

## 2014年考研英语二真题原文及答案完整版

### Section I Use of English

#### Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word(s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

Thinner isn't always better. A number of studies have 1 that normal-weight people are in fact at higher risk of some diseases compared to those who are overweight. And there are health conditions for which being overweight is actually 2. For example, heavier women are less likely to develop calcium deficiency than thin women. 3 among the elderly, being somewhat overweight is often an 4 of good health.

Of even greater 5 is the fact that obesity turns out to be very difficult to define. It is often defined 6 body mass index, or BMI. BMI 7 body mass divided by the square of height. An adult with a BMI of 18 to 25 is often considered to be normal weight. Between 25 and 30 is overweight. And over 30 is considered obese. Obesity, 8, can be divided into moderately obese, severely obese, and very severely obese.

While such numerical standards seem 9, they are not. Obesity is probably less a matter of weight than body fat. Some people with a high BMI are in fact extremely fit, 10 others with a low BMI may be in poor 11. For example, many collegiate and professional football players 12 as obese, though their percentage body fat is low. Conversely, someone with a small frame may have high body fat but a 13 BMI.

Today we have a(n) 14 to label obesity as a disgrace. The overweight are sometimes 15 in the media with their faces covered. Stereotypes 16 with obesity include laziness, lack of will power, and lower prospects for success. Teachers, employers, and health professionals have been shown to harbor biases against the obese. 17 very young children tend to look down on the overweight, and teasing about body build has long been a problem in schools.

Negative attitudes toward obesity, \_\_\_18\_\_\_ in health concerns, have stimulated a number of anti-obesity \_\_\_19\_\_\_. My own hospital system has banned sugary drinks from its facilities. Many employers have instituted weight loss and fitness initiatives. Michelle Obama has launched a high-visibility campaign \_\_\_20\_\_\_ childhood obesity, even claiming that it represents our greatest national security threat.

1. A. denied      **B. concluded**      C. doubled      D. ensured
2. **A. protective**      B. dangerous      C. sufficient      D. troublesome
3. A. Instead      B. However      **C. Likewise**      D. Therefore
4. **A. indicator**      B. objective      C. origin      D. example
5. A. impact      B. relevance      C. assistance      **D. concern**
6. **A. in terms of**      B. in case of      C. in favor of      D. in of
7. A. measures      B. determines      **C. equals**      D. modifies
8. A. in essence      B. in contrast      **C. in turn**      D. in part
9. A. complicated      B. conservative      C. variable      **D. straightforward**
10. A. so      **B. while**      C. since      D. unless
11. **A. shape**      B. spirit      C. balance      D. taste
12. A. start      **B. quality**      C. retire      D. stay
13. A. strange      B. changeable      **C. normal**      D. constant
14. A. option      B. reason      C. opportunity      **D. tendency**
15. A. employed      **B. pictured**      C. imitated      D. monitored
16. A. compared      B. combined      C. settled      **D. associated**
17. **A. Even**      B. Still      C. Yet      D. Only
18. A. despised      B. corrected      C. ignored      **D. grounded**
19. A. discussions      B. businesses      **C. policies**      D. studies
20. A. for      **B. against**      C. with      D. without

## Section II Reading Comprehension

### Part A

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET. (40 points)

Text 1

What would you do with \$590m? This is now a question for Gloria Mackenzie, an 84-year-old widow who recently emerged from her small, tin-roofed house in Florida to collect the biggest undivided lottery jackpot in history. If she hopes her new-found fortune will yield lasting feelings of fulfillment, she could do worse than read *Happy Money* by Elizabeth Dumn and Michael Norton.

These two academics use an array of behavioral research to show that the most rewarding ways to spend money can be counterintuitive. Fantasies of great wealth often involve visions of fancy cars and extravagant homes. Yet satisfaction with these material purchases wears off fairly quickly what was once exciting and new becomes old-hat; regret creeps in. It is far better to spend money on experiences, say Ms Dumn and Mr Norton, like interesting trips, unique meals or even going to the cinema. These purchases often become more valuable with time—as stories or memories—particularly if they involve feeling more connected to others.

This slim volume is packed with tips to help wage slaves as well as lottery winners get the most “happiness bang for your buck.” It seems most people would be better off if they could shorten their commutes to work, spend more time with friends and family and less of it watching television (something the average American spends a whopping two months a year doing, and is hardly jollier for it). Buying gifts or giving to charity is often more pleasurable than purchasing things for oneself, and luxuries are most enjoyable when they are consumed sparingly. This is apparently the reason MacDonald’s restricts the availability of its popular McRib – a marketing trick that has turned the pork sandwich into an object of obsession.

Readers of “*Happy Money*” are clearly a privileged lot, anxious about fulfillment, not hunger. Money may not quite buy happiness, but people in wealthier countries are generally happier than those in poor ones. Yet the link between feeling good and spending money on others can be seen among rich and poor people around the world, and scarcity enhances the pleasure of most things for most people. Not everyone will agree with the authors’ policy ideas, which range from mandating more holiday time to reducing tax incentives for American homebuyers. But most people will come away from this book believing it was money well spent.

21. According to Dumn and Norton, which of the following is the most rewarding purchase?

- [A] A big house [B] A special tour [C] A stylish car [D] A rich meal

22. The author's attitude toward Americans' watching TV is\_\_\_\_\_.

[A]critical [B]supportive [C]sympathetic [D]ambiguous

23. Macri is mentioned in paragraph 3 to show that\_\_\_\_\_.

[A]consumers are sometimes irrational

[B]popularity usually comes after quality

[C]marketing tricks are after effective

[D]rarity generally increases pleasure

24. According to the last paragraph, Happy Money\_\_\_\_\_.

[A]has left much room for readers' criticism

[B]may prove to be a worthwhile purchase

[C]has predicted a wider income gap in the us

[D]may give its readers a sense of achievement

25. This text mainly discusses how to\_\_\_\_\_.

[A]balance feeling good and spending money

[B]spend large sums of money won in lotteries

[C]obtain lasting satisfaction from money spent

[D]become more reasonable in spending on luxuries

## Text 2

An article in *Scientific America* has pointed out that empirical research says that, actually, you think you're more beautiful than you are. We have a deep-seated need to feel good about ourselves and we naturally employ a number of self-enhancing strategies to research into what they call the "above average effect", or "illusory superiority", and shown that, for example, 70% of us rate ourselves as above average in leadership, 93% in driving and 85% at getting on well with others—all obviously statistical impossibilities.

We rose tint our memories and put ourselves into self-affirming situations. We become defensive when criticized, and apply negative stereotypes to others to boost our own esteem, we stalk around thinking we're hot stuff.

Psychologist and behavioral scientist Nicholas Epley oversaw a key study into self-enhancement and attractiveness. Rather than have people simply rate their beauty compared with others, he asked them to identify an original photograph of themselves' from a lineup including versions that had been altered to appear more and less attractive. Visual recognition, reads the study, is "an automatic psychological process occurring rapidly and intuitively with little or no apparent conscious deliberation". If the subjects quickly chose a falsely flattering image—which must did—they genuinely believed it was really how they looked. Epley found no significant gender difference in responses. Nor was there any evidence that, those who self-enhance the most (that is, the participants who thought the most positively doctored picture were real) were doing so to make up for profound insecurities. In fact those who thought that the images higher up the attractiveness scale were real directly corresponded with those who showed other markers for having higher self-esteem. "I don't think the findings that we have are any evidence of personal delusion", says Epley. "It's a reflection simply of people generally thinking well of themselves'. If you are depressed, you won't be self-enhancing. Knowing the results of Epley's study, it makes sense that why people heat photographs of themselves viscerally—on one level, they don't even recognize the person in the picture as themselves, Face book therefore, is a self-enhancer's paradise, where people can share only the most flattering photos, the cream of their wit, style, beauty, intellect and lifestyle it's not that people's profiles are dishonest, says Catalina Toma of Wisconsin—Madison university," but they portray an idealized version of themselves.

26. According to the first paragraph, social psychologists have found that \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] our self-ratings are unrealistically high
- [B] illusory superiority is a baseless effect
- [C] our need for leadership is unnatural
- [D] self-enhancing strategies are ineffective

27. Visual recognition is believed to be people's \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] rapid watching
- [B] conscious choice
- [C] intuitive response
- [D] automatic self-defence

28. Epley found that people with higher self-esteem tended to \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] underestimate their insecurities
- [B] believe in their attractiveness
- [C] cover up their depressions
- [D] oversimplify their illusions

29. The word "Viscerally" (Line 2, para. 5) is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] instinctively
- [B] occasionally
- [C] particularly
- [D] aggressively

30. It can be inferred that Facebook is self-enhancer's paradise because people can \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] present their dishonest profiles
- [B] define their traditional life styles
- [C] share their intellectual pursuits
- [D] withhold their unflattering sides

### Text 3

Crying is hardly an activity encouraged by society. Tears, be they of sorrow, anger, or joy, typically make Americans feel uncomfortable and embarrassed. The shedder of tears is likely to apologize, even when a devastating (毁灭性的) tragedy was the provocation. The observer of tears

is likely to do everything possible to put an end to the emotional outpouring. But judging from recent studies of crying behavior, links between illness and crying and the chemical composition of tears, both those responses to tears are often inappropriate and may even be counterproductive.

Humans are the only animals definitely known to shed emotional tears. Since evolution has given rise to few, if any, purposeless physiological responses, it is logical to assume that crying has one or more functions that enhance survival.

Although some observers have suggested that crying is a way to solicit assistance from others (as a crying baby might from its mother), the shedding of tears is hardly necessary to get help. Vocal cries would have been quite enough, more likely than tears to gain attention. So, it appears, there must be something special about tears themselves.

Indeed, the new studies suggest that emotional tears may play a direct role in alleviating stress, University of Minnesota researchers who are studying the chemical composition of tears have recently isolated two important chemicals from emotional tears. Both chemicals are found only in tears that are shed in response to emotion. Tears shed because of exposure to cut onion would contain no such substance.

Researchers at several other institutions are investigating the usefulness of tears as a means of diagnosing human ills and monitoring drugs.

At Tulane University's Tear Analysis Laboratory Dr. Peter Kastl and his colleagues report that they can use tears to detect drug abuse and exposure to medication (药物), to determine whether a contact lens fits properly or why it may be uncomfortable, to study the causes of "dry eye" syndrome and the effects of eye surgery, and perhaps even to measure exposure to environmental pollutants.

At Columbia University Dr. Liasy Faris and colleagues are studying tears for clues to the diagnosis of diseases away from the eyes. Tears can be obtained painlessly without invading the body and only tiny amounts are needed to perform highly refined analyses.

31. It is known from the first paragraph that \_\_\_\_\_.

[A] shedding tears gives unpleasant feelings to American

[B] crying may often imitate people or even result in tragedy

- [C]crying usually wins sympathy from other people
- [D]one who sheds tears in public will be blamed
32. What does “both those responses to tears” (Line 6, Para, 1) refer to?
- [A]Crying out of sorrow and shedding tears for happiness.
- [B]The embarrassment and unpleasant sensation of the observers.
- [C] The tear shedder’ sapology and the observer’ s effort to stop the crying.
- [D]Linking illness with crying and finding the chemical composition of tears.
33. “Counterproductive” (Lines 6-7, Para,1) very probably means “\_\_\_\_\_” .
- [A]having no effect at all
- [B]leading to tension
- [C] producing disastrous impact
- [D]harmful to health
34. What does the author say about crying?
- [A]It is a pointless physiological response to the environment.
- [B] It must have a role to play in man’ s survival.
- [C]It is meant to get attention and assistance.
- [D]It usually produces the desired effect.
35. What can be inferred from the new studies of tears?
- [A] Emotional tears have the function of reducing stress.
- [B]Exposure to excessive medication may increase emotional tears.
- [C]Emotional tears can give rise to “dry eye” syndrome in some cases.



[D] Environmental pollutants can induce the shedding of emotional tears.

Text 4

When the government talks about infrastructure contributing to the economy the focus is usually on roads, railways, broadband and energy. Housing is seldom mentioned.

Why is that? To some extent the housing sector must shoulder the blame. We have not been good at communicating the real value that housing can contribute to economic growth. Then there is the scale of the typical housing project. It is hard to shove for attention among a multibillion-pound infrastructure project, so it is inevitable that the attention is focused elsewhere. But perhaps the most significant reason is that the issue has always been so politically charged.

Nevertheless, the affordable housing situation is desperate. Waiting lists increase all the time and we are simply not building enough new homes.

The comprehensive spending review offers an opportunity for the government to help rectify this. It needs to put historical prejudices to one side and take some steps to address our urgent housing need.

There are some indications that it is preparing to do just that. The communities minister, Don Foster, has hinted that George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, may introduce more flexibility to the current cap on the amount that local authorities can borrow against their housing stock debt. Evidence shows that 60,000 extra new homes could be built over the next five years if the cap were lifted, increasing GDP by 0.6%.

Ministers should also look at creating greater certainty in the rental environment, which would have a significant impact on the ability of registered providers to fund new developments from revenues.

But it is not just down to the government. While these measures would be welcome in the short term, we must face up to the fact that the existing £4.5bn programme of grants to fund new affordable housing, set to expire in 2015, is unlikely to be extended beyond then. The Labour party has recently announced that it will retain a large part of the coalition's spending plans if returns to power. The housing sector needs to accept that we are very unlikely to ever return to an era of large-scale public grants. We need to adjust to this changing climate.

36. The author believes that the housing sector\_\_

- [A]has attracted much attention
- [B] involves certainpolitical factors
- [C]shoulders too much responsibility
- [D]has lost its real value in economy
37. It can belearned that affordable housing has\_\_
- [A]increased its home supply
- [B]offered spending opportunities
- [C] suffered government biases
- [D]disappointed the government
38. Accordingto Paragraph 5, George Osborne may\_\_\_\_\_.
- [A] allow greater governmentdebt for housing
- [B]stop local authorities from building homes
- [C]prepare to reduce housing stock debt
- [D]release a lifted GDP growth forecast
39. It can beinferred that a stable rental environment would\_\_\_\_\_.
- [A]lowerthe costs of registered providers
- [B]lessenthe impact of government interference
- [C]contribute to funding newdevelopments
- [D]relievethe ministers of responsibilities
40. Theauthor believes that after 2015, the government may\_\_\_\_\_.
- [A]implement more policies to support housing
- [B]review the need for large-scale public grants
- [C]renew the affordable housing grants programme

[D] stop generous funding to the housing sector

### Section III Translation

Directions:

Translate the following text from English into Chinese. Write your translation on ANSWER SHEET 2. (15 points)

Most people would define optimism as endlessly happy, with a glass that's perpetually half full. But that's exactly the kind of false cheerfulness that positive psychologists wouldn't recommend. "Healthy optimism means being in touch with reality," says Tal Ben-Shahar, a Harvard professor. According to Ben-Shahar, realistic optimists are those who make the best of things that happen, but not those who believe everything happens for the best.

Ben-Shahar uses three optimistic exercises. When he feels down-sag, after giving a bad lecture—he grants himself permission to be human. He reminds himself that not every lecture can be a Nobel winner; some will be less effective than others. Next is reconstruction. He analyzes the weak lecture, learning lessons, for the future about what works and what doesn't. Finally, there is perspective, which involves acknowledging that in the grand scheme of life, one lecture really doesn't matter.

#### 【参考译文】

大多数人愿意把乐观定义为无尽的欢乐，就像一只总是装着半杯水的杯子。但那是一种绝不会为积极心理学家所推荐的虚假快乐。哈佛大学的 Tal Ben-Shahar 教授说，“健康的乐观主义，意味着要处于现实之中。”在 Ben-Shahar 看来，现实的乐观主义者，会尽最大努力做好一件事，而不是相信每件事都会有最好的结果。

Ben-Shahar 会进行三种乐观方面的练习。比如说，当他进行了一次糟糕的演讲，感到心情郁闷的时候，他会告诉自己这是人之常情。他会提醒自己：并不是每一次演讲都可以获得诺贝尔奖，总会有一些演讲比其它演讲效果差。接着是重塑，他分析了这个效果不好的演讲，并且从那些起作用和不起作用的演讲中吸取教训为将来做准备。最后，需要有这样一种观点，那就是承认，在广阔的生命当中，一次演讲根本算不上什么。

### Section IV Writing

#### Part A

47. Directions: Suppose you are going to study abroad and share an apartment with John, a local student. Write him to email to

- 1) tell him about your living habits, and
- 2) ask for advice about living there.

You should write about 100 words on answer sheet.

Do not use your own name.

Dear John,

I am Li Ming who will go to study in your university and live together with you in one department. Now I am writing this letter to tell you some of my habits and ask you for some suggestions to adapt myself there.

To begin with, I usually get up early in the morning at six o'clock and then go out to do some exercise. To continue, I would like to spend my spare time in reading in the library. Meanwhile, I wonder if you could be so kind to offer me some proposals on how to get used to the life there.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon and wish everything goes well.

Yours sincerely,

Li Ming

Part B

48. Directions: Write your essay on ANSWER SHEET. (15 points)

You should

1. interpret the chart, and
2. give your comments.

You should write about 150 words on the ANSWER SHEET. (15points)

What is clearly presented in the above chart is the different numbers of urban residents and rural population among 1990, 2000 and 2010. The number of urban residents climbed steadily from 300 million in 1990 to 660 million or so in 2010, while rural population decreased slightly from about 820 million to 680 million or so in the same period.

It is not difficult to come up with some possible factors accounting for this trend. On the one hand, with the rapid development of economy and society, people in mounting numbers crowd into cities in search of employment, a decent living and the excitement of urban life recently. On the other hand, the economy in the rural districts is comparative less developed and thus the opportunity to make money and pursue their future is as well lean. As a result, an increasing number of folks are trying to escape this destiny by flocking into the urban areas.

Given the analyses above, I firmly believe that such established trend will surely continue for quite a while in the forthcoming years and due importance should be attached to this evident situation.



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