



大学英语六级考试  
(1999 年 1 月)

试卷一

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 centre.

**Example:** You will hear:

You will read: A) 2 hours.            B) 3 hours.  
                         C) 4 hours.            D) 5 hours.

From the conversation we know that the two are talking about some work they will start at 9 o'clock in the morning and have to finish at 2 in the afternoon. Therefore, D) "5 hours" is the correct answer. You should choose [D] on the Answer Sheet and mark it with a single line through the centre.

Sample Answer [A] [B] [C] ~~[D]~~

1. A) She did well on the test.  
B) She's going away for a while.  
C) She didn't have to work hard for the exam.  
D) She worked hard and earned a lot of money.
2. A) Susan has not finished her homework.  
B) Susan didn't do the homework on her own.  
C) Susan did Jack's homework.  
D) Susan is a fast worker.
3. A) His secretary telephoned him.  
B) He listened to a radio report.  
C) He read the newspaper.  
D) He read the cabinet report.
4. A) Take a bus.                            B) Skip the conference.  
C) Hurry to the conference.            D) Take the subway.
5. A) He is angry.                            B) He is bored.  
C) He is worried.                        D) He is confident.
6. A) He paid workmen to decorate the house.  
B) He is a professional builder.  
C) He likes to do repairs and make things himself.  
D) He used to be a workman himself.
7. A) The man broke the jar.

- B) The man had an accident.
- C) The woman forgot where she had left the jar.
- D) The woman doesn't like jam.
- 8. A) The man thinks the book is excellent.
- B) Opinions about the book are varied.
- C) The woman wonders which newspaper the man is reading.
- D) You shouldn't believe everything you read.
- 9. A) It could be cheaper.                      B) It's cheap indeed.
- C) It's too high.                                D) It's quite normal.
- 10. A) Sending for a doctor.
- B) The old man's serious condition.
- C) Diagnosis of an illness.
- D) The admission of a patient.

### 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 the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

#### Passage One

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

- 11. A) Whether the dog will get along with the other pets in the house.
- B) The price of the dog.
- C) The color of the dog.
- D) Whether the dog will fit the environment.
- 12. A) It needs more love and care.
- B) It must be trained so it won't bite.
- C) It must be looked after carefully.
- D) It demands more food and space.
- 13. A) It's easier for their masters to train them.
- B) They are less likely to run away.
- C) It's easier for them to form a relationship with their masters.
- D) They are less likely to be shy with human beings.

#### Passage Two

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

- 14. A) They often go for walks at a leisurely pace.
- B) They like the seaside more than the countryside.
- C) They seldom plan their leisure activities in advance.
- D) They usually have a specific purpose in mind.
- 15. A) Their delight in leisure activities.
- B) Their enthusiasm for the arts.

- C) Their hardworking spirit.  
 D) Their patience in waiting for theater tickets.
16. A) The Polish people enjoy picking wild fruit in their leisure time.  
 B) The Polish people like to spend their holidays abroad.  
 C) The Polish people can now spend their leisure time in various ways.  
 D) The Polish people are fond of walking leisurely in the countryside.

### Passage Three

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

17. A) They will have more seats.                      B) They will have three wheels.  
 C) They will need intelligent drivers.              D) They will be much bigger.
18. A) It will use solar energy as fuel.  
 B) It doesn't need to be refueled.  
 C) It will be more suitable for long distance travel.  
 D) It will be driven by electrical power.
19. A) Special seats will be designed for children.  
 B) More seats will be added.  
 C) Passengers in the car may be seated facing one another.  
 D) The front seats will face forward and the back seats backward.
20. A) Tell the computer where to go.  
 B) Start the engine.  
 C) Refuel the car regularly.  
 D) Choose the right route.

## Part II

### Reading Comprehension

(35 minutes)

**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.

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

Many Americans harbor a grossly distorted and exaggerated view of most of the risks surrounding food. Fergus Clydesdale, head of the department of food science and nutrition at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, says bluntly that if the dangers from bacterially contaminated chicken were as great as some people believe, "the streets would be littered with people lying here and there."

Though the public increasingly demands no-risk food, there is no such thing. Bruce Ames, chairman of the biochemistry department at the University of California, Berkeley, points out that up to 10% of a plant's weight is made up of natural *pesticides* (杀虫剂). Says he: "Since plants do not have jaws or teeth to protect themselves, they employ chemical warfare." And many naturally produced chemicals, though occurring in tiny amounts, prove in laboratory tests to be strong carcinogens — a substance which can cause cancer. *Mushrooms* (蘑菇) might be banned if they were judged by the same standards that apply to food *additives* (添加剂). Declares Christina Stark, a nutritionist at Cornell

University: "We've got far worse natural chemicals in the food supply than anything man-made."

Yet the issues are not that simple. While Americans have no reason to be terrified to sit down at the dinner table, they have every reason to demand significant improvements in food and water safety. They unconsciously and unwillingly take in too much of too many dangerous chemicals. If food already contains natural carcinogens, it does not make much sense to add dozens of new man-made ones. Though most people will withstand the small amounts of contaminants generally found in food and water, at least a few individuals will probably get cancer one day because of what they eat and drink.

To make good food and water supplies even better, the Government needs to tighten its regulatory standards, stiffen its inspection program and strengthen its enforcement policies. The food industry should modify some long-accepted practices or turn to less hazardous alternatives. Perhaps most important, consumers will have to do a better job of learning how to handle and cook food properly. The problems that need to be tackled exist all along the food-supply chain, from fields to processing plants to kitchens.

21. What does the author think of the Americans' view of their food?
  - A) They overlook the risks of the food they eat.
  - B) They overestimate the hazards of their food.
  - C) They are overoptimistic about the safety of their food.
  - D) They overstate the government's interference with the food industry.
22. The author considers it impossible to obtain no-risk food because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) many vegetables contain dangerous natural chemicals
  - B) almost all foods have additives
  - C) no food is free from pollution in the environment
  - D) pesticides are widely used in agriculture
23. By saying "they employ chemical warfare" (Line 4, Para. 2), Bruce Ames means "\_\_\_\_\_".
  - A) plants absorb useful chemicals to promote their growth
  - B) plants produce certain chemicals to combat pests and diseases
  - C) farmers use chemicals to protect plants against pests and diseases
  - D) farmers use man-made chemicals to dissolve the natural chemicals in plants
24. The reduction of the possible hazards in food ultimately depends on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) the consumer      B) the government      C) the grower      D) the processor
25. What is the message the author wants to convey in the passage?
  - A) Immediate measures must be taken to improve food production and processing.
  - B) Eating and drinking have become more hazardous than before.
  - C) There is reason for caution but no cause for alarm with regard to food consumption.
  - D) Health food is not a dream in modern society.

**Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage:**

There are some earth phenomena you can count on, but the magnetic field, some say, is not one of them. It fluctuates in strength, drifts from its axis, and every few 100,000 years undergoes a dramatic polarity reversal — a period when north pole becomes south pole and south pole becomes north pole. But how is the field generated, and why is it so unstable?

Groundbreaking research by two French geophysicists promises to shed some light on the mystery. Using 80 metres of deep sea *sediment* (沉淀物) core, they have obtained measurements of magnetic-field intensity that span 11 polarity reversals and four million years. The analysis reveals that intensity appears to fluctuate with a clear, well-defined rhythm. Although the strength of the magnetic field varies irregularly during the short term, there seems to be an inevitable long-term decline preceding each polarity reversal. When the poles flip — a process that takes several hundred thousand years — the magnetic field rapidly regains its strength and the cycle is repeated.

The results have caused a stir among geophysicists. The magnetic field is thought to originate from *molten* (熔化的) iron in the outer core, 3,000 kilometres beneath the earth's surface. By studying mineral grains found in material ranging from rocks to clay articles, previous researchers have already been able to identify reversals dating back 170 million years, including the most recent switch 730,000 years ago. How and why they occur, however, has been widely debated. Several theories link polarity flips to external disasters such as *meteor* (陨星) impacts. But Peter Olson, a geophysicist at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, says this is unlikely if the French researchers are right. In fact, Olson says intensity that predictably declines from one reversal to the next contradicts 90 per cent of the models currently under study. If the results prove to be valid geophysicists will have a new theory to guide them in their quest to understand the earth's inner physics. It certainly points the direction for future research.

26. Which of the following titles is most appropriate to the passage?

- A) Formation of the Two Poles of the Earth.
- B) A New Approach to the Study of Geophysics.
- C) Measurement of the Earth's Magnetic-Field Intensity.
- D) Polarity Reversal: A Fantastic Phenomenon of Nature.

27. The word "flip" (Line 6, Para. 2) most probably means "\_\_\_\_\_".

- A) intensify      B) fluctuate      C) reverse      D) decline

28. What have the two French geophysicists discovered in their research?

- A) Some causes of the fluctuation of the earth's magnetic field.
- B) Some regularity in the changes of the earth's magnetic field.
- C) The frequency of polarity reversals.
- D) The origin of the earth's magnetic field.

29. The French geophysicists' study is different from currently prevailing theories in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the way the earth's magnetic intensity is measured
- B) its identification of the origin of the earth's magnetic field
- C) the way the earth's fluctuation rhythm is defined
- D) its explanation of the shift in the earth's polarity

30. In Peter Olson's opinion the French experiment \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) has caused great confusion among the world's geophysicists
- B) is certain to help predict external disasters
- C) has successfully solved the mystery of polarity reversals
- D) is likely to direct further research in the inner physics of the earth

**Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage:**

Imagine a world in which there was suddenly no emotion — a world in which human beings could feel no love or happiness, no terror or hate. Try to imagine the consequences of such a transformation. People might not be able to stay alive: knowing neither joy nor pleasure, anxiety nor fear, they would be as likely to repeat acts that hurt them as acts that were beneficial. They could not learn: they could not benefit from experience because this emotionless world would lack rewards and punishments. Society would soon disappear: people would be as likely to harm one another as to provide help and support. Human relationships would not exist: in a world without friends or enemies, there could be no marriage, affection among companions, or bonds among members of groups. Society's economic *underpinnings* (支柱) would be destroyed: since earning \$ 10 million would be no more pleasant than earning \$ 10, there would be no incentive to work. In fact, there would be no incentives of any kind. For as we will see, incentives imply a capacity to enjoy them.

In such a world, the chances that the human species would survive are next to zero, because emotions are the basic instrument of our survival and adaptation. Emotions structure the world for us in important ways. As individuals, we categorize objects on the basis of our emotions. True, we consider the length, shape, size, or texture, but an object's physical aspects are less important than what it has done or can do to us — hurt us, surprise us, anger us or make us joyful. We also use categorizations colored by emotions in our families, communities, and overall society. Out of our emotional experiences with objects and events comes a social feeling of agreement that certain things and actions are "good" and others are "bad", and we apply these categories to every aspect of our social life — from what foods we eat and what clothes we wear to how we keep promises and which people our group will accept. In fact, society exploits our emotional reactions and attitudes, such as loyalty, morality, pride, shame, guilt, fear and greed, in order to maintain itself. It gives high rewards to individuals who perform important tasks such as surgery, makes heroes out of individuals for unusual or dangerous achievements such as flying fighter planes in a war, and uses the legal and *penal* (刑法的) system to make people afraid to engage in antisocial acts.

31. The reason why people might not be able to stay alive in a world without emotion is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) they would not be happy with a life without love
- B) they would not be able to tell the texture of objects
- C) they would do things that hurt each other's feelings
- D) they would not know what was beneficial and what was harmful to them

32. According to the passage, people's learning activities are possible because they \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) enjoy being rewarded for doing the right thing
- B) know what is vital to the progress of society
- C) believe that emotions are fundamental for them to stay alive
- D) benefit from providing help and support to one another

33. It can be inferred from the passage that the economic foundation of society is dependent on \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the categorizations of our emotional experiences

- B) the will to work for pleasure  
 C) the ability to make money  
 D) the capacity to enjoy incentives
34. Emotions are significant for man's survival and adaptation because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) they provide the means by which people view the size or shape of objects  
 B) they are the basis for the social feeling of agreement by which society is maintained  
 C) they encourage people to perform dangerous achievements  
 D) they generate more love than hate among people
35. The emotional aspects of an object are more important than its physical aspects in that they \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) help society exploit its members for profit  
 B) encourage us to perform important tasks  
 C) help to perfect the legal and penal system  
 D) help us adapt our behavior to the world surrounding us

**Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage:**

The Carnegie Foundation report says that many colleges have tried to be "all things to all people". In doing so, they have increasingly catered to a narrow minded careerism while failing to cultivate a global vision among their students. The current crisis, it contends, does not derive from a legitimate desire to put learning to productive ends. The problem is that in too many academic fields, the work has no context; skills, rather than being means, have become ends. Students are offered a variety of options and allowed to pick their way to a degree. In short, driven by careerism, "the nation's colleges and universities are more successful in providing *credentials* (文凭) than in providing a quality education for their students." The report concludes that the special challenge confronting the undergraduate college is one of shaping an "integrated core" of common learning. Such a core would introduce students "to essential knowledge, to connections across the disciplines, and in the end, to application of knowledge to life beyond the campus."

Although the key to a good college is a high-quality faculty, the Carnegie study found that most colleges do very little to encourage good teaching. In fact, they do much to undermine it. As one professor observed: "Teaching is important, we are told, and yet faculty know that research and publication matter most." Not surprisingly, over the last twenty years colleges and universities have failed to graduate half of their four-year degree candidates. Faculty members who dedicate themselves to teaching soon discover that they will not be granted *tenure* (终身任期), promotion, or substantial salary increases. Yet 70 percent of all faculty say their interests lie more in teaching than in research. Additionally, a frequent complaint among young scholars is that "There is pressure to publish, although there is virtually no interest among administrators or colleagues in the content of the publications."

36. When a college tries to be "all things to all people" (Line 1, Para. 1), it aims to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) satisfy the needs of all kinds of students simultaneously  
 B) focus on training students in various skills  
 C) encourage students to take as many courses as possible  
 D) make learning serve academic rather than productive ends



37. By saying that "in too many academic fields, the work has no context" (Lines 4-5, Para. 1) the author means that the teaching in these areas \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) ignores the actual situation  
B) is not based on the right perspective  
C) only focuses on an integrated core of common learning  
D) gives priority to the cultivation of a global vision among students
38. One of the reasons for the current crisis in American colleges and universities is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) a narrow vocationalism has come to dominate many colleges  
B) students don't have enough freedom in choosing what they want to learn  
C) skills are being taught as a means to an end  
D) students are only interested in obtaining credentials
39. American colleges and universities failed to graduate half of their four-year degree candidates because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) most of them lack high-quality faculties  
B) the interests of most faculty members lie in research  
C) there are not enough incentives for students to study hard  
D) they attach greater importance to research and publication than to teaching
40. It can be inferred from the passage that high-quality college education calls for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) putting academic work in the proper context  
B) a commitment to students and effective teaching  
C) the practice of putting learning to productive ends  
D) dedication to research in frontier areas of knowledge

**Part II****Vocabulary****(20 minutes)**

**Directions:** There are 30 incomplete sentences 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 centre.

41. The Space Age \_\_\_\_\_ in October 1957 when the first artificial satellite was launched by the Soviet Union.
- A) initiated      B) originated      C) embarked      D) commenced
42. John said that he didn't quite \_\_\_\_\_ and asked me to repeat what I had said.
- A) snatch up      B) summon up      C) catch on      D) watch out
43. When he tried to make a \_\_\_\_\_, he found that the hotel that he wanted was completely filled because of a convention.
- A) complaint      B) claim      C) reservation      D) decision
44. A budget of five dollars a day is totally \_\_\_\_\_ for a trip round Europe.
- A) inadequate      B) incapable      C) incompatible      D) invalid
45. In our highly technological society, the number of jobs for unskilled workers is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) shrinking      B) obscuring      C) altering      D) constraining
46. The fire has caused great losses, but the factory tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the consequences by saying that

- the damage was not as serious as reported.  
 A) decrease      B) subtract      C) minimize      D) degrade
47. If the world is to remain peaceful the utmost effort must be made by nations to limit local  
 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) collisions      B) combats      C) contradictions      D) conflicts
48. Satellite communications are so up-to-date that even when \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the Pacific,  
 businessmen can contact their offices as if they were next door.  
 A) gliding      B) cruising      C) piloting      D) patrolling
49. In the past ten years skyscrapers have developed \_\_\_\_\_ in Chicago and New York City.  
 A) homogeneously      B) simultaneously      C) spontaneously      D) harmoniously
50. The court considers a financial \_\_\_\_\_ to be an appropriate way of punishing him.  
 A) option      B) duty      C) obligation      D) penalty
51. I think that I committed a \_\_\_\_\_ in asking her because she seemed very upset by my question.  
 A) blunder      B) revenge      C) reproach      D) scandal
52. Even when textbooks are \_\_\_\_\_ through a school system, methods of teaching may vary great-  
 ly.  
 A) commonplace      B) standardized      C) competitive      D) generalized
53. They have always regarded a man of \_\_\_\_\_ and fairness as a reliable friend.  
 A) robustness      B) temperament      C) integrity      D) compactness
54. All individuals are required to \_\_\_\_\_ to the laws made by their governments.  
 A) obey      B) conform      C) concede      D) observe
55. The basic causes are unknown, although certain conditions that may lead to cancer have been  
 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) identified      B) guaranteed      C) notified      D) conveyed
56. It is very strange but I had an \_\_\_\_\_ that the plane would crash.  
 A) inspiration      B) intuition      C) imagination      D) incentive
57. The changing image of the family on television provides \_\_\_\_\_ into changing attitudes toward  
 the family in society.  
 A) insights      B) presentations      C) revelations      D) specifications
58. The town planning commission said that their financial outlook for the next year was optimistic.  
 They expect increased tax \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) efficiency      B) revenues      C) privileges      D) validity
59. Bill is an example of a severely disabled person who has become \_\_\_\_\_ at many survival skills.  
 A) proficient      B) persistent      C) consistent      D) sufficient
60. The ties that bind us together in common activity are so \_\_\_\_\_ that they can disappear at any  
 moment.  
 A) trivial      B) fatal      C) tentative      D) feeble
61. During the construction of skyscrapers, cranes are used to \_\_\_\_\_ building materials to the upper  
 floors.  
 A) toss      B) tow      C) hoist      D) hurl

62. Diamonds have little \_\_\_\_\_ value and their price depends almost entirely on their scarcity.  
A) extinct            B) permanent            C) surplus            D) intrinsic
63. The kitchen was small and \_\_\_\_\_ so that the disabled could reach everything without difficulty.  
A) conventional            B) compact            C) compatible            D) concise
64. He will \_\_\_\_\_ resign in view of the complete failure of the research project.  
A) doubtfully            B) adequately            C) presumably            D) reasonably
65. The goal is to make higher education available to everyone who is willing and capable \_\_\_\_\_ his financial situation.  
A) with respect to            B) in accord with            C) regardless of            D) in terms of
66. The original elections were declared \_\_\_\_\_ by the former military ruler.  
A) void            B) vulgar            C) surplus            D) extravagant
67. They stood gazing at the happy \_\_\_\_\_ of children playing in the park.  
A) perspective            B) view            C) landscape            D) scene
68. An obvious change of attitude at the top towards women's status in society will \_\_\_\_\_ through the current law system in Japan.  
A) permeate            B) probe            C) violate            D) grope
69. When he realized he had been \_\_\_\_\_ to sign the contract by intrigue, he threatened to start legal proceedings to cancel the agreement.  
A) elicited            B) excited            C) deduced            D) induced
70. These areas rely on agriculture almost \_\_\_\_\_, having few mineral resources and a minimum of industrial development.  
A) respectively            B) extraordinarily            C) incredibly            D) exclusively

## 试卷二

### Part IV

### Short Answer Questions

(15 minutes)

**Directions:** In this part there is a short passage with five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words (not exceeding 10 words).

Many parents who welcome the idea of turning off the TV and spending more time with the family are still worried that without TV they would constantly be on call as entertainers for their children. They remember thinking up all sorts of things to do when they were kids. But their own kids seem different, less resourceful, somehow. When there's nothing to do, these parents observe regretfully, their kids seem unable to come up with anything to do besides turning on the TV.

One father, for example, says, "When I was a kid, we were always thinking up things to do, projects and games. We certainly never complained in an annoying way to our parents, 'I have nothing to do!'" He compares this with his own children today: "They're simply lazy. If someone doesn't entertain them, they'll happily sit there watching TV all day."

There is one word for this father's disappointment: unfair. It is as if he were disappointed in them for not reading Greek though they have never studied the language. He *deplores* (哀叹) his chil-

dren's lack of inventiveness, as if the ability to play were something *innate* (天生的) that his children are missing. In fact, while the tendency to play is built into the human species, the actual ability to play — to imagine, to invent, to elaborate on reality in a playful way — and the ability to gain fulfillment from it, these are skills that have to be learned and developed.

Such disappointment, however, is not only unjust, it is also destructive. Sensing their parents' disappointment, children come to believe that they are, indeed, lacking something, and that this makes them less worthy of admiration and respect. Giving children the opportunity to develop new resources, to enlarge their horizons and discover the pleasures of doing things on their own is, on the other hand, a way to help children develop a confident feeling about themselves as capable and interesting people.

**Questions:** (注意: 答题尽量简短, 超过 10 个词要扣分。每条横线限写一个英语单词, 标点符号不占格。)

S1. According to many parents, without TV, their children would like them to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

S2. Many parents think that, instead of watching a lot of TV, their children should \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

S3. The father often blames his children for not being able to entertain themselves. This is unfair because they \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

S4. When parents show constant disappointment in their children, the destructive effect is that the children will \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

S5. Developing children's self-confidence helps bring them up to be \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Part V

## Writing

(30 minutes)

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Don't Hesitate to Say "No"**. You should write at least 120 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 别人请求帮助时, 在什么情况下我们会说“不”。
2. 为什么有些人在该说“不”的时候不说“不”。
3. 该说“不”时不说“不”的坏处。

**Don't Hesitate to Say "No"**

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