

华南理工大学
2010 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试卷

(请在答题纸上作答, 试卷上做答无效, 试后本卷必须与答题纸一同交回)

科目名称: 英语综合水平测试

适用专业: 英语语言文学, 外国语言学及应用语言学

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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. His silly chatter would vex a saint.
A. satire B. smother C. aggravate
2. I think I'll commingle some of these blue flowers with the pink ones.
A. admix B. converge C. mundane
3. His speech and deportment do not comport with his high position.
A. import B. agree C. conflict
4. For example, the love of acquisition and conquest, the very pioneers of civilization, when expended on the earth, the sea, the elements, the riches and forces of nature, are powers of destruction when used to subjugate one man to another or to sacrifice nations to ambition.
A. repress B. adjust C. compress
5. The minister is averse to flattery.
A. succinct B. alien C. disinclined
6. The sonorous voice of the priest resounded in the church.
A. immobile B. mellow C. divergent
7. It has been alleged that the factory is dumping noxious chemicals in the river.
A. repugnant B. innocuous C. harmful
8. The report may exonerate the driver from all responsibility for the collision.
A. vindicate B. scrutinize C. replenish
9. The two cultures were so utterly disparate that she found it hard to adapt from one to another.
A. balanced B. dissimilar C. prevalent
10. She was disturbed to find that the prices were exorbitant for the size of her purse.

- A. excessive B. ornate C. propitious
11. The whale spouted water from the blowhole on his back.
A. reclaimed B. evaporated C. discharged
12. The country maintains a martial attitude toward its neighbors.
A. bellicose B. friendly C. conciliatory
13. The decision to close the business is irrevocable.
A. reversible B. commutable C. unalterable
14. He did his best to foment a quarrel between the brothers.
A. incite B. restrain C. extirpate
15. He gets peevish when he's kept waiting.
A. cross B. agreeable C. amiable
16. My fatigue was great after looking unsuccessfully for a job all day.
A. disappointment B. vigor C. exhaustion
17. The kidnapping attempt was balked by the police.
A. yielded B. facilitated C. thwarted
18. He promised I would be remunerated for the extra work.
A. praised B. assessed C. compensated
19. We drew solace from the many notes of sympathy.
A. consolation B. distress C. courage
20. She was outwardly calm and betrayed no discomposure.
A. equanimity B. perturbation C. poise

Section Two

Directions: Write down the Chinese equivalent for the underlined word or words in the answer sheet. (10 marks)

1. I could tell by the disinterested attitude of the judge that he would give a fair verdict.
2. Her indifference kept all the visitors away from the exhibition hall.
3. The government is doing its best to ease the tension in that area.
4. I was so preoccupied with the book that I was oblivious of the surroundings.
5. Paul's advice is invaluable to my success in business.
6. He does more than others because he is economical of time and energy.
7. Only the most ingenuous person would believe such an excuse!
8. It is out of question that you will be appointed Chief Engineer of the railway.
9. We need tough-minded soldiers in our army.
10. He thinks by all this fast talking and flattery he can pull the wool over her eyes, but she isn't deceived.
11. As a man with a practical mind, he can't understand his son's desire to be a poet.
12. Although he made no overt complaint about life, his music had pathetic overtones.

13. The company has a quite handsome increase of productivity this year.
14. The auto dealer hijacked buyers into purchasing unwanted accessories.
15. Federal officials believe the political radioactivity of these issues may be too much for mayors and governors to deal with.
16. Why could his performance bring the house down?
17. Whenever any one teased John about his weight, he saw red.
18. The theory of probability was born into a hostile world—a world of superstition, of charms and curses, where success was believed to be the reward of the “lucky” and failure the result of “outrageous fortune”.
19. The herculean task of removing 10million gallons of viscous crude that gushed into the bay will take months or perhaps years.
20. Virtues and vices have not in all their instances a great landmark set between them, like warlike nations separate by prodigious walls, vast seas, and portentous hills; but they are oftentimes like bounds of a parish.

Part II. Reading Comprehension (50 marks; 2.5 marks each)

Section One

Directions: Read the following statements and decide whether each of them is true or false, based on the information from the text. Write T for true, F for false in the space provided.

1. I was eight years old when I lost my best friend. My very first very best friend. Lucy hardly ever whined, even when we kids played cowboys and she had to be Dale Evans. Nor did she cry, even when we played dodge ball and some big kid threw the ball so hard you could read Spalding backward on her legs. Lucy was world class.
2. Much of our time together was spent in my backyard on the perfect swing set: high, wide, built solid, and grounded for life. But one June day long ago, something went wrong. I was swinging as high as I could, and still higher. The next time the swing started to come back down, I didn't. I just kept going up. And up.
3. Then I began to fall.
4. “Know what? Know what?” Lucy was yelling at me.
5. No, I didn't know what. All I knew was that my left arm hurt.
6. “Know what? For a minute there, you flew. You seemed to catch the wind and ... soar! Right up until you must have done something wrong, because you fell.”
7. Wearing a cast on my broken arm gave me time to work out the scientifics with Lucy. Our Theory was that if you swing just high enough and straight enough, and you jump out of the swing at just the right moment and in just the right position – you just might fly.

8. July was spent waiting for my arm to heal. We ran our hands across the wooden seat, feeling for the odd splinter that could ruin your perfect takeoff. We pulled on the chains, testing for weak links.

9. Finally came the day in August when my cast was off, and Lucy and I were ready. Today we would fly.

10. Early that morning, we began taking turns – one pushing, one pumping. All day we pushed and pumped, higher and higher, ever so close. It was almost dark when Lucy's mother hollered for her to come home right this minute and see what her daddy had brought them.

11. This was strictly against the rules. Nobody had to go home in August until it was altogether dark. Besides, Lucy's daddy wasn't a man to be struck with irresistible impulses like stopping at the horse store and thinking, Golly, my little girl loves ponies! I better get her one!

12. So we kept on swinging, and Lucy pretended not to hear her mother – until she dropped Lucee to Lucille Louise. Halfway through the fourth Lucille Louise, Lucy slowly raised her head as though straining to hear some woman calling from the next county.

13. “Were you calling me, Mother? Okay, okay, I'm coming. Yes, ma'am. Right now.”

14. Lucy and I walked together to the end of my driveway. Once in her front yard, she slowed to something between a meander and a lollygag, choosing a path that took her straight through the sprinklers. Twice.

15. When at last Lucy sashayed to her front door, she turned back to me and, with a grin, gave me the thumbs-up sign used by pilots everywhere. Awright. So we'd fly tomorrow instead. We'd waited all summer. We could wait one more day. On her way in the house, she slammed the screen door.

16. BANG!

17. In my memory, I've listened to that screen door shut behind my best friend a thousand times. It was the last time I played with her.

18. I knocked on the door every day, but her mother always answered saying Lucy was busy and couldn't come out to play. I tried calling, but her mother always answered saying Lucy was busy and couldn't come to the phone. Lucy was busy? Too busy to play? Too busy to fly? She had to be dead. Nothing else made sense. What, short of death, could separate such best friends? We were going to fly. Her thumb had said so. I cried and cried.

19. I might never have known the truth of the matter, if some weeks later I hadn't overheard my mother say to my father how maybe I would calm down about Lucy if

we got a television too.

20. A what? What on earth was a television? The word was new to me, but I was clever enough to figure out that Lucy's daddy had brought home a television that night. At last I knew what had happened to Lucy. The television ate her.

21. It must have been a terrible thing to see. Now my parents were thinking of getting one. I was scared. They didn't understand what television could do.

22. "Television eats people," I announced to my parents.

23. "Oh, Linda Jane," they said, laughing. "Television doesn't eat people. You'll love television just like Lucy. She's inside her house watching it right this minute."

24. Indeed, Lucy was totally bewitched by the flickering black and white shapes. Every afternoon following school, she'd sit in her living room and watch whatever there was to watch. Saturday mornings, she'd look at cartoons.

25. Autumn came. Around Thanksgiving, I played an ear of corn in the school pageant. Long division ruined most of December. After a while, I forgot about flying. But I did not forget about Lucy.

26. Christmas arrived, and Santa Claus brought us a television. "See?" my parents said. "Television doesn't eat people." Maybe not. But television changes people. It changed my family forever.

27. We stopped eating dinner at the dining-room table after my mother found out about TV trays. Dinner was served in time for one program and finished in time for another. During the meal we used to talk to one another. Now television talked to us. If you absolutely had to say something you waited until the commercial, which is, I suspect, where I learned to speak in thirty-second bursts.

28. Before television, I would lie in bed at night, listening to my parents in their room saying things I couldn't comprehend. Their voices alone rocked me to sleep. Now Daddy went to bed right after the weather, and Mama stayed up to see Jack Paar. I went to sleep listening to voices in my memory.

29. Daddy stopped buying Perry Mason books. Perry was on television now, and that was so much easier for him. But it had been Daddy and Perry who'd taught me how fine it can be to read something you like.

30. Mama and Daddy stopped going to movies. Most movies would one day show up on TV, he said.

31. After a while, Daddy and I didn't play baseball any more. We didn't go to ball games either, but we watched more baseball than ever. That's how Daddy perfected The Art of Dozing to Baseball. He would sit in his big chair, turn on the game, and fall asleep within minutes. At least he appeared to be asleep. His eyes were shut, and he snored. But if you shook him, he'd open his eyes and tell you what the score was, who

was up, and what the pitcher ought to throw next.

32. It seemed everybody liked to watch television more than I did. I had no interest in sitting still when I could be climbing trees or riding a bike or practicing my takeoffs just in case one day Lucy woke up and remembered we had a Theory. Maybe the TV hadn't actually eaten her, but once her parents pointed her in the direction of that box, she never looked back.

33. Lucy had no other interests when she could go home and turn on "My Friend Flicka." Maybe it was because that was as close as she would get to having her own pony. Maybe if her parents had allowed her a real world to stretch out in, she wouldn't have been satisfied with a nineteen-inch world.

34. All I know is I never had another first best friend. I never learned to fly either. What's more, I was right all along: television really does eat people.

____1. As a little girl, Lucy was very strong and had a kind, friendly personality.

____2. It took at least one month for the narrator to heal her arm after she had fallen down from the swing.

____3. Lucy's father was a man inclined to spoil the children.

____4. The narrator no longer had any chance to play with Lucy because she dropped dead while watching television.

____5. The narrator attributes Lucy's indulgence in television to her parents' ignorance of her strong longing for a pony.

____6. It can be inferred from the text that the narrator was one of the few people who missed the good old days without television.

Section Two

Choose the best answer to complete each of the following statements according to the information you get from the text.

Passage 1

1. The afternoon sun was pouring in at the back windows of Mrs. Farmer's long, uneven parlor, making the dusky room look like a cavern with a fire at one end of it. The furniture was all in its cool, figured summer cretonnes. The glass flower vases that stood about on little tables caught the sunlight and twinkled like tiny lamps. Claude had been sitting there for a long while, and he knew he ought to go. Through the window at his elbow he could see rows of double hollyhocks, the flat leaves of the sprawling catalpa, and the spires of the tangled mint bed, all transparent in the gold-powdered light. They had talked about everything but the thing he had come to say. As he looked out into the garden he felt that he would never get it out. There was something in the way the mint bed burned and floated that make one a fatalist, – afraid to meddle. But after he was far

away, he would regret; uncertainty would tease him like a splinter in his thumb.

2. He rose suddenly and said without apology: "Gladys, I wish I could feel sure you'd never marry my brother."

3. She did not reply, but sat in her easy chair, looking up at him with a strange kind of calmness.

4. "I know all the advantages," he went on hastily, "but they wouldn't make it up to you. That sort of a – compromise would make you awfully unhappy. I know."

5. "I don't think I shall ever marry Bayliss," Gladys spoke in her usual low, round voice, but her quick breathing showed he had touched something that hurt. "I suppose I have used him. It gives a schoolteacher a certain prestige if people think she can marry the rich bachelor of the town whenever she wants to. But I am afraid I won't marry him, – because you are the member of the family I have always admired."

6. Claude turned away to the window. "A fine lot I've been to admire," he muttered.

7. "Well, it's true, anyway. It was like that when we went to High School, and it's kept up. Everything you do always seems exciting to me."

8. Claude felt a cold perspiration on his forehead. He wished now he had never come. "But that's it, Gladys. What *have* I ever done, except make one blunder after another?"

9. She came over to the window and stood beside him. "I don't know; perhaps it's by their blunders that one gets to know people, – by what they can't do. If you'd been like all the rest, you could have got on in their way. That was the one thing I couldn't have stood."

10. Claude was frowning out into the flaming garden. He had not heard a word of her reply. "Why didn't you keep me from making a fool of myself?" he asked in a low voice.

11. "I think I tried – once. Anyway, it's all turning out better than I thought. You didn't get stuck here. You've found your place. You're sailing away. You've just begun."

12. "Any what about you?"

13. She laughed softly. "Oh. I shall teach in the High School!"

14. Claude took her hands and they stood looking searchingly at each other in the swimming golden light that made everything transparent. He never knew exactly how he found his hat and made his way out of the house. He was only sure that Gladys did not accompany him to the door. He glanced back once, and saw her head against the bright window.

7. Which of the following best explains why Gladys is hurt by Clause's reference to Bayliss?

- A) She feels guilty for having made use of Bayliss.
- B) She has already agreed to marry Bayliss.

- C) She has always wanted to marry Claude.
D) She knows that Bayliss doesn't want to marry her.
8. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
A)Nostalgic. B)Matter-of-fact. C)Gentle. D)Unhappy.
9. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Gladys and Claude?
A)They are lovers. B)They are husband and wife.
C)They are old friends. D)They are cousins.
10. Which of the following best explains why Claude turns away from Gladys and wishes "that he had never come" (Para. 8)?
A) Claude regrets having spoken to Gladys about his brother.
B) Claude is confused because Gladys has paid him a compliment.
C) Claude is embarrassed at Gladys' implication that she would like to marry him.
D) Claude realizes that he loves Gladys, but he does not have the courage to say so.
11. The society in which Claude and Gladys live is best characterized as _____.
A)conventional B)wealthy C)dishonest D)artistic
12. Which of the following best describes Claude's reason for visiting Gladys?
A) To say goodbye before he leaves town.
B) To urge her not to marry his brother.
C) To tell her that he loves her.
D) To ask why she has always admired him.
13. Claude's hesitation to say "the thing he had come to say" (Para. 1) adds to the portrayal of his character by _____.
A) revealing that he does not concern himself with other people
B) providing that he has always been blunt and outspoken
C) implying that he is not on comfortable terms with Gladys
D) showing that he is sensitive to other people's feelings

Passage 2

1. Reaching the ground floor they naively avoided the hotel candy counter, descended the wide front staircase, and walking through several corridors found a drugstore in the Grand Central Station. After an intense examination of the perfume counters she made her purchase. Then on some mutual unemotional impulse they strolled, arm in arm, not in the direction from which they had come, but out into Forty-third Street.
2. The night was alive with thaw; it was so nearly warm that a breeze drifting low along the sidewalk brought to Anthony a vision of an unhoped-for hyacinthine spring.

Above in the blue oblong of sky, around them in the caress of the drifting air, the illusion of a new season carried relief from the stiff and breathed-over atmosphere they had left, and for a hushed moment the traffic sounds and the murmur of water flowing in the gutters seemed an illusive and rarefied prolongation of that music to which they had lately danced. When Anthony spoke in was with surety that his words came from something breathless and desirous that the night had conceived in their two hearts.

3. "Let's take a taxi and ride around a bit!" he suggested, without looking at her.

4. Oh, Gloria, Gloria!

5. A cab yawned at the curb. As it moved off like a boat on a labyrinthine ocean and lost itself among the inchoate night masses of the great buildings, among the now stilled, now strident, cries and clangings. Anthony put his arm around the girl, drew her over to him and kissed her damp, childish mouth.

6. She was silent. She turned her face up to him, pale under the wisps and patches light that trailed in like moonshine through a foliage. Her eyes were gleaming ripples in the white lake of her face; the shadows of her hair bordered the brow with a persuasive unintimate dusk. No love was there, surely; nor the imprint of any love. Her beauty was cool as this damp breeze, as the moist softness of her own lips.

14. Which of the following best describes the setting of this passage?

A)A slum neighborhood. B)A large city. C)A small town. D)A hotel bedroom.

15. The subject of the last sentence in the fifth paragraph is _____.

A)it B)buildings C)Anthony D)the girl

16. Anthony and Gloria's stroll in the night most likely takes place in _____.

A)March B)May C)July D)December

17. This passage represents the perspective of which of the following characters?

A)Anthony. B)Gloria. C)The cab driver. D)The author.

18. Which of the following best describes Gloria's attitude toward Anthony?

A) She lives him.

B) She does not understand him.

C) She is indifferent to him.

D) She is fond of him.

19. Which of the following best describes the theme of the passage?

A) The cruelty of indifference toward a lover.

B) The romance of being alone with one's beloved.

C) The anonymity of public places in a large city.

D) The foolishness of young men in love.

20. Anthony probably looks away from Gloria when he suggests a taxi ride (Para. 3) in order to _____.

- A) conceal from her how much he wants to be alone with her
- B) irritate her with his lack of good manners
- C) persuade her to return with him to the train station
- D) manipulate her into suggesting some other way to pass the time

Part III. Critical Reading (30 marks)

Directions: Read the following passages and answer the questions on the Answer Sheet. (2 marks each)

Passage 1

When word of the feast reached civilization, the authorities concluded that on this occasion justice had literally been served, and perhaps a bit too swiftly, so they hauled the seven cannibals into court, where a wise Australian judge dismissed all the charges, and acquitted the seven men. “The funerary customs of the people of Papua and New Guinea,” he explained, “have been, and in many cases remain, bizarre in the extreme.”

——Shana Alexander, “Fashions in Funerals”

1. Why does the author use the word ‘acquitted’?
2. Explain the pun in the first sentence.
3. What incident has the author probably just described in the essay from which this transition paragraph is taken? Point out the clues by which she suggests what has gone before.

Passage 2

We need wildness, I believe, as an environment of humility. Civilization breeds arrogance. A modern human, armed with checkbook, television, and four-wheeled drive, feels like a demigod. It is good to be reminded in wilderness of our true status as member – nor master – of the natural world. It is good to rekindle the sense of restraint and limits that has been obscured by technological optimism. It is good to see natural powers and processes greater than our own. The lessons of such experience are precisely what are needed if human-environment relations are to be harmonious and stable in the long run. Wilderness, then, is a profound educational resource, schooling over-civilized humans in what we once knew but unfortunately forgot.

——G. Tyler Miller, Jr., *Living in the Environment*

4. What is the main idea of the above paragraph?
5. How do you understand the sentence, “A modern human, armed with checkbook, television, and four-wheeled drive, feels like a demigod?”
6. According to the author, what is one possible consequence resulting from technological advancement?

Passage 3

I know of no public demand for the death penalty for ordinary crimes, even for

ordinary homicides. Its infliction would shock all men of normal decency of feeling. But for crimes involving the deliberate and inexcusable taking of human life, by men openly defiant of all civilized order – for such crimes it seems, to nine men out of ten, a just and proper punishment. Any lesser penalty leaves them feeling that the criminal has got the better of society – that he is free to add insult to injury by laughing. That feeling can be dissipated only by a recourse to *katharsis*, the invention of the aforesaid Aristotle. It is more effectively and economically achieved, as human nature now, by wafting the criminal to realms of bliss.

—H. L. Mencken, “The Penalty of Death”

7. Write a complete sentence in your own words that expresses the main idea.
8. What does the author mean by “by wafting the criminal to realms of bliss”?

Passage 4

Walking for walking's sake may be as highly laudable and exemplary a thing as it is held to be by those who practice it. My objection to it is that it stops the brain. Many a man has professed to me that his brain never works so well as when he is swinging along the high road or over hill and dale. This boast is not confirmed by my memory of anybody who on a Sunday morning has forced me to partake of his adventure. Experience teaches me that whatever a fellow-guest may have of power to instruct or to amuse when he is sitting on a chair, or standing on a hearth-rug, quickly leaves him when he takes one out for a walk. The ideas that came so thick and fast to him in any room, where are they now? Where that encyclopaedic knowledge which he bore so lightly? Where the kindling fancy that played like summer lightning over *any* topic that was started? The man's face that was so mobile is set now; gone is the light from his fine eyes. He says that A. (our host) is a thoroughly good fellow. Fifty yards further on, he adds that A. is one of the best fellows he has ever met. We tramp another furlong or so, and he says that Mrs. A. is a charming woman. Presently he adds that she is one of the most charming women he has ever known. We pass an inn. He reads rapidly aloud to me: "The King's Arms. Licensed to sell Ales and Spirits." I foresee that during the rest of the walk he will read aloud any inscription that occurs. We pass a milestone. He points at it with his stick, and says "Uxminster. 11 Miles." We turn a sharp corner at the foot of a hill. He points at the wall, and says "Drive Slowly." I see far ahead, on the other side of the hedge bordering the high road, a small notice-board. He sees it too. He keeps his eye on it. And in due course "Trespassers," he says, "Will Be Prosecuted." Poor man! – mentally a wreck. —Max Beerbohm, “Going Out for a Walk”

9. What is the author's purpose in writing this paragraph?
10. How does the author achieve his purpose?
11. Why does he use the phrase “in due course”?

Passage 5

I set out to examine a few typical examples of what some people are pleased to call "evidence" supporting their views. I shall take them from the work of a man of far more than the average intelligence dealing with the doctrine of immortality. He is a believer and thinks it possible that immortal human souls are on an endless journey from star to star, inhabiting them in turn. And he "proves" it thus:

No one thinks of space without knowing that it can be traversed; consequently the conception of space implies the ability to traverse it.

But how far? He could as cogently say:

No one thinks of the ocean without knowing that it can be swum in; consequently the conception of ocean implies the ability to swim from New York to Liverpool.

Here is another precious bit of testimony:

The fact that man can conceive the idea of space without beginning or end implies that man is on a journey without beginning or end. In fact, it is strong evidence of the immortality of man.

Now observe the possibilities in that kind of "reasoning": The fact that a pig can conceive the idea of a turnip implies that the pig is climbing a tree bearing turnips which is strong evidence that the pig is a fish. In each of the gentleman's dicta the first part no more "implies" what follows than it implies a weeping baboon on a crimson iceberg.

——Adapted from **Ambrose Bierce**, "**The Art of Controversy**"

12. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?
13. How does the author achieve his purpose?
14. What is the implication of the word "cogently" (in "He could as cogently say")?
15. How would you characterize the author's tone? Point out some clues to support your view.

Part IV. Composition (50 Marks)

Directions: Write a composition on the topic given below. You are supposed to write it on the Answer Sheet.

Too Much Liberty Spills All