

2015 年全国大学生英语竞赛样题(D 级)

2015 National English Competition for College Students (Level D - Sample)

(Total: 150 marks Time: 120 minutes)

Part I Listening Comprehension (30 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

In this section, you will hear five short conversations. Each conversation will be read only once. At the end of each conversation, there will be a twenty-second pause. During the pause, read the question and the four choices marked A, B, C and D, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the answer sheet with a single line through the centre.

1. How will the woman get to the airport?
A. By train. B. By bus. C. By underground. D. By taxi.
2. Why did the woman get disconnected?
A. Because the tickets were all sold out.
B. Because there were no people working there.
C. Because she asked too many questions.
D. Because there was something wrong with the line.
3. What is Bill concerned about?
A. Finishing the report on time.
B. Meeting the chairman of the board.
C. Convincing Judith to help him.
D. Looking for the material related to the report.
4. How much will the man pay for the tickets he wants to buy?
A. \$ 25. B. \$ 35. C. \$ 50. D. \$ 70.
5. Where did the new owner of the Browns' house come from?
A. From Arizona. B. From Florida.
C. From New York. D. From Texas.

18. How long does the basic survival course last?
 A. A weekend. B. A week. C. Two weeks. D. Four weeks.
19. How much does the extreme survival course cost per person?
 A. £139. B. £149. C. £159. D. £169.
20. What must you do if you want to take the course?
 A. Find at least four people to register as a group.
 B. Download all the necessary forms, fill in them and then print them.
 C. Send an email to the chief instructor.
 D. Pay the course fee at least four weeks before the course begins.

Section D (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear a short passage. There are 10 missing words or phrases. Fill in the blanks with the exact words or phrases you hear. The passage will be read twice. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.



The subject of this lecture is horology, the science of measuring time. The (21) _____ has come a long way since ancient times. It began with such devices as the sundial, where the position of the sun's shadow marked the hour. Daylight was divided into 12 (22) _____, which were longer in the summer and shorter in the winter, simply

because the amount of daylight changes with the seasons.

The earliest sundial we know comes from Egypt, which was made of stone. Sundials were used through the classical world, and with time, evolved into (23) _____ that could take into account seasonal changes and (24) _____ and reflect the hours accurately. This was quite an achievement in technology. Today, sundials can be seen as (25) _____ in many gardens.

In the 11th century, the Chinese invented the first mechanical clocks. They were large and expensive, and certainly not (26) _____. However, this is the type of clocks we are familiar with today. There have been many developments in clocks and watches since then, and they've been greatly improved. However, if your clock or watch makes a (27) _____ sound, then it could well be based on the mechanical movements the Chinese developed a thousand years ago!

However, timekeeping has moved on from the mechanical clock. Time has become so important that there is a series of atomic clocks around the world which measure International Atomic Time. Even though many countries have their own calendars, (28) _____ has made it essential that we measure time (29) _____. This standard was set in 1958. Now these atomic clocks are (30) _____ over 70 laboratories all over the world.

Part II Vocabulary, Grammar and Culture (15 marks)

There are 15 incomplete sentences in this section. For each blank there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the answer sheet with a single line through the centre.

Section A Vocabulary and Grammar (10 marks)

31. What impressed me most was that they never lost _____.
- A. hearts B. heart C. their heart D. their hearts
32. It is necessary for us to learn _____ second language _____ our mother tongue.
- A. the; besides B. a; except C. the; except D. a; besides
33. It isn't socially _____ for parents to leave children unattended at that age.
- A. accessible B. adorable C. adaptable D. acceptable
34. His debts had to be _____ after he died from cancer.
- A. laid off B. written off C. turned off D. taken off
35. Every person in this country has the right to live where he wants to _____ the colour of his skin.
- A. regardless of B. in view of C. in case of D. in spite of
36. With the boy _____ the way, we had no trouble _____ the way _____ to Zhongshan Park.
- A. leading; finding; leading B. leading; found; led
C. led; finding; led D. to lead; found; to lead
37. _____ will be years _____ we meet again.
- A. There; since B. It; that C. There; after D. It; before
38. Did she tell you what _____ if she had a chance?
- A. was she going to do B. she would do
C. she had done D. she had to do

Part III Cloze (10 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in each blank with one word. Choose the correct word in one of the following three ways: according to the context, by using the correct form of the given word, or by using the given letter(s) of the word. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.

Cooperation Versus Competition

What is competition? What does it mean to compete? According to the dictionary, competition is the attempt to outdo someone else, to be (46) _____ (good) or achieve more than someone else. Most living things, including humans, seem to have an inborn trait (47) t_____ pushes them to compete. This is probably (48) _____ (connect) to the instinct for survival.

What is cooperation, then? What does it mean to cooperate? Is cooperation of any use to humans? The dictionary tells us that cooperation is the process of working together for a common purpose or goal. That is, people are willing to work together, and they have (49) _____ (basic) the same purpose in mind. Like competitiveness, (50) _____ (cooperative) also seems to come at birth because all living things perform better and achieve more when (51) _____ (work) together. Do you doubt this? Just look at a colony of ants or a flock of geese during migration.

When is it good to cooperate, and when is it good to (52) c_____? Does the answer to this depend on the area or circumstances? For example, is competition more important in sports? Or does it depend on the specific sport, for example?

In school, do students perform better in a competitive environment or in a cooperative one? Within families, is competition amongst brothers and sisters normal and natural? Can families function without at least some cooperation? If so, how?

For centuries, researchers, educators, and (53) _____ (psychology) and philosophers have been trying to answer questions like these, but so far no one is completely sure. We don't really know (54) whe _____ one is more useful or more important than the other or not. In general, humans appear to be both competitive and cooperative, but the happiest humans seem to achieve a good (55) bal _____ between the two.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (35 marks)

Read the following passages. Each passage is followed by several questions. Respond to the questions using information from the passage. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.

Section A (5 marks)

Questions 56—60 are based on the following passage.

Tax System in America

Americans often say that there are only two things a person can be sure of in life: death and taxes. Many people feel that the United States has the worst taxes in the world.

Taxes are the money that people pay to support their government. There are generally three levels of government in the United States: federal, state, and city. Therefore, there are three types of taxes.



Salaried people who earn more than four to five thousand dollars per year must pay a certain part of their salaries to the federal government. The percentage varies for different people. It depends on their salaries. The federal government has a two-level income tax: that is, 15 or 28 percent. \$17,850 is the cut off. The tax rate is 15 percent below \$17,850, and 28 percent above.

The second tax is for the state government: New York, California, or any of the fifty states. Some states have an income tax similar to that of the federal government. Of course, the percentage for the state tax is lower. Other states have a sales tax which is a percentage charged to any item which people buy in the state. Some states use income tax and sales tax to raise their revenues.

The third tax is for the city. This tax comes in two forms: property tax (residents who own a house have to pay taxes on it) and excise tax, which is collected on vehicles in a city. The cities use this money for education, police, public works, etc.

Since Americans pay such high taxes, they often feel that they are working one day each week just to pay their taxes. People always complain about taxes. They often say that the government misuses their tax dollars. They all believe that taxes are too high in this country.

Read the passage, and then tell whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

56. Tax can be defined as an amount of money one has to pay for the education he receives.

57. Three levels of government in the United States have the right to collect taxes.
58. The sales tax is a percentage charged to any item which people buy in the city.
59. If an American owns a car, he has to pay excise tax to the city government.
60. According to the passage, Americans seem to be proud of their taxes.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 61—65 are based on the following passage.

Time-saving Tips: Lists

Making lists is relaxing. It makes you feel important—all those things to do. It dictates the shape of the immediate future; it calms you down (it's OK, it's on a list somewhere) and it makes you feel good when you cross something off (list-making is standard practice in the therapy for depression). It might even help you to get things done too.



(61) _____ Type A makes orderly lists, priorities and calmly sets to work on them. Type B waits until panic sets in, grabs the nearest envelope and scribbles all over it, sighs with relief and promptly loses it.

(62) _____ Barbara Vanilli, chief executive of a large chain of supermarkets, says, “Before I go to bed, I have to write down everything that’s going to stop me sleeping. I feel I won’t forget anything I’ve written down, so my lists are a great comfort.”



(63) _____ Men tend to have Tasks which they assemble into Action Plans whereas women just have lists of Things To Do. Jacqueline Maddocks, head of Maddocks Publishers, says, “My male colleagues only make lists for work, whereas I have to make lists for work and for home too. It’s essential to write things down. If you’re constantly thinking, I must remember this, it blocks your mind.”

(64) _____ Having tried all

these, student Kate Rollins relies on a computerized list, printed out each morning to be scribbled on during the day. “My electronic organizer has changed my life,” she says. “Up to now, I’ve always relied on my good memory, but now that I’m working and studying, I find I’ve got too much to keep in my head.”

(65) _____ You’re not too busy to make today the first day of your upgraded time-managed life. In fact, there’s no better time than the present to get an upper hand on time and begin to take increased control of your work and life. So, get out your pencil and paper and make a list.

Fill in each blank with one of the following statements, two of which are useless. Put the letters A, B, C, D, E, F or G in each blank according to the theme development.

- A. So what are you waiting for?
- B. It’s all a question of what works best for you, whether it’s a tidy notebook, a forest of Post-it notes or the back of your hand.
- C. The world divides in two when it comes to listing.
- D. He writes a list of things to do and then organizes them into categories.
- E. The more you have to do, the more you need a list and few people with high-powered jobs get by without them.
- F. If people get obsessed with making lists, it doesn’t work.
- G. Women always think they’re better at making lists than men.

Section C (10 marks)

Questions 66—70 are based on the following passage.

They Just Can’t Help It

What kind of brain do you have? Simon Baron-Cohen, who has done intensive research, says there are really big differences between male and female brains.

My theory is that the female brain is mainly built for empathy (E), the ability to understand other people, and that the male brain is mainly built for understanding and building systems (S). According to this theory, there are three brain types: the E-brain, the S-brain and the “balanced brain” which has both abilities -empathy and systems-thinking (the ability to understand how things work).

It is important to stress that not all women have the E-brain, and not all men have the S-brain. But generally, there are clear differences. For example, women tend to choose different things to read on the railway platform or in the airport departure lounge. They are more likely to go for magazines on fashion, romance, beauty, counseling and parenting. Men are more likely to choose magazines that feature computers, cars, photography, sport and the outdoors.

You may think that these preferences are in some way influenced by people's upbringing. However, there is scientific evidence to suggest that this is not the case.

A study carried out in the lab at Cambridge University shows that newborn girls look longer at a face, and newborn boys look longer at a mechanical mobile, which suggests that certain differences between male and female brains are biological. It has also been observed that baby girls as young as 12 months old respond more strongly to other people's emotional problems. Teenage girls and women spend more time comforting friends who have problems. Women are also more sensitive to facial expressions. They are better at noticing subtle signs of changes in other people's feelings, or judging a person's character.

Boys, from an early age onwards, seem to love putting things together, building toy towers or towns or vehicles. Boys also enjoy playing with toys which have clear functions, which have buttons to press, things that light up, or devices that will cause another object to move. You see the same sort of pattern in the adult workplace. People whose jobs are in metal-working or the construction industries are almost entirely male. Mathematics, physics and engineering, which require high levels of systems-thinking, are also largely male-chosen disciplines.

Some people may worry that I am suggesting that one gender is better than the other, but this is not the case. The theory says that, on the whole, males and females differ in the kind of things that they are interested in and that they find easy, but that both genders have their strengths and weaknesses. Neither gender is superior overall.

Others may worry that a theory like this creates gender stereotypes, which is not true, either. The study simply looks at males and females as two groups, and asks what differences exist, and why they are there.

Answer the following questions according to the passage.

66. Which ability is more related to the "E-brain"?
67. What do men tend to read on the railway platform?
68. What evidence suggests that the differences between male and female brains are not influenced by their upbringing?

69. If you have some subtle signs of changes in your feelings, who will notice it first, a boy friend or a girl friend?
70. Why are some people critical of the theory?

Section D (10 marks)

Questions 71—75 are based on the following passage.

Anita Roddick was born in an English bomb shelter on October 23, 1942, during World War II. Her maiden name was Anita Lucia Perilli. Anita's parents and her three siblings (兄弟姐妹) had fled from Italy just before the war began. Her mother ran a café, and Anita helped her after school and on weekends. After finishing university, Anita taught briefly at a secondary school. She soon quit, however, and travelled to places such as Australia, South Africa and Tahiti. In 1970, she married a poet named Gordon Roddick. The couple opened a restaurant and then a hotel. They had two daughters together, Justine and Samantha.



In 1976, Gordon wanted to fulfill a dream. He was going to ride a horse from South America to North America. Anita needed money while he was away. So, in 1976, she opened a small cosmetics store called The Body Shop. Roddick used ideas she had learned of in her travels, such as selling products made from all-natural ingredients (原料). Roddick refused to sell products that harmed animals, as well as ones that damaged the natural environment. She also recycled all her bottles and used recycled items in the store.

The Body Shop was enormously successful. By the time the company was sold to L'Oreal in 2006, it had more than 2,000 stores throughout the world. Customers voted it the second most-trusted brand in Great Britain. As The Body Shop grew, Roddick became an activist for several



environmental and social causes. These included protecting the main forests, helping poor farmers, saving whales and working to end sex discrimination. In 1990, she founded Children on the Edge, a charity that helps orphans in Europe and Asia. She also helped establish a magazine called the Big Issue, which was produced and sold by homeless people.

In 2005, Roddick announced that she was going to give away her fortune. It was estimated to be more than \$100 million. Roddick died on September 10, 2007. She did not leave any of her money to her daughters. Instead, she gave it all to charities.

Read the passage carefully and then complete each blank in the summary in a maximum of three words from the passage.

Anita Roddick's family fled from Italy before the start of (71) _____. She was born in an English bomb shelter on October 23, 1942. Her maiden name was Anita Lucia Perilli and changed to Anita Roddick after she (72) _____ Gordon Roddick in 1970. Six years later, she decided to open up a cosmetics shop while her (73) _____ was on a horse riding trip from South America to North America. During her life, she became a passionate activist for several (74) _____ causes. One cause she felt strongly about was the protection of the environment. In 2005, her fortune was estimated to be over 100 million dollars. She donated all her money to (75) _____ when she died.

Part V Translation (15 marks)

I (5 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.

76. How do you wish for good luck every December 31? Check out these New Year's rituals from around the world. Brazilians celebrate by dressing in all white on New Year's Eve to symbolize peace and spend their evening party on the beach. When the clock strikes midnight, they run to the ocean and serve various offerings upon the goddess of the sea, so that she may open up paths in their lives.

II (10 marks)

Translate the following sentences into English by using the hints given in brackets. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.

77. 不管你相不相信,我们已经可以逐渐用英语流利地表达自己了。(believe it or not)
78. 计算机使我们即使身处世界的不同角落也能面对面地交流,这彻底改变了我们的生活。
(make ... possible)
79. 我妹妹已经习惯了每天早起。(get accustomed to)
80. 我宁愿现在就把真相告诉她,也不想一直保守这个秘密。(would rather)
81. 可能会下雨,你最好带上雨伞以防万一。(in case)

Part VI Error Correction (10 marks)

Proofread the passage as required. Each indicated line contains a maximum of one error. Correct the passage in the following way: for a correct line, put the sign “√” in the corresponding blank; for a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank; for a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with the sign “^” and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank; for an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with the sign “\” and put the word with the sign in the blank. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

For example:	
One of my favourite writers <u>are</u> Charlotte Brontë. She was born in the early	<u>is</u>
nineteenth century when women had far fewer opportunities ^ they have now.	<u>than</u>
She lived in a small village in Yorkshire and she took great pleasure in walking	<u>√</u>
on the moors where near her home.	<u>where</u>

There are a great many reasons for studying what philosophers have said in the past.

One is that we cannot separate the history of philosophy from which of science. 82. _____

Philosophy is largely discussion about matter on which few people are quite 83. _____

certain, and those few hold opposite opinions. As knowledge increases, philosophy

buds off the sciences. For an example, in the ancient world and the Middle Ages 84. _____

philosophers discussed motion. Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas taught that a

moving body would slow down until a force was constantly applied to it. They 85. _____

were wrong. It goes on moving unless something slows it down. But they had 86. _____

good arguments on their side, and if we study these, and the experiments which

proved them wrong will help us to distinguish truth from false in the scientific controversies of today. We also see how different philosopher reflects the social life of his day. Plato and Aristotle, in the slave-owning society of ancient Greece, thought man's highest state was contemplation rather than activity. In the Middle Ages St. Thomas believed a regular feudal system of nine ranks of angels. Spencer, in the time of free competition between capitalists, found the key for progress as the survival of the fittest. Thus Marxism is seen to fit into its place as the philosophy for the workers, the only class with a future.

87. _____

88. _____

89. _____

90. _____

91. _____

Part VII IQ Test (5 marks)

There are five IQ Test questions in this part. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

92. If the code for DREAMS is FQGZOR, what is the code for SIZES?

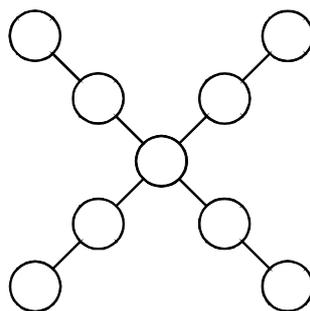
93. Cats hide their paws. What is the possible Chinese meaning of the sentence?

94. Change one letter only in each word below to find a well-known phrase.

ON SHE WINK

95. SHE has it, THEY have it, but YOU don't have it. When I say HELLO to you, it comes in HELLO. What is the word?

96. Please fill in the circles with numbers from 1 to 9, and make the same sum of the five numbers in each line. (Each number must be used and only once.)



Part VIII Writing (30 marks)

I (10 marks)

Most of the meetings or gatherings are held in hotels or restaurants. But a terrible phenomenon has aroused much concern, which is food waste. Chinese government has proposed a “clear your plate” campaign.



Please write a NOTICE of 80-100 words for your school to appeal for not wasting food on the answer sheet, including the following information:

- It's reported that after a banquet, the amount of leftovers reaches 40% of a meal.
- The leftovers of a table may cost a waiter's one-week wage or more.
- In many places in China or in the world, there are still people who go hungry.

II (20 marks)

Suppose you are a college student called Wu Yue. One day, you read an article in English Coaching Paper which is about the children in countryside leaving school at an early age. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper, talking about your idea about this problem.

1. expressing your concern over this problem
2. explaining the main reasons
3. advising some measures to alleviate (减轻) this problem

The letter should be no fewer than 80 words on the answer sheet.