绝密★启用前(模拟)

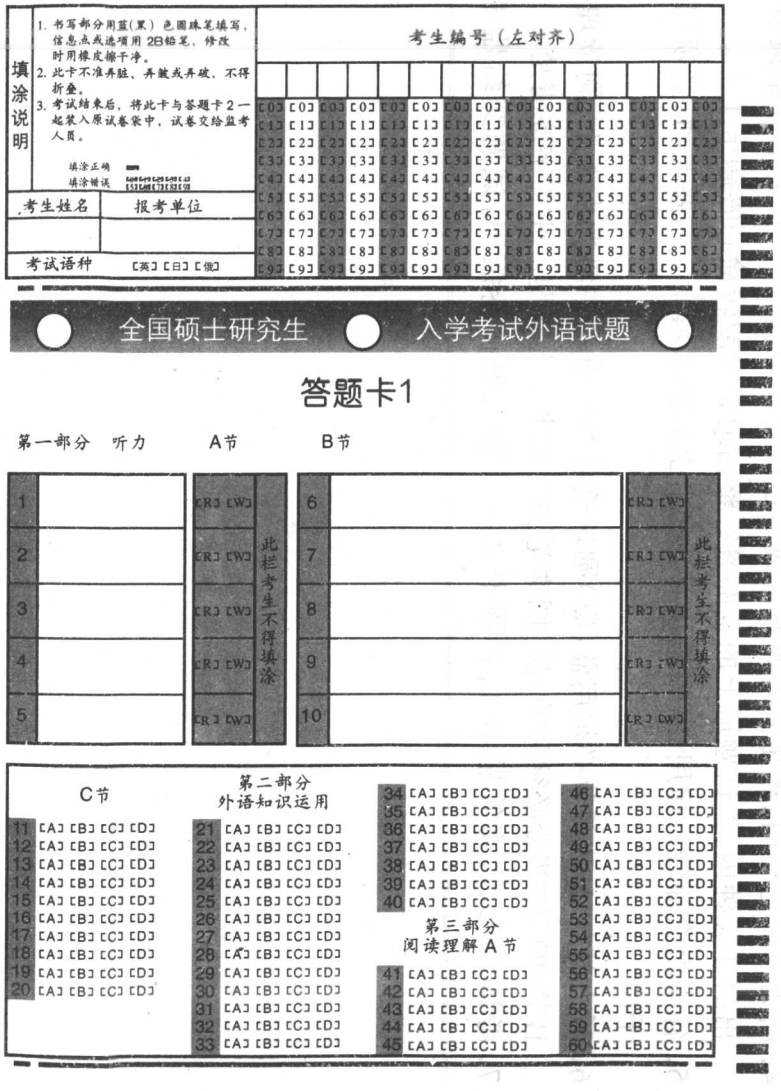
全国硕士研究生入学考试英语试题

National Entrance Test of English for MA/MS Candidates (NETEM)

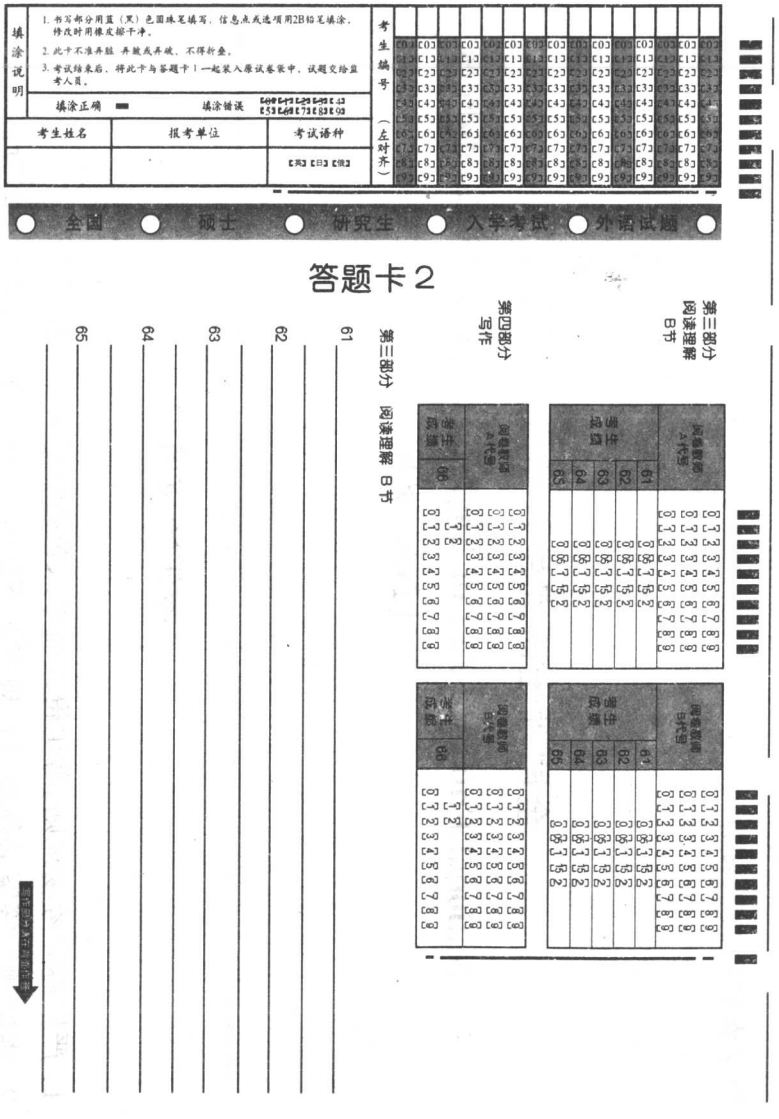
考生注意事项

1. 严格遵守考场规则,考生得到监考人员指令后方可开始答题。
2. 本试题的答案必须填写在规定的答题卡上,仅写在试题册上不给分。
3. 听力、英语知识运用、阅读理解 A 节的答案按要求写或填涂在答题卡 1 上,阅读理解 B 节和写作答案写在答题卡 2 上。
4. 听力考试进行时,考生先将答案写或划在试题册上,然后在听力部分结束前专门留出的 5 分钟内,将试题册上的全部答案整洁地誊写或转涂到答题卡 1 上。
5. 各项填涂部分一律用 2B 铅笔按照答题卡上的要求填涂。如要改动,必须用橡皮擦干净。
6. 听力部分 A、B 两节必须用蓝(黑)圆珠笔将答案誊写在答题卡 1 上;阅读理解部分 B 节和写作部分必须用蓝(黑)圆珠笔在答题卡 2 上答题。注意字迹清楚。
7. 考试结束后,将答题卡 1、答题卡 2 一并装入原试卷袋中,试题交给监考人员。

全国硕士研究生入学考试英语试题答题卡 1



全国硕士研究生入学考试英语试题答题卡 2



2002年全国攻读硕士研究生入学考试

英语命题预测冲刺试卷(一)

Section II　Use of English

Directions:

Read the following text, Choose the best word(s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET I. (10 points)

Neraly three－quarters of the Earth is covered with water. Water heats up more slowly than land, but once it has become warm it takes longer to _____ 21 _____ down. If the Earth's surface were entirely land, the temperature at night would _____ 22 _____ quite quickly and night would be much colder than day, as it is on the moon. This does _____ 23 _____ happen in inland deserts, hundreds of miles from any sea. The climate of the continents, especially in the temperate _____ 24 _____, is very much affected by the oceans around them, The areas close to the sea have a "maritime climate", _____ 25 _____ rather cool summers and warm winter. The interiors, far from the sea, has a "_____ 26 _____ climate"with extremely hot summers and cold winter.

Rain _____ 27 _____ from the evaporation of rivers, seas and lakes. Even after heavy rain, the pavements in a city do not take long to dry _____ 28 _____ the rainwater evaporates into the air. On a warm dry it evaporates very rapidly, _____ 29 _____ warm air can absorb more moisture than cold air. But at any particular temperature, the _____ 30 _____ can hold only a certain maximum amount of water vapour. The air is then saturated, like a sponge that cannot hold _____ 31 _____ more water. The lower the temperature, the _____ 32 _____ water vapour is required to saturate the air.

All over the surface of the Earth, millions of tons of water are _____ 33 _____ every second, condensing in the air into drops so small _____ 34 _____ it takes thousands of them to make a single raindrop. It is these _____ 35 _____ droplets that make clouds. When clouds roll inform the sea over the warmer land, they are forced to _____ 36 _____ and become cooler in the colder upper atmosphere. As the air cools down it may pass through its saturation point and _____ 37 _____ some of its water vapour turns to rain. Day in, day out, the _____ 38 _____ water circulates between the air and the land; rivers _____ 39 _____ to make clouds, clouds make rain, rain makes rivers which in turn run into the sea. This is called the rain _____ 40 _____.

21. A. cool	B. balance	C. keep	D. condense
22. A. rise	B. loose	C. miss	D. fall
23. A. indeed	B. not	C. however	D. just
24. A. centers	B. moisture	C. fields	D. zones
25. A. with	B. instead of	C. within	D. owing to
26. A. maritime	B. continental	C. conventional	D. normal
27. A. evaporates	B. results	C. comes	D. restrains
28. A. though	B. because	C. while	D. so that
29. A. where	B. now that	C. as	D. so long as
30. A. climate	B. atmosphere	C. weather	D. nvers
31. A. no	B. some	C. any	D. much
32. A. more	B. less	C. fewer	D. greater
33. A. heating up	B. flowing	C. evaporating	D. moving
34. A. for	B. that	C. then	D. yet
35. A. big	B. enough	C. tiny	D. circulating
36. A. raise	B. drop	C. be cold	D. rise
37. A. then	B. already	C. merely	D. soon
38. A. running	B. vapour	C. evaporated	D. same
39. A. evaporate	B. try	C. cool	D. tend
40. A. saturation	B. effect	C. system	D. cycle

Section III　Reading comprehension

Part A

Directions:

Read the following texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answer on the ANSWER SHEET I. (40 points)

Text 1

Television——that most pervasive and persuasive of modern technologies, rapid change and growth——is moving into a new era, an era of extraordinary sophisticaiton and versatility, which promises to reshape our lives and our world. It is an electronic revolution of sorts, made possible by the marriage of television and computer technologies.

The word "television", derived from its Greek (tele: distant) and Latin (visio: sight) roots, can literally be interpreted as sight from a distance. Very simply put, it works in this way; through a sophisticated system of electronics, television provides the capability of converting an image (focused on a spe-

cial photoconductive plate within a camera) into electronic impulses, which can be sent through a wire or cable. These impulses, when fed into a receiver (television set), can then be electronically reconstituted into that same image.

Television is more than just an electronics system, however. It is a means of expression, as well as a vehicle for communication, and as such becomes a powerful tool for reaching other human beings.

The field of television can be divided into two categories determined by its means of transmission. First, there is broadcast television, which reaches the masses through broad-based airwave transmission of television signals. Second, there is nonbroadcast television, which provides for the needs of individuals or specific interest groups through controlled transmission techniques.

Traditionally, television has been a medium of the masses. We are most familiar with broadcast television because it has been with us for about forty years in a form similar to what exists today. During those years, it has been controlled, for the most part, by the broadcast networks who have been the major purveyors of news, information, and entertainment. These giants of broadcasting have actually shaped not only television but our perception of it as well. We have come to look upon the picture tube as a source of entertainment, placing our role in this dynamic medium as the passive viewer.

41. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a function of electronics in television transmissions?

A. The conversion of an image into electronic impulses

B. The sending of impulses through a wire cable

C. The changing of one image into another image

D. The feeding of impulses into a receiver

42. According to the passage, which category of television is intended for specific groups?

A. Broad-based　　B. Modern

C. Traditional　　D. Nonbroadcast

43. The author's attitude towards the television networks is one of _____.

A. moderate approval　　B. mild criticism

C. strong doubt　　D. resentment

44. Which of the following statements can best describe the relationship between television and its viewers?

A. Viewers do not take an active role in watching television.

B. Viewers would prefer increased new coverage.

C. Viewers like to use television to reach other human beings.

D. Viewers have grown tired of television.

Text 2

Architecture is a product of society. The buildings, and the arrangement of buildings, reflect the nature of society in ancient Greece: freedom, equality, a love of the arts, a passion for theatre, a commu-

nity of people who worked for, and had a share in, the good of the community. Greek architecture describes the spirit of these endeavors; it provided a background order for the diversity of Greek life. Cities such as Delos, Miletus and Prience were laid out on a gridiron planan innovation for the Mediterranean. Streets separated a town into orderly blocks of houses which presented only entrance doors and bland walls to the street. Houses, one of two stories high, looked inwards to a courtyard, the focus of home life. But the houses were often very small; life in Greece was a public one and, as in café life today, friends entertained one another at the agora meeting places. Accordingly, the domestic gridiron plan was always arranged around the public buildings, which provided the focal point.

In architecture and planning the Greeks created a system which, like the laws governing their country, respected both the individual and the community. Aesthetic order was maintained throughout; variations in house types disappeared behind walls, and important architectural statements were reserved for the public buildings——the agora, temples, theatres, assembly halls, educational buildings attached to gymnasia, libraries and so on.

Greek public architecture succeeded because it created a background order with a human scale, achieved by the repetition of columns, which framed the view and broke down conventional barriers (walls) that separate the interior of a building from the outside. This introduced the freedom of movement which is important to people, besides relating inside to outside.

The Greeks worked chiefly in stone and marbles; there were ample supplies of both. But it was the marble from Mount Pentelicus near Athens, and from the isles of Paros and Naxos, which was of greatest importance to Greek architecture; monumental and strong, it can be cut with exact lines and precise detail. To confirm the marble's durability, this precision survives for us to see today.

45. This passage is mainly concerned with _____.

A. the relation between architecture and culture.

B. ancient Greek culture reflected in architecture.

C. Greek architecture in accordance with its culture.

D. the public buildings in ancient Greece.

46. Which of the follwing is NOT a feature of a gridiron plan?

A. Orderly blocks　　B. Open courtyards

C. Blank walls facing the street.　　D. Central public buildings

47. According to the author, the repetition of columns does all the follwing EXCEPT _____.

A. framing the view.　　B. breaking down the walls.

C. separating the interior from the outside.　　D. providing the freedom of movement.

48. The last paragraph mainly talks about _____.

A. building materials in ancient Greece　　B. supplies of building materials

C. the cutting process of marbles　　D. marble's durability

Text 3

Glass is a remarkable substance made from the simplest raw materials. It can be colored or color-

less, monochrome or polychrome, transparent, translucent, or opaque. It is lightweight, impermeable to liquids, readily cleaned and reused, durable yet fragile, and often very beautiful. Glass can be decorated in multiple ways and its optical properties are exceptional. In all its myriad forms as table ware, containers, in architecture and design glass represents a major achievement in the history of technological developments.

Since the Bronze Age about 3,000 B. C. glass has been used for making various kinds of objects. It was first made from a mixture of silica, line and an alkali such as soda or potash, and these remained the basic ingredients of glass until the development of lead glass in the seventeenth century. When heated, the mixture becomes soft and malleable and can be formed by various techniques into a vast array of shapes and sizes. The homogeneous mass thus formed by melting then cools to create glass, but in contrast to most materials formed in this way (metals, for instance), glass lacks the crystalline sturcture normally associated with solids, and instead retains the random molecular structure of a liquid. In effect, as molten glass cools, it progressively stiffens until rigid, but does so without setting up a network of interlocking crystals customarily associated with that process. This is why glass shatters so easily when dealt a blow, why glass deteriorates over time, especially when exposed to moisture, and why glassware must be slowly reheated and uniformly cooled after manufacture to release internal stresses induced by uneven cooling.

Another unusual feature of glass is the manner in which its viscosity changes as it turns from a cold substance into a hot, ductile liquid. Unlike metals that flow or "freeze" at specific temperatures glass progressively sofetens as the temperature rises, going through varying stages of malleability until it flows like a thick syrup. Each stage of malleability allows the glass to be manipulated into various forms, by different techniques, and if suddenly cooled the object retains the shape achieved at that point. Glass is thus amenable to a greater number of heat－forming techniques than most other materials.

49. Why does the author list the characteristics of glass in paragraph 1?

A. To demonstrate how glass evolved

B. To show the versatility of glass

C. To explain glassmaking technology

D. To explain the purpose of each component of glass

50. According to the passage, how is glass that has cooled and become rigid different from most other rigid substances?

A. It has an interlocking crystal network.　　B. It has an unusually low melting temperature.

C. It has varying physical properties.　　D. It has a random molecular structure.

51. What must be done to release the internal stresses that build up in glass products during manufacture?

A. the glass must be reheated and evenly cooled.

B. the glass must be cooled quickly.

C. The glass must be kept moist until cooled.

D. The glass must be shaped to its desired form immediately

52. According to the passage, why can glass be more easily shaped into specific forms than can metals?

A. It resists breaking when heated.

B. It has better optical properties.

C. It retains heat while its viscosity changes.

D. It gradually becomes softer as its temperature rises.

Text 4

Letters are one of the most important means of communication and exchange of personal regards. Although the world today has enterd the age of telecommunications and more rapid means of communication are available, letters still play an indispensable role in terms of their use and function. For example, the letter of application for admission to schools has its specific and pragmatic value. By writing letters to apply to American schools, the applicants could unhurriedly present themselves to their best advantage with choice of words after careful thinking and meticulous planning.

Generally speaking, letters fall into two categories: personal letters and business letter. sThe most distinctive contrast between personal letters and business letters is that the business letter is characterized with specific and practical goals. In other words, the addresser writes business letters with a zealous attempt to convince the addressee into positive action in the addresser's favor and establish a good personal impression on the addressee. The letter of application for admission to schools falls into the category of business letter; however, it also has some unique characteristics due to differences of addressees and specification of communicative goals. The letter of application generally consits of two parts: letters and documents. The former part refers to the letters requesting admission forms and materials and the letters going back and forth between the applicant and the admission officer during the course of application. The latter part may be an autobiography, an academic statement, a recommendation, and other requisite documents. How an applicant presents his candidacy can be one of the most influential factors in determining the outcome of admission. What an admission officer expects to read is the letter that could best reflect an applicant's goals, ambitions, confidence, creativity and perseverance. To achieve uniqueness and creativity, the applicant cannot remain only on the surface level and merely heap vague and general words. The applicant should make clear what he excels at, what he is interested in, what types of activities occupy his extracurricular time. Overall, he has to show how he is different from other applicants.

53. This passage mainly talks about _____.

A. the importance of letter s as a means of communication.

B. the general categories of letters.

C. one category of business letter.

D. two parts of a business letter.

54. The word "pragmatic" in paragraph 1 most probably means _____.

A. important　　B. practical

C. particular　　D. various

55. According to the author, business letters _____.

A. must be convincing　　B. are always zealous

C. have particular aims　　D. leave good impressions

56. Which one of the personal qualities is NOT mentioned in the passage?

A. Personal ambition　　B. Individual merits

C. Special interest　　D. Family background

Text 5

Scattered through the seas of the world are billions of tons of small plants and animals called plankton. Most of these plants and animals are too small for the human eye to see. They drift about lazily with the currents, providing a basic food for many larger animals.

Plankton has been described as the equivalent of the grasses that grow on the dry land continents, and the comparison is an appropriate one. In potential food value, however, plankton far outweighs that of the land grasses. Scientists have estimated that while grasses of the world produce about 39 billion tons of valuable carbohydrates each year, the sea's plankton generates more than twice as much.

Despite its enormous food potential, little effort was made until recently to farm plankton as we farm grasses on land. Now, marine scientists have at last begun to study this possibility, especially as the sea's resources loom even more important as a means of feeding and expanding world population.

No one yet has seriously suggested that "planktonburgers" may soon become popular around the world. As a possible farmed supplementary food source, however, plankton is gaining considerable interest among marine scientists.

One type of plankton that seems to have great harvest possibilities is a tiny shrimplike creature called krill. Growing to two or three inches long, krill provide the major food for the giant blue whale, the largest animal ever to inhabit the Earth. Realizing that this whale may grow to 100 feet and weigh 150 tons at maturity, it is not surprising that each one devours more than one ton of krill daily.

Krill swim about just below the surface in huge schools, sometimes miles wide, mainly in the cold Antarctic. Because of their pink color, they often appear as a solid reddish mass when viewed from a ship or from the air. Krill are very high in food value. A pound of these crustaceans contains about 360 calories——about the same as shrimp or lobster, to which they are related.

If the krill can feed such huge creatures as whales, many scientists reason, they must certainly be contenders as a new food source for humans.

57. Which of the following statements best describes the organization of the passage?

A. The author presents the advantages and disadvantages of plankton as a food source.

B. The author quotes public opinion to support the argument for farming plankton.

C. The author classifies the different food sources according to the amount of carbohydrate.

D. The author makes a general statement about plankton as a food source and then moves to a specific example.

58. According to the passage, why is plankton considered to be more valuable than land grasses?

A. It is easier to cultivate.　　B. It produces more carbohydrates.

C. It does not require soil.　　D. It is more palatable.

59. Why does the author mention "planktonburgers"?

A. To describe the appearance of one type of plankton

B. To illustrate how much plankton a whale consumes

C. To suggest plankton as a possible food source

D. To compare the food values of beef and plankton

60. The author mentions all of the following as reasons why plankton could be considered a human food source EXCEPT that _____.

A. it is high in food value　　B. it is in abundant supply in the oceans

C. it is an appropriate food for other animals　　D. it is free of chemicals and pollutants

Part B

Directions:

Read the follwoing text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written clearly on ANSWER SHEET 2. (10 points)

For a long time researchers interested in tracking monarchs have had to rely either on sightings reported by butterfly lovers or on tagging experiments – a somewhat thankless method, since the chances of ever catching a tagged butterfly again are not that great. 61) In the mid – 1970s, Lincoln Brower, a leading monarch expert at the University of Florida, invented a powerful new tool for studying the distribution of monarchs. Some of the compounds in milkweed plants vary from species to species and from site to site, and these compounds are retained in the monarch's body as it grows from a larva into an adult. 62) Brower has measured the composition of milkweed around the United States with enough precision that he can say whether a monarch has just come from northern or southern parts of the country. 63) With this technique, Brower was the first to establish that the monarchs that fly south to Mexico in the late summer and fall are the same ones that fly back north in the spring. Yet the movements of monarchs in the United States remained a confusing blur.

By reading the milkweed fingerprints in the monarch butterflies' bodies, Brower discovered that he could track successive generations of them as they move in a relatively steady path around the eastern half of the country over the course of a year. 64) Most of the monarchs coming back from Mexico make their way north to Texas and Louisiana, where they lay their eggs and die. The first – generation butterflies that hatch from those eggs reach the Great Lakes region, where they too reproduce and die. Then their progeny head east to the Appalachians and the East Coast; from there the next generation, the third, head south toward the Gulf Coast and veer west, finally reaching their winter home. Sometimes it takes two generations to reach the Great Lakes, so it ends up being the fourth that heads for Mexico. But the geographic pattern stays the same.

There is evidence, he points out, that monarchs, like birds and sea turtles, may use magnetic fields to navigate—they carry crystals of magnetic minerals in their bodies. 65) Moreover, some magnet - navigating birds are known to change the direction of their migration over the course of the year, which suggests they can shift their internal compass seaonally——probably using the changing length of daylight as a cue. Brower thinks that monarchs do something similar but more dramatic: they spin their internal compass in a full circle each year.

Section Ⅳ　Writing(20 points)

66. Directions:

Write an essay of approximately 200 words based on the following outline:

1. Some people believe with the development of the computer technology, electronic books will replace paper books.
2. Others believe paper books are irreplaceable.
3. My view is _____.

2002年全国攻读硕士研究生入学考试

英语命题预测冲刺试卷(二)

Section II Use of English

Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word(s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET I. (10 points)

It is an astonishing fact that there are laws of nature, rules that summarize conveniently——_____(21)_____ qualitatively but quantitatively——how the world works. We might _____(22)_____ a universe in which there are no such laws, in which the 10^{80} elementary particles that _____(23)_____ a universe like our own behave with utter and uncompromising abandon. To understand such a universe we would need a brain _____(24)_____ as massive as the universe. It seems _____(25)_____ that such a universe could have life and intelligence, because being and brains _____(26)_____ some degree of internal stability and order. But _____(27)_____ in a much more random universe there were such beings with an intelligence much _____(28)_____ than our own, there could not be much knowledge, passion or joy.

_____(29)_____ for us, we live in a universe that has at least important parts that are knowable. Our common-sense experience and our evolutionary history have _____(30)_____ us to understand something of the workaday world. When we go into other realms, however, common sense and ordinary intuition _____(31)_____ highly unreliable guides. It is stunning that as we go close to the speed of light our mass _____(32)_____ indefinitely, we shrink toward zero thickness _____(33)_____ the direction of motion, and time for us comes as near to stopping as we would like. Many people think that this is silly, and every week _____(34)_____ I get a letter from someone who complains to me about it. But it is virtually certain consequence not just of experiment but also of Albert Einstein's _____(35)_____ analysis of space and time called the Special Theory of Relativity. It does not matter that these effects seem unreasonable to us. We are not _____(36)_____ the habit of traveling close to the speed of light. The testimony of our common sense is suspect at high velocities.

The idea that the world places restrictions on _____(37)_____ humans might do is frustrating. Why shouldn't we be able to have intermediate rotational positions? Why can't we _____(38)_____ faster than the speed of light? But _____(39)_____ we can tell, this is the way the universe is constructed. Such prohibitions not only _____(40)_____ us toward a little humility, they also make the world more knowable.

21. A. just	B. very	C. just not	D. not just
22. A. see	B. think	C. imagine	D. image
23. A. make	B. make to	C. make up	D. make from
24. A. at least	B. at most	C. at last	D. at the cost
25. A. likely	B. unlikely	C. really	D. unreal
26. A. want	B. need	C. require	D. acquire
27. A. unless	B. until	C. if	D. even if
28. A. more	B. larger	C. bigger	D. greater
29. A. Fortunately	B. Unfortunately	C. Happily	D. Unhappily
30. A. provided	B. prepared	C. armed	D. got ready
31. A. turn to	B. turn on	C. turn out to be	D. turn away from
32. A. decrease	B. increases	C. reduce to	D. become
33. A. in	B. at	C. with	D. from
34. A. or two	B. and two	C. even two	D. of two
35. A. clever	B. wise	C. brilliant	D. intelligent
36. A. of	B. in	C. with	D. at
37. A. that	B. which	C. matter	D. what
38. A. go	B. walk	C. travel	D. run
39. A. if	B. unless	C. so far	D. so far as
40. A. press	B. have	C. make	D. entail

Section III. Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions:

Read the following texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answer on the ANSWER SHEET I. (40 points)

Text 1

Computer ownership and Internet connectivity are booming. The number of homes with a computer has nearly doubled in the past four years. Today, the computer has taken up appliance status in more than 42 percent of households across the United States.

And these computers are increasingly being wired to the Internet. Online access was up more than 50 percent in just the past year (from 1997 to 1998). Now, more than one quarter of all U. S. households can surf in cyberspace.

Mostly, this explosive growth has occurred democratically. The online penetration and computer ownership increases extend across all the demographic levels – by race, geography, income, and education.

We view these trends as favorable without the slightest question because we clearly see computer technology as empowering. In fact, personal growth and a prosperous U. S. economy are considered to be the long-range rewards of individual and collective technological prowess. I myself am hoping that such assumptions are true and that world peace, love, understanding, will somehow be future byproducts.

Pretty rosy picture, right? Now for the not-so-good news. The government's analysis spells out so called digital divide. That is, the digital explosion is not booming at the same pace for everyone. Yes, it is true that we are all plugged in to a much greater degree than any of us have been in the past. But some of us are more plugged in that others and are getting plugged in far more rapidly. And this gap is widening even as the pace of the information age accelerates through society.

Computer ownership and Internet access are highly stratified along lines of wealth, race, education, and geography. The data indicates that computer ownership and online access is growing more rapidly among the most prosperous and well educated: essentially, wealthy white people with high school and college diplomas and who are part of stable, two-parent households.

The highest income bracket households, those earning more than $ 75,000 annually, are 20 times as likely to have access to the Internet as households at the lowest income levels, under $ 10,000 annually. The computer penetration rate at the high-income level is an astounding 76.56 percent, compared with 8 percent at the bottom end of the scale.

Technology access differs widely by educational level. College graduates are 16 times as likely to be Internet surfers at home as are those with only elementary-school education. If you look at the differences between these groups in rural areas, the gap widens to a twenty-six-fold advantage for the college-educated.

From the time of the last study, the information access gap grew by 29 percent between the highest and lowest income groups, and by 25 percent between the highest and lowest education levels.

In the long run, participation in the information age may not be a zero sum game, where if some groups win, others must lose. Eventually, as the technology matures we are likely to see penetration levels approach parity across all groups. This was ture for telephone access and television ownership. But eventually it can be cold comfort in an era when tomorrow is rapidly different from today and unrecognizable compared with yesterday.

41. From the first two paragraphs we may know that _____ U. S. households have connected with Internet.

A. two times more　　B. more than 25 percent

C. more than 42 percent　　D. more than 50 percent

42. Which of the following may NOT considered as the factors for the explosive growth of computer ownership in US?

A. the demographic levels　　B. development of computer technology

C. the online penetration　　D. prosperous U. S. economy

43. "Digital divide"in paragraph 5 refers to _____.

A. the rosy picture

B. the not-so-good news

C. the fact that some people access Internet more often and rapidly, while others access it less and slowly

D. the pace of the information age

44. Which of the follwing is the most important factor that prevents people from gaining access to the Internet?

A. Income level　　B. Educational and wealthy level

C. Participation in the information age　　D. Telephone access and television ownership

Text 2

Legend has it that the first credit card was born in 1950 over lunch at a Manhattan restaurant when Alfred Bloomingdale and his colleague Francis McNamara dreamed up the idea of creating a third party to cover checks at restaurants. They called it Diners Club. But the scheme faced a "chicken-and-egg problem". Consumers didn't want card until stores accepted it, and merchants wouldn't accept it until consumers carried it.

To solve the problem, and to work around federal laws that prevented banks from operating across state lines, banks joined together to form"network joint ventures", such as Visa and MasterCard. Under these arrangements, some member banks recruited consumers, others recruited merchants. The banks on both ends earned fees, and they shared the costs of maintaining the networks.

Because of an antitrust dispute twenty-five years ago, Visa allows its member banks to join up with MasterCard as well. But it refuses to allow them to collaborate with any other network. The Justice Department is less appreciative. In October 1998-shortly before *Paying with Plastic* went to press-the government charged Visa and MasterCard with violating the Sherman Antitrust Act. (Wal-Mart and a group of big retailers have filed a related suit, charging that Visa and MasterCard have colluded to keep fees on their debit cards unfairly high.)The trouble is that today Visa and MasterCard have pretty much the same member banks. Do two ventures with the same owners really have an incentive to compete?

According to the government's complaint, in 1987 MasterCard was prepared to introduce the first "smart card"——a card with an integrated circuit that could store personal data. But MasterCard's board refused to proceed without Visa's goahead. Today both brands are still developing a smart card, sharing information all the while. The situation doesn't exactly encourage competition. As Visa International's president and chief executive put it in an unguarded moment in 1992, "If you have got one foot firmly placed on both sides of the street, who cares?"

Some people insist that the Visa-MasterCard partnership does not harm competition or innovation. They point to Visa and MasterCard's rival advertising campaingns and to Citibank's recent decision to switch its primary allegiance from Visa to MasterCard because only MasterCard would allow it to relegate the network insignia to the back of its plastic cards. The reason no one has introduced smart cards, says Evans, is because the chip technology is too expensive. "It is a silly argument," he says. "The Justice Department is trying to fix something that isn't broken. This industry is extraordinarily successful."

Indeed, however the case truns out, the most popular complaint against the consumer-credit business is likely to remain what it was a century ago: The industy succeeds all too well at putting expensive credit in the hands of weak-willed shoppers.

45. In paragraph1, "chicken-and-egg problem" implies that _____.

A. consumers didn't want card until stores accepted it

B. merchants wouldn't accept it until consumers carried it

C. both consumers and merchants are very important

D. it is hard to say which side should take the initial step

46. Judging from the context, *Paying with Plastic* (paragraph 3) probably means _____.

A. paying in cash　　B. paying with money

C. paying with credit cards　　D. paying with plastic products

47. Which of the follwing is NOT true of "smart card"?

A. It was officially issued 1987.

B. It contains an integrated circuit.

C. It could store personal data.

D. It is being developed by both Visa and MasterCard.

48. According to Evans, why hasn't any one introduced smart cards?

A. Because it is too popular.

B. Because it is too inconvenient.

C. Because the chip itself is too expensive.

D. Because it's cost to produce the chip is too expensive.

Text 3

Molecular biologists now sequencing DNA as part of the multimillion-dollar human genome project will finish the job in a few years. Yet masters of the genome we won't be. A spate of mysterious observations made by scientists suggest that there is a lot more to heredity than DNA.

Some control mechanisms, still poorly understood, are also at work. But however they work, the existence of imprinted genes demonstrates that, each generation, not all genes are wiped totally clean of their epigenetic marks.

Once you accept that epigenetic inheritance occurs, it's far easier to envisage how drugs, hor-

mones, and starvation could have created the bizarre transgenerational effects in rodents and perhaps even in humans: the chemicals and the diet may have triggered the heritable methylation of certain genes. But as scientists checked and double-checked their data, and studied the literature, things just fell into place.

It turned out that there had been a smattering of earlier reports of mice inheriting epigenetic changes. Ten years ago, Christine Pourcel at the Pasteur Institute in Paris discovered that when a gene from a virus was inserted into mice it became methylated and silenced, and that the modification was passed on to the offspring. And in 1990 scientists in Cambridge found other cases of epigenetic inheritance when genes were shifted from viruses into mice. Those earlier transgenic experiments were generally deemed too artificial to be of any consequence in the natural world.

Curiously, cloned lambs and calves created by nuclear transfer may be up to twice as large as normal. No one knows what caused the phenomenon, whether genes are "inappropriately" methylated or whether the oversized offspring, if bred, would pass the trait on.

And if physical manipulations of embryos is all it takes to trigger inappropriate methylation of some genes, then that may be a good reason to worry about what happens to human sperm, eggs and embryos during high-tech fertility treatments. All three are routinely squirted through pipettes, swirled around in lab dishes, or frozen during procedures such as in vitro fertilization or genetic testing of embryos. What's more, there have been some reorts that babies born following IVF(in vitro fertilizaiton 体外受精)are smaller than normal.

In the short term, such an adaptive mechanism could, for example, ensure that the baby's head is not too big for the mother's birth canal. In the longer term, if the offspring also passed those epigenetic changes on to their offspring, it would result in generations of progressively smaller people, until a period of plenty created the epigenetic changes that reversed the trend. The two generations of small babies that followed the Dutch famine could be explained by just such epigenetic adaptation.

49. According to the text, which of the follwing is more difficult for molecular biologists?

A. sequencing DNA　　B. the multimillion-dollar human genome project

C. some control mechanisms of heredity　　D. mysterious observations

50. Judging from the context, the phrase "fell into place" in paragraph 3 means _____.

A. fell apart　　B. fell into right location

C. put in order　　D. became clear

51. The earlier reports of mice inheriting epigenetic changes were _____.

A. made by Christine Pourcel　　B. found by scientists in Cambridge

C. overlcoked by scientists in general　　D. of no consequence in the natural world

52. What is NOT considered as the bad consequence of the in vitro fertilization?

A. Giving birth to smaller babies

B. Ensuring that the baby's head is not too big for the mother's birth canal

C. Passing epigenetic changes on to their offspring

D. Resulting in generations of progressively smaller people