

中山大学

二〇〇六年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

科目代码: 348

科目名称: 基础英语

考试时间: 1 月 15 日 上午

考生须知

全部答案一律写在答题纸上,
答在试题纸上的不得分! 请用
蓝、黑色墨水笔或圆珠笔作答。
答题要写清题号, 不必抄题。

I. Reading (30%)

Read the following passages and choose the best answer from the 4 choices below each question.

Passage 1:

The common belief of some linguists that each language is a perfect vehicle for the thoughts of the nation speaking it is in some ways the exact counterpart of the conviction of the Manchester school of economics that supply and demand will regulate everything for the best. Just as economists were blind to the numerous cases in which the law of supply and demand left actual wants unsatisfied, so also many linguists are deaf to those instances in which the very nature of a language calls forth misunderstandings in everyday conversation, and in which, consequently, a word has to be modified or defined in order to present the idea intended by the speaker: "He took his stick-no, not John's, but his own." No language is perfect, and if we admit this truth, we must also admit that it is not unreasonable to investigate the relative merits of different languages or of different details in languages.

- 1) The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. refute a belief held by some linguists.
 - B. show that economic theory is relevant to linguistic study.
 - C. illustrate the confusion that can result from the improper use of language.
 - D. suggest a way in which languages can be made more nearly perfect.

- 2) The misunderstanding presented by the author in line 7 is similar to which of the following?
 - I. X uses the word "you" to refer to a group, but Y thinks that X is referring to one person only.
 - II. X mistakenly uses the word "anomaly" to refer to a typical example, but Y knows that "anomaly" means "exception."
 - III. X uses the word "bachelor" to mean "unmarried man," but Y mistakenly thinks that bachelor means "unmarried woman."
 - A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. III only
 - D. I and II only

- 3) In presenting the argument, the author does all of the following EXCEPT
 - A. giving an example.
 - B. drawing a conclusion.
 - C. making a comparison.
 - D. presenting a paradox.

- 4) Which of the following contributes to the misunderstanding described by the author in line 7 ?
- A. It is unclear whom the speaker of the sentence is addressing.
 - B. It is unclear to whom the word "his" refers the first time it is used.
 - C. It is unclear to whom the word "his" refers the second time it is used.
 - D. The meaning of "took" is ambiguous.

Passage 2:

The principle conquests of the Romans were achieved under the republic; but it was reserved for Augustus to relinquish the ambitious design of subduing the whole earth, and to introduce a spirit of moderation into the public councils. On the death of that emperor, his testament was publicly read in the senate. He bequeathed, as a valuable legacy to his successors, the advice of confining the empire within those limits which nature seemed to have placed as its permanent bulwarks and boundaries: on the west the Atlantic Ocean; the Rhine and Danube on the north; the Euphrates on the east; and towards the south the sandy deserts of Arabia and Africa.

Happily for the repose of mankind, the moderate system recommended by the wisdom of Augustus was adopted by the fears and vices of his immediate successors; and the only accession which the Roman empire received during the first century of the Christian era was the province of Britain. After a war of about forty years, undertaken by the most stupid, maintained by the most dissolute, and terminated by the most timid of all the emperors, the far greater part of the island submitted to the Roman yoke.

- 1) The best summary of the first paragraph is
- A. the glory of the Roman empire.
 - B. the moderation of Augustus.
 - C. the Roman conquest.
 - D. the death of Augustus.
- 2) Which of the following sentences best conforms to the passage?
- A. Augustus died regretting that he was not able to fulfill his ambition of conquering the whole world.
 - B. The Roman army conquered a large part of Britain under the republic.
 - C. The Roman territory hardly exceeded the boundaries set by Augustus.
 - D. The successors of Augustus followed his advice because they were too stupid or too timid to violate his command.
- 3) The word "legacy" in line 4 means
- A. money or property bequeathed to another by will.
 - B. something handed down from a predecessor or from the past.
 - C. something given as a free gift.
 - D. a piece of valuable advice.
- 4) It can be inferred from the passage that
- A. the Romans were often obsessed by the dream of conquering the whole world.
 - B. the author believes the invasion of Britain by the Romans turned out to be a blessing to mankind.
 - C. the Roman empire conquered Britain during the first century AD.
 - D. the Atlantic Ocean, the Rhine and Danube, the Euphrates and the sandy deserts of Arabia and Africa constituted the natural boundaries of the Roman empire.

Passage 3:

My objective is to analyze certain forms of knowledge, not in terms of repression or law, but in terms of power. But the word power is apt to lead to misunderstandings about the nature, form, and unity of power. By power, I do not mean a group of institutions and mechanisms that ensure the subservience of the citizenry. I do not mean, either, a mode of subjugation that, in contrast to violence, has the form of the rule. Finally, I do not have in mind a general system of domination exerted by one group over another, a system whose effects, through successive derivations, pervade the entire social body. The sovereignty of the state, the form of law, or the overall unity of a domination are only the terminal forms power takes. It seems to me that power must be understood as the multiplicity of force relations that are immanent in the social sphere; as the process that, through ceaseless struggle and confrontation, transforms, strengthens, or reverses them; as the support that these force relations find in one another, or on the contrary, the disjunctions and contradictions that isolate them from one another; and lastly, as the strategies in which they take effect, whose general design or institutional crystallization is embodied in the state apparatus, in the formulation of the law, in the various social hegemonies.

Thus, the viewpoint that permits one to understand the exercise of power, even in its more "peripheral" effects, and that also makes it possible to use its mechanisms as a structural framework for analyzing the social order, must not be sought in a unique source of sovereignty from which secondary and descendent forms of power emanate but in the moving substrate of force relations that, by virtue of their inequality, constantly engender local and unstable states of power. If power seems omnipresent, it is not because it has the privilege of consolidating everything under its invincible unity, but because it is produced from one moment to the next, at every point, or rather in every relation from one point to another. Power is everywhere, not because it embraces everything, but because it comes from everywhere. And if power at times seems to be permanent, repetitions, inert, and self-reproducing, it is simply because the overall effect that emerges from all these mobilities is a concatenation that rests on each of them and seeks in turn to arrest their movement. One needs to be nominalistic, no doubt, power is not an institution, and not a structure; neither is it a certain strength we are endowed with; it is the name that one attributes to a complex strategic situation in a particular society.

- 1) The author's primary purpose in defining power is to
 - A. counteract self-serving and confusing uses of the term.
 - B. increase comprehension of the term by providing concrete examples.
 - C. demonstrate how the meaning of the term has evolved.
 - D. avoid possible misinterpretations resulting from the more common uses of the term.

- 2) According to the passage, which of the following best describes the relationship between law and power?
 - A. Law is a product of power.
 - B. Law is the source of power.
 - C. Law sets bounds of power.
 - D. Law is the protector of power.

- 3) Which of the following methods is NOT used extensively by the author in describing his own conception of power?
 - A. Restatement of central ideas.
 - B. Provision of concrete examples.
 - C. Comparison and contrast.
 - D. Statement of cause and effect.

- 4) With which of the following statements would the author be most likely to agree?
- A. Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.
 - B. The highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it.
 - C. It is from the people and their deeds that power springs.
 - D. To love knowledge is to love power.
- 5) The author's attitude toward the various kinds of compulsion employed by social institutions is best described as
- A. concerned and sympathetic.
 - B. scientific and detached.
 - C. suspicious and cautious.
 - D. reproachful and disturbed.
- 6) According to the passage, states of power are transient because of the
- A. differing natures and directions of the forces that create them.
 - B. rigid structural framework in which they operate.
 - C. unique source from which they emanate.
 - D. pervasive nature and complexity of the mechanisms by which they operate.
- 7) It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes the conflict among social forces to be
- A. essentially the same from one society to another even though its outward manifestation may seem different.
 - B. usually the result of misunderstandings that impede social progress.
 - C. an inevitable feature of the social order of any state.
 - D. wrongly blamed for disrupting the stability of society.

II. Correct errors in the following sentences: underline the wrong parts and put the correct ones in the brackets. (10%)

1. The first national park in world, Yellowstone National Park, was established in 1872.
2. Minoru Yamasaki is an American architect who works departed from the austerity frequent associated with architecture in the United States after the Second World War.
3. The 1983 Noble Prize in Medicine was awarded to Barbara McClintock for her experiment with maize and her discoveries regardless the nature of DNA.
4. Potential dehydration is the often greatest hazard that a land animal faces.
5. The culinary expert Fannie Farmer taught dietetics, kitchen management, and to cook at her famous Boston school.
6. A severe illness when she was lust nineteen months old deprived the well-known writer and lecturer Helen Keller both her sight and her hearing.
7. However the early gold prospector often lived a lonely and rugged life, far from home and family.
8. Some insects hear ultrasonic sounds more than two octaves than higher humans can.
9. Emily Dickinson, one of the greatest poets of the United States, was entirely almost unknown to the people of her own time.
10. The Whitney Museum continues to reflect the diversity of the art of the United States in all of it acquisitions.

III. English composition (40%)

As the saying goes, not the ignorance but the ignorance of ignorance is the death of knowledge. On the basis of this idea you are required to write an essay of about 400 words about the relationship between ignorance and knowledge. In the first part of your writing you should present your thesis statement, and in the second part you should support the thesis statement with appropriate details. In the final part you should bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or summary.

Marks will be awarded for content, organization, grammar and appropriateness. Failure to follow the instruction will result in a loss of marks.

IV. Translation

A. Translate the following passage into Chinese. Write your translation on the ANSWER SHEET. (20%)

If Darwinian theory works so well, why challenge it? There are several reasons to do so. Although Darwinian theory explains many of the facts of evolution better than any other theory, it does not necessarily explain the whole process. Also, some of the results of evolution do not match what Darwinian theory would predict. For example, if evolution leads to a perfect adaptation through natural selection acting on random hereditary changes, the process ought to slow down as it gets closer to the optimum for each species because fewer favorable changes can be made. We should also see a decrease in the number of species as they compete with one another and unsuccessful species are eliminated. But we see no such slowing down, and the number of species appears to be at least as great now as in the geologic past and perhaps even greater.

Still another problem with Darwinian theory involves extinction. The dinosaurs were extremely successful for a long time — they lived on the earth much longer and had more species than many other animal groups. About the only failing of the dinosaurs that we know for sure is that they did not survive. We can work out fairly plausible explanations for such major extinctions and for the continuing fast pace of evolution. However, some evolutionists believe that such explanations stretch Darwinian theory too far.

B. Translate the following passage into English. Write your translation on the ANSWER SHEET.(20%)

幸福可以被描述为一种积极的情绪和愉快的心态。根据最近的民意测验，百分之六十到七十的美国人认为自己是基本上幸福的，而每二十个人中就有一个人认为自己不幸福。心理学家一直在研究构成幸福的因素。他们发现，幸福是不可预知的，一个看起来处于理想环境的人并不一定会感到幸福，理想的环境和他的实际感觉之间可能没有什么关系。例如，富人不一定比中等收入或低收入的人幸福。受过高等教育的人比高中都没有毕业的人可能略感幸福一些，这主要是因为他们有更多的机会掌握自己的命运，但是，受过高等教育并有高收入的人也许不如同等收入但没有受过高等教育的人幸福。

V. Answer the following questions about British and American Cultures. (30%)

1. How does the National Health Service function in Britain?
2. In America, why is there not a decline in religious observance along with scientific and economic advance?
3. What is the general situation of the aged in the U.S.? What factors have contributed to this situation?