I. Reading Comprehension A: Answer the questions according to the following article you will read below.

When Melanie and Sacha fell in love, they decided to do something together. They got their tongues pierced. “One day I just decided to do something together. They got their tongues pierced. “One day I just decided to do it,” says 24-year-old Melanie. Together, Melanie and Sacha went to the Black Sun Studio. Sacha went first. He held out his tongue for Pierre Black, the studio owner. Pierre quickly pushed a needle, followed by the jewelry, through Sacha’s tongue. Then Pierre repeated the procedure for Melanie. When it was over, the couple kissed. “Me too. A little sore, but happy,” says Sacha. “I feel like we bonded.”

Why did they do it? People often associate body piercing with street kids who have safety pins all over their faces. But that’s only a small part of it. Pierre says “people pierce their bodies for all kinds of reasons. They pierce to mark their independence when they move out on their own. Couples get pierced to show their commitment to each other. There are a lot of different reasons why people do it. You’d be surprised who comes in for body piercing.”

People have pierced and decorated their bodies throughout history. Ear piercing has been popular in Europe since the eighteenth century, when rich women wore diamonds in their ears to show wealth. People in India have been piercing their noses for a long time. Group members often show they belong by piercing certain body parts. And some cultures consider it beautiful to push needles through the skin. “Body piercing has been practiced everywhere. It’s a personal statement that people use to show their individuality,” says Pierre. “Every culture has its own idea of beauty, and people use body piercing, just like hairstyles or clothes, to express themselves.”

Pierre began piercing seven years ago. He studied anatomy books and consulted doctors to find out the best way to pierce the skin. He read anthropology books to learn how piercing is done in other cultures. And he learned from experienced piercers. He says he has probably pierced almost every part of the human body. Recently the most popular part is the navel, but Pierre has pierced noses, lips, cheeks, elbows, tongues, eyebrows, and even the web between the thumb and the forefinger.

Pierre insists that body piercing is safe if it’s done properly, but he warns people to be careful. The industry isn’t regulated, and anyone can set up shop. “Some shops are dirty. It’s important to make sure the place is clean, he says. He suggests that people ask around for recommendations. There are good and bad places, just as in any other industry. He admits there can be health risks but says, “People have been piercing for centuries without any problems. You just have to be careful who you go to.”

Pierre remembers one customer clearly. A young woman came to him after she tried to commit suicide. She wanted to be pierced to show her commitment to life. “Some people pierce for physical reasons, others for spiritual reasons. People have a lot of ways to show their individuality. Body piercing is one way to express who you are.”

Questions: Answer the questions according to the article you read above. If the statement is true, answer T; if it is false, answer F. 20%

____ 1. Melaine and Sacha pierced their tongues to show fellowship to each other.
____ 2. People often think of school boys when they talk about body piercing.
____ 3. People start to pierce their bodies only these days.
____ 4. Most cultures have different ideas about beauty.
____ 5. Pierre studied piercing at a professional school.
6. The navel is the most popular body part for piercing today.
7. Pierre studied anatomy to sharpen his skills of piercing.
8. Most places that do body piercing aren’t regulated.
9. People pierce their bodies only for spiritual reasons.
10. Body piercing is a personal statement that people use to show their individuality.

II. Reading Comprehension B: Read the following passage and summarize the main idea in one sentence. 10%

People’s expectations increase with their incomes. Someone at the poverty level might be satisfied with one telephone, but wealthier people may “need” to have the latest cell phone. In 1980, no one had a cell phone. Now people complain when the cell phone can only be used in worldwide. People are never happy.

A: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

III. Translation: Translate the Chinese sentence into English and the English one to Chinese. 20%

1. 公務員一年可享受三十天帶薪的假期。 (10%)

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2. The Tobacco Hazards Prevention Act applies to all places of public entertainment. 10%

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IV. Outline Writing: Please read the following next carefully.

Effects of a Positive Outlook on our Lives

【Introduction】 Happiness is a state of being that everyone wants to achieve. A positive outlook can help you be happy and change the outcome of your life. It can enrich your relationship, improve your health, and guide you through some of life’s greatest challenges.

【First paragraph】 A positive outlook helps you find happiness in professional, social and personal relationships. Having a positive attitude will help you find a good job and keep it. Colleagues enjoy working with someone who always looks at the bright side and avoids conflict. Friends will appreciate your energy and want to spend more time with you. A happy person makes everybody else happy. It is contagious. Happiness and a positive outlook on life can also have a beneficial effect on personal relationships. As a consequence, any partnership will be a solid, strong and happy relationship.

【Second paragraph】 Having a positive outlook also makes a person healthy. In fact, medical science has proven that stress, which causes many of today’s common illnesses such as high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer, can be avoided when people feel good about themselves. If you have a good sense of humor and laugh a lot, a chemical substance called serotonin will be released into your blood stream, giving you an immediate feeling of well-being and tranquility. It has also been found that the elderly recover faster from illness when they are cheerful. Being positive and happy is synonymous with health and longevity.

【Third paragraph】 Finally, people with positive outlooks are stronger and capable of confronting difficult situations. They develop clear minds, which help them cope with life’s challenges better than those individuals who are not at peace with themselves. Happy people’s optimism creates the strength needed to find rational solutions to the many unexpected problems that life presents. This optimism also promotes self-esteem. For example, happier students are more likely to approach professors for help when they are having some trouble in their course work. In contrast, unhappy or less happy students may internalize their frustrations and be less likely to seek out help.

【Conclusion】 In conclusion, it is a good idea to have a positive outlook and recognize what makes us happy since it will bring us more harmony. Happiness will bring us strong relationships, good health and the ability to face any obstacle. If we promise ourselves to laugh more and think positively, we will change our lives for the better.

Please write an outline for the above text. The introduction paragraph has been done for you. 50%

【Introduction】
Hook: Happiness is a state of being that everyone wants to achieve.
Background: A positive outlook can help you be happy and change the outcome of your life
Thesis statement: It can enrich your relationship, improve your health, and guide you through some of life’s greatest challenges.

【First paragraph】
Topic sentence (5%):

Supporting details (10%):
1. 
2. 

【Second paragraph】
Topic sentence (5%):

Supporting details (15%):
1. 
2. 

【Third paragraph】
Topic sentence (5%):

Supporting details (10%):
1. 
2. 

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