I. Fill in each blank with a letter (i.e., A, B, C...T) representing the most appropriate word chosen from the list below to complete the passage. (20 points)

(A) boon  (B) loser  (C) circle  (D) whiny  (E) cranking   (F) implication

(G) reap   (H) rates  (I) abound (J) current  (K) advocates  (L) well-heeled

(M) head  (N) promo (O) boost  (P) unsexy  (Q) stereotypes (R) institutions

(S) priorities (T) ballooning

Community colleges are deeply __1___. This fact tends to make even the biggest __2__ of these two-year schools—which educate nearly half of U.S. undergraduates—sound defensive, almost a tad __3___. "We don't have the bands. We don't have the football teams that everybody wants to __4__," says Stephen Kinslow, president of Texas' Austin Community College. "Most people don't understand community colleges very well at all." And by "most people," he means the graduates of fancy four-year schools who get elected and set budget __5__.

Many politicians and their __6__ constituents may be under the impression that a community college—as described in a __7__ for NBC's upcoming comedy Community—is a "__8__ college for remedial teens, 20-something dropouts, middle-aged divorcées and old people keeping their minds active as they __9__ the drain of eternity." But there's at least one Ivy Leaguer who is trying to help Americans get past the __10__ and start thinking about community college not as a dumping ground but as one of the best tools the U.S. has to dig itself out of the __11__ economic hole. His name: Barack Obama. For him, these __12__ are our nation's trade schools, training 59% of our new nurses as well as __13__ out wind-farm technicians and video-game designers—jobs that, despite __14__ unemployment overall, __15__ for adequately skilled workers. Community-college graduates earn up to 30% more than high school grads, a __16__ that helps state and local governments __17__ a 16% return on every dollar they invest in community colleges. But our failure to improve graduation __18__ at these schools is a big part of the achievement gap between the U.S. and other countries. As unfilled jobs continue to __19__ overseas, Obama points to the "national-security __20__" of the widening gap. Closing it, according to an April report from McKinsey & Co., would have added as much as $2.3 trillion, or 16%, to our 2008 GDP.
II. Fill in each blank with ONE word to make the two passages below coherent in meaning and well-formed in structure. (22 points)

Each love affair is its own life, and whether its span is __21__ of a mayfly or a Galapagos tortoise, it has a life __22__ of birth, growth, maturity, decay, and death. And possibly rebirth? Or just instant replay?

That’s the q__23__ posed in Eternal Sunrise of the Spotless Mind, the latest and loveliest alternative universe created by Charlie Kaufman, America’s most intellectually provocative screenwriter. Here, with director Michel Gondry, Kaufman wonders whether one person can be true to a__24__, whatever obstacles pile up. On Valentine’s Day, Joel Barish (a wonderfully forlorn Jim Carrey) decides to skip work __25__—who knows why—take a train to Montauk on the frosty tip of Long Island. There he is accosted by free-spirited Clementine Kruczynski (Kate Winslet, ornery and seductive). She lures Joel into an affair, which proves to have as many abrasive spots as soft __26__. They’re a wildly ill-suited pair. But, hey, bitter with the sweet, eh? N__27__ in this science-fiction comedy-drama, in which love means never having to remember you were sorry. When Joel learns Clem has had her memory of their affair removed by a Dr. Mierzwiak (Tom Wilkinson), he resolves to do the __28__; why should he suffer remorse when Clem’s slate is clean? So he sticks his head in Dr. M.’apparatus—an Ed Wood-style space helmet mixed __29__ a hair dryer—but, as his mind swims through the erasure process, he decides that even the rotten memories of Clem are w__30__ treasuring. But how to escape from Camp Brainwash, especially when the doc’s klutzy technicians (Mark Ruffalo, Elijah Wood, Kirsten Dunset) are more attentive to their own weird erotic vectors than to the fellow __31__ affair they are extracting? Well, you’ll have to watch the film yourself to find out!

III. Reading Comprehension: Choose the best answer for each question. (18 points)

Passage A:

The short story today is largely a product of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and its development parallels the rapid development of industrialism in America. We have been a busy people, busy principally in evolving a production system supremely efficient. Railroads and factories have blossomed almost overnight; mines and oil fields have been discovered and exploited; mechanical inventions by the thousands have been made and perfected. Speed has been an essential element in our endeavors, and it has affected our lives, our very natures. Leisurely reading has been, for most Americans, impossible. As with our meals, we have grabbed bits of reading standing up, cafeteria style, and gulped down cups of sentiment on the run. We have had to read while hanging on to a strap in a swaying trolley car or in a rushing subway
or while tending to a clamoring telephone switchboard. Our popular magazine has been our literary automat and its stories have often been no more substantial than sandwiches.

32. Which of the following titles best expresses the main ideas of this passage?
   (A) Reading while Traveling
   (B) Culture in Modern Life
   (C) “Quick-lunch” Literature
   (D) Short Stories in the Past Centuries

33. According to the passage, the short story owes its popularity to its _____.
   (A) plots  (B) length  (C) settings  (D) characters

34. The short story has developed because of Americans’ _____.
   (A) lack of culture  (B) taste of speed
   (C) need for reassurance  (D) reactions against the classics

35. From the passage, it can be inferred that the author’s attitude toward short stories is one of _____.
   (A) regret  (B) approval  (C) impartiality  (D) indifference

Passage B:

Solitude is a great chastener when once you accept it. It quietly eliminates all sorts of traits that were a part of you—among others, the desire to pose, to keep your best foot forever in evidence, to impress people as being something you would like to have them think you are even when you aren’t. Some men I know are able to pose even in solitude; had they valets they no doubt would be heroes to them. But I find it the hardest kind of work myself, and as I am lazy I have stopped trying. To act without an audience is so tiresome and profitless that you gradually give it up and at last forget how to act at all. For you become more interested in making the acquaintance of yourself as you really are, which is a meeting that, in the haunts of men, rarely takes place. It is gratifying, for example, to discover that you prefer to be clean rather than dirty even when there is no one but God to care which you are; just as it is amusing to note, however, that for scrupulous cleanliness you are not inclined to make superhuman sacrifices, although you used to believe you were. Clothes, you learn, with something of a shock, have for you no interest whatsoever….You learn to regard dress merely as covering, a precaution. For its color and its cut you care nothing.

36. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
   (A) Acting Without an Audience
   (B) Being a Hero to Yourself
   (C) Discoveries Through Solitude
   (D) Showing Off to Best Advantage
37. According to the passage, a desire to appear at your best is a trait that _____.
   (A) is inhuman
   (B) goes with laziness
   (C) depends primarily on clothes
   (D) may disappear when you are alone

38. According to the passage, clothes _____.
   (A) are tiresome
   (B) are part of acting
   (C) are valued for their utility alone
   (D) constitute one item that pleases the valet

39. According to the passage, the desire to appear well-dressed usually depends on _____.
   (A) an audience
   (B) personal pride
   (C) a fondness of acting
   (D) the need for cleanliness

40. According to the passage, the activities of everyday life seldom give us the chance to _____.
   (A) impress people
   (B) dress as we would like
   (C) be immaculately clean
   (D) learn our own peculiarities
Answer Sheet
Part I Blank-Filling & Reading Comprehension Questions (60 points)
I. Fill in each blank with a letter (i.e., A, B, C…T) representing the most appropriate word chosen from the list below to complete the passage. (20 points)

II. Fill in each blank with ONE word to make the two passages below coherent in meaning and well-formed in structure. (22 points)
21. that  22. cycle  23. question
24. another  25. and  26. ones
27. Not  28. same  29. with
30. worth  31. whose

III. Reading Comprehension: Choose the best answer for each question. (18 points)
32. C  33. B  34. B
35. A  36. C  37. D