

2024 年普通高等学校招生全国统一考试

英语

姓名_____ 准考证号_____

全卷共 12 页，满分 150 分，考试时间 120 分钟。

考生注意：

1. 答题前，请务必将自己的姓名、准考证号用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔分别填写在试题卷和答题纸规定的位置上。

2. 答题时，请按照答题纸上“注意事项”的要求，在答题纸相应的位置上规范作答，在本试题卷上的作答一律无效。

第一部分 听力（共两节，满分 30 分）

做题时，先将答案标在试卷上。录音内容结束后，你将有两分钟的时间将试卷上的答案转涂到答题纸上。

第一节（共 5 小题；每小题 1.5 分，满分 7.5 分）

听下面 5 段对话。每段对话后有一个小题，从题中所给的 A、B、C 三个选项中选出最佳选项。听完每段对话后，你都有 10 秒钟的时间来回答有关小题和阅读下一小题。每段对话仅读一遍。

例：How much is the shirt?

A. £19.15. B. £9.18. C. £9.15.

答案是 C。

1. 【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

What is Kate doing?

A. Boarding a flight. B. Arranging a trip. C. Seeing a friend off.

2. 【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

What are the speakers talking about?

A. A pop star. B. An old song. C. A radio program.

3. 【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

What will the speakers do today?

A. Go to an art show. B. Meet the man's aunt. C. Eat out with Mark.

4. 【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

What does the man want to do?

A. Cancel an order. B. Ask for a receipt. C. Reschedule a delivery.

5. 【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

When will the next train to Bedford leave?

A. At 9:45.

B. At 10:15.

C. At 11:00.

第二节 (共 15 小题; 每小题 1.5 分, 满分 22.5 分)

听下面 5 段对话或独白。每段对话或独白后有几个小题, 从题中所给的 A、B、C 三个选项中选出最佳选项。听每段对话或独白前, 你将有时间阅读各个小题, 每小题 5 秒钟; 听完后, 各小题将给出 5 秒钟的作答时间。每段对话或独白读两遍。

听下面一段较长对话, 回答以下小题。【此处可播放相关音频, 请去附件查看】

6. What will the weather be like today?

A. Stormy.

B. Sunny.

C. Foggy.

7. What is the man going to do?

A. Plant a tree.

B. Move his car.

C. Check the map.

听下面一段较长对话, 回答以下小题。【此处可播放相关音频, 请去附件查看】

8. Why is Kathy in California now?

A. She is on vacation there.

B. She has just moved there.

C. She is doing business there.

9. What is the relationship between Tom and Fiona?

A. Husband and wife.

B. Brother and sister.

C. Father and daughter.

10. What does Kathy thank Dave for?

A. Finding her a new job.

B. Sending her a present.

C. Calling on her mother.

听下面一段较长对话, 回答以下小题。【此处可播放相关音频, 请去附件查看】

11. How did Jack go to school when he was a child?

A. By bike.

B. On foot.

C. By bus.

12. What is Jack's attitude toward parents driving their kids to school?

A. Disapproving.

B. Encouraging.

C. Understanding.

13. What is the problem with some parents according to the woman?

A. Overprotecting their children.

B. Pushing their children too hard.

C. Having no time for their children.

听下面一段较长对话，回答以下小题。【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

14. Why did Marie post her kitchen gardening online at first?

A. To keep records of her progress.

B. To sell home-grown vegetables.

C. To motivate her fellow gardeners.

15. Why does Marie recommend beginners to grow strawberries?

A. They need no special care.

B. They can be used in cooking.

C. They bear a lot of fruit soon.

16. What is difficult for Marie to grow?

A. Herbs.

B. Carrots.

C. Pears.

17. What is Marie's advice to those interested in kitchen gardening?

A. Aim high.

B. Keep focused.

C. Stay optimistic.

听下面一段独白，回答以下小题。【此处可播放相关音频，请去附件查看】

18. What is "Life of Johnson"?

A. A magazine column.

B. A TV series.

C. A historical novel.

19. What is Johnson famous for?

A. His acting talent.

B. His humorous writing.

C. His long sports career.

20. When did Johnson join *Sports Times*?

A. In 1981.

B. In 1983.

C. In 1985.

第二部分 阅读 (共两节, 满分 50 分)

第一节 (共 15 小题; 每小题 2.5 分, 满分 37.5 分)

阅读下列短文, 从每题所给的 A、B、C、D 四个选项中选出最佳选项。

A

HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM

Help restore and protect Marin's natural areas from the Marin Headlands to Bolinas Ridge. We'll explore beautiful park sites while conducting invasive (侵入的) plant removal, winter planting, and seed collection. Habitat

Restoration Team volunteers play a vital role in restoring sensitive resources and protecting endangered species across the ridges and valleys.

GROUPS

Groups of five or more require special arrangements and must be confirmed in advance. Please review the List of Available Projects and fill out the Group Project Request Form.

AGE, SKILLS, WHAT TO BRING

Volunteers aged 10 and over are welcome. Read our Youth Policy Guidelines for youth under the age of 15.

Bring your completed Volunteer Agreement Form. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have the parent/guardian approval section signed.

We'll be working rain or shine. Wear clothes that can get dirty. Bring layers for changing weather and a raincoat if necessary.

Bring a personal water bottle, sunscreen, and lunch.

No experience necessary. Training and tools will be provided. Fulfills (满足) community service requirements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Time	Meeting Location
Sunday, Jan. 15 10:00 am — 1:00 pm	Battery Alexander Trailhead
Sunday, Jan. 22 10:00 am — 2:30 pm	Stinson Beach Parking Lot
Sunday, Jan. 29 9:30 am — 2:30 pm	Coyote Ridge Trailhead

21. What is the aim of the Habitat Restoration Team?

- A. To discover mineral resources. B. To develop new wildlife parks.
C. To protect the local ecosystem. D. To conduct biological research.

22. What is the lower age limit for joining the Habitat Restoration Team?

- A. 5. B. 10. C. 15. D. 18.

23. What are the volunteers expected to do?

- A. Bring their own tools. B. Work even in bad weather.
C. Wear a team uniform. D. Do at least three projects.

B

“I am not crazy,” says Dr. William Farber, shortly after performing acupuncture (针灸) on a rabbit. “I am ahead of my time.” If he seems a little defensive, it might be because even some of his coworkers occasionally laugh at his unusual methods. But Farber is certain he’ll have the last laugh. He’s one of a small but growing number of American veterinarians (兽医) now practicing “holistic” medicine—combining traditional Western treatments with acupuncture, chiropractic (按摩疗法) and herbal medicine.

Farber, a graduate of Colorado State University, started out as a more conventional veterinarian. He became interested in alternative treatments 20 years ago when he suffered from terrible back pain. He tried muscle-relaxing drugs but found little relief. Then he tried acupuncture, an ancient Chinese practice, and was amazed that he improved after two or three treatments. What worked on a veterinarian seemed likely to work on his patients. So, after studying the techniques for a couple of years, he began offering them to pets.

Leigh Tindale’s dog Charlie had a serious heart condition. After Charlie had a heart attack, Tindale says, she was prepared to put him to sleep, but Farber’s treatments eased her dog’s suffering so much that she was able to keep him alive for an additional five months. And Priscilla Dewing reports that her horse, Nappy, “moves more easily and rides more comfortably” after a chiropractic adjustment.

Farber is certain that the holistic approach will grow more popular with time, and if the past is any indication, he may be right: Since 1982, membership in the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association has grown from 30 to over 700. “Sometimes it surprises me that it works so well,” he says. “I will do anything to help an animal. That’s my job.”

24. What do some of Farber’s coworkers think of him?

- A. He’s odd. B. He’s strict. C. He’s brave. D. He’s rude.

25. Why did Farber decide to try acupuncture on pets?

- A. He was trained in it at university. B. He was inspired by another veterinarian.
C. He benefited from it as a patient. D. He wanted to save money for pet owners.

26. What does paragraph 3 mainly talk about?

- A. Steps of a chiropractic treatment. B. The complexity of veterinarians’ work.
C. Examples of rare animal diseases. D. The effectiveness of holistic medicine.

27. Why does the author mention the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association?

- A. To prove Farber’s point. B. To emphasize its importance.
C. To praise veterinarians. D. To advocate animal protection.

C

Is comprehension the same whether a person reads a text onscreen or on paper? And are listening to and

viewing content as effective as reading the written word when covering the same material? The answers to both questions are often “no”. The reasons relate to a variety of factors, including reduced concentration, an entertainment mindset (心态) and a tendency to multitask while consuming digital content.

When reading texts of several hundred words or more, learning is generally more successful when it's on paper than onscreen. A large amount of research confirms this finding. The benefits of print reading particularly **shine through** when experimenters move from posing simple tasks — like identifying the main idea in a reading passage — to ones that require mental abstraction — such as drawing inferences from a text.

The differences between print and digital reading results are partly related to paper's physical properties. With paper, there is a literal laying on of hands, along with the visual geography of distinct pages. People often link their memory of what they've read to how far into the book it was or where it was on the page.

But equally important is the mental aspect. Reading researchers have proposed a theory called “shallowing hypothesis (假说)”. According to this theory, people approach digital texts with a mindset suited to social media, which are often not so serious, and devote less mental effort than when they are reading print.

Audio (音频) and video can feel more engaging than text, and so university teachers increasingly turn to these technologies — say, assigning an online talk instead of an article by the same person. However, psychologists have demonstrated that when adults read news stories, they remember more of the content than if they listen to or view identical pieces.

Digital texts, audio and video all have educational roles, especially when providing resources not available in print. However, for maximizing learning where mental focus and reflection are called for, educators shouldn't assume all media are the same, even when they contain identical words.

28. What does the underlined phrase “shine through” in paragraph 2 mean?

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Seem unlikely to last. | B. Seem hard to explain. |
| C. Become ready to use. | D. Become easy to notice. |

29. What does the shallowing hypothesis assume?

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Readers treat digital texts lightly. | B. Digital texts are simpler to understand. |
| C. People select digital texts randomly. | D. Digital texts are suitable for social media. |

30. Why are audio and video increasingly used by university teachers?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| A. They can hold students' attention. | B. They are more convenient to prepare. |
| C. They help develop advanced skills. | D. They are more informative than text. |

31. What does the author imply in the last paragraph?

- A. Students should apply multiple learning techniques.

- B. Teachers should produce their own teaching material.
- C. Print texts cannot be entirely replaced in education.
- D. Education outside the classroom cannot be ignored.

D

In the race to document the species on Earth before they go extinct, researchers and citizen scientists have collected billions of records. Today, most records of biodiversity are often in the form of photos, videos, and other digital records. Though they are useful for detecting shifts in the number and variety of species in an area, a new Stanford study has found that this type of record is not perfect.

“With the rise of technology it is easy for people to make observations of different species with the aid of a mobile application,” said Barnabas Daru, who is lead author of the study and assistant professor of biology in the Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences. “These observations now outnumber the primary data that comes from physical specimens (标本), and since we are increasingly using observational data to investigate how species are responding to global change, I wanted to know: Are they usable?”

Using a global dataset of 1.9 billion records of plants, insects, birds, and animals, Daru and his team tested how well these data represent actual global biodiversity patterns.

“We were particularly interested in exploring the aspects of sampling that tend to bias (使有偏差) data, like the greater likelihood of a citizen scientist to take a picture of a flowering plant instead of the grass right next to it,” said Daru.

Their study revealed that the large number of observation-only records did not lead to better global coverage. Moreover, these data are biased and favor certain regions, time periods, and species. This makes sense because the people who get observational biodiversity data on mobile devices are often citizen scientists recording their encounters with species in areas nearby. These data are also biased toward certain species with attractive or eye-catching features.

What can we do with the imperfect datasets of biodiversity?

“Quite a lot,” Daru explained. “Biodiversity apps can use our study results to inform users of oversampled areas and lead them to places — and even species — that are not well-sampled. To improve the quality of observational data, biodiversity apps can also encourage users to have an expert confirm the identification of their uploaded image.”

32. What do we know about the records of species collected now?

- A. They are becoming outdated.
- B. They are mostly in electronic form.
- C. They are limited in number.
- D. They are used for public exhibition.

33. What does Daru's study focus on?

- A. Threatened species.
- B. Physical specimens.
- C. Observational data.
- D. Mobile applications.

34. What has led to the biases according to the study?

- A. Mistakes in data analysis.
- B. Poor quality of uploaded pictures.
- C. Improper way of sampling.
- D. Unreliable data collection devices.

35. What is Daru's suggestion for biodiversity apps?

- A. Review data from certain areas.
- B. Hire experts to check the records.
- C. Confirm the identity of the users.
- D. Give guidance to citizen scientists.

第二节 (共 5 小题; 每小题 2.5 分, 满分 12.5 分)

阅读下面短文, 从短文后的选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。选项中有两项为多余选项。

Not all great writers are great spellers. If you want to be published, it's vital to submit a perfect, professionally presented manuscript (原稿). 36 No editor is likely to tolerate a writer who does not take the trouble to spell words correctly.

I keep two reference books close-by on my desk: dictionary and thesaurus (同义词词典). I don't trust my laptop's spellchecker. 37 Of course, these days there are plenty of online dictionaries and thesauruses, but I'm old-fashioned enough to prefer a hard cover and pages I can leaf through with my fingers. I use the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and the *Collins Thesaurus*.

38 It should give you a precise definition of each word, thus differentiating it from other words whose meanings are similar, but not identical. It will also usually show how the word is pronounced.

In addition, I have an old two-volume copy of the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, picked up a few years ago in a bookshop sale for just 99 pence. Of course, with its 2,672 pages, it's not exactly short. It contains around 163,000 words, plus word combinations and idiomatic phrases. 39 However, if I need to check the origin of a word or to look up examples of its usage, there's nothing better.

For well over a hundred years the most influential English dictionary was Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language* published in 1755. "To make dictionaries is dull (乏味) work," wrote Johnson, illustrating one definition of "dull". 40 A few minutes spent casting your eye over a page or two can be a rewarding experience.

- A. I don't often use this dictionary.
- B. It takes no account of the context.

- C. But I still don't want to replace them.
- D. But a dictionary can be a pleasure to read.
- E. Of course, a dictionary is not only for spelling.
- F. That means good grammar and no spelling mistakes.
- G. Dictionaries don't always give you enough information.

第三部分 语言运用 (共两节, 满分 30 分)

第一节 (共 15 小题; 每小题 1 分, 满分 15 分)

阅读下面短文, 从每题所给的 A、B、C、D 四个选项中选出最佳选项。

I've been motivated — and demotivated — by other folks' achievement s all my life.

When I was a teenager, a neighborhood friend _____41_____ a marathon race. Feeling motivated, I started running _____42_____, but then two things happened. First, a girl I met one day told me she was _____43_____ for a “super,” referring to a 52.4-mile double marathon. Then, the next day I went on my longest run — 15 miles. To be honest, I _____44_____ it! Between the girl making my _____45_____ seem small and the pure boredom of jogging, I decided that the only _____46_____ I'd ever run again is if a big dog was running after me!

So I _____47_____ cycling. I got a good bike and rode a lot. I _____48_____ of entering cycle races until I flew to San Diego to visit my sister. While she was at work one day, I _____49_____ her bike and went for a ride. The _____50_____: The roads there went through large valleys where I'd be riding uphill for miles at a time. I'd never faced such _____51_____. That day, I got _____52_____ by about 100 “local” bikers who were used to such roads. When I got back home, suddenly riding my bike didn't seem quite as _____53_____.

I've _____54_____ a lot since then. I've come to accept that whatever _____55_____ I set for myself, they just have to be my own.

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 41. A. knew | B. held | C. won | D. quit |
| 42. A. regularly | B. silently | C. proudly | D. recently |
| 43. A. asking | B. looking | C. waiting | D. training |
| 44. A. made | B. believed | C. hated | D. deserved |
| 45. A. advantage | B. achievement | C. contribution | D. influence |
| 46. A. way | B. risk | C. place | D. reason |
| 47. A. gave up | B. went on | C. turned to | D. dealt with |
| 48. A. heard | B. dreamed | C. complained | D. approved |
| 49. A. painted | B. borrowed | C. bought | D. parked |

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 50. A. problem | B. secret | C. principle | D. advice |
| 51. A. dangers | B. events | C. opponents | D. challenges |
| 52. A. passed | B. convinced | C. admired | D. stopped |
| 53. A. reliable | B. convenient | C. familiar | D. appealing |
| 54. A. traveled | B. matured | C. missed | D. worried |
| 55. A. limits | B. dates | C. goals | D. tests |

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。

Heatherwick Studio recently built a greenhouse at the edge of the National Trust's Woolbeding Gardens. This beautiful structure, named Glasshouse, is at the centre of a new garden that shows how the Silk Road influences English gardens even in modern times.

The latest 56 (engineer) techniques are applied to create this protective 57 (function) structure that is also beautiful. The design features ten steel “sepals (萼片)” made of glass and aluminium (铝). These sepals open on warm days 58 (give) the inside plants sunshine and fresh air. In cold weather, the structure stays 59 (close) to protect the plants.

Further, the Silk Route Garden around the greenhouse 60 (walk) visitors through a journey influenced by the ancient Silk Road, by which silk as well as many plant species came to Britain for 61 first time. These plants included modern Western 62 (favourite) such as rosemary, lavender and fennel. The garden also contains a winding path that guides visitors through the twelve regions of the Silk Road. The path offers over 300 plant species for visitors to see, too.

The Glasshouse stands 63 a great achievement in contemporary design, to house the plants of the southwestern part of China at the end of a path retracing (追溯) the steps along the Silk Route 64 brought the plants from their native habitat in Asia to come to define much of the 65 (rich) of gardening in England.

第四部分 写作 (共两节, 满分 40 分)

第一节 (满分 15 分)

66. 假定你是李华, 上周五你们班在公园上了一堂美术课。请你给英国朋友 Chris 写一封邮件分享这次经历, 内容包括:

- (1) 你完成的作品;
- (2) 你的感想。

注意:

- (1) 写作词数应为 80 个左右；
- (2) 请按如下格式在答题纸的相应位置作答。

Dear Chris,

I'm writing to share with you an art class I had in a park last Friday.

Yours,

Li Hua

第二节 (满分 25 分)

67. 阅读下面材料，根据其内容和所给段落开头语续写两段，使之构成一篇完整的短文。

I met Gunter on a cold, wet and unforgettable evening in September. I had planned to fly to Vienna and take a bus to Prague for a conference. Due to a big storm, my flight had been delayed by an hour and a half. I touched down in Vienna just 30 minutes before the departure of the last bus to Prague. The moment I got off the plane, I ran like crazy through the airport building and jumped into the first taxi on the rank without a second thought.

That was when I met Gunter. I told him where I was going, but he said he hadn't heard of the bus station. I thought my pronunciation was the problem, so I explained again more slowly, but he still looked confused. When I was about to give up, Gunter fished out his little phone and rang up a friend. After a heated discussion that lasted for what seemed like a century, Gunter put his phone down and started the car.

Finally, with just two minutes to spare we rolled into the bus station. Thankfully, there was a long queue (队列) still waiting to board the bus. Gunter parked the taxi behind the bus, turned around, and looked at me with a big smile on his face. "We made it," he said.

Just then I realised that I had zero cash in my wallet. I flashed him an apologetic smile as I pulled out my Portuguese bankcard. He tried it several times, but the card machine just did not play along. A feeling of helplessness washed over me as I saw the bus queue thinning out.

At this moment, Gunter pointed towards the waiting hall of the bus station. There, at the entrance, was a cash machine. I jumped out of the car, made a mad run for the machine, and popped my card in, only to read the message: "Out of order. Sorry."

注意：

- (1) 续写词数应为 150 个左右；
- (2) 请按如下格式在答题纸的相应位置作答。

I ran back to Gunter and told him the bad news.

Four days later, when I was back in Vienna, I called Gunter as promised.

2024 年普通高等学校招生全国统一考试

英语

姓名_____ 准考证号_____

全卷共 12 页，满分 150 分，考试时间 120 分钟。

考生注意：

1. 答题前，请务必将自己的姓名、准考证号用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔分别填写在试题卷和答题纸规定的位置上。
2. 答题时，请按照答题纸上“注意事项”的要求，在答题纸相应的位置上规范作答，在本试题卷上的作答一律无效。

第一部分 听力（共两节，满分 30 分）

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第一节（共 5 小题；每小题 1.5 分，满分 7.5 分）

听下面 5 段对话。每段对话后有一个小题，从题中所给的 A、B、C 三个选项中选出最佳选项。听完每段对话后，你都有 10 秒钟的时间来回答有关小题和阅读下一小题。每段对话仅读一遍。

例：How much is the shirt?

A. £19.15. B. £9.18. C. £9.15.

答案是 C。

【1 题答案】

【答案】 C

【2 题答案】

【答案】 B

【3 题答案】

【答案】 A

【4 题答案】

【答案】 C

【5 题答案】

【答案】 A

第二节（共 15 小题；每小题 1.5 分，满分 22.5 分）

听下面 5 段对话或独白。每段对话或独白后有几个小题，从题中所给的 A、B、C 三个选项中

选出最佳选项。听每段对话或独白前，你将有时间阅读各个小题，每小题 5 秒钟；听完后，各小题将给出 5 秒钟的作答时间。每段对话或独白读两遍。

【6~7 题答案】

【答案】 6. A 7. B

【8~10 题答案】

【答案】 8. B 9. B 10. C

【11~13 题答案】

【答案】 11. B 12. C 13. A

【14~17 题答案】

【答案】 14. A 15. C 16. B 17. C

【18~20 题答案】

【答案】 18. A 19. B 20. C

第二部分 阅读（共两节，满分 50 分）

第一节 （共 15 小题；每小题 2.5 分，满分 37.5 分）

阅读下列短文，从每题所给的 A、B、C、D 四个选项中选出最佳选项。

A

【21~23 题答案】

【答案】 21. C 22. B 23. B

B

【24~27 题答案】

【答案】 24. A 25. C 26. D 27. A

C

【28~31 题答案】

【答案】 28. D 29. A 30. A 31. C

D

【32~35 题答案】

【答案】 32. B 33. C 34. C 35. D

第二节 （共 5 小题；每小题 2.5 分，满分 12.5 分）

阅读下面短文，从短文后的选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。选项中有两项为多余选项。

【36~40 题答案】

【答案】 36. F 37. B 38. E 39. A 40. D

第三部分 语言运用 (共两节，满分 30 分)

第一节 (共 15 小题；每小题 1 分，满分 15 分)

阅读下面短文，从每题所给的 A、B、C、D 四个选项中选出最佳选项。

【41~55 题答案】

【答案】41. C 42. A 43. D 44. C 45. B 46. D 47. C 48. B 49. B 50. A 51. D 52. A 53. D 54. B 55. C

第二节 (共 10 小题；每小题 1.5 分，满分 15 分)

【56~65 题答案】

【答案】56. engineering
57. functional
58. to give
59. closed 60. walks
61. the 62. favorites
63. as 64. which##that
65. richness

第四部分 写作 (共两节，满分 40 分)

第一节 (满分 15 分)

【66 题答案】

【答案】

Dear Chris,

I'm writing to share with you an art class I had in a park last Friday.

We were tasked to draw or paint something that impressed us most. Inspired by the fantastic scenery, I decided to create a watercolor painting of the small bridge over the park's pond, surrounded by blooming flowers.

The entire experience was incredibly refreshing. Being surrounded by nature not only sparked my creativity but also offered a much-needed break from the usual hustle and bustle of school life. I felt a deep sense of peace as I painted.

In a word, It was not just an art class; it was a moment of connection with nature that I truly cherished.

Yours,

Li Hua

第二节 (满分 25 分)

【67 题答案】

【答案】 参考范文**Para 1**

I ran back to Gunter and told him the bad news. He looked at me in disbelief, asking me what to do. Flashing him another apologetic smile, I begged him for a delayed payment. "If I miss this last bus to Prague, I'll be late for the conference which is so important that I can't afford to miss it!" I explained. "May I have your phone number? I will call you and return the money I owe you. I promise I will keep my word or you keep my watch!" I added, handing him my watch as well as my business card. Gunter accepted my business card but rejected my watch. He wrote down his phone number and gave it to me. "Just keep your promise, Sir." A feeling of gratitude washed over me as I heard his words. Giving him a firm handshake, I jumped out of the car, made a mad run for the bus, and jumped onto it just before its departure. I ran back to Gunter and told him the bad news. He looked at me in disbelief, asking me what to do. Flashing him another apologetic smile, I begged him for a delayed payment. "If I miss this last bus to Prague, I'll be late for the conference which is so important that I can't afford to miss it!" I explained. "May I have your phone number? I will call you and return the money I owe you. I promise I will keep my word or you keep my watch!" I added, handing him my watch as well as my business card. Gunter accepted my business card but rejected my watch. He wrote down his phone number and gave it to me. "Just keep your promise, Sir." A feeling of gratitude washed over me as I heard his words. Giving him a firm handshake, I jumped out of the car, made a mad run for the bus, and jumped onto it just before its departure.

Para 2

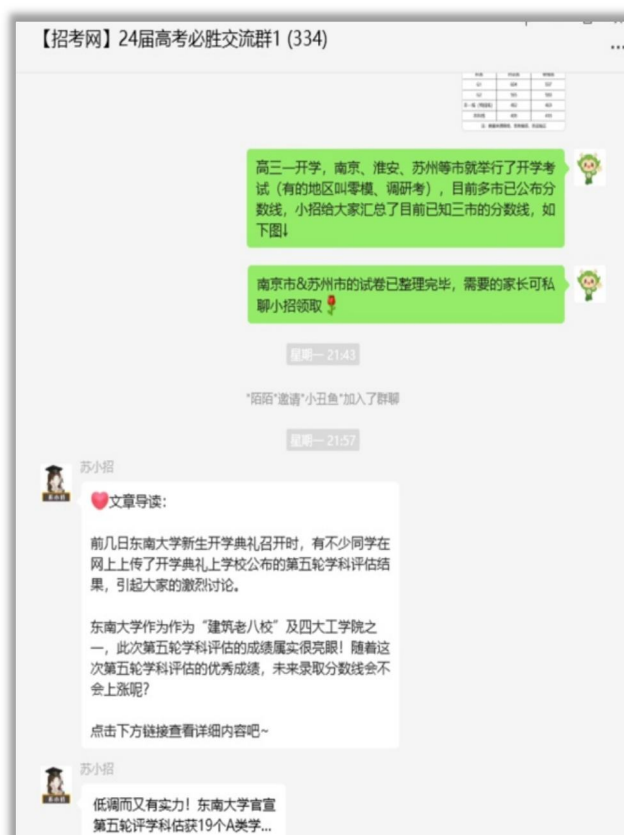
Four days later, when I was back in Vienna, I called Gunter as promised. He picked me up at the bus station where he had dropped me off four days before. Beaming a warm smile at him, I gave him a big hug the moment I saw him. We chatted happily on the way to the airport. I told him that thanks to his generosity and timely help, everything had gone smoothly. When he stopped his taxi outside the airport, I paid him for the "double car ride", back and forth from the airport to the bus station, together with a generous tip that he turned down. I also gave him an attractive souvenir I had bought at Prague, which he accepted with delight. We became good friends and kept in touch with each other regularly. I felt blessed to have such a warm-hearted friend like Gunter. Four days later, when I was back in Vienna, I called Gunter as promised. He picked me up at the bus station where he had dropped me off four days before. Beaming a warm smile at him, I gave him a big hug the moment I saw him. We chatted happily on the way to the airport. I told him that thanks to his generosity and timely help, everything had gone smoothly. When he stopped his taxi outside the airport, I paid him for the "double car ride", back and forth from the airport to the bus station, together with a generous tip that he turned down. I also gave him an attractive souvenir I had bought at Prague, which he accepted with delight. We became good friends and kept in touch with each other

regularly. I felt blessed to have such a warm-hearted friend like Gunter.

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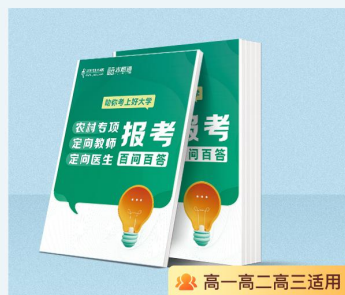
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