95年度英語読解力考査

This is NOT the actual test.

PART I

Text 1

It is becoming increasingly clear that the comfort of a good fit between people and machines is largely absent from the technology of the information age. Consider the humble wristwatch, which has been transformed into some kind of wrist-mounted personal computer, with a digital display and a calculator pad whose buttons are too small to be pressed by a human fingertip. In fact, the very usefulness of the digitalization of time is open to question. People generally care less about knowing the time to the exact second than about seeing how much time they have until lunch. With digital watches this requires a little bit of figuring, whereas with the old analog watches, the ones with hands, it is clear at a glance. Worse, by replacing the watch's conventional stem-winding mechanism with a mystifying arrangement of tiny buttons, manufacturers created a watch that was very hard to reset.

One leading manufacturer of watches was so disturbed to find that one of its most advanced watches was being returned in unprecedented numbers that it turned for help to consultant, Charles Mauro, an expert in the field of ergonomics, a branch of engineering that addresses the question of product usability. Mauro calls the problem experienced by the watch maker, "the complexibility problem." "Complexibility" is defined as a basic mismatch between the demands of the technology and the abilities of the user. This problem is everywhere in our lives. Fewer than half of all owners of VCRs, fax machines, telephones, even coffee makers know how to program the machines for their use. Mauro argues that the growing length of the instruction manuals is an indication of the seriousness of the complexibility problem. Who wants to carry a thirty-page instruction manual for their watch in their wallet, he asks. Donald Norman,

a cognitive scientist at a leading computer manufacturer, believes that the fundamental confusion is due to the essentially inscrutable nature of the technology. In the mechanical systems of the old days, you could wiggle a switch or move a knob or a lever and see something happen. Today's technology concerns information that is invisible and abstract. Who can see what happens inside a computer chip?

Most people who find that they cannot operate a new piece of technology usually blame themselves. Often, however, it is not the consumer's fault. Companies have become technology driven. If they can do something, they believe they should do it. The question of how easy the equipment will be to use is often overlooked. The best designed products require no instructions at all; their appearance tells you what to do as surely as a coffee mug's handle says "Hold here. "

56. What is the writer's opinion about keeping time digitally?
   a. He likes it because it helps keep him on time better.
   b. He prefers it because it is easier to understand.
   c. He believes it has caused simple devices to become more complex
   d. He does not think it is really necessary for everyday life.

57. What does "it" in line 9 refer to?
   a. Knowing the time to the exact second.
   b. Figuring the time to the exact second.
   c. Seeing how much time there is until lunch.
   d. Caring how much time there is until lunch.

58. What does the writer of this text seem to think about the stem-winding mechanism on a wristwatch?
   a. It is an easy device to use for setting the time on a watch.
   b. It needed to be replaced by a less delicate mechanism.
   c. It cannot be used to set the time on a watch accurately enough.
   d. It is even worse than a mystifying set of buttons.

59. What is being compared by the word "Worse" in line 9?
   a. Watches with hands and stem-winding watches.
   b. Making watches that require calculation and those that are hard to reset.
   c. The ability to keep accurate time and having to set the time with buttons
   d. Digital watches and analog watches.

60. Why does the writer tell us that fewer than half of all owners of machines like VCRs and fax machines know how to program them?
   a. To explain why the complexibility problem exists.
   b. To illustrate the seriousness of the complexibility problem.
   c. To show us examples of successful technology.
   d. To help us appreciate manufacturers' problems.

61. What is the key difference between older mechanical systems and newer, more advanced technology?
   a. Older systems were simpler but less reliable than the newer technology.

b. Modern technology appeals primarily to the younger generation.
c. The connection between form and function was clearer in older mechanical systems
d. Newer systems lose their usefulness more quickly than older mechanical systems.

62. What does the writer seem to suggest is the cause of the complexibility problem?
a. The complexity of modern life promotes technological complexity.
b. People enjoy products which challenge their ability to use them.
c. The right questions are not asked before developing new products.
d. Companies can make better profits on more advanced products.

63. By calling new technology is "inscrutable" (line 24), Donald Norman means that the technology is _____.
a. too complicated
b. not necessary
c. not transparent
d. too inhuman

64. What does the writer think about people who are unable to use new technology the way it was intended by the manufacturer?
a. They ought to return the product to the manufacturer.
b. They have no choice but to read the manual more thoroughly.
c. They must accept responsibility for their own failures.
d. They often feel inadequate even though they shouldn't.

65. What does it mean for a company to be "technology driven"?
a. The company makes whatever is technologically possible.
b. The company expects consumers to understand its technology
c. The company is in control of its own technological future.
d. The company is in the process of shifting technologies.

66. What does the writer think a company should do once it has the ability to develop a technologically more advanced product?
a. Build it quickly to beat the competition.
b. Educate consumers about the complexity of the new product.
c. Find ways to make its instruction manuals easier to read.
d. Consider how easy the new product will be to use.

67. From a technological viewpoint, which of the following devices would the writer probably be most happy to use himself?
    a. A high-tech VCR.
    b. A manual typewriter.
    c. A programmable coffee maker.
    d. A multiple-function telephone and fax machine.

Text 2

In almost every advanced economy over the past 20 years, industrial employment has either remained level or fallen. Meanwhile, the number of service jobs in these economies has grown dramatically and now accounts for about two thirds of all jobs in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). While some experts view these developments as a sign of economic decline, it has become increasingly popular to see them as the dawn of a post-industrial age in which manufacturing industry will no longer be essential to the prosperity of rich countries. Instead, the thinking goes, these economies will be devoted almost exclusively to services. The problem with this view is that it underestimates the strength of the recent recovery in manufacturing exports. Moreover, it adds to this error by blurring an important distinction between employment and export figures.

The export crisis in the early 1980s, which resulted from dropping oil prices and growing national debt problems in Africa and Latin America, is over. Exports have risen even above the high levels of the 1970s as capital lending to the developing countries has recovered. One must note, however, that while exports have risen and fallen in recent years, the relative importance of service exports has remained steady at just below twenty-five percent of the total. This is the key to accurately assessing the economic promise of the service industry.

In other words, with exports, little change may be seen in the relative balance between manufacturing and services. This does not imply, however, that nothing has changed in the dynamics of the manufacturing industries of the richer and poorer countries. In fact, a shift is occurring within the manufacturing sector itself. Many

labor-intensive manufacturing activities in the rich countries, such as clothing or assembly, have been put out of business by rising imports from the developing countries, causing jobs to be lost. On the other hand, manufacturing activities that require less labor, superior capital reserves, and higher skill levels continue to flourish due to comparative advantages in these areas. As for the developing countries, they are specializing in types of manufacturing that utilize their abundant supplies of comparatively inexpensive and less highly trained labor. To suggest that simply because employment levels are down in this sector the advanced countries should abandon manufacturing in favor of service exports is to ignore the competitive manufacturing advantages that still exist; to stake our economic future on expansion in an area that has shown little growth over the last few decades would be to court disaster in the future.

68. According to the text, what best accounts for the decline in industrial employment in the advanced economies?
a. A decline in manufacturing efficiency in advanced countries.
b. A shift in emphasis from manufacturing to service exports.
c. A reduction in labor-intensive manufacturing in advanced countries.
d. Lower demand in the developing world for manufactured goods.

69. What does the phrase "the thinking goes" in line 8 represent?
a. The view that advanced economies are in a period of decline.
b. The idea that manufacturing jobs are the key to economic strength.
c. The opinion held by the writer about future economic developments.
d. The more popular opinion on the meaning of recent economic trends

70. According to the writer, which of the following views is NOT correct?
   a. An increase in service jobs can substitute for manufacturing exports in advanced economies.
   b. An internal shift in the manufacturing industry of the advanced economies is taking place.
   c. Advanced economies still enjoy certain manufacturing advantages over the developing economies.
   d. Industrial employment continues to distinguish advanced and developing economies.

71. Why did developing countries begin again to increase imports from the advanced countries recently?
   a. Oil prices became stable again after the decline in the 1980s.
   b. The debt crisis in Africa and Latin America deepened.
   c. Industrial development loans from advanced countries increased.
   d. Their economies have shifted from manufacturing to service.

72. What does the word "promise" in line 18 mean?
   a. commitment
   b. forecast
   c. guarantee
   d. potential

73. According to the writer, what has changed in the manufacturing sector of the world's economies?
   a. Competition between the advanced and developing countries has led to job losses in all areas.
   b. As advanced economies rely increasingly on service, manufacturing jobs move to the developing world.
   c. Manufacturing requirements for higher skill levels are placing workers in developing economies at a disadvantage.
   d. A division in the kinds of manufacturing activities carried out in both advanced and developing countries has appeared.

74. According to the writer, why would a complete shift to a service-based economy by the advanced countries be ill-advised?

a. He believes advanced countries should try to stay competitive in all employment areas.
b. He expects manufacturing employment levels to recover in the foreseeable future.
c. He does not think advanced countries should change from areas of definite advantage to an area of uncertain growth. .
d. He does not accept figures that show there has been an increase in service jobs.

75. In line 33, what does the word "court" mean in the phrase "court disaster"?
a. avoid
b. invite
c. legalize
d. postpone

76. What part of the world does the writer appear to be from?
a. A developing country.
b. A labor-intensive society.
c. A country with an advanced economy.
d. A country with primarily service-based exports.

PART II

Language is not a cultural artifact that we learn the way we learn to tell time or how the federal government works. _(77)_, it is a distinct piece of the biological makeup of our brains. Language is a complex, specialized ability which develops in the child spontaneously _(78)_ conscious effort or formal instruction, is used without awareness of its underlying logic, is qualitatively the same in _(79)_ individual, and is distinct from more general abilities to behave intelligently. _(80)_, some cognitive scientists have described language _(81)_ a psychological faculty, a mental organ, a neural system, and a computational mode. _(82)_ I prefer the simple word, "instinct." _(83)_ conveys the idea that people know how to talk in _(84)_ the sense that spiders know how to spin webs. Web-spinning was not invented _(85)_ some forgotten spider genius and does not depend on _(86)_ the right education or on having an aptitude for the construction business. _(87)_, spiders spin webs because they have spider brains, which give them the urge to spin and the competence _(88)_. Although there are _(89)_ between webs and words, I encourage you to see language in this way.

_(90)_ language as an instinct may not be easy, though, _(9l)_ this view goes against the popular wisdom. Language, however, is _(92)_ a cultural invention than is the fact that humans stand in an upright position. _(93)_ language is a magnificent ability _(94)_ to Homo Sapiens among living species, it does not call for the isolation of the study of humans _(95)_ the domain of biology, for a magnificent ability unique to a particular living species is _(96)_ unique in the animal kingdom. _(97)_ kinds of bats home in on flying insects using Doppler sonar. Certain migratory birds navigate thousands of miles _(98)_ the positions of stars against the time of day and year. _(99)_

nature's talent show, we are simply a species of primate with _(100)_ own act, a knack for communicating information about who did what to whom by adjusting the sounds we make when we breathe out.

77. a .Besides
b. Instead
c. Otherwise
d. Still

78. a. by
b. from
c. through
d. without

79. a. no
b. every
c. one
d. unique

80. a. By this idea
b. Eventually
c. For these reasons
d. Then

81. a. as
b. for
c. to
d. with

82. a. As
b. But
c. So
d. While

83. a. Each
b. It
c. Language
d. The former

84. a. as good as
b. more or less
c. over and above
d. still and all

85. a. by
b. for
c. in
d. to

86. a. having been to
b. having had
c. learning
d. using

87. a. Accordingly
b. In this way
c. On the other hand
d. Rather

88. a. by succeeding
b. having succeeded
c. of success
d. to succeed

89. a. comparisons
b. differences
c. exceptions
d. similarities

90. a. By thinking
b. Come to think of
c. Having thought of
d. Thinking of

91. a. because
b. even if
c. while
d. yet

92. a. more
b. no more
c. some more
d. still more

93. a. If
b. Moreover
c. Even though
d. Unless

94. a. alone
b. belong
c. given
d. unique

95. a. for
b. from
c. to
d. with

96. a. also
b. close to
c. far from
d. only

97. a. Almost
b. Lots
c. One
d. Some

98. a. by calculating
    b. from calculating on
    c. in calculation of
    d. to calcu1ate

99. a. For
    b. In
    c. On
    d. With

100 a. its
    b. one's
    c. our
    d. their