



# College culture

## PASSAGE 1

### Directions:

Read the following passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

阅读和练习实际用时 \_\_\_\_\_

正确答题数 \_\_\_\_\_

## Why does college cost so much?

- A** The artisanal (手工艺的) nature of higher education makes it expensive, and technology is more a cause of price increases than a solution. At this time of year, many rising high school seniors are visiting college campuses, trying to determine which schools interest them. Their parents are busy figuring out what they will have to pay.
- B** Here are three salient (显著的) facts about tuition and fees. Over the last 30 years, the average sticker price at public and private American universities has accelerated upward. Since 1981, the least price level of tuition and fees has risen sixfold while the consumer price index has only increased two-and-a-half times. This fact is well-known, and it fuels much of the talk about a crisis in higher education. The other two facts are less well known. The average family bill for a college education has been increasing faster than the overall inflation rate for much of the past century, so rising inflation-adjusted college tuition is not a new issue. And lastly, higher education is not alone. There is a set of important industries with price behaviour that is remarkably similar to what college students and their families have experienced.
- C** In a forthcoming book, we attempt to explain all three of these facts in a way that ties higher education to the broader development of the economy.
- D** Most of what is written about rising college costs places primary blame on a dysfunctional university system. The culprits (罪犯) are things like wasteful prestige games among elite schools, gold plating of facilities for students and a lax (松懈的)

workplace culture that breeds both inefficiency and a stiff resistance to innovation. Like many large organizations, American universities could be made more efficient, but our review of the evidence convinces us that the primary forces that are driving up costs are not to be found by scouring the account books of colleges for examples of waste. For starters, the dysfunction stories have trouble explaining why inflation-adjusted college costs were flat or falling for over a decade in the 1970s and early 1980s, or why the rate of cost increases is so high today, but was not nearly as high in the 1960s, when baby boomers began flooding into school.

- E** Instead of holding up a magnifying glass to the industry, we take an aerial view (俯瞰图). The view from above shows us different things. Rising college costs are an important byproduct of broad economic forces that have reshaped the entire economy, and in particular of the technological progress that has so dramatically raised living standards over time.
- F** Our technology story rests on three strong pillars. First, like many personal services, including much of health care, the law and banking, higher education remains essentially an artisanal industry. These are industries in which technological progress has not reduced the number of labour hours needed to “produce” the service. By contrast, labour productivity in basic manufacturing has soared, and this is why the cost of a year of college has gone up compared with the purchase price of a basic car or a basket of groceries. Students interacting directly with professors and other students in small groups remain a benchmark of quality in education. Ask any family if they want their son or daughter to learn in small group seminars taught by tenured professors, or if they prefer giant impersonal lectures or online chat rooms monitored by adjunct teachers who answer lots of e-mail questions.
- G** Secondly, higher education shares with many other personal services a reliance on an extremely highly educated labour force. Starting in the late 1970s, the cost of hiring highly educated people began a sustained rise. This has driven up costs in any industry that cannot easily shed expensive labour.
- H** Lastly, technological change affects higher education directly. But unlike steel or autos, where the primary impact of new techniques is to reduce the amount of labour or energy it takes to make the product, new technology in higher education tends to change what we do and how we do it. Colleges must offer an education that gives students the tools they need to succeed in the modern economy. The contemporary chemistry student, for instance, needs to be familiar with current laboratory tools, and they are more expensive than the chalk-and-test-tube world of the past. As in modern medicine, there is a standard of care that higher education must meet, and that standard is set in the labour market that hires our graduates.
- I** Our story of rising cost is nothing with bad people making bad decisions. This means that there are no simple methods, like price controls, that would not also reduce the quality of the education we offer.

**J** Yet there are indeed significant problems to solve in American higher education. As the national income distribution has skewed (使歪斜) toward those with ever more years of schooling, children from families with wage earners that are less well-educated find a college education, especially from a selective four-year institution, harder to afford. This is a problem for our financial aid system, which is part of the problem. It is needlessly complex, and it increasingly fails to provide access to many students who could succeed in college. We need to streamline this system and rewrite the funding relationship between public universities and their state sponsors.

(878 words)

- 1** There are no easy solutions to the rising college cost, and the policy makers who take charge of the higher education should not be responsible for it.
- 2** In higher education, the development of technology cannot reduce the working hours of the teachers.
- 3** The luxurious facilities like computer games for the students and the slack working atmosphere contribute to the lack of innovation and efficiency in the universities.
- 4** The senior high students pay a visit to the campuses and further decide which colleges they are interested in, whereas the parents have to consider the tuition and fees.
- 5** Generally speaking, the development of technology results in higher living standards as well as rising college costs.
- 6** The rate of cost increases is not so high as that in the 1960s, when a large number of children enrolled at school.
- 7** Higher education has depended on the highly educated and expensive labour force since the late 1970s.
- 8** We also have to put blame on the financial aid system which fails to help those low-income families.
- 9** The new technology in higher education cannot save our labour and time, whereas it influences the way we do education.
- 10** The price of tuition and fees has increased much more in contrast with the cost of consumer goods and services.

## PASSAGE 2

### Directions:

Read the following passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

阅读和练习实际用时 \_\_\_\_\_

正确答题数 \_\_\_\_\_

# Fraternities and sororities: the secret history of Greek societies

- A** While the secretive worlds of fraternities and sororities are not too familiar outside of North America, within the US they play a large part in university life. If you are considering studying in the US, you will no doubt come into contact with fraternities and sororities, and it may help to know a little about these organizations before you get there.
- B** The names fraternity and sorority come from the Latin words “frater” and “soror”, meaning brother and sister. In the United States and Canada, fraternities and sororities are most commonly known as social organizations for undergraduate students. Fraternities are usually all male while sororities are usually all female, though some co-ed (男女同校的) organizations do exist. Fraternities and sororities do exist outside of North America, most notably in Philippines and in a few European countries, but for the most part they are a solely American institution.
- C** The general purpose of fraternities and sororities is to provide social support for their members. Different types of fraternities and sororities emphasize service to the community, professional advancement, or academic achievement.
- D** Many fraternities and sororities are national or international organizations with chapters at individual schools. Most top universities in the US have chapters on campus and some even house the organizations’ headquarters or nationals on their campus. The societies’ headquarters help to decide policies regarding membership, housing and behaviour of members.
- E** Traditionally, North American fraternities and sororities use two or three Greek letters to form their name. This explains why fraternities and sororities are often referred to as “Greek societies”. Phi Beta Kappa, founded on 5 December, 1776 at the College of

William and Mary is generally held to be the first organization to use Greek letters in its name. Sigma Phi, founded on 4 March, 1827 at Union College is reported to have been the first fraternity to go national when it opened a second chapter at Hamilton College in 1831. Pi Beta Phi, founded in 1867 at Monmouth College, was the first sorority, based on the model of the male fraternity.

- F** Today there are over 1,500 fraternities and sororities in existence that use Greek letters in their names. Many Greek organizations are informally known more by their nicknames than by their Greek letters. For example, Alpha Epsilon Pi is more commonly referred to as “A-E-P” and Kappa Alpha Order is known as “KA”. Sometimes an invented word based on the letters, such as “Pike” from Pi Kappa Alpha, or “Sammy” from Sigma Alpha Mu, is used. At other times the letters of the organizations are shortened or removed completely, for example, Psi Upsilon as “Psi U” and Pi Kappa Phi as “Pi Kapp”. Some organizations choose to go by just the dominant letters in their names, which include “Betas” for Beta Theta Pi, and “Kappas” for Kappa Kappa Gamma.
- G** The process of joining a fraternity or sorority by undergraduates or international students usually begins with “rush week”. During rush week a series of events and activities are organized by existing members, so potential members can learn about each other and the organization. At the end of the rush week, the various organizations offer invitations of membership.
- H** There is often a period of “pledgeship” before a full invitation to the society is extended. During this time pledges must fulfill a number of requirements that may be imposed either by the school or the organization itself, often including a minimum grade point average, wearing a pledge pin, learning about the history and structure of the fraternity or sorority, and performing a public service.
- I** Finally, there is a full initiation into the society by those pledging. The initiations often involve some form of secret ceremony known only to those in the particular fraternity or sorority. There is also a fee required to join a fraternity or sorority, which is decided by the society. If you’re considering joining a society, this cost needs to be calculated into your student finances.
- J** Fraternities and sororities also provide university housing for their members, the idea being that living together in a large house or apartment complex reinforces the bonds of brotherhood or sisterhood. Houses provide accommodation for visiting society members from different chapters, for international students, or those on study abroad programmes. This can be a good way of seeing different parts of the US in an inexpensive manner and with locals who already know the area.
- K** The decision of which fraternity or sorority to join, or whether to join at all, is very subjective and down to the individual. Some undergraduates find their loyalty to a fraternity or sorority an important aspect of their identity both during their time of

study for their university degree and in their career beyond. However, many people also decide that being part of a fraternity or sorority is an unnecessary drain on their student finances and get along just fine without joining one.

(806 words)

- 1 In addition to North America, fraternities and sororities also exist in Philippines and some European countries.
- 2 We call the fraternities and sororities "Greek societies" for the common use of Greek letters in their names.
- 3 Students are free to join any fraternity or sorority for any reason. Yet, some students still think joining such an organization is a waste of money.
- 4 The fraternities and sororities can accommodate students because they believe living together seems to be more like siblings.
- 5 Fraternities and sororities are not so common in universities of other parts of the world as in universities of North America.
- 6 There are different types of fraternities or sororities. If you are a member of fraternities or sororities, you can ask them for help in various areas.
- 7 Usually a potential member of a fraternity or sorority has the possibility of receiving the invitations after the rush week.
- 8 If you plan to join a fraternity or sorority, you have to take the payment of membership fees into consideration.
- 9 In most cases, you could find branches of the fraternities and sororities of a university when you are at home or abroad.
- 10 In order to receive the final full invitation you should also meet some requirements both from the colleges and the organizations.

## PASSAGE 3

### Directions:

Read the following passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

阅读和练习实际用时 \_\_\_\_\_

正确答题数 \_\_\_\_\_

# Colleges see rise in mental health issues

- A** They may not tell their roommates or even close friends, but on college campuses all across the United States, more students than ever before are seeking mental help, according to recent national surveys of campus counsellors (顾问).
- B** And it's not just for homesickness and relationship problems, says the University of Michigan's Daniel Eisenberg. He directs the Healthy Minds Study, a study that surveys mainly students, but also a sampling of college counsellors, about mental health issues, including the commonness of clinical depression, anxiety and eating disorders on campus. Eisenberg says his findings agree with those of a large national survey of counselling centre directors, led by the University of Pittsburgh's Robert Gallagher.
- C** "One of the questions is whether they're seeing an increase in the number and seriousness of students with mental health problems," Eisenberg says. "And over 90 per cent of college counselling services are saying yes to that question." Just one example: In 2007, around 15 per cent of students reported having been diagnosed with depression at some point in their lives; that's up from 10 per cent in 2000.
- D** Eisenberg and other experts say they haven't yet teased out all the reasons behind the rise of mental health issues on campus, but think it doubtful that today's teenagers are more psychologically disturbed than past generations. Other explanations seem more likely. Better screening and earlier diagnosis of mental illness in high school and even before may be one factor, Eisenberg says. "Especially when drugs to relieve mental depression came onto the scene in the late 1980s and in the 1990s, the likelihood of teenagers getting treatment went way up," he says. Now, many of those teens getting treatment are in college and are accustomed to turning to counsellors for help.
- E** Researchers suspect the increased seriousness of mental illness that counsellors are seeing may be partly the consequence of a good thing: better treatment. Twenty years

ago, many high school students with an illness as difficult as bipolar disorder (躁郁症) or deep, persistent depression might never have made it to college or been able to stay there. Now such students are on every campus. Many are thriving, but in need of significant support to make it through.

- F** Some are first hit with the illness in college. Stanford University’s senior student Manda Gelender found herself battling a deep depression for the first time in her freshman year. After weeks of going it alone, exhausted and “crying under the covers for hours” in the dorm, she says, she finally called her doctor. She was eventually diagnosed with bipolar disorder and found significant relief, with the right medication and other support, that enabled her to stay on campus and even keep up her near 4.0 grade average. Still, for years, she never told friends, professors or dorm-mates of her diagnosis or ongoing struggle. “I felt like the most isolated person in the world,” she says of that time. “I didn’t feel like anybody would understand what I was going through.”
- G** Last January, Gelender broke her silence. She’s the co-founder of a student theatre group called Stanford Theatre Activist Mobilization Project (STAMP), and for a project last winter, STAMP appealed for nameless true-life letters from schoolmates living with depression, panic attacks, obsessive-compulsive disorder (强迫症) and other mental health problems. In January, Gelender and the group dramatized the accounts as plays in their theatre production, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*.
- H** The student actors performed the plays in various locations around the campus – including 13 student dorms. After each performance, Gelender and several other students acknowledged their own diagnoses and took questions.
- I** The campus response to *Out of Sight, Out of Mind* was irresistibly positive, Gelender says. One student residence adviser told her it was “probably the best thing that has been done for mental health on campus in a long time. He could really sense a change in his dorm.” “Just giving voice to these thoughts can open a floodgate,” says Alex Holtzman, one of the student actors. Holtzman performed the anonymous plays about a student with obsessive-compulsive disorder. “There were many people at these performances in the dorms who had never talked about their mental illness to anybody else.”
- J** “I used to hide all these things,” Gelender says. “But I don’t want to do that anymore. It’s a big part of my life, and I’m trying to be franker about it.” Her classmates and professors know about all her accomplishments – her academic scholarships and public service awards. Why not, when appropriate, let them in on her struggles too?
- K** “I think that some people definitely look at you differently when they find out,” she says. But she’s also convinced that the only way to change that is if more people are willing to be open and show classmates just how many people on college campuses – roughly 18 million by some estimates – are dealing with mental health issues today.

(808 words)



- 1 According to Gelender, their plays enjoy a good audience response on campus.
- 2 Today, school students who suffer from serious mental diseases get better treatment on campus than the past.
- 3 The rise of mental health problems in teenagers cannot justify that today's teenagers are more likely to be obsessed with mental diseases than the past.
- 4 Many American college students are reluctant to share their mental health concerns with their friends.
- 5 Gelender strongly believes that the bias will be eliminated when more people are willing to learn and talk about their own mental diseases.
- 6 According to Eisenberg, the number of students who suffer from mental health problems is on the rise.
- 7 Gelender finally talked about her diseases with her classmates and teachers and asked for their support.
- 8 *Out of Sight, Out of Mind* is the name of a play adapted from real life stories.
- 9 According to the survey, Eisenberg insists that his findings are consistent with those of a much wider national survey.
- 10 Gelender asked for help from the doctor after she failed to conquer the deep depression on her own in her first year at college.

## PASSAGE 4

### Directions:

Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

阅读和练习实际用时 \_\_\_\_\_

正确答题数 \_\_\_\_\_

# Meeting and making friends on campus

What can you do when you find yourself in school without enough friends? Making friends on campus is not the easiest thing to do, especially when you are new on campus. Meeting people at school need not be a discouraging task. There are several methods that are not difficult to master and you may find easy when you try them out.

Start by looking around at people you tend to see very often, such as people who you see in your classes, dorms and dining areas. Often an easy way to start a conversation is to focus on an area of obvious common interest. This gets you past the most difficult part, which is starting the first conversation. Be sure to introduce yourself before the end of the conversation.

If your campus has a dining facility, café or coffee cart, then there will be more opportunities for meeting people. After you've introduced yourself and talked about class, it's the perfect time to ask the other person to join you for a cup of coffee. Once you are at the table it should be easier to talk about where you're from, what is your major, what you think of the class, and whether it is easy or hard. Once you start a conversation, you've gotten past the most difficult part. It will be much easier to suggest meeting again for coffee, or meeting socially off campus.

### **Go to study lounges (休息室)**

Study lounges are great places to meet people as well because there is only so much time people will study before they take a break. People have to take study breaks and if you are in the lounge with them, there's a good chance that you'll be able to strike up a conversation.

### **Work on campus**

Working on campus is a good way to meet people, as well as put some money in your

pocket, solving two problems at once. It depends on the job. If you have a job where you interact with people, and have some time to talk with them, then you are going to meet a lot more people who you will see repeatedly. Beware, if your job involves wearing a silly uniform, it may not help you to meet people, and may even hinder meeting people.

### **Join social events**

Social events can be good ways to meet people. School dances, campus socials and happy hours may seem unfashionable and they are, but don't dismiss them immediately. Other people may have the same feelings about it, so you could approach someone and say, "These things are really boring, aren't they?" or say, "Don't you hate these things?" These are good ways to start a conversation, because suddenly you've something in common to complain about.

### **Take active actions**

Activism (行动主义) very often brings people of like minds together. If you believe strongly in something and you join a cause, you will meet other people who share your passions. That passion translates into a sense of belonging and connection between people. There is nothing like a gathering followed by some time in prison with your new friends to inspire a sense of fellowship against a common enemy. You may want to look at your college policy about these matters before you attempt radical actions that may get you thrown out of school.

### **Make a table your office**

Sit in the same area several times a week, and you are bound to meet and get to know people who are also there very often. As you keep doing so, people will begin to feel that they know you. While this will work at any eating area, it is especially good in a coffee house environment, if your school has one. There is something about coffee or tea that brings people together and stimulates conversation.

### **Form study groups**

Forming study groups has the added benefit of helping you to study in a more enjoyable way and get better grades. Spending long hours studying together creates a feeling of common cause and may lead to social meetings for coffee or drinks.

### **Be polite and outgoing**

In general, if you spend time in places with other people, being polite will go a long way to break the ice. Saying hello to people, smiling and asking about them will make them more interested in knowing you. It's not so hard to meet people if you simply start the conversation.

### **Take advantage of the Internet**

Use online personals (交友网站) and chat rooms to meet people. Both are good ways to get to know people before meeting them. Using online personals tends to be better than chat rooms because the formal procedure of setting up an ad leads to more honesty. Remember to take the time to ask the proper questions and get to know the person first. If

you decide to meet someone, always meet first in a public space such as a café. Personals can help you to screen out hundreds of losers and focus on someone who you are more likely to like.

(844 words)

- 1 Which of the following is an appropriate strategy to start a conversation on campus?  
A To talk about the weather.                      C To talk about local customs.  
B To talk about the class.                         D To talk about common interest.
- 2 According to the writer, where is a good place to start a conversation with people around you?  
A In the classroom.                                 C At a coffee table.  
B In the school library.                             D At a dinner party.
- 3 You are very likely to start a conversation with students in study lounges when they \_\_\_\_\_.  
A have discussions                                 C face difficulties in their studies  
B stop to have a rest                                D look for some reference books
- 4 A job on campus may have a negative effect on making friends if it \_\_\_\_\_.  
A involves an embarrassing uniform            C is too time-consuming  
B has nothing to do with meeting people     D is manual labour with low pays
- 5 The significance of social events in making friends is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A you can enjoy yourself with others of similar social background  
B you can find something in common with others in conversation  
C they offer you a chance to meet people from all over the country  
D they encourage you to show yourself in front of many strangers
- 6 Taking part in a cause enables you to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A have the right to throw bad people out of school  
B foster a sense of responsibility towards others  
C discuss college policies with school authorities  
D develop a strong sense of connection with others
- 7 Once you make a table your office, people will probably feel that you are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A hard-working                                        C familiar to them  
B eager to make new friends                        D fond of working at coffee tables
- 8 Studying in groups would probably give you a chance of social meetings for drinks because it can produce a sense of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 People will probably show their \_\_\_\_\_ in knowing you if you are open and friendly to them.
- 10 Before you decide to meet someone from the Internet, it is advised to take some time to get to know the person first by asking \_\_\_\_\_.