**江汉区2022级高二新起点摸底考试**

**英语试卷**

江汉区教研培训中心命制 2023.8.29

本试卷共12页，全卷满分150分，考试用时120分钟。

★祝考试顺利★

注意事项：

1.答题前，先将自己的姓名、准考证号填写在试卷和答题卡上，并将准考证号条形码粘贴在答题卡上的指定位置。

2.选择题的作答：每小题选出答案后，用2B铅笔把答题卡上对应题目的答案标号涂黑。写在试卷、草稿纸和答题卡上的非答题区域均无效。

3.非选择题的作答；用黑色签字笔直接答在答题卡上对应的答题区域内。写在试卷、草稿纸和答题卡上的非答题区域均无效。

4.考试结束后，请将本试卷和答题卡一并上交。

**第一部分 听力（共两节，满分30分）**

做题时，先将答案标在试卷上。录音内容结束后，你将有两分钟的时间将试卷上的答案转涂到答题卡上。

第一节（共5个小题；每小题1.5分，满分7.5分）

听下面5段对话。每段对话后有一个小题，从题中所给的A、B、C三个选项中选出最佳选项。听完每段对话后，你都有10秒钟的时间来回答有关小题和阅读下一小题。每段对话仅读一遍。

1. What is the man probably doing now?

A. Doing business. B. Having an interview. C. Sharing his working experience.

2. Why was Benson in the hospital yesterday?

A. His baby got ill. B. He looked after his daughter. C. He went to get his medicine.

3. What did the woman want the man to do?

A. To meet her friend with her. B. To do the woman’s work.

C. To meet Tony for her.

4.Why didn’t Jack get the book?

A. He was too busy to go to the library.

B. There wasn’t such a book in the library.

C. He didn’t want to borrow the book.

5. What will the woman probably do?

A. Leave the shop B. Have another drink. C. Taste some hot chocolate.

第二节（共15小题；每小题1.5分，满分22.5分）

听下面5段对话或独白。每段对话或独白后有几个小题，从题中所给的A、B、C三个选项中选出最佳选项。听每段对话或独白前，你将有时间阅读各个小题，每小题5秒钟；听完后，各小题将给出5秒钟的作答时间。每段对话或独白读两遍。

听第6段材料，回答第6、7题。

6. What did the woman buy as her husband’s birthday present?

A. A tie. B. A hat. C. A shirt.

7. Why did the assistant refuse to help the woman?

A. The woman lost the receipt. B. The item had been worn. C. The woman was rude.

听第7段材料，回答第8至10题。

8. What kind of restaurant is the Lotus Garden?

A. Indian. B. French. C. Chinese.

9. Where is the man now probably?

A.In Birmingham. B. In Leeds. C. In Sunderland.

10. How will James get to Durham?

A. By car. B. By train. C. By bus.

听第8段材料，回答第11至13题。

11. How did the man find the apartment?

A. From the Internet. B. From a newspaper. C. From a friend.

12. What does the man want most?

A. A big living room. B. A big kitchen. C. A big bedroom.

13. What will the woman probably do this Friday?

A. Entertain some friends. B. Pay the man a visit. C. Rent an apartment.

听第9段材料，回答第14至17题。

14. Where does Mark usually read news now?

A. In a newspaper. B. In a magazine. C. On the Internet.

15. Why did the machine surprise the woman?

A. It has a small glass window.

B. It can make a pizza in a short time.

C.It offers four types of pizzas at a time.

16. What does the woman think of the machine?

A. It is quite necessary. B. It might not be popular. C. It will certainly succeed.

17. What is an advantage of the machine?

A. The 24-hour service. B. Tasty pizza made by it. C. The low production cost.

听第10段材料，回答第18至20题。

18. What did the speaker do that morning?

A. He admired the sunrise. B. He called up his wife. C. He watched TV news.

19. Where was the speaker’s son?

A. In another country. B. In town. C. In the garden.

20. What is the speaker talking about?

A. His family life. B. A home fire. C. A natural disaster.

**第二部分 阅读（共两节，满分50分）**

第一节（共15小题；每小题2.5分，满分37.5分）阅读下列短文，从每题所给的A、B、C、D四个选项中选出最佳选项。

**A**

**A Color Run at School**

**What Is a Color Run?**

The event is usually a 5K untimed run. Participants are doused（浇涂上） from head to toe in a different colored powder at each kilometer mark. This activity inspired by the Hindu festival of Holi is perfect for promoting community and happiness.

A color run is a fun event perfect for schools. As the kids jog through the route, their white T-shirts turn rainbow colors. It is n way to promote health and activity among children. Schools can choose whether they want to host a color run by themselves or have one organized by an event organizer.

**Why Should I Take Part in a Color Run?**

Taking part in a color run will help you improve your overall physical health. It’s a great way to burn calories and get out. You will also be able to meet new people.

**How to Set Up a School Color Run?**

To set up a school Color Run, you will first need to decide what time you want it to start.Then, you will need to contact the principal at your school. They will then tell you if there is enough space available at the named location. You will need to inform the class teachers and include information in the student handbook. Next, you should contact the parents/guardians of the students at the school through a mailed letter or email. With everything listed above completed, you will have your event organized and ready to go!

21. What do we know about a Color Run?

A. It sets no time limit, B. It used to be a part of Holi.

C. It's designed for schools only. D. It sees runners covered from head to toe.

22. What benefit may kids get from a school color run?

A. Better physical health. B. Prize money from the race.

C. Friendship with the principal. D. T-shirts with a rainbow pattern.

23. What’s the purpose of the text?

A. To advertise. B. To inform. C.To entertain. D. To criticize.

**B**

Smoking is even a tradition in Chinese celebrations. At my wedding, we handed out the traditional candies to people who came. I had said to my wife, Ellen, that handing out packets of cigarettes was wrong, as it just encouraged people to continue a deadly habit. “But it’s; traditional,” she replied, “People would think we were mean if we don’t!”

Over the years I’ve been given cigarettes as gifts and have always handed them straight back.This might make me look ungrateful in Chinese eyes, but I can’t understand the logic behind handing someone a gift that will cause them to smell terrible, have awful breath, and even worse, kill them.

This year the university I work at has taken the bold step of making the entire campus “smoke free”. As my students are either doctors doing postgraduates studies, or medical students on their way to being doctors, I thought they would be in favor of such a move, but I was wrong. Many of them have complained to me that they see this as depriving them of their civil rights and that they should be allowed to smoke when and where they like.

When I pointed out to them that cigarettes do harm not only to those smoking them, but even to those breathing in second hand smoke, the argument was dismissed with a wave. “Those studies aren’t conclusive”, one doctor replied. “Besides, my grandmother told me that smoking is manly.” Tempting（诱人的） as it was to ask if she was also a doctor, I let the argument go and went off in search of some fresh air.

24. Which of the following is a consequence of smoking according to the author?

A. It will leave you breathless. B. People believe you are mean.

C. People think you are ungrateful. D. It will make your smell unpleasant.

25. What attitude do many of the author’s students have towards the entire campus “smoke free”?

A. Objective. B. Unconcerned. C. Negative. D. Positive.

26. What does the underlined word “depriving” in paragraph 3 mean?

A. Robbing. B. Accusing. C. Informing. D. Reminding.

27. In which column of a newspaper is this text probably found?

A. Technology. B. Entertainment. C. Art. D.Life.

**C**

Robots in space will be extracting（提取） gold from asteroids（小行星） within ten years if anew project backed by a Silicon Valley billionaire goes as planned. Peter Diamandis, the founder of Planetary Resources, said the company attempts to make the resources of space available to humanity.

The initial stage, to be achieved in the next 18 to 24 months, is to launch a series of private telescopes which will orbit Earth. These will be used to search for the right type of asteroids. The plan is to use commercially built robotic ships to extract rocket fuel and valuable minerals from the rocks that regularly pass by Earth. Diamandis predicts that they could have their version of a space-based petrol station up and running by 2025.

Several scientists not involved in the project argued that the project was daring, difficult andvery pricey. They do not see how it could be cost-effective. But the founder of Planetary Resources has a track record of profiting from space exploration business. Diamandis was the first person to sell rides into space to tourists. “Before we started launching people into space as private citizens, people thought that was a ridiculous idea,” Diamandis said. “This is a long-term project. But it’s not a charity. We’ll make money.” The idea that asteroids could be mined for resources has been around for years. There are probably 1,500 asteroids that pass near Earth that would be good initial targets. They are at least 50 meters wide, and Diamandis figures ten percent of them have water and other valuable minerals.

Richard Binzel, Professor of Planetary Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says, “The idea might be many decades ahead of its time. But you have to start somewhere as it might offer a new perspective of saving the earth from being over explored.”

28. What is supposed to be the first step of the project?

A. Launching robots into Earth orbit. B. Sending some telescopes into space.

C. Building a space-based petrol station. D. Using robotic ships to extract rocket fuel.

29. How did Diamandis use to make money from space exploration business?

A. By extracting gold from asteroids. B. By providing space travels for tourists.

C. By being the first person to ride into space. D. By selling tickets to sce tourists' rides into space.

30. What does Richard Binzel think of the project?

A. It is risky. B. It is complex. C. It is worthwhile. D. It is demanding.

31. What can be a suitable title for the text?

A. Mining Asteroids. B. Humans and Asteroids.

C. Space Exploration in Progress. D. The Project of Extracting Minerals.

**D**

Where do great musicians, great mathematicians and great sportspeople get their talent? For decades now, we have assumed that most of them are simply born with a talent that ordinary people do not have. When baseball legend Ted Williams claimed that his achievement had nothing to do with natural ability but were the result of practice, practice, practice, people assumed that he was merely being modest. But scientists now believe that there was a good deal of truth in what he said.

Throughout the last century, it was accepted that we inherit （继承） many of our characteristics from our parents via their DNA, that each of us inherits a fixed amount of intelligence -a fixed IQ, and that most of us are to be ordinary. But now it is accepted that our genes interact with their surroundings, getting turned on and off all the time. “There are no genetic factors that can be studied independently of the environment,” explains Michael Meaney of McGill University. “And there are no environmental factors that function independently of our genes. They work alongside each other.”

How does this view of the role of genes change our understanding of individual talent and abilities? Does it now mean that genes don’t matter, and that we all have the potential to be like, say, Lionel Messi or Lebron James? Such a claim flies in the face of reason. The genes we inherit clearly matter, as do genetic differences between individuals, But it is also true that Lionel Messi would not have become the super footballer he is, nor Lebron James a basketball superstar, without putting in thousands of hours of practice. They could have turned out entirely different people. Talent researcher Kevin Rathunde agrees. “High academic achievers are not necessarily born much smarter than others but genes do count,” he writes in his book Talented Teenagers, “and above all they usually work harder and develop more self-discipline.”

32. What did Ted Williams think led to his success?

A. His natural talent. B. His full commitment.

C. His modest personality. D. His extraordinary intelligence.

33.What did we widely believe during the 20 century?

A. Intelligence has little to do with DNA.

B. Our genes interact with our environment.

C. The majority of us are of average intelligence.

D. Our character is simply decided by inherited DNA.

34. Why does the author mention “Lionel Messi” and “Lebron James” in paragraph 3?

A. To clarify a point. B. To illustrate a rule. C. To offer a solution. D. To make a prediction.

35. Which statement will Kevin Rathunde probably agree with?

A. Most of us are born to be average persons.

B. We could all be geniuses if working hard enough.

C. Genetie factors are more important than hard work.

D. Great talent is a combination of genes and practice.

第二节（共5小题；每小题2.5分，满分12.5分）

阅读下面短文，从短文后的选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。选项中有两项为多余选项。

When it comes to money, the world’s luckiest woman appears to be a 63-year-old American called Joan Ginther. She has managed to win the jackpot（头奖） four times. 36 Experts say that the chances of winning this much are extremely small.

Mrs. Ginther’s first win was in 1993 when she won half of the $ 11 million first prize of the Texas Lottery（彩票）. The rest of her money has come from scratch（刮） cards. You scratch these cards to expose if you have a winning code. They are very popular, but not many people who buy them win anything. However, Mrs. Ginther won $ 2 million from a Holiday Millionaire scratchcard in 2006 and then she won another $ 3 million from a Millions and Millions scratch card in 2008. 37

As a result of these wins, the Times Market in Bishop, where Mrs. Ginther bought her card, has become very popular. 38 The shop also receives calls from people trying to purchase scratch cards over the phone even though they live far away.

However, not much is known about Mrs. Ginther. 39 Even her neighbours have very little to say about her. She is now rarely seen in Bishop because she moved away and she now lives in Las Vegas.

Sun Bae, the owner of Times Market, remembers that Mrs. Ginther bought a new car for one of the town residents, even though she herself drives around in an old car. 40 Andshe bought her new home in Las Vegas and she donated her old home in Bishop to charity. “She has helped so many people,” Mrs. Bae said.

A. That time, the card won $ 10 million.

B. In total, she has won over $ 20 million!

C. Obviously, her private life is very important to her.

D. Additionally, she also bought a van for the local church.

E. So she is perhaps as lucky with cards as with the lottery.

F. Her answering machine says, “Please do not leave a message.”

G. There are often long queues outside the shop and along the road nearby.

**第三部分 语言运用（共两节，满分30分）**

第一节（共15小题；每小题1分，满分15分）

阅读下面短文，从每题所给的A、B、C,D四个选项中选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。

I love wildlife. So when my friend said that we had a chance to 41 brown bears in the High Tatras, I didn’t think twice about it, and we 42 arrangements to go the following week.

The trip was a great 43 ! We walked for hours and stayed in a 44 mountain hut （小屋） which was usually reserved for park rangers. It actually took us some trouble even to locate it. As soon as we arrived, our guide 45 to us that we would be fully integrated（融入） into their research programme and would be tracking the 46 of bears wearing GPS transmitters. On the first day, we were woken up at sunrise and, after 47 some warm clothes, set off into the forest, Our guide walked very 48 and we had trouble keeping up with him. Suddenly he 49 across a small hill. He must have caught sight of a bear. We followed him as fast as we could, but by the time we reached him, the bear had 50 into the bushes. Later in the week,though, we did manage to observe several bears feeding on berries. We were so excited. Yet, 51 hurrying to take photos, we 52 our breath, stayed about 30 meters away and just watched them. Our guide insisted that we should keep our 53 from the bears so as not to 54 them.

Observing bears in their natural habitat（栖息地） was really 55 . I had never experienced anything like that before. If I hadn’t had to go back to school, I would happily have stayed on for several more weeks.

41.A. hunt B. feed C. protect D. track

42. A. made B. changed C. cancelled D. quit

43. A. deal B. danger C. success D. regret

44. A. safe B. comfortable C. remote D. beautiful

45. A. recommended B. explained C. admitted D. reported

46. A. habits B. leftovers C. photos D. movements

47. A. throwing on B. tidying up C. paving for D. taking off

48. A. cautiously B. rapidly C. steadily D. casually

49. A. moved B. wandered C. paced D. dashed

50. A. disappeared B. looked C. broken D. turned

51. A. due to B. instead of C. apart from D. as for

52. A.drew B. held C. released D. caught

53. A. intention B. fear C. bravery D. distance

54. A. attack B. train C. disturb D. feed

55. A. fascinating B. boring C. exhausting D. challenging

第二节（共10小题；每小题1.5分，满分15分）

阅读下面短文，在空白处填入1个适当的单词或括号内单词的正确形式。

Years ago, the authors conducted human-wildlife conflict surveys in the Tibet Autonomous Region’s counties, 56 (locate) in the TAR’s remote Chang Tang region. These surveys showed 57 previously undocumented and growing problem of human-snow leopard conflict. Next, snow leopard telephone interviews were conducted with Tibet Forestry Bureau staff, 58 (result) in an additional new conflict and sighting location records. This new location information, together with records provided by other observers, 59 (collect) to make a snow.leopard distribution（分布）map.

This effort greatly expanded knowledge of the snow leopard’s distribution in this region, 60 remains one of the least understood of the snow leopard’s key range areas. New knowledge on snow leopard in the Chang Tang will help identify human-snow leopard conflict hot spots and influence design of human-snow leopard conflict relief and conservation strategies for northwest Tibet. Nevertheless, much field work will also be required 61 (describe) snow leopard distribution in the Chang Tang.

Importantly, in the past few years, a number of major transportation infrastructure （基础设施） projects 62 (make) the Chang Tang more accessible. This has led to a 63 (great) increased number of tourists visiting western Tibet, Mt. Kailash and Lake Manasarovar 64 particular. All these developments have a large potential to cause disturbance to snow leopards and their prey species, including influencing their movements 65 destroying their habitat.

**第四部分 写作（共两节，满分40分）**

第一节 （满分15分）

假定你校校刊英语角正在举办主题为“文明习惯满校园”的倡议信征文活动，请你写一份倡议信投稿，内容包括：1.发出倡议的背景；2.倡议内容与理由。

注意：1.写作词数应为80左右；2.请按如下格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

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第二节 （满分25分）

阅读下面材料，根据其内容和所给段落开头语续写两段，使之构成一篇完整的短文。

Lucky

Teresa, a gentle, soft-spoken woman of seventy, had always managed to view the world with a child’s sense of wonderment. She greeted the dawn of each new day with the brightness of the sun itself and found joy in the smallest of things.

One day while out crossing the road in front of her home, Teresa had been injured in a hit-and-run. The driver left the woman in severe pain, When the mailman found her unconscious nearly an hour later, her injured leg had been bleeding heavily. She’d made it to the hospital just in time and later, the doctor had told Teresa she was lucky to be alive.

Returning home, Teresa didn't feel so lucky. Before the accident, the elderly woman had always been grateful that she was healthy for her age. Now just getting the daily mail required a huge effort. An old woman with nothing to do and nowhere to go, Teresa felt frightened, alone and defeated for the first time in her life.

When Teresa’s friend Vera came to pick her up for her checkup at the medical center, she hardly recognized her old friend. Teresa’s soft brown eyes held a deep sadness.

They were a little early for Teresa’s appointment, so to try to cheer up Teresa, Vera took a longer, more scenic route. They were stopped at a red light when Teresa suddenly shouted in terror. “Look at that cat! It’s trying to run across the street!”

Vera looked up to see a small black-and-white cat bounding（跳） out into the middle of traffic. Both women screamed as they saw one car, then another, and finally a third, hit the cat,The cat lay without moving, its small body flung（猛扔） into the grass. Cars slowed, but no one stopped to help.

注意：

1.续写词数应为150个左右；

2.请按如下格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

“We must save that poor creature,” said Teresa.

While the cat was at the clinic, Teresa checked on him every day.

**2023—2024学年度第一学期新高二起点考英语参考答案及听力材料**

听力答案：

1-5 BBCAC 6-10 ABCAC 11-15 AABCB 16-20 BACBC

阅读理解

21-23 AAB 24-27 DCAD 28-31 BBCA 32-35 BCAD

七选五 36-40 B E G C D

完形填空

41-45 DACCB 46-50 DABDA 51-55 BBDCA

语法填词

56. located 57. a 58. resulting 59. was collected 60. which

61. to describe 62. have made 63. greatly 64. in 65. and

书面表达第一节参考答案

Dear schoolmates,

We can’t deny that it is common to see some uncivilized practices in our school, such as speaking loudly in a library or a classroom and wasting food.

Therefore, I would like to advocate a campaign against such behavior, because tougher regulations in public areas might encourage students to behave themselves. It would also be sensible to put up more banners to encourage good deeds, which might prompt students to adopt more beneficial habits. As teenagers of the new era, let’s act together to make the glory of civilization shine in every corner of our school.

书面表达第二节参考答案

***“We must save that poor creature,” said Teresa.***Teresa and Vera sprang into action upon seeing the injured cat. Despite Teresa's own pain, she approached the poor creature with a compassionate heart. Together, they carefully lifted the injured cat and began transporting him to a nearby animal clinic. Teresa’s empathy for the cat inspired her to stay by his side during the journey, whispering soothing words of comfort. When they arrived at the clinic, the staff immediately tended to the cat's wounds. Teresa and Vera anxiously waited for news on the cat’s healing process. Their persistence was rewarded when the veterinarian informed them that the cat would survive.

***While the cat was at the animal clinic, Teresa checked on him every day.***After spending several days at the animal clinic, Teresa decided to take the cat, whom she had named Lucky, back to her home to finish his recovery. As Lucky grew stronger, Teresa’s own injury began to heal, the feeling of being alone and defeated gradually fading away. The two came to form a special bond, one that was born out of a shared experience of pain and healing. Looking back on that fateful day when she had been injured in the hit and run accident, Teresa realized that the accident had led her to Lucky, and through him, to a renewed sense of purpose and joy.

录音稿：

Text 1:

W: Please tell me something about yourself.

M: My name is John and I have over eight years of experience in this industry. My strong points include business development and training. I hope I have opportunity to further develop these skillsin your company.

Text 2:

W: Zachary, you know what? I saw Benson in the hospital yesterday. Do you know what’s wrong with him?

M: Oh, his daughter just had a baby. He was taking care of her.

Text 3:

W: Could you do me a real favor, please?

M: Yes, of course.

W: I’ve arranged to meet my friend Tony, but I’m really engaged now. I was wondering if you could go and meet him for me.

M: Oh, yes, certainly!

Text 4:

W: Jack, have you got the book I asked you to borrow the other day?

M: Sorry, I haven’t.

W: How come?

M: I couldn’t find time to go to the library.

Text 5:

M: Would you like some hot chocolate? It’s good to warm you up.

W: No, thanks. I have to watch my weight.

M: What a shame. Hot chocolate in the shop is very famous.

W: I have a second thought. Maybe it won’t kill me if I just have a taste.

Text 6:

M: Can I help you?

W: Yes, well, I bought this tie last week for my husband’s birthday, and er...well he doesn’t like it. Could I change it for something else, such as a shirt or a hat?

M: Certainly, madam, provided that it hasn’t been worn, and if you have the receipt.

W: Yes, here it is.

M: OK, er... this tie looks as if it were worn. I’m afraid I can’t put that back on the shelf.

W: Oh, that’s a pity.

Text 7:

M: It’s Alan. I’m phoning about our party. Have you any ideas about where to meet? At a restaurant?

W: Well, where do you fancy? Indian? French? Or Chinese? There’s that really good Chinese restaurant we used to go to in Durham.

M: Oh, yes. What’s it called?

W: The Lotus Garden.

M: That’s right. I will drive over from Birmingham. So I should be in Durham at about 5 pm. I’ll stay in the Country Inn. What about you?

W: I will take the train in Leeds. I’m getting there at 5:10 pm.

M: All right.

W: Have you phoned James?

M: Yes, he will be catching the bus from Sunderland that day. He’ll be in Durham around 7:15 pm.

W: Great! I can’t wait.

Text 8:

W: Your new apartment is great, Kevin!

M: Thanks.

W: Did it take you a long time to find it?

M: No, I just looked online and found a few one-bedroom places that met my needs. Then I spent an afternoon visiting them with a friend.

W: Wow. That sounds pretty easy. I usually look in the newspaper or on the Internet. I can find a lot of information, but it takes a while to sort through all the information.

M: Yeah, I kept my search simple. I wanted a nice kitchen, a comfortable bedroom, but the most important thing was having a big living room.

W: Why? So you can entertain（招待） people?

M: Yeah, I love to have my friends over and cook dinner for them.

W: Really? You should invite me to one of your parties sometime.

M: I’d love to. Are you free this Friday?

W: Of course.

Text 9:

W: Do you still like reading newspapers or magazines, Mark?

M: No. Now I often read news on some famous news sites. It’s more convenient.

W: Is there any impressive news today?

M: Yes. The news about a vending machine that bakes a pizza in three minutes.

W: Baking a pizza in three minutes? That’s really unbelievable. So is it in the US?

M: No. It’s in Rome. The machine is called “Mr. Go Pizza”. It offers four different kinds of pizzas which cost between $5 and $7. There’s a small glass window that allows customers to watch as their pizza bakes.

W: So what about the pizza? Does it taste good?

M: Some people called the pizza “terrible”; others were kinder. They said the pizza is OK, but they also said it’s not pizza.

W: Well, Italy is well-known for its pizzas. There are so many restaurants that sell pizzas. I don’t think such a machine will be successful there.

M: I doubt it, too. But the machine has an advantage.

W: What is it?

M: It offers 24-hour service. It is very useful if you’re hungry late at night.

Text 10:

The first thing I did when I woke up in the morning was watching TV news. I could see that the situation was bad, and they showed a map where the forest fires were burning. Outside in the garden I couldn’t see the morning sun, as the sky was full of smoke. I decided to leave right away. My son was staying in town and my wife was abroad so it was up to me to decide what to do and where to go. I packed a suitcase of clothes and another case of useful things, such as my bankbook and all the money I had. Out in the garden the sky was getting blacker and the wind which had been blowing hard for a whole night was getting stronger. I got into my car and drove down the road. The smoke was really thick and at times it was difficult to see the road clearly. Animals were running across the road, trying to escape the fire. I silently prayed that the fire would be put out as soon as possible.