2014年全国硕士研究生招生考试英语（二）

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)

Thinner isn't always better. A number of studies have __1__ that normal-weight people are in fact at higher risk of some diseases compared to those who are overweight. And there are health conditions for which being overweight is actually __2__. For example, heavier women are less likely to develop calcium deficiency than thin women. 3__, among the elderly, being somewhat overweight is often an __4__ of good health.

Of even greater __5__ is the fact that obesity turns out to be very difficult to define. It is often defined __6__ body mass index, or BMI. BMI __7__ body mass divided by the square of height. An adult with a BMI of 18 to 25 is often considered to be normal weight. Between 25 and 30 is overweight. And over 30 is considered obese. Obesity, 8__, can be divided into moderately obese, severely obese, and very severely obese.

While such numerical standards seem __9__, they are not. Obesity is probably less a matter of weight than body fat. Some people with a high BMI are in fact extremely fit, 10__ others with a low BMI may be in poor __11__. For example, many collegiate and professional football players __12__ as obese, though their percentage body fat is low. Conversely, someone with a small frame may have high body fat but a __13__ BMI.

Today we have a(n) __14__ to label obesity as a disgrace. The overweight are sometimes __15__ in the media with their faces covered. Stereotypes __16__ with obesity include laziness, lack of will power, and lower prospects for success. Teachers, employers, and health professionals have been shown to harbor biases against the obese. 17__ very young children tend to look down on the overweight, and teasing about body build has long been a problem in schools.

Negative attitudes toward obesity, __18__ in health concerns, have stimulated a number of anti-obesity __19__. My own hospital system has banned sugary drinks from its facilities. Many employers have instituted weight loss and fitness initiatives. Michelle

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Obama has launched a high-visibility campaign __20__ childhood obesity, even claiming that it represents our greatest national security threat.

1. A. denied	B. concluded	C. doubted	D. ensured
2. A. protective	B. dangerous	C. sufficient	D. troublesome
3. A. Instead	B. However	C. Likewise	D. Therefore
4. A. indicator	B. objective	C. origin	D. example
5. A. impact	B. relevance	C. assistance	D. concern
6. A. in terms of	B. in case of	C. in favor of	D. in respects of
7. A. measures	B. determines	C. equals	D. modifies
8. A. in essence	B. in contrast	C. in turn	D. in part
9. A. complicated	B. conservative	C. variable	D. straightforward
10. A. so	B. while	C. since	D. unless
11. A. shape	B. spirit	C. balance	D. taste
12. A. start	B. qualify	C. retire	D. stay
13. A. strange	B. changeable	C. normal	D. constant
14. A. option	B. reason	C. opportunity	D. tendency
15. A. employed	B. pictured	C. imitated	D. monitored
16. A. compared	B. combined	C. settled	D. associated
17. A. Even	B. Still	C. Yet	D. Only
18. A. despised	B. corrected	C. ignored	D. grounded
19. A. discussions	B. businesses	C. policies	D. studies
20. A. for	B. against	C. with	D. without

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (40 points)

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Text 1

What would you do with $590m? This is now a question for Gloria Mackenzie, an 84-year-old widow who recently emerged from her small, tin-roofed house in Florida to collect the biggest undivided lottery jackpot in history. If she hopes her new-found fortune will yield lasting feelings of fulfillment, she could do worse than read *Happy Money* by Elizabeth Dunn and Michael Norton.

These two academics use an array of behavioral research to show that the most rewarding ways to spend money can be counterintuitive. Fantasies of great wealth often involve visions of fancy cars and extravagant homes. Yet satisfaction with these material purchases wears off fairly quickly. What was once exciting and new becomes old-hat; regret creeps in. It is far better to spend money on experiences, say Ms Dunn and Mr Norton, like interesting trips, unique meals or even going to the cinema. These purchases often become more valuable with time — as stories or memories — particularly if they involve feeling more connected to others.

This slim volume is packed with tips to help wage slaves as well as lottery winners get the most "happiness bang for your buck". It seems most people would be better off if they could shorten their commutes to work, spend more time with friends and family and less of it watching television (something the average American spends a whopping two months a year doing, and is hardly jollier for it). Buying gifts or giving to charity is often more pleasurable than purchasing things for oneself, and luxuries are most enjoyable when they are consumed sparingly. This is apparently the reason McDonald's restricts the availability of its popular McRib — a marketing trick that has turned the pork sandwich into an object of obsession.

Readers of *Happy Money* are clearly a privileged lot, anxious about fulfillment, not hunger. Money may not quite buy happiness, but people in wealthier countries are generally happier than those in poor ones. Yet the link between feeling good and spending money on others can be seen among rich and poor people around the world, and scarcity enhances the pleasure of most things for most people. Not everyone will agree with the authors' policy ideas, which range from mandating more holiday time to reducing tax incentives for American homebuyers. But most people will come away from this book believing it was money well spent.

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21. According to Dunn and Norton, which of the following is the most rewarding purchase?

A. A big house.

B. A special tour.

C. A stylish car.

D. A rich meal.

22. The author's attitude toward Americans' watching TV is____

A. critical.

B. supportive.

C. sympathetic.

D. ambiguous.

23. McRib is mentioned in Paragraph 3 to show that ____

A. consumers are sometimes irrational.

B. popularity usually comes after quality.

C. marketing tricks are often effective.

D. rarity generally increases pleasure.

24. According to the last paragraph, Happy Money ____

A. has left much room for readers' criticism.

B. may prove to be a worthwhile purchase.

C. has predicted a wider income gap in the US.

D. may give its readers a sense of achievement.

25. This text mainly discusses how to ____

A. balance feeling good and spending money.

B. spend large sums of money won in lotteries.

C. obtain lasting satisfaction from money spent.

D. become more reasonable in spending on luxuries.

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Text 2

An article in *Scientific American* has pointed out that empirical research says that, actually, you think you're more beautiful than you are. We have a deep-seated need to feel good about ourselves and we naturally employ a number of self-enhancing strategies to achieve this. Social psychologists have amassed oceans of research into what they call the "above average effect", or "illusory superiority", and shown that, for example, 70% of us rate ourselves as above average in leadership, 93% in driving and 85% at getting on well with others — all obviously statistical impossibilities.

We rose-tint our memories and put ourselves into self-affirming situations. We become defensive when criticized, and apply negative stereotypes to others to boost our own esteem. We stalk around thinking we're hot stuff.

Psychologist and behavioral scientist Nicholas Epley oversaw a key study into self-enhancement and attractiveness. Rather than have people simply rate their beauty compared with others, he asked them to identify an original photograph of themselves from a lineup including versions that had been altered to appear more and less attractive. Visual recognition, reads the study, is "an automatic psychological process, occurring rapidly and intuitively with little or no apparent conscious deliberation". If the subjects quickly chose a falsely flattering image — which most did — they genuinely believed it was really how they looked.

Epley found no significant gender difference in responses. Nor was there any evidence that those who self-enhanced the most (that is, the participants who thought the most positively doctored pictures were real) were doing so to make up for profound insecurities. In fact, those who thought that the images higher up the attractiveness scale were real directly corresponded with those who showed other markers for having higher self-esteem. "I don't think the findings that we have are any evidence of personal delusion," says Epley. "It's a reflection simply of people generally thinking well of themselves." If you are depressed, you won't be self-enhancing.

Knowing the results of Epley's study, it makes sense that many people hate photographs of themselves <u>viscerally</u> — on one level, they don't even recognise the person in the picture as themselves. Facebook, therefore, is a self-enhancer's paradise, where people can share only the most flattering photos, the cream of their wit, style, beauty, intellect and lifestyles. "It's not that people's profiles are dishonest," says Catalina Toma of Wisconsin-Madison University, "but they portray an idealized version of themselves."

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26. According to the first paragraph, social psychologists have found that ____

A. our self-ratings are unrealistically high.

B. illusory superiority is a baseless effect.

C. our need for leadership is unnatural.

D. self-enhancing strategies are ineffective.

27. Visual recognition is believed to be people's ____

A. rapid matching.

B. conscious choice.

C. intuitive response.

D. automatic self-defence.

28. Epley found that people with higher self-esteem tended to ____

A. underestimate their insecurities.

B. believe in their attractiveness.

C. cover up their depressions.

D. oversimplify their illusions.

29. The word "viscerally" (Line 2, Para.5) is closest in meaning to ____

A. instinctively.

B. occasionally.

C. particularly.

D. aggressively.

30. It can be inferred that Facebook is a self-enhancer's paradise because people can ____

A. present their dishonest profiles.

B. define their traditional lifestyles.

C. share their intellectual pursuits.

D. withhold their unflattering sides.

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Text 3

The concept of *man versus machine* is at least as old as the industrial revolution, but this phenomenon tends to be most acutely felt during economic downturns and fragile recoveries. And yet, it would be a mistake to think we are right now simply experiencing the painful side of a boom and bust cycle. Certain jobs have gone away for good, outmoded by machines. Since technology has such an insatiable appetite for eating up human jobs, this phenomenon will continue to restructure our economy in ways we cannot immediately foresee.

When there is rapid improvement in the price and performance of technology, jobs that were once thought to be immune from automation suddenly become threatened. This argument has attracted a lot of attention, via the success of the book *Race Against the Machine,* by Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, who both hail from MIT's Center for Digital Business.

This is a powerful argument, and a scary one. And yet, John Hagel, author of *The Power of Pull* and other books, says Brynjolfsson and McAfee miss the reason why these jobs are so vulnerable to technology in the first place.

Hagel says we have designed jobs in the U.S. that tend to be "tightly scripted" and "highly standardized" ones that leave no room for "individual initiative or creativity". In short, these are the types of jobs that machines can perform much better at than human beings. That is how we have put a giant target sign on the backs of American workers, Hagel says.

It's time to reinvent the formula for how work is conducted, since we are still relying on a very 20th century notion of work, Hagel says. In our rapidly changing economy, we more than ever need people in the workplace who can take initiative and exercise their imagination "to respond to unexpected events". That is not something machines are good at. They are designed to perform very predictable activities.

As Hagel notes, Brynjolfsson and McAfee indeed touched on this point in their book. We need to reframe *race against the machine as race with the machine*. In other words, we need to look at the ways in which machines can augment human labor rather than replace it. So then the problem is not really about technology, but rather, "how do we innovate our institutions and our work practices?"

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31. According to the first paragraph, economic downturns would ____

A. ease the competition of man vs. machine.

B. highlight machines' threat to human jobs.

C. provoke a painful technological revolution.

D. outmode our current economic structure.

32. The authors of *Race Against the Machine* argue that ____

A. technology is diminishing man's job opportunities.

B. automation is accelerating technological development.

C. certain jobs will remain intact after automation.

D. man will finally win the race against machine.

33. Hagel argues that jobs in the U.S. are often ____

A. performed by innovative minds.

B. scripted with an individual style.

C. standardized without a clear target.

D. designed against human creativity.

34. According to the last paragraph, Brynjolfsson and McAfee discussed ____

A. the predictability of machine behavior in practice.

B. the formula for how work is conducted efficiently.

C. the ways machines replace human labor in modern times.

D. the necessity of human involvement in the workplace.

35. Which of the following could be the most appropriate title for the text?

A. How to Innovate Our Work Practices?

B. Machines Will Replace Human Labor.

C. Can We Win the Race Against Machines?

D. Economic Downturns Stimulate Innovations.

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Text 4

When the government talks about infrastructure contributing to the economy the focus is usually on roads, railways, broadband and energy. Housing is seldom mentioned.

Why is that? To some extent the housing sector must shoulder the blame. We have not been good at communicating the real value that housing can contribute to economic growth. Then there is the scale of the typical housing project. It is hard to shove for attention among multibillion-pound infrastructure projects, so it is inevitable that the attention is focused elsewhere. But perhaps the most significant reason is that the issue has always been so politically charged.

Nevertheless, the affordable housing situation is desperate. Waiting lists increase all the time and we are simply not building enough new homes.

The comprehensive spending review offers an opportunity for the government to help rectify this. It needs to put historical prejudices to one side and take some steps to address our urgent housing need.

There are some indications that it is preparing to do just that. The communities minister, Don Foster, has hinted that George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, may introduce more flexibility to the current cap on the amount that local authorities can borrow against their housing stock debt. Evidence shows that 60,000 extra new homes could be built over the next five years if the cap were lifted, increasing GDP by 0.6%.

Ministers should also look at creating greater certainty in the rental environment, which would have a significant impact on the ability of registered providers to fund new developments from revenues.

But it is not just down to the government. While these measures would be welcome in the short term, we must face up to the fact that the existing £4.5bn programme of grants to fund new affordable housing, set to expire in 2015, is unlikely to be extended beyond then. The Labour Party has recently announced that it will retain a large part of the coalition's spending plans if it returns to power. The housing sector needs to accept that we are very unlikely to ever return to the era of large-scale public grants. We need to adjust to this changing climate.

While the government's commitment to long-term funding may have changed, the very pressing need for more affordable housing is real and is not going away.

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36. The author believes that the housing sector ____

A. has attracted much attention.

B. involves certain political factors.

C. shoulders too much responsibility.

D. has lost its real value in economy.

37. It can be learned that affordable housing has ____

A. increased its home supply.

B. offered spending opportunities.

C. suffered government biases.

D. disappointed the government.

38. According to Paragraph 5, George Osborne may ____

A. allow greater government debt for housing.

B. stop local authorities from building homes.

C. prepare to reduce housing stock debt.

D. release a lifted GDP growth forecast.

39. It can be inferred that a stable rental environment would ____

A. lower the costs of registered providers.

B. lessen the impact of government interference.

C. contribute to funding new developments.

D. relieve the ministers of responsibilities.

40. The author believes that after 2015, the government may ____

A. implement more policies to support housing.

B. review the need for large-scale public grants.

C. renew the affordable housing grants programme.

D. stop generous funding to the housing sector.

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Part B

Directions:

Read the following text and answer the questions by finding information from the left column that corresponds to each of the marked details given in the right column. There are two extra choices in the right column. Mark your answer on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

Emerging in the late Sixties and reaching a peak in the Seventies, Land Art was one of a range of new forms, including Body Art, Performance Art, Action Art and Installation Art, which pushed art beyond the traditional confines of the studio and gallery. Rather than portraying landscape, land artists used the physical substance of the land itself as their medium.

The British land art, typified by Richard Long's piece, was not only more domestically scaled, but a lot quirkier than its American counterpart. Indeed, while you might assume that an exhibition of Land Art would consist only of records of works rather than the works themselves, Long's photograph of his work is the work. Since his "action" is in the past, the photograph is its sole embodiment.

That might seem rather an obscure point, but it sets the tone for an exhibition that contains a lot of black-and-white photographs and relatively few natural objects.

Long is Britain's best-known Land Artist and his Stone Circle, a perfect ring of purplish rocks from Portishead beach laid out on the gallery floor, represents the elegant, rarefied side of the form. The Boyle Family, on the other hand, stand for its dirty, urban aspect. Comprising artists Mark Boyle and Joan Hills and their children, they recreated random sections of the British landscape on gallery walls. Their Olaf Street Study, a square of brick-strewn waste ground, is one of the few works here to embrace the commonplaceness that characterises most of our experience of the landscape most of the time.

Parks feature, particularly in the earlier works, such as John Hilliard's very funny Across the Park, in which a long-haired stroller is variously smiled at by a pretty girl and unwittingly assaulted in a sequence of images that turn out to be different parts of the same photograph.

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Generally however British land artists preferred to get away from towns, gravitating towards landscapes that are traditionally considered beautiful such as the Lake District or the Wiltshire Downs. While it probably wasn't apparent at the time, much of this work is permeated by a spirit of romantic escapism that the likes of Wordsworth would have readily understood. Derek Jarman's yellow-tinted film Towards Avebury, a collection of long, mostly still shots of the Wiltshire landscape, evokes a tradition of English landscape painting stretching from Samuel Palmer to Paul Nash.

In the case of Hamish Fulton, you can't help feeling that the Scottish artist has simply found a way of making his love of walking pay. A typical work, such as Seven Days, consists of a single beautiful black-and-white photograph taken on an epic walk, with the mileage and number of days taken listed beneath. British Land Art as shown in this well selected, but relatively modestly scaled exhibition wasn't about imposing on the landscape, more a kind of landscape-orientated light conceptual art created passing through. It had its origins in the great outdoors, but the results were as gallery-bound as the paintings of Turner and Constable.

	A. originates from a long walk that the artist took.
41. Stone Circle	B. illustrates a kind of landscape-orientated light conceptual art.
42. Olaf Street Study	C. reminds people of the English landscape painting tradition.
43. Across the Park	D. represents the elegance of the British land art.
44. Towards Avebury	E. depicts the ordinary side of the British land art.
45. Seven Days	F. embodies a romantic escape into the Scottish outdoors.
	G. contains images from different parts of the same photograph.

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Section III Translation

46. Directions:

Translate the following text into Chinese. Write your translation on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

Most people would define optimism as being endlessly happy, with a glass that's perpetually half full. But that's exactly the kind of false cheerfulness that positive psychologists wouldn't recommend. "Healthy optimism means being in touch with reality," says Tal Ben-Shahar, a Harvard professor. According to Ben-Shahar, realistic optimists are those who make the best of things that happen, but not those who believe everything happens for the best.

Ben-Shahar uses three optimistic exercises. When he feels down — say, after giving a bad lecture — he grants himself permission to be human. He reminds himself that not every lecture can be a Nobel winner; some will be less effective than others. Next is reconstruction. He analyzes the weak lecture, learning lessons for the future about what works and what doesn't. Finally, there is perspective, which involves acknowledging that in the grand scheme of life, one lecture really doesn't matter.

Section IV Writing

Part A

47. Directions:

Suppose you are going to study abroad and share an apartment with John, a local student. Write him an email to

1) tell him about your living habits, and

2) ask for advice about living there.

You should write about 100 words on the ANSWER SHEET.

Do not use your own name. Use "Li Ming" instead.

Do not write your address. (10 points)

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Part B

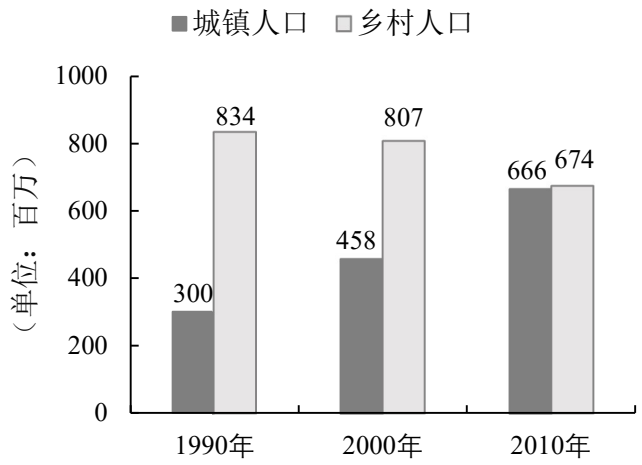
48. Directions:

Write an essay based on the following chart. In your writing, you should

1) interpret the chart, and

2) give your comments.

You should write about 150 words on the ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)



20 年间中国城镇人口与乡村人口变化图

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