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全国 2006 年 7 月高等教育自学考试

英语阅读(一)试题

课程代码:00595

(请将答案填在答题纸相应位置上)

I. Text Comprehension. (20 points, 1 point for each)

Directions: The following unfinished statements or questions are based on the texts you have learned. For each of them, four suggested answers marked A, B, C and D are given. Choose the one that you think best completes the statement or answers the question and then write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

1. In *The Decameron*, when Lisabetta's brothers found her love affair with _____
Lorenzo, they _____.

- A. became angry and drove Lorenzo away
- B. killed Lorenzo immediately and publicly
- C. ordered her to end her love affair with Lorenzo
- D. pretended to have seen or heard nothing and waited for a suitable time to murder him

4. According to *Rip Van Winkle*, Rip's son seemed to be following his father's steps because ____.
- A. he did everything but his own business
 - B. he did nothing but his own business
 - C. he was interested in paid work like his father
 - D. he fought in the revolution
5. In *A Day's Wait*, what led the boy to think that he was going to die was that ____.
- A. he misunderstood his father
 - B. he mistook the Fahrenheit scale for the Celsius one
 - C. he thought that his disease was incurable
 - D. he thought that he took the wrong medicines
6. According to *Rip Van Winkle*, Rip's great fault was that ____.
- A. he hated helping neighbors with rough work
 - B. he liked any kind of profitable labor
 - C. he hated any kind of profitable labor
 - D. he liked working on his own farm
7. *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells is ____.
- A. a fairy tale
 - B. a fable
 - C. a comedy
 - D. a novel of scientific fantasy
8. According to *Pandora's Box*, when Pandora opened the box for the first time,

10. "It was certainly a very dark and foggy morning, but still it seemed an unusual course to stop all business on that account." The underlined phrase in this sentence from *How George, Once upon a Time, Got up Early in the Morning* means ____.
- A. not for any reason B. for that reason
C. not for any payment D. for that explanation
11. *Jane Eyre* was written by ____.
- A. William Shakespeare B. O. Henry
C. Charlotte Brontë D. G. Boccaccio
12. Which of the following words can best describe the fisherman's wife?
- A. Vanitied. B. Tolerant.
C. Greedy. D. Rebellious.
13. Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* was the best known ____.
- A. noble B. counselor
C. Duke D. money - lender
14. In *The Story of the Bible*, tempted by ____ words, Eve tasted the beautiful fruit on the forbidden tree.
- A. Jehovah's B. the serpent's
C. Adam's D. Cain's
15. According to *The Perfect Match*, it is said that in the USA computers can make the best decision about matching the right man with the right woman because ____.
- A. a great deal of information has been collected about each man or woman

17. According to *The Girls in Their Summer Dresses*, Frances said to her husband, "Look out, you'll break your neck." She said so ____.
- A. to warn her husband of the danger in the street
 - B. to warn her husband not to look at the other beautiful girls
 - C. to warn her husband of the disease in his neck
 - D. to prevent her husband from hurting his neck
18. According to *Bricks from the Tower of the Babel*, in the United Nations, there are five official languages —— English, ____.
- A. Chinese, Russian, German and French
 - B. Chinese, Russian, German and Spanish
 - C. Chinese, Russian, French and Spanish
 - D. Russian, French, German and Spanish
19. "But always we were interested in discovering just how the doomed man chose to spend his last days or his last hours." The underlined part from *Three Days to See* means ____.
- A. the man who was condemned to death
 - B. the man who was condemned to failure
 - C. the man who was blind
 - D. the man who was guilt
20. According to *The Police and the Intelligence Agents*, the job of the CIA —— the Central Intelligence Agency is to ____.
- A. keep a record of all crimes
 - B. keep the Government informed of the activities of foreign agents and the secret preparations of hostile powers

Passage One

Faces, like fingerprints, are unique. Did you ever wonder how it is possible for us to recognize people. Even a skilled writer probably could not describe all the features that make one face different from another. Yet a very young child or even an animal, such as a pigeon, can learn to recognize faces. We all take this ability for granted.

We also tell people apart by how they behave. When we talk about someone's personality, we mean the ways in which he or she acts, speaks, thinks and feels that make that individual different from others.

Like the human face, human personality is very complex. But describing someone's personality in words is somewhat easier than describing his face. If you were asked to describe what a "nice face" looked like, you probably would have a difficult time in doing so. But if you were asked to describe a "nice person", you might begin to think about someone who was kind, considerate, friendly, warm, and so forth.

There are many words to describe how a person thinks, feels and acts. Gordon Allport, an American psychologist, found nearly 18,000 English words characterizing differences in people's behavior. And many of us use this information as a basis for describing, or typing, his personality. Bookworms, conservatives, military types — people are described with such terms.

People have always tried to "type" each other. Actors in early Greek drama wore masks to show the audience whether they played the *villain's* (坏人) or the hero's role. In fact, the words "person" and "personality" come from the Latin *persona*, meaning "mask". Today, most television and movie actors do not wear masks. But we can easily tell the "good guys" from the "bad guys" because the two types differ in appearance as well as in actions.

21. By using the example of fingerprints, the author tells us that ____.

23. Who most probably knows best how to describe people's personality?
- A. The ancient Greek audience.
 - B. The movie actors.
 - C. Psychologists.
 - D. The modern TV audience.
24. According to the passage, it is possible for us to tell one type of person from another because ____.
- A. people differ in their behavioral and physical characteristics
 - B. human fingerprints provide unique information
 - C. people's behavior can be easily described in words
 - D. human faces have complex features
25. Which of the following is the major point of the passage?
- A. Why it is necessary to identify people's personality.
 - B. Why it is possible to describe people.
 - C. How to get to know people.
 - D. How best to recognize people.

Passage Two

For the most part, rapid economic development has been a boon. But there is a down side to development — health problems such as overweight are all becoming more prevalent, as more people take taxis to work instead of riding their bicycles, and other labor – saving devices become more popular.

An increasingly fast pace of life makes it difficult for people to spend time working out or playing sports. "I know exercise is good for your health," a young lady said. "But after a busy work week, the only thing I want to do is to watch some TV

Elderly people understand the importance of protecting their health. The young people, however, are busy working and use this as an excuse to avoid exercise. In fact, physical exercise doesn't require much time, money or a special gymnasium. People can make use of any time and any place at their convenience to take part in sports. Walking quickly, cycling, climbing the stairs and dancing are all helpful methods to enhance one's health.

The benefits of adding a little more activity to your life are priceless. "There is no need to be an athlete, however," a local doctor said. People should walk for 30 minutes a day and take part in some other physical activity three to five times a week. He warns, however, that people in poor physical shape should start slowly, and build up over time.

26. Rapid economic development has resulted in all the following EXCEPT ____.
- A. an increasing number of taxi passengers
 - B. the wide use of labor - saving devices
 - C. an increasingly fast pace of life
 - D. people's awareness of the importance of exercise
27. Some people are getting overweight because ____.
- A. they are too busy to have any time for exercise
 - B. they are ignorant of the benefits of exercise
 - C. they are too weak to participate in physical activity
 - D. they are short of money to pay for different exercises
28. According to the passage, who need regular daily exercise most?
- A. People taking taxis to work.
 - B. Urban adults with full - time jobs.
 - C. Elderly people who suffer from high blood pressure.
 - D. Young people who are busy working.

30. By referring to rapid economic development as “a boon” at the beginning of the passage, the author means that ____.
- A. it has benefited the general public greatly
 - B. it has done harm to people’s health nationwide
 - C. it is going faster than anyone could have imagined
 - D. it has helped to establish a positive and healthy lifestyle of the public

Passage Three

The market is a concept. If you are growing tomatoes in your backyard for sale you are producing for the market. You might sell some to your neighbor and some to the manager of the local supermarket. But in either case, you are producing for the market. Your efforts are being directed by the market. If people stop buying tomatoes, you will stop producing them.

If you take care of a sick person to earn money, you are producing for the market. If your father is a steelworker or a truck driver or a doctor or a grocer, he is producing goods or service for the market.

When you spend your income, you are buying things from the market. You may spend money in stores, supermarkets, gas station, and restaurants. Still you are buying from the market. When the local grocer hires you to drive the delivery truck, he is buying your labor in the labor market.

The market may seem to be something abstract. But for each person or business who is making and selling something, it’s very real. If nobody buys your tomatoes, it won’t be long before you get the message. The market is telling you something. It’s telling you that you are using energies and resources in doing something the market doesn’t want you to do.

31. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?

33. You are buying from the market when you ____.
- A. borrow a book from the library B. look after your children
C. work in a gas station D. dine at a restaurant
34. The word “real” in the last paragraph may most probably mean ____.
- A. serious B. true
C. important D. concrete
35. In what way is the market very real for each person or business who is making and selling something?
- A. It tells you what to produce.
B. It tells you how to grow tomatoes.
C. It provides you with everything you need.
D. It helps you save money.

Passage Four

Sixteen years ago, Eileen Doyle's husband, an engineer, took his four children up for an early morning cup of tea, packed a small case and was never seen or heard of again. Eileen was astonished and in a state of despair. They had been a happy family and, as far as she knew, there had been nothing wrong with their marriage.

Every day of the year a small group of men and women quietly pack a few belongings and without so much as a note or a good - bye close the front door for the last time, leaving their debts, their worries and their confused families behind them.

Last year, more than 1200 men and nearly as many women were reported missing from home —— the highest in 15 years. Many did return home within a year, but others rejected the past completely and are now living a new life somewhere under a

to ignore other people's pain and difficulties. Running away, like killing yourself, is a highly aggressive act. By creating an absence the people left behind feel guilty, upset and empty.

The Salvation Army's Investigation Department has a 70% success rate in tracking missing people down. According to Lt. Col. Bramwelll Pratt, head of the department, men and women run away for very different reasons though lack of communication is often the biggest motive. "The things that disturb a man's personality are problems like being tied up in debt, or serious worries about work. And some women make impossible demands on their husbands. Women usually leave for more obvious reasons but fear is at the root of it. Men are more often prepared to give their marriage another try than women, but we are aware that, for some wives, it would be a total impossibility to return after the way they've been treated."

36. When her husband left home, Eileen Doyle ____.
- A. could not forgive him for taking the children
 - B. had been expecting it to happen for someone
 - C. could not understand why
 - D. blamed herself for what had happened
37. Most people who leave their families ____.
- A. do so without warning
 - B. do so because of their debts
 - C. come back immediately
 - D. change their names
38. The man or woman left behind usually ____.
- A. admits responsibility for the situation
 - B. wishes the person who has left were dead

40. The Salvation Army believes that ____.
- A. men and women leave their families for similar reasons
 - B. men's reasons are more understandable than women's
 - C. women never want to give men another chance
 - D. women are often afraid to start the marriage again

III. Skimming & Scanning. (10 points, 1 point for each)

Directions: In this part, there are three reading passages followed by ten questions or unfinished statements. For each of the question or the statement, four choices marked A, B, C and D are given. Skim or scan the passage and choose the one that you think best answers the question or completes the statement. Then write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Passage One

Suppose every person on Earth ate only one kind of food. And one year that food disappeared. If that happened, all humans would soon disappear too. Fortunately, humans don't face that problem. However, another creature may. The animal is the giant panda, one of the world's most-loved animals.

Dr. Thomas Soderstrom has discovered that the bamboo plants the giant pandas eat are dying. As a result, many of the pandas are also dying of starvation. Scientists of the World Wildlife Fund estimate that so far more than 140 giant pandas have died. This figure may be almost one-quarter of the world's giant pandas.

44. The famous verses mentioned at the beginning of the passage were written by ____.
- A. an eighteenth – century seaman who was abandoned on a wide ocean
 - B. the eighteenth – century English poet, Coleridge, who was once lost on an open sea
 - C. the eighteenth – century English poet, Coleridge, about a seaman who was left alone on a wide ocean
 - D. the nineteenth – century English poet, Coleridge, about a seaman who was left alone on a wide ocean
45. The fact that sea currents can be used to generate electricity has already been proved by ____.
- A. the French
 - B. the English
 - C. some French seaman
 - D. some English engineers
46. Using sea water for cleaning purposes in the seaside cities would be too costly because ____.
- A. an extraordinarily big motor is needed to pump up the water
 - B. too many devices are required
 - C. special motors are needed
 - D. special machines and pipes are needed to do the job

IV、Word Formations. (10 points, 1 point for each)

Directions: Complete each of the following sentences with the proper form of the word in the brackets. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

51. (famous) We ought to inquire into her former and present _____.
52. (differ) It makes no _____ whether they go or not.
53. (free) This jacket gives me _____.
54. (ability) The eagle's large wings _____ it to fly very fast.
55. (weigh) I am putting on _____, so I decide to eat vegetables only for lunch.
56. (disappoint) To our great _____, it rained on the day of the picnic.
57. (sympathy) I _____ with you; I've had a similar unhappy experience myself.
58. (hesitant) She agreed without the slightest _____.
59. (refuse) I was disappointed when I heard that my offer met with a cold _____.
60. (comfortable) The letter was an _____ reminder of my debts.

V、Answer the Questions. (20 points, 5 points for each)

61. Why was Zeus, the king of the gods, angry with Prometheus? (from *Stories Form Greek Myths*)
62. Why was Milton arrested? How did the policemen find his crime? (from *True Love*)
63. What did Jane Eyre think about when she was locked in the red room? What happened to her there in the end? (from *Jane Eyre*)
64. Why did Shylock have a special hatred for Antonio? (from *The Merchant of Venice*)