机密★启用前

大学英语四级考试

COLLEGE ENGLISH TEST

—Band Four—

（2024年12月第1套）

试题册

☆☆

敬告考生

一、在答题前，请认真完成以下内容：

1. 请检查试题册背面条形码粘贴条、答题卡的印刷质量，如有问题及时向监考员反映，确认无误后完成以下两点要求。
2. 请将试题册背面条形码粘贴条揭下后粘贴在答题卡1的条形码粘贴框内，并将姓名和准考证号填写在试题册背面相应位置。
3. 请在答题卡1和答题卡2指定位置用黑色签字笔填写准考证号、姓名和学校名称，并用HB-2B铅笔将对应准考证号的信息点涂黑。

二、在考试过程中，请注意以下内容：

1. 所有题目必须在答题卡上规定位置作答，在试题册上或答题卡上非规定位置的作答一律无效。
2. 请在规定时间内在答题卡指定位置依次完成作文、听力、阅读、翻译各部分考试，作答作文期间不得翻阅该试题册。听力录音播放完毕后，请立即停止作答，监考员将立即收回答题卡1，得到监考员指令后方可继续作答。
3. 作文题内容印在试题册背面，作文题及其他主观题必须用黑色签字笔在答题卡指定区域内作答。
4. 选择题均为单选题，错选、不选或多选将不得分，作答时必须使用HB-2B铅笔在答题卡上相应位置填涂，修改时须用橡皮擦净。

三、以下情况按违规处理：

1. 未正确填写（涂）个人信息，错贴、不贴、毁损条形码粘贴条。
2. 未按规定翻阅试题册、提前阅读试题、提前或在收答题卡期间作答。
3. 未用所规定的笔作答、折叠或毁损答题卡导致无法评卷。
4. 考试期间在非听力考试时间佩戴耳机。

全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会

Part Ⅱ Listening Comprehension (25 minutes)

Section A

Directions: *In this section, you will hear three news reports. At the end of each news report, you will hear two or three questions. Both the news report and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on* ***Answer Sheet 1*** *with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

1. A) She is the longest-serving bus driver in Fayetteville.
   B) She has been driving a school bus ever since 2009.
   C) She has been living in Fayetteville for 25 years.
   D) She is making a special effort to be recognized.

2. A) The significance of the event to take place March 18.
   B) The new proclamation issued early this week.
   C) The number of riders they serve in the city.
   D) The importance of their service to the city.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

3. A) Budgeted $ 56.7 million for the coming school year.
   B) Requested to raise teachers' salaries by 3 percent.
   C) Kept raising funds for at least 8 budget cycles.
   D) Proposed a spending increase by 5.99 percent.

4. A) Reduction in federal and state funding.
   B) Firing of less qualified faculty members.
   C) Decrease in salaries for school administrators.
   D) Closing down of some less competitive schools.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

5. A) They often take place in the Scottish highlands.
   B) Their loud claps can be confused with explosions.
   C) Their damage can be as serious as that of bombs.
   D) They usually happen in the middle of the night.

6. A) They told them the military exercise was over.
   B) They promised to stop the construction work.
   C) They sent out a message to calm them down.
   D) They set off to inspect the site of the plane crash.

7. A) Avoid driving.
   B) Take caution.
   C) Use rail service.
   D) Keep warm.

Section B

Directions: *In this section, you will hear two long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear four questions. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on* ***Answer Sheet 1*** *with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 8 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

8. A) Why the man is so anxious to buy a new phone.
   B) How the man got into the habit of being wasteful.
   C) How the man could possibly afford a new phone.
   D) Why the man is so fond of using his credit card.

9. A) It is not in fashion any more.
   B) It goes out of order frequently.
   C) It lacks functions office work requires.
   D) It is not as fancy as his colleagues'.

10. A) It allows him to borrow money without paying interest for six months.
    B) It is available to office workers who have a good enough credit score.
    C) It is a special offer to recent college graduates working in offices.
    D) It enables him to buy a new phone at a more favorable price.

11. A) She regrets ignoring the woman's advice.
    B) She enjoys buying a lot of fancy things.
    C) She developed a habit of overspending.
    D) She borrowed money to pay her debt.

Questions 12 to 15 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

12. A) Home ownership and environmental protection.
    B) Audience participation in *The Morning Show*.
    C) Joint efforts to improve the local community.
    D) Blog writing and natural resources saving.

13. A) Not welcomed by most Americans.
    B) Not a realistic size for families.
    C) Only fit for families of four or less.
    D) Only suitable for renting to the poor.

14. A) It isn't easy to realize.
    B) It will come true sooner or later.
    C) It should be changed.
    D) It doesn't appeal to average families.

15. A) They are vital to reducing waste worldwide.
    B) They are a good choice for many people.
    C) They help to save up for larger houses.
    D) They help to lower housing prices.

Section C

Directions: *In this section, you will hear three passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear three or four questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on* ***Answer Sheet 1*** *with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 16 to 18 are based on the passage you have just heard.

16. A) Grow up strong and healthy.
    B) Take care of their well-being.
    C) Beat challenges and take risks.
    D) Play outdoors and enjoy themselves.

17. A) Prevent them from feeling lonely.
B) Help them to conceal their frustration.
C) Enable them to develop their motor skills.
D) Reduce their stress and depression.

18. A) It begins early.
B) It proves demanding.
C) It lies in nature experiences.
D) It calls for lifelong efforts.

Questions 19 to 21 are based on the passage you have just heard.

19. A) When their job search criteria are met fully.
B) When companies embrace greater diversity.
C) When they find job postings visually attractive.
D) When companies share their information online.

20. A) Major companies in one location.
B) Emails in the normal format.
C) All companies in the same sector.
D) Various aspects of a company's workforce.

21. A) Job security.
B) Potential pay raises.
C) Information about diversity.
D) Minimum base salary.

Questions 22 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.

22. A) Original.
B) Positive.
C) Surprising.
D) Important.

23. A) Dogs can help kids in many ways.
B) Kids' attitude to dogs is influenced by adults.
C) Kids and adults alike find in dogs a source of attachment.
D) Dogs match their behavior with kids as much as with adults.

24. A) Kids need to be aware of the risks in playing with dogs.
B) Kids differ from adults in their behavior towards dogs.
C) Dogs view both adults and kids as social companions.
D) Dogs pay much attention to the kids they live with.

25. A) Understanding dogs.
B) Taking care of dogs.
C) Training dogs.
D) Associating with dogs.

Part Ⅲ Reading Comprehension (40 minutes)

Section A

Directions: *In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on* ***Answer Sheet 2*** *with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.*

When Toni Morrison died in 2019, the world lost one of its most influential authors. But Morrison was not an early success. Her first novel was not published until she was 39, and her last appeared when she was 84. And Morrison was not __26__ in this regard. Numerous writers produce masterpieces well into their 70s and beyond. Such __27__ accomplishments highlight an important point. Our capacity to speak, write and learn new vocabulary does not seem to __28__ with age. Our eyesight may dim and our recall may weaken, but, by comparison, our ability to produce and to __29__ language is well preserved into older adulthood.

Indeed, the latest research that has emerged on language and aging shows that language mastery is a __30__ that we begin as infants and continue on for the rest of our lives. Some aspects of our language abilities, such as our knowledge of word meanings, __31__ improve during middle and late adulthood. One study, for example, found that adults over sixty had an average vocabulary size of over 21,000 words. The researchers also studied a __32__ of college students and found that their average vocabulary contained __33__ 16,000 words. In another study, older adults, with an average age of 75, __34__ better than participants in their youth or middle years on tasks that required them to determine the meaning of words. Thus, language seems to be a skill that, contrary to what many might __35__, does not weaken with age.

A) actually	I) literary
B) approximately	J) performed
C) assume	K) rarely
D) component	L) sample
E) comprehend	M) undermined
F) deteriorate	N) unique
G) equivalent	O) unit
H) journey	

Section B

Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on* ***Answer Sheet 2.***

If we care about plastic waste, why won't we stop drinking bottled water?

We have all seen the damage plastic waste is doing around the world, but sales of bottled water have continued to grow.

A) For all the innovation and choice that define the food and drink industries, if you want to make money, you could do a lot worse than fill a bottle with water and sell it. A litre of tap water, the stuff we have cleverly piped into our homes, costs less than half a penny. A litre of bottled water can cost well over a pound, especially for something fancy that has been sucked through a mountain.

B) Yet the bottled water market is livelier than ever. It defies our increasing awareness of the harm plastics do to the environment and a broader, growing sense that something has to change. Sales in the UK were worth a record £558.4 million this past year, an increase of 7%, according to the latest figures from the market analyst Kantar. Separate data from other analysts show that last year the British consumed more than 2.2 billion litres of bottled water, including "take-home" and "on-the-go" products. That's an annual rise in volume of 8.5%.

C) Environmental campaigners are struggling to understand why nations blessed with clean tap water grow only fonder of the bottle. "It's very surprising to me," says Sam Chetan-Walsh, a political adviser at Greenpeace and campaigner against ocean plastic. "Public awareness has never been

higher, but the message is not quite reaching all the people it needs to." Where it is heard, the message is causing concern. Plastic water bottles require oceans of fossil fuels to make and ship. Additionally, single-use plastics of all types are polluting our cities and seas. Numerous documentaries have shown how plastic is ultimately killing wildlife.

D) Moves against various plastics have gathered pace, from shopping bags to straws and plastic-lined coffee cups. Chetan-Walsh argues that bottled water is different because the alternatives are so obvious. "If a product that is so nakedly unnecessary can exist, then the whole system is failing," he says.

E) Hope is not entirely out of reach. The rate of growth has begun to ease (sales were up 7% in the year, compared with 8% the previous year).

F) But even if large numbers of people are quitting bottled water because of care for the environment, others are taking it up. The introduction of the "sugar tax" on juices and soda drinks has pushed more people to bottled water, while health awareness has boosted its desirability. Tap water consumption is growing at roughly the same pace (UK consumers still drink almost three times as much tap water as bottled water).

G) So the plastic tide only creeps higher. The industry is quick to point out that all its bottles are recyclable. "But collection rates are, at the most generous estimates, 56%, so the actual recycling rate will be lower than that," Chetan-Walsh says. And while bottles may be recyclable, very few are made of recycled plastic. One water bottle company launched recycled half-litre "eco" bottles alongside its standard bottles. Another has pledged to use only recycled plastic across its range by 2025. Chetan-Walsh believes in a ban on single-use bottles. Bans do exist in some places. Organisers of a famous music festival announced that water bottles will not be sold this summer. San Francisco has banned them from city property and events. Last year, the UK government set out plans to ban single-use plastic from its estate.

H) Water bottlers, unsurprisingly, don't support bans. But they raise concerns about health rather than profit margins. Last month one chief executive of a water bottling company said that bans would "result in greater consumption of sugary drinks, adding to all the health dangers of obesity, diabetes and tooth decay". Kinvara Carey, general manager of an association of the biggest bottled water manufacturers, cites a survey in which people were asked what they would do if bottled water were not available. "Forty-four per cent would buy another drink, which is not great, 14% would go without and 4.5% said they would find a fountain," she says. "The choice is important."

I) What if fountains were more numerous, and tap water more clearly available in cafes, restaurants and elsewhere? Dozens of fountains are being installed in London. There are similar initiatives elsewhere. Before plastic and the marketing that made people think they needed bottled water in the first place, fountains were an urban fixture. Greenpeace, among others, is also pushing for a "deposit return" scheme. This would mean tax on bottled water would be refunded to customers who returned the plastic for recycling.

J) Even if bottled water sales are growing slightly more slowly, the industry is racing to adapt to changing concerns and tastes. Flavoured water is booming: sales of the sparkling variety shot up by 20%, according to the latest analyst data. Meanwhile, international water brands, as well as a range of new companies, are selling high-end reusable bottles. And if you must fill them with tap water, why not add flavouring?

K) As the owner of multiple sugary drink brands and bottled water, PepsiCo is facing challenges on health and environmental fronts. Last year, the company bought SodaStream (a drinks company that sells machines for making tap water bubbly and then consumers add flavours) for $3.2 billion. It also launched a range of fancy bottles that work with tap water and flavour packets. The bottle is reusable. The packets? Not so much, and, yes, they are made of plastic, although the company invites users to post them back for recycling.

L) As is so often the case, clever marketing can beat reason; awareness is rarely enough. "There is always this kind of slip between concern, intent and changed behaviour," says Giles Quick, an analyst of bottled water. "The best example is five a day, the recommendation to have at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. Almost everyone is aware of this, but something like 15% of us achieve it." Unless a far-reaching bottle ban does come into force, it will be up to consumers to not only demand change—but to act themselves.

36. Judging from the slowing rate of sales growth, there is still hope to combat bottled water.

37. Bottled water manufacturers base their arguments against bans of plastic bottles on health concerns rather than on profits.

38. Sales of bottled water in Britain hit a record high last year even though people are increasingly aware that plastics are environmentally unfriendly.

39. It often happens that people can lack reason when faced with skillful marketing.

40. One city on the west coast of America has banned single-use bottles from its property and events.

41. Manufacturing and shipping of plastic water bottles consume a tremendous amount of fossil fuels.

42. One large beverage company has adapted its operations when confronted with challenges from health and environmental advocates.

43. Bottled water is considerably more expensive than tap water.

44. Fountains could be seen in cities before bottled water became popular.

45. More people have taken to bottled water because of their health awareness.

Section C

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on* ***Answer Sheet 2*** *with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

The weakening of the human connection to nature might be good for economic growth but is bad for people. A tipping point was reached in 2020 when human-made materials—such as steel, concrete and plastic—were found to weigh more than all life on Earth. Continuing to grow concrete forests rather than real ones is shortsighted. Simply being in the nearest wood has such health benefits that the Woodland Trust successfully lobbied for it to be prescribed by doctors.

Yet slipping from popular culture is the wonder and beauty of the natural world. For every three nature-related words in hit songs of the 1950s, researchers found, there was only slightly more than one 50 years later. It is not a moment too soon that teenagers will be able to take a natural history test, given that for decades children have been able to name more video game characters than wildlife species.

Part of remedying this social disease would be for parliament to pass a "right to grow" law, allowing anyone to turn underused public spaces into vegetable and fruit gardens. The idea is for people to get back in touch with the soil—while producing food sustainably.

Vegetable planting has a respectable tradition. In April 1649, locals responded to high prices and food shortages by cultivating vegetables on common land in Southern England. The practice of throwing seed bombs to turn vacant plots of land green took off in 1970s New York, and has been *revived* (使复活) by *green-thumbed* (有园艺才能的) social media influencers who defy local US regulations in a war on ugly spots in cities.

Apart from the urgent task of providing more healthy nutrients to those who increasingly can't afford them, publicly accessible fruit and vegetable gardens connect what we eat to where it comes from—the means of production, if you will. They can make unlovely spaces lovely, and marry use and beauty as well as help promote a sense of community. Plants are also, of course, our first defence against species loss and climate change. Such planting is a small step for humanity—in the right direction.

46. What does the author want to emphasise in the first paragraph?

A) The year 2020 was a big turning point in human history.

B) Economic growth benefits people little in the long run.

C) It is unwise to weaken the human connection to nature.

D) It is harmful to mankind to use human-made materials.

47. What did researchers find about popular culture?

A) It is increasingly detached from the natural world.

B) It is filled with all kinds of video game characters.

C) It is especially appealing to the taste of teenagers.

D) It isstill impacted by the hit songs of the 1950s.

48. What does the author propose people do?

A) Take measures to ensure sustainable food development.

B) Reconnect with nature through the right to grow.

C) Stand by the parliament in fighting social diseases.

D) Cover public spaces with fruit trees and vegetable plants.

49. What do we learn from the passage about vegetable planting?

A) It all started in 1649 in Southern England.

B) It is protected by US government regulations.

C) It has long been used to increase food supply and improve urban landscape.

D) It has been popularised worldwide with the increasing influence of social media.

50. What can publicly accessible fruit and vegetable gardens do apart from their practical functions?

A) Raise people's environmental awareness.

B) Add to the great variety of plant species.

C) Act as the first defence against natural disasters.

D) Enhance people's community spirit.

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Engineering in the U.S. has long been a male-dominated profession. Fifty years ago, it looked like that might change.

In 1970, the percentage of women majoring in engineering was less than 1%. In 1979, that number was 9%. Many hoped women would continue to enter the field at the same rate. But that's not what happened. Today, only 21% of engineering majors are women, a number largely unchanged since 2000.

I am a historian who, along with my colleagues, surveyed 251 women engineers who graduated from college in the 1970s. These pioneers reflected on the challenges they faced—and had advice for women entering the field today.

One survey taker explained, "The greatest challenge for me was continuing to believe in myself, when all the messages I was getting were that I would never be taken seriously or promoted or given raises at the same rate as men, who were clearly less qualified and not as smart as I was."

A chemical engineer who worked in manufacturing agreed, "You have to prove yourself just because you are female. And you have to work twice as hard!"

A civil engineer said, "We are 'women engineers.' People don't refer to a man as a 'man engineer'—he's an engineer. We are constantly reminded that we don't truly belong." Another civil engineer stated, "On many levels, you're never quite one of the group."

Women also talked about family caregiving responsibilities. A retired vice president from a major chemical company stated, "Young women engineers are on an equal footing until they have children, then they struggle to balance work and family—and compete with men who don't have the same household responsibilities."

But over the years things have changed a lot. Young women engineers are more accepted mostly because there are just more of them.

Many women engineers hailed the benefits of their chosen career. A program manager in manufacturing stated that engineering is the best degree. A mechanical engineer said, "It will give you the flexibility to do almost anything. It is also satisfying to see the effects of what you have done."

51. What does the passage say about the engineering profession in the United States?

A) It has seen a change in attitude towards women engineers since 1979.

B) It witnessed a significant increase in women engineers in the 1970s.

C) It has experienced the gradual weakening of male dominance.

D) It boasted the largest number of engineering majors in 2000.

52. What does one survey taker say was her greatest challenge?

A) Not to feel superior to less qualified male engineers.

B) Not to take seriously all the messages she was getting.

C) Not to think highly of her qualifications when promoted or given a pay raise.

D) Not to lose self-confidence though constantly discouraged or unfairly treated.

53. How do women engineers frequently feel according to the two civil engineers?

A) Disqualified on many levels.

B) Excluded from the group.

C) Overworked by their organizations.

D) Looked down upon by male colleagues.

54. What probably makes young women engineers more accepted nowadays?

A) Their success in gaining an equal footing.

B) Their ability to balance work and family.

C) The change in their responsibilities.

D) The increase in their number.

55. What can we conclude about many female engineers from the statement of a mechanical engineer?

A) They take great pride in their chosen career.

B) They have reaped the benefits of being flexible.

C) They enjoy doing engineering to the best degree.

D) They have proved capable of doing almost anything.

Part Ⅳ Translation (30 minutes)

Directions: *For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on* ***Answer Sheet 2.***

近年来,中国新能源汽车产业发展迅速。目前,中国新能源汽车年产量已高达近千万辆,占全球市场份额超过 60%,出口量不断创出新高。中国政府通过加大资金投入和政策引导,鼓励新能源汽车企业进行技术创新,不断提高产品在市场上的竞争力。中国新能源汽车产业的发展不仅有力推动了国内经济发展,也为全球新能源利用和环境保护做出了积极贡献。

未得到监考教师指令前，不得翻阅该试题册！

Part I Writing (30 minutes)

(请于正式开考后半小时内完成该部分，之后将进行听力考试)

Directions: *Suppose the business school of your university is conducting a survey to collect students' opinions on the express delivery service industry in China. You are to write a response about its recent development and its impact on people's lives. You will have 30 minutes to write the essay. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.*

请用黑色签字笔在答题卡1指定区域内作答作文题，在试题册上的作答无效！

请认真填写以下信息：

准考证号：

姓　　名：_____

错填、未填以上信息，按违规处理！

答案速查

Part Ⅰ Writing

Over the past decade, China's express delivery industry has experienced unprecedented growth, thanks to improvements in transportation and the rise of online shopping. It has transformed the way goods are delivered, bringing significant changes to our daily lives.

However, this trend has had both positive and negative impacts. On the positive side, it has made life more efficient and convenient, especially for people in remote areas, who now have easy access to products from around the world. Furthermore, it has created many job opportunities, providing people with a stable income and a chance to support their families. But on the other hand, more deliveries mean more environmental problems, such as increased packaging waste and higher carbon emissions from transport.

In short, the rapid development of the express delivery service industry has been a double-edged sword. As such, policymakers must do more to promote the use of eco-friendly materials, and we must raise our environmental awareness and make more sustainable choices when shopping. These are crucial steps if we want to enjoy the benefits of express delivery without harming the environment.

Part Ⅱ Listening Comprehension

Section A

1. A 2. D 3. D 4. A 5. B
6. C 7. B

Section B

8. C 9. D 10. A 11. C
12. A 13. B 14. C 15. B

Section C

16. C 17. D 18. A 19. B 20. B
21. C 22. D 23. A 24. D 25. C

Part Ⅲ Reading Comprehension

Section A

26. N 27. I 28. F 29. E 30. H
31. A 32. L 33. B 34. J 35. C

Section B

36. E 37. H 38. B 39. L 40. G
41. C 42. K 43. A 44. I 45. F

Section C

46. C 47. A 48. B 49. C 50. D
51. B 52. D 53. B 54. D 55. A

Part Ⅳ Translation

In recent years, China's new energy vehicle industry has witnessed a rapid growth. At present, China's annual production of new energy vehicles has reached nearly ten million units, accounting for over 60% of the global market, with the export volume continuously hitting new highs. By increasing funding input and policy guidance, the Chinese government has been encouraging new energy vehicle companies to make technological innovations, and thus constantly enhance the competitiveness of their products in the market. The development of China's new energy vehicle industry has not only boosted its domestic economic growth vigorously but also made positive contributions to global new energy utilization and environmental protection.