

would like to share some of my experience.

My first English novel was Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, recommended by many English teachers and professors as an ideal book for English learners. But my experience was somewhat disastrous. I had great difficulty in understanding the novel, let alone enjoying it. It's not the vocabulary that troubled me, but rather the way Austen constructs sentences, and her way of thinking, which seemed too remote to me at that time. My fading enthusiasm was much recovered after reading Hemingway's novel *A Farewell to Arms*. No long and complicated sentences. And I particularly liked his brief and straightforward (简洁的) style. So my first suggestion is, as a beginner, you'd better choose contemporary novels instead of classical ones.

However, if you restrict yourself to novels you will miss a lot of treasures. English essays can at once inform you, entertain you, and improve your taste in English. The best example is Bertrand Russell's work. Its language is plain, yet you cannot help feeling the elegance and the peculiar sense of humor. His simple language enables his philosophy within the reach of ordinary people. Here comes my second suggestion—essays are indispensable.

Never follow others' recommendations and opinions blindly, however famous or influential(有很大影响的) the person might be. We should be open to various ideas, but always think and determine for ourselves. As a saying goes, one man's meat is another man's poison. With that in mind, we are bound to find out our favorite writers through reading and develop our fine taste in English.

21. What made the first English novel that the author read hard to understand?
- A. Complicated conversations.
 - B. The old-fashioned vocabulary.
 - C. Not knowing the social background.
 - D. Sentences and Austen's thinking pattern.
22. Which can best replace the underlined word "indispensable"?
- A. Necessary.
 - B. Challenging.
 - C. Relevant.
 - D. Inspirational.
23. What is the author's purpose of writing the passage?
- A. Give comments on literature works.
 - B. Tell beginners how to choose English books.
 - C. Encourage people to read more English books.
 - D. Recommend first class books to English learners.

B

A new study shows that avoiding your neighbors may actually be bad for your heart and feeling socially connected to your community reduces the risk of a heart attack a lot. While we may agree that having a safe and healthy neighborhood would help residents feel mentally healthy, it's becoming more and more obvious that emotional happiness leads to physical health, particularly heart health.

Psychologists(心理学家) at the University of Michigan just completed new research that tested how socially connected people felt and how healthy they were. Participants rated how strongly they agreed with statements like, "I really feel part of this area," and "If I were in trouble, there are lots of people in this area who would help." For the next four years, the researchers tracked their health.

As the leading cause of death for both men and women in the US, heart disease can be caused by many things like poor diet, lack of exercise and stress, and this new research shows that, at least among the 5,276 study participants, those who felt the most socially bonded with their community, had a 67

percent reduced risk of heart attack. Pretty amazing.

The study controlled for other known factors of heart disease risk like age and race, but interestingly, also for what they called “dispositional factors” i.e. personality. For example, optimism was measured. Lead researcher and psychologist Eric Kim said, “We’re finding that things like increased optimism are associated with reduced risk of heart failure and stroke(中风).” And the beauty of it is that how optimistic and connected you feel is up to you. There are no set standards in order to qualify for the health benefits because your own comfort and emotions are what guide your stress levels and health.

Even though there is always some conflicting information in the health area (a recent study says knowing your neighbors doesn’t actually make you happier), it seems getting connected with your community is never a bad idea for your health.

24. The figures in Paragraph 3 are used to show that _____.
- A. heart disease is the leading cause of death
 - B. poor diet is the major cause of heart disease
 - C. people should often take exercise in their community
 - D. good relationships in communities help prevent heart disease
25. What can we infer from Eric Kim’s words in Paragraph 4?
- A. Being optimistic is good for your heart.
 - B. One’s personality may change with age.
 - C. It’s hard to measure optimism accurately.
 - D. Heart health and personality are not related.
26. What’s the theme of the text?
- A. The warning signs of a heart attack.
 - B. The health benefits of physical activity.
 - C. Ties between community and your health.
 - D. The ways to build a friendly neighborhood.

C

Gold is one of the rarest materials on Earth and has always been considered a valuable and precious resource. It’s very likely that someone in your family owns something made of gold, especially since China is one of the world’s biggest buyers of gold jewellery. It’s even in our smartphones — they contain parts made from this expensive material.

But where does this beautiful metal actually come from? The answer: outer space.

Chinese scientists became the first in the world to witness gravitational waves(引力波) caused by the collision of neutron(中子) stars, reported Xinhua News Agency.

The sight was witnessed at China’s Kunlun Antarctic Station at the South Pole, and Insight, China’s first X-ray astronomical satellite, also contributed to the discovery.

Although collisions of black holes have been recorded before, this was the first time that two neutron stars were known to have collided(碰撞). It’s believed that such collisions lead to huge explosions of energy, and even to the creation of precious metals such as gold and silver.

“The collision of neutron stars is like a very large gold factory in the universe,” Jin Zhiping, a researcher at the Purple Mountain Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, told Xinhua.

According to an article published by space.com, scientists have long believed gold and other materials are created in this way, but it wasn’t until the recent collision that their theory was confirmed.

“The origin of the really heaviest chemical elements in the universe had confused the scientific community for quite a long time,” Hans Thomas Janka, a senior scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany, said in a news release. “Now, we have the first observational proof for neutron star mergers(合并) as sources.”

Indeed, the recently observed collision is thought to have produced an amount of gold that would weigh 10 times more than Earth, according to New Scientist.

Don't expect to be showered in gold any time soon, however. The collision actually took place 130 million years ago, taking all that time for the event's light to reach Earth.

But at least if you want to see a piece of space up close, all you have to do is to look at the ring on your mom's finger — or the smartphone in your pocket.

27. What's the author's purpose of writing the first two paragraphs?

- A. To emphasize the rareness of gold.
- B. To list some uses of gold in daily life.
- C. To explain the reasons for the popularity of gold.
- D. To interest readers about the source of gold.

28. What would the collision of neutron stars lead to according to Xinhua?

- A. The creation of black holes.
- B. The death of the stars.
- C. The disappearance of gravitational waves.
- D. The creation of gold.

29. What's the text mainly about?

- A. China's Kunlun Antarctic Station does research into gold.
- B. Collisions between two neutron stars result in gold.
- C. Collisions contribute to the discovery.
- D. Gold is considered a valuable and precious resource.

30. What can we learn from the article?

- A. The amount of gold produced by the collision was very small.
- B. The collision was the largest report in history.
- C. China played a big role in the new discovery.
- D. The collision took place 130 years ago.

第二节 (共 5 小题,每小题 2 分,满分 10 分)

根据短文内容,从短文后的选项选出能填入空白处的最佳选项,选项中有两项为多余选项。

A simple life means getting rid of many of the things you do so that you can spend more time with people you love and do the things you love. ____ 31 ____ It's often a journey of two steps forward and one backward.

Evaluate your time. ____ 32 ____ What things do you do from the time you wake up to the time you go to sleep? Make a list, and evaluate whether they're in line with your priorities. If not, remove them and focus on what's important. Redesign your day.

Limit your communications. Our lives these days are filled with a vast flow of communications: email, cell phones, paper mail, Twitter, forums, and more. ____ 33 ____ Instead, set a limit on your communications: only deal with emails at certain times of the day. Limit phone calls to certain times too. It is the same with other communications. Set a schedule and stick to it.

Try living without a car. OK, this isn't something I've done, but many others have. ____ 34 ____ Walk, bike, or take public transportation. It reduces expenses and gives you time to think. A car is also very complicated, needing not only car payments, but insurance, maintenance, repairs, gas and more.

____ 35 ____ If you rid your home of stuff, you might find you don't need so much space. I'm not saying you should live on a boat (although I know some people who happily do so), but if you can be

comfortable in a smaller home, it will not only be less expensive, but easier to maintain, and greatly simplify your life.

A. Have a place for everything.

B. How do you spend your day?

C. It's something I would do if I didn't have kids.

D. They can take up your whole day if you let them be.

E. However, getting to simplicity isn't always a simple process.

F. Most people don't know what "enough" is, and thus they keep buying more.

G. Consider a smaller home.

第三部分 语言运用 (共两节, 满分 45 分)

第一节 (共 20 小题; 每小题 1.5 分, 满分 30 分)

阅读下面短文, 从短文后各题所给的 A、B、C 和 D 四个选项中, 选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。

I will never forget that November day. It was hotter than normal. This was the 36 my father and I had waited so long for, because we had been working towards this race for three years. Dozens of familiar faces from church and school flashed across my view. They had come 37 me. I saw worry and 38 on my father's face. Then the race began!

For the first two and a half miles. I felt 39. I had never before been so ready for something. The weeks leading up to the race were filled with controlled 40 and a strict diet. My friends hadn't seen me in weeks, but they understood the 41 required to make my dream a reality. As in all of my races, I didn't 42 out in the front, I loved the pleasure of passing people as my strength overtook their previous speed.

Then without warning, my strength began to decrease. Neck and neck with one of my greatest competitors, I 43 see the finish line. I had begun the final dash into 44 when my knees became weak and my legs were sore. Nothing I could do would make them 45 my weight.

I watched as runners rushed by me. 46 I knew my dreams of victory were destroyed, I had to finish the race. However, my legs hurt badly. With all of the 47 left in me, I got on my hands and knees and crawled (爬), inch by inch, across the finish line. Voices, both 48 and familiar, cheered me on. They gave me the courage to keep 49 until the very end.

The doctors were there in seconds, but my eyes searched the crowd for him. There was only one person I wanted to 50 to. I whispered, "I'm so sorry, Dad. I'm so sorry I 51 you." He looked at me, saying, "You could never disappoint me. Sometimes these things just 52. All that matters is that you did your best."

"But we worked so 53. What about our dream?" He reached over for my hand and said, "Don't you know that you are my dream and it has come true?"

It wasn't long before my running shoes were back on, marking a 54 path for my journey, I learned that all of the miles, the tears, the sweat, and the pain my dad and I experienced together were not for a 55. What I realized, though, was that to him, I was the greatest prize he had ever won.

36. A. dream

B. climate

C. result

D. day

37. A. for

B. to

C. across

D. over

38. A. coldness

B. astonishment

C. excitement

D. amusement

39. A. proud

B. great

C. nervous

D. afraid

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 40. A. programs | B. studies | C. instructions | D. practices |
| 41. A. sacrifice | B. potential | C. patience | D. attention |
| 42. A. look | B. move | C. start | D. come |
| 43. A. should | B. could | C. must | D. need |
| 44. A. relief | B. mind | C. pleasure | D. honor |
| 45. A. give | B. feel | C. hold | D. touch |
| 46. A. Although | B. Because | C. If | D. Where |
| 47. A. trust | B. emotion | C. strength | D. confidence |
| 48. A. loud | B. foreign | C. soft | D. firm |
| 49. A. going | B. running | C. fighting | D. training |
| 50. A. refer | B. talk | C. listen | D. agree |
| 51. A. frightened | B. disturbed | C. disappointed | D. bored |
| 52. A. develop | B. change | C. follow | D. happen |
| 53. A. late | B. hard | C. closely | D. quickly |
| 54. A. new | B. near | C. rough | D. narrow |
| 55. A. wish | B. duty | C. rank | D. Race |

非选择题部分

第三部分 语言运用（共两节，满分 45 分）

第二节（共 10 小题；每小题 1.5 分，满分 15 分）

阅读下面短文，在空白处填入 1 个适当的单词或括号内单词的正确形式。

The University of Birmingham, UK, announces that it will accept the Gaokao exam for high-flying Chinese students 56 (wish) to join its undergraduate courses in 2020. High school students 57 complete the National Higher Education Entrance Examination, or Gaokao, 58 top grades can apply for direct entry into Birmingham degree programs without first completing a foundation year.

Gaokao, usually 59 (hold) across China in early June, is 60 (increasing) accepted by universities in Australia, the USA, Canada and mainland Europe. Birmingham will only be considering high quality students who achieve a minimum 80% Gaokao score and meet additional academic and English language 61 (require).

Professor Jon Frampton, Director of the University of Birmingham's China Institute said, "I am 62 (delight) that the University is now accepting the Gaokao. This gives the 63 (bright) and best Chinese students 64 opportunity to move straight into the first year of our undergraduate programs and experience the benefits of studying at a 65 (globe) Top 100 university.

第四部分 写作（共两节，满分 40 分）

第一节 应用文写作（满分 15 分）

假定你是李华，与留学生朋友 Bob 约好一起去书店，但因故不能赴约。请给他写封邮件，内容包括：

- 1、表示歉意；
- 2、说明原因；
- 3、另约时间。

注意：

- 1.词数 80 词左右；

2.可以适当增加细节，以使行文连贯。

Dear Bob,

第二节 读后续写 (25 分)

阅读下面短文，根据所给情节进行续写，使之构成一个完整的故事。

Robert and Henry were two friends in the same class. They always played together and went home together. One day Robert and Henry were going home from school, when, on turning a corner, Robert cried out, "A fight! Let's go and see!"

"No," said Henry. "Let us go away and not meddle with(插手) this quarrel. We have nothing to do with it and may get into trouble. Also our parents are expecting to have dinner with us together at home and I don't want them to worry about me."

"You are a coward(胆小鬼), and afraid to go," said Robert, and off he ran. Henry went straight home, and in the afternoon went to school as usual.

But Robert had told all the boys that Henry was a coward, and they laughed at him a great deal. From then on, they looked down upon Henry and didn't want to play with him.

Henry was sad but he wasn't angry with Robert for his rude behavior, because he learned that true courage is shown most in bearing misunderstanding when it was not deserved, and that he ought to be afraid of nothing but doing wrong. Thus, he just ignored the other boys' laughter and continued to go to school. However, Robert didn't invite Henry to go home with him anymore. Instead, he had some other boys who also thought Henry was a coward. Every day after school, they didn't go home directly but went to the river to swim and had a lot of fun.

The other day, Robert was bathing with his new friends in a river, and got out of his depth. He struggled, and screamed for help, but all in vain. His so-called friends got out of the water as fast as they could, and did not even try to help him.

注意:

- 1.所续写短文的词数应为 150 左右;
- 2.应使用 5 个以上短文中标有下划线的关键词语;
- 3.续写部分分为两段，每段的开头语已为你写好;
- 4.续写完成后，请用下划线标出你所使用的关键词语。

Paragraph 1

Robert was fast sinking.

Paragraph 2

Thus, Robert's life was saved.
