

UNIT 2 Celebrities

Part I Listening Comprehension (20 minutes)



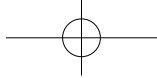
Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear four short conversations and one long conversation. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversations and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A, B, C and D, and decide which is the best answer.

1. A. Making herself beautiful wherever she goes.
B. Whether her designing is popular or not.
C. What will happen next second.
D. Whether her friends read her article or not.
2. A. Less than 30 years. B. 73 years. C. 83 years. D. 63 years.
3. A. The secret of the success of her career. B. The way she solves problems in her job.
C. The reason why she loves her career. D. The problems she experiences in her work.
4. A. She's always late.
B. She always makes promises.
C. She is a woman of her word. D. She likes going hiking.

Questions 5 to 7 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

5. A. His bravery. B. His short figure.
C. Wrestling. D. Training snakes.



13. A. 1975. B. 2006
C. 2008. D. 2016
14. A. Melinda Gates is in charge of Microsoft now.
B. Gates is tired of working as Microsoft CEO.
C. Gates shifts his career focus now.
D. Gates is voted as the biggest influence in the 20th century.

Listening Skills

Listening for Signal Words 捕捉信号词

听力信息是可以预测的。从听力材料中抓住某些特定表达语可以帮助考生提前预测听力材料，并且建立可能的信息框架。这样的表达语被称为“信号词”。信号词作为一种特殊的纽带，常常用来表示主题思想与辅助信息之间的各种联系。学会捕捉信号词并借助其提示，不仅能更好地把握听力材料中的思维走向，也能避免信息的遗漏。常见的信号词类别如下：

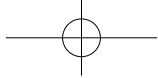
1. 时间次序：first、next、then、finally、after this等。
2. 转折/比较：but、however、yet、likewise、whereas、while、on the contrary、on the other hand等。
3. 因果：because、thanks to、as a result、consequently等。
4. 结论：in short、to conclude等。

Listen to four short passages and write down the signal words in each passage.

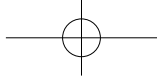
1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Part II Vocabulary (10 minutes)

Directions: For this part, there are 15 incomplete sentences. You are required to complete each one by deciding on the most appropriate word or words from the four choices marked A, B, C and D.



15. Goldman Sachs, an investment bank, canceled a _____ in Las Vegas in order to avoid seeming wastefulness.
A. confirmation B. conversation C. conference D. commitment
16. This new product is so convenient that since its _____ in 2008 more than 4 million people have used it.
A. delivery B. launch C. spread D. initiative
17. The amount of sleep that each person needs _____.
A. verifying B. verifies C. varying D. varies
18. When you have two adversaries _____, you need to be on neutral territory.
A. discussing B. conversing C. negotiating D. accessing
19. Our views _____ so greatly that it was impossible to agree.
A. differentiate B. diverge C. distinguish D. discompose
20. When that restaurant became very busy, I decided to _____ my business.
A. stretch B. expand C. extend D. enlarge
21. This book can teach people to put their shortcomings into a larger, more realistic _____.
A. possession B. protection C. perspective D. prospect
22. Each of the 300 arriving ninth graders is randomly _____ to one of the houses.
A. allowed B. admitted C. assigned D. adopted
23. Parents and students who have _____ heavily in higher education hope to have a better job prospects in the future.
A. invested B. invaded C. involved D. installed
24. The pilot sent homing signals before the plane _____.
A. clashed B. crushed C. crashed D. cracked
25. He has done this experiment by exploring, by developing and by _____ it until it does work.
A. restraining B. recalling C. reviewing D. refining
26. Some people are still _____ printed books because they like the sense of touching the real paper.
A. in behalf of B. in terms of C. in favor with D. in favor of
27. Most developers reserve the right to _____ a property they think is virtually unsalable.
A. slow down B. get down C. calm down D. turn down
28. The man who murdered his wife was _____ according to law.
A. executed B. killed C. suicided D. assassinated
29. They argue that human rights considerations are now of only _____ importance.
A. preliminary B. secondary
C. elementary D. promissory



Part III Reading Comprehension

(40 minutes)

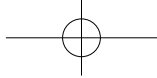


Section A

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from the list of choices given in the word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please choose the corresponding letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Each human being is born as something new, something that never 30 before. He is born with what he needs to win at life. Each person in his own way can see, hear, touch, taste, and think for himself. Each has his 31 potentials, his capabilities and 32. Each can be a significant, thinking, aware, and creatively productive person in his own right—a winner. 33 is not the most important thing. A winner is not afraid to do his own thinking and to use his own knowledge. He can 34 facts from opinion and doesn't pretend to have all the answers. He listens to others, evaluates what they say, but comes to his own conclusions. While he can admire and 35 other people, he is not totally defined, bound, or awed by them. Although a winner can freely enjoy himself, he can also 36 enjoyment. He can discipline himself in the present to enhance his enjoyment in the future. A winner 37 about the world and its people. He is not isolated from the general problems of society. He is concerned, 38 and committed to improving the quality of life. Even in the face of national and international adversity, he does not see himself as 39 powerless. He does what he can to make the world a better place. And in this way, he becomes famous all over the world.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| A. achievement | B. cares | C. compassionate | D. existed | E. limitations |
| F. postpone | G. respect | H. separate | I. totally | J. unique |

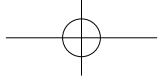


Section B

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Please choose the corresponding letter. You may choose a paragraph more than once.

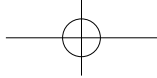
Beauty and Body Image in the Media

- A. Images of female bodies are everywhere. Women—and their body parts—sell everything from food to cars. Popular film and television actresses are becoming younger, taller and thinner. Some have even been known to faint on the set from lack of food. Women’s magazines are full of articles urging that if they can just lose those last 20 pounds, they’ll have it all—the perfect marriage, loving children, great sex, and a rewarding career.
- B. Why are standards of beauty being imposed on women, the majority of whom are naturally larger and more mature than any of the models? The roots, some analysts say, are economic. By presenting an ideal difficult to achieve and maintain, the cosmetic and diet product industries are assured of growth and profits. And it’s no accident that youth is increasingly promoted, along with thinness, as an essential criterion of beauty. If not all women need to lose weight, for sure they’re all aging, says the Quebec Action Network for Women’s Health in its 2001 report. And, according to the industry, age is a disaster that needs to be dealt with.
- C. The stakes are huge. On the one hand, women who are insecure about their bodies are more likely to buy beauty products, new clothes, and diet aids. It is estimated that the diet industry alone is worth anywhere between 40 to 100 billion (US) a year selling temporary weight loss (90% to 95% of dieters regain the lost weight). On the other hand, research indicates that exposure to images of thin, young, airbrushed female bodies is linked to depression, loss of self-esteem and the development of unhealthy eating habits in women and girls.
- D. The American research group Anorexia Nervosa & Related Eating Disorders, Inc. says that one out of every four college-aged women uses unhealthy methods of weight control—including fasting, skipping meals, excessive exercise, laxative (泻药) abuse, and self-induced vomiting. The pressure to be thin is also affecting young girls: The Canadian Women’s Health Network warns that weight control measures are now being taken by girls as young as 5 and 6. American statistics are similar. Several studies, such as one conducted by Marika Tiggemann and Levina Clark in 2006 titled “Appearance Culture in 9- to 12-Year-Old Girls: Media and Peer Influences on Body Dissatisfaction,” indicate that nearly half of all preadolescent girls wish to be thinner, and as



a result have engaged in a diet or are aware of the concept of dieting. In 2003, *Teen* magazine reported that 35 percent of girls 6 to 12 years old have been on at least one diet, and that 50 to 70 percent of normal weight girls believe they are overweight. Overall research indicates that 90% of women are dissatisfied with their appearance in some way. Media activist Jean Kilbourne concludes that, “Women are sold to the diet industry by the magazines we read and the television programs we watch, almost all of which make us feel anxious about our weight.”

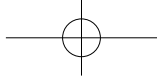
- E. Perhaps the most disturbing is the fact that media images of female beauty are unattainable for all but a very small number of women. Researchers generating a computer model of a woman with Barbie-doll proportions, for example, found that her back would be too weak to support the weight of her upper body, and her body would be too narrow to contain more than half a liver and a few centimeters of bowel. A real woman built that way would suffer from chronic diarrhea (慢性腹泻) and eventually die from malnutrition. Jill Barad, President of Mattel (which manufactures Barbie), estimated that 99% of girls aged 3 to 10 years old own at least one Barbie doll. Still, the number of real life women and girls who seek a similarly underweight body is epidemic, and they can suffer equally devastating health consequences. In 2006 it was estimated that up to 450, 000 Canadian women were affected by an eating disorder.
- F. Researchers report that women’s magazines have 10 and one-half times more ads and articles promoting weight loss than men’s magazines do, and over three-quarters of the covers of women’s magazines include at least one message about how to change a woman’s bodily appearance—by diet, exercise or cosmetic surgery. Television and movies reinforce the importance of a thin body as a measure of a woman’s worth. Canadian researcher Gregory Fouts reports that over three-quarters of the female characters in TV situation comedies are underweight, and only one in 20 are above average in size. Heavier actresses tend to receive negative comments from male characters about their bodies (“How about wearing a sack?”), and 80 percent of these negative comments are followed by canned audience laughter.
- G. There have been efforts in the magazine industry to buck (抵制, 反抗) the trend. For several years the Quebec magazine *Coup de Pouce* has consistently included full-sized women in their fashion pages and *Chatelaine* has pledged not to touch up photos and not to include models less than 25 years of age. In Madrid, one of the world’s biggest fashion capitals, ultra-thin models were banned from the runway in 2006. Furthermore Spain has recently undergone a project with the aim to standardize clothing sizes through using a unique process in which a laser beam is used to measure real life women’s bodies in order to find the most true to life measurement.
- H. Another issue is the representation of ethnically diverse women in the media. A 2008 study conducted by Juanita Covert and Travis Dixon titled “A Changing View: Representation and Effects of the Portrayal of Women of Color in Mainstream Women’s Magazines” found that although there was an increase in the representation of women of color, overall white women were overrepresented in mainstream women’s magazines from 1999 to 2004.



- I. The barrage of messages about thinness, dieting and beauty tells “ordinary” women that they are always in need of adjustment—and that the female body is an object to be perfected. Jean Kilbourne argues that the overwhelming presence of media images of painfully thin women means that real women’s bodies have become invisible in the mass media. The real tragedy, Kilbourne concludes, is that many women internalize these stereotypes, and judge themselves by the beauty industry’s standards. Women learn to compare themselves to other women, and to compete with them for male attention. This focus on beauty and desirability “effectively destroys any awareness and action that might help to change that climate.”
40. A report in *Teen* magazine showed that 50% to 70% girls with normal weight think that they need to lose weight.
41. On the whole, for six years white women had been occupying much more space in mainstream women’s magazines since 1999.
42. Some negative effects such as depression and unhealthy eating habits in females are related to their being exposed to images of thin and young female bodies.
43. The mass media has helped boost the cosmetic and the diet industries.
44. It is reported that there is at least one message about the methods for women to change their bodily appearance on more than three-quarters of the covers of women’s magazines.
45. Some film and television actresses even faint on the scene due to eating too little.
46. Women’s too much concern with the to-be-perfected appearance makes it impossible to change such an abnormal trend.
47. Researchers found that a real woman with Barbie-doll proportions would eventually die from malnutrition.
48. The Quebec magazine *Coup de Pouce* resists the trend by consistently including full-sized women in their fashion pages for several years.
49. According to some analysts, the fundamental reason of imposing standards of beauty on women is economic profits.

Section C

Directions: There are two passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some 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.



Passage One

Questions 50 to 54 are based on the following passage.

Having lived in Manhattan for about 20 years, I've had my fair share of “encounters” with celebrities. Many famous people—singers, actors, politicians, athletes, etc.—live in New York or visit here quite frequently, given that the metropolis is a global center for media, art, fashion, cuisine and finance. In the beginning, seeing celebrities in the flesh was an exciting and **exhilarating** experience. However, as the years passed, I realized that it was a routine thing to observe people who have been blessed by fame, wealth and celebrity.

As a result, I have seen or run into literally hundreds of celebrities in Manhattan over the past two decades. Here are some general observations I have made about such celebrity sightings: Celebrities generally don't like being noticed or bothered; they just want to live their lives in peace. Most celebrities look worse in “real-life” than they do in the newspapers or on TV and films. Typically, they are shorter, heavier and less attractive than you would imagine—indeed, make-up and studio lighting can do wonders for one's pulchritude. Although most celebrities want to be left alone, they enjoy the privilege of fame, that is, they can't stand waiting in lines or waiting too long for a cab, etc. Most celebrities are “normal people” who cannot believe their good luck and actually want to try to live as ordinary a life as possible.

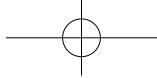
I would imagine that New York—since it's so small, concentrated, and densely populated—is a better place to star-gaze than Los Angeles, where the car / driving culture imposes more of a barrier between the famous and the rest of us. Plus, I make a distinction between an “authentic” celebrity encounter, versus an “artificial” one. What I mean by that is that if one hangs around long enough at Sixth Avenue and 51st Street, near Radio City Music Hall, NBC Studios etc., one will undoubtedly happen to catch a number of famous people who are coming and going from TV interviews or what-not. To me, a “genuine” celebrity encounter is one that happens during the ordinary course of one's day—in an unexpected manner.

50. What did the author get after having lived in Manhattan for about 20 years?

- A. The author made a big fortune.
- B. The author had his fair share of investment.
- C. The author had lots of opportunities to become a celebrity.
- D. The author met lots of celebrities by chance.

51. The word “exhilarating” (Line 4, Paragraph 1) most probably refers to _____.

- A. a kind of frustrating feeling
- B. a kind of stimulating feeling
- C. the feeling of happiness
- D. feeling lost



52. Why do most celebrities look different between what they are in “real-life” and what they do in the newspapers or on TV and films?
- A. Because they make themselves shorter, heavier and less attractive in real life.
 - B. Because on TV and films they resort to the make-up and studio lighting to make themselves more beautiful.
 - C. Because they don’t like being noticed and bothered.
 - D. Because there are hundreds of celebrities in Manhattan.
53. What is the contradictory emotion of the celebrities?
- A. They don’t want to be much focused on the one hand, but they want to enjoy the privilege of fame on the other hand.
 - B. They want to take cabs but don’t want to wait in line.
 - C. They are “normal people” and want to try to live as ordinary a life as possible.
 - D. They are shorter, heavier and less attractive than you would imagine.
54. What does the author mean by “a genuine celebrity encounter”?
- A. To meet a real celebrity.
 - B. To meet a celebrity at Sixth Avenue and 51st Street.
 - C. To star-gaze in Los Angeles rather than in New York.
 - D. To meet a celebrity unexpectedly.

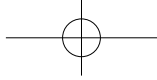
Passage Two

Questions 55 to 59 are based on the following passage.

Margaret Thatcher (née Roberts) was born in 1925 in England. Her father owned two local grocery stores where she first developed her business sense. The young Margaret had a strict religious upbringing. She studied chemistry and then law at university. She was Britain’s Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990. Her tough style earned her the nickname “The Iron Lady.”

Thatcher became a politician after winning an election in London in 1959. She served as Britain’s Education Secretary from 1970 to 1974. Thatcher became Britain’s first female Prime Minister in 1979. She privatized many of Britain’s state-owned companies and had long battles with labor unions. She lowered taxes and inflation and greatly cut government spending. She was very busy with her foreign policy. Britain fought and won the Falklands War against Argentina in 1982. She forged close ties with the USA and had a warm relationship with President Ronald Reagan. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, she became friends with ex-Soviet leader Mikael Gorbachev. She escaped **assassination** in 1984 when a bomb exploded at a hotel in which she was staying.

In 1987, Thatcher won a third term in office. However, she was becoming unpopular. Unemployment was high and there were street riots after she announced a Community Tax. Her opposition to closer integration with Europe led to a leadership challenge and in 1990, she resigned.



Part V Writing (30 minutes) 

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay. Nowadays some media are in the habit of exposing the private lives of famous people. Write an essay to explain the reasons for this phenomenon, and give your opinion on it. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.