

Part I. Vocabulary (20 marks)

Section One

Directions: *In each of the following sentences, there is one word underlined, followed by three possible choices. Choose the one that is closest in meaning to this word. (10 marks)*

1. Truth in established fields of science can be provisional and can be proven wrong in the light of later knowledge.
 - a. temporary
 - b. prudent
 - c. provocative
2. The current acting versions of many of Shakespeare's plays are abridgement.
 - a. expansion
 - b. truncation
 - c. revision
3. You probably have heard the charge of plagiarism used in disputes within the publishing and recording industries.
 - a. intellectual theft
 - b. copyright
 - c. acknowledgment
4. Is human language a genetic endowment?
 - a. talent
 - b. endurance
 - c. faculty
5. My memory is exact and circumstantial.
 - a. abridged
 - b. complete
 - c. reckless
6. On many occasions, the maxims will be breached.
 - a. unified
 - b. observed
 - c. violated
7. She could, when she chose, work with astonishing celerity, which would make me so pleased.
 - a. swiftness

- b. celestial
c. dilatoriness
8. Thoughtful ones will assure you that happiness and unhappiness are constitutional, and have nothing to do with money.
a. accidental
b. inborn
c. alien
9. Does the discreteness of language depend on the fact that it is arbitrary?
a. discretion
b. separateness
c. providence
10. Human children appear to acquire language with impressive ease, and without the intensive and directed regime of instruction which the chimpanzees were subjected to.
a. rules
b. repetitions
c. reforms
11. The tones produced by this piano are very resonant.
a. resolving
b. resounding
c. rewarding
12. Intuitive, elicited, and observed data all have their own validity.
a. Instinctive
b. Intrusive
c. Invasive
13. This is a ubiquitous trend in today's literary studies.
a. unique
b. oppressive
c. omnipresent
14. There is a palpable chill in the air.
a. invisible
b. discernible
c. intact
15. He made strenuous efforts to write his research paper.
a. stressful
b. feeble
c. intense
16. Using questionnaires should not be embarked upon lightly, for they are difficult to

- handle well.
- conducted
 - treated
 - elucidated
17. The new resolutions need to be ratified by our committee.
- review
 - discuss
 - approve
18. He watched as the spider tried again and again with unremitting patience to weave its web.
- lucid
 - pervasive
 - persistent
19. He vacillated between taking back his offer and urging her to accept.
- wondered
 - hesitated
 - pondered
20. We prevailed on him to accept the invitation.
- advised
 - asked
 - persuaded

Section Two

Directions: In each of the following sentences, there is one underline word or phrase. Write down its Chinese equivalent in the answer sheet. (10 marks)

- Many materials formed the fabric of his character.
- Anonymity precludes you from using any sort of code number that can lead even you back to an identity for each respondent.
- Gasoline prices started their precipitous rise three months ago.
- We have the number of votes requisite for election.
- These two papers give a completely different slant on the events of the last week.
- His parents inoculate him with a strong desire for knowledge.
- English has a striking diachronic profile, largely because of its political and economic history.
- The student prepared his lessons well and was forward with his answers.
- She was talking excitedly and gesticulating with her hands.
- We will buy a house on a mortgage.

11. The scheme reposes on the revival of trade.
12. She commutes from her home in the suburbs to her office downtown.
13. He constrained his anger with difficulty.
14. One drawback with all closed questions is that they can often be so directive as to be patronizing.
15. A well-designed corpus must therefore represent the different registers of the language.
16. This method allows us to investigate a range of lexicographic research questions that were not feasible before.
17. We need to analyze a large amount of language collected from many speakers' to make sure that we are not basing conclusions on a few speakers' idiosyncrasies.
18. A more substantive way that the samples differ is in the amount of information given by the tags.
19. Our views of popular music are concurrent.
20. There are a few styles to document the sources in writing research papers.

Part II. Reading Comprehension (50 marks)

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

(1)

When scientists are trying to understand a particular set of phenomena, they often make use of a “model.” A model, in the scientists' sense, is a kind of analogy or mental image of the phenomena in terms of something we are familiar with. One example is the wave model of light. We cannot see light as if it were made up of waves because experiments on light indicate that it behaves in many respects as water waves do.

The purpose of a model is to give us a mental or visual picture – something to hold onto – when we cannot see what is actually happening. Models often give us a deeper understanding: the analogy to a known system (for instance, water waves in the above example) can suggest new experiments to perform and can provide ideas about what other related phenomena might occur.

1. The author is concerned with an explanation of the term _____.
 - a. wave
 - b. model
 - c. analogy
 - d. light
2. Another example of a scientific model would be _____.
 - a. a map

- b. a paper airplane
 - c. an atom
 - d. a light bulb
3. Why are models necessary?
- a. They connect invisible phenomena to those we are familiar with.
 - b. Scientists could not experiment without them.
 - c. They give scientists a sense of security.
 - d. They provide deeper insight into the workings of the human mind.
4. Models provide us with deeper understanding because _____.
- a. they make us think about our universe
 - b. they were used to represent some other phenomenon
 - c. they are more precise than theories
 - d. they indicate further directions and help us make predictions
5. An analogy is _____.
- a. the study of the universe
 - b. a comparison
 - c. the study of light waves
 - d. the result of scientific investigation
- (2)
- The blues is the root and foundation upon which all jazz has developed. Indeed, without the blue there would be no jazz as we know it today. Every style of jazz, even the avant-garde, has been found to have a heritage in the blues.
- Work songs were structurally simple two-harmony songs that we sung by a leader and responded to by other workers. Another kind of song, the “country blues,” was developed at the same time, however. The first blues songs were sung by itinerant male signers in the South and Southwest who went to bars and social gatherings singing songs full of earthy lyrics in exchange for liquor. Early blues singers drank, danced, and mingled freely with the patrons and guests, and their music was informal, unrestrained, and often improvised (composed on the spot). The themes of these songs concerned the basic human problems of sex and love, poverty and death.
6. Which of the following statements is true?
- a. Without jazz, the blues would not exist.

- b. The blues grew out of jazz.
 - c. The blues underlies all forms of jazz.
 - d. The blues and jazz are avant-garde musical forms.
7. Early country blues can best be characterized as _____.
- a. itinerant
 - b. amusing
 - c. depressing
 - d. not rigid
8. _____ would be the most appropriate topic for a country blues song.
- a. The birth of a child
 - b. The death of one's lover
 - c. The wedding of a relative
 - d. The theft of one's guitar
9. The singers of the first blues songs _____.
- a. stayed in one place
 - b. sang for alcohol
 - c. were immortal
 - d. were urban sophisticates

(3)

Many of the domestic plants originated from obvious and well-known wild ancestors. Both wheat and barley, for example, come from wild grasses that still grow in parts of the Near East. There are still mysteries, however, about the origins of some domestic plants. Where corn came from has been a puzzle for generations, and the question still proves a battleground for botanical camps armed with research, and, sometimes, invectives. Corn has become so highly domesticated that it is even more a captive of man than the lap dog. Left alone, a field of maize would fail to produce new plants within a season or two; and, if we should ever lose our struggle for survival, corn will perish with us. The reason is that in becoming so well suited as a food plant, corn has lost the means to disperse its seeds and must depend on being sowed for its survival.

10. The primary focus of this passage is _____.
- a. wheat and its relationship to corn
 - b. where corn comes from

- c. types of corn
 - d. botany and the origins of plants
11. Unless tended, a corn field would _____.
- a. yield for years
 - b. perish in a year or two
 - c. reproduce itself
 - d. become overgrown
12. The reason corn is compared to a lap dog is that it is _____.
- a. totally dependent on man
 - b. domestic
 - c. useful
 - d. a good friend to man
13. We can infer from the passage that _____.
- a. there has not been much research into the origins of corn
 - b. there is considerable harmony among botanists regarding the origins of corn
 - c. we will never know where corn came from
 - d. rival botanists sometimes use insulting language in defending their theories about corn
14. Which of the following is the primary reason corn would perish if mankind perished?
- a. Only man eats corn.
 - b. Fertilization is important.
 - c. Corn no longer spreads its seeds independently.
 - d. Corn only grows in maize fields.

(4)

MEXICO CITY — In 2000, I served on a joint U.S.-European Union Biotechnology Consultative Forum — appointed by President Clinton and Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission — to look at the full range of issues that have polarized thinking about biotechnology, especially in food and agriculture, on both sides of the Atlantic.

While significant differences of opinion existed — mainly related to the regulatory structure on certifying agri-biotech products — most of the 20 U.S. and European experts on the panel agreed that agricultural biotechnology holds great promise to make dramatic and useful advances during the 21st century. The most prestigious national academies of

science in North America and Europe (including the Vatican) also have come out in support of genetic engineering to improve the quantity, quality and availability of food supplies.

Unfortunately, the debate about the safety and utility of genetically modified crops continues to grow, and now looks to be heating up further. The U.S. is considering filing a challenge at the World Trade Organization to break the European Union's four-year moratorium on importing genetically modified crops. Although the European Commission agrees that the ban needs to be lifted, various member states refuse to do so until more stringent labeling regulations are put in place.

The U.S. is contemplating a WTO suit because European resistance to genetically modified foods is increasingly influencing the trade policies of other nations, to the point where some African governments recently have turned down American genetically modified grain intended for starving people. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick says he has information that several European countries are threatening to make economic aid to developing countries contingent on whether they prohibit biotech crops. If this is true, it would be tragic and grossly irresponsible.

Although there have always been those in society who resist change, the intensity of the attacks against genetically modified crops from some quarters is unprecedented and, in certain cases, even surprising, given the potential environmental benefits that such technology can bring by reducing the use of pesticides. Genetic engineering of crops — plant breeding at the molecular level — is not some kind of witchcraft, but rather the progressive harnessing of the forces of nature to the benefit of feeding the human race. The idea that a new technology should be barred until proven conclusively that it can do no harm is unrealistic and unwise. Scientific advance always involves some risk of unintended outcomes. Indeed, “zero biological risk” is not even attainable.

Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa says he's been told by anti-biotechnology groups that donated American corn is “poison” because it contains genetically modified kernels. Based on such misinformation, he is willing to risk thousands of additional starvation deaths rather than distribute the same corn Americans have been eating for years with no ill effects.

Some other African leaders whose people also are facing hunger and starvation say they're afraid to accept genetically modified corn because its pollen will “contaminate” local corn varieties with dire environmental consequences. Also, they say that they hope to export corn to Europe in the future and fear that their products would be rejected if genetically modified foods were allowed to enter their countries.

These concerns are unfounded. Temperate-zone corn (either genetically modified or normal) will not grow well in tropical African ecologies and, moreover, it has yellow grain while Africans prefer white grain. Thus, even if a curious farmer were to plant some

genetically modified grain received as food aid, its continued presence in the field is unlikely. Certainly in the case of Zambia, a landlocked country with poor transportation and low agricultural productivity, the prospects for exporting corn to Europe in the foreseeable future are almost zero.

If low-income, food-deficit nations — which desperately need access to the benefits of science and technology — are being advised by governments and pressure groups in privileged nations to reject biotechnology, based on ideologically inspired pseudo-science, there is reason for serious concern. Of course, proper safeguards need to be put in place in Africa and elsewhere to regulate biotechnology research and the release of genetically modified products. But to attempt to deny such benefits would be unconscionable.

Current genetically modified crop varieties that help to control insects and weeds are lowering production costs and increasing harvests — a great potential benefit to all Third World farmers. Future products are likely to carry traits that will improve nutrition and health. All of these technologies have more benefits to offer poor farmers and consumers than rich ones.

For example, Kenya is ready to field-test virus-resistant sweet potatoes that should yield 30% to 50% more of this important food staple. Virus-resistant bananas and potatoes have already been bred, but are being barred in African countries where people urgently need their higher yields. Indian researchers are developing a vaccine against the epidemic livestock disease, rinderpest, which can be genetically engineered into peanut plants. African farmers would be able to protect their draft animals simply by feeding them the peanut plants — again if biotech is allowed.

The needless confrontation of consumers against the use of transgenic crop technology in Europe and elsewhere might have been avoided had more people received a better education in biological science. This educational gap — which has resulted in a growing and worrisome ignorance about the challenges and complexities of agricultural and food systems — needs to be addressed without delay. Privileged societies have the luxury of adopting a very low-risk position on the issue of genetically modified crops, even if this action later turns out to be unnecessary. But the vast majority of humankind does not have such a luxury, and certainly not the hungry victims of wars, natural disasters, and economic crises.

Without adequate food supplies at affordable prices, we cannot expect world health, prosperity, and peace. Responsible biotechnology is not the enemy; starvation is.

15. There are significant differences of opinion on agri-biotech products on both sides of the Atlantic. The differences mainly lie in _____.
a. risks involved in GM foods

- b. application of biotech in medicine
- c. zero biological risk
- d. regulatory structure and labeling

16. According to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, what is considered to be tragic and grossly irresponsible?

- a. Some African governments turned down GM foods donated by US when their people were hungry.
- b. Developing countries are threatened by some European countries with no economic aid if they support biotech crops.
- c. Genetic engineering of crops is considered to be a kind of witchcraft and hence turned down.
- d. Some African governments refused to make decisions until they attain “zero biological risk”.

17. Which of the following is NOT a reason to show that Zambia is incapable of exporting corn to Europe in the near future?

- a. It has no ports of its own.
- b. Its transportation is poor.
- c. Its agricultural productivity is low.
- d. It has used gene technology in agriculture

18. Which of the following is NOT one of the benefits of gene technology discussed in the article?

- a. Reducing the use of pesticides
- b. Improving nutrition and health.
- c. Cross-pollinating between crops
- d. Controlling insects and weeds

19. What is the author’s attitude towards gene technology?

- a. The author is skeptical.
- b. The author is hesitating.
- c. The author is positive.
- d. The author is neutral.

Read the following statements and then decide whether each of them is true (T) or false (F), based on the information in the last text.

_____ 20. U.S. and European countries agreed on most issues concerning biotechnology in

food and agriculture.

- _____ 21. Many experts have been worrying about the safety and utility of genetically modified crops.
- _____ 22. Most member countries of the European Union refuse to lift the ban on genetically modified foods.
- _____ 23. It's wise to bar a new technology before it is proved to be completely harmless, because unexpected consequences are hard to handle.
- _____ 24. If more people had received a better education in biological science, consumers would have been more sensible about transgenic crops.
- _____ 25. Both rich countries and poor countries have adopted a very low-risk position on the issue of genetically modified foods.

Part III. Critical Reading (30%)

Read the following paragraphs or passages and answer the questions that follow.

(1)

Hidden away in back-country pockets of upper New England lie the last remnants of a type of agriculture that once covered the greater portion of the Northeast. These are the few remaining small-family hill farms of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Their existence is an anachronism; too remote to be easily reached from Boston or New York, lacking the proper terrain for a ski resort or the necessary shorefront for a second-home development, these farming enclaves have retained much of their original character. And they still exhibit a sense of harmony between man and his natural surroundings.

- 1. Write a complete sentence in your own words stating the main idea.
- 2. Why does the writer use the word 'anachronism'?

(2)

It was amusing to look round the filthy little scullery and think that only a double door was between us and the dining-room. There sat the customers in all their splendour—spotless table-cloths, bowls of flowers, mirrors and gilt cornices and painted cherubim; and here, just a few feet away, we in our disgusting filth. For it really was disgusting filth. There was no time to sweep the floor till evening, and we slithered about in a compound of soapy water, lettuce-leaves, torn paper and trampled food. A dozen waiters with their coats off, showing their sweaty armpits, sat at the table mixing salads and sticking their thumbs into the cream pots. The room had a dirty, mixed smell of food and sweat. Everywhere in the cupboards, behind the piles of crockery, were squalid stores of food that the waiters had stolen. There were only two sinks, and no washing basin, and it

was nothing unusual for a waiter to wash his face in the water in which clean crockery was rinsing. But the customers saw nothing of this. There were a coco-nut mat and a mirror outside the dining-room door, and the waiters used to preen themselves up and go in looking the picture of cleanliness.

—— George Orwell, Down and Out in Paris and London

3. Write a complete sentence in your own words that expresses the main idea.
4. In the above description by what means does the writer reveal his attitude and tone?
5. What can you infer from the last sentence?

(3)

It is apparently very necessary to distinguish between parenthood and parentage. Parenthood is an art; parentage is the consequence of a mere biological act. The biological ability to produce conception and to give birth to a child has nothing whatever to do with the ability to care for that child as it requires to be cared for. That ability, like every other, must be learned. It is highly desirable that parentage be not undertaken until the art of parenthood has been learned. Is this a counsel of perfection? As things stand now, perhaps it is, but it need not always be so. Parentage is often irresponsible. Parenthood is responsible. Parentage at best is responsible for the birth of a child. Parenthood is responsible for the development of a human being--not simply a child, but a human being. I do not think it is an overstatement to say that parenthood is the most important occupation in the world. There is no occupation for which the individual should be better prepared than this, for what can be more important to the individual, his family, his community, his society, his nation, and the world of humanity than the making of a good human being? And the making of a good human being is largely the work of good parents. And it is work--hard work--not to be irresponsibly undertaken or perfunctorily performed. Yet parenthood, perhaps like politics, is the only profession for which preparation is considered unnecessary.

—— Ashley Montagu, The American Way of Life

6. Write a complete sentence in your own words that expresses the main idea.
7. What distinction does the writer make when he writes, "Parenthood is responsible for the development of a human being--not simply a child."
8. List two points the writer makes about parentage.
9. List two points the writer makes about parenthood.

(4)

Among the important societal rules that represent one component of cuisine are table manners. As a socially instilled form of conduct, they reveal the attitudes typical of a society. Changes in table manners through time, as they have been documented for western Europe, likewise reflect fundamental changes in human relationships. Medieval courtiers saw their table manners as distinguishing them from crude peasants; but by modern standards, the manners were not exactly refined. Feudal lords used their unwashed hands to scoop food from a common bowl and they passed around a single goblet from which all drank. A finger or two would be extended while eating, so as to be kept free of grease and thus available for the next course, or for dipping into spices and condiments—possibly accounting for today’s “polite” custom of extending the little finger while holding a spoon or small fork. Soups and sauces were commonly drunk by lifting the bowl to the mouth; several diners frequently ate from the same bread trencher. Even lords and nobles would toss gnawed bones back into the common dish, wolf down their food, spit onto the table (preferred conduct called for spitting under it), and blew their noses into the tablecloth.

--Peter Farb and George Armalagos, Consuming Passions: The Anthropology of Eating

10. Write a complete sentence in your own words that expresses the main idea.
11. By what means does the author develop the above paragraph.
12. List at least 8 details to illustrate the courtiers’ table manners.

(5)

Not unlike drugs or alcohol, the television experience allows the participant to blot out the real world and enter into pleasurable and passive mental state. The worries and anxieties of reality are as effectively deferred by becoming absorbed in a television program as by going on a “trip” induced by drugs or alcohol. And just as alcoholics are only inchoately aware of their addiction, feeling that they can control their drinking more than they really do, people similarly overestimate their control over television watching. Even as they put off other activities to spend hour after hour watching television, they feel they could easily resume living in a different, less passive style. But somehow or other, while the television set is present in their homes, the click doesn’t sound. With television pleasures available, those other experiences seem less attractive, more difficult somehow.

—— Marie Winn, The Plug-In Drug

13. What is the main idea of the above paragraph
14. How is the paragraph developed?
15. What does the sentence “...the click doesn’t sound” imply?

Part IV Composition (50 marks)

Topic: Failure Is the Mother of Success

