

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.

With genetic testing becoming increasingly popular, many people are left wondering exactly how accurate it is. Whether you are taking a DNA test to build your extended DNA family tree, or want precise information on inborn(先天的) health conditions, it is important to understand how accurate genetic tests are, and what information we can rely upon.

How accurate DNA tests are relies greatly upon the kind of test being taken, on the specific question you ask, and on how complex the genetics behind a trait(特征) is. For example, tests for traits that depend on a single gene provide much more reliable results, because you can see whether a disease-causing trait is present.

Ancestry tests claim to reveal our genetic identities. But saying you are 30 percent East Asian or American hardly reflects your real ancestry.

What about using DNA tests to discover distant family members? There are tools to compare one's DNA with others' to find distant relatives based on their genetic identification. These kinds of applications are generally accurate. It's relatively easy to tell whether two DNA samples belong to close relatives. With distant relatives, results become hazier.

Genetic health tests claim to be able to detect certain hereditary(遗传的) diseases, or other health conditions. While certain rare diseases can be easily identified, most potential health conditions cannot be identified by genetic testing alone. The large majority of our traits and diseases also depend upon non-genetic factors, such as lifestyle, the environment, and many others.

Genetic tests for multi-factorial traits are often very tricky to interpret. Height, for example, depends on hundreds of genes, each contributing a little to the outcome, together with a bunch of environmental factors. A test can look at many genes at once, but it's difficult to predict how they will play together. Then you should also account for non-genetic factors that are not written in the DNA.

Tests that offer to find your perfect romantic match and those claiming to predict personality or talents based on your DNA are pure nonsense. At the moment, the scientific bases for these applications are non-existent or incredibly weak.

51. What does the passage say is of importance regarding genetic tests?

- A) Knowing their accuracy.
- B) Evaluating their applicability.
- C) Utilizing the information they provide.
- D) Weighing the consequences they have.

52. What kind of genetic tests tend to be comparatively reliable?
- A) Those complex enough to reveal the genetics behind a trait.
 - B) Those looking for traits responsible for certain diseases.
 - C) Those focusing on the specific questions being asked.
 - D) Those looking for traits determined by a single gene.
53. What do we learn about genetic health tests from the passage?
- A) They are unable to identify certain hereditary diseases by themselves.
 - B) They are generally unable to separate genetic and non-genetic factors.
 - C) They cannot independently identify the majority of potential diseases.
 - D) They cannot tell apart the impact of lifestyle and that of the environment.
54. What makes genetic tests for multi-factorial traits tricky to interpret?
- A) The challenge in determining the role of each individual gene.
 - B) The difficulty of foretelling how the various genes will interact.
 - C) The difficulty of telling genetic factors from environmental ones.
 - D) The enormous work to identify the hundreds of genes involved.
55. What does the passage say about DNA tests to predict personality or talents?
- A) They are solid scientific bases for application.
 - B) They are helpful in finding a romantic match.
 - C) They do not look promising at the moment.
 - D) They do not make any sense at present.