

2003 级四级模拟试题

CET BAND FOUR



ROAD TO THE WORLD

2004-10-20

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Test 1

Part I Listening Comprehension (20 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear 10 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 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 the Answer Sheet with a single line through the center.

1. A) 24 B) 18 C) 12 D) 6
2. A) An account. B) Money
C) To write a check D) To count it
3. A) Dinner. B) A snack C) Nothing D) Oranges
4. A) She passed away. B) She made a mistake.
C) She is old and deaf. D) She missed the train.
5. A) A waitress. B) A saleswoman.
C) A hotel clerk. D) An actress.
6. A) Better. B) Sick. C) Fine. D) Tired
7. A) Cold. B) Warm C) Cool D) Raining
8. A) In a furniture store. B) In a shoe repair shop.
C) In a tailor's shop D) In a drugstore.
9. A) 16,700 B) 10,000 C) 845,000 D) 825,000
10. A) He got a one-way plane ticket.
B) He went the wrong direction on a one-way street.
C) He made an important turn.
D) He slowed down at the wrong time.

Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the question 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 the Answer Sheet with a single line through the center.

Passage One

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

11. A) The brother of Peter's father or mother.
B) One of the sons of Peter's aunt.
C) One of Peter's nephews.
D) Peter's friend.
12. A) When he goes for a walk.
B) When he drives the car.
C) When he passes somebody.
D) When he chats with Peter.

13. A) To make them feel happy. B) To shorten the journey.
C) To please Peter. D) To continue the journey.

Passage Two

Questions 14 to 16 are based on the passage you have just heard.

14. A) It means to rent a house for 25 years
B) It means to buy an old house at a low price.
C) It means to borrow money from a bank to buy a house.
D) It means to borrow money from a friend to buy a house.
15. A) Money paid to a bank before the mortgage is given.
B) Money borrowed from a bank as a mortgage.
C) Monthly payments to a bank as the mortgage.
D) Interest charged by a bank on the mortgage.
16. A) What salary the borrower makes.
B) What kind of job the borrower has.
C) What kind of house the borrower lives in.
D) How much money the borrower owns.

Passage Three

Questions 17 to 20 are based on the passage you have just heard.

17. A) Sutter B) Marshall.
C) Bennet D) A newspaperman
18. A) To ask the Governor for permission to make a home there.
B) To make sure that any gold found on his land would belong to him.
C) To prevent people from making a home in the Sacramento Valley.
D) To ask the Governor to keep a secret.
19. A) By ship.
B) By freight cars.
C) By train.
D) Both A and B.
20. A) Because the new-comers took all the gold from his land.
B) Because the new-comers killed one of his sons.
C) Because the new-comers seriously harmed him during the California Gold rush.
D) Because the new-comers prevented him from making use of the wealth of his land.

Part II Reading Comprehension (35minutes)

Directions: There are 4 reading passages in this part. 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 the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

As Dr. Samuel Johnson said in a different era about ladies preaching, the surprising thing about

computers is not that they think less well than a man, but that they think at all. The early electronic computer did not have much going for it except a marvelous memory and some good math skills. But today the best models can be wired up to learn by experience, follow an argument, ask proper questions and write poetry and music. They can also carry on somewhat puzzling conversations.

Computers imitate life. As computers get more complex, the imitation gets better. Finally, the line between the original and the copy becomes unclear. In another 15 years or so, we will see the computer as a new form of life.

The opinion seems ridiculous because, for one thing, computers lack the drives and emotions of living creatures. But drives can be programmed into the computer's brain just as nature programmed them into our human brains as a part of the equipment for survival.

Computers match people in some roles, and when fast decisions are needed in a crisis, they often surpass them. Having evolved when the pace of life was slower, the human brain has an inherent defect that prevents it from absorbing several streams of information simultaneously and acting on them quickly. Throw too many things at the brain at one time and it freezes up.

We are still in control, but the capabilities of computers are increasing at a fantastic rate, while raw human intelligence is changing slowly, if at all. Computer power has increased ten times every eight years since 1946. In the 1990s, when the sixth generation appears, the reasoning power of an intelligence built out of silicon will begin to match that of the human brain.

That does not mean the evolution of intelligence has ended on the earth. Judging by the past, we can expect that a new species will arise out of man, surpassing his achievements as he has surpassed those of his predecessor. Only a carbon chemistry enthusiast would assume that the new species must be man's flesh-and-blood descendants. The new kind of intelligent life is more likely to be made of silicon.

21. What do you suppose was the attitude of Dr. Samuel Johnson towards ladies preaching?

- A) He believed that ladies were born worse preachers than man.
- B) He was pleased that ladies could preach, though not as well as men.
- C) He disapproved of ladies preaching.
- D) He encouraged ladies to preach.

22. Today, computers are still inferior to man in terms of _____.

- A) decision making
- B) drives and feelings
- C) growth of reasoning power
- D) information absorption

23. In terms of making decisions, the human brain cannot be compared with the computer because _____.

- A) in the long process of evolution the slow pace of life didn't require such an ability of the human brain
- B) the human brain is influenced by other factors such as motivation and emotion
- C) the human brain may sometimes freeze up in a dangerous situation
- D) computers imitate life while the human brain does not imitate computers

24. Though he thinks highly of the development of computer science, the author doesn't mean

that _____.

- A) computers are likely to become a new form of intelligent life
 - B) human beings have lost control of computers
 - C) the intelligence of computers will eventually surpass that of human beings
 - D) the evolution of intelligence will probably depend on that of electronic brains
25. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A) Future man will be made of silicon instead of flesh and blood.
 - B) Some day it will be difficult to tell a computer from a man.
 - C) The reasoning power of computers has already surpassed that of man.
 - D) Future intelligent life may not necessarily be made of organic matter.

Passage Two

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage.

A supermarket is a large-area, low-cost, high-volume, self-service operation designed to serve the consumers' various needs for food, clothes and other useful products in our daily life. A supermarket store can be independently owned, although most supermarket stores are operated by supermarket chains.

Supermarkets have moved in several directions to further build their sales volume. They have opened much larger stores, with today's selling space occupying about 18,000 square feet as compared to 11,700 square feet in the 1950s. Most of the supermarket chains now operate fewer but larger stores. Supermarkets deal in a great number and variety of items. A typical supermarket handled 3,000 items in 1946 and now handles around 8,000.

Nowadays, supermarkets have been hit hard by a number of competitors meeting better defined customer needs with respect to the variety of products and price levels. So they are trying to improve their marketing positions. The most important increase has been in the number of non-food items such as carried-drugs, beauty aids, magazines, books and toys--- which now account for 8 percent of the whole supermarket sales. This trend is continuing, and many supermarkets are moving into records, sporting goods, hardware, fresh flowers, garden supplies, and even cameras, hoping to find high profit lines. Supermarkets are also improving their jobs through more expensive locations, larger parking lots, longer store hours and Sunday openings, and a wide variety of customer services, such as check cashing, rest rooms, and background music.

Supermarkets have also increased selling competition in the form of heavy advertising, trading stamps, and games of chance. Supermarket chains are now trying to expand their sales volume in Asian countries where economic growth is stronger.

26. Compared with other kinds of stores, supermarkets have the following advantages EXCEPT _____

- A) convenience
 - B) low price
 - C) high efficiency
 - D) the variety of products
27. At present, most supermarket chains operate _____.
- A) fewer but larger stores
 - B) more but smaller stores
 - C) more and larger stores
 - D) fewer and smaller stores
28. What is the impact supermarkets suffer nowadays?

- A) The emergence of too many supermarkets.
 - B) The diversity of products and low price of competitors.
 - C) High quality of goods of competitors.
 - D) Expensive locations and larger parking lots of competitors.
29. The supermarkets take all of the following measures to improve the marketing position EXCEPT ____.
- A) advertising and discounting
 - B) providing the diversity of services
 - C) increasing the marketing share
 - D) improving the quality of products
30. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A) Only few large-scale supermarkets set up chains.
 - B) Until now, supermarkets meet no competitors.
 - C) A supermarket makes profit mainly by offering many non-food items.
 - D) Supermarkets are trying to expand their sales volume in foreign countries.

Passage Three

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage.

Like other forms of life on this planet, human beings face a basic task: to deal satisfactorily with their conflicts and thereby acquire the advantages of community and cooperation. Unlike other forms of life, human beings are born with a capability to reflect on this task and to search for better solutions by conscious thought and careful choices.

The task of overcoming conflicts and achieving community life and cooperation arises because human beings are unable and unwilling to live in total isolation. The advantages of cooperation and community life are so numerous and so obvious that they must have been evident to man from earliest times. By now, our ancestors (祖先) have closed off the choice; for most of us, the choice of complete isolation from a community is, realistically speaking, no longer open.

Nevertheless, however strongly human beings are driven to seek the company of one another, and in spite of thousands of years' practice, they have never discovered a way in which they can live together without conflict. Conflict exists when one individual wishes to follow a line of action that would make it difficult or impossible for someone else to pursue his own desires. Conflict seems to be an inescapable aspect of the community and consequently of human being. Why conflict seems inevitable is a question that has troubled a lot of people: philosophers, historians, social scientist, and doubtless a great many ordinary people. "Conflict is built into the very nature of men and women," said James Madison. "Human beings have diverse abilities, and these in turn produce diverse interests."

31. The difference between human beings and other forms of life on the planet is ____.
- A) to deal with the clashes successfully
 - B) to achieve the benefit of community and cooperation
 - C) to think and seek better solutions to troubles
 - D) to achieve community life and cooperation
32. If one wants to live thoroughly isolated from a community, he will ____.

- A) live a quiet and comfortable life
 - B) have to fight against the nature
 - C) make the best kind of human being
 - D) not be able to achieve his goal
33. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A) People are willing to live totally isolated but they can't.
 - B) Our forefathers never stopped choosing to live totally isolated.
 - C) Conflicts exist when people pursue different desires.
 - D) In the past, people lived together harmonious without conflict.
34. The author's purpose for using quotations from Madison is _____.
- A) to show the author's intelligence and great scholarship
 - B) to make readers accept his opinion because a famous person agrees with him
 - C) to convince reader of the correct opinions held by Madison
 - D) to provide evidence about conflict and cooperation humans face
35. What can be concluded from the passage?
- A) It is impossible for human beings to avoid conflict with one another.
 - B) The best solution to the conflicts is isolation from a community.
 - C) Human beings have found the effective way to deal with their conflicts.
 - D) Conflicts can be avoided if we live and work alone.

Passage Four

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage.

Nobel intended his prizes to encourage promising young scientists, so it would no double be a surprise for him to see them become the standards for the highest achievements of modern science. Yet, in 1906, only 5 years after the first awards, their prestige was already such that Cosmopolitan magazine wrote: "The history of modern science might be written without going outside the names of the Nobel prizes for beneficent discoveries in physics, chemistry and medicine." This notion has persisted to the present. Unfortunately it ignores the fact that the award fields within physics, chemistry, and physiology or medicine cover only a small part of modern science. For instance, it leaves out fields coupling science and technology---transportation, communications, and war-making---- that have been responsible for the transformation of both science and its impact on society. Other fields of modern science that have been neglected, although they could have been included under physics broadly defined, are astronomy, astrophysics, and much of geophysics (for example, geology, meteorology and oceanography). Similarly, psychiatry has been neglected when it comes to the prize in physiology or medicine. In this sense whole areas of investigation can be held to have been losers in the Nobel prize competitions. Among the individuals who were duly nominated during the first 50 years of the prizes but ended up as losers we find inventors such as Thomas Edison and the brothers Wright, astrophysicists such as G.E. Hale and Arthur Eddington, Vilhelm BJerknes, the "father" of modern meteorology.

The way that attention has always focused on the prize winners--- never on the candidates--- is one reason for the extraordinary success of the prizes. Another is the wholesale acceptance of the

prize awarders' justification for their choice. True, the prize awarders have not missed the major discoveries (although they have pretty consistently excluded junior collaborators when rewarding the discoverers), but such discoveries occur only a few times in a century. For the most part they have been engaged in the rather humdrum(平凡的) business of choosing among works produced by what the late Thomas Kuhn called "normal science." In view of this, it is surprising that the creation of a Nobel laureate has come to have the trappings of an ancient rite. He (rarely she) springs from anonymity into stardom through a decision seemingly handed down from above, untouched by human hands. With the limelight turned on the prize winners, it is easily forgotten that they were chosen from a pool of hundreds of candidates put forth by thousands of specially invited nominators.

36. According to Cosmopolitan magazine,_____.

- A) Nobel prizes did not cover a wider range of fields
- B) Nobel prizes truly reflected the development of modern science
- C) there were not enough prizes to cover modern discoveries
- D) science should be coupled with technology

37. Thomas Edison and others were not awarded the Nobel prizes possibly because_____.

- A) their work was not up to scratch (达到标准)
- B) they were dedicated to pure science
- C) they were not interested in the Nobel prizes
- D) their work covered wider fields of investigation than pure physics, chemistry and medicine

38. The phrase "normal science" (para.2) could best be replaced by_____.

- A) science in the fields of physics, chemistry and medicine
- B) science coupled with technology
- C) science which leads to few breakthroughs
- D) science of low quality

39. The author implies that_____.

- A) the prize awarders often find it difficult to decide who to award the prizes
- B) the glamour given to Nobel laureates is unjustified
- C) science is a field more suitable for men than for women
- D) the Nobel prizes should be abolished

40. Which of the following statements is true?

- A) Transportation, communications, and war-making are technologies rather than science.
- B) Nobel awarders' decisions are often challenged.
- C) Many Nobel awarders are women.
- D) Candidates for the Nobel prizes are well selected.

Part III Vocabulary and Structure (20minutes)

Directions: There are 30 incomplete in this part. For each sentence 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 center.

41. The doctor took X-rays and ruled _____ the chance of broken bones.

- A) against
- B) over
- C) out
- D) off

42. Mr. Lombroso has always _____ strange hobbies like collecting bottle-tops and inventing secret codes.
- A) gone back on B) gone off with
C) gone in for D) gone along with
43. As for himself, he regarded it _____ of very little value.
- A) of B) as C) over D) with
44. These insects can _____ the colour of their background, so that enemies can't see them.
- A) take on B) pull on
C) try on D) focus on
45. The training course was rather _____, but his strong will finally pulled him through.
- A) recommendatory B) demanding
C) commanding D) exhilarating
46. When college students _____ future employment, they often think of status, income, and prestige.
- A) demand B) assume C) apply D) anticipate
47. Mr. Thompson spent several hours trying to _____ his lawyer.
- A) get away with B) get round to
C) get hold of D) get down on
48. Seldom _____ any mistakes during my past five years of service here.
- A) would I like B) I did make
C) should I make D) did I make
49. We weren't sure where to go for our honeymoon. But we decided on Hawaii on the _____ of the moment.
- A) urge B) spur C) spout D) haul
50. The engine is _____ at 6,000 revolutions per minute.
- A) turning on B) turning off
C) turning over D) turning round
51. The dispute was _____ to the United Nations.
- A) referred B) replied C) seen D) objected
52. All things _____, the planned trip will have to be called off.
- A) considered B) be considered C) considering D) having considered
53. Being much _____ with the new skirt, the wife couldn't help giving her husband a lovely kiss.
- A) consistent B) indifferent C) delighted D) interviewed
54. A peculiarly pointed chin is his most memorable facial _____.
- A) mark B) feature
C) trace D) appearance
55. When the whole area was _____ by the flood, the government sent food there by helicopter.
- A) cut up B) cut away
C) cut off D) cut under
56. John published several novels, _____ his brother.
- A) nor did B) so did

- C) so do D) nor do
57. He had a bad cold and couldn't stop _____.
A) snoring B) spitting
C) yawning D) sneezing
58. The children went to watch the iron tower _____.
A) to erect B) be erected
C) erecting D) being erected
59. It is widely believed that the pull of gravity on a falling rain drop changes _____ round shape into a teardrop shape.
A) of the drop B) drops their
C) drop of D) the drop's
60. You really ought to _____; all these late nights are doing you no good.
A) bring down B) slow down
C) pull down D) pass through
61. Some birds _____ twice a year between hot and cold countries.
A) immigrate B) migrate
C) mobilize D) radiate
62. These factors must be adjusted rapidly to _____ maximum propulsive efficiency.
A) assure B) ensure
C) secure D) testify
63. It is dangerous to _____ out of the window of the train.
A) hold B) lean
C) bend D) slope
64. Motorcyclists should wear helmets to _____ them from injury.
A) save B) support
C) shield D) shrink
65. The vegetables are _____ nicely, thanks to the rain we've been having.
A) coming on B) coming off
C) coming upon D) coming out
66. I have to _____ my doctoral dissertation as there are some parts I am not satisfied with.
A) retell B) reheat
C) revise D) renew
67. The police was suspicious at first but I _____ convince them that we were innocent.
A) had B) could have to
C) ought to D) was able to
68. Owing to the state of the ground, the match has been _____.
A) put out B) put over
C) put off D) put through
69. A foreign language is a _____ course for university students in every country all over the world.
A) customary B) compulsory

C) contemporary D) extraordinary

70. How long can the crash victims _____ in the Arctic?

A) remains B) endure
C) maintain D) survive

Part IV Cloze (15 minutes)

Directions: There are 20 blanks in the following passage. For each blank there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D) on the right side of the paper. You should choose the ONE that best fits into the passage. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer sheet with a single line through the center.

Mars is not, it 71, the dry old planet we once believed it to be. Astronauts who are 72 to go there in the next decade many find plenty 73 water to slake their thirst.

And with water present the 74 of finding some sort of life on Mars are 75 brighter.

This is the view of 40 geologists who have been analyzing 76 of pictures and other scientific 77 obtained by robot explorers in the "sixties and seventies".

To begin with scientists thought the Red Planet was as 78 the Moon 79 dust storms swirling over vast sandy 80. But now the picture is very different with mountains and valleys carved by 81 glaciers and torrential rivers rushing and rumbling deep underground.

In a report on the 82 of the Martian pictures Dr. Michael Car of the U.S. Geological Survey comments: "I am convinced 83 lots of water on Mars." Any surface water will be in the 84 of ice. But it could save explorers 85 to take so much 86 with them.

The report says 87 Mars probably had a warmer climate in ages 88 due to its axis having been more steeply tilted towards the Sun.

89 convincing signs of plant or animal life have been detected by instruments soft landed on Mars, 90 only the immediate vicinity of landing vehicles could be examined.

71. A) looks B) shows C) seems D) appears

72. A) expected B) hoped C) required D) eager

73. A) to B) of C) more D) in

74. A) chances B) openings C) occasions D) opportunities

75. A) quite B) very C) much D) more

76. A) lots B) quantities C) thousand D) thousands

77. A) tidings B) news C) intelligence D) information

78. A) peaceful B) quiet C) lifeless D) dead

79. A) of B) with C) for D) through

80. A) deserts B) mountains C) seas D) rivers

81. A) energetic B) great C) massive D) mighty

82. A) diagnosis B) syntheses C) analysis D) analyses

83. A) there's B) there're C) here's D) here're

84. A) appearance B) mould C) form D) shape

85. A) have B) having C) carry D) carrying

86. A) water B) ice C) sample D) example

87. A) what B) if C) how D) that
88. A) pass B) past C) ago D) before
89. A) Not B) No C) Nor D) Never
90. A) probably B) perhaps C) supposed D) although

Part IV Writing (30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on **Family Structure Is Changing in China**. Your composition should be based on the information given in the table below and should be no less than 120 words. Remember to write clearly.

Family structure is changing in China

Year	Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Others
1988	70%	22%	8%
1983	63%	33%	4%
1980	60%	37%	3%
1975	52%	45%	3%
1970	43%	56%	2%

Remember you should quote as few figures as possible.

Test 2

Part I Listening Comprehension (20 minutes)

Section A

1. A) Chemicals
B) Rotten cheese.
C) A damp basement.
D) Rotten eggs.
2. A) He wants her to study Chemistry.
B) He wants her to know his friends.
C) He wants her to introduce her friends to him.
D) He wants her to be bold and make friends.
3. A) She's speaking to a coach driver.
B) She's talking to an optometrist.
C) She's speaking to a dentist.
D) She's talking to a shop assistant.
4. A) Tea is better than coffee.
B) The man should switch to tea.
C) There are two reasons not to drink coffee.
D) The man shouldn't drink tea either.
5. A) Arrange a place for him to stay
B) Help him with some heavy work
C) Go away for the weekend.
D) Give him a spare room.
6. A) He wants to express his thanks for the gift.
B) He wants to know how much the gift costs.
C) He doesn't know what the gift means.
D) He can't remember who gave him the gift.
7. A) It's not important how he dances.
B) It's too crowded to dance anyway.
C) If he's careful, no one will notice.
D) No one knows the steps to the dance.
8. A) Edna found some money.
B) Edna was generous to relatives.
C) Edna was relatively generous.
D) Edna received money from relatives.
9. A) Doctor and patient.
B) Niece and nephew.
C) Friends.
D) Brother and sister.
10. A) She wouldn't mind their cutting down the tree.
B) She would be glad if they cut down the tree.
C) She'd rather they not cut down the tree.
D) She thinks the tree is ugly.

Section B Compound Dictation

Directions: In this section you will hear a passage about 150 words three times.

During the first reading, you should listen carefully for a general idea of the whole passage. Then listen to the passage again. When the first part of the passage is being read, you should fill in the missing word during the pause at each blank. After listening

to the second part of the passage you are required to write down the main points according to what you have heard. Finally, when the passage is read the third time you can check what you have written.

Sydney is Australia's most (11)_____ city. The history of Australia (12)_____ here. In (13)_____ Captain Arthur Phillips (14)_____ in Sydney with 11 ships and 1024 (15)_____ from Britain (16)_____ 770 prisoners. Today there are 2.5 million people in Sydney. It is the biggest city in Australia, and one of the most beautiful (17)_____ in the world.

There are over 20 fine beaches close to Sydney. (18)_____. There are some things that made Sydney famous--its beautiful harbour, the Sydney Harbor Bridge, and the Sydney Opera House. (19)_____, There is some truth in both these opinions, (20)_____.

Part II Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)

Directions: There are 4 passages in this part. 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 the answer sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.

About 2 percent of American students are now taught at home. Educators are confused about how this growing practice should be regulated, and also wonder whether children who are not fully registered in school should get some public services. The issue shows how dim the line between public and private education can become, even when that private education is delivered at home.

Probably about half the parents who teach at home are religiously motivated and use lessons by mail (or Internet) from church schools. Perhaps an additional fourth have some doubts about public education, think schools are unsafe or feel that their children have special need that regular schools don't meet. In some cases, parents home-school to escape compulsory (义务的) education; they do least teaching while having older children care for younger sisters or brothers or work in some businesses. Although children often learn well at home, weak regulations in most states mean that officials rarely challenge or monitor parents who say they are home-schooling. With growing frequency, however, public schools offer services to the home-schooled. Districts may permit them to enroll part time for instance; educators fear that otherwise these children could later return full time with serious academic weaknesses, and in any case some districts wanting to qualify for state aid can benefit from part-timers filling empty seats.

Here in Helena, Mary Brown has taught her 12 children at home while manufacturing clothing there in her non-teaching hours. Mrs. Brown says her motive is to give more training in basics, like *phonics* (发音学) than public schools offer. Most of her curriculum is from a church school, with tests returned by mail.

Two years ago her seventh child, Andrea, wanting to join regular athletic programs, enrolled at Capital High School. Andrea soon changed her mind and resumed home study. But she had liked gym and chorus (合唱), so Mrs. Brown asked that she be allowed to continue in them while taking other courses at home.

21. The education experts worry about _____.

- A) whether home-schooling affects the general level of education
- B) whether the children studying at home need help
- C) whether the family education should be abandoned
- D) whether parents use the right methods to teach children

22. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

- A) half the parents feel doubtful about public education
- B) most parents have religious consideration
- C) some parents want to escape the compulsory education
- D) public schools should not interfere in private education

23. The crucial problem of home-school education is ____.

- A) lack of social activities
- B) lack of strict management
- C) inefficiency in study
- D) low teaching quality

24. According to Mrs. Brown, the purpose of teaching her children at home is ____.

- A) looking after them by herself
- B) teaching them what they like
- C) helping her to do housework
- D) teaching them more basics

25. According to the passage, which of the following statement is TRUE?

- A) No measures can be taken to regulate the home-school education.
- B) Most parents are not satisfied with public education.
- C) It is wiser for schools to accept enrollment part time.
- D) The home-schooled have no difference with those in public schools.

Passage Two

If sustainable competitive advantage depends on work-force skills, American firms have a problem. Human-resource management is not traditionally seen as central to the competitive survival of the firm in the United States. Skill acquisition is considered an individual responsibility. Labor is simply another factor of production to be hired—rented at the lowest possible cost—much as one buys raw materials or equipment.

The lack of importance attached to human-resource management can be seen in the corporate hierarchy. In an American firm the chief financial officer is almost always second in command. The post of head of human-resource management is usually a specialized job, off at the edge of the corporate hierarchy. The executive who holds it is never consulted on major strategic decisions and has no chance to move up to Chief Executive Officer (CEO). By way of contrast, in Japan the head of human resource management is central—usually the second most important executive, after the CEO, in the firm's hierarchy.

While American firms often talk about the vast amounts spent on training their work force, in fact they invest less in the skills of their employees than do either Japanese or German firms. The money they do invest is also more highly concentrated on professional and managerial employees. And the limited investments that are made in training workers are also much more narrowly focused on the specific skills necessary to do the next job rather than on the basic background skills that make it possible to absorb new technologies.

As a result, problems emerge when new breakthrough technologies arrive. If American workers, for example, take much longer to learn how to operate new flexible manufacturing stations than workers on Germany (as they do), the effective cost of those stations is lower in Germany than it is in the United States. More time is required before equipment is up and running at capacity, and the need for extensive retraining generates costs and creates bottlenecks that limit the speed with which new equipment can be employed. The result is a slower pace of technological change. And in the end the skills of the bottom half of the population affect the wages of the top half. If the bottom half can't effectively staff the processes that have to be operated, the management and professional jobs that go with these processes will disappear.

26. Which of the following applies to the management of human resources in American companies?

- A) They hire people at the lowest cost regardless of their skills.
- B) They see the gaining of skills as their employees' own business.
- C) They attach more importance to workers than to equipment.
- D) They only hire skilled workers because of keen competition.

27. What is the position of the head of human resource management in an American firm?

- A) He is one of the most important executives in the firm.
- B) His post is likely to disappear when new technologies are introduced.
- C) He is directly under the chief financial executive.
- D) He has no say making important decisions in the firm.

28. The money most American firms put in training mainly goes to ____.

- A) workers who can operate new equipment
- B) technological and managerial staff
- C) workers who lack basic background skills
- D) top executives

29. According to the passage, the decisive factor in maintaining a firm's competitive advantage is ____.

- A) the introduction of new technologies
- B) the improvement of workers' basic skills
- C) the rational composition of professional and managerial employees
- D) the attachment of importance to the bottom half of the employees

30. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) American firms are different from Japanese and German firms in human-resource management.
- B) Extensive retraining is indispensable to effective human-resource management.
- C) The head of human-resource management must be in the central position in a firm's hierarchy.
- D) The human-resource management strategies of American firms affect their competitive capacity.

Passage Three

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage.

If the population of the earth continues to increase at its present rate, there will ultimately not be enough resources left to sustain life on the planet. By the middle of the 21st century, if present trends continue, we will have used up all the oil that drives our cars, for example. Even if scientists develop new ways of feeding the human being, the crowded conditions on earth will make it necessary for us to look for open space somewhere else. But none of the other planets in our solar system are capable of supporting life at present. One possible solution to the problem, however, has recently been proposed by an American scientist, Professor Carl Sagan.

Sagan believes that before the earth's resources are completely exhausted it will be possible to change the atmosphere of Venus (金星) and so create a new world almost as large as earth itself. The difficulty is that Venus is much hotter than the earth and there is only a tiny amount of water there.

Sagan suggests that algae (藻类) organisms that can live in extremely hot or cold atmospheres and at the same time produce oxygen, should be bred in conditions similar to those on Venus. As soon as this has been done, the algae will be placed in small rockets. Spaceships will then fly to Venus and fire the rockets into the atmosphere. In a fairly short time, the algae will break down the carbon dioxide into oxygen and carbon.

When the algae have done their work, the atmosphere will become cooler, but before man can set foot on Venus it will be necessary for the oxygen to produce rain. The surface of the planet will still be too hot for men to land on it but the rain will eventually fall and in a few years something like earth will be reproduced on Venus.