

Decoding NECCS Exam Papers



全国大学生 英语竞赛 历届真题详解

◎ 主编 潘 丽
◎ 主审 李小红

- ▣ 直面竞赛真题 体验实战
- ▣ 详尽逐题解读 完备技巧
- ▣ 透析题型特点 掌握策略

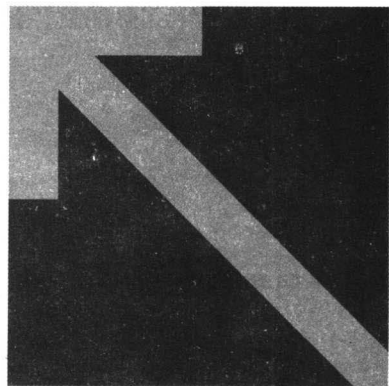
哈尔滨工业大学出版社



Decoding NECCS Exam Papers



全国大学生 英语竞赛 历届真题详解



- ◎ 主 编 潘 丽
- ◎ 副主编 韩晓蕙 杨一博
姚 静 韩 光
- ◎ 主 审 李小红

内 容 提 要

- ☛ 全面了解“全国大学生英语竞赛”题型,通过实战练习稳步提高
- ☛ 分析“全国大学生英语竞赛”题型特点,为参赛考生热身
- ☛ 详细解析“全国大学生英语竞赛”真题,掌握应考策略

本书提供 2003~2007 年 10 套真题,方便学生用真题检验自己的考前复习成果,增强考试信心;后附答案与解析,解答详尽,分析透彻,有利于学生掌握答题角度和方法。随书附赠光盘一张,采用 MP3 格式。

本书是学生了解和适应“全国大学生英语竞赛”的必备用书。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

全国大学生英语竞赛历届真题详解/潘丽主编. —哈尔滨:哈尔滨工业大学出版社,2008.1

ISBN 978-7-5603-2082-3

I.全… II.潘… III.英语-高等学校-解题
IV.H319.6

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2007)第 196167 号

责任编辑 潘 鑫

封面设计 卞秉利

出版发行 哈尔滨工业大学出版社

社 址 哈尔滨市南岗区复华四道街 10 号 邮编 150006

传 真 0451 - 86414749

网 址 <http://hitpress.hit.edu.cn>

印 刷 黑龙江省地质测绘印制中心印刷厂

开 本 787mm×1092mm 1/16 印张 17.75 字数 428 千字

版 次 2008 年 1 月第 1 版 2008 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-5603-2082-3

印 数 1~5 000

定 价 29.80 元(赠光盘)

(如因印装质量问题影响阅读,我社负责调换)

前 言

全国大学生英语竞赛概况

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students, 简称 NECCS)是经教育部批准举办的全国惟一的大学英语综合能力竞赛活动。本竞赛旨在促进大学生英语水平的全面提高,激发广大大学生学习英语的兴趣。开展此项竞赛活动,有助于学生夯实和扩展英语基础知识和基本技能,全面提高大学生英语综合运用能力。

竞赛内容主要包括大学英语学习阶段应掌握的英语基础知识和读、听、说、写、译五方面的技能,特别是英语综合运用能力。2005~2006年的竞赛分A、B两个级别,全国各高校非英语专业本、专科所有年级学生均可自愿报名。A级适用于本科生,有能力的艺术类学生和专科生也可报名参加。B级适用于专科生和艺术类学生,本科生不能参加B级。竞赛面向大多数学生,坚持自愿报名参加的原则。2007年竞赛分A、B、C、D四个类别,全国各高校的研究生及本、专科所有年级学生均可自愿报名参赛。A类考试适用于研究生;B类考试适用于英语专业的本、专科学生;C类考试适用于非英语专业的本科生;D类考试适用于体育类和艺术类的本科生和高职高专类的学生。

竞赛分初赛和决赛两个阶段。初赛和决赛均为全国统一命题。初赛包括笔答和听力两种方式。决赛分两种方式,各地可任选一种:第一种是只参加笔试,第二种是参加笔试和口试。只参加笔试学生的决赛成绩满分(含听力)为150分;既参加笔试又参加口试学生的决赛成绩满分为200分,其中笔试分数为150分(含听力),口试分数为50分。

每年竞赛时间基本是:初赛在四月中旬,决赛在五月中旬。由全国大学生英语竞赛组织委员会办公室统一制作试卷(包括答题纸)和听力磁带(包括听力试卷)。试题的命题依据《大学英语课程要求(试行)》,并学习和借鉴国内外先进的测试理论和方法,既有利于检测出参赛大学生的实际英语水平,又有利于大学英语教学的改革。

竞赛A、B、C、D四个级别各设四个奖励等级:特等奖、一等奖、二等奖和三等奖。二等奖和三等奖通过初赛产生。特等奖和一等奖通过决赛产生,由省(自治区、直辖市)竞赛组织机构根据决赛成绩确定。总获奖比率为参加初赛人数的51%,其中,特等奖获奖比率为1%,一等奖获奖比率为5%,二等奖获

奖比率为 15%, 三等奖获奖比率为 30%。获特等奖和一等奖的学生及其指导教师(限一名)由全国竞赛组织委员会分别颁发获奖证书和荣誉证书, 向所在学校颁发奖状, 获二等奖和三等奖的学生由全国竞赛组织委员会颁发获奖证书。竞赛另设优秀组织奖, 颁发给竞赛组织工作成绩突出的各级竞赛组织单位和个人, 由全国大学生英语竞赛组织委员会统一评选和颁奖。获特等奖的学生名单将在英语奥林匹克网站(www.Englisholympics.com)、中国英语教学研究网站(www.tefl-china.net)、英语辅导报社网站(www.ecp.com.cn)和全国主要外语报刊上宣传表彰。

竞赛每年都会举行后续活动, 即全国大学生英语夏令营活动。夏令营的营员从获特等奖的学生中择优产生。在夏令营活动期间, 营员们将接受封闭式的英语强化训练, 并参加丰富多彩的活动, 包括全国大学生英语演讲赛、全国大学生英语辩论赛、英语学习经验交流、旅游观光、英语联欢会等活动。其中, 全国大学生英语辩论赛和全国大学生英语演讲赛是整个夏令营的“重头戏”。全国大学生英语辩论赛和全国大学生英语演讲赛中的优秀选手将参加由中央电视台和教育部联合举办的 CCTV 杯全国大学生英语辩论赛, 部分优秀选手将被选派出国参加国际大学生英语竞赛和夏令营活动。

编写特色

本书收录了 2003~2007 年竞赛的 10 套真题。本书旨在提高广大学生的英语综合运用能力, 帮助拟参加全国大学生英语竞赛的同学取得好成绩。为学习者自学方便, 在书后附有答案和解析, 便于参赛者随时检查练习成果。

本书的编写者都是我国重点高校多年从事大学英语教学的一线教师, 具有丰富的教学辅导经验, 且教学效果优秀。本书是参赛的必备用书。

崔洪国博士和美籍教师 Bethany LoPiccolo 为本书的编写提出了好的建议, 在此表示感谢。

由于水平有限, 书中缺点和疏漏在所难免, 敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2008 年 1 月

目 录

2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 类初赛赛卷	1
2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 B 类初赛赛卷	17
2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 C 类初赛赛卷	32
2006 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级初赛赛卷	47
2006 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级决赛赛卷	62
2005 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级初赛赛卷	77
2005 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级决赛赛卷	94
2004 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛赛卷	110
2004 年全国大学生英语竞赛决赛赛卷	125
2003 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛赛卷	140
答案与解析	157
2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 类初赛答案与解析	157
2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 B 类初赛答案与解析	169
2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 C 类初赛答案与解析	180
2006 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级初赛答案与解析	192
2006 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级决赛答案与解析	204
2005 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级初赛答案与解析	216
2005 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 级决赛答案与解析	228
2004 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛答案与解析	240
2004 年全国大学生英语竞赛决赛答案与解析	253
2003 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛答案与解析	266

2007 年全国大学生英语竞赛 A 类初赛赛卷

2007 National English Contest for College Students

(Level A — Preliminary)

Part I Listening Comprehension (25 minutes, 30 points)

Section A: *In this section, you will hear 6 short conversations. At the end of each conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the question will be read only once. After each question, there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the three choices marked A, B and C, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (6 points)*

1. A. Work in the garden. B. Go to the beach. C. Watch TV.
2. A. £ 78. B. £ 39. C. £ 36.
3. A. A book. B. A film. C. An exhibition.
4. A. The item is more expensive than she expected.
 B. The item has been seriously damaged.
 C. The item obviously doesn't serve her purpose.
5. A. Excited. B. Annoyed. C. Worried.
6. A. It will be fine. B. It will be too long. C. It will be boring.

Section B: *In this section, you will hear one long conversation. The conversation will be read only once. At the end of the conversation, there will be a one-minute pause. During the pause, you must read the four questions, each with three choices marked A, B and C, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (4 points)*

Questions 7 – 10 are based on the long conversation you have just heard.

7. How long does it take the man to get to work every morning?
 A. Nearly an hour. B. Half an hour. C. More than an hour.
8. Why does the man skip breakfast?
 A. He's not hungry in the mornings.
 B. He doesn't have time for it.
 C. He thinks what nutrition experts say is rubbish.
9. What does the woman suggest the man do?

- A. Plan his time better.
 - B. Have a sandwich upon arrival at work.
 - C. Eat more at lunch time.
10. What do the speakers decide to do?
- A. Grab something to eat together.
 - B. Buy a pack of biscuits for lunch.
 - C. Treat themselves to a nice meal.

Section C: *In this section, you will hear 10 short news items. After each item, there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the question and the three choices marked A, B and C, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (10 points)*

11. What's the nationality of those who died in a western Oklahoma accident?
- A. Canadian.
 - B. American.
 - C. Mexican.
12. How many Angolan families have been evicted in the past six years?
- A. About 10,000 families.
 - B. About 1,000 families.
 - C. About 100,000 families.
13. Which country was the destination of the smuggled uranium 238?
- A. Iran.
 - B. Tanzania.
 - C. The Democratic Republic of Congo.
14. Why did the Guinean youths go on demonstration?
- A. To combat military intervention.
 - B. To support the striking workers.
 - C. To protest against the local media.
15. Where was Henry Tombek assaulted?
- A. In Tamworth.
 - B. In Sydney.
 - C. In Sudan.
16. How long did the ASEAN's separate summit meeting last?
- A. One day.
 - B. Two days.
 - C. Three days.
17. What does the news item say about Senator Obama?
- A. He won't take part in the presidential election campaign.
 - B. He is the only African-American in the U.S. Senate.
 - C. He is the most popular politician among African-Americans.
18. What is the average age in South Asians for heart attack?
- A. 58 or 59.
 - B. 45 or 46.
 - C. 53 or 54.
19. How did President Thabo Mbeki react to the reports of the succession battle?
- A. By creating a scene of unity.
 - B. By avoiding encountering the media.
 - C. By recommending a successor he trusts.
20. What award did the film *Babel* get?

- A. The Golden Globe for best director.
- B. The Golden Globe for best dramatic picture.
- C. The Golden Globe for best actor.

Section D: *In this section, you will hear one passage once. You are required to make some necessary notes when you listen to it. After you hear the passage, you should complete the summary below using the exact words you hear from the recording, not exceeding three words in each blank. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)*

An (21) _____, giving information on more than three quarters of the actors (22) _____ in Britain, is now available on CD-ROM. Some theatrical (23) _____ have over 500 actors on their (24) _____ and it is difficult to remember all their (25) _____. The database lists information on over 5,500 actors and can be searched for details such as past (26) _____ they have appeared in, (27) _____ they might have, and even the colour of their eyes. The database can quickly locate persons with (28) _____ and, although some actors feel it is too impersonal to be of much use, it is certain to change the way actors are chosen for parts in (29) _____. Ring the following telephone number for further enquiries about the (30) _____: 0171-379-6000.

Part II Vocabulary and Structure (10 minutes, 15 points)

There are 15 incomplete sentences in this part. 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.

31. Email newsletter marketing is more cost-effective than _____ any other form of marketing that a firm does.
A. really B. utterly C. practically D. specially
32. I think my problems at work _____ the fact that I never really wanted to go into accountancy as a career.
A. bring back B. stir up
C. lie behind D. spring from
33. The bill, which was approved in its first reading, bans tobacco advertising in the media, _____ sponsorship of public events by tobacco producers.
A. and so does B. nor was its C. as well as D. and might as well
34. _____ with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.
A. No matter who is careless B. Whoever is careless
C. He is careless D. As is careless
35. That week's talent included a spectacular dance team from Argentina, a popular rock group, a top vocalist and a magician _____.
A. which made everything in sight disappear

- B. that was making all at sight disappear
 C. who made all at sight to disappear
 D. who made everything in sight disappear
36. I spent all the winter break with my friends. Not a single day _____ a few hours to myself.
 A. I had B. did I have C. had I D. I was having
37. I'm sorry you've decided not to go with us on the river trip, but _____ you change your mind, there will still be enough room on the boat for you.
 A. even though B. nevertheless C. in the event that D. provided if
38. When I first arrived here to take up my new job, I stayed in a hotel, but I soon started looking for a permanent _____, a place to _____ my own.
 A. residence; call B. accommodation; refer
 C. household; be D. habitation; say
39. So, _____, there remains a fundamental question: at what precise time does life begin?
 A. everything been considered B. all being considered
 C. all to be considered D. all things considered
40. What is learned in books cannot have the same deep effect on a child's character _____ is learned through experience.
 A. as B. as what C. that D. like what
41. _____ she disliked the idea of marriage, she knew that political reasons might make it necessary.
 A. Much as B. As much C. Much though D. Though much
42. For security reasons, always log _____ when you leave your computer unattended for any period of time.
 A. on B. up C. in D. out
43. The teacher was worried about the play her young class was putting on for the parents but, fortunately, everything _____ off without any problems.
 A. passed B. took C. called D. walked
44. **Tom:** Hurry up — we haven't got much time — we're going to be late.
Jerry: Don't worry. _____. The train doesn't leave for fifteen minutes, and there isn't much traffic on the road.
Tom: I know, but we've got to park the car first and at this time in the morning there probably isn't much space in the car park.
Jerry: _____. I'm sure there'll still be a few places left.
 A. Leave it to me; Don't be silly
 B. Do trust me; Take your time
 C. There's plenty of time; Take it easy
 D. Let me see; Don't be ridiculous
45. **Receptionist:** Hello, Skip's Gym. This is Kathy speaking. _____?
Caller: Hi. I've just seen your advert in the local paper. Could I speak to someone about

becoming a member?

Receptionist: Certainly. _____?

Caller: OK. Dainty, Luke Dainty.

- A. How do you do; Your phone number, please
- B. How can I help; Can I have your name, please
- C. Any problem; What's your exercise item
- D. Anything I can do for you; Are you a local resident

Part III IQ Test (5 minutes, 5 points)

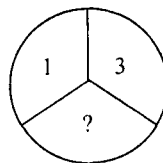
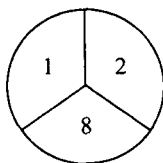
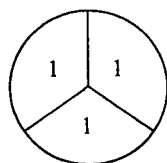
There are 5 IQ Test questions in this part. For each question there are 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. Mark your answer on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

46. Which word completes the sentence?

Controversy is to quarrel as agreement is to . . .

- A. joy
- B. concord
- C. satisfaction
- D. agony

47. Find the missing number.



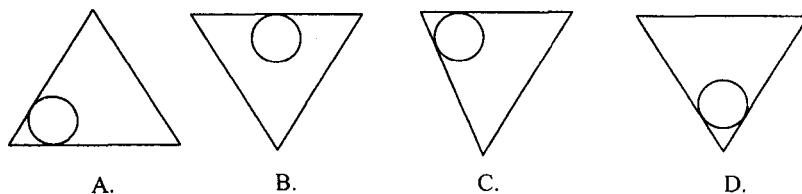
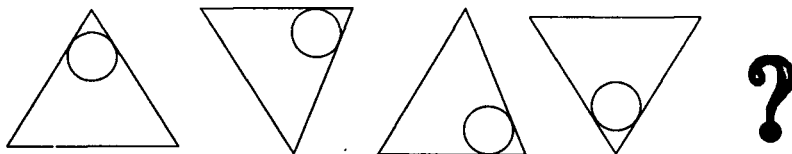
- A. 15.
- B. 9.
- C. 27.
- D. 29.

48. Different foods are to be found on three shelves in a fridge. Butter is kept below the eggs while cheese is kept above the milk. The butter is also above the milk, but the eggs are on the same shelf as the yoghurt. The ice cream is above the cheese.

What is on the bottom shelf?

- A. Butter.
- B. Eggs.
- C. Cheese.
- D. Milk.

49. You are given a series of pictures. Your task is to see their relationship to each other, then work out which will be the next figure in the series. You have to choose one from the four possible answers provided.



50. Two aeroplanes are flying straight towards each other. One is traveling at 10 kilometres per minute, and the other at 15 kilometres per minute. Assuming that the planes are exactly 1,000 kilometres apart, what distance will be between them one minute before they crash into each other?
- A. 10 kilometres. B. 15 kilometres. C. 25 kilometres. D. 5 kilometres.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (25 minutes, 40 points)

Section A: *There is one passage in this section with 7 questions. For each question, there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. (7 points)*

Questions 51 – 57 are based on the following passage.

Harry Houdini, who died in 1927, was the entertainment phenomenon of the ragtime era. He could escape from chains and padlocks, from ropes and canvas sacks. They put him in a strait-jacket and hung him upside down from a skyscraper and he somehow untied himself. They tied him up in a locked packing case and sank him in Liverpool docks. Minutes later he surfaced smiling. They locked him in zinc-lined Russian prison van and he emerged leaving the doors locked and the locks undamaged. They padlocked him in a milk churn full of water and he burst free. They put him in a coffin, screwed down the lid, and buried him and . . . , well, no, he didn't pop up like a mole, but when they dug him up more than half an hour later, he was still breathing.



Houdini would usually allow his equipment to be examined by the audience. The chains, locks and packing cases all seemed perfectly genuine, so it was tempting to conclude that he possessed superhuman powers. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes was the very paragon of analytical thinking but Conan Doyle believed that Houdini achieved his tricks through spiritualism. Indeed, he wrote to the escapologist imploring him to use his psychic powers more profitably for the common good instead of just prostituting his talent every night at the Alhambra. However, Houdini repeatedly denounced spiritualism and disclaimed any psychic element to his act.

The alternative explanation for his feats of escapism was that Houdini could do unnatural things with his body. It is widely held that he could dislocate his shoulders to escape from strait-jackets, and that he could somehow contract his wrists in order to escape from handcuffs. His ability to spend long periods in confined spaces is cited as evidence that he could put his body into suspended animation, as Indian fakirs are supposed to do.

This is all nonsense. If you ever find yourself in a strait-jacket, it is difficult to imagine anything less helpful than a dislocated shoulder. Contracting your wrists is not only unhelpful but, frankly, impossible because the bones of your wrist are very tightly packed together and the whole

structure is virtually incompressible. As for suspended animation, the trick of surviving burial and drowning relies on the fact that you can live for short periods on the air in a confined space. The air shifted by an average person in a day would occupy a cube just eight feet square. The build-up of carbon monoxide tends to pollute this supply, but, if you can relax, the air in a coffin should keep you going for half an hour or so.

In other words, there was nothing physically remarkable about Houdini except for his bravery, dexterity and fitness. His nerve was so cool that he could remain in a coffin six feet underground until they came to dig him up. His gingers were so strong that he could undo a buckle or manipulate keys through the canvas of a strait-jacket or a mail bag. He made a comprehensive study of locks and was able to conceal lock-picks about his person in a way which fooled even the doctors who examined him. When they locked him in the prison van he still had a hacksaw blade with which to saw through the joins in the metal lining and get access to the planks of the floor. As an entertainer he combined all this strength and ingenuity with a lot of trickery. His stage escapes took place behind a curtain with an orchestra playing to disguise the banging and sawing. The milk churn in which he was locked had a double lining so that, while the lid was locked onto the rim, the rim was not actually attached to the churn. Houdini merely had to stand up to get out. The mail sack he cut open at the seam and sewed up with similar thread. The bank safe from which he emerged had been secretly worked on by his mechanics for 24 hours before the performance.

All Houdini's feats are eminently explicable, although to explain them, even now, is a kind of heresy. Houdini belongs to that band of mythical supermen who, we like to believe, were capable of miracles and would still be alive today were it not for some piece of low trickery. It's said of Houdini that a punch in his belly when he wasn't prepared for it caused his burst appendix. Automatically, it's virtually impossible that a punch could puncture your gut, but the story endures. Somehow the myth of the superman has an even greater appeal than the edifice of twenty-first century logic.

Questions:

51. In the first paragraph, what does the writer say Houdini managed to do?
- A. Jump upside down from a skyscraper.
 - B. Safely escape from a submerged box.
 - C. Break the locks of a prison van from inside.
 - D. Escape from a buried coffin unhurt.
52. The writer mentions Houdini's burial alive to show that _____.
- A. his tricks sometimes went disastrously wrong
 - B. he was not always able to do what he claimed he could
 - C. he was capable of extraordinary feats of survival
 - D. his fear of confined spaces could readily be overcome
53. The writer suggests that Conan Doyle _____.
- A. was less analytical about Houdini than one might have expected

- B. asked Houdini if he could include him in a Sherlock Holmes story
C. felt that Houdini could make more money in other ways
D. thought there were scientific explanations for Houdini's feats
54. The writer comes to the conclusion that Houdini _____.
- A. had an unusual bone structure
B. could make parts of his body smaller
C. could make himself fall asleep easily
D. was not physically abnormal
55. It appears that Houdini was able to escape from a strait-jacket by _____.
- A. hiding a lock-pick in his pocket
B. undoing its buckles with his fingers
C. cutting the canvas with a hacksaw
D. using a blade he had concealed
56. The writer states that when Houdini escaped from the milk churn _____.
- A. the role of the orchestra was important
B. he made use of the hacksaw to free himself
C. the container had been modified beforehand
D. he was in full sight of the audience
57. According to the writer, how do people regard Houdini nowadays?
- A. They want to hear the scientific explanations for his feats.
B. They prefer to believe that he had extraordinary powers.
C. They refuse to believe the story of how he died.
D. They doubt the fact that he ever really existed.

Section B: In this section, there is one passage followed by 7 statements. Go over the passage quickly and mark the answers on the *Answer Sheet*. For questions 58 – 64, mark

Y (for Yes) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for No) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for Not Given) if the information is not given in the passage. (7 points)

Questions 58 – 64 are based on the following passage.

The need for a satisfactory education is more important than ever before. Nowadays, without a qualification from a reputable school or university, the odds of landing that plum job advertised in the paper are considerably shortened. Moreover, one's present level of education could fall well short of future career requirements.

It is no secret that competition is the driving force behind the need to obtain increasingly higher qualifications. In the majority of cases, the urge to upgrade is no longer the result of an insatiable thirst for knowledge. The pressure is coming from within the workplace to compete with ever more qualified job applicants, and in many occupations one must now battle with colleagues in the reshuffle for the position one already holds.

Striving to become better educated is hardly a new concept. Wealthy parents have always been willing to spend the vast amounts of extra money necessary to send their children to schools with a perceived educational edge. Working adults have long attended night schools and refresher courses. Competition for employment has been around since the curse of working for a living began. Is the present situation so very different to that of the past?

The difference now is that the push is universal and from without as well as within. A student at a comprehensive school receiving low grades is no longer as easily accepted by his or her peers as was once the case. Similarly, in the workplace, unless employees are engaged in part-time study, they may be frowned upon by their employers and peers and have difficulty even standing still. In fact, in these cases, the expectations is for careers to go backwards and earning capacity to take an appreciable nosedive.

At first glance, the situation would seem to be laudable; a positive response to the exhortations of politicians for us all to raise our intellectual standards and help improve the level of intelligence within the community. Yet there are serious ramifications according to at least one educational psychologist. Dr. Brendan Gatsby has caused some controversy in academic circles by suggesting that a bias towards what he terms "paper excellence" might cause more problems than it is supposed to solve. Gatsby raises a number of issues that affect the individual as well as society in general.

Firstly, he believes the extra workload involved is resulting in abnormally high stress levels in both students at comprehensive schools and adults studying after working hours. Secondly, skills which might be more relevant to the undertaking of a sought-after job are being overlooked by employers not interviewing candidates without qualifications on paper. These two areas of concern for the individual are causing physical as well as emotional stress.

Gatsby also argues that there are attitudinal changes within society to the exalted role education now plays in determining how the spoils of working life are distributed. Individuals of all ages are being driven by social pressures to achieve academic success solely for monetary considerations instead of for the joy of enlightenment. There is the danger that some universities are becoming degree factories with an attendant drop in standards. Furthermore, our education system may be rewarding doggedness above creativity; the very thing tutors ought to be encouraging us to avoid. But the most undesirable effect of this academic paper chase, Gatsby says, is the disadvantage that "user pays" higher education confers on the poor, who invariably lose out to the more financially favoured.

Naturally, although there is agreement that learning can cause stress, Gatsby's comments regarding university standards have been roundly criticised as alarmist by most educationists who point out that, by any standard of measurement, Britain's education system overall, at both secondary and tertiary levels, is equal to that of any in the world.

Statements:

58. It is impossible these days to get a good job without a qualification from a respected institution.
59. Most people who upgrade their qualifications do so for the joy of learning.

60. In some jobs, the position you hold must be reapplied for.
61. Some parents spend extra on their children's education because of the prestige attached to certain schools.
62. According to the passage, students who performed badly at school used to be accepted by their classmates.
63. Employees who do not undertake extra study may find their salary decreased by employers.
64. Citizens appear to have responded to the call by politicians to become better qualified.

Section C: You are going to read a magazine article about sand. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A – G) the one which fits each gap (65 – 70). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Mark your answers on the *Answer Sheet*. (6 points)

Questions 65 – 70 are based on the following passage.

One of the things young people find irritating is listening to their parents going on and on about how everything was less commercialized when they were kids. The complaint often heard from people over 35 refers to commercialization in the music industry.

Every time another girl band or boy band appears, this older generation criticizes the new group for being artificial, for not being genuine, dedicated musicians or singers. They claim that all pop groups in the 60's and the 70's were true artists, dedicated only to their music, and then suddenly big business took control. (65) _____

Older people who get nostalgic about the good old days of music, before manufactured music groups in the 1990's, should be reminded of The Archies. The Archies made no pretense of being a real band in the first place. (66) _____ But this didn't stop them from having a number one hit with a song called "Sugar Sugar", which topped the charts for four weeks in 1969.

(67) _____ Four young men answered an ad for "four folk and rock musicians to appear in a TV series" and were then packaged as The Monkees. From the outset, it was made clear that The Monkees were hired to be television actors first and musicians second. The group wouldn't do much more than sing although the series would give the impression that they played their own instruments.

The Monkees were real and, to a certain extent, musical. They had a string of hits, some very memorable. (68) _____ The original material they would sing in the series was written mostly by professional songwriters. How different to a group of real, talented individuals like The Beatles!

Well, not entirely. It is often forgotten today that the manager of The Beatles, Brian Epstein, gave them the distinctive "Beatle look" (Beatle jackets and Beatle hairstyles) and cleverly marketed their songs. If he hadn't done so, the band might never have had those early hits. (69) _____

Things have changed dramatically in the music industry. Managers play an important role in deciding what kind of music will appeal to specific target groups and then find singers and musicians able to produce it. For the last fifty years, pop singers and groups have had managers who shaped them in an attempt to make their records big hits. (70) _____

A. It must be obvious that this is a complete exaggeration; the music industry has always acted this way.

B. Which is hardly surprising, since the music industry is just that: an industry, aiming like all industries to make a profit.

C. Their music was performed by animated TV cartoon characters.

D. And then they would not have become the most influential rock band of the 20th century.

E. That decade also saw an American group appear that was a blatant attempt to copy the success of The Beatles.

F. However, they didn't write any of their own material, and their manager created every aspect of their show.

G. However, it's not true that everyone in the music business in the old days was an amateur who simply loved music.

Section D: *In this section, there is one passage followed by 5 questions or unfinished statements. Read the passage carefully, then answer each question or complete each statement in a maximum of 10 words. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet. (10 points)*

Questions 71 – 75 are based on the following passage.

Venice may still be in peril. However, the city known as La Serenissima is no longer sinking, but rising.



A new study from experts appointed by the Italian environment ministry has discovered that the level of the ground surrounding St Mark's Square — among the lowest-lying in Venice — has been raised by half a centimetre since 1973. Several other parts of the city's historic centre are as much as one centimetre higher.

Scientists say the city has been rising since a halt was called to the pumping of large amounts of ground water from artesian wells running under the city. The water supplied an industrial complex at Marghera on the mainland nearby.

This had dried out the rock below and allowed Venice to sink by up to 12 cm. Since the water has begun flowing back in, the rock has swollen like a sponge, pushing up the level of the alleyways and buildings.