

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 One

Our society places a high value on physical beauty. Americans spend an average of over \$722 each year on their appearance. One in ten Americans has tried to look like a star.

There's nothing wrong with trying to look our best, but excessive focus on physical appearance misses the soulful aspects of what it means to be beautiful. Trying to look like the magazine pictures can take us on a long ride away from what beauty is really about.

Many of us spend far too much time, energy, and money trying to polish an image of what we think will bring attention, love, and connection. In the process, we may fail to attend to ourselves in a way that would move us toward deeper intimacy, fulfillment, and meaning.

It may sound trite(老生常谈的), but beauty is only skin deep; it's not what brings love toward us. Just read about the latest Hollywood starlets whose seeming love turns into resentment and bitter court battles.

Outer beauty can be as much of a curse as a blessing. We may develop a habit of being so focused on maintaining a perfect appearance that we never cultivate the inner qualities necessary to sustain and deepen intimacy and connection. As I describe in my book, *The Authentic Heart*, it is the courage to be authentic that connects us in a deeper way.

While our initial attraction may be based, in part, on physical chemistry, it is the meeting of our inner worlds that creates the lasting intimacy and spiritual connection for which we long. If we redirect our attention toward cultivating inner qualities, we might find a magnetic attraction that moves us from something superficial to something that connects us to our depths.

The path toward cultivating inner beauty is really simple. But what is simple is not always easy. Not everyone will see us and appreciate us as we take the courageous risk to allow ourselves to be seen as we really are. But if they don't, it is their loss, not ours. Eventually we'll find those compatible souls who appreciate us as we are.

46. What do we learn about American society from the first paragraph?

- A) It sees lots of personal income wasted on beauty products.
- B) It considers one's physical appearance very important.
- C) It places a high value on the physical fitness of stars.
- D) It expects every individual to look their very best.

47. What happens when people strive to look better?
- A) They have to get prepared for resentment and bitter court battles.
 - B) They are better able to gain attention, love, and personal connection.
 - C) They may neglect to cultivate the inner qualities that matter more.
 - D) They feel much of their precious time, energy and resources is wasted.
48. What does the author say about outer beauty?
- A) It may be inherited or cultivated.
 - B) It may lead to bad as well as good habits.
 - C) It may create connection or isolation.
 - D) It may do as much harm as good.
49. What brings about spiritual connection?
- A) Meeting of minds.
 - B) Attraction at first sight.
 - C) Physical chemistry.
 - D) Frequent interaction.
50. What happens when we take the path toward cultivating inner beauty?
- A) We may find a route toward other people's souls.
 - B) We may be appreciated more by people around us.
 - C) We will meet people who value us for who we are.
 - D) We will be discouraged from revealing our true selves.