

2017 年上海海事大学攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

(重要提示: 答案必须做在答题纸上, 做在试题上不给分)

考试科目代码 621 考试科目: 综合英语

I. Complete each of the following statements with the best appropriate word(s) or phrase(s) chosen from the 4 alternatives attached: (40/150)

1. Only after I finished reading this essay did it dawn on me that the whole story about grebe's diet was not a _____ of her imagination.
A. figment B. fantasy C. fabrication D. figure
2. Cooper was delighted to learn that aluminum is the most plentiful metal in the earth's _____.
A. surface B. exterior C. crust D. core
3. A detective story _____ in the African jungle or Australian bush appeals to our interest in remote places.
A. set down B. set C. set out D. set to
4. The young, self-assured prince _____ power upon the death of the king.
A. assumed B. consumed C. resumed D. presumed
5. The good news that his book was at last published left him with a _____ of satisfaction in his heart.
A. blaze B. scorch C. flame D. glow
6. The writer was not used to speaking in public, but when the opportunity presented itself, he rose to the _____.
A. chance B. circumstance C. event D. occasion
7. The new employee would be more popular in the office if he didn't try so hard to _____ himself with the boss.
A. regard B. identify C. ingratiate D. appreciate
8. The U. S. Government made a very _____ excuse for conducting the experiments with the

hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific.

A. feeble B. faint C. frail D. fragile

9. The twin brothers showed great _____ to their elder sister, who had acted as sole parent to them since their parents died during the American Civil War.

A. allegiance B. devotion C. compliance D. subjection

10. The novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which effectively _____ the unfairness toward black people, was a major influence in _____ the anti-slavery movement.

A. portrayed ... strengthening B. attacked ... pacifying
C. glamorized ... launching D. exposed ... condemning

11. Professor Brown is becoming increasingly _____; last week he locked himself out of his laboratory three times.

A. oblivious B. mindless C. forgetful D. absent

12. _____ care would have prevent the road accident.

A. Much B. A little C. Little D. Less

13. From the distance _____.

A. came sporadic shots B. sporadic shots came
C. did sporadic shots come D. sporadic shots did come

14. In dealing with the problem, Sophia felt at her _____.

A. wits end B. wit's end C. wits ends D. wit's ends

15. The news might be unexpected; _____, it is true.

A. nevertheless B. furthermore C. inasmuch D. albeit

16. There is no man _____ errs.

A. who B. that C. yet D. but

17. Everyone in the team was successful, _____?

A. wasn't he B. wasn't everyone C. was he D. was everyone

18. This was the first time Tracy _____ to travel by driving her own SRV.
- A. tries B. has tried C. had tried D. tried
19. American continent was _____ an empty land by the time of Columbus' "discovery".
- A. anything B. something but C. anything but D. something
20. Betty, an intriguing actress in the troupe, was _____ to tell the truth.
- A. too much of a coward C. too a coward
B. too much coward D. to coward
21. At the end of the semester, you are required to write a _____.
- A. six-hundred-words C. six-hundred-word
B. six-hundreds-words D. six-hundreds-word
22. Follow the instruction step by step, _____ you'll fail.
- A. and B. or C. otherwise D. therefore
23. Much _____ I respect him, I cannot agree to his suggestion.
- A. that B. as C. since D. but
24. Your article on fish and wildlife is needed by next week, so make sure you keep to the _____.
- A. dead spot B. dead lock C. deadline D. dead end
25. Well all understood the _____ of Neil Postman's argument after studying the essay.
- A. matter B. gist C. tenor D. pitch
26. Sand is to glass as clay is to _____.
- A. stone B. hay C. bricks D. dirt
27. With time, the memory of childhood quarrels and frictions among family members will fade into _____.
- A. obliteration B. oblivion C. realization D. thin air
28. Around Caracas, the _____ farmland of the valley floor, originally used for growing sugar cane

and coffee, was soon absorbed by the expansion of the city.

A. fertile B. futile C. luxuriant D. luxurious

29. “The show must go on” is the oldest _____ of show business; every true performer lives by that creed.

A. euphemism B. allegory C. precursor D. tenet

30. A diligent scholar, she devoted herself _____ to the completion of the book.

A. assiduously B. ingenuously C. voluminously D. sporadically

31. If Amelia Earhart’s acceptance was by no means _____, her fame was unusually widespread and her popularity long-lived.

A. universal B. ambiguous C. expedient D. genuine

32. The omniscient narrator stands above the story he is telling, _____ his knowledge of what will occur.

A. disheartened by B. unlimited in C. ostracized for D. vindicated by

33. Newly woven Indian baskets often _____ a strange smell.

A. give away B. give over C. give off D. give up

34. That young man’s first commercial venture was selling handmade _____ for model airplanes.

A. outfits B. kits C. tools D. plans

35. At the memorial service, our director paid _____ to the professor’s outstanding contribution to the educational cause.

A. attribute B. recognition C. tribute D. acknowledgment

36. We wondered how the information was _____ to the press before it was officially announced.

A. dropped B. seeped C. leaked D. dripped

37. The new TV station is worried about _____ revenue from advertisers.

A. fading B. reducing C. depleting D. dwindling

38. The proposal was carried by a very narrow _____.

- A. edge B. verge C. border D. margin

39. The cathedral, one of the loveliest and richest in _____ interest in England, was erected in 1382.

- A. scientific B. architectural C. ancient D. decorative

40. His test results for the whole term were not very _____. He did well one week and badly the next.

- A. consequent B. continuous C. consistent D. invariable

II. Read the following passages and choose the best from the four choices to complete the work attached at the end of each passage: (40/150)

Passage A

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. 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 might be banned if they were judged by the same standards that apply to food additives. 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.

1. What does the author think of the Americans' view of their food?
 - A. They overstate the government's interference with the food industry.
 - B. They are overoptimistic about the safety of their food.
 - C. They overestimate the hazards of their food.
 - D. They overlook the risks of the food they eat.

2. The author considers it impossible to obtain no-risk food because _____.
 - A. no food is free from pollution in the environment
 - B. pesticides are widely used in agriculture
 - C. many vegetables contain dangerous natural chemicals
 - D. almost all foods have additives

3. By saying "they employ chemical warfare" (Line 4, Para. 2), Bruce Ames means "_____".
 - A. plants produce certain chemicals to combat pests and diseases
 - B. plants absorb useful chemicals to promote their growth
 - C. farmers use man-made chemicals to dissolve the natural chemicals in plants
 - D. farmers use chemicals to protect plants against pests and diseases

4. The reduction of the possible hazards in food ultimately depends on _____.
 - A. the government
 - B) the consumer
 - C) the processor
 - D) the grower

5. What is the message the author wants to convey in the passage?
 - A. Eating and drinking have become more hazardous than before.
 - B. Immediate measures must be taken to improve food production and processing.
 - C. Health food is not a dream in modern society.
 - D. There is reason for caution but no cause for alarm with regard to food consumption.

Passage B

"Welcome to the U.S.A.! Major Credit cards accepted!"

By the millions they are coming, no longer the tired, the poor, the wretched mass longing for a better living. These are the wealthy. "We don't have a budget," says a biologist from Brazil, as she walks with two companions through New York City's South Street. "We just use our credit cards."

The U.S. has long been one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, but this year has been exceptional. First there was the World Cup, which drew thousands from every corner of the globe;

then came the weakening of the U.S. dollar against major currencies. Now the U.S., still the world's superpower, can also claim to be the world's bargain basement. *Nobody undersells America* these days on just about everything, from consumer electronics to fashion clothes to tennis rackets. Bottom retail prices—anywhere from 30% to 70% lower than those in Europe and Asia—have attracted some 47 million visitors, who are expected to leave behind \$79 billion in 1994. That's up from \$74 billion the year before.

True, not everyone comes just for bargains. There remains an undeniable fascination in the rest of the world with all things American, nourished by Hollywood films and U.S. television series. But shopping in the U.S.A. is proving irresistible. Every week thousands arrive with empty suitcases ready to be filled; some even rent an additional hotel room to hold their purchases. The buying binge has become as important as watching Old Faithful Fountains erupt in Yellowstone Park or sunbathing on a beach in Florida.

The U.S. has come at last to appreciate what other countries learned long ago: the pouring in of foreign tourists may not always be convenient, but it does put money in the bank. And with a trade deficit at about \$130 billion and growing for the past 12 months, the U.S. needs all the deposits it can get. Compared with American tourists abroad, visitors to the U.S. stay longer and spend more money at each stop: an average of 12.2 night and \$1624 a traveler versus the Americans' four nights and \$298.

6. From what the Brazilian biologist says, we know that tourists like her _____.

- A. are reluctant to carry cash with them
- B. simply don't care how much they spend
- C. are not good at planning their expenditure
- D. often spend more money than they can afford

7. The reason why 1994 was exceptional is that _____.

- A. it saw an unusually large number of tourists to the U.S.
- B. it witnessed a drop in the number of tourists to the U.S.
- C. tourism was hardly affected by the weakening of the U.S. dollar that year
- D. tourists came to the U.S. for sightseeing rather than for bargains that year

8. By saying "nobody undersells America" (Line 4, Para. 3), the author means that _____.

- A. no other country underestimates the competitiveness of American products
- B. nobody expects the Americans to cut the prices of their commodities
- C. nobody restrains the selling of American goods
- D. no other country sells at a lower price than America

9. Why does the author assert that all things American are fascinating to foreigners?

- A. Because they have gained much publicity through the American media.
- B. Because they represent the world's latest fashions.
- C. Because they embody the most sophisticated technology.
- D. Because they are available at all tourist destinations.

10. From the passage we can conclude that the U.S. has come to realize _____.

- A. the weakening if the U.S. dollar can result in trade deficits
- B. the lower the retail prices, the greater the profits
- C. tourism can make great contributions to its economy
- D. visitors to the U.S. are wealthier than U.S. tourists abroad

Passage C

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 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 penal system to make people afraid to engage in antisocial acts.

11. The reason why people might not be able to stay alive in a world without emotion is that _____.

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

12. According to the passage, people's learning activities are possible because they _____.

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

13. It can be inferred from the passage that the economic foundation of society is dependent on _____.

- A. the ability to make money
- B. the will to work for pleasure
- C. the capacity to enjoy incentives
- D. the categorizations of our emotional experiences

14. 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

15. 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

Passage D

Opportunities for rewarding work become fewer for both men and women as they grow older. After age 40, job hunting becomes even more difficult. Many workers stay at jobs they are too old for rather than face possible rejection. Our youth-oriented, throw-away culture sees little value in older people. In writer Lilian Heilman's words, they have "the wisdom that comes with age that we can't make use of."

Unemployment and economic need for work is higher among older women, especially minorities, than among younger white women. A national council reports these findings: Though unemployed longer when seeking work, older women job-hunt harder, hold a job longer with less absenteeism, perform as well or better, are more reliable, and are more willing to learn than men or younger women. Yet many older women earn poor pay and face a future of poverty in their retirement years. When “sexism meets ageism, poverty is no longer on the doorstep; it moves in,” according to Tish Sommers, director of a special study on older women for the National Organization for Women.

Yet a 1981 report on the White House Conference on Aging shows that as a group, older Americans are the “wealthiest, best fed, best housed, healthiest, most self-reliant older population in our history. “This statement is small comfort to those living below the poverty line, but it does explode some of the old traditional beliefs and fears. Opportunities for moving in and up in a large company may shrink but many older people begin successful small businesses, volunteer in satisfying activities, and stay active for many years. They have few role models because in previous generations the life span was much shorter and expectations of life were fewer. They are ploughing new ground.

Employers are beginning to recognize that the mature person can bring a great deal of stability and responsibility to a position. One doesn’t lose ability and experience on the eve of one’s 65th or 70th birthday any more than one grows up instantly at age 21.

16. After the age of 40, _____.

- A. most workers are tired of their present jobs
- B. many workers tend to stick to their present jobs
- C. people find their jobs more rewarding than before
- D. people still wish to hunt for more suitable jobs

17. From Heilman’s remark, we can see that _____.

- A. full use has been made of the wisdom of older people
- B. the wisdom of older people is not valued by American society
- C. older people are no less intelligent than young people
- D. the wisdom of older people is of great value to American society

18. Tish Sommers argues that _____.

- A. older women find it hard to escape poverty
- B. older women usually perform better in their jobs
- C. the major cause of the poverty of older women is sexism
- D. more people have come to believe in sexism and ageism

19. According to the third paragraph, it can be seen that older Americans _____.

- A. have more job opportunities than young people
- B. live below the poverty line
- C. have new opportunities to remain active in society
- D. no longer believe in the promise of a happy life upon retirement

20. It can be concluded from the passage that the writer _____.

- A. calls attention to the living conditions of older Americans

- B. believes that value of older people is gaining increasing recognition
- C. attempts to justify the youth-oriented, throw-away culture of the United States
- D. argues people should not retire at the age of 65 or 70

Passage E

There were several reasons why the Industrial Revolution started in the Great Britain rather than in France, the other great power of the day. In the first place, Britain had the money necessary to finance the larger enterprises. England's supremacy on the seas had encouraged commerce, and Englishmen had been amassing wealth through their commerce and industry. The newly rich classes in that country were not the aristocratic group, but merchants and businessmen who were willing to devote themselves to industry and scientific agriculture. The wealth of France, on the other hand, was largely in the hands of the nobility, and they were not willing to do the necessary work to develop industry. In the second place, Great Britain had undertaken very early the manufacturing of inexpensive and more practical products for which there would be ever-growing demand from the people, especially the new middle class. On the other hand, France produced articles in the luxury class. These could never be turned out in quantities because they demanded individuality. England was the producer of goods that were produced in quantities, and if she could find a cheaper means of producing them, her markets would grow. So she was ready for methods that would make it possible to manufacture in large quantities. In the third place, for a long time England had large numbers of semiskilled workers. When the feudal system broke down in England and the manors were turned to sheep raising, numbers of Englishmen went to the towns. There they engaged in weaving, making shoes, wood carving and many other occupations that developed skills. When the industrial revolution began, these men were available for the work on the new machines. Moreover they were free men who could move from place to place as the need for workers arose. This and not been the case in France, which was still chiefly an agricultural country with peasants bound to their masters in many ways so they could not easily move to the cities. In the fourth place, coal was abundant in Great Britain, and a large amount of this cheap fuel was necessary for running the factories. There was coal in northern France, too, but France was late in tapping such resources because really everyone depended directly or indirectly on farming for his living.

21. Britain had the money necessary to develop industry because _____.
 - A. Britain was much wealthier than France at that time.
 - B. the British government encouraged the development of industry
 - C. the merchants and businessmen were willing to finance the industry
 - D. the aristocratic group was willing to develop the industry

22. According to the passage, French people attached importance to _____.
 - A. the quantities of the articles
 - B. the individuality of the articles
 - C. the practicality of the articles
 - D. the price of the articles

23. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. The wealth of France was largely in the hands of new middle class.
 - B. French people were bound to the new machines.

- C. France was more likely to produce goods in quantities.
 - D. France could not get free workers necessary to the industry.
24. When the industrial revolution began, Englishmen _____.
- A. were busy amassing wealth through commerce and industry
 - B. had found a cheaper means of producing goods needed in quantities
 - C. depended on farming for their living
 - D. could move from place to place as the need for workers arose
25. What can be inferred from the passage?
- A. The demand for luxury goods was limited.
 - B. Industrial Revolution was the result of the interaction of various factors.
 - C. French people preferred farming to industry and commerce
 - D. Coal was very important to people's life.

Passage F

The "standard of living" of any country means the average person's share of the goods and services which the country produces. A country's standard of living, therefore, depends first and foremost on its capacity to produce wealth. "Wealth" in this sense is not money, for we do not live on money but on things money can buy: "goods" as food and clothing, and "service" such as transport and entertainment.

A country's capacity to produce wealth depends upon many factors, most of which have an effect on one another. Wealth depends to a great extent upon a country's natural resources, such as coal, gold, and other mineral, water supply and so on. Some regions of the world are well supplied with coal and minerals, and have a fertile soil and a favorable climate; other regions possess none of them. The USA is one; of the wealthiest regions of the world because she has vast natural resources within her borders, her soil is fertile, and her climate is varied. The Sahara Desert, on the other hand, is one of the least wealthy.

Next to natural resources comes the ability to turn them to use. Sound and stable political conditions, and freedom from foreign invasion, enable a country to develop its natural resources peacefully and steadily, and to produce more wealth than another country equally well served by nature but less well ordered. Another important factor is the technical efficiency of a country's people. Old countries that have, through many centuries, trained up numerous skilled craftsmen and technicians are better placed to produce wealth. As a country becomes wealthier, its people have a large margin for saving, and can put their savings into factories and machines which will help workers to produce more goods in their working day.

A country's standard of living does not only depend upon the wealth that is produced and consumed within its own borders, but also upon what is indirectly produced through international trade. For example, Britain's wealth in foodstuffs and other agricultural products would be much less if she had to depend only on those grown at home. Trade makes it possible for her surplus manufactured goods to be traded abroad for the agricultural products that would otherwise be lacking. A country's wealth is, therefore, much influenced by its manufacturing capacity, provided that other countries can be found ready to accept its manufactures.

26. According to the author, a nation's wealth depends upon _____.
- A. its standard of living

- B. its money
 - C. its ability to provide goods and services
 - D. its ability to provide entertainment
27. The best title for the passage would be_____.
- A. The wealth of a country
 - B. The standard of living
 - C. The natural resources of a country
 - D. None of the above
28. The word “foremost” in the first paragraph most probably means_____.
- A. firstly
 - B. largely
 - C. for the most part
 - D. most importantly
29. The main idea of the second paragraph is that_____.
- A. the USA is one of the richest countries in the world
 - B. the Sahara Desert is a very poor region
 - C. a country's wealth depends on many factors
 - D. natural resources are an important factor in the wealth or poverty of a country.
30. Which of the following about Britain's wealth is TRUE according to the passage?
- A. Britain's wealth is entirely produced and consumed within its borders.
 - B. Britain is more dependent upon trade than any other country in the world.
 - C. Britain manufactures more than it needs for home consumption.
 - D. Britain wealth lies only in what it can manufacture.

Passage G

In some ways the employment interview is like a persuasive speech because the applicant (interviewee) seeks to persuade the employer (interviewer) to employ him or her. Several suggestions might prove helpful for ascertaining certain types of information prior to the interview. First, the applicant should know what kind of job he wants and how that job relates to his career objective. It is important that the applicant be able to state his reasons for wishing to work for a particular company. Second, the applicant should seek as much information as possible concerning the company. Relevant information for the applicant to locate includes such items as the location of the home and regional offices, the financial status of the company, plans for expansion, and company philosophy. Information about most major corporations is available in reference books and periodicals.

After gathering information concerning the company, the applicant is ready for the interview. The interviewer's first impression comes from the interviewer's appearance. For most interviews, appropriate dress for men is a conservative dark colored suit with a long sleeve white or light blue shirt and conservative tie. For women a conservative, tailored suit or dress is appropriate. Both men and women should have neat, conservative length hair.

Although hairstyle and dress matters are personal tastes, many personnel directors form initial

impression from these characteristics. For example, one recent college graduate, who felt himself qualified, interviewed for public relations job. However, the personnel manager considered the young man's long hair, sloppy dress, and overly casual manner unsuited for this particular position.

31. For whom is the passage most likely written?
- A. An employee. B. An employer.
C. An interviewee. D. An interviewer.
32. As the author suggests, what the applicant should know before the interview is _____.
A. the type of work and his career expectation
B. his career objective a particular company will decide
C. the reasons a particular company has to employ him
D. All of the above.
33. Before the interview, the applicant should obtain some information about _____.
A. most major corporations
B. the company he wants to work for
C. reference books and periodicals
D. business and philosophy
34. What the applicant wears, as the author suggests, can make him look _____.
A. personal B. persuasive
C. informative D. conservative
35. What is the author trying to tell us through the example in the last paragraph?
A. The importance of personal taste.
B. The importance of public relations.
C. The importance of self confidence.
D. The importance of first impression.

Passage H

For office innovators, the unrealized dream of the “paperless” office is a classic example of high-tech hubris. Today’s office drone is drowning in more paper than ever before.

But after decades of hype, American offices may finally be losing their paper obsession. The demand for paper used to outstrip the growth of the US economy, but the past two or three years have seen a marked slowdown in sales—despite a healthy economic scene.

Analysts attribute the decline to such factors as advances in digital databases and communication systems. Escaping our craving for paper, however, will be anything but an easy affair.

“Old habits are hard to break,” said Marilyn Dunn, a communications supplies director. “There are some functions that paper serves where a screen display doesn’t work. Those functions are both its strength and its weakness.”

In the early to mid-’90s, a booming economy and improved desktop printers helped boost paper sales

by 6 to 7 percent each year. The convenience of desktop printing allowed the office workers to indulge in printing anything and everything at very little effort or cost.

But now, the growth rate of paper sales in the United States is flattening by about half a percent each year. Between 2004 and 2005, Ms. Dunn says, plain white office paper will see less than a 4 percent growth rate, despite the strong overall economy. A primary reason for the change, says Dunn, is that for the first time ever, some 47 percent of the workforce entered the job market after computers had already been introduced to offices.

“We are finally seeing a reduction in the amount of paper being used per worker in the workplace,” says John Maine, vice president of a pulp and paper economic consulting firm. “More information is transmitted electronically, and more and more people are comfortable with the information residing only in electronic form without printing multiple backups.”

In addition, Mr. Maine points to the lackluster employment market for white-collar workers —the primary drive of office paper consumption—for the shift in paper usage. The real paradigm shift may be in the way paper is used. Since the advent of advanced and reliable office-network systems, data storage has moved away from paper archives. The secretarial art of “filling” is disappearing from job descriptions. Much of today’s data may never leave its original digital format.

The changing attitudes toward paper have finally caught the attention of paper companies, says Richard Harper, a researcher at Microsoft. “All of a sudden, the paper industry has started thinking, ‘We need to learn more about the behavioral aspects of paper use.’ ” he says. “They had never asked, they’d just assumed that 70 million sheets would be bought every year as a literal function of economic growth.” To reduce paper use, some companies are working to combine digital and paper capabilities. For example, Xerox Corp. is developing electronic paper: thin digital displays that respond to a stylus, like a pen on paper. Notations can be erased or saved digitally.

Another idea, intelligent paper, comes from Anoto Group. It would allow notations made with a stylus on a page printed with a special magnetic ink to simultaneously appear on a computer screen. Even with such technological advances, the improved capabilities of digital storage continue to act against “paperlessness,” argues Paul Saffo, a technology forecaster. In his prophetic and metaphorical 1989 essay, “*The Electronic Piñata*,” he suggests that the increasing amounts of electronic data necessarily require more paper.

“The information industry today is like a huge electronic piñata, composed of a thin paper crust surrounding an electronic core,” Mr. Saffo wrote. The growing paper crust “is most noticeable, but the hidden electronic core that produces the crust is far larger—and growing more rapidly. The result is that we are becoming paperless, but we hardly notice at all.”

In the same way that digital innovations have increased paper consumption, Saffo says, so has video conferencing—with its promise of fewer in-person meetings —boosting business travel.

“That’s one of the great ironies of the information age,” Saffo says. “It’s just common sense that the more you talk to someone by phone or computer; it inevitably leads to a face-to-face meeting. The best thing for the aviation industry was the Internet.”

36. What function does the second sentence in the first paragraph serve?

- A. It further explains high—tech hubris.
- B. It confirms the effect of high-tech hubris.
- C. It offers a cause for high-tech hubris.
- D. It offers a contrast to high—tech hubris.

37. Which of the following is NOT a reason for the slowdown in paper sales?

- A. Workforce with better computer skills.
- B. Slow growth of the US economy.
- C. Changing patterns in paper use
- D. Changing employment trends.

38. The two innovations by Xerox Corp. and Anoto Group feature_____ .

- A. integrated use of paper and digital form.
- B. a shift from paper to digital form.
- C. the use of computer screen.
- D. a new style of writing.

39. What does the author mean by “irony of the information age”?

- A. The dream of the “paperless” office will be realized
- B. People usually prefer to have face-to-face meetings.
- C. More digital data use leads to greater paper use.
- D. Some people are opposed to video-conferencing.

40. What is the author’s attitude towards “paperlessness” ?

- A. He reviews the situation from different perspectives.
- B. He agrees with some of the people quoted in the passage.
- C. He has a preference for digital innovations.
- D. He thinks airlines benefit most from the digital age.

III. Fill in each of the blanks in the following passage with the best word or phrase chosen from the four given below: (20/150)

When former President Ronald fell and break his hip at the age of 89, he joined a group of more than 350,000 elderly Americans who 1)_____ their hips each year. Suffering from 2)_____ Alzheimer’s disease, Reagan was in one of the highest-risk groups for this type of accident. The 3)_____ of his fractures not only increases after age 50, but doubles every five to six years as the risk of falling increases. Slipping and tumbling are not the only 4)_____ of hip fractures; weakened bones sometimes break spontaneously. But falling is the major cause, 5)_____ 90% of all hip fractures.

These injuries are not to be taken lightly. According to the American Academy of Orthopedic 6)_____, only 25% of those who suffer hip fractures 7)_____ fully recover; as 8)_____ as 20% will die within 12 months. Even when patients 9)_____ recover, nearly half will need a cane or a walker to get 10)_____.

When it comes to hip fractures, the most dangerous place for elderly Americans, 11)_____, is their homes; nearly 60% of these dangerous spills will occur in or around the patient’s 12)_____. This isn’t bad news, 13)_____, because a few modifications could prevent a lot of accidents.

The first thing to do is to get rid of those thrown rugs that line hallways and entrances. They

often fold over or bunch up, turning them into booby traps for anyone shuffling down the hall.

Entering and leaving the house is a particularly high-risk activity, 14_____ is why some experts suggest removing any doorsills higher than 1/2 in. If the steps are bare wood, you can increase traction by applying non-slip treads.

Because many seniors suffer from poor balance (whether from neurological deficits or from the inner-ear problems that increase naturally with aging), it is also helps to install grab bars and handrails in bathroom and along hallways.

The bedroom is 15)_____ major hazard area that can be made much safer with a few adjustments. Avoid stain sheets and comforters, and opt for non-slip material like wool or cotton. Easy access to devices is important, so place a lamp, telephone and flashlight near the bed 16)_____ arm's reach. Make sure the pathway between the bedroom and bathroom is completely clear, and install a night-light along the route for those emergency late-night trips.

It's a good idea to rearrange the furniture throughout the house, so that the paths between rooms are free of obstructions. Also, make sure telephone and appliance cords aren't stung across common walkways, where they can be tripped over.

17)_____ these physical precautions, there are the health precautions every aging body should take. Physical and eye examinations, with special attention 18)_____ cardiac and blood-pressure problems, should be performed annually to rule out serious medical conditions. Blood pressure that's too low or an irregular heartbeat can put you at risk for fainting and falling. Don't forget to take calcium and 19)_____, two critical factors in developing strong bones. Finally, enrolling in an exercise program at your local gym can improve agility, strength, balance and coordination—all important skills that can keep you 20)_____.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) A. fracture | B. fraction | C. facture | D. frustrate |
| 2) A. advertised | B. adverted | C. advanced | D. advised |
| 3) A. accident | B. incident | C. instance | D. assistance |
| 4) A. courses | B. course | C. causes | D. cause |
| 5) A. presenting | B. presented | C. represented | D. representing |
| 6) A. Surgeons | B. Sergeants | C. Surgeon | D. Sergeant |
| 7) A. never | B. either | C. ever | D. neither |
| 8) A. much | B. few | C. a few | D. many |
| 9) A. does | B. will | C. do | D. can |
| 10) A. round | B. along | C. around | D. long |
| 11) A. it turns out | B. it turning out | C. turns it out | D. turning it out |
| 12) A. dormitory | B. domicile | C. dormant | D. dormancy |
| 13) A. therefore | B. otherwise | C. however | D. likewise |
| 14) A. which | B. where | C. what | D. that |
| 15) A. also | B. additional | C. other | D. another |
| 16) A. with | B. within | C. in | D. during |
| 17) A. To sum up | B. To begin with | C. In so much as | D. In addition to |
| 18) A. on | B. to | C. at | D. in |
| 19) A. vitamin C | B. vitamin B | C. vitamin D | D. vitamin E |
| 20) A. on your feet and off the floor | B. on the floor and off your feet | C. at your feet and off the floor | D. on your feet and at the floor |

IV. Write an around-eight-hundred-word composition on one of the following titles paying close attention to the specific requirement on the organization of your passage: (50/150)

- 1) European Football and American Football (comparison and contrast)
- 2) PM 2.5 in Beijing/Shanghai/Taiyuan... (cause and effect)
- 3) New Economy (definition)
- 4) Functions of Language (classification)
- 5) English Spread in the World (exemplification)