

2025 年全国大学生英语竞赛初赛题(C 类)

2025 National English Competition for College Students (Type 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, one question will be asked, and you 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.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. A. To arrive at the office earlier. | B. To attend meetings on time. |
| C. To meet the guests politely. | D. To write the proposal carefully. |
| 2. A. Change the security system of the company. | B. Design a suitable logo for their new products. |
| C. Rent some artworks to hang in their hallways. | D. Remove the posters on the walls immediately. |
| 3. A. He set up a therapy group. | B. He went boating daily. |
| C. He ate a special diet. | D. He did cycling regularly. |
| 4. A. Clarify a confusion. | |
| B. Ask for compensation. | |
| C. Confirm a new order. | |
| D. Cancel a previous order. | |
| 5. A. A consultant and a CEO. | |
| B. An employer and a secretary. | |
| C. An interviewer and an interviewee. | |
| D. A bank manager and a customer. | |



Conversation Two

Listen to the conversation, and complete the sentences with **one word** according to what you hear. Then write the answers on the **answer sheet**.

11. Kevin suggests his mother change their travel destination from the Bahamas to some more _____ place.
12. The reason why Kevin gives up the trip to the Bahamas is the effects of climate crisis they may _____ to, including the greenhouse gases and waste.
13. Kevin feels completely _____ about the climate crisis because he doesn't think anybody can change it.
14. Kevin's mother suggests that he join a climate change _____ group in the next town.
15. They decide to make a new travel plan to _____ again and get their tickets to the Bahamas _____.

Section C (5 marks)

In this section, you will hear a recording of a short talk. Each item will be read only **once**. After each item, there will be a fifteen-second pause. You must read the question and the **four** choices marked **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, and then mark the corresponding letter on the **answer sheet** with a single line.

16. What's the biggest financial problem for poor people in Uganda?
 - A. Clothing and food.
 - B. Education fees.
 - C. Medical costs.
 - D. Various taxes.
17. What do public health experts now advise?
 - A. In take of alcohol should be limited as much as possible.
 - B. Drinking moderate amounts of alcohol can be good for the heart.
 - C. Alcohol drinking must be strictly prohibited.
 - D. Less drinking could help reduce cancer risks.
18. What is Venus like according to the latest study?
 - A. It has water flowing on the surface.
 - B. It holds large oceans of liquid water.
 - C. It is quite different from Earth in size.
 - D. It has always been extremely dry and hot.

19. What do we learn about today's space from the news report?
- A. It calls for more in-depth research.
 - B. Its debris is kept under control.
 - C. It faces increasing safety risks.
 - D. Its exploration attracts global attention.
20. What does the news report say the new blood tests could do?
- A. Analyse patients' symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.
 - B. Help identify Alzheimer's disease faster and more accurately.
 - C. Help find out the cause of Alzheimer's disease.
 - D. Search for the sticky protein in Alzheimer's patients' brains.

Section D (10 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **one** monologue. The monologue will be read **twice**. After listening, answer the questions using **no more than six words**. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.*

21. What is one most suitable to do at the age of 7 or 8?
22. What happens least often to 22-year-olds?
23. Who seem to get the best times in a marathon?
24. What are people in their 40s and 50s best at?
25. When are people best at vocabulary?



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. As a sailor John often goes to sea, and the days when he is at home with his parents in a year _____ about one month.
- A. add up to B. arrive at C. get close to D. sum up
27. Maria never regretted paying \$1,000 for the antique book. As a matter of fact, she would gladly have paid _____ for it.
- A. as much twice B. as twice much C. much as twice D. twice as much
28. Interestingly enough, it is women _____ men who get a divorce in the courts nowadays in Britain. Seven out of ten divorces are _____ to the wife.
- A. apart from; judged B. aside from; given C. rather than; granted D. other than; sentenced

29. An international treaty signed several years ago _____ trade in plants and animals of endangered species.
- A. eliminates B. forbids C. overlooks D. despises
30. He wasn't appointed chairman of the committee, _____ not very popular with all its members.
- A. being considered B. considering C. to be considered D. having considered
31. The network will provide vital links between education, industry, commerce and other professions _____ helping young people understand the requirements of employers and _____, making them familiar with the new technology.
- A. by; at the same time B. for; by the way
C. in; nevertheless D. through; so far
32. _____ a dispute between the managers, most superiors refuse to become involved, expecting the managers _____ to resolve the issue.
- A. Because of; on their own B. Confronted with; themselves
C. Due to; in all D. Enabled to; together
33. Many freshmen get into trouble by spending too much time on one class at the _____ of the others, either because they like one class much better or because they find it so much harder that they think they should _____ all their time to it.
- A. charge; put B. debt; spend C. expense; devote D. price; pay
34. People living in small towns and villages often seem more friendly than those living in _____ populated areas.
- A. densely B. highly C. intensively D. tensely
35. Recently a number of cases in that state have been reported of young people _____ a violent act seen on television and in movies.
- A. accelerating B. duplicating C. modifying D. stimulating
36. We will always remember the kindness and _____ you showed us when my family and I were suffering _____ our losses.
- A. humane; at B. humanism; of C. humankind; to D. humanity; from
37. The World Bank has funded many development schemes _____, including shanty town and transport improvements.
- A. global B. overall C. worldwide D. universal
38. — Well, _____, governments should introduce more policies to help families with children.
— I'm not so sure about that. It doesn't seem fair for people who don't have kids.
- A. as you know B. as far as I'm concerned
C. to tell you the truth D. believe it or not

39. — Are you ready to order?

— Yes. Can I have the full English breakfast, please? And I'd like the poached egg, not the fried egg, if possible.

— _____ And what would you like for the drink?

— Coffee, please.

A. Not at all. B. You're welcome. C. Yes, that's fine. D. Sorry I can't.

40. — Have you got a cloth? I've knocked my drink over! I'm so sorry!

I should have been more careful.

— _____ The carpet's old anyway.

A. There's no need to apologize.

B. I really feel sorry about it.

C. That's too bad!

D. What can I do for you?



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**.

straight; challenge; put away; confident; exact; get over; break



Commonly appearing in the top ten fears, public speaking is one of the biggest worries many people have. It is a time when many people feel under pressure. Not surprisingly, presenting is nearly all about (41) _____ and it's surprisingly easy to achieve.

Many of us feel that we work effectively in our daily roles, but the moment our manager tells us that we have to do a presentation tomorrow, the fear kicks in. The key to (42) _____ this is to present as often as we can. The more normal it becomes, the easier it will be.

Start with a positive mindset. Think about how well the presentation will go. Don't focus on it going wrong.

Make decisions quickly about what to include. Brainstorm your ideas and decide what to leave out
(43) _____ away — no one can cover everything.

Have a clear mind about (44) _____ what you want to say. Don't focus on the people in the room and things you can't control. Just focus on what you can control.

One of the biggest fears and (45) _____ is how we will handle a difficult audience or difficult questions. This is the one point when many people feel the situation is out of control. However, with good preparation, we can probably predict 90% of the questions we will be asked. And have an answer ready.

So the most important element to perform well?

Prepare. Prepare. Prepare.

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(s), or by using the given letters of the word. Write the answers on the **answer sheet**.*

A recent survey revealed that children in the UK get an average of 12 pounds pocket money every week, with an (46) _____ (addition) 10 pounds during the holidays. But according to the same survey, they would need at least 25 pounds if they wanted to buy everything they need. The same survey tells us that if they had the money, they would spend it immediately.

They spend just over half of this money on food and drink and Starbucks is their favourite place to eat out. They also like to buy clothes, shoes and accessories, as well (47) _____ video games and electronic goods. And they pay to download movies or music from the Internet.

British teens like virtual window-shopping, saving time and money before they visit the shops. An (48) inc _____ number of teens, particularly boys, would prefer to shop online if they had the choice. Another trend is social shopping, or posing comments and pictures from shopping trips on social media.

British parents would usually (49) _____ pay for teenagers' clothes or go halves with them as long as they didn't feel they were wasting their money. Many parents pay their children's smartphone bill if it doesn't exceed the agreed monthly (50) _____ (allow). Parents usually pay for all travel expenses, friends' birthday presents and special treats.

Young people should understand the value of money. Most children admitted they would happily tidy their rooms, walk the dog, do the



washing up, or take the garbage out if they earned money for it. Most teenagers admitted they should save their money for something useful and they shouldn't spend it on food or entertainment only. But very few of them actually do it.

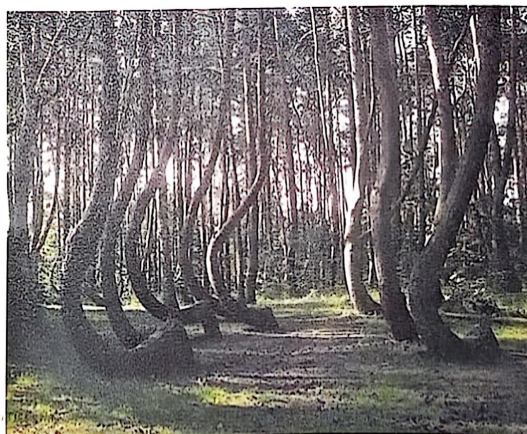
Part IV Reading Comprehension (30 marks)

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

Section A (10 marks)

Questions 51 — 55 are based on the following passage.

We've come a long way since the days when stories of gods and goddesses were the only way to understand the puzzling peculiarities of nature. But although we know many answers, there are still some secrets that Mother Nature still holds close to her. From singing sand dunes and balls of lightning, here are some incredible but still unexplainable tricks of nature.



Hidden in a forest, the Crooked Forest in Poland is a grove of around 400 pines that have a hook-shaped bottom. Although it is believed that whatever caused the trees, which were planted in the 1930s, to swerve happened when they were around 7 to 10 years old, nobody knows why these trees didn't grow straight. (51) _____

From California and Africa to China and Qatar, if you listen very carefully you can hear the sand singing. Listeners have likened the sound to the deep hum of bees. (52) _____ So far, all studies have managed to work out is that the different music notes that the sand produces relies on the size of the grains and how fast they travel through the air, but they are still no closer to discovering how they make this music.

Lightning doesn't always strike in zigzag bolts from the sky; sometimes it falls in a circular flash of blue. (53) _____ Ball Lightning can last for a second, which is longer than normal lightning but still not long enough for scientists to capture and study it in a lab.

Contrary to its cousin — Ball Lightning, the Catatumbo Lightning is famous for its prevalence. Almost every evening for the last few centuries, there is an "everlasting storm" over a swamp in northwest

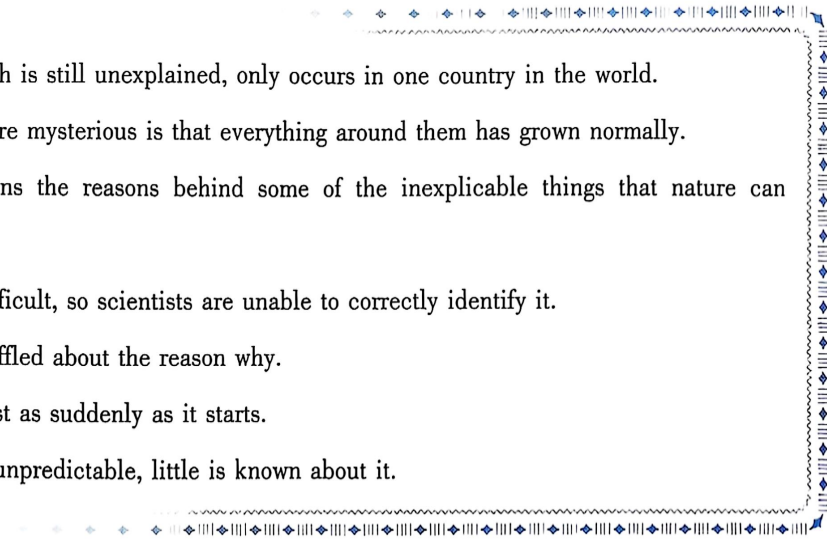
Venezuela that lasts for up to 10 hours and contains an average of 28 lightning strikes per minute. The colorful lightning can strike every second and doesn't produce thunder. (54) _____

Occasionally the storms disappear for a few weeks at a time. There has been much speculation about the cause, but nobody knows for sure.

What would you think if you saw a globular blob falling from the sky? It is called Star Jelly. Folklore described it as a consequence of meteor showers, which explains why it is known as astral-jelly, star-slime, or star-slubber. Unfortunately, while this mysterious substance regularly falls onto fields and meadows, it disappears quick. (55) _____ That hasn't stopped speculation over the years, which ranges from the paranormal slime to something amphibious.

Questions 51 — 55

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

- 
- A. This phenomenon, which is still unexplained, only occurs in one country in the world.
 - B. What even makes it more mysterious is that everything around them has grown normally.
 - C. Modern science explains the reasons behind some of the inexplicable things that nature can produce.
 - D. This makes analysis difficult, so scientists are unable to correctly identify it.
 - E. Scientists have been baffled about the reason why.
 - F. However, it can stop just as suddenly as it starts.
 - G. Since it is so rare and unpredictable, little is known about it.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 56 — 60 are based on the following passage.

Friendship can bring us happiness and heartache. You might meet your best friend when you are five years old and stay close throughout your childhood, help each other through your teenage years, and experience many life milestones together. On the other hand, you might meet someone who instantly becomes your best friend and have a few months or even years of intense friendship, only for it to fizzle out as you begin

leading different lives. Before you know it, you have lost touch with someone who used to know everything about you.



Our friends are usually like us, and this is no accident. Sociologists say that the concept of homophily is involved in making close friends. Homophily is the idea that we naturally form connections with people who are similar to us, whether this is in age, gender, interests, or ethnicity. For example, homophily explains why schoolchildren have friendships with others in their grade level

rather than in other grades. However, is this still true for the social media age? It's not uncommon to have hundreds even thousands of "friends" across different social media accounts, many of them with different backgrounds from our own.

According to the psychologist Robin Dunbar, we are only able to maintain 150 friendships. He believes that friendships can be organized in circles — the outer circles are acquaintances moving in towards an inner core. This inner core can have five people, which usually includes our romantic partners, and best friends. Dunbar describes this inner core as a buffer that protects us from the stresses of modern life. In a similar way, close friendships can have physical benefits. Chatting, laughing until you cry, or even just hanging out doing nothing with friends can release endorphins, which have a calming effect. Regular social contact can make us happier, live longer, and even improve our immune system so that we are less likely to become ill and we recover more quickly from illness.

So, does this mean that we are going to be unhappy and unhealthy if we don't have a best friend? Not necessarily. Although a close connection with a best friend is obvious, we can also connect with acquaintances and even strangers. Even temporary or one-off connections give us a feel-good factor that boosts our well-being. To really feel these benefits, the social interaction or friendship needs to be reciprocal. When we choose people, we want to feel that they are choosing us, too.

In recent studies, many aspects of our everyday lives have moved online, including friendships. Talking and sharing our lives with our friends on social media can actually bring us closer to the friends we have offline. It gives us extra opportunities to interact with them when real life might get in the way of seeing them in person. However, online communication doesn't release neurochemicals in the same ways as face-to-face communication, so it shouldn't substitute meeting up with friends in real life.

Questions 56 — 60

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

- 56. What can friendship bring us besides happiness?
- 57. What is homophily?
- 58. How can friendships be organized according to Robin Dunbar?
- 59. What can close friendships produce?
- 60. How do online friendships differ from offline interaction?

Section C (10 marks)

Questions 61 — 65 are based on the following passage.

When asked about their favourite animals, many people answer dolphins. They are known as friendly intelligent creatures that have a special relationship with humans. For example, dolphins can tell when a woman is pregnant. They can also tell when someone is in trouble. No one is really sure why this is the case. Experts think they may understand



that humans are similar to them and try to protect them from predators and other dangers. Dolphins' protection of humans might not be just automatic or instinctive: they may actively decide to help in certain situations.

There are many stories about dolphins protecting humans from sharks. Wildlife filmmaker Hardy Jones was filming a group of dolphins, when a large shark swam towards him, ready to attack. Four dolphins came to his rescue and drove the shark away. Perhaps they could tell he was a person who cared very much about dolphins. In fact, Jones was a well-known campaigner against the killing of dolphins. In another incident, four people were saved from a great white shark by a pod of dolphins. The dolphins herded the swimmers into a group and formed a protective ring around them. As they had not yet seen the shark, one of them tried to swim away. He couldn't get away, he was pushed back inside the ring by the dolphins.

Dolphins not only save humans from sharks, but protect them in other situations too. A scuba diver was hit by a boat near the Channel Islands and he was unconscious, but survived 56 hours in the water,

watched over by a pod of about 150 dolphins. In 2014, dolphins again came to the help of a human. Joey Trevino was losing hope. He had been in the sea for 24 hours after his boat sank in the Gulf of Mexico. He felt he couldn't keep going any more. A friendly dolphin approached him and gently pushed him, as if to say don't give up. That moral support and encouragement may have saved Trevino's life.

Whales have also been known to protect both humans and other mammals. In California, in 2012, a BBC Planet Earth film crew filmed a group of humpback whales who were protecting migrating grey whales from attacks by *orcas* (虎鲸) over a period of at least seven hours. In China, Yang Yun applied for a job training whales at Polar Land in the city of Harbin. For the interview she had to dive down as far as possible in the seven-metre deep pool. When she was about five metres down, she found she couldn't move her legs due to the freezing temperatures. Two beluga whales, Mila and Nicola, sensed that she was in trouble. Mila gripped her leg in the mouth and pushed her to the surface, saving her life.

Stories of marine mammals helping humans — and each other — date back to Ancient Greece. Although we may never be sure why they help us, many people feel that it is a good reason for us to do whatever we can to protect them.

Questions 61 — 65

Complete the summary below with information from the passage, using **no more than three** words for each blank.

We human beings have friends and protectors in the sea. Dolphins are famous for their friendliness and intelligence. Experts believe that they may (61) _____ decide to rescue those in need. There are many true stories about them. Once a pod of dolphins saved the life of (62) _____ from a large shark. The man happened to be a famous campaigner for the protection of dolphins. Some (63) _____ were filmed protecting migrating grey whales from attacks by orcas, a scene lasting for more than (64) _____. Beluga whales helped a diver who couldn't get to the surface of a pool because she was unable to (65) _____ in the icy water.

Part V Translation (15 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into Chinese. Write the answer on the **answer sheet**.

66. China is home to some of the most beautiful celebrations on the planet — celebrations filled with colour and meaning. Loong is the *totem* (图腾) of the Chinese nation, and loong dance is the most commonly seen entertainment during the festive season. The dance embodies the spirit of solidarity and industriousness of the Chinese nation, and symbolizes harmony between heaven and humanity. As a cultural and artistic expression of traditional Chinese folk art, loong dance can be seen in most places in China and among various ethnic groups during traditional festivals.

Section B (10 marks)

Translate the following paragraph into English. Write the answer on the **answer sheet**.

67. 每个新年伊始,我们许多人都会重新评估自己的健康习惯。我们试图继续保持那些行之有效的习惯,并改掉一些似乎妨碍我们成就“最佳自我”的习惯。但你可曾想过你所专注的是否是正确习惯?理想状态下,我们可以尝试我们读到或听说过的每种健康食物和运动,但大多数人在决定尝试什么时都不得不再三思量。正如同我们可能顾虑的,诸如锻炼、饮酒、抽烟这样的习惯均会影响寿命。

Part VI IQ Test (10 marks)

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

68. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in a thousand years?
69. What does the underlined phrase mean?

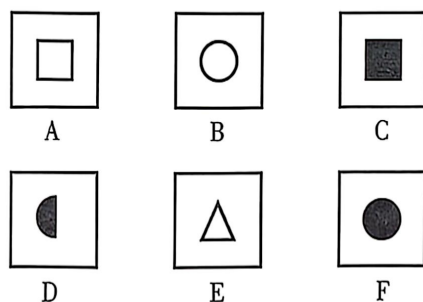
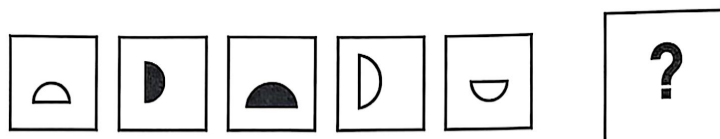
My grandmother took her driving test last week and passed with flying colours.

70. A bookworm finds itself on page 1 of volume 1 and begins eating straight through to the last page of volume 5. If each book is 6 centimeters thick, including the front and back covers, which are half a centimeter each, what is the distance the bookworm travels?



71. The square is to the area what the cube is to the _____.
A. weight B. volume C. depth D. power E. root F. pressure

72. What is the missing figure?



Part VII Error Correction (10 marks)

There are 10 errors altogether in the following passage. The errors are: missing words, unnecessary words and wrong words. Please correct them as follows: for a missing word, mark its position with the symbol “^” and write it; for an unnecessary word, cross it out with the symbol “\”; for a wrong word, underline it and write the correct word. An example of how to correct the error is provided below. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

For example:

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

Nowadays the ease with which we can wash our clothes is taken for granted.

All we have to do is popping our laundry into the washing machine, put in some washing powders, make sure the settings are correct and switch on. The washing machine has become so much part of our lives that it is difficult to imagine doing the washing with one. However, this basic appliance has only become

73. _____

74. _____

75. _____

76. _____

a common feature of most households before the 1950s. 77. _____

The first mechanical washing machines were in use as far back as the 1700s,
but they never caught on. It wasn't until the early 1900s that they were taken serious 78. _____

and developed. Eventually, after the initial problems have been solved, 79. _____

the washing machine became a status symbol because it was well
outside the expense range of the average family.

As soon as the washing machine became unaffordable, 80. _____

“wash day” changed completely. The tiring job of wash clothes by hand 81. _____

with a bucket of hot water and a large bar of soap was disappeared 82. _____

and was transformed into the simple task it is today.

Part VIII Writing (30 marks)

Section A (10 marks)

83. Write a **120-word** report on the yearly growth of China's CPI 2024.

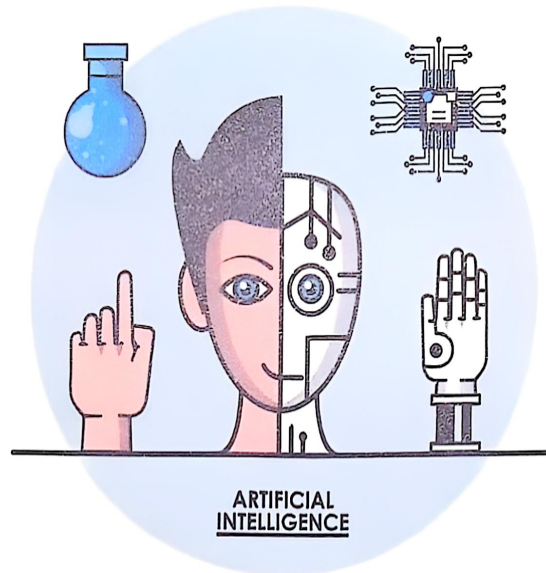
*Write the report on the **answer sheet**.*



Section B (20 marks)

84. The rapid evolution of AI technology has revolutionized various sectors, including education. Write an essay on the following topic:

Double-edged sword of AI in education



*Write a 180-word essay to express your opinion. Write the essay on the **answer sheet**.*