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I. Vocabulary Multiple Choice: (10%, 1% for each)

- The accountant tried to ____ millions of dollars from his firm, now facing the charge of fraud and embezzlement.
(A) debilitate (B) defenestrate (C) defalcate (D) deliquesce
- Many people of my age, male and female alike, are ____ by Teresa Teng's soft, mellow singing voice.
(A) throttled (B) debilitated (C) stymied (D) mesmerized
- The suspect gave such a ____ answer that the prosecutor refused his right to be bailed out of the jail.
(A) dubious (B) dogmatic (C) dormant (D) distraight
- The phalanx lined up opposite the school. With military precision, some of them broke the bottom windows and others lit _____ bombs and tossed them in. They waited to make sure the blaze was started, then gave a simultaneous shout and marched away.
(A) impecunious (B) impertinent (C) inchoate (D) incendiary
- With hundreds of thousands of people out of work and with prices skyrocketing, people were becoming _____. There was trouble brewing.
(A) turgid (B) nippy (C) profligate (D) restive
- I hate to read legal papers, which are heavily laden with legal jargons. They are written in a ____ style so that only lawyers can decipher the writing.
(A) swanky (B) fidgety (C) mundane (D) verbose
- The detective ____ the suspect's conscience in order to find out if he was telling the truth.
(A) scrutinized (B) satiated (C) savored (D) secreted
- There appears to be ____ in her alibi, which is why the police suspect that she is involved in the murder case.
(A) incursions (B) inconsistencies (C) itineraries (D) imprecations
- What you say to your children might either ____ or foster their personality development.
(A) ransack (B) excise (C) auger (D) inhibit
- The historian has a knack for focusing on information that appears ____ but that, upon examination, illuminates the central issue.
(A) invalid (B) impeccable (C) ingenuous (D) immutable

II. Cloze(10%, 1% for each)

【A】 Taiwan' Legislative Yuan, the island's parliament, is used to rambunctious scenes. But the occupation since March 18th of its main chamber _11_ students is unprecedented in the country's nearly two decades of full democracy. The demonstrators, whose actions took many by surprise, want the government to _12_ with China that would allow freer trade in services across the Taiwan Strait. They have displayed a large cartoon of President Ma Ying-jeou in the debating hall, portraying him as a Chinese pawn. The president is _13_ his popularity, while China struggles to win over public opinion in Taiwan. Signs of public sympathy with the student growing.

The past few months have been particularly tough for Mr. Ma, now nearly halfway through his second and final four-year term as president. In September he tried to expel a political rival in the ruling Kuomintang (KMT), Wang Jin-pyng, the legislature's speaker, for alleged _14_. But the move only served to highlight disunity within his party. On March 19th, a day after the students stormed into the legislature, a court in Taipei ruled in Mr. Wang's favor, allowing him to keep his party membership and thus his job. It was another embarrassment for the president, _15_ attempt to portray as an aloof patrician with an autocratic streak.

- (A) consisting of (B) demonstration for (C) in a protest against (D) by protesting
- (A) scrap an agreement (B) update information (C) acknowledge an agreeing (D) issue a decree
- (A) on the verge of (B) at the nadir of (C) as a decline in (D) in connection with

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14. (A) influential peddled (B) peddler-influenced (C) influenced-peddling (D) influence-peddling
 15. (A) whom critics (B) whose criticism (C) which is criticized (D) but criticizes

【B】 Karen Kawabata represents the best of Japan's intellectual capital. She has just graduated from the University of Tokyo, the most prestigious in the country. With an American mother and Japanese father, she has the languages and cosmopolitan attitude that Japanese companies particularly valued nowadays. In April she will join McKinney, a consultancy that should give her immediate membership of a 16 elite.

Yet Ms. Kawabata sees obstacles in her path. She is acutely aware of the difficulties she would face at traditional Japanese companies, should she find herself joining one. Ferociously long working hours, often stretching past midnight, 17 sessions of "nominication", a play on the Japanese word for drinking, nomu, and the English word "communication"; these are where young hopefuls 18 and build reputations. Nowadays women trying to impress the boss are allowed to drink plum wine mixed with plenty of soda instead of beer, says Ms Kawabata. Above all, she worries that having a family will be 19 to combine with a demanding career. When she met her boyfriend's father for the first time this year, she reassured him about her intentions at McKinsey. "I told him that I would rethink my career in a few years' time," she says.

The one of the brightest of Japan's graduates needs to say such things should worry Shinzo Abe, the prime minister. Japan educates its women to a higher level than nearly anywhere else in the world. But when they leave university their potential is often squandered, 20. Female participation in the labor force is 63%, far lower than in other rich countries. When women have their first child, 70% of them stop working for a decade or more, compared with just 30% in American. Quite a lot of those 70% are gone for good.

16. (A) earthbound (B) global-trotting (C) honor-bestowed (D) star-shooting
 17. (A) succumb to (B) posterior to (C) in sequence of (D) are followed by
 18. (A) forge connections (B) accumulate wealth (C) provide counseling (D) wield power
 19. (A) no less likely (B) far from palatable (C) nigh on impossible (D) by no means improbable
 20. (A) to make matters worse (B) in the same manner
 (C) not to mention the money spent (D) as far as the money is concerned

III. Matching (20%, 1% for each)

(A) With the nearness of tax season, the hassle of receipt-gathering, costly, 21, headache-inducing inconvenience registers in our mind that our income-tax system needs a complete 22, according to Jimmy Carter. There is no need to belabor this problem beginning with the 23 unfairness, resulting from a difficult and illogic tax code that needs professionals of professionals to 24 the tax return before the deadline, not to mention what corporations like Apple do avoid paying taxes. The promises of tax reform have been arranged, but they have not been carried out without the help of Congressional delegates, who, in most cases, 25 the proposals of tax reform due to the interests in conflict with constituents. As Washington becomes an increasingly 26 place, those conflicting interests, augmented by regional priorities and plain bad temper, may be even more 27.

The truth is that any major tax reform will require major simplification, which is likely to incorporate elements of flat tax. However, on contrary to our expectations, most versions of the flat tax have enormous potential for unfairness, for being 28, by hurting the poor more than the rich, and for simply being 29 to grant favors to various interest

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groups. Furthermore, any flattish tax, even one that incorporates progressive rates and doesn't wreck beneficial social policies, might mean the end of many, or most 30 deductions.

(A) retrogressive	(B) map out	(C) sacrosanct	(D) partisan
(E) innate	(AB) pronounced	(AC) baffling	(AD) sabotaged
(AE) eviscerated	(BE) take account of	(BC) overhaul	(BD) ploys

(B) In response to the world around it, the adolescent brain is a marvel of 31, wiring and rewiring itself constantly as its owner learns and refines the motor, social and perceptual skills that will form the foundation of his or her adult behavior.

Having lived through these wonder years, the adult brain becomes a bit 32. Its cells continue to 33 the axons and dendrites that lash neurons together in a process we call learning. But there's nothing like the mad re-creation of brain architecture – the constant replacement of 34 neuronal connections and their replacement with new ones – that 35 the teen brain.

Adults (especially the parents) often find fault with the teenage brain. But they should admit that it is a powerful learning machine – and that sometimes, the grown-ups wish they could recapture its 36. New research, conducted by researchers at Yale University and published in the journal Neuron, 37 the genetic and chemical mechanics that could make that possible. The new research, says the study's senior author, helps point that way to therapies that might allow victims of stroke or spinal cord damage to “set back their brain's clock” to a stage of development that would foster the rapid relearning of lost skills. And it might aid those 38 by post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] to reconfigure their relationship to painful memories and learn to live again.

The Yale team focused on a gene that 39 for the production of a central nervous system protein called Nogo Receptor 1. Earlier research had established that Nogo Receptor 1 40 the growth of connections between neurons, and that when it is plentiful in the brain, mice do not recover as well from brain and spinal cord injuries.

This may help explain why youngsters who survive spinal cord injuries and strokes, or who live through extremely traumatic events, tend to recover lost function and move on with their lives so much faster and better than do adults who've sustained the same injuries.

(A) characterizes	(B) plodding	(C) homes in on	(D) programs
(E) bobbled	(AB) sprout	(AC) nimbleness	(AD) characters
(AE) stimulates	(BC) maintain	(BD) existing	(BE) regeneration

IV. Discourse: Fill in the passage with the sentence that best fits the context. (10%, 1% for each)

【A】 On March 20th Exxon Mobil, surely the world's least tree-hugging company, became the first oil giant to say it would publish details of its “stranded assets”—the value of oil and gas fields that it might not be able to exploit if there were of oil and gas fields that it might not be able to exploit if there were a high carbon price or tough rules on greenhouse-gas emissions. Giant Exxon is not doing this because it has gone mushy or caved in to green activists. Rather, it is heading off a shareholder resolution by Arjuna Capital, a fund manager, demanding explanations and actions on environmental threats to the firm. 41. Companies publishing information on the environmental impact and vulnerability to green regulation, to attract or placate investors.

42 That has changed drastically. According to CDP, a group that collects environmental data on behalf of investors, more than half the companies listed on the world 31 largest stock exchanges publish some environmental data, either in earnings reports, as part of stock market listings or voluntarily to CDP. In some markets, including the London

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Stock Exchange and Deutsche Börse, over 80% of large firms publish this sort of data. 43

Releasing good environmental information would be hugely beneficial. True, it is a burden on public companies which private firms would not have to bear. But that burden is not onerous; most green data are cheap to collect, since emissions are tied to energy usage, which companies track anyway. 44 And it could be good for companies, too. A study published by Harvard Business School in 2011 looking at 180 firms over 18 years found that those which paid the attention to environmental matters also did best when measured by share prices and earning. 45

- (A) This does not prove that greenery causes good performance—more likely, well-run firms pay attention to both—but at least they are not in conflict.
- (B) Better information would help the environment by steering investment away from polluters.
- (C) Until the late 2000s, most firms saw the environment as either irrelevant or a bit of a nuisance.
- (D) Improving the quality of the data is not easy, partly because firms are loath to publish lots of information unless competitors do, but mainly because institutions are weak.
- (E) It ranges from their greenhouse-gas emissions to the return on investment of projects which aim to reduce pollution.
- (AB) Exxon's decision is the biggest step so far in a wider business trend.

【B】 This month China's corporate-bond market suffered its first default since it began in its present form, a widely watched manufacturing index fell for the fifth month in a row. 46 It would seem a good time for a fair-weather bird to fly away.

Although China remains a resilient economy, it still has substantial room for error and a lot of room to grow. Despite the fact that its \$9 trillion GDP is bigger than 154 other economies combined, it is not yet a very rich one. Its income per head at market exchange rates is only 13% of America's and ranks below that of more than 80 other economies.

China's financial repression has therefore proved surprisingly sustainable although restless depositors have sought higher returns from online funds and wealth-management products. It has contributed to China's remarkably high rate of saving, which reached over 50% of GDP in 2012. This is more than China can invest at home, obliging it to export some of its saving, typically 2-3% of GDP, abroad. This incurs the wrath of its trading partners. 47 Worrywarts point out that credit in China has increased from about 100% of GDP five years ago to about 135% of GDP today. The central bank's broad measure of financing which includes the bond market and some bits of shadow banking among other times is 180%.

How can an economy suffer from both excess saving and excess borrowing? 48 Consider a one-farm economy, which yields a GDP of 100 ears of corn. The famers gives half to a fieldhand as wages and keeps the rest for himself. The fieldhand eats half of his wages and lends remainder (25 ears) to the farmer. The famer now has 75 ears of corn. He eats 25 of them, ploughs 48 back into the field as seed corn for next year's harvest and lends two to a neighboring farm.

49 Therefore this economy, like China's, has remarkably high saving rate (the 50% of corn not eaten). But this high saving is combined with heavy domestic borrowing: the farmer had added 25% of GDP to outstanding debt. If the

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fieldhand ate it, instead of lending corn to the farmer, saving would fall because more corn is now being consumed and so would borrowing because the farmhand is now consuming his own earnings, rather than lending half of them out.

China's economy last year harvest over \$9 trillion worth of goods and services. Almost half of that output consisted of new capital goods (infrastructure, housing, factories and machinery). 50 Some of this frantic accumulation has been wasteful: building cities without citizens, and bridges without destinations. It is as if the farmer scattered some seed corn on stony ground, where it failed to take root.

(A) To an economist, saving means anything not consumed.

(B) Officials in one eastern county rushed to placate worried depositors lining up to withdraw money from two small banks.

(C) But therein lies a paradox for excess saving, the same critics also accuse it of excess borrowing.

(D) This investment rate of about 48% of GDP is among the highest ever recorded.

(E) This riddle is best answered with a textbook parable.

(AB) Deflating this credit bubble is the trickiest task China now faces.

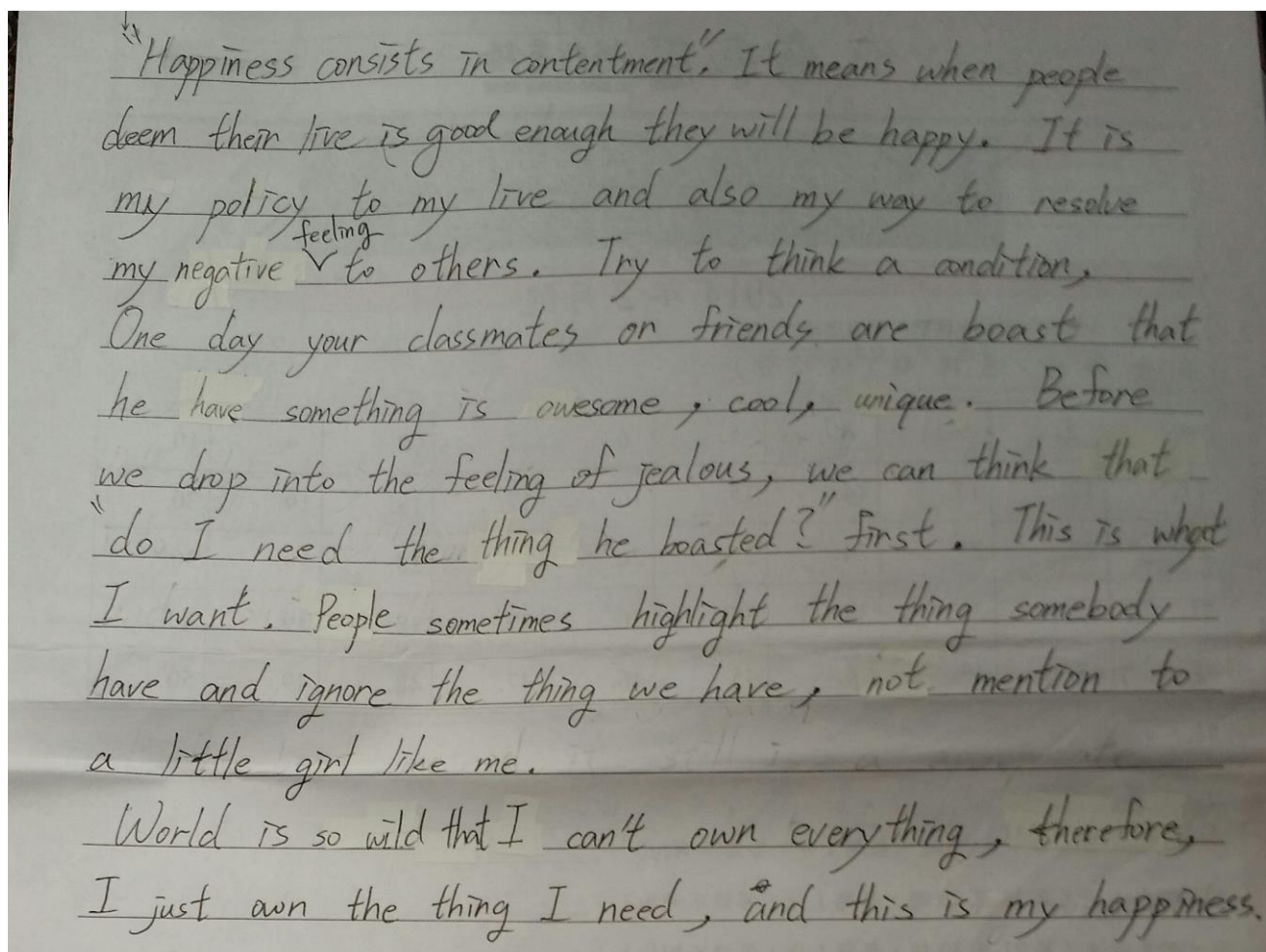
V. Definition: Define the underlined words or phrases. (10%, 1% for each)

- Individual life experiences as well as personality traits influence what we see as risky in the world, which is why some people are terrified of earthquakes and others are far more petrified of commitment. Several characteristics of the risks themselves also feed our gut feelings that drive our fears.
- An elliptical allows you to slack by doing some of the work for you – especially if you don't turn up the resistance. It just gets into a rhythm and your body just follows along, and it doesn't require you to put in much effort.
- Before and during a workout, water trumps sports drinks. It keeps you hydrated with zero calories and zero grams of sugar.
- These microplastic worlds right under our noses are the next ocean frontier. It would be a crime not to investigate the damage they might be doing to the ocean and to humans.
- If the idea of sorting through your closet sounds painful, you probably have a lot of junk in there and you need to take stock of it. On the most basic level, you need to organize your closet by item.
- The virtual earthquake technique reinforces the need for earthquake preparedness. It is an independent validation of some ideas that have been around for years and is another rung in the ladder for advancing knowledge.
- More than 100 hours of mostly original content is uploaded every minute to YouTube, making any particular snippet of video a mere droplet in a digital ocean.
- In hope of appealing to Chinese travelers, some high-end hotels are making big changes such as offering new menus, Chinese-language newspapers, slippers, teakettles and even monogrammed pillows in the room.
- People blind from birth can be taught to "see" images that are conveyed as sounds, says a new study that calls into question a long-standing belief about the limits of the human brain.
- Apple's rise offers a few important lessons about today's connection between design and business. The easiest is that design allows you to stoke consumer lust – and demand higher prices as a result.

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VI. Please correct the following student's writing and give some comments. You may directly correct on the student's writing if you like.

提示: 從古到今, 快樂一直是許多人所追求的東西。然而, 每個人對快樂的定義都不盡相同。有人覺得擁有健康的身體是件快樂的事, 而有人認為追求物質的滿足才是真的快樂。對你而言快樂究竟是甚麼? 文章請分兩段, 第一段寫對你而言快樂是甚麼? 第二段請寫你要如何得到真正的快樂?



"Happiness consists in contentment." It means when people deem their live is good enough they will be happy. It is my policy to my live and also my way to resolve my negative ^{feeling} to others. Try to think a condition, One day your classmates or friends are boast that he have something is awesome, cool, unique. Before we drop into the feeling of jealous, we can think that "do I need the thing he boasted?" first. This is what I want. People sometimes highlight the thing somebody have and ignore the thing we have, not mention to a little girl like me. World is so wild that I can't own everything, therefore, I just own the thing I need, and this is my happiness.

VII. In Taoyuan Senior High School, English teachers pick a magazine for students of each year. If you join our team and become one of our teachers, how will you use the magazine as your supporting material to develop students' reading and listening skills? (15%)

VIII. With unprecedented advancement in information technology, teenagers today has the greater variety of access to media through high-tech gadgets like smartphones and tablets than any generation before it. Here are a few of the key features they share in learning:

- Today's children learn by gathering information online.
- Today's children understand and use visual images extremely effectively, but are less skilled at reading and writing texts.

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■ *Today's children can quickly shift their attention from one task to another and do several tasks at one time.*

■ *Today's children like to learn by doing and collaboration.*

As a senior high school English teacher, how do you take factors mentioned above into consideration and present teaching materials in a more effective and intriguing way? Please design a one-hour classroom activity on the following global warming article by incorporating the use of media for the twelfth graders.

(10%)

It has been estimated by some scientists that up to a third of all species of life on Earth could be extinct by 2050. For this potential catastrophe, they put the blame squarely on global warming. Higher temperatures are already having a marked effect on the natural world. In many areas, plants are flowering earlier in the spring than usual, and animal breeding patterns have been disrupted.

Of greater concern to humans are the heat waves and the increasing number of devastating storms. At various times over the past decade, people have died because of extremely high temperatures in Italy, Greece, Russia, and other countries. In the past few years, terrible storms have also brought destruction to different parts of the world. Hurricane Katrina, for instance, caused massive damage and misery in the city of New Orleans in 2005, and Typhoon Morakot brought great loss of life to southern Taiwan in 2009. What's worse, an even bigger disaster could be lying in wait: the possibility of rising sea levels.

This trend towards higher temperatures is thought to be the result of a stronger "greenhouse effect." This term refers to the way the Earth retains heat from the sun. It is part of a natural process in which carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases help trap the sun's energy. However, in recent decades, the amount of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere has increased. This is due to human activities such as industry and the burning of fossil fuels. As a result, more energy is trapped in the atmosphere, causing the planet to warm up. The problem is made worse by deforestation, since trees absorb carbon dioxide.

No one can be certain about the actual consequences of global warming. Some scientists have predicted that the average temperature of the Earth could increase by one to six degrees Celsius by the end of this century. If the latter number is more accurate, the outcome could be catastrophic. It could result in the melting of the polar ice caps, causing rises in sea levels that could wipe out many coastal cities. Taiwan's low-lying regions, where most of its people live, could end up under water. Not all experts are predicting such disaster, but the majority accept that the effects of climate change will be severe.

For one thing, climate change will certainly alter many of the world's habitats and ecosystems. Some places depend on a delicate balance of weather and soil conditions which could easily be upset, resulting in a serious threat to many living things. In the past, climate change took place over a long period of time, and plants and animals were able to slowly adapt to the new conditions. In recent years, extreme weather has occurred so often that both plants and animals have encountered disasters. If future climate change takes place as quickly as some scientists have predicted, many species, both on land and in the oceans, will be unable to react quickly enough to survive.

Human beings will also suffer from climate change, whether they live near the sea or not. It will affect people's health both directly and indirectly. Some of the direct effects will be the greater risk of heat stress and other related problems that can result from high temperatures and excessive humidity. Indirect effects of climate change, such as

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increased air pollution and changes in food and water supplies, will also have a severe impact on human health. Poor countries will not have the resources to prevent or treat such health problems, and this means that the most vulnerable people will be children and the elderly in developing regions.

So what can be done about the problem? At the political level, there have been international meetings and promises made by many governments to reduce greenhouse gases. However, climate conferences in Japan (1997), Denmark (2009), and Mexico (2010) have yielded mixed results, mainly because there is much disagreement over the right measures to take. Still, prominent people like former U.S. Vice President Al Gore continue to campaign vigorously for more effective action.

In the meantime, there is much that ordinary people can do to fight global warming. They can try to reduce their so-called carbon footprint by consuming less energy. Even a high school student like you can cut down on your electricity use. You can always turn lights and appliances off when you don't need them, for example. And cycling or walking to school can lead to a small reduction in gasoline consumption. Every little bit helps.