

2025 年 4 月高等教育自学考试

## 英语阅读(二) 试题

课程代码:00596

1. 请考生按规定用笔将所有试题的答案涂、写在答题纸上。
2. 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。

### 选择题部分

注意事项:

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. (40 points, 2 points for each)

**Directions:** In this part of the test, there are four passages. Following each passage, there are five questions with four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best answer and then write the corresponding letter on your Answer Sheet.

##### Passage One

Where is this all to end? Are we turning the world into a gigantic dump, or is there hope that we can solve the pollution problem? Fortunately, solutions are in sight. A few of them are positively ingenious.

Take the problem of discarded automobiles, for instance. Each year over 40,000 of them are abandoned in New York City alone. Eventually the discards end up in a junkyard. But cars are too bulky to ship as scrap to a steel mill. They must first be flattened. This is done in a giant compressor which can reduce a Cadillac to the size of a television set in a matter of minutes. Any leftover scrap metal is mixed with concrete and made into exceptionally strong bricks that are used in buildings and bridges. Man's ingenuity has come to his rescue.

What about water pollution? More and more cities are building sewage-treatment plants. Instead of being dumped into a nearby river or lake, sewage is sent through a system of underground pipes to a giant tank where the water is separated from the solid material, purified, and returned for reuse to the community water supply. The solid material, called

sludge, is converted into fertilizer. The sludge can also be made into bricks.

Controlling air pollution is another crucial objective. Without food, man can live about five weeks, without water about five days. Without air, he can only live five minutes. So pure air is a must. Here the wrongdoer is the automobile. Where there is a concentration of automobiles, as in our big cities, air pollution is severe. It is important to see that our cars are equipped with pollution-control devices. Such devices effectively reduce the harmful gases emitted from the engine.

Power plants, factories, and apartment buildings can also avoid air pollution. When possible they should use clean fuels like gas and oil. And the smokestacks of these buildings should be equipped with filters and other smoke-reduction devices.

Can we eliminate pollution altogether? Probably not. Modern man pollutes with everything he does, so total elimination would require drastic measures. Every power plant would have to shut down. Industries would have to close. We would have to leave all our automobiles in the garage. Every bus and truck and airplane would have to stop running. There would be no heat and no light. Under these conditions, our population would die in a short time.

Since such a drastic solution is impossible, we must employ determined public action. We can reduce pollution, even if we can't eliminate it altogether. But everyone must do his part. Check your car to see if the pollution-control device is working. Reduce your use of electricity. Is air conditioning really necessary? Don't dump garbage or other waste on the land or in the water. Demand that government take firm action against polluters. We can have a clean world, or we can do nothing. The choice is up to you.

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

1. Why are cars a problem for junkyards?
  - A. They are too expensive.
  - B. They are too old to recycle.
  - C. They are too large to ship easily.
  - D. They are too heavy to flatten quickly.
2. Which of the following can help reduce water pollution?
  - A. Increasing the use of groundwater.
  - B. Building more water treatment plants.
  - C. Dumping sewage directly into the sea.
  - D. Letting factories discharge wastewater untreated.

3. Pure air is extremely important for humans because \_\_\_\_.
- A. cars emit harmful gases
  - B. air pollution is severe in big cities
  - C. man can only live five minutes without air
  - D. power plants and factories cause air pollution
4. What can be inferred about the elimination of pollution?
- A. Pollution is not a serious problem.
  - B. The current level of pollution is acceptable.
  - C. People should balance environment protection and energy use.
  - D. People should stop using all forms of energy to eliminate pollution.
5. To reduce pollution it is advisable for individuals to \_\_\_\_.
- A. stop using any electrical appliances
  - B. file lawsuits against polluting companies
  - C. move to an area with lower pollution levels
  - D. check their car's pollution-control device regularly

### Passage Two

Run clubs have a long history dating back to the early 19th century. The first known running club, the Thames Hare and Hounds, was established in 1868 in London, promoting the sport as a social activity. Over the decades, running clubs spread across Europe and North America, initially attracting competitive runners but gradually appealing to a broader audience seeking support, motivation, and companionship.

In recent years, the rise of social media and fitness apps has further transformed run clubs. Online platforms allow runners to connect, organize events, and track progress, making running more accessible and inclusive. Joining a run club not only fosters new friendships, it also enhances mental well-being. Additionally, maintaining a conversational pace while running with friends can offer distinctive physical benefits, too.

Conversational running refers to maintaining a pace at which you can comfortably speak in complete sentences as you move. It is often associated with Zone 2 training, which involves an intensity of 60 to 70 per cent of your maximum heart rate.

Kristen Hislop, a certified running and triathlon coach, says that people often struggle to achieve this pace because it doesn't feel like a "hard" workout; it's often much slower than you'd anticipate. But even though it doesn't feel especially challenging, low-to-moderate intensity training is great for your overall health, she says. "Doing low-intensity exercise on a

regular basis is going to build endurance so you'll be able to go longer and further," says Hislop. "You're also going to recover faster and reduce your risk of injuries." And, compared to high-intensity exercises, which use sugar as fuel, low-intensity exercise burns fat more effectively.

But running isn't only good for your body; it's also good for your relationships. Rachel Goldberg, a licensed marriage and family therapist who incorporates walk-and-talk sessions into her practice, has noticed that people are much more willing to open up during exercise.

"If you are near somebody but not necessarily facing them eye to eye, there might be a little bit more willingness to open up or you might just feel a little bit less intimidated," she says. This vulnerability can lead to deeper conversations and stronger connections. She adds that this is also an extraordinary way to break social anxiety barriers.

One reason may be that running stimulates endorphins, the body's natural feel-good chemicals. "When you have endorphins released, you feel better, you feel less stress, everything around you starts to seem more positive," says Goldberg. "In terms of relationships, that leads to feeling more positive association to the person that you're with, which helps create more bonding."

Conversational running can also enhance cognitive function by increasing blood flow to the brain, improving mental clarity, and reducing stress levels.

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

6. The Thames Hare and Hounds was established with the purpose of \_\_\_\_.
- A. researching the best running techniques
  - B. popularizing running as a social recreation
  - C. training professional athletes for competitions
  - D. providing a platform for runners to demonstrate their skills
7. Which of the following can be inferred about the evolution of running clubs?
- A. They have always focused on attracting elite runners.
  - B. Their growth stopped until the introduction of social media.
  - C. They have gradually become more open, attracting diverse people.
  - D. They were first founded in North America and then spread to Europe.
8. According to Kristen Hislop, what is one benefit of low-intensity exercise?
- A. It only uses sugar as fuel.
  - B. It helps develop endurance.
  - C. It makes you feel tired quickly.
  - D. It increases the risk of injuries.

9. According to Rachel Goldberg, how can running help with social interactions?
- A. People become more confident when they run faster.
  - B. The release of endorphins makes people more talkative.
  - C. The physical movement distracts people from being shy.
  - D. The non-threatening environment encourages openness.
10. What is the passage mainly about?
- A. Running clubs' history and benefits of conversational running.
  - B. Definition of conversational running and its social benefits.
  - C. Use of social media and fitness apps for running clubs.
  - D. Running intensities and their effects on physical health.

### Passage Three

Thinking of booking a luxury holiday to a developing country so you can experience the authenticity of a culture untouched by Western influences? And are you hoping to help the underprivileged in the country to “lift them out of poverty” through your tourist spending? It’s worth exploring just how ethical such a trip might be.

Tourists thinking of booking a holiday might see a luxury trip as a way to experience the “crème de la crème” of rest and relaxation, while also paying more for a product that presumably has fewer negative impacts than “cheap-and-dirty” mass tourism. Further, if the luxury holiday is in a developing country, you could be excused for thinking that your money will have a positive impact on that country’s ability to “prosper”.

But let’s look at one island country, a well-established luxury destination. With tourism accounting for approximately 41.5% of national GDP, it seems that the island state is doing well out of the industry. But, as in all societies, such economic benefits are not equally distributed and an over-reliance on tourism receipts results in the decline of traditional industries and an increasing vulnerability to local and global events.

Further, a look at those working in the tourism industry in the country reveals that the situation is far from “ethical”. Because the hotels are scattered over numerous islands which have no other facilities, many of those working in the tourism industry there have to live away from home for months on end, separated from family and friends. They also often live in conditions far removed from the luxury experience of the tourist, work seven-day weeks and often go months without pay. And this country isn’t unique in this—the situation is similar in many developing countries that are engaging with the luxury tourism market.

From an environmental perspective, luxury tourism doesn’t fare particularly well either.

Tourism is notoriously problematic for some developing destinations as it channels often scarce water and energy resources from the host community to the tourist as they have more money.

This process is further emphasized in the luxury tourism sector as luxury tourists generally consume even more than your average tourist, intentionally or not. Take the components of your average luxury holiday. There are swimming pools, exclusive islands, private jets, cruises, golf courses and spas—all are energy and water intensive. Plants and green spaces must be kept lush, air conditioning, spas and monsoon showers must be powered. Beaches and other places are made private, with locals prohibited. And in some cases, up to 80% of the economic benefits leave the country. Further, waste is often scattered within the poor local communities.

In fact, luxury tourism today is similar to the fashion and fads of previous forms of tourism, such as the Grand Tour of the 18th and 19th centuries, representing little more than a mode of class-based distinction.

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

11. What is a common misconception about luxury holidays in developing countries?
  - A. They are less expensive than mass tourism.
  - B. They lead to equal distribution of economic benefits.
  - C. They have no negative impacts on the local environment.
  - D. They are the only way to experience authentic local cultures.
12. What is one of the issues faced by workers in the tourism industry in Paragraph 4?
  - A. They receive high salaries and benefits.
  - B. They work short hours and have frequent vacations.
  - C. They have to live away from home for extended periods.
  - D. They are allowed to bring their families to work with them.
13. How does luxury tourism impact the environment in developing countries?
  - A. It redirects scarce resources from the local community to tourists.
  - B. It promotes sustainable use of water and energy resources.
  - C. It has no significant impact on the local environment.
  - D. It encourages the development of local green spaces.
14. What is a characteristic of luxury tourism mentioned in the passage?
  - A. It is less popular than mass tourism.
  - B. It is only available in developed countries.
  - C. It has no connection to historical tourism trends.
  - D. It often involves high consumption of resources.

15. What is the author's view on luxury tourism in developing countries?

- A. It is the best way to help the underprivileged.
- B. It is an ethical and sustainable form of travel.
- C. It has no impact on the local culture or economy.
- D. It may not be as ethical or beneficial as it seems.

#### Passage Four

Bees have their very own special day, World Bee Day. May 20 was chosen by the UN because it is the birthday of modern beekeeping pioneer Anton Janša of 18th century Slovenia. Bees are well worth celebrating: they pollinate 35% of the world's food crops, such as fruit, vegetables and nuts. In fact, a single bee visits as many as 5,000 flowers a day—busy bee indeed!

The buzzing beings we call bees comprise 20,000 different species, only eight of which produce honey. But honey may lose some of its sweetness once you know what it is: it is nectar that honeybees have repeatedly regurgitated (反刍) and dehydrated (脱水). It's not just people who stock up on the stuff: bees live on honey during the winter when they can't gather food.

During its entire lifetime, one bee will create only about one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey. So that 350-gram jar in the pantry equates to the life's work of 864 bees. To produce half a kilogram of honey, a bee colony needs to visit about two million flowers.

We all know beeswax is in candles and lip balms, but it appears in more surprising places, too, such as food wraps and cough syrup. Propolis, or “bee glue”, a sticky mix of beeswax, finds its way into personal-care products thanks to its antiseptic, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. Another bee by-product, royal jelly, is believed to help relieve mood swings and hot flashes associated with hormonal changes suffered by many middle-aged women.

The queen bee doesn't rule the hive as you might think. The queen's job is to lay eggs (as many as 1,500 per day) while worker bees clean and feed her—and even predigest her food. Without their constant care, the queen would die. And when her time does eventually come, her death is hardly dignified. As she nears the end of her life, the worker bees raise a new queen, which stings the old queen to death before taking over.

You may have heard that if a bee stings you, it dies. But this is true only for honeybees. Other bees, including bumblebees and carpenter bees, can sting multiple times. In 1962, in what had to be one of the worst days of his life, a man in Zimbabwe survived getting stung

more than 2,400 times. Roughly 500 bee species have no stingers at all. To defend themselves, they bite.

Fewer than three per cent of adults worldwide are allergic to bee stings, but it's still a common fear. Even elephants are terrified of bees. They will try to shoo them away and won't go near trees with beehives.

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

16. Why was May 20 chosen as World Bee Day by the UN?
- A. It's the start of beekeeping season.
  - B. It marks the discovery of honeybees.
  - C. It's the birthday of a modern beekeeping pioneer.
  - D. It is the day when honeybees produce the most honey.
17. According to Paragraph 2, which statement is true?
- A. Bees don't need to store food.
  - B. Most bee species rely on stored honey all year.
  - C. Only a small fraction of bee species make honey.
  - D. Bees turn nectar into honey directly without any changes.
18. What do we learn about the uses of bee-related products?
- A. Royal jelly may affect hormones.
  - B. Propolis can be used in candles.
  - C. Beeswax can cure skin infections.
  - D. Honey is only used as sweetener.
19. What happens when the queen bee is near the end of her life?
- A. A new queen is raised and stings her to death.
  - B. She starts laying fewer eggs until she dies.
  - C. The worker bees stop taking care of her.
  - D. She leaves the hive on her own.
20. What can we infer from the passage about bees?
- A. Bees are important mainly for their honey production.
  - B. Bees are essential for plants and the global food supply.
  - C. Bees are the most dangerous insects to humans and animals.
  - D. Bees are declining in number because they are often stung to death.



## 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. (15 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 the paragraph in which the target word is. Write the word you choose on the Answer Sheet.*

They earn and spend, buy and sell, work and play. It's a mass of individuals, struggling to satisfy often-conflicting goals, who set the pace for the American system.

Whether the nation's huge business machine sputters or steams ahead depends on millions of individual consumers, the real "bosses" of the American economy.

People's decision on where to live and work, what to buy or pass over, how much to save are at the heart of the free market system. Business and government take their cues from consumers, changing plans to meet their wants and needs.

Every day, the nation's 218 million consumers spend more than 3 billion dollars. Their purchases account for almost two-thirds of all the money spent each year, with government and business responsible for the rest. The trouble is that while people's needs are almost endless, their incomes aren't.

Where money goes? About 70 per cent of the average household's spending goes for necessities such as housing, food, clothes and health care. To be able to afford these items and still have money left for nonessentials such as travel and entertainment, most families find themselves economizing and watching their pennies. The same problem of matching limited resources with seemingly endless demands confronts businesses and public agencies.

That is what the economy is all about—making choices on how to use limited resources of money, manpower, machinery and materials, whether it involves a shopper deciding what to buy in the supermarket or a manufacturer deciding what line of goods to produce.

Choices made in the economy involve a continuous tug-of-war between consumers and producers over price.

If many businesses are offering a product and there is plenty of it to satisfy the needs of all consumers, a producer will be forced to sell at a price not far above costs in order to keep from being stuck with a lot of unmarketable supplies. This is why, for example, prices for fresh fruit and vegetables drop during the summer months when such produce is in great number.

However, a low price—especially if it falls below what it costs a seller to make the

goods—will discourage production, perhaps drive the high-cost producers out of business or force them to make something else.

Again, using an example from agriculture, farmers periodically plant less wheat or raise fewer cattle if the prices for those commodities give too little return for the costs involved.

On the other hand, if there is great demand for a product and supplies are tight, business will be able to raise prices, their profits will increase and they will invest in new equipment to increase output. Other firms may be attracted by the hopes of good profits to produce the scarce item, thus adding new competition.

- 21. a large number of something (Para. 1)
- 22. makes a series of soft popping sounds (Para. 2)
- 23. signals for someone to do something (Para. 3)
- 24. things that you have bought (Para. 4)
- 25. very large in size or amount (Para. 4)
- 26. things that you must have (Para. 5)
- 27. faces boldly or threateningly (Para. 5)
- 28. organizations that provide particular services (Para. 5)
- 29. the number of workers needed to do a particular job (Para. 6)
- 30. unable to be sold in the market (Para. 8)
- 31. agricultural products (Para. 8)
- 32. try to prevent from doing something (Para. 9)
- 33. at regular intervals (Para. 10)
- 34. difficult to get (Para. 11)
- 35. production (Para. 11)

### 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

Reading over the course of summer vacation is not only beneficial for the continuity of children's reading skills development, but it is also critical for their studies in the long term. Reading prevents the loss of learning due to the break and it keeps the brain active and in learning mode.

36. Summer reading is helpful for children's a \_\_\_\_ success.

#### Paragraph Two

You should safeguard your well-being by setting clear boundaries between work and personal life. Resist the temptation to check emails beyond work hours, and take breaks without guilt. Striking this balance ensures that the stresses of work remain confined to their designated space, preserving your personal time for relaxation and rejuvenation.

37. It is important to achieve work and life b \_\_\_\_.

#### Paragraph Three

With the rise of online messaging and video platforms, human interaction has become more efficient but less personal. These tools make it easy to stay in touch over long distances, but they often fail to convey the emotions and subtleties found in face-to-face conversations, which are crucial for building genuine connections and understanding.

38. The challenges of online c \_\_\_\_.

#### Paragraph Four

Bristol has long been an important port. From as early as the 14th century it was a centre for international trade with Spain, Portugal and Iceland amongst others. Merchants from Bristol gained enormous wealth from imports and exports and this is reflected in the city's grand buildings and the impressive fashionable Clifton Village.

39. The h \_\_\_\_ of Bristol as a trade centre.

#### Paragraph Five

A driverless car is equipped with radar, cameras, and lasers. Radar helps the car see things up to 100 meters away even in darkness or rain. Cameras help the car see objects that are close. Lasers that work like radar spin on the roof and build a 3D model of the world around the car.

40. A driverless car can see the road b \_\_\_\_ than people.

### Paragraph Six

Women entrepreneurs in the developing world often face challenges that limit their chances for success and growth. They often have less access to education than men and have difficulty getting financing on their own. But with an understanding of the essential aspects of doing business—such as planning, financing, networking and marketing—they can overcome those obstacles.

41. It is not e\_\_\_\_\_ for women entrepreneurs to make a success.

### Paragraph Seven

A recent survey has shown that the number of people in the United Kingdom who do not intend to get internet access has risen. These people, who are known as “net refuseniks”, make up 44% of UK households, or 11.2 million people in total. The research also showed that more than 70% of these people said that they were not interested in getting connected to the internet.

42. More people have l\_\_\_\_\_ interest in getting connected to the internet.

### Paragraph Eight

The journey of personal growth is also a journey within ourselves. It involves self-discovery, and understanding our values, beliefs, and aspirations. As we become more aware of who we are, we gain confidence in our abilities and decisions. This self-assurance serves as a solid foundation for pursuing our goals and aspirations, empowering us to overcome obstacles and setbacks.

43. Self-discovery makes us more c\_\_\_\_\_ in our goal pursuit.

### Paragraph Nine

Cultural immersion is an effective way to enhance language learning. Understanding the cultural context of a language can provide deeper insights into its usage and nuances. Participating in cultural events, trying local cuisine, or even traveling to a country where the language is spoken can enrich the learning experience.

44. Cultural immersion is i\_\_\_\_\_ in learning a new language.

### Paragraph Ten

Movement is a useful tool to have in our self-care kits and gives us a way of building mental health. After you exercise, the brain can increase the happy neurotransmitters, which are the ones that make you feel good, and workouts don't need to be overly long or intense for you to feel those benefits.

45. Physical e\_\_\_\_\_ improves mental health.

**IV. Translation. (25 points, 4 points each for 46-50, 5 points for 51)**

**Directions:** *In the following passage, there are six groups of underlined sentences. Read the passage carefully and translate these sentences into Chinese. Write the Chinese version on your Answer Sheet.*

In three days after his capture he was quite tame. 46. He then ate crackers out of my hand; ate boiled rice and roasted plantains; and drank the milk of a goat. Two weeks after his capture he was perfectly tamed, and no longer required to be tied up. He ran about the camp, and, when he went back to the town, found his way about the village and into the huts just as though he had been raised there.

47. He had a great affection for me, and used constantly to follow me about. When I sat down, he was not content till he had climbed upon me and hid his head in my breast. He was extremely fond of being petted and fondled and would sit for hours while any one stroked his head or back.

He soon began to be a great thief. When the people left their huts he would steal in and make off with their plantains or fish. He watched very carefully till all had left the house, and it was difficult to catch him in the act. 48. I punished him several times, and, indeed, led him to the conviction that it was wrong to steal; but he could never resist the temptation.

From me he stole constantly. He soon found out that my hut was better furnished with ripe bananas and other fruit than any other; and also he discovered that the best time to steal from me was when I was asleep in the morning. 49. At that time, he used to crawl in on his tiptoes, move slyly toward my bed, look at my closed eyes, and, if he saw no movement, with an air of great relief go up and pluck several plantains. If I stirred in the least he was off like a flash, and would presently reenter for another inspection. If my eyes were open when he came in on such a predatory trip, he at once came up to me with an honest face, and climbed on and caressed me. But I could easily detect an occasional wishful glance toward the bunch of plantains.

50. My hut had no door, but was closed with a mat, and it was very funny to see Tommy gently raising one corner of this mat to see if I was asleep. Sometimes I pretended to sleep, and then stirred just as he was in the act of taking off his prize. Then he would drop everything, and make off in the utmost consternation.

51. He kept the run of mealtimes, and was present at as many meals as possible; that is, he would go from my breakfast to half a dozen others, and beg something at each. But he never missed my breakfast and dinner, knowing by experience that he fared best there. I had a kind of rude table made, on which my meals were served in the open part of my house. This

was too high for Tommy to see the dishes; so he used to come in before I sat down, when all was ready, and climb up on the pole which supported the roof. From here he attentively surveyed every dish on the table, and having determined what to have, he would descend and sit down at my side.



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