

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**. (40 points)

Text 4

The great recession may be over, but this era of high joblessness is probably beginning. Before it ends, it will likely change the life course and character of a generation of young adults. And ultimately, it is likely to reshape our politics, our culture, and the character of our society for years.

No one tries harder than the jobless to find silver linings in this national economic disaster. Many said that unemployment, while extremely painful, had improved them in some ways: they had become less materialistic and more financially prudent; they were more aware of the struggles of others. In limited respects, perhaps the recession will leave society better off. At the very least, it has awoken us from our national fever dream of easy riches and bigger houses, and put a necessary end to an era of reckless personal spending.

But for the most part, these benefits seem thin, uncertain, and far off. In *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth*, the economic historian Benjamin Friedman argues that both inside and outside the U.S., lengthy periods of economic stagnation or decline have almost always left society more mean-spirited and less inclusive, and have usually stopped or reversed the advance of rights and freedoms. Anti-immigrant sentiment typically increases, as does conflict between races and classes.

Income inequality usually falls during a recession, but it has not shrunk in this one. Indeed, this period of economic weakness may reinforce class divides, and decrease opportunities to cross them – especially for young people. The research of Till Von Wachter, the economist at Columbia University, suggests that not all people graduating into a recession see their life chances dimmed: those with degrees from elite universities catch up fairly quickly to where they otherwise would have been if they had graduated in better times; it is the masses beneath them that are left behind.

In the Internet age, it is particularly easy to see the resentment that has always been hidden within American society. More difficult, in the moment, is discerning precisely how these lean times are affecting society's character. In many respects, the U.S. was more socially tolerant entering this recession than at any time in its history, and a variety of national polls on social conflict since then have shown mixed results. We will have to wait and see exactly how these hard times will reshape our social fabric. But they certainly will reshape it, and all the more so the longer they extend.

36. By saying "to find silver linings" (Line 1, Para. 2) the author suggests that the jobless try to_____.

- [A] seek subsidies from the government
- [B] make profits from the troubled economy
- [C] explore reasons for the unemployment
- [D] look on the bright side of the recession

37. According to Paragraph 2, the recession has made people ____.
- [A] struggle against each other
 - [B] realize the national dream
 - [C] challenge their prudence
 - [D] reconsider their lifestyle
38. Benjamin Friedman believes that economic recessions may ____.
- [A] impose a heavier burden on immigrants
 - [B] bring out more evils of human nature
 - [C] promote the advance of rights and freedoms
 - [D] ease conflicts between races and classes
39. The research of Till Von Wachter suggests that in the recession graduates from elite universities tend to ____.
- [A] lag behind the others due to decreased opportunities
 - [B] catch up quickly with experienced employees
 - [C] see their life chances as dimmed as the others'
 - [D] recover more quickly than the others
40. The author thinks that the influence of hard times on society is ____.
- [A] trivial
 - [B] positive
 - [C] certain
 - [D] destructive