

English Placement Test (2015.12)

Part I. Cloze Test (共 20 题, 30 分)

Directions: Read the passage and choose the best answer to each of the blanks in the passage from A, B, C or D. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **Answer Sheet**.

Wise buying is a positive way in which you can make your money go further. The 1 you go about purchasing an article or a service can actually 2 you money or can add 3 the cost.

Take the 4 example of a hairdryer. If you are buying a hairdryer, you might 5 you are making the 6 buy if you choose one 7 look you like and which is also the cheapest 8 price. But when you get it home you may find that it 9 twice as long as a more expensive 10 to dry your hair. The cost of the electricity plus the cost of your time could well 11 your hairdryer the most expensive one of all.

So what principles should you 12 when you go out shopping?

If you 13 your home, your car or any valuable 14 in excellent condition, you'll be saving money in the long 15.

Before you buy a new 16, talk to someone who owns one. If you can, use it or borrow it to check it suits your

1. A) form B) way
C) method D) fashion
2. A) raise B) retain
C) save D) preserve
3. A) to B) on
C) up D) in
4. A) single B) simple
C) easy D) similar
5. A) convince B) examine
C) accept D) think
6. A) best B) most
C) proper D) reasonable
7. A) which B) whose
C) its D) what
8. A) on B) for
C) in D) with
9. A) spends B) lasts
C) consumes D) takes
10. A) mode B) model
C) copy D) sample
11. A) make B) cause
C) leave D) prove
12. A) lay B) stick
C) adopt D) adapt
13. A) keep B) store
C) reserve D) decorate
14. A) products B) material
C) ownership D) possession
15. A) interval B) period
C) run D) time
16. A) equipment B) appliance
C) utility D) facility
17. A) goal B) task
C) function D) purpose
18. A) item B) element
C) particle D) component
19. A) this B) which
C) what D) that

particular <u>17</u> .	20. A) in	B) from
Before you buy an expensive <u>18</u> ,	C) of	D) by
or a service, do check the price and		
<u>19</u> is on offer. If possible, choose		
<u>20</u> three items or three estimates.		

Part II. Reading Comprehension (共 20 题, 40 分)

Directions: Read the passages and choose the best answer from A, B, C or D to each of the questions that follow. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **Answer Sheet**.

Passage 1

In the United States a university professor is given a few months of freedom from his duties about every seventh year for travel or advanced study. This period of freedom from teaching is called a "study or research leave". Its purpose is to give the professor experiences which will make him a wiser person and a better teacher when he returns to his university.

Few study leaves are interesting enough to be described in national newspapers and magazines. Recently, however, there was an exception. The public learned how Dr. John R. Coleman, president of Haverford College, had spent his study leave.

At the age of 51, Dr. Coleman was determined to escape from university life for a few months and to get a variety of experiences in the world of work. He especially wanted to learn about people. People who do hard physical labor were especially interesting to him.

"I wanted to get away from the world of words and political matters and parties – the things a president does," Dr. Coleman later explained to news writers. "As a college president you begin to take yourself very seriously and to think you have power you don't. You forget things about people. I wanted to relearn things I'd forgotten."

Telling no one of his plans, Dr. Coleman started his study leave on a farm in Canada, hundreds of miles from his college. Getting up at 4:30 each morning, working thirteen hours a day in fields, he prepared himself physically for his next job, digging ditches in Atlanta, Georgia. After that, the college president washed dishes in a Boston restaurant. During the last ten days of his leave, he worked as a garbage collector.

21. The first paragraph is mainly about _____.
- A) why a professor should be free from his duties every seventh year
 - B) how professors spend their study leave
 - C) what a study leave is and its purpose
 - D) how a study leave makes a professor a wiser person and a better teacher
22. A study leave is a period of freedom from duties allowed to a university teacher who has taught _____ since his last leave.

- A) for six years
- B) for seven years
- C) for a term
- D) for a university year

23. People learned about Dr. Coleman's unusual experiences from _____.
- A) his colleagues
 - B) the boss of a Boston restaurant
 - C) Canadian newspapers and magazines
 - D) the U.S. newspapers and magazines
24. Dr. Coleman carried out his study leave in an unusual way because _____.
- A) he hates his university life, especially his job as a president
 - B) he wanted to learn about people, especially people who do hard physical labor
 - C) he wanted to make himself known to the public
 - D) he wanted to write articles about people and have them printed in newspapers and magazines
25. What did Dr. Coleman do during his study leave?
- A) He worked on a farm, dug ditches, went to parties, and collected garbage.
 - B) He worked on a farm, talked to news writers, washed dishes, and collected garbage
 - C) He worked on a farm, washed dishes, talked to news writers, and wrote articles for newspapers and magazines
 - D) He worked on a farm, dug ditches, washed dishes, and collected garbage.

Passage Two

Many a young person tells me he wants to be a writer. I always encourage such people, but I also explain that there's big difference between "being a writer" and writing. In most cases these individuals are dreaming of wealth and fame, not the long hours alone at a typewriter. "You've got to want to write," I say to them, "not want to be a writer."

The reality is that writing is a lonely, private and poor-paying affair. For every writer kissed by fortune there are thousands more whose longing is never rewarded. When I left a 20-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard to become a *freelance writer* (自由撰稿者), I had no prospects at all. What I did have was a friend who found me my room in a New York apartment building. It didn't even matter that it was cold and had no bathroom. I immediately bought a used manual typewriter and felt like a genuine writer.

After a year or so, however, I still hadn't gotten a break and began to doubt myself. It was so hard to sell a story that barely made enough to eat. But I knew I wanted to write. I had dreamed about it for years. I wasn't going to be one of those people who die wondering, What if? I would keep putting my dream to the test — even though it meant living with uncertainty and fear of failure. This is the Shadowland of hope, and anyone with a dream must learn to live there.

26. The passage is meant to _____.
- A. warn young people of the hardships that a successful writer has to experience
 - B. advise young people to give up their idea of becoming a professional writer

- C. show young people it's unrealistic for a writer to pursue wealth and fame
 D. encourage young people to pursue a writing career
27. What can be concluded from the passage?
 A. Genuine writers often find their work interesting and rewarding.
 B. A writer's success depends on luck rather than on effort.
 C. Famous writers usually live in poverty and isolation.
 D. The chances for a writer to become successful are small.
28. Why did the author begin to doubt himself after the first year of his writing career?
 A. He wasn't able to produce a single book.
 B. He hadn't seen a change for the better.
 C. He wasn't able to have a rest for a whole year.
 D. He found his dream would never come true.
29. "...People who die wondering, What if?" (Line 3, Para. 3) refers to "those _____".
 A. who think too much of the dark side of life
 B. who regret giving up their career halfway
 C. who think a lot without making a decision
 D. who are full of imagination even upon death
30. "Shadowland" in the last sentence refers to _____.
 A. the wonderland one often dreams about
 B. the bright future that one is looking forward to
 C. the state of uncertainty before one's final goal is reached
 D. a world that exists only in one's imagination

Passage 3

Increasingly, U.S. companies are becoming relation-focused. We seek to be customer-driven. We want to partner with suppliers. We are moving from a manufacturing economy to a value-added, service-oriented economy. And at the heart of the service are relationships: interpersonal relations, inter-group relationships, and interdepartmental relationships.

In fact, emphasis on teamwork has long become the most frequently valued managerial (管理方面的) competence in studies of organizations around the world. About half the Fortune 500 companies say they are using self-managed work teams and expect to expand their use in coming years.

Teamwork, for many of us, is a big switch from how we are accustomed to functioning. And that's especially true for those of you at the beginning of your careers. Some people never get out of the individual contributor mode because they have limited expertise (知识技能) with the interpersonal skills required for team building. But the highly effective people of success are those who move from child-like dependence to independence, and then on interdependence.

Teamwork really builds. If there is no trust and honesty among employees and everyone is maneuvering based on what it might do for their own careers, they are not going to accomplish much. An old Oriental proverb that "people with one mind will

move Mount Tai” is true. Another way is to consider this: individuals add; team players multiply. Of course, as the whole is never the sum of the parts, it may be greater or lesser, depending on how well the individuals work together.

A good team leader is one who can create group synergy (协同, 配合) in order to pursue collective goals. If you are going to be a good boss, make sure that you support people around you and keep the group working well. That’s an important lesson I learned from one of my former chief executive officers (CEO), who held me accountable for my beliefs—in fact, there are times he held my feet to the fire—but he never held a grudge against me for believing in something different from him.

31. The main idea of the passage is _____.
- A. that customer-driven service is increasingly popular
 - B. the importance of good teamwork
 - C. that a company should partner with suppliers
 - D. that U.S. companies are becoming relationship-focused
32. What is the key to a company’s service according to the passage?
- A. Relationships.
 - B. Interpersonal relationships.
 - C. Inter-group relationships.
 - D. Interdepartmental relationships.
33. What can we infer from the third paragraph?
- A. Many young people can cooperate well with their colleagues.
 - B. Self-dependence is of prime importance to one’s career.
 - C. Interdependence is the key to success for many entrepreneurs (企业家).
 - D. A successful person has never undergone child-like dependence.
34. The proverb in Paragraph 4 most probably comes from _____.
- A. Japan
 - B. China
 - C. India
 - D. America
35. Which of the following is NOT true?
- A. Teamwork has long been neglected in the studies of management.
 - B. Some people never get out of the individual contributor mode.
 - C. The author learnt a lot from his former bosses.
 - D. Successful people generally experience the process of moving from child-like dependence to independence, and then onto interdependence.

Passage 4

Sometime in the next century, the familiar early-morning newspaper on the front porch will disappear. And instead of reading your newspaper, it will read to you. You’ll get up and turn on the computer newspaper just like switching on the TV. An electronic voice will distribute stories about the latest events, guided by a program that selects the type of news you want. You even get to choose the kind of voice you want to hear. Want more information on the briefing? A simple touch makes the entire text appear. Save it in your own personal computer file if you like. These are among the predictions from communications experts working on the newspapers of the future. Pictured as part of broader home-based media and entertainment systems, computer newspapers would unite print and broadcast reporting, offering news and analysis with video images of news events.

Most of the technology is available now, but convincing more people that they don’t

need paper to read a newspaper is the next step. But resistance to computer newspapers may be stronger from within journalism. Since it is such a cultural change, it may be that the present generation of journalists and publishers will have to die off before the next generation realizes that the newspaper industry is no longer a newspaper industry. Technology is making the end of traditional newspapers unavoidable. Despite technological advances, it could take decades to replace newsprint with computer screens. It might take 30 to 40 years to complete the changeover because people need to buy computers and because newspapers have established financial interests in the paper industry.

36. The best title for this passage is _____.
- A) Computer Newspapers Are Well Liked
 - B) Newspapers of the Future will Likely Be on Computer
 - C) Newspapers Are out of Fashion
 - D) New Communications Technology
37. It might take 30 to 40 years for computer newspapers to replace traditional newspapers, because _____.
- A) it is technologically impossible now
 - B) computer newspapers are too expensive
 - C) there is strong resistance from both the general population and professional journalists
 - D) traditional newspapers are easier to read
38. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of computer newspapers?
- A) They are cheaper than traditional newspapers.
 - B) They are very convenient to use.
 - C) You can get more information from them quickly.
 - D) You can easily save information for future use.
39. Journalists are not eager to accept computer newspapers, because _____.
- A) they don't know how to use computers
 - B) they think computer newspapers take too much time to read
 - C) they think the new technology is bad
 - D) they have been trained to write for traditional newspapers
40. We can infer from the passage that _____.
- A) all technological changes are good
 - B) all technologies will eventually replace old ones
 - C) new technologies will eventually replace old ones
 - D) traditional newspapers are here to stay for another century

Part III. Writing (30 分)

Directions: Write an essay of about 150 words based on the following information.

Many middle schools do not allow their students to bring mobile phones to school. What is your opinion? Write an essay of about 150 words on middle school students' using mobile phones at school.

