

# 2025 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛题(A 类)

## 2025 National English Competition for College Students (Type A – Preliminary)

(Total: 150 marks Time: 120 minutes)

### Part I Listening Comprehension (30 marks)

#### Section A (5 marks)

In this section, you will hear **five** short conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, one question will be asked, and you'll have **fifteen seconds** to read the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the answer sheet with a single line through the centre.

- AD. 1. A. Downtown. 乡 - B. In the park. C. In the garage. D. Across the street. 地
- D 2. A. The man. B. Her boss. Friday C. Mr Wing. 梅 D. Mr Wing's assistant. 人
- CA 3. A. Tomorrow. rain B. In two days. C. On the weekend. D. In a week. 时
- A 4. A. He has to work late. B. He has to catch a plane. 火车 C. He has to attend a meeting. D. He has to go to bed early.
- B 5. A. The museum's paintings were not first-rate. B. The museum tickets were expensive. 22. 3 C. The museum was too far from his hotel. D. The museum is closed too early that day.

#### Section B (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear **two** long conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, there will be a **one-minute** pause.

#### Conversation One

Listen to the conversation. Then read the four choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer according to what you hear. Then mark the corresponding letter on the answer sheet with a single line through the centre.

- A 6. Why does the woman want to talk to Joe?
- A. He knows about the Introduction to Physics course.  
 B. He works in the university's physics laboratory.  
 C. They're working on a lab report together.  
 D. They're attending the same physics lectures.
- C 7. How many lectures are there in the course each week?
- A. One. B. Two. C. Three. D. Four.
- D 8. Where doesn't the woman want to spend her time?
- A. In the lecture room. B. In the library. C. In the cafeteria. D. In the lab.
- C 9. What does the woman have to do to complete the physics lab? 47 v9
- A. To do the reading assignments. B. To search for data online.  
 C. To write a ten-page lab report. D. To seek her professor's advice.
- B 10. How does the man think of the course?
- A. It is fun. B. It may be interesting.  
 C. It takes too much time. D. It is difficult to understand.

### Conversation Two

Listen to the conversation. Then complete the following sentences with **one word or one number** according to what you hear. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

11. At local company Angleside, up to 150 employees will lose their jobs. 277. 100 15
12. Mr West announced they would be offering voluntary redundancy and early retirement and hoped to cover the job losses in this way.
13. The interviewer asked Mr West if these cuts were a result of Angleside's poor performance over the past five years.
14. Mr West claimed that his company decided to make changes of two years ago.
15. Mr West assured the interviewer that his company would continue to operate in the future and promised to do his best for the employees.

### Section C (5 marks)

In this section, you will hear **five** short news items. Each item will be read only **once**. After each item, there will be a **fifteen-second** pause. During the pause, read the question and the **four** choices marked A, B, C and D, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line through the centre.

- 87 56 + 13 30
- C 16. When did Dr. Lee challenge the law of conservation of parity?
- A. In 1956. B. In 1957. C. In 1986. D. In 1987.
- C 17. Who should potential tenants call to see the suite of office?
- A. The owner. B. The contractor.  
 C. The rental agency. D. The suite's receptionist.

18. What's the result of the French left coalition in the latest legislation elections?  
 A. Beating back a far-right surge. ✓ B. Failing to win the most seats. ▲  
 C. Winning the second place only. D. Showing the poorest performance.
19. What are customers advised to do to find out more about the new banking services?  
 A. Go online. B. Visit the bank.  
 C. Read the bank's brochure. D. Set up an account.
20. Why is the wireless implant said to have made breakthrough progress in the first patient?  
 A. Because its side effects are lower than those of chips from other companies.  
 B. Because this device has been registered both domestically and internationally.  
 C. Because the first patient does not need to participate in human clinical trials.  
 D. Because the rehabilitation effect of the first implanted patient is significant.

#### Section D (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear an advertisement and a letter. The advertisement and the letter will be read twice. After listening, answer the questions using no more than five words. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

21. How many attorneys is the lawyer expected to assist according to the job ad? 6  
 22. How long is the required legal work experience? 2 years  
 23. When did the job ad appear in the newspaper? May 8th before June 1 昨天.  
 24. Where did James Jones work before? data 3 3 years lawyers assistant  
 25. What did James Jones enclose in his letter? his resume

#### Part II Vocabulary & Grammar (15 marks)

There are 15 incomplete sentences in this part. For each blank there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the answer sheet with a single line through the centre.

26. This restaurant has become popular for its wide \_\_\_\_\_ of foods that suits all tastes and pockets.  
 A. division B. area C. range D. circle
27. My grandfather is as \_\_\_\_\_ as a young man and hates sitting around doing nothing all day.  
 A. generous B. talkative C. energetic D. sensitive
28. Ideals are like the stars, we never reach them, but like mariners, we \_\_\_\_\_ our course by them.  
 A. chart B. follow C. mirror D. record
29. Ordinary processing chips, like those found inside laptop and desktop computers, are \_\_\_\_\_ designed to do one thing after another.  
 A. in parallel B. in essence C. from scratch D. from within
30. The final score of the basketball match was 93-94. We are only \_\_\_\_\_ beaten.  
 A. nearly B. hardly C. lightly D. narrowly

A 31. Images of the lunar lander displaying the Chinese flag and appearing to have drilled the character "zhong"—shorthand for China—on the lunar surface \_\_\_\_\_ on Chinese social media.

- A. went viral      B. showed off      C. shed light      D. grew up

D 32. Many people agree that \_\_\_\_\_ good knowledge of English is \_\_\_\_\_ must in international affairs today.

- A. a; a      B. the; a      C. the; the      D. /; the

D 33. The program Microsoft Word defaults to US-English, \_\_\_\_\_ do its spellchecking features.

- A. and      B. but      C. such      D. so

C 34. Children under 12 years of age \_\_\_\_\_ be under adult supervision when in a public library.

- A. can      B. may      C. must      D. will

A 35. I \_\_\_\_\_ along the street looking for a place to park when the accident \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. went; was occurring      B. was going; occurred  
C. had gone; occurring      D. would go; had occurred

C 36. —When did you last hear \_\_\_\_\_ Jay?

—He phoned me this morning, and we agreed \_\_\_\_\_ a time and place to meet.

- A. of; in      B. about; of      C. from; with      D. from; on

A 37. —Is that the small town you often refer to?

—Right, just the one \_\_\_\_\_ you know I used to work for years.

- A. that      B. which      C. where      D. what

D 38. —Hang on. If these towers are so tall, how do they cope in high winds? \_\_\_\_\_

—Yes, keeping them stable is another drawback. I believe they anchor the towers to the ground with wires to stabilize them so they're not dangerous, but it is an issue.

- A. So, there're no drawbacks then?      B. Surely they become dangerous then?  
C. Is there anything else I need to know?      D. Do you know what happened to them afterwards?

39. —Simon, do you have time for a little chat?

B —Sure, Dad.

—I just wondered if you'd thought about what you were going to do with the money your grandfather left you?

—\_\_\_\_\_ It's quite a lot of money, so I want to make sure I don't just waste it. I had thought about leaving it in the bank for a while.

- A. I should never have thought about it.  
B. Well, I've started to give it some thought.  
C. You've certainly found an interesting topic.  
D. But I'm scared that if I invest it, I might lose it all.

A 40. —Most people are frightened of being in front of a class for the first time, but the tutors will help you to feel more confident.

—I haven't had any real experience of teaching and I'm worried about not being able to control a class, and the pupils being rude to me. \_\_\_\_\_

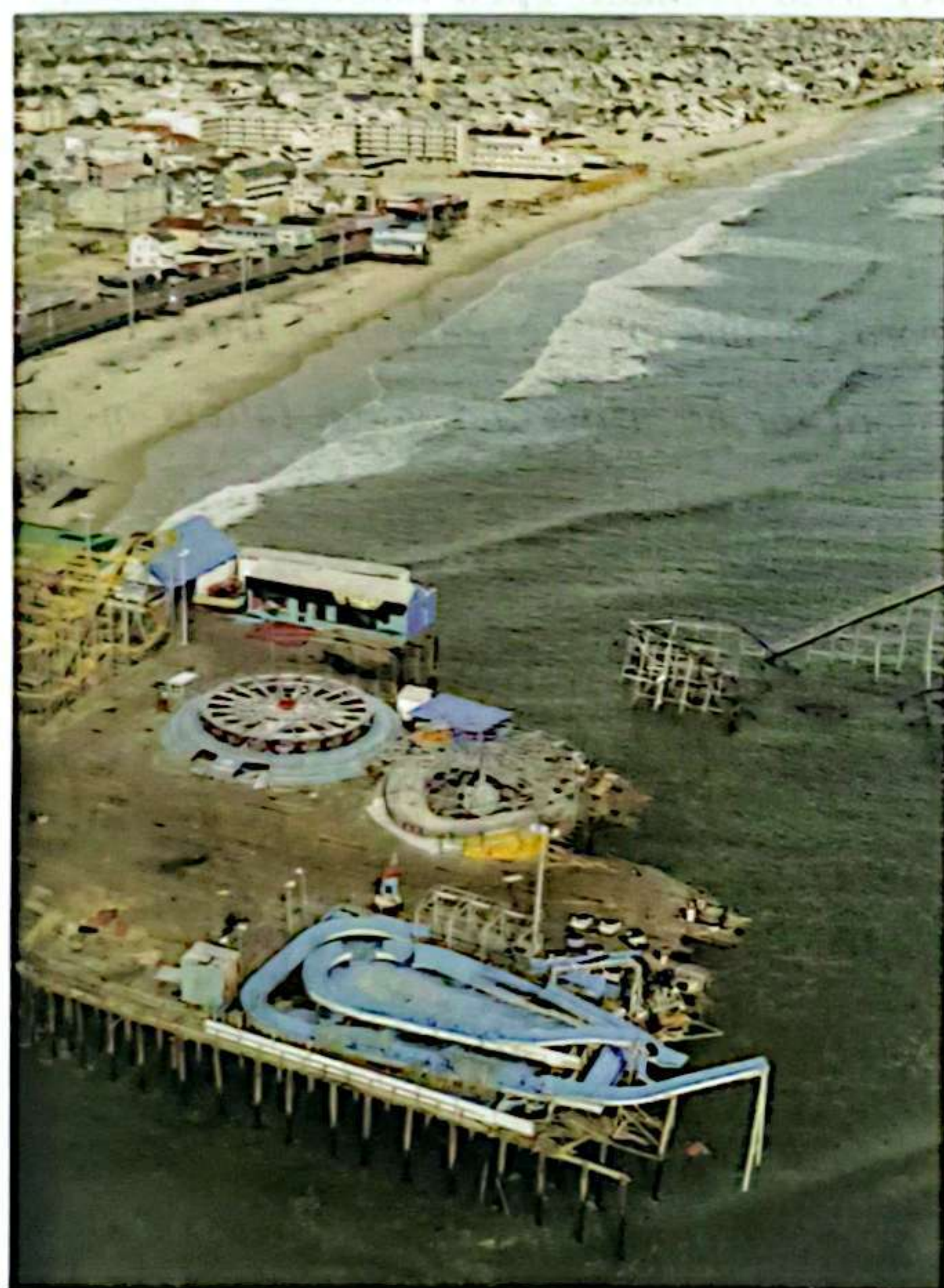
- A. If they shout at me in class, I'm not sure what I'll do.
- B. You'll be taught how to deal with those things by the tutors.
- C. But the thing I'm most worried about is their physical condition.
- D. You have to take responsibility for whatever happens on campus.

### Part III Cloze (10 marks)

#### Section A (5 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with the correct forms of 5 words or phrases out of the 7 given in the box. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

afford; alarm; come through; essential; narrow; sweep away; warm



By the time Hurricane Sandy moved toward the northeast coast of the United States, it had hit several countries in the Caribbean and left dozens dead. Faced with the largest storm the Atlantic had ever produced, New York and other cities ordered mandatory evacuations of low-lying areas. Not everyone complied. Those who chose to ride out Sandy got preview of the future, in which a (41) warm world will lead to rising seas.

Brandon d'Leo, a sculptor and surfer, rented a second-floor apartment across the street from the beach on New York City's Rockaway Peninsula. At about 3:30 in the afternoon, he went outside. Waves were crashing against the nine-kilometre-long boardwalk. A short time later, d'Leo and a neighbour watched the sea through the glass door of his living room. As it was getting dark, his neighbour saw something (42) alarming "I think the boardwalk just moved," she said. Within minutes, another surge of water lifted the boardwalk again. It began to break apart.

Three large sections of the boardwalk smashed against two pine trees in front of d'Leo's apartment. The street had become a 1.2-metre-deep river. Cars began to float, their alarms adding to the sound of rushing water and cracking wood. After the storm, d'Leo said, "I have six surfboards in my apartment, and I was thinking, if anything (43) sweep away that wall, I'll try to get everyone on those boards and try to get up the block." came through

After a difficult night's sleep, d'Leo went outside. The water had retreated, but thigh-deep pool still filled parts of some streets. "Everything was covered with sand," he said. "It looked like another planet."

By the end of the century, a hundred-year storm surge like Sandy's might occur every decade or less.

Coastal cities like New York now face a double threat: rising oceans and more severe storm surges. Experts estimate that by 2070, 150 million people in the world's large port cities will be at risk from coastal flooding, along with 35 trillion dollars in property. How will they cope?

Malcolm Bowman, a researcher at the State University of New York, believes that storm-surge barriers must be built across New York City's harbour. Compared with some other leading ~~ports~~, New York is (44) swept away defenseless in the face of hurricanes and floods. London, Rotterdam, St. Petersburg, New Orleans, and Shanghai have all built levees and storm barriers in the past few decades. When Hurricane Sandy struck, New York paid a high price for not having such protection. The storm left 43 dead and cost the city about 9 billion dollars. According to Bowman, storm-surge barriers could have prevented it. He says, "It might take five years of study and another ten years to get the political will to do it. By then, there might have been another disaster. We need to start planning immediately."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg outlined a 19.5-billion-dollar plan to defend New York City against rising seas. His proposal called for the construction of levees, local storm-surge barriers, sand dunes, and more than 200 other measures. It went far beyond anything planned by any other U.S. city. But the mayor dismissed the idea of a harbour barrier. "A giant barrier across our harbour is neither practical nor (45) affordable," Bloomberg said. The plan notes that since a barrier would remain open most of the time, it would not protect the city from inch-by-inch creep of sea-level rise.

### Section B (5 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in each blank with **one** word in one of the following **three** ways: according to the context, by using the correct form of the given word, or by using the given letters of the word. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

The 12 Chinese zodiac signs are based on the 12 Terrestrial Branches. Ancient Chinese people invented the system based on (46) abstract of the orbit of Jupiter, which has a 12-year rotation basis.

Chinese people named each of the Terrestrial Branches, and used them to mark the year, month, date, as well as different periods of the day. Therefore, Jupiter is also known as the "Year Star" in ancient China.

The order of the zodiacs is based on the habits and activity time of the animals during the day. For example, the rats usually come out around midnight, therefore it is arranged at the beginning of the Terrestrial Branches, (47) ing (refer) to the period between 23:00 and 1:00. Likewise, the ox is the second because the animal ruminates after 1:00 am. The same order is transplanted to the arrangement of the 12 zodiac signs. Without any records on archives, this is the most (48) a (believe) explanation.

Where there is an unknown, there are mythologies and folk stories. Mystery generates stories and legends.

In the most widely known version, Huangdi, or the Yellow Emperor, known as a deity and ancestor of





the Chinese people, called on all animals to get registered for the 12 zodiac signs (49) when the nation first settled and the animals were placed in a “first come, first serve basis”. All the animals got up early in the morning and hurried to the destiny except the rat, which found a shortcut by hiding on the ox’s back. When the Yellow Emperor started to give them orders, the rat standing on the head of the ox was named first.

In some other versions, the rat was also said to have forgotten to wake up the cat, which therefore lost the (50) qualification (qualify) to be listed as one of the zodiac signs. Since then, the friendship died and they became enemies.

Everybody knows that folk stories are fictional, but it doesn’t stop them from being told from generation to generation.

#### Part IV Reading Comprehension (30 marks)

There are **three** passages in this part. Each passage is followed by several questions. Respond to the questions using the information from the passage. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

#### Section A (10 marks)

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

On a clear summer day with the sun directly overhead, Nevada Solar One can convert about 20 percent of the sun’s rays into electricity.

Early on a clear November morning in the Mojave Desert, a full moon is sinking over the gigawatt glare of Las Vegas. Nevada Solar One is sleeping. But the day’s work is about to begin.

(51) B Parked facing the ground overnight, they are starting to awaken—more than 182,000 of them—and follow the sun.

On a cold December morning west of Frankfurt, Germany, fog hangs frozen in the trees, and clouds block the sun. In the town of Morbach, the blades of a 100-metre-high wind turbine appear and disappear in the gloom. Down below, a field of photovoltaic panels struggle for light. Considering its unpredictable weather, who would have thought that Germany would transform itself into the largest producer of photovoltaic power in the world?

A fraction of Germany’s five-gigawatt photovoltaic power comes from centralized plants like the one at Morbach. With land at a premium in Germany, solar panels can be found mounted on rooftops, farmhouses, even on soccer stadiums and along the autobahn. (52) A

The solar boom has completely transformed towns like “sunny Freiburg”, as the tourist brochures call it, which sits at the edge of the Black Forest in the southern part of the country. (53) C Across the street from a school covered with photovoltaic panels is Solarsiedlung (“solar settlement”), one of the town’s condominium complexes.

“We are being paid for living in this house,” said Wolfgang Schnurer, one of Solarsiedlung’s residents.

The day before, when snow covered the roof, Schnurer's system produced only 5.8 kilowatt-hours, not enough power for a German household. But on a sunny day in May, it yielded more than seven times that much.

(54) F E In 2008, Schnurer's personal power plant yielded over 6,000 kilowatt-hours, more than double the amount the family consumed. When they subtracted their usage from the amount they produced, the family found they were more than 2,500 euros (nearly \$3,400) in profit.

Anybody who installs a photovoltaic system is guaranteed above-market rates for 20 years—the equivalent of an 8 percent annual return on the initial investment. “It is an ingenious mechanism,” Eicke Weber said. “I always say the United States addresses the idealists, those who want to save the planet. In Germany, the law addresses anyone who wants to get 8 percent return on his investment for 20 years.”

In total, Germany now generates more than 2,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually from solar energy, whereas the U.S. generates less than half this amount. The largest photovoltaic installation in the United States—at Nellis Air Force Base just outside Las Vegas—is only about the 25th largest in the world. Nearly all the bigger ones are located in either Germany or Spain. (55) D “Originally it seemed like a pie-in-the-sky idea,” said Michelle Price, the energy manager at Nellis. “It didn't seem possible.” Many things seem possible now.



### Questions 51 to 55

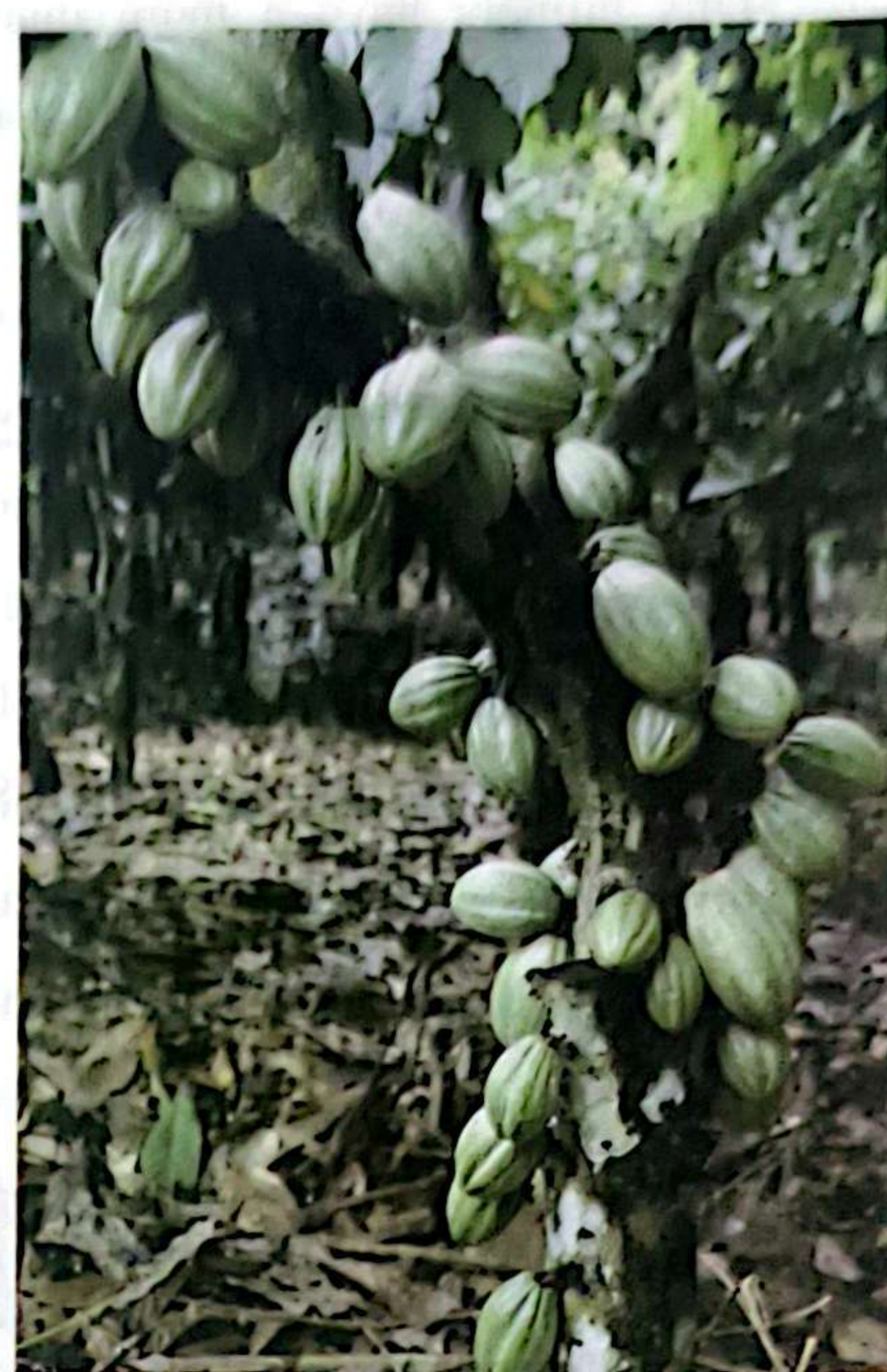
Choose from the sentences A to G the one which best fits each gap of 51 to 55. There are two extra sentences which you do not need to use.

- ~~A.~~ The panels, dispersed across the German countryside, are all connected to the national grid.
- B. Power plants such as Nevada Solar One use solar thermal energy (STE) technology, in other words, collecting the sun's rays via mirrors to produce thermal energy (heat).
- ~~C.~~ It is hard to imagine that a power plant could be so beautiful: 100 hectares of gently curved mirrors lined up like canals of light.
- D. But in the U.S. too, there is a gathering sense that the time for solar energy has arrived—if there is a commitment to jump-start the technology. b
- ~~E.~~ In Germany, regulations require utility companies to pay even the smallest photovoltaic producers a premium of about 50 euro cents a kilowatt-hour.
- ~~F.~~ These facilities are not only eco-friendly, but they also absorb more energy than is needed—earning a profit for the owners and residents.
- G. Towering walls of photovoltaics greet visitors as they arrive at Freiburg's train station.

## Section B (10 marks)

Questions 56 to 60 are based on the following passage.

The cacao tree, once native to the equatorial American forest, has some exotic traits for a plant. Slender and shrubby, the cacao has adapted to life close to the leaf-littered forest floor. Its large leaves droop down, away from the sun. Cacao doesn't flower, as most plants do, at the tips of its outer and uppermost branches. Instead, its sweet white buds hang from the trunk and along a few fat branches which form where leaves drop off. These tiny flowers transform into pulp-filled pods almost the size of rugby balls. The low-hanging pods contain the bitter-tasting, magical seeds.



Somehow, more than 2,000 years ago, ancient humans in Mesoamerica discovered the secret of these beans. If you scoop them from the pod with their pulp, let them ferment and dry in the sun, then roast them over a gentle fire, something extraordinary happens: they become chocolate. And if you then grind and press the beans, which are half cacao butter or more, you will obtain a rich, crumbly, chestnut brown paste—chocolate at its most pure and simple.

The Maya and Aztecs revered this chocolate, which they frothed up with water and spices to make bracing concoctions. It was edible treasure, offered up to their gods, used as money and hoarded like gold. Long after Spanish explorers introduced the beverage to Europe in the sixteenth century, chocolate retained an aura of aristocratic luxury. In 1753, the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus gave the cacao tree genus the name *Theobroma*, which means “food of the gods”.

In the last 200 years the bean has been thoroughly democratized—transformed from an elite drink into ubiquitous candy bars, cacao powders and confections. Today chocolate is becoming more popular worldwide, with new markets opening up in Eastern Europe and Asia. This is both good news and bad because, although farmers are producing record numbers of cacao beans, this is not enough, some researchers worry, to keep pace with global demand. Cacao is also facing some shocking problems.

Philippe Petithuguenin, head of the cacao programme at the Centre for International Cooperation in Development-Oriented Agricultural Research in France, recently addressed a seminar in the Dominican Republic. He displayed a map of the world revealing a narrow band within 18° north and south of the equator, where cacao grows. In the four centuries since the Spanish first happened upon cacao, it has been planted all around this hot humid tropical belt—from South America and the Caribbean to West Africa, East Asia, and New Guinea and Vanuatu in the Pacific.

Today 70% of all chocolate beans come from West and Central Africa. In many parts, growers practise so-called pioneer farming. They strip patches of forest of all but the tallest canopy trees and then put in cacao, using temporary plantings of banana to shade the cacao while it's young. With luck, groves like this

may produce annual yields of 50 to 60 pods per tree for 25 to 30 years. But eventually pests, pathogens and soil exhaustion take their toll of other crops. "You cannot keep cutting tropical forest, because the forest itself is endangered," said Petithuguenin. "World demand for chocolate increases by 3% a year on average. With a lack of land for new plantings in tropical forests, how do you meet that?"

Many farmers have a more imminent worry: outrunning disease. Cacao, especially when grown in plantations, is at the mercy of many afflictions, mostly rotting diseases caused by various species of fungi, which cover the pods in fungus or kill the trees. These fungi and other diseases spoil more than a quarter of the world's yearly harvest and can devastate entire cacao-growing regions.

One such disease, witches broom, devastated the cacao plantations in the Bahia region of Brazil. Brazil was the third largest producer of cacao beans but in the 1980s the yields fell by 75%. According to Petithuguenin, "if a truly devastating disease like witches broom reached West Africa (the world's largest producer), it could be catastrophic." If another producer had the misfortune to falter now, the ripples would be felt the world over. In the United States, for example, imported cacao is the linchpin of an \$8.6 billion domestic chocolate industry that in turn supports the nation's dairy and nut industries; 20% of all dairy products in the US go into confectionery.



Today research is being carried out to try to address this problem by establishing disease resistant plants. However, even the best plants are useless if there isn't anywhere to grow them. Typically, farmers who grow cacao get a pittance for their beans compared with the profits reaped by the rest of the chocolate business. Most are at the mercy of local middlemen who buy the beans then sell them for a much higher price to the chocolate manufacturers. If the situation is to improve for farmers, these people need to be removed from the process. But the economics of cacao is rapidly changing because of the diminishing supply of beans. Some companies have realised that they need to work more closely with the farmers to ensure that sustainable farming practices are used. They need to empower the farmers by guaranteeing them a higher price for their beans so that they will be encouraged to grow cacao and can maintain their way of life.

### Questions 56 to 60

Answer the following questions with the information given in the passage.

56. (Where) do the flowers of the cacao plant grow? 花神.
57. Why was chocolate regarded as edible treasure by the Maya and Aztecs? 为什么很
58. Where do most chocolate beans in today's world come from? 大那来
59. What is the biggest enemy of cacao trees? 人.
60. Who are said to reap the greatest profit from the chocolate business?

## Section C (10 marks)

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

Several years ago, the British show *Celebrity Big Brother* caused a scandal when a major argument occurred between two of its contestants. One was Jade Goodie, a British TV entertainer; the other was Shipla Shetty, a star of the India version of Hollywood, known as Bollywood. The cause of the argument was not clear. Some said it was clash of personalities, others claimed it was on racial differences. In fact 40,000 people complained about the racist nature of the show. There were even some demonstrations about it in India. The boss of Channel 4 TV, Kevin Lygo, argued that the conflict made the programme more interesting. He may have been right. This whole episode attracted massive audiences with millions more tuning in as the argument developed. This was followed by a media field day, which hit the headlines in India and dominated the news in the U.K. for several days.



This story shows the recent, far-reaching impact and level of interest in reality TV. This craze is clearly shown in this program *Big Brother*, the title inspired by George Orwell's novel. In this show, which was first aired in the U.K., specially selected contestants who don't know each other, are locked in a house and forced to live together for several weeks. The audience can watch what is happening in the house 24 hours a day on their TVs through the video cameras placed around the house. At the end of each week, the TV audience can vote on whom they like the most. The least popular person has to leave the house. The person remaining at the end of this process is the winner. This show had been incredibly popular. Over 67 percent of the U.K. population watched at least one episode from the first series. The most recent celebrity version of this show attracted 8.2 million viewers. Stories about the characters filled the newspapers, and became very popular conversation topics.

Some people say that the Candid Camera show in the United States, which was first broadcast in the 1960s, was the grandfather of reality TV. The show secretly filmed scenes of people who were victims of practical jokes. It soon became famous, and was copied all over the world. Reality TV now has a very broad meaning, but recently, the term has been used to describe programmes that involve ordinary people, are not scripted, and let the participants behave according to their own free will. There are many types of reality shows which are popular all over the world. For example, in Japan, there was *Za Gaman* (or *Endurance*), which then became popular in the United Kingdom. More recently, there has been *Ai Nori* (or *Love Wagon*). In the Czech Republic, there was even a reality show where the main characters were gorillas!

How do we explain the long-running popularity of reality shows? They can certainly be entertaining, and are a change from the typical TV programmes we usually watch. A lot of what we usually see on TV is scripted and acted, whereas reality TV can seem very fresh and powerful. It is like watching a soap opera (another incredibly popular form of TV programme) with ordinary people rather than actors and without a