

大学英语六级考试^{阅读部分}活页题集

(一)

马 骅 马玉杰 徐 瑛 主编

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内 容 简 介

本书根据《大学英语六级考试大纲》，精心设计了阅读部分模拟试题 40 套。具有针对性强、信息量大、实用性强等特点。

全书分模拟试题、参考答案、解题焦点三部分。在解题焦点中详细分析了各类试题的命题特点，并提供了相应的解题规律，以帮助考生举一反三，循序渐进，通过练习，使考生具备必要的解题技巧，以在六级考试中得心应手。

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前 言

阅读理解部分在大学英语六级考试中占有较大的比例,分值高(40分),阅读量大(一般要求35分钟完成)。因而,能否在阅读理解部分获得高分,对考生能否通过六级考试,抑或达到优秀,起着至关重要的作用。但是,历年的六级考试结果表明,此部分恰为考生的相对弱点,大部分考生得分率较低。

本书根据《大学英语考试大纲》,并结合近年来六级考试的命题规律,设计了六级考试阅读部分模拟试题40套。针对考生的弱点,在题型设计上相应增加了难度较大的逻辑推理题的难度,阅读量也较真题多。考生在测试中可适当调整答案时间,通过练习,循序渐进。

全书分模拟试题、参考答案及解题焦点三部分。在解题焦点中详细分析了各类题的命题特点,并提供各类题的解题技巧具有较强的实用性。

本书由马骅、马玉杰、徐瑛主编。另外,桑军、王惟一、王子旭、索兰、徐孟阳、庄巧等同志参加了本书的编写。错漏之处,恳请读者指正。

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Test 1

Passage 1

Questions 1 to 4 are based on the following passage.

In general, our society is becoming one of giant enterprises directed by a bureaucratic(官僚主义的) management in which man becomes a small, well-oiled cog in the machinery. The oiling is done with higher wages, well-ventilated factories and piped music, and by psychologists and "human-relations" experts; yet all this oiling does not alter the fact that man has become powerless, that he is bored with it. In fact, the blue and the white-collar workers have become economic puppets who dance to the tune of automated machines and bureaucratic management.

The worker and employee are anxious, not only because they might find themselves out of a job; they are anxious also because they are unable to acquire any real satisfaction of interest in life. They live and die without ever having confronted the fundamental realities of human existence as emotionally and intellectually independent and productive human beings.

Those higher up on the social ladder are no less anxious. Their lives are no less empty than those of their subordinates. They are even more insecure in some respects. They are in a highly competitive race. To be promoted or to fall behind is not a matter of salary but even more a matter of self-respect. When they apply for their first job, they are tested for intelligence as well as for the right mixture of submissiveness and independence. From that moment on they are tested again and again—by the psychologists, for whom testing is a big business, and by their superiors, who judge their behavior, sociability, capacity to get along, etc. This constant need to prove that one is as good as or better than one's fellow-competitor creates constant anxiety and stress, the very causes of unhappiness and illness.

Am I suggesting that we should return to the pre-industrial mode of production or to nineteenth-century "free enterprise" capitalism? Certainly not. Problems are never solved by returning to a stage which one has already outgrown. I suggest transforming our social system from a bureaucratically managed industrialism in which maximal production and consumption are ends in themselves into a humanist industrialism in which man and full development of his potentialities—those of all love and of reason—are the aims of social arrangements. Production and consumption should serve only as means to this end, and should be prevented from ruling man.

1. By "a well-oiled cog in the machinery" the author intends to render the idea that man is _____.
 - A) a necessary part of the society though each individual's function is negligible
 - B) working in complete harmony with the rest of the society
 - C) an unimportant part in comparison with the rest of the society, though functioning smoothly
 - D) a humble component of the society, especially when working smoothly
2. The real cause of the anxiety of the workers and employees is that _____.
 - A) they are likely to lose their jobs
 - B) they have no genuine satisfaction or interest in life
 - C) they are faced with the fundamental realities of human existence
 - D) they are deprived of their individuality and independence
3. From the passage we can infer that real happiness of life belongs to those _____.
 - A) who are at the bottom of the society
 - B) who are higher up in their social status
 - C) who prove better than their fellow-competitors

4. To solve the present social problems the author suggests that we should _____.
A) resort to the production mode of our ancestors
B) offer higher wages to the workers and employees
C) enable man to fully develop his potentialities
D) take the fundamental realities for granted

Passage 2

Questions 5 to 8 are based on the following passage.

Man is the only animal that laughs. We are not short of theories to explain the mystery, whereas relatively few have been devoted to the question of its origin. I propose to offer a theory that only those animals capable of speech are capable of laughter; and that therefor man, being the only animal that speaks, is the only animal that laughs.

Laughter is defined as emotional response, expressive normally of joy, involving characteristic sounds of the voice and movements of features and the body. Why should laughter be as intimately associated with the power of speech as I have suggested? Speech is the verbal, or vocal, expression of symbols and the relations between symbols. Probably at about the same time speech evolved, laughter originated too, as a kind of semiverbalized social expression of pleasure. With the development of speech, the number of occasions producing sudden experiences of pleasure increased, and, since laughter was closely related to speech, man had this means of expressing his pleasure.

The process of natural selection the survival of the fittest would tend to operate in favour of those able to express their pleasurable states in laughter, as compared with those not so able. In society, laughter became a characteristic that served to "humanize" men because it is essentially a social phenomenon, largely controlled by the civilization in which it takes place. The times change, and the situations about which laughter is acceptable change correspondingly. A few hundred years ago, it was socially acceptable to laugh at the infirmities of others; today it is unacceptable. Movie personalities should smile or laugh in their photographs, but college professor should look serious. Each of these examples under scores laughter's social function.

It is well known that laughter has a tonic effect on the mind and body, suffusing the body with a feeling of well-being that few other activities are able to provide, refreshing, relieving, enlivening, and involving the whole body in its "happy convulsion."

There remains one matter with which we should deal; the relation of the smile to laughter insofar as it bears upon our theory of the origin of laughter. The smile comes before laughter, as demonstrated by the infant who can barely smile after six days, but sometimes laughs at twelve weeks. Although he cannot speak, he begins to understand the general meaning and tone of uttered human sounds, and the dawn of the smile becomes the bright sunlight of audible laughter. Consequently, we may again connect the origin of speech, as indicated by the gradual development of these two capacities in the human infant. The development of speech is, I theorize, the basic condition in the development of laughter.

5. The process of natural selection operated in favour of those able to laugh, because laughter _____.
A) stimulated speech
B) was healthful
C) was a social advantage
D) both B) and C)
6. The social function and characteristics of laughter seems to _____.
A) change with changing times
B) remain constant through the ages
C) vary from individual to individual
D) be inflexibly interrelated
7. Many explanations of laughter are mentioned in the passage; the one thing they have in common is the idea that we laugh _____.
A) to gain the advantage in a situation

- C) in self-defense
 D) because of an awareness of psychophysiological benefits
8. Which of the following statements is TRUE in terms of the writer's theory?
 A) Laughter is a completely human means of expression.
 B) A baby probably first laughs at unusual sounds or funny faces that his parents produce for his enjoyment.
 D) It is invalid to make assumptions about the caveman's society on our knowledge of modern man.

Passage 3

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the following passage.

In order to learn to be one's true self, it is necessary to obtain a wide and extensive knowledge of what has been said and done in the world, critically to inquire into it; carefully to ponder over (think over) it; clearly to sift (筛选) it; and earnestly to carry it out.

It matters not what you learn, but when you once learn a thing, you must never give it up until you have mastered it. It matters not what you inquire into, but when you inquire into a thing, you must never give it up until you have thoroughly understood it. It matters not what you try to think out, but when you once try to think out a thing, you must never give it up until you have got what you want. It matters not what you try to sift out, but when you once try to sift out a thing, you must never give it up until you have sifted it out clearly and distinctly. It matters not what you try to carry out, but when you once try to carry out a thing, you must never give it up until you have done it thoroughly and well.

If another man succeeds by one effort, you will use a hundred efforts. If another man succeeds by ten efforts, you will use a thousand efforts.

9. The end of inquiry should be _____.
 A) action
 B) thought
 C) understanding
 D) analysis
10. To successfully carry out the author's program, a person would have to be, most of all, _____.
 A) extremely intelligent
 C) very persistent
 B) very wealthy
 D) both A) and B)
11. Which of the following statements is implied but NOT stated in the passage?
 A) It is necessary to obtain a wide knowledge of what has been said and done in the world.
 B) The way to knowledge is through specialization.
 C) Success depends not so much on natural ability as it does by effort.
 D) Success in one's profession is least important in one's life.

Passage 4

Questions 12 to 15 are based on the following passage.

Most growing plants contain much more water than all other materials combined. C. R. Barnes has suggested that it is as proper to term the plant a water structure as to call a house composed mainly of brick a brick building. Certain it is that all essential processes of plant growth and development occur in water. The mineral elements from the soil that are usable by the plant must be dissolved in the soil solution before they can be taken into the root. They are carried to all parts of the growing plant and are built into essential plant material while in a dissolved state. The carbon dioxide from the air may enter the leaf as a gas but is dissolved in water in the leaf before it is combined with a part of the water to form simple sugars—the base material from which the plant body is mainly built. Actively growing plant

ing, may have much less water than growing tissues.

The actual amount of water in the plant at any one time, however, is only a very small part of what passes through it during its development. The processes of photosynthesis(光合作用), by which carbon dioxide and water are combined in the presence of chlorophyll(叶绿素) and with energy derived from light to form sugars, require that carbon dioxide from the air enter the plant. This occurs mainly in the leaves. The leaf surface is not solid but contains great numbers of minute openings, through which the carbon dioxide enters. The same structure that permits the one gas to enter the leaf, however, permits another gas—water vapor—to be lost from it. Since carbon dioxide is present in the air only in trace quantities(3 to 4 parts in 10000 parts of air) and water vapor is near saturation in the air spaces within the leaf (at 80°F, saturated air would contain about 186 parts of water vapor in 10000 parts of air), the total amount of water vapor lost is many times the carbon dioxide intake. Actually, because of wind and other factors, the loss of water in proportion to carbon dioxide intake may be even greater than the relative concentrations of the two gases. Also, not all of the carbon dioxide that enters the leaf is synthesized into carbohydrates.

12. A growing plant needs water for all of the following EXCEPT _____.
A) forming sugars
B) sustaining woody stems
C) keeping green
D) producing carbon dioxide
13. The essential function of photosynthesis in terms of plant needs is _____.
A) to form sugars
B) to derive energy from light
C) to store energy from light
D) to combine carbon dioxide with water
14. The second paragraph uses facts to develop the essential idea that _____.
A) a plant efficiently utilizes most of the water it absorbs
B) carbon dioxide is the essential substance needed for plant development
C) a plant needs more water than is found in its composition
D) the stronger the wind, the more the water vapor loss
15. According to the passage, which of the following statement is TRUE?
A) The mineral elements will not be absorbed by the plant unless they are dissolved in its root.
B) The woody stems contain more water than the leaves.
C) Air existing around the leaf is found to be saturated.
D) Only part of the carbon dioxide in the plant is synthesized.

Passage 5

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage.

Should doctors ever lie to benefit their patients to speed recovery or to conceal the approach of death? In medicine as in law, government, and other lines of work, the requirements of honesty often seem dwarfed by greater needs; the need to shelter from brutal news or to uphold a promise of secrecy.

What should doctors say, for example, to a 46-year-old man coming in for a routine physical checkup who, though he feels in perfect health, is found to have a form of cancer? If he asks, should the doctors deny that he is ill, or minimize the gravity of the illness? Doctors confront such choices often and urgently. At times, they see important reasons to lie for the patient's own sake. In their eyes, such lies differ sharply from self-serving ones.

Studies show that most doctors sincerely believe that the seriously ill do not want to know the truth about their condition, and that informing them risks destroying their hope, so that they may recover more slowly, or deteriorate faster, perhaps even commit suicide. As one physician wrote: "Ours is a profession which traditionally has been guided by a precept that transcends the virtue of uttering the truth's sake, and that is as far as possible 'do no harm.'" Armed with such a precept, a number of doctors may slip into deceptive practices that they assume will "do no harm" and may

But the illusory nature of the benefits such deception is meant to produce is now coming to be documented. Studies show that, contrary to the belief of many physicians, an overwhelming majority of patients do want to be told the truth, even about grave illness, and feel betrayed when they learn that they have been misled. We are also learning that truthful information, humanely conveyed, helps patients cope with illness.

Not only do lies not provide the "help" hoped for by advocates of benevolent deception, they invade the autonomy of patients and render them unable to make informed choices concerning their own health.

Lies also do harm to those who tell them; harm to their integrity and, in the long run, to their credibility. Lies hurt their colleagues as well. The suspicion of deceit undercuts the work of the many doctors who are scrupulously honest with their patients; it contributes to the spiral of lawsuits and of "defensive medicine", and thus it injures, in turn, the entire medical profession.

16. Who are most likely to lie for self-serving purposes?
A) physicians B) surgeons C) psychiatrists D) lawyers
17. Doctors think that lying to their patients is _____.
A) a medical tradition B) to harm their own integrity
C) to defend medicine D) uttering the truth for truth's sake
18. Most patients think being told the truth of their illness may _____.
A) slow down recovery B) lead to suicide in some case
C) be too hard for them to accept D) help deal with illness
19. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the author?
A) Doctors are often in dilemma as to tell the patients their real condition of health.
B) Doctors' reluctance to tell the patients truth has no real support in reality.
C) Doctors' lies are different from that of lawyers and government officials.
D) Doctors and patients hold different views about telling truth.
20. What is the author's attitude toward doctors?
A) sarcastic B) praising. C) objective D) appreciative

Test 2

Passage 1

Questions 1 is based on the following passage.

Prices determine how resources are to be used. They are also means by which products and services that are in limited supply are rationed among buyers. The price system of the United States is a very complex network composed of the prices of all the products bought and sold in the economy as well as those of a myriad of services, including labor, professional transportation, and public utility services. The interrelationships of all these prices make up the "system" of prices. The price of any particular product or service is linked to a broad, complicated system of prices in which everything seems to depend more or less upon everything else.

If one were to ask a group of randomly selected individuals to define "price", many would reply that price is an amount of money paid by the buyer to the seller of a product or service or, in other words, that price is the money value of a product or service as agreed upon in a market transaction. This definition is, of course, valid as far as it goes. For a complete understanding of a price in any particular transaction, much more than the amount of money involved must be known. Both the buyer and the seller should be familiar with not only the money amount, but with the amount and quality of the product or service to be exchanged, the time and the place at which the exchange will take place and payment will be made, the form of money to be used, the credit terms and discounts that apply to the transaction, guarantees on the product or service, delivery terms, return privileges, and other factors. In other words, both buyer and seller should be fully aware of all the factors that comprise the total "package" being exchanged for the asked—for amount of money in order that they may evaluate a given price.

1. The paragraph following the passage most likely discusses _____.
A) unusual ways to advertise product
B) types of payment plans for service
C) theories about how products affect different levels of society
D) how certain elements of price "package" influence its market value

Passage 2

Questions 2 to 5 are based on the following passage.

One fact that clearly demonstrated by the early sleep researchers; one part of the night is not just like another. As scientists began to compare the records of volunteers during the 1950's, they observed that human sleep follows a rhythmic schedule. They noted that not only was this schedule much the same in healthy persons of the same age with similar habits but, from night to night, each individual had an EEG record almost as consistent as a signature.

Sleep and wakefulness, once considered to be the light and dark of consciousness, no longer seem to differ so sharply. Actually, sleep is not a unitary state, it involves many shades or degrees of detachment from the surrounding world. While sleep may feel like a blanket of darkness punctuated by dreams—a time when the mind is asleep—nothing could be less true. All night long a person drifts down and up through different levels of consciousness, as if on waves. With laboratory methods, researchers have been able to chart the typical stages of the journey into sleep.

The journey starts while the subject is still awake but beginning to relax. His brain waves, which have been low, rapid, and irregular, begin to show a new pattern, the alpha rhythm.

When their EEG shows an alpha rhythm, the subjects are notified, either by a sound or by the appearance of a color on a screen. Because the alpha state tends to be pleasant and relaxed, the ability to sustain it can help tense people

rhythm may vanish.

As the subject passes through the gates of the unconscious, his alpha waves grow smaller, and his eyes roll very slowly. For a moment, he may wake up during this early part of the descent, alerted by a sudden spasm that causes his body to jerk. It is caused by a brief burst of activity in the brain, and is normal in all human sleep. It is gone in a fraction of a second, after which descent continues. The subject has not felt the peculiar transformation, but he is said to be truly asleep.

2. According to the author, the alpha state has been shown to be _____.
A) a brief burst of activity in the brain B) controllable
C) unpleasant for some people D) unmeasurable
3. According to the passage, _____ was used by sleep researchers.
A) music B) ladder C) charts D) signature
4. According to this passage, sleep is described as _____.
A) a gradual parting from the real world
B) drowning in an ocean of darkness
C) undisturbed by tension or problems
D) dependent only upon individual age and health
5. The underlined word "subjects" (para. 3) refers to "_____".
A) measurements B) instruments C) dreams D) volunteers

Passage 3

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

Some of the old worries about artificial intelligence were closely linked to the question of whether computers could think. The first massive electronic computers, capable of rapid computation and little or no creative activity, were soon dubbed "electronic brains." A reaction to this terminology quickly followed: To put them in their place, computers were called "high speed idiots", and effort to protect human vanity. But not everyone realized the implications of the high-speed idiot tag. It has not been pointed out often enough that even the human idiot is one of the most intelligent life forms on earth. If the early computers were even that intelligent, it was already a remarkable state of affairs.

One consequence of speculation about the possibility of computer thought was that we were forced to examine with new care the idea of thought in general. It soon became clear that we were not sure what we meant by such terms as thought and thinking. We tend to assume that human being think, some more than others, though we often call people thoughtless or unthinking. Dreams cause a problem, partly because they usually happen outside our control. They are obviously some type of mental experience, but are they a type of thinking? And the question of nonhuman life forms adds further problems. Many of us would maintain that some of the higher animals——dogs, cats, apes, and so on - are capable of at least basic thought, but what about fish and insects? It is certainly true that the higher mammals show complex brain activity when tested with the appropriate equipment. If thinking is demonstrated by evident electrical activity in the brain, then many species are capable of thought. Once we have formulated clear ideas on what thought is in biological creatures, it will be easier to discuss the question of thought in artifacts. And what is true of thought is also true of the many other mental processes. One of the immense benefits of a research is that we are being forced to scrutinize, with new rigor, the working of the human mind.

It is already clear that machines have superior mental abilities to many life forms. No fern or oak tree can play chess as well as even the simplest digital computer, nor can frogs weld car bodies as well as robots. It seems that, viewed in terms of intellect, the computer should be set well above plants and most animals. Only the higher animals can compete with computers with regard to intellect and even then with diminishing success.

- .
- A) indifferent B) ambiguous C) contemptuous D) hostile
7. In the author's opinion, even if the term "High-speed idiot" was appropriate for the early computers, _____.
- A) they were worthy of our pride
B) they were not able to think even like a human idiot
C) they could never be compared to human brains
D) they were still not capable of any human thought
8. The second paragraph attempts to tell us that _____.
- A) mental abilities are characteristic of humans only
B) we are still not certain about the difference between thought and thinking
C) all animal species are in fact capable of thought
D) we need to research further to get an appropriate definition of the term "thought"
9. The underlined word "scrutinize" (para. 2) can be best replaced by "_____".
- A) improve B) examine closely C) experiment with D) make use of
10. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
- A) computers will be capable of thought in the near future
B) computers think in a different way from human brains
C) computers can never compete with humans in thinking
D) computers possessed the ability to think at the very beginning

Passage 4

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage.

No one should be forced to wear a uniform under any circumstance. Uniforms are demanding to the human spirit and totally unnecessary in a democratic society. Uniforms tell the world that the person who wears one has no value as an individual but only lives to function as a part of a whole. The individual in a uniform loses all self-worth.

There are those who say that wearing a uniform gives a person a sense of identification with a larger, more important concept. What could be more important than the individual himself? If an organization is so weak that it must rely on clothes and buttons to inspire its members, that organization has no right to continue its existence. Others say that the practice of making persons wear uniforms, say in a school, eliminates all envy and competition in the matter of dress, such that a poor person who cannot afford good-quality clothing need not be belittled by a wealthy person who wears expensive quality clothing. Those persons conveniently ignore such critical concepts as freedom of choice, motivation, and individuality. If all persons were to wear the same clothing, why would anyone strive to be better? It is only a short step from forcing everyone to drive the same car, have the same type of foods. When this happens, all incentive to improve one's life is removed. Why would parents bother to work hard so that their children could have a better life than they had when they know that their children are going to be forced to have exactly the same life that they had?

Uniforms also hurt the economy. Right now, billions of dollars are spent on the fashion industry yearly. Thousands of persons are employed in designing, creating and marketing different types of clothing. If everyone were forced to wear uniforms, artistic personal would be unnecessary. Sales persons would be superfluous as well; why bother to sell the only items that are available? The wearing of uniforms would destroy the fashion industry, which in turn would have a ripple effect on such industries as advertising and promotion. Without advertising, newspapers, magazines, and television would not be able to remain in business. One entire information and entertainment industry would collapse.

11. The underlined word "superfluous" (para. 3) most probably means "_____".
- A) indispensable B) available C) surplus D) supplementary

- A) the positive effects of wearing uniforms
 - B) more negative effects of wearing uniforms
 - C) an alternative to wearing uniforms
 - D) the legal rights of those not wishing to wear uniforms
13. Why does the author discuss forcing everyone to buy the same car or eat the same food?
- A) To show that freedom of choice is absolute.
 - B) To show that the government has interfered too much in the lives of individuals.
 - C) To suggest what would happen if uniforms became compulsory.
 - D) To predict the way the society will be in the next few generations.
14. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the author?
- A) The person who wears a uniform has no self-worth.
 - B) Wearing a uniform gives a person a sense of identification with a larger concept.
 - C) Uniforms will hurt one entire information and entertainment industry.
 - D) Envy and competition are incentive to improve one's life.
15. The author's primary purpose in writing this passage was to _____.
- A) plead for the abolishment of uniforms
 - B) show that uniforms are not possible in a democratic society
 - C) advocate stronger governmental controls on the wearing of uniforms
 - D) convince the reader that uniforms have more disadvantages than advantages

Passage 5

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage.

A rambling, frame building dating back to 1710, the Robert Morris Inn stands three stories high at the foot of Morris street on the riverfront at the public ferry dock. Its size, location and bright yellow color make it the center of Oxford, Maryland, which has retained its small town atmosphere and low population, thanks to its isolated location.

Robert Morris himself, who lived in the house shortly after he came to Maryland in 1738 at the age of twenty-seven was termed "a jovial soul, a bon vivant who made friends easily." 1747 after he had established himself as an important businessman in the community, he brought over his thirteen-year-old son, whom he had left behind in Liverpool with relatives. The junior Robert Morris came to be one of the most important men in the American Colonies.

After living with his father for a few years, the youth was sent to Philadelphia for further study. He made good at once, and by the time he was twenty and was a full partner in the largest mercantile house there. In time he branched out into banking, and the job of financing the American Revolution ultimately fell to him. Without his efforts, George Washington's army would have dwindled away in the early days before the young colonies had established a financial system of their own. His activities ranged from the bureaucratic role of Superintendent of Finance to the Congress, to the non-bureaucratic role of paying soldiers in the field out of his pocket.

Before the Revolution, Morris was already the richest man in colonial America. He loved the challenge of money and sought to continue his successes after the war was over. He was far from a financial conservative, being inclined, rather, to the grand gesture. As a speculator he bought up millions of acres of land in the unsettled parts of the new nation and, at one time, held title to almost all the western half of the State of New York.

When Congress decided to locate the new capital city on the banks of the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia, he was on the scene early and bought 7234 lots within the 10 square-mile area. Of the two hundred houses in Washington in 1800 he constructed fifty. His ideas for his own housing were grandiose in scale. Deciding upon a very unfrontier-like structure of marble, he hired Major Pierre Chales L'Enfant, the designer of the new City of Washing-

arrested for debt and imprisoned. The three years he spent in the Philadelphia jail had a certain style about them nevertheless. His visitors included George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and the Governor of Pennsylvania. He was released in 1801 under terms of the new Federal bankruptcy laws. Thus the man who kept the whole country going financially was forced to say, "I now find myself without one cent that I can call my own". He lived on the charity of his wife's friends and died in 1806 at the age of seventy-two.

16. Which of the following suggests that the junior Robert Morris would become successful?
- A) As early as twenty years old, he became a full partner in a large merchantile house.
 - B) He was inclined to the grand gesture.
 - C) Once he was the owner of almost all the western half of the state of New York.
 - D) He asked Major L'Enfant to build the Morris Mansion for him.
17. What does "jovial" in the second paragraph probably mean?
- A) ambitious
 - B) stingy
 - C) merry
 - D) unfriendly
18. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
- A) The Success of a Young Businessman.
 - B) Why He Failed?
 - C) Life of Robert Morris, Junior.
 - D) George Washington's Friend.
19. When was Robert Morris born?
- A) 1738.
 - B) 1747.
 - C) 1727.
 - D) 1711.
20. What made the Robert Morris Inn the center of Oxford, Maryland?
- A) It was built as early as 1710.
 - B) Its unusual size, location and color.
 - C) Robert Morris once lived in the house.
 - D) It was rebuilt recently.

Test 3

Passage 1

Questions 1 to 3 are based on the following passage.

In 1911, when biochemist Casimir Funk discovered a substance in animal liver that he believed kept pigeons from getting beriberi, he called it "vitamine". Later, the anti-beriberi factor was shown to be vitamin B-1; it was the first of 13 vitamins to be discovered, the last being B-12 in 1948. In a day's well-balanced meals, we eat approximately one-eighth teaspoon of these essential nutrients, which is theoretically all we need. But can we get extra energy, live longer and prevent disease by eating vitamin-rich meals or taking vitamin and mineral supplements? This continues to be one of medicine's great controversies.

In one corner are those physicians and dietitians who believe that a normal diet supplies all vitamins most of us need. To trick the body into accepting more vitamins than nature intended, some fanatics batter their systems with extremely high doses—"megadosing". The result can be vitamin poisoning. In the opposing corner of the controversy—convinced that extra vitamins and minerals help—are those Americans who take supplements. They experiment with ideas from books, magazines, druggists and health-food stores, with or without advice from physicians. But physicians insist that vitamin doctoring should not be done without their knowledge, for it can interfere with medical treatment or distort diagnostic tests. Megadoses of vitamin E, for example, can cause hemorrhaging in patients taking blood-thinning drugs; too much vitamin-C can give a false-negative test for blood in stool samples and distort diabetes testing.

The news about vitamins and minerals keeps getting better. We stand, as researchers say, on the threshold of a new age in which supplements and careful selection of food may not only make up a body's deficiencies but perhaps help us all to new optimal levels of health.

1. What is the central idea of the passage?
 - A) Thirteen vitamins were discovered till 1948.
 - B) Vitamins are harmless to our bodies.
 - C) Whether we can take extra vitamins causes a controversy in medicine.
 - D) Too much vitamins can be very dangerous.
2. "the anti-beriberi factor was shown to be vitamin B-1". What can we infer from this sentence?
 - A) beriberi is very popular.
 - B) Vitamin B-1 can cure beriberi.
 - C) If you are short of vitamin B-1, you will catch beriberi.
 - D) vitamin B-1 is popular.
3. The author's attitude toward vitamins and minerals is _____.
 - A) positive
 - B) negative
 - C) indifferent
 - D) serious

Passage 2

Questions 4 to 7 are based on the following passage.

Benjamin Franklin would seem right at home among us if he were alive today. In fact, he did a lot to shape our way of life. Right now you are probably nodding your head and thinking, "Oh, yes—we learned all about old B. F. in the fifth grade." But let's see whether you really know "all about him."

You probably know that he was a stout old fellow with a bald head who flew a kite with a key fastened to it and signed the Declaration of Independence. All that is true, but there is a lot more to know about this man who had so

Franklin had a practical mind. When he saw a problem, he tried to do something about it. The houses of Philadelphia were built of wood and easily caught fire. Neighbors tried to help each other, but they could do little to save a burning house. So Franklin organized a fire-fighting company. Philadelphia's fire loss became so low that the first fire-insurance company in the United States was soon set up there. Ben Franklin was one of its directors. He also persuaded the city to pave and light its streets. Again, the fact that people had trouble keeping their houses warm in winter set Franklin's active mind to work. He decided that the big fireplaces were to blame. Because they were set deep into the wall, they did not let enough heat reach the middle of the room. So he drew some plans and hired an ironworker to make the pothellied Franklin stove. It stood in the middle of a room and threw off heat in every direction.

He did not patent the invention. He was too busy with his discoveries to bother with making money. Although he was a wealthy man by the time he was forty-two, money by itself did not interest him. He valued it because it enabled him to retire from business. Then he had time to spend on other things that seemed more worthwhile. What he really cared for most of all was science.

Franklin was always trying to answer the question, what makes things act the way they do? At that time learned men were puzzled about electricity. They wondered whether it was in some wazy like the lightning in a thunderstorm. It might be, but how could you prove it? You know how Ben Franklin proved it——by coaxing some electricity down his kite string. That act made him famous in America and Europe. But of course Franklin did not stop there. He found a way to make the knowledge useful; he invented the lightning rod.

Franklin would gladly have spent the rest of his days in quiet study and research. But he was a very important person now, and the country needed him for public service.

Ben Franklin died in 1790 at the age of eighty-four. He had spent all his adult life helping people. Years before, he had told his mother that that was his aim. When he died he did not want people to say, "He died a rich man." All he hoped was that people would remember him and say, "He led a useful life."

4. The author thinks that the reader probably knows _____.
A) some but not all of Franklin's story B) all the needs to know about Ben Franklin
C) little about Franklin's works D) nothing about Ben Franklin
5. Franklin would invent something when he saw _____.
A) an opportunity to make a profit B) a chance to win public recognition
C) a problem that needed a solution D) a man that needed his help
6. The Franklin stove was better than the fireplace for heating homes because _____.
A) it was safer B) it was more effective
C) it was more attractive D) it could last forever
7. The author admires Franklin most for his _____.
A) scientific knowledge B) inventions
C) life of service to others D) wealth

Passage 3

Questions 8 to 12 are based on the following passage.

The decline of traditional religion in the West has not removed the need for men and women to find a deeper meaning behind existence. Why is the world the way it is and how do we, as conscious individuals, fit into the great scheme?

There is a growing feeling that science, especially what is known as the new physics, can provide answers where religion remains vague and faltering. Many people in search of a meaning to their lives are finding enlightenment in the revolutionary developments at the frontiers of science. Much to the bewilderment of professional scientists, quasi-