

2025 年 4 月高等教育自学考试全国统一考试

英语阅读（二）

（课程代码 00596）

注意事项：

1. 本试卷分为两部分，第一部分为选择题，第二部分为非选择题。
2. 应考者必须按试题顺序在答题卡（纸）指定位置上作答，答在试卷上无效。
3. 涂写部分必须使用 2B 铅笔，书写部分必须使用黑色字迹签字笔。

第一部分 选择题

一、阅读理解：本大题共 20 小题，每小题 2 分，共 40 分。本部分包含 4 篇短文，每篇短文后有 5 个问题，请从每小题给出的 4 个备选项中选出最佳选项，并在答题卡相应位置上将该项涂黑。

Passage One

阅读下面短文，回答 1~5 小题。

Across the rich world, well-educated people increasingly work longer than the less-skilled. Some 65% of American men aged 62 — 74 with a professional degree are in the workforce, compared with 32% of men with only a high-school certificate. This gap is part of a deepening divide between the well-educated well-off and the unskilled poor. Rapid technological advance has raised the incomes of the highly skilled while squeezing those of the unskilled. The consequences, for individuals and society, are profound.

The world is facing an astonishing rise in the number of old people, and they will live longer than ever before. Over the next 20 years the global population of those aged 65 or more will almost double, from 600 million to 1.1 billion. The experience of the 20th century, when greater longevity (长寿) translated into more years in retirement rather than more years at work, has persuaded many observers that this shift will lead to slower economic growth, while the swelling ranks of pensioners will create government budget problems.

But the notion of a sharp division between the working young and the idle old misses a new trend, the growing gap between the skilled and the unskilled. Employment rates are falling among younger unskilled people, whereas older skilled folk are working longer. The divide is most extreme in America, where well-educated baby-boomers (二战后生育高峰期出生的美国人) are putting off retirement while many less-skilled younger people have dropped out

of the workforce.

Policy is partly responsible. Many European governments have abandoned policies that used to encourage people to retire early. Rising life expectancy (预期寿命), combined with the replacement of generous defined-benefit pension plans with less generous defined-contribution ones, means that even the better-off must work longer to have a comfortable retirement. But the changing nature of work also plays a big role. Pay has risen sharply for the highly educated, and those people continue to reap rich rewards into old age because these days the educated elderly are more productive than the preceding generation. Technological change may well reinforce that shift: the skills that complement computers, from management know how to creativity, do not necessarily decline with age.

1. What is happening in the workforce in rich countries?
 - A. Younger people are replacing the elderly.
 - B. Well-educated people tend to work longer.
 - C. Unemployment rates are rising year after year.
 - D. People with no college degree do not easily find work.
2. What has helped deepen the divide between the well-off and the poor?
 - A. Longer life expediencies.
 - B. A rapid technological advance.
 - C. Profound changes in the workforce.
 - D. A growing number of the well-educated.
3. What do many observers predict in view of the experience of the 20th century?
 - A. Economic growth will slow down.
 - B. Government budgets will increase.
 - C. More people will try to pursue higher education.
 - D. There will be more competition in the job market.
4. What is the result of policy changes in European countries?
 - A. Unskilled workers may choose to retire early.
 - B. More people have to receive in-service training.
 - C. Even wealthy people must work longer to live comfortably in retirement.
 - D. People may be able to enjoy generous defined-benefits from pension plans.
5. What is characteristic of work in the 21st century?
 - A. Computers will do more complicated work.
 - B. More will be taken by the educated young.
 - C. Most jobs to be done will be the creative ones.
 - D. Skills are highly valued regardless of age.

Passage Two

阅读下面短文，回答 6~10 小题。

Children are a delight. They are our future. But sadly, hiring someone to take care of them while you go to work is getting more expensive by the year.

Earlier this month, it was reported that the cost of enrolling an infant or small kid at a childcare center rose 3% in 2012, faster than the overall cost of living. There are now large strips of the country where daycare for an infant costs more than a tenth of the average married coupled income.

This is not necessarily a new trend, but it is a somewhat puzzling one. The price of professional childcare has been rising since the 1980s. Yet during that time, pay for professional childcare workers has stood still. Actually caregivers make less today, in real terms, than they did in 1990. Considering that labor costs are responsible for up to 80% of a daycare centers expenses, one would expect flat wages to have meant flat prices.

So who to blame for higher childcare costs?

Childcare is a carefully regulated industry. States lay down rules about how many children each employee is allowed to watch over, the space care centers need per child, and other minute details. And the stricter the regulations, the higher the costs. If it has to hire a caregiver for every two children, it can really achieve any economies of scale on labor to save money when other expenses go up. In Massachusetts, where childcare centers must hire one teacher for every three infants, the price of care averaged more than \$ 16,000 per year. In Mississippi, where centers must hire one teacher for every five infants, the price of care averaged less than \$ 5,000.

Unfortunately, I don't have all the daycare-center regulations handy. But I wouldn't be surprised if as the rules have become more elaborate, prices have risen. The *tradeoff* (交换) might be worth it in some cases; after all, the health and safety of children should probably come before cheap service. But certainly, it doesn't seem to be an accident that some of the cheapest daycare available is in the least regulated South.

6. What problem do parents of small kids have to face?

- A. The ever-rising childcare prices.
- B. The budgeting of family expenses.
- C. The balance between work and family.
- D. The selection of a good daycare center.

7. What does the author feel puzzled about?

- A. Why the prices of childcare vary greatly from state to state.
- B. Why increased childcare prices have not led to better service.
- C. Why childcare workers' pay has not increased with the rising childcare costs.
- D. Why there is a severe shortage of childcare professionals in a number of states.

8. What prevents childcare centers from saving money?

- A. Steady increase in labor costs.
- B. Strict government regulations.
- C. Lack of support from the state.
- D. High administrative expenses.

9. Why is the average cost of childcare in Mississippi much lower than in Massachusetts?

- A. The overall quality of service is not as good.
- B. Payments for caregivers there are not as high.
- C. Living expenses there are comparatively low.
- D. Each teacher is allowed to care for more kids.

10. What is the authors view on daycare service?

- A. Caregivers should receive regular professional training.
- B. Less elaborate rules about childcare might lower costs.
- C. It is crucial to strike a balance between quality and costs.
- D. It is better for different states to learn from each other.

Passage Three

阅读下面短文，回答 11~15 小题。

In recent years, a growing body of research has shown that our appetite and food intake are influenced by a large number of factors besides our biological need for energy, including our eating environment and our perception of the food in front of us.

Studies have shown, for instance, that eating in front of the TV (or a similar distraction) can increase both hunger and the amount of food consumed. Even simple visual cues, like plate size and lighting, have been shown to affect portion size and consumption.

A new study suggested that our short-term memory also may play a role in appetite. Several hours after a meal, people's hunger levels were predicted not by how much they'd eaten but rather by how much food they'd seen in front of them — in other words, how much they remembered eating.

This disparity (差异) suggests the memory of our previous meal may have a bigger influence on our appetite than the actual size of the meal, says Jeffrey Mr. Brunstrom, a professor of experimental psychology at the University of Bristol.

“Hunger isn’t controlled solely by the physical characteristics of a recent meal. We have identified an independent role for memory for that meal,” Brunstrom says. “This shows that the relationship between hunger and food intake is more complex than we thought.”

These findings echo earlier research that suggests our perception of food can sometimes trick our body’s response to the food itself. In a 2011 study, for instance, people who drank the same 880-calorie (卡路里) milkshake on two separate occasions produced different levels of hunger-related hormones (荷尔蒙), depending on whether the shake’s label said it contained 620 or 140 calories. Moreover, the participants reported feeling more full when they thought they’d consumed a higher-calorie shake.

What does this mean for our eating habits? Although it hardly seems practical to trick ourselves into eating less, the new findings do highlight the benefits of focusing on our food and avoiding TV and multitasking while eating.

The so-called mindful-eating strategies can fight distractions and help us control our appetite, Brunstrom says.

11. What is said to be a factor affecting our appetite and food intake?
 - A. How we perceive the food we eat.
 - B. What ingredients the food contains.
 - C. When we eat our meals.
 - D. How fast we eat our meals.
12. What would happen at meal time if you remembered eating a lot in the previous meal?
 - A. You would probably be more picky about food.
 - B. You would not feel like eating the same food.
 - C. You would have a good appetite.
 - D. You would not feel so hungry.
13. What do we learn from the 2011 study?
 - A. Food labels may mislead consumers in their purchases.
 - B. Food labels may influence our body’s response to food.
 - C. Hunger levels depend on one’s consumption of calories.
 - D. People tend to take in a lot more calories than necessary.
14. What does Brunstrom suggest we do to control our appetite?
 - A. Trick ourselves into eating less.
 - B. Choose food with fewer calories.
 - C. Concentrate on food while eating.
 - D. Pick dishes of the right size.

15. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Eating distractions often affect our food digestion.
 - B. Psychological factors influence our hunger levels.
 - C. Our food intake is determined by our biological needs.
 - D. Good eating habits will contribute to our health.

Passage Four

阅读下面短文，回答 16~20 小题。

Kodak’s decision to file for *bankruptcy*(破产) protection is a sad, though not unexpected, turning point for a leading American corporation that pioneered consumer photography and dominated the film market for decades, but ultimately failed to adapt to the digital revolution.

Although many attribute Kodak’s downfall to “*complacency*(自满)”, that explanation doesn’t acknowledge the lengths to which the company went to reinvent itself. Decades ago, Kodak anticipated that digital photography would overtake film — and in fact, Kodak invented the first digital camera in 1975 — but in a fateful decision, the company chose to shelf its new discovery to focus on its traditional film business.

It wasn’t that Kodak was blind to the future, said Rebecca Henderson, a professor at Harvard Business School, but rather that it failed to execute on a strategy to confront it. By the time the company realized its mistake, it was too late.

Kodak is an example of a firm that was very much aware that they had to adapt, and spent a lot of money trying to do so, but ultimately failed. Large companies have a difficult time switching into new markets because there is a temptation to put existing assets into the new businesses.

Although Kodak anticipated the inevitable rise of digital photography, its *corporate*(企业的) culture was too rooted in the successes of the past for it to make the clean break necessary to fully embrace the future. They were a company stuck in time. Their history was so important to them. Now their history has become a liability.

Kodak’s downfall over the last several decades was dramatic. In 1976, the company commanded 90% of the market for photographic film and 85% of the market for cameras. But the 1980s brought new competition from Japanese film company Fuji Photo, which undermined Kodak by offering lower prices for film and photo supplies. Kodak’s decision not to pursue the role of official film for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics was a major miscalculation. The bid went instead to Fuji, which exploited its sponsorship to win a permanent foothold in the marketplace.

16. What do we learn about Kodak?
- A. It went bankrupt all of a sudden.
B. It is approaching its downfall.
C. It initiated the digital revolution in the film industry.
D. It is playing a dominant role in the film market.
17. Why does the author mention Kodak's invention of the first digital camera?
- A. To show its early attempt to reinvent itself.
B. To show its effort to overcome complacency.
C. To show its quick adaptation to the digital revolution.
D. To show its will to compete with Japan's Fuji photo.
18. Why do large companies have difficulty switching to new markets?
- A. They find it costly to give up their existing assets.
B. They tend to be slow in confronting new challenges.
C. They are unwilling to invest in new technology.
D. They are deeply stuck in their glorious past.
19. What does the author say Kodak's history has become?
- A. A burden. B. A mirror.
C. A joke. D. A challenge.
20. What was Kodak's fatal mistake?
- A. Its blind faith in traditional photography.
B. Its failure to see Fuji photo's emergence.
C. Its refusal to sponsor the 1984 Olympics.
D. Its overconfidence in its corporate culture.

第二部分 非选择题

二、文中找词：本大题共 15 小题，每小题 1 分，共 15 分。阅读下列短文，在文中找出与短文后所给各题意思大致相同的词，每小题括号内已给出参考的段落，请将所找的写在答题卡相应的位置上。

Britain's most prestigious scientific institution, the Royal Society, will host a meeting for some of the world's top psychologists. Their aim is to find out why it is that some people's lives go so right. What is it that makes them happy and fulfilled, while others seem doomed to founder in misery, dissatisfaction and dejection?

Psychologists have known for some time that optimism is a good defense against

unhappiness. If you're optimistic and you think life is going to get better, it will become a "self-fulfilling prophecy," says Baylis. "You will involve yourself more, you'll put yourself forward more, you will take more care of yourself. You'll figure that if you do more exercise and not booze as much, life will be better."

But some of us are just not natural optimists. What are we supposed to do?

Positive psychologists believe optimism can be learned, and we can teach ourselves to see a half-empty glass as half-full. All we have to do is to spend time mulling over all the things that have gone right for us, rather than dwelling on what has gone badly. "Research on depression shows that one of the biggest causes of depression is ruminating about something that went wrong in the past," says Baylis. "What happens is you look into the past and think about some event and keep turning it over, saying, 'I messed up, I messed up,' and you let it hurt you. You keep feeding it the oxygen of attention and the flames keep burning you."

But just as dwelling on negative events can lead to depression, dwelling on things that have gone well can help pick you up, he says. "You have to thank your lucky stars about what goes right on a daily basis. Whenever you get the feeling of being negative about things, just take a moment out and remind yourself of the stuff that has gone well. It could be anything from a conversation to your garden looking nice, or that it didn't rain on you when you were out on your bike. It's an extremely powerful technique."

By reminding ourselves what went well instead of what went wrong, positive psychologists believe we can build a buffer against unhappiness, making us better able to take life's knocks when they come.

21. having or showing respect, reputation (Para. 1)
22. someone who studies the human mind and human emotions and behaviour, and how different situations have an effect on people (Para. 1)
23. consign to misfortune or destruction (Para. 1)
24. low spirits (Para. 1)
25. hoping or believing that good things will happen in the future (Para. 2)
26. a statement that says what is going to happen in the future, especially one that is based on what you believe about a particular matter rather than existing facts (Para. 2)
27. cause (a person or thing) to participate, or share the experience or effect of a situation (Para. 2)
28. to drink alcohol (Para. 2)
29. full of hope and confidence, or giving cause for hope and confidence (Para. 4)

30. the state of feeling very unhappy and without hope for the future (Para. 4)
31. to think carefully and for a long period about something (Para. 4)
32. expressing "no" (Para. 5)
33. to make someone think of something they have forgotten or might have forgotten (Para. 5)
34. things that someone says or does, when you are referring to them in a general way without saying exactly what they are (Para. 5)
35. a device that protects against or reduces the effect of an impact (Para. 6)

三、补全语段大意：本大题共 10 小题，每小题 2 分，共 20 分。本部分包含 10 个段落，每个段落有一个概括大意的句子，根据所给首字母填入遗漏的单词以使句子完整。请把答案写在答题卡相应的位置上。

Paragraph 1

Love plays a very important part in this world today. With the increasing modernization of society, relationships between people are becoming looser and looser. It is difficult to imagine what they would be like if there were no love for each other.

36. To live without l _____ is miserable.

Paragraph 2

However, the enemies from nature itself may prove fearsome. For example, earthquakes, eruption of volcanoes, storms or tornadoes destroy life and property, but the dangers from them are being minimized because of sophisticated apparatus that man has at his command.

37. Man could r _____ natural disasters.

Paragraph 3

One aspect of American education too seldom challenged is the lecture system. Professors continue to lecture and students to take notes much as they did in the thirteenth century, when books were so scarce and expensive that few students could own them. The time is long overdue for us to abandon the lecture system and turn to methods that really work.

38. Lecture system needs to be c _____.

Paragraph 4

At present the mass media, including print, TV and radio, are flooded with advertisements. There is growing worry among some people who believe that youngsters are adversely affected by them and advocate that something must be done to place restrictions on them. Unhealthy parts should be eliminated from ads.

39. Suggestions for curbing n _____ influence of media over the youth.

Paragraph 5

Programming robots to interpret what their sensors pick up is a tough task. Remember, silicon brains handle information, including sensory data, as zeroes and ones. Imagine the difficulty in trying to explain to a robot what a baseball looks like—using only zeroes and ones.

40. D _____ for robot playing baseball.

Paragraph 6

Traditionally, large numbers of existing substances get tested until one is found that will produce a desired effect. Since disease involves the action of proteins, scientists are hoping to bioengineer drugs with specific molecular structures, tailoring them either to promote or inhibit the effect of proteins in the body.

41. An e _____ for new drugs against diseases.

Paragraph 7

Federal emergency officials are preparing for a U.S. outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The U.S. government has added hundreds of inspectors at airports and ports in an effort to keep the disease out, but the battle is made more difficult because of booming global travel and trade. Foot-and-mouth disease affects pigs, cattle and other cloven-hoofed animals but is not generally harmful to humans.

42. P _____ against the US outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Paragraph 8

All plants and animals that have been studied carefully (including humans) seem to have build-in clocks. They know the time naturally and correctly without any help from outside.

43. To have a b _____ clock.

Paragraph 9

The English language can communicate more in the way a word is said, than the meaning of the word itself. A debater does not want to speak in a monotone, but instead should let the emotions and thoughts behind the words come to life. This is done through variations in pitch, rate, and volume. Be sure to speak up so that everyone can hear. To increase overall quality, attention should be paid to pronunciation and enunciation.

44. Have vocal v _____.

Paragraph 10

Most five-year-olds can express themselves fluently with a variety of words and can understand an even larger variety of words used in conversations and stories. If children have been exposed to books and heard stories read and told, they have begun to develop an interest in what print says and how it is used to express ideas; a concept of story and story structure; and an understanding of the relationship between oral and written language.

45. Cognitive and language d _____ in children.

四、英译汉：本大题共 6 小题，第 46~50 小题各 4 分，第 51 小题 5 分，共 25 分。在下面短文中，有 6 组下划线的句子，请将文中划线句子翻译成中文，并将答案写在答题卡相应的位置上。

The Land of Free Stuff

46. Cyberspace is a veritable (名副其实的) heaven for those looking for something for nothing — or nearly nothing. FreeStuff-Net.com provides access to an assortment (什锦, 各色俱全) of sites offering handouts (传单, 宣传品). There's "Just Free Stuff," "Freebie Land," "It's Free 4U," "Planet Freebie," "Free Love," "Free Samples," and "Free. com." Beware — the goal of many such sites is simply to get your name and address.

47. It would be unfair to leave the wonderful world of free stuff without mentioning Blue Mountain Arts Publishing, launched (发动, 开始) by two former hippies as a "spiritual and emotional center for the Web." Their stroke of genius was to give away billions of online greeting cards in nine different languages, absolutely free. This concept was so exciting that the owners of the Excite#064; Home Web site agreed to pay about \$1 billion for the company if it met certain sales targets during the holidays when most greeting cards are sold.

But why would any serious business agree to give away so much stuff? The answer is that the bluemountain.com site gets about a million hits a day from people ordering free cards for dozens of occasions, and most of them also order flowers, candy, and gifts, which is where Excite # 064; Home sees a potential gold mine. It's even introduced a new high-tech card that can be used to send loved ones electronic flowers.

Online Education

48. Top colleges and universities are rushing into online education, but the big news is the proliferation (增殖, 分芽繁殖) of a new breed of for-profit online institutions bringing Internet education to the masses. "The Internet will probably be the single most democratizing force in education," says Columbia Business School Dean Meyer Feldberg, who envisions (预见) educational programs being routed (发送) through the Net to hundreds of millions of people.

49. The largest online institution is the University of Phoenix(<http://onl.uophx.edu/>), with some 6,000 students today and hopes of reaching 200,000 students in 10 years. The University offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in business management, technology, education, and nursing. The institution boasts (夸耀) that if you're a student "you can earn your degree via the Internet whenever and wherever you want." The University notes that its degree programs cost far less and may take some students far less time to complete.

On the other hand, a Business Week survey of 247 companies found that only a handful would consider hiring applicants who earned their MBA degrees online. 50. Whether that will change as for-profit online universities improve their offerings — and graduates prove their worth — is anyone's guess.

"Old" Economy Greets the "New"

51. Corporations have suddenly awakened to the fact that the Internet can save them billions of dollars in conducting their everyday affairs, with some of it showing up in lower prices for the consumer. And it's only the beginning. "Where do you think we are as an economy as far as e-business goes?" Fortune magazine recently asked General Electric's legendary CEO Jack Welch, who immediately replied, "First inning."

How right he is can be seen in a two-story brick building on Chicago's industrial South Side, home to the Corrugated Supplies Corporation, which manufactures corrugated sheets for boxes and other products. Despite the company's low-tech image, owner Rick Van Horne may have moved e-business into a second inning and then some: The computerized production system that he built by hand can fill customers' orders — to their exact specifications — and deliver the goods in less than 24 hours, with a 35% reduction in waste.