





7:00 p.m. — Lively conversation on jazz and quantum improvisation with Library President Lisa Browar, Stephen Alexander, and Donald Harrison

7:30 p.m. — Jazz concert — seven to eight songs, including two original pieces — starts!

8:30 p.m. — Jazz concert concludes

### Venue

Please note that this event will be held at the Folly Theater, 300 W 12th St, Kansas City, MO 64105. The program will be free and open to the public, but advanced registration will be required. Attendees can also purchase the souvenirs such as T-shirts and caps linked to the event as well as the magazine signed by these famous musicians.

### Parking

Parking is available in the garage next to the Folly Theater for \$10-\$15. The garage only accepts credit cards.

21. What does the concert mainly focus on?

- A. The modern science.
- B. The popular music.
- C. The musical instruments.
- D. The jazz of physics.

22. How long does the Jazz concert last?

- A. Half an hour.
- B. An hour.
- C. One and half an hour.
- D. Two hours.

23. Which of the following is free of charge?

- A. Parking in the garage.
- B. A T-shirt worn by a musician.
- C. Admission to the event.
- D. The magazine signed by musicians.

### B

Ernest Hemingway, the Nobel Prize-winning American writer, first visited Pamplona during the traditional festival 100 years ago. The festival started more than seven hundred years ago. For nine days, people come to the northern Spanish city for bull running, bullfighting and partying.

The festival affected Hemingway so deeply that he returned eight times. Here is a description of what happens at the start of the bull running: *A rocket would be lit. And the bulls would charge out of the gate. At that moment, a crowd of runners wearing white clothes and red scarves would start to run. They would look back, move and dance to avoid being injured by the charging bull's horns. Onlookers would cheer them on from balconies above.*

In 1926, Hemingway wrote his first book, *The Sun Also Rises*. He wrote about his experiences in Pamplona and established himself as the voice of what became known as the Lost Generation. "I can't stand it to think my life is going so fast and I'm not really living it," says one character in the book. "Nobody ever lives their life all the way up except bull-fighters," is the answer.

Bill Hillman is a 41-year-old professor from Chicago. He first read the book at college. When he turned to the last page, he learnt two things: He wanted to become a writer, and he would run in front of Pamplona's bulls someday. His first running of the bulls was in 2005 and he has been running ever since. He has been wounded twice, but that has not lessened his interest.

Last year, 1.7 million people came to the festival. Pamplona native Miguel has written about the festival's links to Hemingway. He believes the writer's influence on its popularity has been as large as people say. Besides, he thinks that Pamplona is still using Hemingway to gain attention. "We made him into an icon," he said.

24. What is the main attraction of the festival in Pamplona?

- A. Hemingway's influence.
- B. Running bulls.
- C. The long history of the town.
- D. The beautiful scenery there.

25. Why does the author quote Hemingway's words in paragraph 2?

- A. To show the writer's talent for language.
- B. To show the popularity of the festival.
- C. To show the details of the festival.
- D. To show the writer's personal experience.

26. Which word can best describe Bill Hillman ?

- A. Strong-willed.                      B. Stubborn.                      C. Adventurous.                      D. Desperate.

27. What is the main idea of the text?

- A. People take an active part in bull fighting.  
B. Ernest Hemingway is an icon in a famous city.  
C. The festival in Pamplona is still as popular as before.  
D. Ernest Hemingway has an influence on Pamplona's festival.

C

Washing machines are one of the greatest inventions of the last few centuries. They have made people's life easier around the world. Unfortunately, washing machines also contribute to microplastics flowing into the oceans. That is why the washing machine manufacturer, Samsung, and the outdoors-wear company, Patagonia, are working together to make a change.

For Patagonia, the issue of microplastics is one that has been on their minds for years. Though iconic, the company's woolen jackets and pullovers release many microfibers. As for Samsung, new regulations throughout the world have forced many producers to start thinking about ways they can help reduce the number of microplastics. There are currently more than 14 million tons of microplastics floating in the oceans. Though people primarily think of things such as plastic bottles and fishing line, thousands of microplastics are released down the drain (下水道) with every laundry load.

The issue is a sort of catch-22. On the one hand, in order to reduce energy costs, manufacturers try to make their machines more efficient. These machines use hotter water and are designed to create more friction between the clothing in the machine. However, both of these things lead to the release of more microplastics. So, using Patagonia clothes as test cases, Samsung came up with a two-fold solution: One is a technology called Eco-bubbles that creates a larger amount of bubbles to help wash clothing more easily, and the other is a water purifier that can filter out more microplastics.

The collaboration (合作) between the two companies is proof of something urgent. On one hand, well-constructed and durable clothing is a weapon in the fight against fast fashion. On the other hand, the material used to make those clothing and the way they are washed can also add pollutants to the environment. The same goes for washing machines. The fight against climate change requires creative thinking and learning how to attack a problem from many angles, which will certainly lead to even more creative and fruitful collaboration.

28. What do Samsung and Patagonia aim to do?

- A. Stop the use of microplastics.                      B. Produce modern advanced washing machines.  
C. Solve the issue of world's energy shortage.                      D. Find a solution to handle microplastics.

29. What does the underlined word "catch-22" in paragraph 3 refer to?

- A. A tricky problem.                      B. A possible dream.  
C. A doubtful fact.                      D. A practical method.

30. Which of the following measures will reduce the release of microplastics?

- A. Using hotter water to wash clothes.                      B. Adding a water purifier to the machine.  
C. Creating more friction in the machine.                      D. Changing the structure of the clothing.

31. What does the cooperation between Samsung and Patagonia show?

- A. The importance of creative thinking.  
B. The influence of human's active action.  
C. The complexity of saving the environment.  
D. The creation of modern machines.

## D

With new advances in AI and autonomous driverless cars and trains, it makes sense that this mode of transportation could be expanded to buses too. Now a full-sized autonomous bus service is up and running in Scotland. The buses began running in May, 2023 and are carrying passengers between Ferrytoll Park and the Edinburgh Park train and tram exchange. This 14-mile route is the first of its kind in the UK.

The autonomous buses are being operated by Stagecoach, the largest coach operator in the UK. While the buses are autonomous, fully self-driving vehicles are not currently permitted in the UK, so they are required to have a safety driver to monitor the technology, and a bus captain that will help passengers board and purchase tickets. The driver can take control in case of an emergency situation. The vehicles use sensors to travel on specific routes and can reach the top speed of 50 mph. These autonomous buses are being trialed through 2025.

It took almost 10 years of research and development and 1.8 million kilometers of practice runs to reach this milestone, which is considered the first full-size use of autonomous buses in Europe. “There have already been short trials in several cities in Italy, Finland, and France and there are plans for driverless buses to be introduced in Switzerland, Germany, and Norway. We want Scotland to continue to be a leading figure in the development of autonomous vehicles and the start of this live trial will really help the country create its credit on the world stage,” said Kevin Stewart, Scottish transport minister.

This project was one of six to receive funding from a joint UK government and Industry undertaking to speed up the commercialization of self-driving technology. The government hopes that the autonomous buses will be faster, more reliable, and safer to use than traditional buses since 88 percent of road accidents are caused by drivers’ errors.

32. Why is a driver needed on an autonomous driverless bus?

- A. To help passengers board.
- B. To sell tickets to passengers.
- C. To check the fuel of the bus.
- D. To track the movement of the bus.

33. Which of the following is the effect of the autonomous buses on the UK?

- A. Increasing the income for the country.
- B. Building up its new position to the world.
- C. Causing drivers’ unemployment.
- D. Improving its bad transportation system.

34. What can we infer about the autonomous buses in the UK from the text?

- A. They are the first vehicles to use AI technology.
- B. They have been well received by the passengers.
- C. They are expected to cause fewer road accidents.
- D. They prove how important technology is to a country.

35. What is the best title for the text?

- A. Autonomous Buses Hit the Road in the UK
- B. Autonomous Buses Are Welcome Worldwide
- C. Autonomous Buses Have Come to Our Life
- D. Drivers Will Withdraw from the Historical Stage

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。

Do you often feel tired throughout the day? If you feel worn-out by the middle of the day, you are far from alone. If you are constantly tired, it could be your body signaling that something is troubling you. 36 . You can follow some ways to help you do that and feel more energetic.

Adjust your bedtime. In fact, more than a third of Americans do not get enough sleep. It is recommended that adults aged 18-60 get at least seven hours of sleep a night. 37 , so you should go to bed earlier. By doing that, you could wake up more energized and feel better all day long.

38 . When you feel tired, your first reaction is to reach for a sweet snack or drink. Sugary foods cause an increase in blood sugar that causes your body to release a large amount of insulin (胰岛素) . The result is that you feel even more tired.

Get moving every day. You may think that exercising is the last thing you want to do when you are tired but it can actually be the best thing you can do. That's because exercise releases hormones that can help you feel more energized. 39 . Being in nature is a good way to improve your overall mood and wellbeing.

Take a powerful nap. If you need it, take a quick power nap. Naps can be big productivity boosters and do not have to take a long time. Taking a 20-minute nap can help you get the energy you need for the rest of the day. 40 .

- A. You can do more exercise
- B. You have to adjust your lifestyle
- C. Limit sugar and stick to healthy drinks
- D. Remind yourself to drink plenty of water
- E. Turn off the computer and rest your body and mind
- F. Take a walk outdoors rather than sit during your lunch
- G. Not getting enough sleep can lead to some health problems

### 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 四个选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。

A storeowner was putting up a board above his door reading “puppies for sale.” 41 like that have a way of attracting small children, and sure enough, a little boy 42 . “How much are they?” he asked.

The storeowner replied, “From \$30 to \$50.” The boy pulled out some 43 . “I have \$2.37,” he said. “Can I look at them?”

The storeowner whistled and out of the store came a mother dog, followed by five 44 balls of fur. One of them was 45 slowly behind the others. Immediately the boy 46 the dog and said, “What’s wrong with him?”

The storeowner 47 that he was born disabled and he couldn’t run and jump. The boy became 48 . “That is the little dog that I want to 49 .” The storeowner said, “No, you don’t want to buy him. If you really like him, I’ll give it to you.”

The boy got a little 50 . He looked straight into the storeowner’s eyes and said, “I don’t want your 51 . I’ll pay the full price: \$2.37 now, and 50 cents a month until I’ve completed the 52 .” The storeowner responded, “He has lost his 53 of running and jumping and playing with you.”

Then the boy reached down and rolled up his trousers to reveal a badly-twisted left leg. He 54 and softly replied, “I don’t run so well myself, and the puppy will need someone who 55 him!”

- |                    |              |              |              |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 41.A. Directions   | B. Signs     | C. Greetings | D. Discounts |
| 42.A. corresponded | B. whispered | C. called    | D. appeared  |

- |                 |                 |                |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 43.A. paper     | B. change       | C. tips        | D. tickets       |
| 44.A. ugly      | B. lazy         | C. sick        | D. tiny          |
| 45.A. moving    | B. dancing      | C. reacting    | D. barking       |
| 46.A. requested | B. approached   | C. spotted     | D. stopped       |
| 47.A. explained | B. described    | C. apologized  | D. complained    |
| 48.A. inspired  | B. interested   | C. relaxed     | D. annoyed       |
| 49.A. adopt     | B. rescue       | C. possess     | D. secure        |
| 50.A. greedy    | B. upset        | C. grateful    | D. gentle        |
| 51.A. patience  | B. contribution | C. sympathy    | D. generosity    |
| 52.A. process   | B. work         | C. payment     | D. movement      |
| 53.A. intention | B. ability      | C. routine     | D. control       |
| 54.A. looked up | B. got off      | C. bent down   | D. turned around |
| 55.A. resembles | B. cares        | C. understands | D. believes      |

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。

Plant lovers believe that talking to plants helps them grow. Scientists have discovered that plants make sounds when they are 56 stress. The noises are similar to 57 human cry or scream. The scientists believe the sounds are specific enough for us to be able to understand them and to care for their 58 (need). Unfortunately, plant sounds are at too high a frequency (频率) for the human ear 59 (pick) up. Humans can only hear frequencies of up to 16 kilohertz. The scientists used special AI to detect these sounds 60 (produce) by plants that were up to 250 kilohertz. The AI also differed between different types of plant sounds.

The research was conducted in a lab at Israel's Tel Aviv University. Scientists 61 (discover) that vibrations (振动) from stressed tobacco and tomato plants turned into sound waves. Lead researcher Professor Hadany said: "Each plant and each type of stress 62 (link) to a special sound." She suggested that fields of crops could be quite 63 (noise), saying: "While unable for the human ear to hear, the sounds can be heard by bats, mice and insects." Understanding these sounds could help us know 64 crops are in need of water, so as to water them in time. Therefore, farmers could water their crops 65 (efficient), and thus save more water.

第四部分 写作 (共两节, 满分 40 分)

第一节 (满分 15 分)

假定你是学校英语报的负责人李华, 计划在报刊上新增校园之星栏目。请给外籍教师 Jennifer 写一封电子邮件。内容包括:

1. 新增栏目的意义和内容;
2. 征询老师的意见。

注意:

1. 写作词数应为 80 左右;
2. 请按如下格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

Dear Jennifer,

Yours,  
Li Hua

第二节 (满分 25 分)

阅读下面材料, 根据其内容和所给段落开头语续写, 使之构成一篇完整的短文。

I was shopping at a clothing store to find a birthday gift for a friend. For a few moments, I forgot about the gift when I saw some skinny jeans. I'd dreamed of purchasing them, but I always put that thought on the back burner since most girls wearing them were much younger. This day, though, my eagerness was stronger.

I grabbed jeans in my size and walked to the dressing room where I was greeted by a young, cheerful girl. She said in a loud voice "Oh, you'll look fine." In the dressing room, I held up the jeans in front of me. But would I be brave enough to wear them? I rarely wore jeans, let alone skinny jeans.

I slipped the jeans over my legs. They were tight, but I had gone this far, so I tried hard to pull them up to my waist. There was no way I was able to zipper those jeans. They were too tight. I tried to sit down to take off the jeans, but my knees wouldn't bend at all. I leaned on the wall for support to take off the jeans. However, my foot got stuck, and I fell to the floor with a loud noise.

The girl called out, "Are you okay?" I looked outside and could see her walking toward my dressing room. Clearly, if I could see her, she could see me. "I'm okay," I yelled out. "I just need a larger size." She made a U-turn to get me another pair. I hoped that would give me time to stand up.

I figured if I could bend my right leg slightly, I'd be able to take them off. Trying hard, I couldn't help laughing. However, my laughter was stopped by the girl's soft voice. I tried to answer but couldn't get the words out of my mouth without laughing. She tried to hand me the larger jeans through the bottom of the door. "Hold on, I'm coming," I assured her as I tried to move closer to the door. "Come in," I said.

注意:

1. 续写词数应为 150 左右;
2. 请按如下格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

There I was, on the floor, trapped in the jeans.

Not until I got home did I realize I had forgotten to buy a gift.