

全国大学生英语竞赛 C 类考试 2016 年初赛试题
2016 National English Competition for College Students
(Level C—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, there will be a **twenty-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.*

1. Who spent a lot for the wedding according to the conversation?
A. The young couple. B. The bridegroom's family.
C. The bridegroom's relatives. D. The bride's family.
2. Why does the man want to visit the Statue of Liberty first?
A. They have made it the top priority on their agenda.
B. He thinks it is a symbol of the United States.
C. There are some fancy stores near the statue.
D. It is the best place to have a good view of New York city.
3. Where did the woman get the coupons?
A. From salespersons. B. From grocery stores.
C. From her neighbours. D. From newspapers and magazines.
4. What is the man going to do?
A. Attend a wedding. B. Visit a country fair.
C. Visit an art exhibition. D. Attend a fashion show.
5. What can we infer about the speakers from the conversation?
A. They are discussing the local weather.
B. They are going to help each other in their study.
C. Neither of them is going to cheat in exams.
D. Neither of them is a top student in their class.

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. During the pause, read the questions 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.

Conversation One

6. What is the accident happening in Regent Street?

- A. Two cars ran into each other.
- B. A double-decker bus is on fire.
- C. A roadside building is burning.
- D. A man was run over by a double-decker bus.

7. Where is the crowd standing and singing?

- A. In Regent Street.
- B. In Oxford Street.
- C. In Euston Road.
- D. In London Road.

8. What is the lion doing on the road?

- A. Looking at the camera.
- B. Walking around the cars.
- C. Sitting and looking around.
- D. Running and roaring.

9. What is the traffic problem in East London?

- A. Somebody is driving on the wrong side of a road there.
- B. Drivers stop to watch an escaped lion running on a road.
- C. Too many cars get stuck because of a big parade going on.
- D. A huge lorry is overturned right in the middle of a road.

10. When will the traffic news be updated?

- A. In half an hour.
- B. At noon.
- C. In two hours.
- D. At half past ten.

Conversation Two

11. What does Liz McCartney think of her winning the prize?

- A. All her hardworking efforts are paid back.
- B. Other hero nominees are better than her.
- C. She is only a representative of the heroes.
- D. People in St. Bernard Parish will love her more.

12. What happened to people in St. Bernard Parish according to Liz?
- A. Many of them lost their homes in a fierce storm.
 - B. A fire broke out and burnt many of their houses.
 - C. A serious earthquake occurred to them suddenly.
 - D. They couldn't go out because of a huge flood.
13. What does Liz McCartney say about the prize?
- A. It is an honor the people of St. Bernard Parish deserve.
 - B. It shows the courage of the people of St. Bernard Parish.
 - C. It makes people realize the importance of guarding against disasters.
 - D. It is a reminder there is still much to be done after the disaster.
14. How much did Liz get as this year's CNN Hero of the Year prize?
- A. 25,000 dollars.
 - B. 50,000 dollars.
 - C. 100,000 dollars.
 - D. 125,000 dollars.
15. How will Liz spend the prize money?
- A. Setting up a fund for the local community.
 - B. Building houses for more suffering families.
 - C. Buying clothes for victims of the accident.
 - D. Donating it to a charity organisation.

Section C (5 marks)

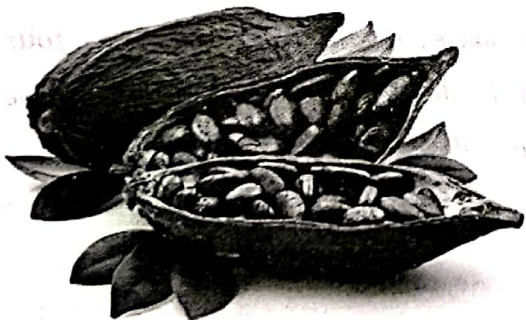
*In this section, you will hear **five** short news items. After each item, which will be read only **once**, there will be a **twenty-second** pause. During the pause, read the question and the **four** choices marked **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the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

16. Why did NASA send New Horizons spacecraft to Pluto?
- A. To find out its relations with other planets.
 - B. To test its new per-second speed in space.
 - C. To collect more detailed data about the planet.
 - D. To see whether there are any life forms on it.
17. What is the title Geneva plans to regain?
- A. City of Negotiation.
 - B. Peace Capital of the World.
 - C. UN European Headquarters.
 - D. Centre of Controlling Nuclear Weapons.

18. What was Merriam-Webster's criterion for choosing the 2015 Word of the Year?
- A. Whether it is related to politics, beliefs or discrimination.
 - B. How often it is looked up in its online dictionary.
 - C. Whether it ends in the suffix -ism.
 - D. How often it is used in people's life.
19. What measures did the nations agree to take to fight climate change?
- A. Reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
 - B. Burning no fossil fuels from now on.
 - C. Planting more trees.
 - D. Using more solar power.
20. Where did many of the richest in Britain get their increased wealth?
- A. From their investments in the stock market.
 - B. From their accumulated bank savings.
 - C. From their business earnings overseas.
 - D. From their rising private retirement payments.

Section D (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear a short passage. There are 10 missing words or phrases. Fill in the blanks with the exact words or phrases you hear. The passage will be read twice. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.



The most common legend about the discovery of coffee is that it happened in the ninth century A. D. A goat herder in Ethiopia named Kalil noticed that his goats became very active after they ate red berries from a leafy (21) _____. He tried a few berries himself, and he was soon as (22) _____ as his herd. Kalil told other people in his tribe about his experience, and for the next four hundred years, people chewed the berries because they (23) _____.

Recent botanical evidence indicates that *Coffea arabica* was first grown on the plateaus of central Ethiopia. There, the Galla tribe used to mix the beans with animal fat and eat this mixture as a source of (24) _____. In 1000 A. D., the Arabs began to boil the beans and (25) _____ a drink they called "qahwa," which means wine, coffee, or any drink made from plants. Coffee was also used by the people of that region to get more energy.

The introduction of coffee in Europe (27) _____. The delicacy was guarded like a military secret, and transportation of the plant out of the Muslim regions (28) _____. In the 1600s, coffee was introduced in Europe by Italian traders through the port of Venice. Soon coffee became a popular European beverage, too. Coffeehouses (29) _____ in one country after another, and became popular meeting places. The first coffeehouses were opened in England around 1650, and almost twenty years later coffee (30) _____ beer as New York City's breakfast drink.

Part II Vocabulary, Grammar and Culture (15 marks)

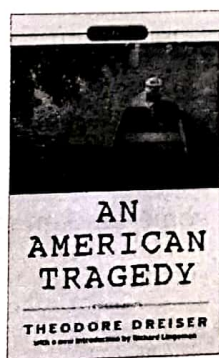
Section A Vocabulary and Grammar (10 marks)

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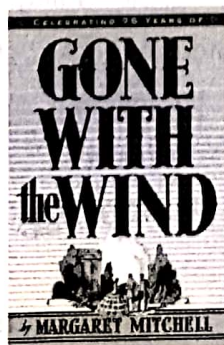
36. The wife of Steve Carvey, the baseball star, _____ about being left alone too often!
- A. bitterly has complained B. has bitterly complaining
C. has been complained bitterly D. has been complaining bitterly
37. The doctor's efforts were _____. The patient refused to accept the treatment.
- A. of no avail B. in no avail
C. by no avail D. on no avail
38. It is thought that modern corn may be a _____ of teosint and other wild species that no longer exist.
- A. hybrid B. combination
C. compound D. mixture
39. —Didn't you think that joke was funny?
—No, I didn't really get it.
—You are like my grandmother. She can't understand jokes.
—_____ I'm not that old yet.
- A. You should teach her a lesson! B. I think it takes time to do that.
C. Well, it's not her fault. D. Come on, you are so mean!
40. —My doctor has suggested that I try music therapy to reduce my pain.
—Really? _____
—At the hospital or at a private office.
- A. Do you think it will work? B. Where can you get music therapy?
C. How come you would believe in it? D. Who does music therapy for you?

Section B Culture (5 marks)

41. Renaissance was the revival of classical _____ in European history.
- A. education and religion B. science and technology
C. music and sport D. literature and artistic styles
42. Written by Margaret Mitchell, _____ was popular with American readers. As of 2014, a Harris poll found it to be the second favourite book of American readers, just behind the *Bible*.



A.



B.



C.



D.

43. Queen Mary was known as the “ ” and also remembered as the monarch who lost the last British possession on the continent—French port of Calais.
- A. Butcher Mary B. Bloody Mary
C. Lion Heart D. Great Conqueror
44. People often say that the history of Canada is a history of .
- A. European colonisation B. foreign intervention
C. immigration D. internationalisation
45. The largest state of the United States is . It is also known as “the great land”.
- A. Alaska B. California
C. Montana D. Texas

Part III Cloze (10 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in each blank with **one** word. Choose the correct 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 letter(s) of the word. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

What’s the weather like where you are? Chances are there’s a cloud somewhere on your horizon—a collection of millions of microscopic water droplets formed as moist air rises, cools and expands. If the cloud is dense enough, it (46) . If it’s cold enough, it snows. And if it’s low enough, we call it fog.



But until 200 years ago, people didn’t know what to call them and the fluffy things that passed overhead were known by their (47) to things such as mare’s tails or mackerel’s scales.

In 1783, huge volcanic eruptions in Iceland and Japan produced spectacular sunsets across the northern (48) hemi . Eleven-year-old Luck Howard was entranced by these displays and became a keen student of the young science of meteorology. Twenty years later, he made the first internationally recognised (49) (classify) of clouds.

One day, the sky was full of cirrus (high, threadlike cloud) and stratus (low, layered cloud), nimbus (rainclouds) and cumulus (low, puffy cloud). By combining these Latin names and grouping them by the (50) (high) at which they occurred, Howard came up with a 10-point system for identifying clouds.

Some countries may be sick of the sight of them, but drought-stricken areas are crying out for a bit of cloud cover. Scientists in the US and Russia have attempted to create clouds by cloud seeding—dropping condensation agents such as dry ice from aeroplanes to (51) _____ (courage) nascent clouds to form.

Poets and artists, too, have found (52) insp _____ in the clouds—Wordsworth wandered lonely as one, Shelly named a poem (53) _____ “the daughter of earth and water and the nursling of the sky”; while Turner and Constable captured their fleeting likenesses on canvas.

(54) Whe _____ you are under one, on top of one or have your head in one, clouds, like our moods, are ever changing. And perhaps that is the (55) _____ (beautiful) of them.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (35 marks)

Read the following passages. Each passage is followed by several questions. Respond to the questions using information from the passage. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.

Section A (5 marks)

Questions 56 ~ 60 are based on the following passage.

In order to get information about distant planets, scientists invented spacecraft to travel into the solar system to see the planets up close. These spacecraft do not carry people, and they never return to Earth. However, while they are in space, they can take photographs of planets that are too far away for us to study from Earth. One famous spacecraft that has done this is part of the Voyager Project. This spacecraft is called Voyager I.



NASA started the Voyager Project in the 1970s. During the 1960s and the 1970s, NASA sent many spacecraft into space to collect scientific information about the solar system, but none of those spacecraft carried astronauts. Two of the spacecraft that NASA built in the 1970s were called Voyager I and Voyager II. The original jobs of Voyager I and II were to get information about Jupiter and Saturn. The two spacecraft both left the Earth in 1977.

Voyager I reached Jupiter in 1979 and began to take photographs. The spacecraft was able to get very close to Jupiter. By getting close to Jupiter, it could take very clear

photographs of Jupiter's rings and planets. Voyager I also took good photographs of Jupiter's "Great Red Spot." This spot is a large place on Jupiter where there is a strong storm. The Great Red Spot is so large that it could hold three planets the size of Earth inside of it! After taking pictures of Jupiter, Voyager I went to Saturn. It reached Saturn in 1980 and collected important information about Saturn's rings.

After Voyager I finished its work on Saturn, the spacecraft still worked well. So, NASA sent Voyager I on a new job. This time it was sent out of the solar system. NASA wanted to see how far it could go.

Voyager I is still working today. It is now NASA's oldest working spacecraft. It has travelled more than 9.3 billion miles, making it the spacecraft that has travelled furthest from Earth. Actually, the spacecraft has now travelled much further than expected. As it travels, it continues to send new information back to Earth. It is expected that Voyager I will no longer work by the year 2020. At that time it will not have enough power to keep working. Still, we can certainly say that this spacecraft has done a great service in helping us to learn more about space.

Questions 56—60

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- 56. Voyager I and Voyager II are only a part of NASA's Voyager Project started in the 1970s.
- 57. Voyager I and Voyager II were specifically designed to carry astronauts to outer space.
- 58. Voyager I has successfully fulfilled its mission of collecting information about Jupiter and Saturn.
- 59. Voyager I is still in normal working condition inside the solar system.
- 60. As expected, Voyager I will return to the Earth by the year of 2020 with more valuable information.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 61 ~ 65 are based on the following passage.

Can we trust our memories? Psychologist Elizabeth Loftus doesn't think so. Loftus is an expert on false memories. A false memory is a memory of something that never happened. Are people with false memories lying? Not at all, says Loftus. They really believe their memories. And that is why it can be difficult to know if a memory is real.

(61) _____ These people didn't know each other, but 36 percent of them had the same memory. What was it? They remembered hugging Bugs Bunny at Disneyland. But wait a minute. Bugs Bunny is not a Disney character, and he was never at Disneyland. These people's memories were false.

(62) _____ Loftus says it is easy to put a false memory into someone's mind. How? You just talk to the person. In the Bugs Bunny experiment, Loftus talked to people who had visited Disneyland as children. Then she asked them about Bugs Bunny. She asked if he had soft ears. She asked if his body was furry. Later, more than one-third falsely remembered hugging Bugs Bunny.



(63) _____ That is why Loftus used the words "furry" and "soft" in the experiment. Those words helped people imagine the experience. They saw Bugs Bunny in their imagination. They felt his soft fur. It seemed so real. They were sure it really happened.



(64) _____ Loftus says it shows the dangers of false memory. Of course, a false memory of Bugs Bunny is not dangerous, but imagine this situation. A man hits a woman on the head. Then he steals her car. The police ask the victim if the thief smelled of cigarettes. In fact, he did not, but after the woman hears the question, she becomes 100 percent sure that he did. She adds the smell of cigarettes to her real memory and creates a false memory. The police then accuse the wrong person, a smoker. As a result, they never find the guilty man. He's a nonsmoker, so the police don't even look for him.

(65) _____ If they aren't careful, they won't find the truth. Instead, they will find only false memories, and the real criminals will go free.

Questions 61—65

Complete the passage with the following sentences. There are **two extra** sentences that you do not need to use.

- A. When we remember something, we use all of our senses: sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing.
- B. The police often create false memories when they ask crime victims questions.
- C. In one experiment on false memories, Loftus talked to people about their childhoods.
- D. Why are many of our childhood memories probably false ones?
- E. But what is the purpose of the Bugs Bunny experiment?
- F. How could a group of strangers all have the same false memory?
- G. That is why the police need to be very careful about how they ask questions, says Loftus.

Section C (10 marks)

Questions 66 ~ 70 are based on the following passage.



One of the interesting things about languages is the way they change over time. In English, everything from spelling to vocabulary has gone through major changes over the years. In fact, to a modern speaker, the English of 1,000 years ago looks like a foreign language!

The history of English dates back around 1,500 years. At that time, groups of Europeans invaded England, bringing their language with them. It developed into Old English. Later, in 1066, England was invaded by the Normans from France. The language went through an important shift, leading to what we now call Middle English. Over the next 500 years, the language underwent further shifts, leading to Modern English. As the language has developed over time, many things about it have changed.

Pronunciation is one of the most obvious areas. For example, in Old English, people said “hus” and “mus”. Now, we say “house” and “mouse”. These days, there are many differences in the way English is pronounced in the U.S., India, and elsewhere. When people live in groups separated by great distances, the pace of change can be fast.

Spelling has also gone through interesting changes. For example, in Old English, one wrote “riht”. A “g” was added in Middle English, making the spelling “right”. Also, in the distant past, people did not always follow standards of spelling. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, scholars like Noah Webster wrote dictionaries which made the spelling more consistent. However, different standards were decided on in England and the U.S. So, some differences remain—for example, “color” vs. “colour”.

Vocabulary changes happen even more quickly. English has grown by borrowing words from languages such as French, Spanish, and Arabic, to name a few. This often happens with types of food—for example, “tofu”. Then there is slang which enters and leaves the language every year! Thirty years ago, one often heard people saying “groovy”, meaning “great”. These days, you’ll rarely hear the word except on old TV shows and movies.

Because English is spoken by so many people worldwide, it really is an exciting time for the language. Just as American and British versions are always changing, so are versions spoken in Canada, Singapore, and elsewhere. At the same time, an entirely new version of English is appearing on the Internet with whole new slang and writing styles. In

a way, learning English is a never-ending process, even for native speakers!

Questions 66—70

Answer the following questions according to the passage.

66. Why does the English of 1,000 years ago seem a foreign language to modern speakers?
67. What aspects are discussed to show the changes of English in history?
68. When did scholars try to make English spelling more consistent?
69. What are some languages that English has borrowed words from?
70. Where can we see an entirely new version of English?

Section D (10 marks)

Questions 71 ~ 75 are based on the following passage.

Wine can be made with red grapes or white grapes, and, especially in the case of red wines, a number of doctors have reported that a moderate amount of wine has certain health benefits. This may be one of the reasons why the number of people drinking wine has risen over the past years. As new wine-shoppers browse the shelves of their local markets, they face a tough decision. Should they buy a wine with a cork or a screw top? And shoppers are not alone in their dilemma. Wineries are also facing tough choices in the best way to seal their products.

The root of the problem lies in “cork taint”. Cork taint refers to a problem with wine that has been sealed with a bad cork. Traditionally, all corks are made from a special oak tree that grows around the Mediterranean. In the process of making the corks and sealing wine bottles, a certain type of mold may start



to grow on some corks. Over time, this mold can produce a chemical that makes the wine inside the bottle taste musty. In fact, the human tongue is so sensitive to this particular compound that people can taste it even diluted up to six parts per trillion!

How big is the problem of cork taint? Some experts from the wine industry claim cork taint affects one out of every ten bottles of wine. And as one spokesperson for an American winery says, “No other packaging industry in the world would put up with that kind of failure rate.”

Some wine makers see a possible solution to the problem of cork taint through adopting the tried and true method of sealing bottles with screw tops. However, many wineries are still playing it safe and sticking to corks for two reasons. First, there is the old

belief among cork users that small amounts of oxygen are able to penetrate corks. This oxygen, they say, is necessary for the proper aging of fine wines, especially those aged 10 years or more. Screw tops do not allow for any oxygen to get into the bottles after they are sealed.

Another problem arises from the image screw tops have with the public. In most people's minds, screw tops are only found on cheap, low-quality wines. It will take a lot of efforts from wineries to re-educate the public if they want to change the image of screw tops. In addition, there is the problem of losing the romantic, elegant mood produced by the ceremonial popping of the cork. Consumers don't seem to feel the same thrill when unscrewing a top.

Questions 71—75

Complete the summary with words from the passage, changing the form where necessary, with **only one** word for each blank.

The wine industry is facing a (71) _____. What is the best way to seal wine bottles? Many people think that it is only proper for wine (72) _____ to be sealed with corks. They believe that oxygen needs to be able to (73) _____ the cork. Other experts, however, suggest that wineries change to screw tops. Using corks can lead to cork taint, a bad taste in the wine caused by (74) _____. However, it is unlikely that the public will accept this solution. They will most likely (75) _____ to buying wine with corks for the romantic and elegant mood it brings.



Part V Translation (15 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese. Remember to write the answers on the answer sheet.

76. Kite flying is one of the most popular traditional sports in China. Kite, called *Feng Zheng* in Chinese, originated in China and it has been praised as the forerunner of modern aircrafts. Its history can be traced back to more than 2,000 years ago. Legend has it that, the first Chinese kites were made of wood by the famous architect and carpenter Lu Ban during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476BC); after the invention of paper, kites

began to be made of this new material. People nowadays make colourful kites in the shapes of animals, birds, butterflies, fishes, etc.

Section B (10 marks)

Translate the following sentences into English by using the hints given in brackets. Remember to write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

77. 你走后如果有你的信件, 我会转寄给你。 (send on)
78. 这些年轻员工的最大优势在于他们接受新鲜事物快。 (catch on)
79. 有些人建议在所有准备工作都做好后再开始这一项目。 (虚拟语气)
80. 这辆自行车刚开始骑可能有点不舒服, 但那种感觉很快就会消失。 (wear off)
81. 月球是个完全寂静的世界, 一点声音都没有。 (定语从句)

Part VI Error Correction (10 marks)

Proofread the passage as required. Each indicated line contains **a maximum of one error**. Correct the passage in the following ways: for a right line, put the sign “√” in the corresponding blank; for a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank; for a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with the sign “^” and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank; for an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with the sign “/” and put the word with the sign in the blank. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

For example:

One of my favorite writers <u>are</u> Charlotte Brontë. She was born in the early	<u>is</u>
nineteenth century when women had far fewer opportunities ^ they have now.	<u>than</u>
She lived in a small village in Yorkshire and she took great pleasure in walking	<u>√</u>
on the moors <u>where</u> near her home.	<u>where</u>

Nowadays people celebrate all kinds of graduations. Students graduate from elementary school, high school, and college. In some countries, such as the 82. _____
Korea and the United States, families even celebrate where their children graduate 83. _____
from kindergarten at the age of five or six. There are graduations from 84. _____
judo and karate classes, English classes, art classes, and modeling classes.

In the United States, graduation from high school is perhaps the least significant. 85. _____
One tradition with high school graduation is the prom, which is school dance, 86. _____
and is very formal. It marked the end of adolescence and high school life, and the 87. _____
start of a new period of work or college. Take, for example, Jessica. She is graduated 88. _____

from high school this June, and is going to celebrate at his prom. Jessica is going to 89. _____
 wear a beautiful evening dress, jewelry, or new shoes with high heels. Ray, her date, 90. _____
 is going to wear a tuxedo. He' s going to pick her up at her house, and they' re
 going to arrive at the prom in a limousine. It' s going to be a unforgettable evening. 91. _____

Part VII IQ Test (5 marks)

*There are **five** IQ Test questions in this part. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.*

92. Where can you always find money?

93. Which is the odd word out?

A. Curious

B. Absent

C. Depart

D. Nomad

E. Opera

94. Television is to the image what radio is to _____.

A. the music

B. the sound

C. the speech

D. the noise

95. What does the italicized sentence mean in Chinese?

—The soup is so hot! The salad is not fresh! What are we eating here?

—*Don' t get your monkey up for nothing!* We are travelling!

96. Which code matches the pattern given at the end of the line?



DX



AZ



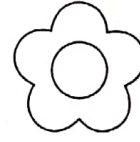
BY



CY



DZ



?

A. AX

B. BX

C. CX

D. AY

E. DY



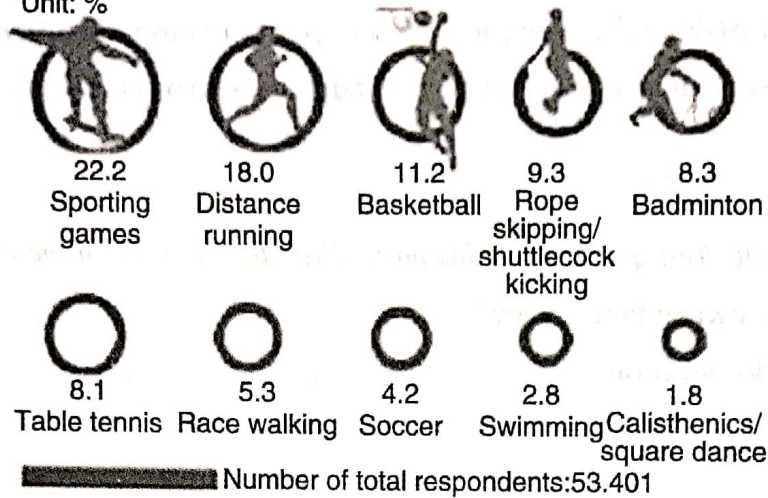
Part VIII Writing (30 marks)

I (10 marks)

*Write a survey report on exercises with most participants among young Chinese age 6 to 19 in 2014. Write the report in **120-140** words on the **answer sheet**.*

Exercises with most participants among young Chinese age 6 to 19 in 2014

Unit: %



II (20 marks)

Young people today seem unable to part with smart phones, laptops and iPads. There has appeared a forward curve of the upper back caused by constantly looking down at a smart phone or similar device. Write an essay of **no less than 160** words on the **answer sheet**, stating your opinion on the issue.

