



English Proficiency Test **B**

June, 2024

Part I Listening 40%

Section One Long Conversation 15% (1.5' × 10 = 15')

Directions: *In this section, you will hear **TWO** long conversations. At the end of each conversation, you will hear some questions. The conversations and the questions will be spoken **ONLY ONCE**. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices and **mark the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET** with a single line through the centre.*

Conversation 1

1. A) In the first year.
B) In the second year.
C) In the junior year.
D) In the senior year.
2. A) No, she doesn't like to play sports.
B) No, but she enjoys playing sports.
C) Yes, she likes watching sports on TV.
D) Yes, she once played in the Super bowl.
3. A) On Tuesday.
B) On Thursday.
C) On Friday.
D) On Saturday.
4. A) He only watches it in the stadium.
B) He only likes a few teams in particular.
C) He probably likes to watch it very much.
D) He never watches it with a large group.

5. A) Because her favorite team will play.
B) Because the ticket is inexpensive.
C) Because the new stadium is cool.
D) Because the man has an extra ticket.

Conversation 2

6. A) Because he didn't like her earlier.
B) Because he already had a girlfriend.
C) Because she never had a chance to meet him.
D) Because he thought she was interested in another man.
7. A) The Three Amigos.
B) Pay It Forward.
C) The Mask.
D) Most of Jim Carrey's movies.
8. A) Play golf.
B) Jog around the lake.
C) Watch comedies.
D) Go to a health club.
9. A) She liked it very much in high school.
B) She enjoys it, but doesn't play well.
C) She likes playing it only with her dad.
D) She has never been interested in it.
10. A) Because she has more friends from high school.
B) Because she can get better choices of shoes.
C) Because shopping in downtown is more fun.
D) Because shopping in downtown is healthier.

Section Two News Report 15% (1.5' × 10 = 15')

Directions: *In this section, you will hear **THREE** news reports. At the end of each report, you will hear some questions. The news reports and the questions will be spoken **ONLY ONCE**. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices and **mark the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET** with a single line through the centre.*

News report 1:

11. A) Women wear makeup more frequently.
B) Sephora stores receive more customers.
C) People are increasingly focused on personal care.
D) Cosmetic products purchases remain stable.
12. A) She must wear makeup for work.
B) She is a professional photographer.
C) She wants to look good in pictures.
D) She has more money to spend now.
13. A) Lipstick sales in China increased.
B) Customers were more rational than before.
C) Eye cosmetic sales saw a strong growth.
D) Sales of domestic beauty products declined.

News report 2:

14. A) Choose new recipes.
B) Combine different recipes.
C) Don't waste the leftovers.
D) Use ingredients that you already have.
15. A) Eat them fresh.
B) Stir fry them.
C) Pickle (腌制) the best parts.
D) Eat edible (可食用的) parts.
16. A) Use a smaller refrigerator.
B) Prepare food in a Japanese style.
C) Make use of what's in the fridge.
D) Make dinner plans before buying ingredients.

News report 3:

17. A) Only humans use tools.
B) Monkeys use stone tools too.
C) Only humans make tools skillfully.
D) Monkeys are not good at using tools.
18. A) They use them to crack open nuts.
B) They hit them against anvils (砧板).

- C) They use them to cut things.
 - D) They ignore them.
19. A) Extra modifications (改进) to stones.
B) Presence of animal footprints.
C) The amount of stone tools.
D) The size of stone tools.
20. A) Whether the Kenyan archaeological (考古的) site is the oldest.
B) Whether the oldest human archaeological site is truly human.
C) Whether there are more primitive animals in Kenya.
D) Whether monkeys can be trained to make tools.

Section Three Passage 10% (2' × 5 = 10')

Directions: *In this section, you will hear **ONE** passage. At the end of this passage, you will hear some questions. 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 and **mark the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET** with a single line through the centre.*

21. A) It helps to divide our brains into several areas.
B) It helps to strengthen our reasoning ability.
C) It helps us improve speaking fluency.
D) It helps us to become more sociable.
22. A) It strengthens our communicative ability.
B) It helps us memorize information better.
C) It holds our attention more closely.
D) It allows us to go back to the part we missed.
23. A) We can switch it off at any time.
B) We can watch films on audiobooks.
C) We can understand the emotion better.
D) We can read in a more scientific way.
24. A) Because we can have enhanced intensity and imagery.
B) Because we can appreciate the intonation of the narrator.
C) Because we can wear headphones to enjoy better sound effect.
D) Because we can exercise our brains to better perceive happiness.

25. A) Physical books are better than e-books.
 B) We are better off buying books in bookstores.
 C) Reading books is better than listening to books.
 D) We can try new format for different reading experience.

Part II Reading Comprehension 40%

Section One Banked Cloze 15% (1.5' × 10 = 15')

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank. Read the passage carefully before making your choices. You **must NOT** use any of the words in the bank **more than once**. Mark the corresponding letter on the **ANSWER SHEET** with a single line through the centre.

A. adjustment	B. benefit	C. community	D. entire	E. government
F. homegrown	G. preparation	H. philosophy	I. ponder	J. possess
K. presume	L. quotation	M. scheme	N. schedule	O. tended

For the last year I grew and foraged 100% of my food. No grocery stores, no restaurants, not even a drink at a bar. Nature was my garden and my pantry.

Most people would imagine I live in the countryside on a farm, but actually I live in a city, Orlando, Florida, a few miles from the centre. When I arrived here, I didn't 26) _____ any land, so in order to grow my food I met people in the neighbourhood and turned their lawns into gardens and shared the bounty of food with them. I'm a big believer in the 27) _____ "grow food, not lawns".

I also needed a place to live for my two-year stay in Orlando and I also found this through the local 28) _____. I put the message out that I was looking for someone with an unused backyard who could 29) _____ from my being on the property. After a short search I found Lisa, a woman in her early 60's with a lifelong dream of living more sustainably. I built a 100 square feet tiny house in her backyard and in exchange I turned her 30) _____ front yard into a garden, set up rainwater harvesting, composting and grew her fresh produce. Together, we helped meet each other's basic needs through an exchange, rather than using money.

As well as expecting me to live on a farm, most people would probably 31) _____ that I had some serious gardening experience to launch this kind of project. On the contrary, previously I had 32) _____ just a few small raised beds, growing greens, herbs and tomatoes.

For the past six years I had spent much of my life on the road and as much as I wished to grow my own food, I had never made it happen.

I gave myself just six months of 33) _____ from the time I landed in Orlando to the start of the year when I would buy no food. That was wishful thinking, but just four months behind 34) _____ I was ready to dive into the deep end and forgo all food from the industrial food system for the entire year.

My first breakfast of the year turned out to be my first-ever 100% 35) _____ and foraged meal. From then I was fully immersed in my food – every meal, every snack, every single bite and nibble.

Section Two Multiple Choice Questions 16% (2' × 8 = 16')

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

Passage One

In the 1970s British households held wealth worth around three times the nation's GDP. Today it's more than seven times, the highest such ratio in over a century. People in the top 10% of society have £2.5 million, on average, in wealth. The bottom 10% have virtually nothing. The gap cannot currently be made up by saving. As in the novels of Jane Austen, social mobility appears dependent on the wealth you inherit or marry into, rather than how much you can set aside from wages.

Just how significant this trend has become was highlighted by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, which last week said as many as one in 10 UK adults born in the 1980s will inherit more than half as much money from their parents as the average person earns in a lifetime. Those born 20 years earlier in the top decile (十分之一) had received less than a third of average lifetime earnings.

The gap is down to the rising value of assets, such as homes and shares, which have outpaced stagnant incomes. The wealthier have more assets and can make more gains on their capital. They do not consume these sums but bank them, widening the chasm between the haves and have-nots. The UK's six richest people are collectively wealthier, it is calculated, than the bottom 13.2 million people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and sharpened inequality in the UK. A more progressive income and inheritance tax system would even things out. So would an annual wealth tax. The last government to try this was Harold Wilson's Labour administration. In 1974 the party campaigned for a tax of up to 5% on the largest fortunes, but it abandoned the policy in the wake of the oil price spikes and inflation crisis of the mid-1970s. Britain does have transaction duties on house and share sales, but it would be more just to also impose a wealth tax based on

total asset holdings.

There is a sense that society has been captured by the super-rich, who purchase an education to get their children into the top universities; they exert outsized political influence; and they can shield their cash from taxation. The result is that they can build affluence and power. If left unchecked, differences in economic status across generations become entrenched (变牢固). Indeed, in history, the interwar years saw great political and economic changes. The British aristocracy were replaced as the holders of power, wealth and status. Higher taxation played a role in that drama, but so did other policies.

36. As for inheritance, the passage points out that _____.
- A) in general, Britons born earlier are likely to inherit more properties
 - B) inheritance is likely to change one's social status
 - C) most people in the top 10% of society inherit fortune
 - D) the bottom 10% of society have no chance of inheritance
37. What can be inferred about homes and shares in Britain now?
- A) They become the symbol of the haves.
 - B) They become more valuable.
 - C) They become less dependable than one's income.
 - D) They become capital of the banks.
38. Which is TRUE about Harold Wilson's Labour administration?
- A) It tried a harsh taxation on the wealthiest.
 - B) It charged a 5% wealth tax for quite a few years.
 - C) It started transaction duties on house and share sales.
 - D) It ended its progressive tax policy with the fall of oil price and inflation.
39. Why does the author think the government should impose wealth tax on asset holdings?
- A) Because the bottom 13.2 million people need government's help.
 - B) Because the super-rich surpassed the aristocracy in social status.
 - C) Because inequality in British society is becoming more severe.
 - D) Because the assets value of the wealthiest people rose too fast.

Passage Two

In a few weeks, Japanese companies will start disclosing their wage and salary levels under a new law designed to reduce a gender pay gap of 22%. The law is one of several taking effect this year around the globe in response to a stall (停顿) in achieving pay equality. Yet despite the slow progress, a mental and

cultural shift may be happening anyway, hastening equality in the workplace more than shaming or cajoling (哄骗) might.

In much of the corporate world, leadership has become less about biological sex and more about a blending of qualities associated with masculine or feminine. This shift assumes all individuals have a capacity to express such qualities.

“It is vital to balance masculine and feminine leadership styles within organizations,” notes Christophe Martinot, a Barcelona-based leadership consultant. “The idea of Feminine Leadership is not intended to create a binary (二元的) opposition between men and women,” but to recognize that masculine and feminine qualities are not a matter of biology.

That idea is rooted in an observation in *The Economist’s* latest glass-ceiling index, an annual survey of women in the workplace published Monday. It found that “where fathers take parental leave, mothers tend to return to the labour market, female empowerment is higher and the earnings gap between men and women is lower.”

Such role reversals were hard to imagine in even the most progressive societies a generation ago. Now they yield quantifiable benefits. According to a survey of 163 multinational companies over a 13-year period, firms with more women in senior positions are more profitable, more socially responsible, and provide safer, higher-quality customer experiences.

A study by the business schools in US found that “when women are in power, there is no longer a compromise between likeability and strong leadership – breaking the myth that women can’t be both capable and kind.” “Breaking down gender norms,” the study observed, “increased women’s confidence and advancement into positions of power.”

It is unclear if laws compelling wage transparency will result in fairer work employment between men and women. That increase already rests on an active recognition that talent and worth are neither defined nor limited by physical identity.

40. What is true about the law mentioned in Para. 1?

- A) It is first adopted in Japanese companies.
- B) It is enforced more slowly than expected.
- C) It aims to narrow gender wage differences.
- D) It requires people to make their salary known.

41. What do people in corporates think of leadership now?

- A) Leadership is defined by people’s biological traits.
- B) Combining masculine and feminine qualities is crucial.
- C) Feminine leadership is more recognized in the corporates.

D) People with masculine and feminine qualities can't be found.

42. The survey of the multinational companies shows that _____.

- A) women are more willing to take official roles than parental leave
- B) women in leadership position help make companies more successful
- C) women can be both capable and kind, which is hardly achieved by men
- D) women have been managing to change the established standards in gender

43. Gender equality in the workplace is based on _____.

- A) a series of law made to enforce wage transparency and narrow gender pay gap
- B) the display of masculine and feminine qualities within organizations
- C) women's confidence and advancement into positions of power
- D) the acceptance that talent and worth are not determined by biological sex

Section Three Sequencing 9% (1.5' × 6=9')

Directions: *In this section, you will read a long passage with **six paragraphs** out of order. Please reorganize the six paragraphs in their proper order so as to make a coherent passage. You should decide on the best choice and **mark the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET** with a single line through the centre.*

Life, goes the saying, is like a diamond – hard and beautiful. Many are experiencing the hardness of it quite acutely these days, in the form of stress, dread, and fatigue. Much of our success in navigating these difficult times depends on our mental health. People may picture mental health as a place one arrives at or a treasure one possesses. But mental health is neither a destination nor a property. Rather, it is something you *do* – the practice of proper mind management.

44. _____

Like driving, the process of mental health requires its own set of specific skills. Here, the skills in question are those that let us manage well the products of the mind—our thoughts, emotions, and behavior. Psychological science provides some useful instructions for that purpose.

45. _____

Alas, positivity, while differing in content, is similar in process to negativity: Both are biases (偏见), and both hide and twist the truth. Basing a response on anything other than the truth carries grave risks. If you're falling, there's no use in telling yourself that you've learned how to fly. Decisions guided by truth and facts

are more likely to prove successful. Sound mental health is served best by accurate thinking.

46. _____

Learning how to drive a car is a control process – effortful and demanding. But 10 years later, your driving has shifted to automatic – effortless and requiring no concentration. Such autonomous operations have an important evolutionary role: They free up energy and allow conscious attention, a limited resource, to focus on what is new. That permits us to keep up with the ever dynamic conditions of reality, the better to survive and thrive.

47. _____

Life is an obstacle course even in the best of times. Keeping one's bearings and achieving meaningful goals involve a willingness to face and overcome problems. If your only response to difficulty is to back off, you'll end up retreating from life itself. Inability to tolerate difficult emotion drains your mental life. Your emotions, in other words, should work for you, not the other way around. Luckily, emotional data are but one of multiple useful data sources to consult before deciding on a course of action.

48. _____

Behavioral engagement, facing fears and challenges, is usually the better approach. It helps in several ways. First, it allows us to improve our understanding of the world and enhance our skills. Many things we first perceive as difficult are not inherently hard but merely effortful because they're new, and hence under control processes. Practice makes competence. And practice requires engagement.

49. _____

In sum, doing basic mental health right entails practicing accurate thinking, emotion management, and behavioral engagement, while learning to tolerate short-term discomfort in the service of meaningful long-term goals and deeply held values. Such practice requires considerable effort and commitment, as do all things that matter. But the trouble is worth it because at the end of the day, all you've got is your mental health.

- A. Our emotions often line up behind our actions. This is why, as David Ekers and others have shown, the practice of behavioral activation – intentionally engaging in activities one associates with positive memories and feelings—is an important part of effective treatment for mood disorders. The fastest, most reliable way to change how you feel is by changing what you do.

- B. Thoughts are like viruses. Letting the wrong one into your system may cause harm. To develop accurate thinking skills, we must first appreciate that our brain's operations rely on two central processes: control and automatic. Control processes are slow, effortful, and highly vulnerable (易受伤的) to disruption; they demand concentration and full attention. Automatic processes are fast, robust against disruption, and do not require attention or concentration in order to operate successfully.
- C. Good driving is a process of constant adaptation characterized by high responsivity and requiring numerous specific skills: how to take a turn, merge into traffic, change lanes safely. Likewise, sound mental health is a process of constant adaptation, characterized by psychological flexibility – the ability to recognize and adjust your mindset and behavior to various situations so as not to hurt yourself or others, and so that you may continue to represent your values and pursue worthy goals in the face of disruptions and obstacles.
- D. Emotions have a great effect on our lives, coloring and flavoring experience. That said, it is useful to remember that emotions, like thoughts, are mind events not world events, which means that we have much say in regulating them. Psychological research from George Vaillant and others has shown that a measure of conscious emotion suppression (压抑) – choosing not to engage or talk about distressing feelings – is often a useful, healthy coping mechanism.
- E. Cognitive psychology research over the past few decades has shown that our thoughts – beliefs and subjective interpretations – give rise to our emotions and behavior. Thinking, in other words, is important for our emotional state. One oft-repeated saying of advice is that you should, therefore, do your best to “think positively.” Positive thinking gets good press, and in proper doses it can be useful. Optimism, as the work of psychologist Martin Seligman and others has shown, can help us endure periods of hardship, keep a sense of hope, and improve mood.
- F. Your best move is to seek diverse consults from sources other than emotion before making important behavioral decisions. Such sources include your goals, values, experience, logic, knowledge of self and world, and more. Having entertained the varied inputs, you can then make a well-considered (rather than emotionally driven) executive decision about your most sensible path forward.

Part III Writing 20%

Directions: *In this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to finish one writing task on the following topic. You need to provide a **TITLE** for this essay and write it in **three parts**. In the first part, state what your opinion is. In the second part, support your opinion with specific reasons and details. In the last part, bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or a summary. You should write **at least 200 words** for the essay on the **ANSWER SHEET**.*

Some universities are now considering providing students with communal (公共的) kitchens and kitchen equipment in the dormitory buildings. Do you think it is a good idea? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.