

## Part II Reading Comprehension (45 points)

### Section A (30 points)

**Directions:***In this section, there are three passages. Each passage is followed by five questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET with a single line through the center.*

#### Passage One

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage.

College professors these days face an ever-higher bar to grab the attention of their students, forced to compete with the pulling power of smartphones and laptops in large lecture halls. But when your professor is a social media star, it is a little bit easier.

Tatiana Erukhimova, who teaches physics at Texas A&M University has managed to get her students, as well as future generations, excited about the science. Known as "Dr. Tatiana" to her students and online fan base, the professor performs physics tricks with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Videos of her theatrical demonstrations have attracted hundreds of millions of views across social media platforms.

As part of the physics department's extensive program, she also puts on shows almost every week teaching physics to K-12 students. The sooner kids are taught physics and taught it well, the better, she says. It is clear she knows what it takes to get young people excited about science. But it was not always that way.

When she first started teaching college freshman classes almost two decades ago, she says she struggled to grab the attention of her younger students. She was used to teaching juniors, as she had for a few years prior to that. By junior year, students majoring in physics are committed to learning, she says. But when it comes to teaching a large lecture hall of 100-plus first-year students, first impressions are **make or break**.

"I did not grab their attention on the first day—that was my mistake," she says. "I missed this opportunity to bond with them from the very beginning." By the second semester, she adjusted her



approach to make her lecture halls feel smaller, and get her students engaged.

The key, she says, has been to make herself approachable and her instruction personal. "Talk to your students before and after class, walk up and down the stairs when you teach your class rather than stay on the stage. And don't just lecture, talk to them--make it interactive. When you ask a question, you expect the answer," she says. "If you don't have the answer, you go to them and you still make them work with you--it's not always easy, but when you're close to them, it's definitely easier.

11. According to Paragraph 1, professors find it more difficult to\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. use smartphones in class
- B. become social media stars
- C. get students' attention in class
- D. give lectures without using laptops

12. What can we learn about Dr. Tatiana from Paragraph 2?

- A. She is a professor of online games.
- B. She performs physics experiments in theatres
- C. She gains less energy from social media platforms.
- D. She has made many young persons interested in physics

13. Which is closest in meaning to "make or break" in Paragraph 4?

- A. Normal
- B. Crucial.
- C. Breakable
- D. Successful

14. According to Paragraph 5, Dr. Tatiana\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. found the lecture hall too small
- B. made a mistake in the second semester
- C. got her students engaged at the very beginning
- D. could reflect on and adjust her teaching accordingly

15. According to the last paragraph, good teachers should be able to\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. give their lectures in an interactive way
- B. persuade their students to stay on the stage
- C. ask questions that most students cannot answer
- D. force their students to get well prepared before class

## Passage Two

Question 16 to 20 are based on the following passage.

This is one of two schools in Richmond where the city has installed new enforcement cameras to





catch speeders.Fitz Patrick has two children at the school.She is also a traffic safety advocate for the nonprofit Greater Richmond Fit4Kids,which is why she owns a radar gun (雷达测速器) .

Still,Fitz Patrick has mixed feelings about the speed cameras.She would rather see the whole street redesigned to discourage speeding and protect walkers and bicyclists.But she also knows that will not happen anytime soon.

The number of traffic deaths has risen sharply over the past decade,and safety advocates around the country are desperately searching for anything that will get drivers to slow down.But critics say speed cameras can be a financial burden on those who are least able to pay.Still,they have earned the support of important safety advocates,including Jonathan Adkins,the chief executive officer of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

Police departments in many places have scaled down their traffic enforcement,Adkins says,and speeding and careless driving seem to be getting worse.He says automated cameras can help fill that blank."The question is,how do we arrange them in a fair way with the public support?"Adkins said.

No one likes getting a speeding ticket.But the objections to automated traffic enforcement go deeper than that."It is doubtful that safety is the real goal,"said Jay Beeber,with the National Motorists Association,a driver advocacy group.

"We need to make sure that our cities have all the tools that are effective to reduce traffic deaths,"said Laura Friedman,a state lawmaker in California who sponsored the state law authorizing automated cameras."We make sure it can't be a money grab,because the money can only be used for physical speed-lowering improvements on the same streets where you're using the cameras,"she said."So it's really about changing the culture and slowing traffic down."

16.Fitz Patrick has a radar gun because\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.she is a traffic safety advocate
- B.she has two children at the school
- C.she has new cameras to catch speeders
- D.she is a school headmaster in Richmond

17.According to Paragraph2,Fitz Patrick thinks that\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.more speed cameras will soon be fixed
- B.redesigning the whole street is a better choice
- C.state lawmakers should redesign speed cameras
- D.the newly-installed cameras encourage speeding

18.What is the main idea of Paragraph 3?\_\_\_\_\_.



- A. Drivers find speed cameras can protect their safety
- B. There are different views on the use of speed cameras.
- C. Speed cameras have caused a sharp rise in traffic deaths.
- D. Safety advocates are desperately searching for slow drivers.

19. What is Jonathan Adkins' attitude toward installing speed cameras?

- A. Sympathetic.
- B. Intolerant.
- C. Critical.
- D. Unconcerned

20. According to Laura Friedman, automated cameras are used to\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. sponsor the state law
- B. collect more money for schools
- C. let drivers respect the speed limit
- D. improve the traffic flow in the city

### Passage Three

Question 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.

Experts suggest that Americans stop worrying about getting a perfect eight hours of sleep, and warn that stressing about the magic number may actually result in a drop in sleep quality and duration.

Dr. Reena Mehra, a director of sleep research at the Cleveland Clinic, held that focusing too much on falling asleep may interrupt the process. "It works against the individual," she said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than a third of Americans do not achieve the recommended seven to nine hours of sleep per night. The agency also found that quality sleep is determined by major sleep episodes that do not have frequent awakenings.

One paper looking into the ideal amount of sleep found that "Sleep duration recommendations issued by public health authorities help to inform the population of interventions, policies, and healthy sleep behaviors. However, the ideal amount of sleep required each night can vary between different individuals due to gene-related factors and other reasons, and it is important to adapt our recommendations on a case-by-case basis.

In the past, a lack of sleep was a sign to bosses that a person was productive and successful. But today, people try to create strategies to make the best use of their rest.

Researchers, scientists, psychologists and individuals in the sleep business said that the best course of action when it comes to sleep is to relax.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine clinical associate professor of psychology Dr. Shelby Harris said patterns and routines are more important than the magic eight-hour number. However, she stressed





that people do not need to be so rigid that they can no longer sleep at all if they have to *break from their* routine to work late or deal with a restless child.Harris also noted that it is essential to remember that humans were able to sleep peacefully well before the invention of drugs and technology."The pressure we put on ourselves is making sleep worse,"she said.

21.In writing Paragraph 2,the author aims to\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.give a definition
- B.draw a conclusion
- C.make a comparison
- D.support a viewpoint

22.According to Paragraph 4,the ideal amount of sleep required each night\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.can affect genes
- B.is based on policies
- C.is different from person to person
- D.should be revised by public authorities

23.According to Paragraph 5,in the past,a person lacking sleep was probably regarded as\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.an old person
- B.an able person
- C.a person creating strategies
- D.a person making good use of his or her rest

24.According to the last paragraph,Dr.Shelby Harris thinks that\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.rigid persons need longer sleep
- B.a magic number can make you peaceful
- C.good sleep habits can improve your sleep quality
- D.drugs and technology are essential for a restless child

25.Where is the passage most probably taken from?\_\_\_\_\_.

- A.An essay on trade.
- B.A report of public health
- C.A review of a sports event.
- D.An introduction to an agency.

