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Reading Comprehension(35 minutes) Directions: There are 4 passages in this part. 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 the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage. When global warming finally came, it stuck with a vengeance(异乎寻常地). In some regions, temperatures rose several degrees in less than a century. Sea levels shot up nearly 400 feet, flooding coastal settlements and forcing people to migrate inland. Deserts spread throughout the world as vegetation shifted drastically in North America, Europe and Asia. After driving many of the animals around them to near extinction, people were forced to abandon their old way of life for a radically new survival strategy that resulted in widespread starvation and disease. The adaptation was farming: the global-warming crisis that gave rise to it happened more than 10,000 years ago. As environmentalists convene in Rio de Janeiro this week to ponder the global climate of the future, earth scientists are in the midst of a revolution in understanding how climate has changed in the past and how those changes have transformed human existence. Researchers have begun to piece together an illuminating picture of the powerful geological and

astronomical forces that have combined to change the planet ' s environment from hot to cold, wet to dry and back again over a time period stretching back hundreds of millions of year. Most important, scientists are beginning to realize that the climatic changes have had a major impact on the evolution of the human species. New research now suggests that climate shifts have played a key role in nearly every significant turning point in human evolution: from the dawn of primates(灵长目动物)some 65 million years ago to human ancestors rising up to walk on two legs, from the huge expansion of the human brain to the rise of agriculture. Indeed, the human history has not been merely touched by global climate change, some scientists argue, it has in some instances been driven by it. The new research has profound implications for the environmental summit in Rio. Among other things, the findings demonstrate that dramatic climate change is nothing new for planet Earth. The benign(宜人的)global environment that has existed over the past 10,000 yearsduring which agriculture, writing, cities and most other features of civilization appearedis a mere bright spot in a much larger pattern of widely varying climate over the ages. In fact, the pattern or climate change in the past reveals that Earth ' s climate will almost certainly go through dramatic changes in the futureeven without the influence of human activity. 21. Farming emerged as a survival strategy because man had been obliged . A) to give up his former way of life B) to leave the coastal areas C) to follow the ever-shifting vegetation D) to abandon his original settlement 22. Earth scientists have come to understand that climate .A) is going through a fundamental change

B) has been getting warmer for 10,000 years  
C) will eventually change from hot to cold  
D) has gone through periodical change

23. Scientists believe that human evolution .  
A) has seldom been accompanied by climatic changes  
B) has exerted little influence on climatic changes  
C) has largely been effected by climatic changes  
D) has had a major impact on climatic changes

24. Evidence of past climatic changes indicates that .  
A) human activities have accelerated changes of Earth ' s environment  
B) Earth ' s environment will remain mild despite human interference  
C) Earth ' s climate is bound to change significantly in the future  
D) Earth ' s climate is unlikely to undergo substantial changes in the future

25. The message the author wishes to convey in the passage is that .  
A) human civilization remains glorious though it is affected by climatic changes  
B) mankind is virtually helpless in the face of the dramatic changes of climate  
C) man has to limit his activities to slow down the global warming process  
D) human civilization will continue to develop in spite of the changes of nature

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