

Directions: *There are 2 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 and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

Recognizing when a friend or colleague feels sad, angry or surprised is key to getting along with others. But a new study suggests that being sensitive to people's feelings may sometimes come with an extra dose of stress. This and other research challenge the prevailing view that emotional intelligence is uniformly beneficial to its bearer.

In a study, psychologist Myriam Bechtoldt of the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management in Germany asked 166 male university students a series of questions to measure their emotional intelligence. For example, they showed the students photographs of people's faces and asked them to what extent feelings such as happiness or disgust were being expressed. The students then had to give job talks in front of judges who displayed serious facial expressions. The scientists measured concentrations of stress hormones in the students' saliva(唾液) before and after the talk.

In students who were rated more emotionally intelligent, the stress measures increased more during the experiment and took longer to go back to baseline. The findings suggest that some people may be too emotionally clever for their own good, says Bechtoldt. "Sometimes you can be so good at something that it causes trouble," she notes.

Indeed, the study adds to previous research hinting at a dark side of emotional intelligence. A study published in 2002 in *Personality and Individual Differences* suggested that emotionally perceptive people might be particularly influenced by feelings of depression and hopelessness. Furthermore, several studies have implied that emotional intelligence can be used to manipulate others for personal gains.

More research is needed to see how exactly the relation between emotional intelligence and stress would play out in women and in people of different ages and education levels. Nevertheless, emotional intelligence is a useful skill to have, as long as you learn to also properly cope with emotions—both others' and your own, says Bechtoldt. For example, some sensitive individuals may assume responsibility for other people's sadness or anger, which ultimately stresses them out. Remember, as Bechtoldt says, "you are not responsible for how other people feel."

51. What is the finding of the new study?

- A) Emotional intelligence helps people get along with others.
- B) Emotional intelligence is generally beneficial to its bearer.
- C) People who are aware of others' feelings may experience more stress.
- D) People who are emotionally stressed may have trouble making friends.

52. What was the purpose of psychologist Myriam Bechtoldt's experiment?
- A) To define different types of human feelings.
 - B) To assess the impacts of being emotionally clever.
 - C) To demonstrate how to distinguish different feelings.
 - D) To identify gender differences in emotional intelligence.
53. What does the finding of Myriam Bechtoldt's study indicate?
- A) Greater emotional cleverness means less trouble in one's life.
 - B) Emotional intelligence helps people succeed in job interviews.
 - C) People's psychological wellbeing is related to various factors.
 - D) People may suffer from having a high emotional intelligence
54. What do we learn about emotional intelligence from a number of studies?
- A) People suffering from depression are emotionally immature.
 - B) People who look at the dark side of life often feel depressed.
 - C) Some people may take advantage of it and benefit themselves.
 - D) Some people may lack it and are easily manipulated by others.
55. What does the author suggest sensitive individuals do?
- A) Avoid burdening themselves with others' feelings.
 - B) Rid themselves of worries over worldly affairs.
 - C) Learn to cope with people's negative feelings.
 - D) Help people to deal with their troubles in life.