

IV Reading (10*3'=30')

Read the passages and answer the questions below.

Passage A

Sun Yingsha, born in 2000 in Shijiazhuang, China, picked up a table tennis paddle at age 5. By 13, she defeated adult provincial champions, showing extraordinary talent. Now ranked world No.1, her powerful forehand attacks and precise backhand flicks have earned her the nickname “The Storm” for ending matches within minutes.

A defining moment came at the 2023 World Table Tennis Championships. In the final game against Japan’s Mima Ito, Sun turned a 2-7 deficit into an 11-9 victory through calm breathing techniques and bold strategic changes. This thrilling match video gained over 50 million views online, making it one of the most watched sports clips that year.

Beyond her athletic skills, Sun has unique methods to stay focused. She practices Chinese calligraphy for 30 minutes daily and collects cartoon-themed paddle cases, with a Hello Kitty design being her favorite. Her motto, “Respect every ball like it’s your last,” has inspired millions of young Chinese players.

Experts believe Sun’s combination of innovative techniques and mental discipline may set new standards in women’s table tennis. Currently, she also works as a youth sports ambassador, teaching children the values of perseverance and fair play.

41. Why is Sun called “The Storm”?
- A) She plays during storms B) She wins matches very fast
C) She uses a special paddle D) Her coach chose the name
42. In the 2023 final, Sun won by ____.
- A) staying calm and taking risks B) asking the referee for help
C) copying her opponent’s style D) wearing lucky clothes
43. What does Sun do to improve concentration?
- A) Watch cartoons B) Practice Chinese writing
C) Play mobile games D) Sing songs
44. Experts think Sun will change table tennis through her ____.
- A) new rules and bigger tables B) funny social media videos
C) strong skills and mind D) colorful uniforms
45. This article mainly tells us about ____.
- A) how to play table tennis B) best sports equipment
C) the history of storms D) Sun’s achievements and impact

Passage B

International Women’s Day: Past and Present

International Women’s Day (IWD), observed annually on March 8th, traces its roots to early 20th-century labor movements. In 1908, 15,000 New York garment workers marched demanding shorter hours and voting rights—the first recorded women-led strike. This inspired German activist Clara Zetkin to propose an International Women’s Day at the 1910 Socialist Conference. The day gained global significance in 1917 when Russian women’s protests led to women gaining voting rights. The UN officially recognized IWD in 1975, shifting focus from labor rights to broader gender equality. Today, IWD faces contradictions. Companies promote hashtags like Break the Bias, yet the gender pay gap may take 131 years to close. While 78% of firms celebrate IWD, fewer than 35% fix pay inequalities. In China, shopping discounts overshadow discussions about workplace fairness.

A 2023 study reveals contradictions: 78% of global companies celebrate IWD, but only 32% have gender pay audits. Scholars warn that commercial campaigns weaken IWD’s original purpose—fighting systemic inequality. True progress requires addressing overlapping barriers like poverty and racial discrimination, as African feminist Amina Mama argues: “Equality demands daily struggle, not slogans.” True progress requires addressing intersectional challenges. As African feminist scholar Amina Mama notes, “Equality isn’t a branded slogan but daily battles against deeply rooted systems.”

46. When did the UN officially recognize International Women’s Day?
- A) 1908 B) 1910 C) 1917 D) 1975
47. What historical event made IWD globally significant?
- A) New York garment strike B) Russian Protest
C) Clara Zetkin’s conference speech D) UN gender equality policies
48. The 2023 data implies ____.
- A) celebrations lack real action B) most firms ensure pay fairness
C) China solved gender issues D) hashtags improve equality
49. “Overlapping barriers” refers to ____.
- A) language problems B) protest organization
C) mixed gender/race/class issues D) corporate conflicts
50. What does Amina Mama emphasize about equality?
- A) It’s achieved through slogans B) It needs daily effort
C) It’s a corporate responsibility D) It’s only about gender

