

COLLEGE ENGLISH TEST-4

交大英语

四级
真题

+

标准
预测

上海交大考试研究中心◎编写

6套真题 + 10套预测！

免费赠送50篇汉译英范文



上海交通大学出版社
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决胜四级！

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内 容 提 要

大学英语四、六级考试新题型在 2013 年 12 月调整并实施,主要调整以下三个方面:单词及词组听写;长篇阅读与信息匹配;汉译英,翻译内容涉及中国的历史、文化、经济、社会发展等。本书是根据最新题型调整而编写的,共由 6 套真题与 10 套全真模拟试题组成,并附有答案,能帮助考生从容适应新题型。

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新四级备考提示（前言）

大学英语四、六级考试题型在 2013 年 12 月再次调整，主要调整以下三个方面：

1. 单词及词组听写（共 10 分）

原复合式听写调整为单词及词组听写，短文长度及难度不变。要求考生在听懂短文的基础上，用所听到的原文填写空缺的单词或词组，共 10 题。短文播放三遍。

2. 长篇阅读与信息匹配（共 10 分）

原快速阅读理解调整为长篇阅读理解，篇章长度和难度不变。篇章后附有 10 个句子，每句一题。每句所含的信息出自篇章的某一段落，要求考生找出与每句所含信息相匹配的段落。有的段落可能对应两题，有的段落可能不对应任何一题。

3. 汉译英

原单句汉译英调整为段落汉译英。翻译内容涉及中国的历史、文化、经济、社会发展等。四级长度为 140~160 个汉字；六级长度为 180~200 个汉字。

题型的改革对考生来说可谓是喜忧参半：听力难度略有降低，失分普遍严重的 3 个长句听写没有了；但翻译、阅读难度提升了，本来可以蒙对几道题的完形填空也退出了历史舞台。But the good news is...新四级仍是对听、读、写、译四大语言技能的考核，备考方式万变不离其宗：

(1) 词汇积累当先：四级 4 500 词，最好提前三个月开始强化记忆。背还是不背，那些词汇都在那里，不增不减！听上去绝对辛苦枯燥，但务必坚持一下，推荐使用《大学英语四级词汇——词根+词缀+联想记忆法》。

(2) 狠抓阅读训练：听力短时间内提高难度较大，但阅读能力的恶补一般效果都不错。之前老四级真题中的仔细阅读、快速阅读材料仍是最佳的训练材料。

(3) 作文训练因人而异：710 分报道分中，作文满分 106 分。但作文卷面成绩仍是 15 分，阅卷老师根据总体印象分档给分（5 分、8 分、11 分、14 分等）。基础较差的同学，采用“图表、对比、议论、因果类”公式作文法，8 分保底策略——分三段、背套句、尽量不要犯 there's a car runs fast 之类的低级语法错误！基础还行的同学，多积累好词好句、连贯词使用恰当、注意句型多样化，可冲 12、13 分。建议分类整理老四级真题作文范文（网上 free download 十分容易啊）。

(4) 适应“长文阅读”新题型：语篇长度约 1 000 词左右，说明文，层次清晰，信息量大，涉及科普、环保、教育、文化、社会、心理、医药、经济等内容。长篇阅读后的段落信息匹配题，仍是对略读（skimming）、寻读（scanning）等速读技能的测试。长文阅读的时间压力，不允许逐字逐行仔细阅读。但由于 10 个题目不再遵循“顺序原则”，“依次边看题目边读文章”的快速阅读题技巧不再适用。策略建议：

首先，用 1~2 分钟略读全文，主要看第一段与每段第一句话（通常是主题句），大致了解

全文主旨。

其次,一次性读透所有题目,划出题目中的信号词或核心词,以每段第一句(topic sentence)为向导,给信号词或关键词在文中定位,找出其所在的相关段落。快速阅读该段落,边读边找判断题目的信息依据。

信号词一般是人名、时间、数字(一眼即可从文中辨认);

关键词一般是充当主语或宾语的中心名词。

再次,10个题目中的句子,大部分涉及文中细节信息,有时涵盖数字、人名等“信号词”,便于快速查询。

~ 例题 ~

题目: Since the mid-1970s, the enrollment of overseas students has increased at an annual rate of 3.9 percent. 信号词为“3.5 percent”。

原文相关段落信息: Of the forces shaping higher education none is more sweeping than the movement across borders. Over the past three decades the number of students leaving home each year to study abroad has grown at an annual rate of 3.9 percent, from 800,000 in 1975 to 2.5 million in 2004.

最后,题目是文章句子的高度同义转换,很少出现与文中重复的字词。考生需要在文中寻找“关键词”的近义表达法。

(5)战胜汉译英恐惧症:半小时内完成140~160个汉字的英译量,而且涉及的是平时很少接触的中国文化经济内容,这对每位考生都是不小的心理压力。段落汉译英测试学生的词汇、句型结构与语篇结构知识的活用能力,考的是词汇深度知识与语言产出性应用的基本功。建议策略:首先要判断每句话的潜在句型,准确套用。考生要尽量仔细检查自己的拼写、时态、搭配,不要犯低级语法错误。对于找不到对应英语词的汉语词,不要留空白,尽量采用“近义表达”进行转述。

(6)仿真题实时训练:这是广大考生最擅长的——临阵磨枪并抱佛脚。本书根据四六级考试委员会8月14日颁布的最新题型样卷,设置5套模拟卷,模拟题中的长文阅读文章均选自 *Reader's Digest*, *Times* 等近期原版杂志,内容新颖,旨在帮助考生实战演练,步步为赢!

本书在编写过程中得到赵晓红、纪小凌、龚飏、龙娅、李昱茹、陆红菊、李四清、李珊、赵晨、徐丹丹、张校勤、张洋洋、康小燕、李太泽等多位老师的帮助与支持,在此特别表示感谢。

编者

2015年3月

新大学英语四级考试说明

1. 试卷构成

四级试卷由写作、听力理解、阅读理解和翻译四个部分组成,分值比例为:写作 15%,听力 35%,阅读 35%,翻译 15%。考试时间为 130 分钟。试卷结构、测试内容、测试题型、分值比例和考试时间如下表所示:

试卷结构	测试内容		测试题型	分值比例	考试时间
写作	写作		短文写作	15%	30 分钟
听力理解	听力对话	短对话	多项选择	8%	30 分钟
		长对话	多项选择	7%	
	听力短文	短文理解	多项选择	10%	
		短文听写	单词及词组听写	10%	
阅读理解	词汇理解		选词填空	5%	40 分钟
	长篇阅读		匹配	10%	
	仔细阅读		多项选择	20%	
翻译	汉译英		段落翻译	15%	30 分钟
总计				100%	130 分钟

2. 题型描述

1) 写作

写作部分测试学生用英语进行书面表达的能力,所占分值比例为 15%,考试时间 30 分钟。写作测试选用考生所熟悉的题材,要求考生根据所提供的信息及提示(如:提纲、情景、图片或图表等)写出一篇短文,四级 120~180 词。

2) 听力理解

听力理解部分测试学生获取口头信息的能力。录音材料用标准的英式或美式英语朗读,语速四级约每分钟 130 词。听力部分分值比例为 35%,其中对话占 15%,短文占 20%。考试时间 30 分钟。

对话部分包括短对话和长对话,采用多项选择题的形式进行考核。短对话有 8 段,每段提一个问题;长对话有 2 段,每段提 3~4 个问题;对话部分共 15 题。每段对话均朗读一遍,每个问题后留有 13~15 秒的答题时间。

短文部分包括短文理解及单词和词组听写。短文理解有 3 篇,采用多项选择题的形式进行考核。四级每篇长度为 220~250 词。每篇短文朗读一遍,提 3~4 个问题,每个问题后留有 13~15 秒的答题时间,共 10 题。单词及词组听写采用 1 篇短文,四级的长度为 220~250 词。要求考生在听懂短文的基础上用所听到的原文填写空缺的单词或词组,共 10 题。短文播放三遍。

3) 阅读理解

阅读理解部分包括 1 篇长篇阅读和 3 篇仔细阅读,测试学生在不同层面上的阅读理解能力,包括理解篇章或段落的主旨大意和重要细节、综合分析、推测判断以及根据上下文推测词义等能力。该部分所占分值比例为 35%,其中长篇阅读占 10%,仔细阅读占 25%。考试时间 40 分钟。

长篇阅读部分采用 1 篇较长篇幅的文章,总长度四级约 1 000 词。阅读速度四级约每分钟 100 词。篇章后附有 10 个句子,每句一题。每句所含的信息出自篇章的某一段落,要求考生找出与每句所含信息相匹配的段落。有的段落可能对应两题,有的段落可能不对应任何一题。

仔细阅读部分要求考生阅读 3 篇短文。2 篇为多项选择题型的短文理解测试,每篇长度四级为 300~350 词;1 篇为选词填空,篇章长度四级为 200~250 词。短文理解每篇后有若干问题,要求考生根据对文章的理解,从每题的四个选项中选择最佳答案。选词填空要求考生阅读一篇删去若干词汇的短文,然后从所给的选项中选择正确的词汇填空,使短文复原。

4) 翻译

翻译部分测试学生把汉语所承载的信息用英语表达出来的能力,所占分值比例为 15%,考试时间 30 分钟。翻译题型为段落汉译英。翻译内容涉及中国的历史、文化、经济、社会发展等。四级长度为 140~160 个汉字。

3. 分数解释

大学英语四、六级考试是标准相关-常模参照的标准化考试。标准相关体现在:①试卷各部分的设计和命题参照大学英语的教学要求规定的技能和标准;②写作和翻译部分的阅卷依据评分标准。常模参照体现在考后各部分的原始分转换成报道分时,分别参照各部分的常模。因此,考试既是标准相关又具有常模参照的性质。

大学英语四、六级考试不设及格线。经过等值处理后的原始总分参照总分常模转换成常模正态分,均值为 500、标准差为 70,报道总分在 220 分至 710 分之间。在将原始分转换成报道分时,各部分采用不同的分数量表,从而使各部分报道分的简单相加之和等于报道总分。

采用常模参照旨在保证考试分数解释的稳定性。考生的任何一次四、六级考试成绩均可在四级或六级常模中找到其百分位位置,即考生成绩在相应级别的常模群体中所处的相对位置。考试委员会网站上(<http://www.cet.edu.cn>)已公布了总分和各部分的百分位对照表,以供考试成绩使用者了解考生的相对能力水平。

4. 成绩报道

成绩报道分为总分和单项分。单项分包括:1)听力,2)阅读,3)翻译和写作。每次考试后,考试委员会向总分在 220 分及以上的考生发放成绩报告单,报告其总分和各部分的单项分。考试委员会同时向参加考试的各个院校提供该校考生的成绩(总分和各部分单项分)和有关该校的各种统计数据。

5. 评分标准

1) 作文评分标准

本题满分为 15 分,成绩分为六个档次:13~15 分、10~12 分、7~9 分、4~6 分、1~3 分和 0 分。各档次的评分标准见下表:

档次	评分标准
13~15 分	切题。表达思想清楚,文字通顺、连贯,基本上无语言错误,仅有个别小错。
10~12 分	切题。表达思想清楚,文字较连贯,但有少量语言错误。
7~9 分	基本切题。有些地方表达思想不够清楚,文字勉强连贯;语言错误相当多,其中有一些是严重错误。
4~6 分	基本切题。表达思想不清楚,连贯性差。有较多的严重语言错误。
1~3 分	条理不清,思路紊乱,语言支离破碎或大部分句子均有错误,且多数为严重错误。
0 分	未作答,或只有几个孤立的词,或作文与主题毫不相关。

2) 翻译评分标准

本题满分为 15 分,成绩分为六个档次:13~15 分、10~12 分、7~9 分、4~6 分、1~3 分和 0 分。各档次的评分标准见下表:

档次	评分标准
13~15 分	译文准确表达了原文的意思。用词贴切,行文流畅,基本上无语言错误,仅有个别小错。
10~12 分	译文基本上表达了原文的意思。文字通顺、连贯,无重大语言错误。
7~9 分	译文勉强表达了原文的意思。用词欠准确,语言错误相当多,其中有些是严重语言错误。
4~6 分	译文仅表达了一小部分原文的意思。用词不准确,有相当多的严重语言错误。
1~3 分	译文支离破碎。除个别词语或句子,绝大部分文字没有表达原文意思。
0 分	未作答,或只有几个孤立的词,或译文与原文毫不相关。

2014 年 12 月四级考试真题(第一套)

Part I

Writing

(30 minutes)

Directions: *For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay about a classmate of yours who has influenced you most in college. You should state the reasons and write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.*

Part II

Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

Section A

Directions: *In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

1. A) The woman is fussy about the cleanness of the apartment.
B) He has not cleaned the apartment since his mother's visit.
C) He does not remember when his mother came over.
D) His mother often helps him to clean the apartment.
2. A) The bus stop is only two minutes' walk.
B) The running made him short of breath.
C) They might as well take the next bus.
D) The woman is late by a couple of minutes.
3. A) She is suffering a pain in her neck.
B) She is likely to replace Miss Smith.
C) She has to do extra work for a few days.
D) She is quite sick of working overtime.
4. A) Change her job.
C) Open a flower shop.
B) Buy a dishwasher.
D) Start her own business.
5. A) He forgot where he had left the package.
B) He slipped on his way to the post office.
C) He wanted to deliver the package himself.
D) He failed to do what he promised to do.
6. A) The speakers do not agree with each other.
B) The woman does not like horror films.
C) The man pays for the tickets as a rule.
D) The speakers happened to meet in the cinema
7. A) The woman is just as unlucky as the man.
B) The woman is more sensitive than the man.
C) The speakers share a common view on love.
D) The speakers are unhappy with their marriage.
8. A) Preparations for a forum.
C) Organizers of a forum.
B) Participants in the forum.
D) Expectations of the forum.

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

9. A) France. B) Scandinavia. C) Russia. D) East Europe.
10. A) More women will be promoted in the workplace.
B) More women will overcome their inadequacies.
C) More women will receive higher education.
D) More women will work outside the family.
11. A) Try hard to protect women's rights.
B) Educate men to respect women more.
C) Help women acquire more professional skills.
D) Spend more time changing women's attitudes.

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

12. A) In a restaurant. B) In a hotel lobby.
C) At the man's office. D) At the woman's place.
13. A) He is the chief designer of the latest bike model.
B) He has completed an overseas market survey.
C) He is the Managing Director of Jayal Motors.
D) He has just come back from a trip to Africa.
14. A) To select the right model. B) To get a good import agent.
C) To convince the board members. D) To cut down production costs.
15. A) His flexibility. B) His vision.
C) His intelligence. D) His determination.

Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

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

16. A) How being an identical twin influences one's identity.
B) Why some identical twins keep their identities secret.
C) Why some identical twins were separated from birth.
D) How identical twins are born, raised and educated.
17. A) Their second wives were named Linda.
B) They grew up in different surroundings.
C) Their first children were both daughters.
D) They both got married when they were 39.
18. A) They want to find out the relationship between environment and biology.
B) They want to see what characteristics distinguish one from the other.
C) They want to understand how twins communicate when far apart.
D) They want to know whether twins can feel each other's pain.

Passage Two

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

19. A) It is especially attractive to children and the young.
B) It is the first choice of vacationers on the Continent.
C) It is as comfortable as living in a permanent house.
D) It is an inexpensive way of spending a holiday.

20. A) It has a solid plastic frame.
 B) It consists of an inner and an outer tent.
 C) It is very convenient to set up.
 D) It is sold to many Continental countries.
21. A) A groundsheet. B) A gas stove.
 C) A kitchen extension. D) A spare tent.

Passage Three

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

22. A) It covers 179 square miles. B) It is as big as New York City.
 C) It covers 97 square kilometers. D) It is only half the size of Spain.
23. A) Its geographic features attracted many visitors.
 B) Its citizens enjoyed a peaceful, comfortable life.
 C) It imported food from foreign countries.
 D) It was cut off from the rest of the world.
24. A) The fast development of its neighboring countries.
 B) The increasing investment by developed countries.
 C) The building of roads connecting it with neighboring countries.
 D) The establishing of diplomatic relations with France and Spain.
25. A) They work on their farms. B) They work in the tourist industry.
 C) They raise domestic animals. D) They make traditional handicrafts.

Section C

Directions: In this section, you will hear a passage three times. When the passage is read for the first time, you should listen carefully for its general idea. When the passage is read for the second time, you are required to fill in the blanks with the exact words you have just heard. Finally, when the passage is read for the third time, you should check what you have written.

“Don’t take many English courses; they won’t help you get a decent job.” “Sign up for management classes, so you’ll be ready to join the family business when you graduate.”

Sound 26? Many of us have heard suggestions like these 27 by parents or others close to us. Such comments often seem quite reasonable.

Why, then, should suggestions like these be taken with 28? The reason is they relate to decisions you should make. You are the one who must 29 their consequences.

One of the worst reasons to follow a particular path in life is that other people want you to. Decisions that affect your life should be your decisions—decisions you make after you’ve considered various 30 and chosen the path that suits you best.

Making your own decisions does not mean that you should 31 the suggestions of others. For instance, your parents do have their own unique experiences that may make their advice helpful, and having 32 in a great deal of your personal history, they may have a clear view of your strengths and weaknesses. Still, their views are not necessarily accurate. They may still see you as a child, 33 care and protection. Or they may see only your strengths. Or, in some unfortunate cases, they may 34 your flaws and shortcomings.

People will always be giving you advice. Ultimately, though, you have to make your own 35.

Part III

Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read

the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 36 to 45 are based on the following passage.

One principle of taxation, called the benefits principle, states that people should pay taxes based on the benefits they receive from government services. This principle tries to make public goods similar to 36 goods. It seems reasonable that a person who often goes to the movies pays more in 37 for movie tickets than a person who rarely goes. And 38, a person who gets great benefit from a public good should pay more for it than a person who gets little benefit.

The gasoline tax, for instance, is sometimes 39 using the benefits principle. In some states, 40 from the gasoline tax are used to build and maintain roads. Because those who buy gasoline are the same people who use the roads, the gasoline tax might be viewed as a 41 way to pay for this government service.

The benefits principle can also be used to argue that wealthy citizens should pay higher taxes than poorer ones, 42 because the wealthy benefit more from public services. Consider, for example, the benefits of police protection from 43. Citizens with much to protect get greater benefit from police than those with less to protect. Therefore, according to the benefits principle, the wealthy should 44 more than the poor to the cost of 45 the police force. The same argument can be used for many other public services, such as fire protection, national defense, and the court system.

A) adapt	I) provided
B) contribute	J) revenues
C) exerting	K) similarly
D) expenses	L) simply
E) fair	M) theft
F) justified	N) total
G) maintaining	O) wealth
H) private	

Section B

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

Growing Up Colored

- A) You wouldn't know Piedmont anymore—my Piedmont, I mean—the town in West Virginia where I learned to be a colored boy.
- B) The 1950s in Piedmont was a time to remember, or at least to me. People were always proud to be from Piedmont—lying at the foot of a mountain, on the banks of the mighty Potomac. We knew God gave America no more beautiful location. I never knew colored people anywhere who were crazier about mountains and water, flowers and trees, fishing and hunting. For as long as anyone could remember, we could outhunt, outshoot, and out swim the white boys in the valley.
- C) The social structure of Piedmont was something we knew like the back of our hands. It was an immigrant town; white Piedmont was Italian and Irish, with a handful of wealthy WASPs (盎格鲁撒克逊裔的白人新教徒) on East Hampshire Street, and “ethnic” neighborhoods of working-class people everywhere else, colored and white.

- D) For as long as anyone can remember, Piedmont's character has been completely bound up with the Westvaco paper mill: its prosperous past and doubtful future. At first glance, the town is a typical dying mill center. Many once beautiful buildings stand empty, evidencing a bygone time of spirit and pride. The big houses on East Hampshire Street are no longer proud, as they were when I was a kid.
- E) Like the Italians and the Irish, most of the colored people migrated to Piedmont at the turn of the 20th century to work at the paper mill, which opened in 1888. All the colored men at the paper mill worked on "the platform"—loading paper into trucks until the craft unions were finally integrated in 1968. Loading is what Daddy did every working day of his life. That's what almost every colored grown-up I knew did.
- F) Colored people lived in three neighborhoods that were clearly separated. Welcome to the Colored Zone, a large stretched banner could have said. And it felt good in there, like walking around your house in bare feet and underwear, or *snoring* (打鼾) right out loud on the couch in front of the TV—enveloped by the comforts of home, the warmth of those you love.
- G) Of course, the colored world was not so much a neighborhood as a condition of existence. And though our own world was seemingly self-contained, it impacted on the white world of Piedmont in almost every direction. Certainly, the borders of our world seemed to be impacted on when some white man or woman showed up where he or she did not belong, such as at the black Legion Hall. Our space was violated when one of them showed up at a dance or a party. The rhythms would be off. The music would sound not quite right. Everybody would leave early.
- H) Before 1955, most white people were just shadowy presences in our world, vague figures of power like remote bosses at the mill or clerks at the bank. There were exceptions, of course, the white people who would come into our world in routine, everyday ways we all understood. Mr. Mail Man, Mr. Insurance Man, Mr. White-and-Chocolate Milk Man, Mr. Landlord Man, Mr. Police Man; we called white people by their trade, like characters in a mystery play. Mr. Insurance Man would come by every other week to collect payments on college or death policies, sometimes 50 cents or less.
- I) "It's no disgrace to be colored," the black entertainer Bert Williams famously observed early in the century, "but it is awfully inconvenient." For most of my childhood, we couldn't eat in restaurants or sleep in hotels, we couldn't use certain bathrooms or try on clothes in stores. Mama insisted that we dress up when we went to shop. She was carefully dressed when she went to clothing stores, and wore white pads called shields under her arms so her dress or blouse would show no sweat. "We'd like to try this on," she'd say carefully, uttering her words precisely and properly. "We don't buy clothes we can't try on," she'd say when they declined, and we'd walk out in Mama's *dignified* (有尊严的) manner. She preferred to shop where we had an account and where everyone knew who she was.
- J) At the Cut-Rate Drug Store, no one colored was allowed to sit down at the counter or tables, with one exception: my father. I don't know for certain why Carl Dadisman, the owner, wouldn't stop Daddy from sitting down. But I believe it was in part because Daddy was so light-colored, and in part because, during his shift at the phone company, he picked up orders for food and coffee for the operators. Colored people were supposed to stand at the counter, get their food to go, and leave. Even when Young Doc Bess would set up the basketball team with free Cokes after one of many victories, the colored players had to stand around and drink out of paper cups while the white players and cheerleaders sat down in comfortable chairs and drank out of glasses.
- K) I couldn't have been much older than five or six as I sat with my father at the Cut-Rate one afternoon, enjoying ice cream. Mr. Wilson, a stony-faced Irishman, walked by. "Hello, Mr. Wilson," my father said.
"Hello, George."
- L) I was genuinely puzzled. Mr. Wilson must have confused my father with somebody else, but

who? There weren't any Georges among the colored people in Piedmont. "Why don't you tell him your name, Daddy?" I asked loudly. "Your name isn't George."

"He knows my name, boy," my father said after a long pause. "He calls all colored people George."

M) I knew we wouldn't talk about it again; even at that age, I was given to understand that there were some subjects it didn't do to worry to death about. Now that I have children, I realize that what distressed my father wasn't so much the Mr. Wilsons of the world as the painful obligation to explain the racial facts of life to someone who hadn't quite learned them yet. Maybe Mr. Wilson couldn't hurt my father by calling him George; but I hurt him by asking to know why.

46. The author felt as a boy that his life in a separated neighborhood was casual and cozy.
47. There is every sign of decline at the paper mill now.
48. One reason the author's father could sit and eat at the drug store was that he didn't look that dark.
49. Piedmont was a town of immigrants from different parts of the world.
50. In spite of the awful inconveniences caused by racial prejudice, the author's family managed to live a life of dignity.
51. The author later realized he had caused great distress to his father by asking why he was wrongly addressed.
52. The author took pride in being from Piedmont because of its natural beauty.
53. Colored people called white people by the business they did.
54. Colored people who lived in Piedmont did heavy manual jobs at the paper mill.
55. The colored people felt uneasy at the presence of the whites in their neighborhoods.

Section C

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

Passage One

Questions 56 to 60 are based on the following passage.

Children are a delight. They are our future. But sadly, hiring someone to take care of them while you go to work is getting more expensive by the year.

Earlier this month, it was reported that the cost of enrolling an infant or small kid at a childcare center rose 3% in 2012, faster than the overall cost of living. There are now large strips of the country where daycare for an infant costs more than a tenth of the average married couple's income.

This is not necessarily a new trend, but it is a somewhat puzzling one. The price of professional childcare has been rising since the 1980s. Yet during that time, pay for professional childcare workers has stood still. Actually caregivers make less today, in real terms, than they did in 1990. Considering that labor costs are responsible for up to 80% of a daycare center's expenses, one would expect flat wages to have meant flat prices.

So who's to blame for higher childcare costs?

Childcare is a carefully regulated industry. States lay down rules about how many children each employee is allowed to watch over, the space care centers need per child, and other minute details. And the stricter the regulations, the higher the costs. If it has to hire a caregiver for every two children, it can't really achieve any economies of scale on labor to save money when other expenses go up. In Massachusetts, where childcare centers must hire one teacher for every three infants, the price of care averaged more than \$16,000 per year. In Mississippi, where centers must hire one teacher for every five infants, the price of care averaged less than \$5,000.

Unfortunately, I don't have all the daycare-center regulations handy. But I wouldn't be surprised if as the rules have become more elaborate, prices have risen. The *tradeoff*(交换) might be worth it in some cases; after all, the health and safety of children should probably come before cheap service. But certainly, it doesn't seem to be an accident that some of the cheapest daycare available is in the least regulated South.

56. What problem do parents of small kids have to face?
 - A) The ever-rising childcare prices.
 - B) The budgeting of family expenses.
 - C) The balance between work and family.
 - D) The selection of a good daycare center.
57. What does the author feel puzzled about?
 - A) Why the prices of childcare vary greatly from state to state.
 - B) Why increased childcare prices have not led to better service.
 - C) Why childcare workers' pay has not increased with the rising childcare costs.
 - D) Why there is a severe shortage of childcare professionals in a number of states.
58. What prevents childcare centers from saving money?
 - A) Steady increase in labor costs.
 - B) Strict government regulations.
 - C) Lack of support from the state.
 - D) High administrative expenses.
59. Why is the average cost of childcare in Mississippi much lower than in Massachusetts?
 - A) The overall quality of service is not as good.
 - B) Payments for caregivers there are not as high.
 - C) Living expenses there are comparatively low.
 - D) Each teacher is allowed to care for more kids.
60. What is the author's view on daycare service?
 - A) Caregivers should receive regular professional training.
 - B) Less elaborate rules about childcare might lower costs.
 - C) It is crucial to strike a balance between quality and costs.
 - D) It is better for different states to learn from each other.

Passage Two

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

Alex Pang's amusing new book *The Distraction Addiction* addresses those of us who feel panic without a cellphone or computer. And that, he claims, is pretty much all of us. When we're not online, where we spend four months annually, we're engaged in the stressful work of trying to get online.

The *Distraction Addiction* is not framed as a self-help book. It's a thoughtful examination of the dangers of our computing overdose and a historical overview of how technological advances change consciousness. A "professional futurist", Pang urges an approach which he calls "*contemplative*(沉思的) computing." He asks that you pay full attention to "how your mind and body interact with computers and how your attention and creativity are influenced by technology."

Pang's first job is to free you from the common misconception that doing two things at once allows you to get more done. What is commonly called multitasking is, in fact, switch-tasking, and its harmful effects on productivity are well documented. Pang doesn't advocate returning to a pre-Internet world. Instead, he asks you to "take a more *ecological* (生态的) view of your relationships with technologies and look for ways devices or media may be making specific tasks easier or faster but at the same time making your work and life harder."

The Distraction Addiction is particularly fascinating on how technologies have changed certain fields of labor—often for the worse. For architects, computer-aided design has become essential but in some ways has cheapened the design process. As one architect puts it, "Architecture is first and foremost about thinking...and drawing is a more productive way of

thinking”than computer-aided design. Somewhat less amusing are Pang’s solutions for kicking the Internet habit. He recommends the usual behavior-modification approaches, familiar to anyone who has completed a quit-smoking program. Keep logs to study your online profile and decide what you can knock out. download a program like Freedom that locks you out of your browser, or take a “digital *Sabbath* (安息日)”. “Unless you’re a reporter or emergency-department doctor, you’ll discover that your world doesn’t fall apart when you go offline.”

61. Alex Pang’s new book is aimed for readers who _____.
 - A) find their work online too stressful
 - B) go online mainly for entertainment
 - C) are fearful about using the cellphone or computer
 - D) can hardly tear themselves away from the Internet
62. What does Alex Pang try to do in his new book?
 - A) Offer advice on how to use the Internet effectively.
 - B) Warn people of the possible dangers of Internet use.
 - C) Predict the trend of future technological development.
 - D) Examine the influence of technology on the human mind.
63. What is the common view on multitasking?
 - A) It enables people to work more efficiently.
 - B) It is in a way quite similar to switch-tasking.
 - C) It makes people’s work and life even harder.
 - D) It distracts people’s attention from useful work.
64. What does the author think of computer-aided design?
 - A) It considerably cuts down the cost of building design.
 - B) It somewhat restrains architects’ productive thinking.
 - C) It is indispensable in architects’ work process.
 - D) It can free architects from laborious drawing.
65. What is Alex Pang’s recommendation for Internet users?
 - A) They use the Internet as little as possible.
 - B) They keep a record of their computer use time.
 - C) They exercise self-control over their time online.
 - D) They entertain themselves online on off-days only.

Part IV

Translation

(30 minutes)

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

越来越多的中国年轻人正对旅游产生兴趣,这是近年来的新趋势。年轻游客数量的不断增加,可以归因于他们迅速提高的收入和探索外部世界的好奇心。随着旅行多了,年轻人在大城市和著名景点花的时间少了,他们反而更为偏远的地方所吸引。有些人甚至选择长途背包旅行。最近调查显示,很多年轻人想要通过旅行体验不同的文化、丰富知识、拓宽视野。

2014 年 12 月四级考试真题(第二套)

Part I

Writing

(30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay about a course that has impressed you most in college. You should state the reasons and write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

Part II

Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.

1. A) The man is not good at balancing his budget.
B) She will go purchase the gift herself.
C) The gift should not be too expensive.
D) They are going to Jane's house-warming party.
2. A) He is quite willing to give the woman a hand.
B) It takes patience to go through the statistics.
C) He has prepared the statistics for the woman.
D) The woman should take a course in statistics.
3. A) Page 55 is missing from the woman's scripts.
B) They cannot begin their recording right away.
C) The woman does not take the recording seriously.
D) The man wants to make some changes in the scripts.
4. A) The date of Carl's wedding. B) The birthday of Carl's bride.
C) A significant event in July. D) Preparations for a wedding.
5. A) The woman forgot to tell the man in advance.
B) The man was absent from the weekly meeting.
C) The woman was annoyed at the man's excuse.
D) The man was in charge of scheduling meetings.
6. A) The woman is a marvelous cook. B) The woman has just bought an oven.
C) The man has to leave in half an hour. D) The man cannot wait for his meal.
7. A) How she can best help the man. B) Where the man got the bad news.
C) What items sell well in the store. D) Whether the man can keep his job.
8. A) The woman can sign up for a swimming class.
B) He works in the physical education department.
C) The woman has the potential to swim like a fish.
D) He would like to teach the woman how to swim.