

全国 2021 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 blacken the corresponding letter on your Answer Sheet.***

Passage One

By far, the most vulnerable older persons are women, who are more likely than men to lack basic literacy and numerical skills, less likely to have paid work, and less likely to be eligible for pensions—where they are available. When women are eligible for pensions, because of their lower pay and interrupted work histories, they are more likely to receive lower pensions. Older women who have lost their partners greatly outnumber their male counterparts. In some countries, widows are often denied access to or control over resources.

The demand for new skills and knowledge places older workers at a disadvantage, as their training and skills developed earlier in life become obsolete. But age discrimination compounds many of the difficulties older workers face in the labor market. Biased attitudes hamper the efforts of older workers to find new employment and discourage employers from providing them with training. However, there is evidence that prejudices against the abilities of older workers

are unfounded, and that the average difference in work performance between age groups is significantly less than the differences between workers within each age group.

Training and education are particularly important in helping older workers to adapt to changing demands and opportunities. Lifelong learning, which is increasingly recommended by social policy experts, is an important cultural and economic asset. Implicit in the concept of lifelong learning is the rejection of a society structured on the basis of age, in which education and training are one-time undertakings experienced only early in life.

Information and communication technologies can play an important role in extending working lives. They have the potential to allow older workers to maintain their ties to the labor market and enhance their contributions and their quality of life.

Telecommuting holds great promise as a tool that can help older workers to maintain their integration in the economy and in society. Savings in transportation costs are just one advantage. For older workers with disabilities telecommuting offers an alternative to premature retirement or disability leave. There are also clear advantages on the employer's side: businesses can retain access to critical skills and knowledge, and do so in a way that saves on office space. However, before this can occur, attitudes on the parts of both employers and workers must change.

The ability and willingness of older workers to continue working depend also on their personal state of health, conditions of work and motivation. Older workers face special difficulties at work, such as greater vulnerability to strain in a working environment, problems in adapting to new working methods and techniques and stresses associated with the transition to retirement. Ensuring appropriate conditions of work for older persons is crucial.

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

1. The most vulnerable older persons are women because they are less likely \_\_\_\_.
- A. to have work

B. to sink into poverty

C. to get higher pensions

D. to outlive their male counterparts

2. Older workers are usually placed at a disadvantage because \_\_\_\_.
- A. the skills they developed discourage employers from giving them jobs
  - B. they didn't receive any professional training earlier in their life
  - C. they used to have biased attitudes towards their employers
  - D. the knowledge they acquired earlier are now out-of-date
3. \_\_\_\_ is increasingly important in helping older workers to adapt to changing demands and opportunities.
- A. Established social structure
  - B. Personal experience early in life
  - C. Experts' recommendations
  - D. Lifelong learning
4. According to Paragraph 5, telecommuting can \_\_\_\_.
- A. help save transportation costs
  - B. help older workers acquire new skills
  - C. help enhance the integration of the economic society
  - D. help employers change their attitudes towards older workers
5. The word "motivation" in Paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_.
- A. encouragement
  - B. enthusiasm
  - C. promotion
  - D. willingness

### Passage Two

If you think about it, work-life balance is a strange aspiration for a fulfilling life. Balance is about stasis: if our lives were ever in balance—parents happy, kids taken care of, work working—then our overriding thought would be to shout, "Nobody move!" and pray all would stay perfect forever. This false hope is made worse by the categories themselves. They imply that work is bad, and life is good; we lose ourselves in work but find ourselves in life; we survive work, but live life. And so the challenge, we are told, is to balance the heaviness of work with the lightness of life.

Yet work is not the opposite of life. It is instead a part of life—just as family is, as are friends and community and hobbies. All of these aspects of living have their share of wonderful, uplifting moments and their share of moments that drag us down. The same is true of work, yet when we think of it as an inherent bad in need of a counterweight, we lose sight of the possibility for better.

It seems more useful, then, to not try to balance the unbalanceable, but to treat work the same way you do life: By maximizing what you love.

Consider why two people doing exactly the same work seem to gain strength and joy from very different moments. When we interviewed several anesthesiologists, we found that while their title and job function are identical, the thrills and chills they feel in their job are not. One said he loved the thrill of holding each patient hovering at that one precise point between life and death. Another said she loved the bedside conversations before the operation, and the calm sensitivity required to bring a sedated patient gently back to consciousness without the panic that afflicts many patients. Another was drawn mostly to the intricacies of the anesthetic mechanism itself and has dedicated herself to defining precisely how each drug does what it does. Each one of us, for no good reason other than the clash of our chromosomes (染色体), draws strength from different situations, moments and interactions.

The most helpful categories for us are not “work” and “life.” We should not struggle to balance the two. Instead, the best categories are “love” and “loathe”. Our goal should be to, little by little, intentionally unbalance all aspects of our work towards the former and away from the latter. We can’t always do only what we love. But we can always find the love in what we do.

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

6. In Paragraph 1, by saying “Balance is about stasis” the author means that \_\_\_\_.
- A. your life can be in both a thrilling and chilling state
  - B. your work and life are in a stable state of development
  - C. you think a happy life is more important than anything else
  - D. you have a strange aspiration for a fulfilling working situation
7. What can you learn from Paragraph 2?
- A. Family and friends will never make us feel unhappy and weak.
  - B. Work can also give us wonderful and happy moments.
  - C. Work is inherently bad and it always drags us down.
  - D. Work and life are always in great harmony.
8. In Paragraph 4, the word “chills” means \_\_\_\_.
- A. uncertain state of mind
  - B. feelings of pleasure
  - C. excitements
  - D. fears

9. The anesthesiologists' examples in Paragraph 4 tell us that \_\_\_\_.
- A. anesthesiologists function differently in the process of an operation
  - B. when people are doing the same kind of activity, they can sense the same joy in this process
  - C. people gain strength and joy from different moments of the same work because they are born differently
  - D. all anesthesiologists would have a kind of bedside conversations with their patients before the operation
10. What is the author's attitude towards the relationship between work and life?
- A. We should treat work and life by maximizing what we love.
  - B. We should always try our best to balance work and life.
  - C. Work and life are actually in the same category.
  - D. Work is usually more important than life.

### Passage Three

Today's trade tensions are compounding a shift that has been under way since the financial crisis in 2008-2009. As we explain, cross-border investment, trade, bank loans and supply chains have all been shrinking or stagnating relative to world GDP. Globalization has given way to a new era of sluggishness. Adapting a term coined by a Dutch writer, we call it "slowbalization".

The golden age of globalization, in 1990-2010, was something to behold. Commerce soared as the cost of shifting goods in ships and planes fell, phone calls got cheaper, tariffs were cut and the financial system liberalized. International activity went gangbusters, as firms set up around the world, investors roamed and consumers shopped in supermarkets with enough choice to impress Phileas Fogg.

Globalization has slowed from light speed to a snail's pace in the past decade for several reasons. The cost of moving goods has stopped falling. Multinational firms have found that global sprawl burns money and that local rivals often eat them alive. Activity is shifting towards services, which are harder to sell across borders: scissors can be exported in 20ft-containers, hair stylists cannot.

Trade is suffering as firms use up the inventories they had stocked in anticipation of higher tariffs. Expect more of this in 2019. But what really matters is firms' long-term investment plans, as they begin to lower their exposure to

countries and industries that carry high geopolitical risk or face unstable rules. There are now signs that an adjustment is beginning.

The new world will work differently. Slowbalization will lead to deeper links within regional blocs. Supply chains in North America, Europe and Asia are sourcing more from closer to home. In Asia and Europe most trade is already intra-regional, and the share has risen since 2011. Asian firms made more foreign sales within Asia than in America in 2017. As global rules decay, a fluid patchwork of regional deals and spheres of influence is asserting control over trade and investment.

Fortunately, this need not be a disaster for living standards. Continental-sized markets are large enough to prosper. Some 1.2bn people have been lifted out of extreme poverty since 1990, and there is no reason to think that the proportion of paupers will rise again. Western consumers will continue to reap large net benefits from trade. In some cases, deeper integration will take place at a regional level than could have happened at a global one.

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

11. In the decade after the financial crisis, the process of globalization became \_\_\_\_.

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| A. painful | B. slow        |
| C. lengthy | D. complicated |

12. Which of the following is one of the factors that stimulate international commerce?

- A. The rise of customs duties.
- B. The liberalization of trade system.
- C. The decrease of the cost of freight services.
- D. The increase of the number of supermarkets.

13. In the process of globalization, some multinationals found that \_\_\_\_.

- A. they made their shift towards services easily
- B. their local competitors were completely defeated
- C. they failed to control the down turn of the international market
- D. their global expansion cost too much but not gain desirable return

14. The word “stocked” in Paragraph 4 means \_\_\_\_.

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. kept for further sale | B. bought to earn dividend |
| C. put in a lake         | D. filled a certain place  |

15. What can we learn about the new world from Paragraph 5?

- A. Some Asian firms will continue their trade with those from other regions.
- B. American firms will make more foreign sales in Asian countries.
- C. Business will be done more within a region rather than globally.
- D. Industries in North America will do more outsourcing in Asia.

#### Passage Four

One of the main problems with plastics is that although we may only need them fleetingly—seconds in the case of microbeads in personal care products, or minutes as in plastic grocery bags—they stick around for hundreds of years. Unfortunately, much of this plastic ends up as environmental pollution. We've all seen the gruesome images of a sea turtle killed by a plastic bag, or the array of bottle caps, toothbrush fragments, and other plastic items found in the stomach of an albatross carcass. But what about the tiny microplastics that aren't as readily visible?

Much of the hundreds of millions of tons of plastic waste in our oceans is made up of microplastics. These are defined as plastic beads, fibers or fragments with a diameter of less than five thousand micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ), equal to one-half centimeter. Nanoplastics are thousands of times tinier, with a diameter of less than  $0.1\ \mu\text{m}$ , and are also likely to be widely present. By comparison, a human hair ranges from about 15 to  $180\ \mu\text{m}$  across. Some of these microplastics are deliberately engineered like microbeads in a facial scrub. Others result from the breakdown of larger plastic items.

I'm an environmental epidemiologist with a research group that studies exposure to chemicals commonly found in consumer products, including plastics, and how they affect human reproduction and development. Microplastics interest me because they are now turning up everywhere and we know virtually nothing about how they might impact human health. So are these tiny pieces of plastic damaging our bodies?

There are numerous types of commonly used plastics with differing structures, properties, and chemical additives to make them stronger, more flexible, more rigid, more resilient to UV, or to prevent microbial growth or the spread of fire. Over the past couple of decades concern has grown over the potential danger to human health posed by unavoidable exposures to plastic

additives. Because these substances are not chemically bound to the plastic, they leach from the products in which they are used.

Certain chemicals—phthalates, bisphenol A, flame retardants—added to plastics to provide beneficial qualities may in turn disrupt hormones or other important functions following exposure. This could further lead to adverse reproductive and developmental effects or cancer. To date, most of the concerns for human health has focused on these additives in the plastics but not the plastics themselves.

Recent studies have reported on the ecotoxicity of microplastics. They harm microscopic aquatic creatures called zooplankton by becoming embedded after ingestion, and they also adhere to seaweed, fish and eggs that marine animals eat, causing these plastics to move up the food web. Among certain small marine species, microplastics have been shown to reduce growth, hinder reproduction, and shorten the lifespan.

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

16. What can we learn from Paragraph 1?

- A. Toothbrush fragments and plastic bags are the main food for albatross.
- B. Once used, plastics may not be degraded for hundreds of years.
- C. Some animals, such as sea turtles, simply live on plastic items.
- D. People have already realized the problems with microplastics.

17. According to Paragraph 2, some of the microplastics are \_\_\_\_.

- A. much tinier than nanoplastics
- B. likely to be found in human hair
- C. usually with a diameter of about 15 cm
- D. engineered and used in personal care products

18. As an environmental epidemiologist, the author and his group study \_\_\_\_.

- A. the effect of people's exposure to plastics in consumer products
- B. the impact of human reproduction on social development
- C. the development of human reproduction
- D. the formation of tiny pieces of plastics

19. The word "leach" in Paragraph 4 means \_\_\_\_.

- A. come up
- B. gain
- C. filter out
- D. keep



20. What can be inferred from the last paragraph?

- A. The health of those sea creatures may have an effect on our food chain.
- B. We may witness the absolute disappearance of aquatic creatures.
- C. All zooplanktons might become toxic in the coming years.
- D. Certain small marine species will move up the food web.

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

Computers should be in the schools. They have the potential to accomplish great things. With the right software, they could help make science tangible or teach neglected topics like art and music. They could help students form a concrete idea of society by displaying on-screen a version of the city in which they live—a picture that tracks real life moment by moment.

In practice, however, computers make our worst educational nightmares come true. While we bemoan the decline of literacy, computers discount words in favor of pictures and pictures in favor of video. While we fret about the decreasing cogency of public debate, computers dismiss linear argument and promote fast, shallow romps across the information landscape. While we worry about basic skills, we allow into the classroom software that will do a student's arithmetic or correct his spelling.

Take multimedia. The idea of multimedia is to combine text, sound and pictures in a single package that you browse on screen. You don't just read Shakespeare; you watch actors performing, listen to songs, view Elizabethan buildings. What's wrong with that? By offering children candy-coated books, multimedia is guaranteed to sour them on unsweetened reading. It makes the printed page look even more boring than it used to look. Sure, books will be

available in the classroom, too—but they’ll have all the appeal of a dusty piano to a teen who has a Walkman handy.

So what if the little nippers don’t read? If they’re watching Olivier instead, what do they lose? The text, the written word along with all of its attendant pleasures. Besides, a book is more portable than a computer, has a higher-resolution display, can be written on and dog-eared and is comparatively dirt cheap.

Hypermedia, multimedia’s comrade in the struggle for a brave new classroom, is just as troubling. It’s a way of presenting documents on screen without imposing a linear start-to-finish order. Disembodied paragraphs are linked by theme; after reading one about the First World War, for example, you might be able to choose another about the technology of battleships, or the life of Woodrow Wilson, or hemlines in the 20s. This is another cute idea that is good in minor ways and terrible in major ones. Teaching children to understand the orderly unfolding of a plot or a logical argument is a crucial part of education. Authors don’t merely agglomerate paragraphs; they work hard to make the narrative read a certain way, prove a particular point. To turn a book or a document into hypertext is to invite readers to ignore exactly what counts—the story.

21. able to be experienced (Para. 1)

22. showing (Para. 1)

23. frightening dreams (Para. 2)

24. ability to read and write (Para. 2)

25. the power of an argument (Para. 2)

26. straight (Para. 2)

27. search for information on a computer (Para. 3)

28. made certain that something would happen (Para. 3)

29. a quality that makes people like something (Para. 3)

30. able to be carried (Para. 4)

31. relatively (Para. 4)

32. separated (Para. 5)

33. less important (Para. 5)

34. well organized (Para. 5)

35. necessary (Para. 5)

### 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

“Don’t judge a book by its cover,” the popular saying goes. “All that glitters is not gold,” is another. “Fine feathers do not make fine birds,” is a third. What do they have in common? They remind us that we should value ourselves for who we are warts and all—accept our flaws and stop judging ourselves against our imperfections.

36. Don’t judge the value of something by its a\_\_\_\_.

#### Paragraph Two

Research by the charity Education and Employers suggests five times as many 17 and 18 year-olds in the UK want to work in art, culture, entertainment and sport than there are jobs. But those looking for these types of job will be “destined for disappointment”. While young people are keen to work in these fields, the economy is unlikely to need them all.

37. Young people’s career hopes don’t m\_\_\_\_ the jobs available.

#### Paragraph Three

There are some tips that may help prevent burnout from happening. Finding ways to express your creative side may help. Not everyone has creative aspects to their jobs, and, therefore, they need to find other outlets. Looking after yourself and your surroundings can also be beneficial. The consequence is that you are surrounded by a cleaner and more positive environment.

38. Tips on how to a\_\_\_\_ the happening of burnout.

#### Paragraph Four

Can a computer translator ever equal a human? The technology has come a long way. These days, people can wear a “translation earpiece”. These pick up the foreign terminology and translate it directly to the wearer. But they have limitations. Firstly, there’s a delay while the phrase is translated. How long often depends on the connection strength. Secondly, they aren’t able to communicate human sentiment well.

39. Computer-assisted translation cannot be absolutely p\_\_\_\_.

### Paragraph Five

The idea of taking a year off before you move into further education is not a new concept, but there's now a focus on making the most of this break from academic life. Doing something productive is exactly what students are being encouraged because doing purposeful things like work experience or charity work helps them acquire skills to use when competing for a place at university.

40. What to do during the g\_\_\_\_\_ year.

### Paragraph Six

A study conducted in 24 forests across Japan found that walking among trees lowered blood pressure, the pulse rate, and the levels of the hormone cortisol, which is released in response to stress. It also found phytoncides—chemicals emitted by trees—have an anti-microbial effect on humans, boosting our immune systems.

41. Forest bathing is b\_\_\_\_\_ to health.

### Paragraph Seven

In the opinions of experts, your dog may be trying to tell you much more with the movements and position of their tails. For example, a broad wag is a friendly sign and can mean that the dog is pleased. If you see the tail drooping, it may be a sign that the animal is in a state of stress and anxiety.

42. What does a dog mean when it w\_\_\_\_\_ its tail.

### Paragraph Eight

We owe a lot to cities. These densely populated hubs of transit, industry and commerce brought together great swathes of the population. More than just living together for safety, cities allowed people to cooperate more easily and, as a result, develop more complex societies, science, and culture—things we continue to benefit from today.

43. Benefits we can g\_\_\_\_\_ from cities.

### Paragraph Nine

Our appetite for buying our lunchtime fare is not just costing us money, there might be a cost in terms of damaging our planet too. Just grabbing a sandwich, maybe a cake and coffee can produce at least four items of waste. Cups, wrappers and plastic cutlery are all part of our disposable feast in addition to the food waste we create.

44. Our disposable feast is h\_\_\_\_\_ to the earth.

## Paragraph Ten

Robert Owen was born in Wales in 1771. He encouraged people to be clean and save money. He opened a shop and sold the workers cheap, well-made goods to help them. He limited the sale of alcoholic drinks. Above all, he fixed his mind on the children's education. In 1816 he opened the first free primary school in Britain.

45. A\_\_\_\_\_ of Robert Owen.

## 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.*

Why is a positive body image so important? Psychologists and counselors agree that a negative body image is directly related to self-esteem. The more negative the perception of our bodies, the more negative we feel about ourselves.

Being a teenager is a time of major change. 46. Besides the obvious changes in size and shape, teens are faced with how they feel about themselves. Body image and self-esteem are two important ways to help promote a positive image.

When most people think about body image they think about aspects of physical appearance, attractiveness, and beauty. But body image is much more. 47. It is the mental picture a person has of his/her body as well as their thoughts, feelings, judgments, sensations, awareness and behavior. Body image is developed through interactions with people and the social world. It's our mental picture of ourselves; it's what allows us to become ourselves.

48. Body image influences behavior, self-esteem, and our psyche. When we feel bad about our body, our satisfaction and mood plummet. If we are constantly trying to push, reshape or remake our bodies, our sense of self becomes unhealthy. We lose confidence in our abilities.

A healthy body image occurs when a person's feelings about his/her body are positive, confident and self caring. This image is necessary to care for the body, find outlets for self-expression, develop confidence in one's physical abilities and feel comfortable with who you are.

49. Self-esteem is a personal evaluation of one's worth as a person. It measures how much you respect yourself. To begin to achieve healthy images of

ourselves and our bodies is a challenge. Here are some things you can do to start feeling better about your body and yourself:

When you look in the mirror, make yourself find at least one good point for every demerit you give. Become aware of your positives.

50. Decide which of the cultural pressures—glamour, fitness, thinness, media, peer group—prevent you from feeling good about yourself. How about not buying fashion magazines which promote unrealistic body images?

Emphasize your assets. Give yourself credit for positive qualities. If there are some things you want to change, remember self-discovery is a lifelong process.

Question ads. Instead of saying, “What’s wrong with me,” say, “What’s wrong with this ad?” Set your own standards instead of letting the media set them for you.

Accept the fact your body’s changing. In teen years, your body is a work in progress. Don’t let every new inch or curve throw you off the deep end.

This is the starting point. It is from this new way of looking at a problem that we can begin to feel better about ourselves. 51. Make this the time to accept the natural dimensions of our bodies instead of drastically trying to change them. We can’t exchange our bodies for a new one. So the best thing is to find peace with the one we have. Your body is where you’re going to be living the rest of your life. Isn’t it about time you made it home?