as I said that, her face showed great displeasure. My manager, who happened to hear what I said, took me aside and gave me a long lecture about how sensitive(敏感的) Americans are and how they dislike the description "old". I then walked back to the table and apologized to the wife. After the couple heard my reason, they understood that the problem was caused by cultural differences, so they laughed and were no longer angry.

In my village in China, people are proud of being old. Not so many people live to be seventy or eighty, and people who reach such an age have the most knowledge and experience. Young people respect older people because they know they can learn from their rich experience.

However, in the United States, people think "growing old" is a problem since "old" shows that a person is going to retire or that the body is not working well. Here many people try to keep themselves away from growing old by doing exercise or jogging, and women put on makeup, hoping to look young. When I told the couple in the restaurant that I respect the elderly, they got angry because this caused them to feel they had failed to stay young. I had told them something they didn't want to hear.

After that, I changed the way I had been with older people. It is not that I don't respect them any more; I still respect them, but now I don't show my feelings through words.

( )37. The writer brought the couple their food very fast because _____.

A. the manager asked him to do so　　B. he respected the elderly

C. the couple wanted him to do so　　D. he wanted more pay

( )38. When the writer called the couple "elderly", they became _____.

A. nervous　　B. proud　　C. unhappy　　D. excited

( )39. In the writer's hometown, _____.

A. people dislike being called "old"

B. people are proud of being old

C. many people reach the age of seventy or eighty

D. the elderly are the first to get food in restaurants

( )40. After this experience, the writer _____.

A. lost his job in the restaurant　　B. made friends with the couple

C. no longer respected the elderly　　D. changed his way with older people

( )41. Which of the following is TRUE?

A. The more the writer explained, the angrier the couple got.

B. The writer wanted to show his feelings through words after his experience.

C. The manager went back to the table and apologized to the couple.

D. From this experience, the writer learned more about American culture.

B. 阅读短文，根据短文内容，从所给的六个选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项，使短文意思完整、连贯。(有两项为多余选项)

Passage 4

Lang Lang is only 29 years old, but has already been called "the most popular pianist on

the planet" by American television network CNN.

Like every successful person, Lang went through years of hard and lonely practice before making his name. 42. _____ With great talent, he won his first competition at the age of 5. Lang's father pushed little Lang very hard to succeed. When he was nine, Lang went to learn music in Beijing. 43. _____ But Lang got fired by the piano teacher six months later. 44. _____ Hearing about his son's failure, Lang's father was so angry that he told Long to jump off a building!

45. _____ His big break came at age 17, when he gained worldwide fame at "Gala of the Century", a well-known concert in Chicago, U. S. A. Lang said it was his true love of music and piano that made him keep working.

A. However, Lang didn't jump, and pressure(压力) soon changed to power.
B. He has performed in almost every city around the world.
C. It totally destroyed his piano dream.
D. He began to take piano lessons at the age of 3.
E. His father even gave up his job and moved to Beijing with his son.
F. He never gave up.

Ⅳ. 情景交际(本题共 5 小题；每小题 2 分，共 10 分)

根据对话内容，从所给的七个选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项，使对话内容完整。(有两项为多余选项)

Michael: 46. _____ It starts on Saturday at 9:30 a. m. and ends on Sunday at 5 p. m. We do eight hours of language study each day and in the evening.

Charlie: 47. _____

Michael: Yes, but I think it will improve my English! 48. _____

Charlie: I am going to stay in bed all day!

Michael: Really?

Charlie: No, that was a joke. 49. _____

Michael: Novels? Do you still have time to read novels?

Charlie: Absolutely. Reading English novels is a good way to improve my English. That's my hobby.

Michael: 50. _____ Maybe I will ask you for help with my English.

Charlie: If you wish, no problem.

A. What are you going to do this weekend?
B. No wonder you have learned English so well.
C. It's a wonderful prize.
D. I am going to do a language course in English this weekend.
E. That sounds very tiring.
F. I am going to the library to borrow some novels.
G. Can I help you?