in low-speed collisions, they obviously still need some development. But they aren't going away, and in fact, you can expect to see cars appearing with additional, side-impact airbags, something some European car manufacturers already offer.

Better than systems to minimize injury in the event of an accident, however, are systems that minimize the likelihood of an accident happening in the first place. Future cars may be able to eliminate many of the major causes of accidents, including drunk-driving, tailgating and sleepiness. Cars could be equipped with sensors that can detect alcohol in a driver's system and prevent the car from being started, for example. Many accidents are caused by people following the car in front too closely. As early as next year, you'll be able to buy cars with radar-equipped control systems. If the radar determines you're closing too quickly with the car in front, it will ease up on the throttle. For city streets, expect other radar devices that will give advance warning that the car in front of you has slowed

abruptly and you should step on the brakes – or that may even brake for you.

Will cars eventually be able to drive themselves? There's no reason to think it won't be technically possible, and Mercedes is working on a system that can brake, accelerate and steer a vehicle down a highway on its own. Nobody really expects people to give up all control to their cars, but such system could be used as failsafe system to keep cars on the road and bring them safely to a stop even if the driver suddenly became disabled.

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

6. The author's interest in cars was aroused by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the power source of his brother's car
  - B. his oldest brother's car magazines
  - C. his ride in his oldest brother's car
  - D. other small boys' desire for cars
7. It can be inferred from Para. 1 that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the author's car is as expensive as his brother's
  - B. the author's car fulfills more functions than his brother's
  - C. not much has changed in the way people drive cars
  - D. improved performance of cars helps to reduce traffic accidents
8. According to the passage, airbags \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. will disappear gradually
  - B. need further improvement
  - C. kill rather than protect people in low-speed collisions
  - D. have been standard equipment of all European cars for years
9. If sensors detect alcohol in future cars, they could prevent drunk driving \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. by giving a warning in advance
  - B. by easing up on the throttle
  - C. by braking automatically
  - D. by not starting the engine
10. The last paragraph implies that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. future technology will enable cars to drive themselves
  - B. people will be glad to give up all control to their cars
  - C. all cars will be equipped with failsafe systems
  - D. no car will ever break down on the roads

### Passage Three

Men are spending more and more time in the kitchen encouraged by celebrity chefs like Gordon Ramsay and Jamie Oliver, according to a report from Oxford University.

The effect of the celebrity role models, who have given cookery a more manly image, has combined with a more general drive towards sexual equality, to mean men now spend more than twice the amount of time preparing meals than they did in 1961.

According to research by Prof. Jonathan Gershuny, who runs the Centre for Time Research at Oxford, men now spend more than half an hour a day cooking, up from just 12 minutes a day in 1961.

Prof. Gershuny said: “The man in the kitchen is part of a much wider social trend. There has been 40 years of gender equality, but there is another 40 years probably to come.”

Women, who a generation ago spent a fraction under two hours a day cooking, now spend just one hour and seven minutes – a dramatic fall, but they still spend far more time at the stove than men. Some critics say men have been inspired to pick up a spatula by the success of Ramsay, Oliver as well as other male celebrity chefs such as Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Marco Pierre White and Keith Floyd.

The report, commissioned by frozen food company Birds Eye, also makes clear that the family meal is limping on in far better health than some have suggested, thanks in part to a resurgence in cooking by some consumers. Two-thirds of adults claim that they come together to share at least three times a week, even if it is not necessarily around a kitchen or dining room table.

Anne Murphy, general manager at Birds Eye, said: “The evening meal is still clearly central to family life and with some saying family time is on the increase and the appearance of a more frugal consumer, we think the return to tradition will continue as a trend.”

However, Prof. Gershuny pointed out that the family meal was now rarely eaten by all of its members around a table – with many “family meals” in fact taken on the sofa in the sitting room, and shared by completely different members of the

family.

“The family meal has changed very substantially, and few of us eat – as I did when I was a child – at least two meals a day together as a family. But it has survived in a different format.”

**Questions 11-15 are based on Passage Three.**

11. One force that motivates men to spend more time cooking than before is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the development of sexual equality campaign  
B. the improvement of cooks' economic status  
C. the change of women's view on cooking  
D. the popularity of female chefs
12. It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. it has become a trend that men spend more time cooking than women  
B. the time men spend on cooking drops sharply compared with that in 1961  
C. it will take 40 years before men spend more time at the stove than women  
D. the average woman spends less time on cooking than decades ago
13. The report commissioned by Birds Eye shows that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. more and more families enjoy eating out  
B. families prepare healthier food nowadays  
C. the dining room table has become unnecessary  
D. family members share more meals than some have suggested
14. Anne Murphy suggested the return to tradition will continue as a trend because of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the decrease of shared meals  
B. the shrinking of modern kitchens  
C. consumers' tendency of being more economical  
D. parents' greater tolerance to children's eating habits
15. According to Prof. Jonathan Gershuny, family meals \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. have become a thing of the past  
B. take on different forms nowadays  
C. shouldn't be advocated in modern times  
D. are beneficial to the stability of the family

## Passage Four

A wise man once said that the only thing necessary for triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. So, as a police officer I have some urgent things to say to good people.

Days after days my men and I struggle to hold back a tidal wave of crime. Something has gone terribly wrong with our once-proud American way of life. It has happened in the area of values. A key ingredient is disappearing, and I think I know what it is: accountability.

Accountability isn't hard to define. It means that every person is responsible for his or her actions and liable for their consequences. Of the many values that hold civilization together – honesty, kindness, and so on – accountability may be the most important of all. Without it, there can be no respect, no trust, no law – and, ultimately, no society.

My job as a police officer is to impose accountability on people who refuse, or have never learned, to impose it on themselves. But as every policeman knows, external controls on people's behavior are far less effective than internal restraints such as guilt, shame and embarrassment.

Fortunately, there are still communities – smaller towns, usually – where schools maintain discipline and where parents hold up standards that proclaim: “In this family certain things are not tolerated – they simply are not done!”

Yet more and more, especially in our larger cities and suburbs, these inner restraints are loosening. Your typical robber has none. He considers your property his property; he takes what he wants, including your life if you enrage him.

The main cause of this breakdown is a radical shift in attitudes. Thirty years ago, if a crime was committed, society was considered the victim. Now, in a shocking reversal, it's the criminal who is considered victimized: by his underprivileged upbringing, by the school that didn't teach him to read, by the church that failed to teach him with moral guidance, by the parents who didn't provide a stable home.

I don't believe it. Many others in equally disadvantaged circumstances choose not to engage in criminal activities. If we free the criminal, even partly, from

accountability, we become a society of endless excuses where no one accepts responsibility for anything.

We in America desperately need more people who believe that the person who commits a crime is the one responsible for it.

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

16. “The only thing necessary for triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing” in Para. 1 means that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. it’s only natural for virtue to defeat evil
  - B. good people needn’t do anything in face of evil
  - C. evil will prevail if good men do nothing about it
  - D. it’s desirable for good men to keep away from evil
17. According to the passage, accountability means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. being responsible for one’s own action
  - B. being honest and kind to others
  - C. being trusted by other people
  - D. being aware of dangers
18. The author thinks that if a person is found guilty of a crime, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. his parents should be criticized
  - B. modern civilization is responsible for it
  - C. the criminal himself should bear the blame
  - D. moral standards should be improved in the society
19. It really upsets the author that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. people in small towns stick to old discipline and standards
  - B. people tend to excuse criminals for their illegal behaviors
  - C. disadvantaged people are engaged in criminal activities
  - D. today’s society lacks sympathy for people in difficulty
20. The main idea of the passage is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. more self-discipline is required in schools and families
  - B. more role models should be set for people to follow
  - C. more regulations should be introduced in the society
  - D. more people should accept the value of accountability



## Passage Five

Since the dawn of human ingenuity, people have devised ever more cunning tools to cope with work that is dangerous, boring, burdensome, or just plain nasty. That compulsion has resulted in robotics, the science of conferring various human capabilities on machines. And if scientists have yet to create the mechanical version of science fiction, they have begun to come close.

As a result, the modern world is increasingly populated by intelligent gizmos whose presence we barely notice but whose universal existence has removed much human labor. Our factories hum to the rhythm of robot assembly arms. Our banking is done at automated teller terminals that thank us with mechanical politeness for the transaction. Our subway trains are controlled by tireless robot drivers. And thanks to the continual miniaturization of electronics and micro mechanics, there are already robot systems that can perform some kinds of brain and bone surgery with sub-millimeter accuracy – far greater precision than highly skilled physicians can achieve with their hands alone.

But if robots are to reach the next stage of laborsaving utility, they will have to operate with less human supervision and be able to make at least a few decisions for themselves – goals that pose a real challenge. “While we know how to tell a robot to handle a specific error,” says Dave Lavery, manager of a robotics program at NASA, “we can’t yet give a robot enough ‘common sense’ to reliably interact with a dynamic world.”

Indeed the quest for true artificial intelligence has produced very mixed results. Despite a spell of initial optimism in the 1960s and 1970s when it appeared that transistor circuits and microprocessors might be able to copy the action of the human brain by the year 2010, researchers lately have begun to extend that forecast by decades if not centuries.

What they found, in attempting to model thought, is that the human brain’s roughly one hundred billion nerve cells are much more talented – and human perception far more complicated – than previously imagined. They have built robots that can recognize the error of a machine panel by a fraction of a millimeter

in a controlled factory environment. But the human mind can glimpse a rapidly changing scene and immediately disregard the 98 percent that is irrelevant, instantaneously focusing on the monkey at the side of a winding forest road or the single suspicious face in a big crowd. The most advanced computer systems on Earth can't approach that kind of ability, and neuroscientists still don't know quite how we do it.

**Questions 21-25 are based on Passage Five.**

21. Human beings initially demonstrated their ingenuity in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the use of machines to produce science fiction  
B. the wide use of machines in manufacturing industry  
C. the invention of tools for difficult and unpleasant work  
D. the elite's cunning tackling of dangerous and boring work
22. Para. 2 focuses on the increase in the number of intelligent \_\_\_\_\_ in the modern world.  
A. devices  
B. experts  
C. programs  
D. creatures
23. Now, it is still impossible for man to design a robot that can \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. control subway trains  
B. perform delicate brain surgery  
C. communicate with human beings verbally  
D. respond independently to a changing world
24. Besides reducing human labor, robots can also \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. cope with some errors with human assistance  
B. improve factory environments  
C. make decisions on their own  
D. stimulate human creativity
25. The example of a monkey is used to argue that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. human brains can spot minor errors in a controlled factory environment  
B. human brains are better than robots at focusing on relevant information  
C. robots are expected to imitate human brain in internal structure  
D. robots are able to gain 98 percent of the information

## 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.*

About three hundred years ago, there were approximately half a billion people in the world. In the two centuries that followed the population doubled, and, by 1850, there were more than a billion people in the world. It took only 75 years for the figure to double once more, so that now the population figure stands at approximately six and one half billion. Each day the population of the world increases by about 150,000.

In former centuries the population grew slowly. Famines, wars, and epidemics, such as the plague and cholera, killed many people. Today, although the birth rate has not changed significantly, the death rate has been lowered considerably by various kinds of progress.

Machinery has made it possible to produce more and more food in vast areas, such as the plains of America and Russia. Crops have increased almost everywhere and people are growing more and more food. New forms of food preservation have also been developed so that food need not be eaten as soon as it has grown. Meat, fish, fruit and vegetables can be dried, tinned or frozen, then stored for later use.

Improvement in communications and transportation has made it possible to send more food from the place where it is produced to other places where it is needed. This has helped reduce the number of famines.

Generally speaking, people live in conditions of greater security. Practices such as the slave trade, which caused many useless deaths, have been stopped.

Progress in medicine and hygiene has made it possible for people to live longer. People in Europe and North America live, on the average, twice as long as they did a hundred years ago. In other countries, too, people generally live much longer than they once did. Babies, especially, have a far better chance of growing up because of increased protection against infant disease. However, all countries do not benefit to the same degree from this program in medicine and hygiene.

26. came after (Para. 1)
27. a particular amount expressed as a number (Para. 1)
28. conditions of extreme scarcity of food (Para. 2)
29. many different (Para. 2)
30. large areas of flat dry land (Para. 3)
31. preparation of food to resist decay (Para. 3)
32. a means of carrying goods from one place to another (Para. 4)
33. the state of being safe (Para. 5)
34. a baby or a very young child (Para. 6)
35. to receive something intended to help (Para. 6)

### 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 frightened feeling of getting cancer is catching. The earth itself is coming to seem like a huge substance which can cause cancer. The statement that something between 80 to 90 percent of all cancers is due to the things in the environment is taken to mean that none of us will be safe until the whole environment is “cleaned up”.

36. People's f\_\_\_\_\_ of getting cancer.

#### Paragraph Two

Americans tend to think of time as a road stretching into the future along which one progresses. The road has many sections, which are to be kept separate – “one thing at a time”. So people who cannot plan events are not highly regarded.

37. The American way of u\_\_\_\_\_ time.

### Paragraph Three

No matter how vicious a man may be, there is always in him a part of our common humanity. All people are reachable somewhere and, if you can control your own fear, something in the very danger itself will tell you how to act.

38. The necessity to o\_\_\_\_\_ fear when dealing with an evil person.

### Paragraph Four

Naturalization in the UK requires five years' residence or three years if the applicant's spouse is a Briton. Other conditions include good behavior and sound mind. Those who are not married to a Briton are also required to have a sufficient knowledge of English. They must also intend to have their main home in Britain.

39. R\_\_\_\_\_ for acquiring British citizenship.

### Paragraph Five

The education of the mind is not a mere question of remembering facts which someone else gives us. In fact, the mind should conduct its own education to a better extent. It cannot do this unless it analytically thinks for itself. A mind that does not reason is comparatively useless.

40. An educated mind does m\_\_\_\_\_ than remembering given facts.

### Paragraph Six

Kerri Miller was a top student and athlete at her college. But after she fell in love with a man who offered her some cocaine, something went wrong completely. She became dependent on it. As she entered her second year of drug use, she began losing weight. Her nose had begun to bleed. She even had difficulty breathing.

41. Drug use totally destroyed her h\_\_\_\_\_.

### Paragraph Seven

Opponents of strict gun controls argue that the right to own firearms is guaranteed by the US Constitution. They recognize that a gun, after all, is a lifeless object incapable of acting on its own. The fault lies with the people who misuse it – the criminals. Violence will be reduced only if we restrict those who pull the trigger.

42. Opponents d\_\_\_\_\_ the right to own guns.

## Paragraph Eight

All types of men now on earth have a common origin. All men belong to one great family; though long, long ago there was separation into groups, and the groups moved outward from their center or centers, and a gradual development of different types (which we now call races) took place.

43. The s\_\_\_\_\_ and growth of human races.

## Paragraph Nine

All arts are one in the sense that everyone is in some measure an artist, even though he may shy away from art galleries and exhibits. Daily we express our artistic taste in our choice of clothing, household, furniture, costume, jewelry, flowers, CDs, radio and TV programs and movies.

44. Everybody has the p\_\_\_\_\_ to appreciate arts.

## Paragraph Ten

Usually a combination of causes produces a result. People need to distinguish between necessary and sufficient conditions. Air is a necessary condition for the maintenance of plant life, but air alone is not sufficient to produce plant life. Different causes at different times may produce the same result.

45. Many causes may l\_\_\_\_\_ to the same result.

## 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.*

Excellencies, you are the United Nations. (46) The staff who were killed and injured in the attack on our Baghdad headquarters were your staff. You had given them a mandate to assist the suffering Iraqi people, and to help Iraq recover its national sovereignty.

In future, not only in Iraq but also wherever the United Nations is engaged, we must take more effective measures to protect the security of our staff. I count on your full support – legal, political and financial.

(47) Meanwhile, let me reaffirm the great importance I attach to a successful outcome in Iraq. Whatever view each of us may take of the events of recent months, it is vital for all of us that the outcome is a stable and democratic Iraq, at peace with itself and with its neighbors, and contributing to stability in the region. In that

context I deplore – as I am sure you all do – the brutal attempt on the life of Dr. Akila al-Hashemi, a member of the Governing Council, and I pray for her full recovery, too.

Subject to security considerations, the United Nations system is prepared to play its full part in working for a satisfactory outcome in Iraq, and to do so as part of an effort by the whole international community, pulling together on the basis of a sound and viable policy. (48) If it takes extra time and patience to make a policy that is collective, coherent and workable, then I for one would regard that time as well spent. Indeed, this is how we must approach all the many pressing crises that confront us today.

Excellencies, three years ago, when you came here for the Millennium Summit, we had a shared vision of global solidarity and collective security, expressed in the Millennium Declaration.

But recent events have called that consensus in question. (49) All of us know there are new threats that must be faced – or, perhaps, old threats in new and dangerous combinations: new forms of terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

But, while some consider these threats as self-evidently the main challenge to world peace and security, others feel more immediately threatened by small arms employed in civil conflict, or by so-called “soft threats” such as the persistence of extreme poverty, the disparity of income between and within societies, the spread of infectious diseases, or climate change and environmental degradation.

In truth, we do not have to choose. The United Nations must confront all these threats and challenges – new and old, “hard” and “soft”. It must be fully engaged in the struggle for development and poverty eradication, starting with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; in the struggle to protect our common environment; and in the struggle for human rights, democracy and good governance. (50) In fact, all these struggles are linked. We now see, with chilling clarity, that a world where many millions of people endure brutal oppression and extreme misery will never be fully secure, even for its most privileged inhabitants.

Yet the “hard” threats, such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, are real, and cannot be ignored.