2018 春季大学英语四级考试全仿真试卷 听力录音文本

Part II

Listening Comprehension

(25 minutes)

Section A

News Report One

Ever wonder why there's a teeny-tiny pocket above the regular ones in the front of your jeans? Or, more likely, have you ever gotten your thumb stuck in there due to its teeny-tiny smallness? Well, wonder no longer.

(1) It's a watch pocket, originally for men who wore pocket watches and needed a protective place to store them. Though, as Levi's point out, the pocket has also served many other purposes over time, from condom storage to coin hoarding.

The Levi Strauss blog confirms their conclusions: "The first blue jeans had four pockets—only one in back and, in the front, two plus the small, watch pocket. The extra pouch has served many functions, condom pocket, coin pocket, match pocket and ticked pocket, to name a few."

"The pocket appears on the oldest pair of jeans in the Levi's archives, (2) which date to about 1879, "Levi's historian Tracey Panek told HuffPost.

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 1. What is the original function of the teeny-tiny pocket in early regular jeans?
- 2. How many years of history does the teeny-tiny pocket have?

News Report Two

China intended to issue a digital currency as soon as possible, the central bank said Wednesday, a move that could help the yuan offset the global dominance of the US dollar and limit capital outflows.

The announcement by the People's Bank of China came as it wrapped up a symposium on digital currency in Beijing, where it discussed issuance frameworks and related technologies such as encryption.

In a statement summarizing the forum and posted on its website, (3-1) the bank said the currency could reduce the costs involved in circulating banknotes, facilitate economic activities and help combat money-laundering.

(3-2) A virtual currency would also help the bank improve control of the money supply and payment efficiency, it added.

Talking the step would thrust China into largely uncharted waters. (4) Ecuador last year became the first nation to issue state-backed digital money.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the news report you have just heard.

3. What is NOT the advantage of China to issue digital currency?

4. Which country is the earliest to use digital currency?

News Report Three

There is an announcement from the U. S. Supreme Court. It's going to decide the fate of President Obama's executive action on immigration. He announced the action in 2014. (5) It would allow around 5 million people who are in the U. S. illegally to stay without the threat of being deported.

They'd be allowed to apply for work programs and other benefits as long as they paid taxes.

The Obama administration argues that this is a legal action in line with those of previous precedents on immigration. (6-1) (7) But executive orders don't go through the Congress, and none has ever impacted this many people before . (6-2) So critics argue that the president went too far in making this law without congressional approval.

Twenty-six states brought lawsuits against President Obama's action, holding it up in court. The Supreme Court's final say could come later this year.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the news report you have just heard.

- 5. According to President Obama's executive action on immigration, what will happen to the people who illegally stay in USA?
- 6. What do we know about President Obama's executive action on immigration?
- 7. Why was President Obama's action opposed?

Section B

Conversation One

- W: (8) There are too many private cars on the road now, which causes traffic congestion and also pollution.

 I think the way to solve the problem is to improve our public transport—more railways, and more shared taxis. Don't you think so?
- M: Well, you're obviously not aware the government is spending money on some forms of public transport. For example, some train services have been improved. But most people want to use their cars, so the government needs to spend the most money improving the roads.
- W: Why not make people who use the roads pay a bit more to discourage people from using their cars?
- M: I really can't agree with you there. (9) It just isn't fair to make driving become something that only rich people can afford. Many people need to use their cars and they're dependent on them, particularly those in the country.
- W: Can we do something to make people stop using their cars?
- M: (10) In a modern society you just can't do so. The whole economy would collapse.
- W: So your opinion is...
- M: (11) To improve roads will help people get to work faster, so people spend less time in their cars and of course this therefore causes less pollution. That's the only realistic answer.

Questions 8 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

8. According to the woman, what causes the traffic pollution?

- 9. According to the conversation, which of the following statements is NOT true?
- 10. If the government stopped people using their cars, what would happen in the modern society?
- 11. According to the man, what is the realistic solution to solve traffic congestion and pollution?

Conversation Two

- W: I often read two newspapers, The Washington Post and The Sun. What about you?
- M: (12) I will buy the newspaper whose headlines catch my eyes in the front page. Do you buy the two newspapers every day?
- W: Yes, the way I am sure not to miss my favorite sections. (13-1) Doesn't the size of the daily paper surprise you?
- M: (13-2) Yes, it certainly does. The newspaper staff—the reporters, writers, editors, and linotype operators—must be busy continuously. They need a large circulation to support such a staff, don't they?
- W: I'm sure they do. Of course, much of a newspaper's income comes from advertisements.
- M: That's true. You try to read the whole paper, don't you?
- W: No, (14) I just read the parts that interest me. I glance at the headlines, but I read the sport page and the business section carefully. Do you read those?
- M: No, but I read the editorials and the news section. You saw the article about the earthquake in New Zealand, didn't you?
- W: Yes, that is a terrible disaster. Do you think newspapers print stories like that?
- M: Certainly that should. They are part of the news of the day and people want to know about them. Don't you agree?
- W: Yes, I suppose the disasters are news, too. It seems to me that (15-1) newspapers would be more pleasant to read if they had a large society section and more comic strips. Don't you like to read articles about celebrations and happy events?
- M: Yes, I enjoy reading them. But (15-2) since you don't like to read unhappy news, why do you subscribe to two newspapers? If I were you, I wouldn't read a newspaper at all.

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

- 12. What sort of newspaper will the man buy?
- 13. What surprises the speakers?
- 14. Which part of the newspaper does the woman usually read?
- 15. Why doesn't the woman enjoy reading about disasters in the daily newspaper?

Section C

Passage One

Good morning. My name is Miriam Walker, and this is the History 105. Since this is our first meeting, let me begin by going over the requirements of the class. You can see your handout that you will be graded on your (16) attendance and participation in class, your grades on the three quizzes, and your final research paper. I'll give you more information about the research paper next week. For now, be sure that you have

the textbook. It's at the campus bookstore. Begin reading the first chapter. I expect you to do all the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class and in your section meeting. (17) The section meetings, by the way, are required. If you haven't already signed up for one, you can do so right after class. The sections meet on Wednesdays, right after class, or on Thursdays at 8 am. or 4 pm. You only need to sign up for one of the section meetings, and then you need to attend that one regularly. In the section you will have a smaller group than this large group, so you will have a better chance to express your ideas. And that's what this class is all about. We're not only looking at the historical events that took place during the nineteenth century; we're examining them in relation to events that are occurring now, in the twentieth century. (18) I expect you to develop critical reading, thinking, and discussion skills, and to express these skills in your writing too. I have always had fun with this class, and I'm looking forward to it again this year.

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

- 16. Which of the following is NOT related to your final grade?
- 17. What do you learn about the section meeting according to the passage?
- 18. What does the professor emphasize?

Passage Two

(19) Visitors to Britain are always complaining about English food. But they do not really know what they are talking about because they rarely get a chance to eat it. Most of the restaurants in large towns have foreign owners and serve foreign food. When visitors are invited to eat in an English home, their hosts often feel they must offer them something foreign and exotic.

Those of us who do know English food are aware that at its best it can be really very good. On the other hand, it is true to say it is sometimes terrible. (20) Part of the problem is that we are not really interested in food. We eat to live, we do not live to eat. So we don't generally spend the necessary time and effort needed to cook really good meals. We prefer food that is simple and easy to cook or ready food which only needs heating up before eating.

(21) You can find the best English food in the country away from the large towns, where life is slower and people are not in such a hurry. But, of course, most visitors come to London. They come because they are interested in shopping and sightseeing. They do not come because of the food, so why should they complain about it?

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

- 19. What does the speaker think of the traveler's complaint about English food?
- 20. Which of the following is true according to the speaker?
- 21. What is the conclusion suggested by the speaker?

Passage Three

Depression can strike anyone regardless of age, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, or gender; however, large-scale studies have found that depression is about twice as common in women as in men. In the United States, researchers estimate that in any given one-year period, depressive illnesses affect (22) $\underbrace{12}_{12}$

percent of women and nearly 7 percent of men. But important questions remain to be answered about the causes underlying this gender difference. Is depression truly less common among men, or are men just less likely than women to recognize, acknowledge and seek help for depression?

(23-1) In focus groups conducts by the National Institute of Mental Health to assess depression awareness, men described their own symptoms of depression without realizing that they were depressed. Notably, (24) many were unaware that physical symptoms, such as headaches, digestive disorders, and chronic pain, can be associated with depression. In addition, (23-2)(25) they expressed concern about seeing a mental health professional or going to a mental health clinic, thinking that people would find out and that this might have a negative impact on their job security, promotion potential or health insurance benefits. They feared that being labeled with a diagnosis of mental illness would cost them the respect of their family and friends, or their standing in the community.

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

- 22. What is the percentage of men affected by depression in a year in the US?
- 23. What causes the gender difference regarding depression?
- 24. What is NOT a physical symptom caused by depression?
- 25. What can be implied according to the passage?