2016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)

Happy people work differently. They're more productive, more creative, and willing to take greater risks. And new research suggests that happiness might influence ___1___ firms work, too.

Companies located in places with happier people invest more, according to a recent research paper. ___2___, firms in happy places spend more on R&D (research and development). That's because happiness is linked to the kind of longer-term thinking ___3___ for making investments for the future.

The researchers wanted to know if the ___4___ and inclination for risk-taking that come with happiness would ___5___ the way companies invested. So they compared U.S. cities' average happiness ___6___ by Gallup polling with the investment activity of publicly traded firms in those areas.

___7___ enough, firms' investment and R&D intensity were correlated with the happiness of the area in which they were ___8___. But is it really happiness that's linked to investment, or could something else about happier cities ___9___ why firms there spend more on R&D? To find out, the researchers controlled for various ___10___ that might make firms more likely to invest — like size, industry, and sales — and for indicators that a place was ___11___ to live in, like growth in wages or population. The link between happiness and investment generally ___12___ even after accounting for these things.

The correlation between happiness and investment was particularly strong for younger firms, which the authors ___13___ to "less codified decision making process" and the possible presence of "younger and less ___14___ managers who are more likely to be influenced by sentiment." The relationship was ___15___ stronger in places where happiness was spread more ___16___. Firms seem to invest more in places where most people are relatively happy, rather than in places with happiness inequality.

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__17__ this doesn't prove that happiness causes firms to invest more or to take a longer-term view, the authors believe it at least __18__ at that possibility. It's not hard to imagine that local culture and sentiment would help __19__ how executives think about the future. "It surely seems plausible that happy people would be more forward-thinking and creative and __20__ R&D more than the average," said one researcher.

1. A. why	B. where	C. how	D. when
2. A. In return	B. In particular	C. In contrast	D. In conclusion
3. A. sufficient	B. famous	C. perfect	D. necessary
4. A. individualism	B. modernism	C. optimism	D. realism
5. A. echo	B. miss	C. spoil	D. change
6. A. imagined	B. measured	C. invented	D. assumed
7. A. Sure	B. Odd	C. Unfortunate	D. Often
8. A. advertised	B. divided	C. overtaxed	D. headquartered
9. A. explain	B. overstate	C. summarize	D. emphasize
10. A. stages	B. factors	C. levels	D. methods
11. A. desirable	B. sociable	C. reputable	D. reliable
12. A. resumed	B. held	C. emerged	D. broke
13. A. attribute	B. assign	C. transfer	D. compare
14. A. serious	B. civilized	C. ambitious	D. experienced
15. A. thus	B. instead	C. also	D. never
16. A. rapidly	B. regularly	C. directly	D. equally
17. A. After	B. Until	C. While	D. Since
18. A. arrives	B. jumps	C. hints	D. strikes
19. A. shape	B. rediscover	C. simplify	D. share
20. A. pray for	B. lean towards	C. give away	D. send out

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

It's true that high-school coding classes aren't essential for learning computer science in college. Students without experience can catch up after a few introductory courses, said Tom Cortina, the assistant dean at Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science.

However, Cortina said, early exposure is beneficial. When younger kids learn computer science, they learn that it's not just a confusing, endless string of letters and numbers — but a tool to build apps, or create artwork, or test hypotheses. It's not as hard for them to transform their thought processes as it is for older students. Breaking down problems into bite-sized chunks and using code to solve them becomes normal. Giving more children this training could increase the number of people interested in the field and help fill the jobs gap, Cortina said.

Students also benefit from learning something about coding before they get to college, where introductory computer-science classes are packed to the brim, which can drive the less-experienced or -determined students away.

The Flatiron School, where people pay to learn programming, started as one of the many coding bootcamps that's become popular for adults looking for a career change. The high-schoolers get the same curriculum, but "we try to gear lessons toward things they're interested in," said Victoria Friedman, an instructor. For instance, one of the apps the students are developing suggests movies based on your mood.

The students in the Flatiron class probably won't drop out of high school and build the next Facebook. Programming languages have a quick turnover, so the "Ruby on Rails" language they learned may not even be relevant by the time they enter the job market. But the skills they learn — how to think logically through a problem and organize the results — apply to any coding language, said Deborah Seehorn, an education consultant for the state of North Carolina.

Indeed, the Flatiron students might not go into IT at all. But creating a future army of coders is not the sole purpose of the classes. These kids are going to be surrounded by computers — in their pockets, in their offices, in their homes — for the rest of their lives. The younger they learn how computers think, how to <u>coax</u> the machine into producing what they want — the earlier they learn that they have the power to do that — the better.

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21. Cortina holds that early exposure to computer science makes it easier to ____

A. complete future job training.

B. remodel the way of thinking.

C. formulate logical hypotheses.

D. perfect artwork production.

22. In delivering lessons for high-schoolers, Flatiron has considered their ____

A. experience.

B. academic backgrounds.

C. career prospects.

D. interest.

23. Deborah Seehorn believes that the skills learned at Flatiron will____

A. help students learn other computer languages.

B. have to be upgraded when new technologies come.

C. need improving when students look for jobs.

D. enable students to make big quick money.

24. According to the last paragraph, Flatiron students are expected to ____

A. compete with a future army of programmers.

B. stay longer in the information technology industry.

C. become better prepared for the digitalized world.

D. bring forth innovative computer technologies.

25. The word “coax” (Para.6) is closest in meaning to ____

A. challenge.

B. persuade.

C. frighten.

D. misguide.

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Text 2

Biologists estimate that as many as 2 million lesser prairie chickens — a kind of bird living on stretching grasslands — once lent red to the often grey landscape of the midwestern and southwestern United States. But just some 22,000 birds remain today, occupying about 16% of the species' historic range.

The crash was a major reason the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decided to formally list the bird as threatened. "The lesser prairie chicken is in a desperate situation," said USFWS Director Daniel Ashe. Some environmentalists, however, were disappointed. They had pushed the agency to designate the bird as "endangered," a status that gives federal officials greater regulatory power to crack down on threats. But Ashe and others argued that the "threatened" tag gave the federal government flexibility to try out new, potentially less confrontational conservation approaches. In particular, they called for forging closer collaborations with western state governments, which are often uneasy with federal action, and with the private landowners who control an estimated 95% of the prairie chicken's habitat.

Under the plan, for example, the agency said it would not prosecute landowners or businesses that unintentionally kill, harm, or disturb the bird, as long as they had signed a range-wide management plan to restore prairie chicken habitat. Negotiated by USFWS and the states, the plan requires individuals and businesses that damage habitat as part of their operations to pay into a fund to replace every acre destroyed with 2 new acres of suitable habitat. The fund will also be used to compensate landowners who set aside habitat. USFWS also set an interim goal of restoring prairie chicken populations to an annual average of 67,000 birds over the next 10 years. And it gives the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), a coalition of state agencies, the job of monitoring progress. Overall, the idea is to let "states remain in the driver's seat for managing the species," Ashe said.

Not everyone buys the win-win rhetoric. Some Congress members are trying to block the plan, and at least a dozen industry groups, four states, and three environmental groups are challenging it in federal court. Not surprisingly, industry groups and states generally argue it goes too far; environmentalists say it doesn't go far enough. "The federal government is giving responsibility for managing the bird to the same industries that are pushing it to extinction," says biologist Jay Lininger.

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26. The major reason for listing the lesser prairie chicken as threatened is ____

A. the insistence of private landowners.

B. the underestimate of the grassland acreage.

C. a desperate appeal from some biologists.

D. its drastically decreased population.

27. The “threatened” tag disappointed some environmentalists in that it ____

A. was a give-in to governmental pressure.

B. would involve fewer agencies in action.

C. granted less federal regulatory power.

D. went against conservation policies.

28. It can be learned from Paragraph 3 that unintentional harm-doers will not be prosecuted if they ____

A. agree to pay a sum for compensation.

B. volunteer to set up an equally big habitat.

C. offer to support the WAFWA monitoring job.

D. promise to raise funds for USFWS operations.

29. According to Ashe, the leading role in managing the species is ____

A. the federal government.

B. the wildlife agencies.

C. the landowners.

D. the states.

30. Jay Lininger would most likely support ____

A. the plan under challenge.

B. the win-win rhetoric.

C. environmental groups.

D. industry groups.

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Text 3

That everyone's too busy these days is a cliché. But one specific complaint is made especially mournfully: There's never any time to read.

What makes the problem thornier is that the usual time-management techniques don't seem sufficient. The web's full of articles offering tips on making time to read: "Give up TV" or "Carry a book with you at all times." But in my experience, using such methods to free up the odd 30 minutes doesn't work. Sit down to read and the flywheel of work-related thoughts keeps spinning — or else you're so exhausted that a challenging book's the last thing you need. The modern mind, Tim Parks, a novelist and critic, writes, "is overwhelmingly inclined toward communication... It is not simply that one is interrupted; it is that one is actually inclined to interruption." Deep reading requires not just time, but a special kind of time which can't be obtained merely by becoming more efficient.

In fact, "becoming more efficient" is part of the problem. Thinking of time as a resource to be maximised means you approach it instrumentally, judging any given moment as well spent only in so far as it advances progress toward some goal. Immersive reading, by contrast, depends on being willing to risk inefficiency, goallessness, even time-wasting. Try to slot it in as a to-do list item and you'll manage only goal-focused reading — useful, sometimes, but not the most fulfilling kind. "The future comes at us like empty bottles along an unstoppable and nearly infinite conveyor belt," writes Gary Eberle in his book *Sacred Time*, and "we feel a pressure to fill these different-sized bottles (days, hours, minutes) as they pass, for if they get by without being filled, we will have wasted them." No mind-set could be worse for losing yourself in a book.

So what does work? Perhaps surprisingly, scheduling regular times for reading. You'd think this might fuel the efficiency mind-set, but in fact, Eberle notes, such ritualistic behaviour helps us "step outside time's flow" into "soul time." You could limit distractions by reading only physical books, or on single-purpose e-readers. "Carry a book with you at all times" can actually work, too — providing you dip in often enough, so that reading becomes the default state from which you temporarily surface to take care of business, before dropping back down. On a really good day, it no longer feels as if you're "making time to read," but just reading, and making time for everything else.

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31. The usual time-management techniques don't work because ____

A. what they can offer does not ease the modern mind.

B. what people often forget is carrying a book with them.

C. what challenging books demand is repetitive reading.

D. what deep reading requires cannot be guaranteed.

32. The "empty bottles" metaphor illustrates that people feel a pressure to ____

A. update their to-do lists.

B. make passing time fulfilling.

C. carry their plans through.

D. pursue carefree reading.

33. Eberle would agree that scheduling regular times for reading helps ____

A. promote ritualistic reading.

B. encourage the efficiency mind-set.

C. develop online reading habits.

D. achieve immersive reading.

34. "Carry a book with you at all times" can work if ____

A. reading becomes your primary business of the day.

B. all the daily business has been promptly dealt with.

C. you are able to drop back to business after reading.

D. time can be evenly split for reading and business.

35. The best title for this text could be ____

A. How to Enjoy Easy Reading.

B. How to Set Reading Goals.

C. How to Find Time to Read.

D. How to Read Extensively.

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Text 4

Against a backdrop of drastic changes in economy and population structure, younger Americans are drawing a new 21st-century road map to success, a latest poll has found.

Across generational lines, Americans continue to prize many of the same traditional milestones of a successful life, including getting married, having children, owning a home, and retiring in their sixties. But while young and old mostly agree on what constitutes the finish line of a fulfilling life, they offer strikingly different paths for reaching it.

Young people who are still getting started in life were more likely than older adults to prioritize personal fulfillment in their work, to believe they will advance their careers most by regularly changing jobs, to favor communities with more public services and a faster pace of life, to agree that couples should be financially secure before getting married or having children, and to maintain that children are best served by two parents working outside the home, the survey found.

From career to community and family, these contrasts suggest that in the aftermath of the searing Great Recession, those just starting out in life are defining priorities and expectations that will increasingly spread through virtually all aspects of American life, from consumer preferences to housing patterns to politics.

Young and old converge on one key point: Overwhelming majorities of both groups said they believe it is harder for young people today to get started in life than it was for earlier generations. While younger people are somewhat more optimistic than their elders about the prospects for those starting out today, big majorities in both groups believe those "just getting started in life" face a tougher climb than earlier generations in reaching such signpost achievements as securing a good-paying job, starting a family, managing debt, and finding affordable housing.

Pete Schneider considers the climb tougher today. Schneider, a 27-year-old auto technician from the Chicago suburbs, says he struggled to find a job after graduating from college. Even now that he is working steadily, he said, "I can't afford to pay my monthly mortgage payments on my own, so I have to rent rooms out to people to make that happen." Looking back, he is struck that his parents could provide a comfortable life for their children even though neither had completed college when he was young. "I still grew up in an upper middle-class home with parents who didn't have college degrees," Schneider said. "I don't think people are capable of that anymore."

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36. One cross-generation mark of a successful life is ____

A. having a family with children.

B. trying out different lifestyles.

C. working beyond retirement age.

D. setting up a profitable business.

37. It can be learned from Paragraph 3 that young people tend to ____

A. favor a slower life pace.

B. hold an occupation longer.

C. attach importance to pre-marital finance.

D. give priority to childcare outside the home.

38. The priorities and expectations defined by the young will ____

A. depend largely on political preferences.

B. reach almost all aspects of American life.

C. focus on materialistic issues.

D. become increasingly clear.

39. Both young and old agree that ____

A. good-paying jobs are less available.

B. the old made more life achievements.

C. housing loans today are easy to obtain.

D. getting established is harder for the young.

40. Which of the following is true about Schneider?

A. He thinks his job as a technician quite challenging.

B. His parents' good life has little to do with a college degree.

C. His parents believe working steadily is a must for success.

D. He found a dream job after graduating from college.

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Part B

Directions:

Read the following text and answer the questions by choosing the most suitable subheading from the list A-G for each numbered paragraphs (41-45). There are two extra subheadings which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

A. Be silly
B. Have fun
C. Express your emotions
D. Don't overthink it
E. Be easily pleased
F. Notice things.
G. Ask for help

Act Your Shoe Size, Not Your Age

As adults, it seems that we're constantly pursuing happiness, often with mixed results. Yet children appear to have it down to an art — and for the most part they don't need self-help books or therapy. Instead, they look after their wellbeing instinctively, and usually more effectively than we do as grownups. Perhaps it's time to learn a few lessons from them.

41. _____

What does a child do when he's sad? He cries. When he's angry? He shouts. Scared? Probably a bit of both. As we grow up, we learn to control our emotions so they are manageable and don't dictate our behaviours, which is in many ways a good thing. But too often we take this process too far and end up suppressing emotions, especially negative ones. That's about as effective as brushing dirt under a carpet and can even make us ill. What we need to do is find a way to acknowledge and express what we feel appropriately, and then — again, like children — move on.

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42. _____

A couple of Christmases ago, my youngest stepdaughter, who was nine years old at the time, got a Superman T-shirt for Christmas. It cost less than a fiver but she was overjoyed, and couldn't stop talking about it. Too often we believe that a new job, bigger house or better car will be the magic silver bullet that will allow us to finally be content, but the reality is these things have very little lasting impact on our happiness levels. Instead, being grateful for small things every day is a much better way to improve wellbeing.

43. _____

Have you ever noticed how much children laugh? If we adults could indulge in a bit of silliness and giggling, we would reduce the stress hormones in our bodies, increase good hormones like endorphins, improve blood flow to our hearts and even have a greater chance of fighting off infection. All of which would, of course, have a positive effect on our happiness levels.

44. _____

The problem with being a grownup is that there's an awful lot of serious stuff to deal with — work, mortgage payments, figuring out what to cook for dinner. But as adults we also have the luxury of being able to control our own diaries and it's important that we schedule in time to enjoy the things we love. Those things might be social, sporting, creative or completely random (dancing around the living room, anyone?) — it doesn't matter, so long as they're enjoyable, and not likely to have negative side effects, such as drinking too much alcohol or going on a wild spending spree if you're on a tight budget.

45. _____

Having said all of the above, it's important to add that we shouldn't try too hard to be happy. Scientists tell us this can backfire and actually have a negative impact on our wellbeing. As the Chinese philosopher Chuang Tzu is reported to have said: "Happiness is the absence of striving for happiness." And in that, once more, we need to look to the example of our children, to whom happiness is not a goal but a natural byproduct of the way they live.

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Section III Translation

46. Directions:

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

The supermarket is designed to lure customers into spending as much time as possible within its doors. The reason for this is simple: The longer you stay in the store, the more stuff you'll see, and the more stuff you see, the more you'll buy. And supermarkets contain a lot of stuff. The average supermarket, according to the Food Marketing Institute, carries some 44,000 different items, and many carry tens of thousands more. The sheer volume of available choice is enough to send shoppers into a state of information overload. According to brain-scan experiments, the demands of so much decision-making quickly become too much for us. After about 40 minutes of shopping, most people stop struggling to be rationally selective, and instead begin shopping emotionally — which is the point at which we accumulate the 50 percent of stuff in our cart that we never intended buying.

Section IV Writing

Part A

47. Directions:

Suppose you won a translation contest and your friend, Jack, wrote an email to congratulate you and ask for advice on translation. Write him a reply to

1) thank him, and

2) give your advice.

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

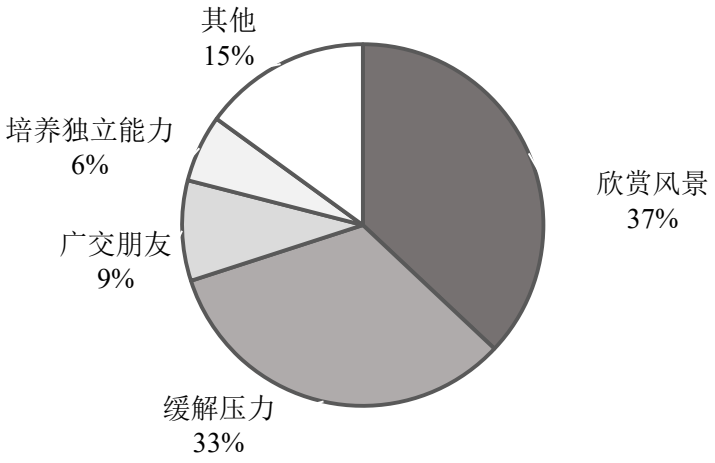
48. Directions:

Write an essay based on the chart below. 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)



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