

温州大學

2008 年硕士研究生招生入学考试试题 A 卷

科目代码及名称: 815 英语写作

适用专业: 英语语言文学

(请考生在答题纸上答题, 在此试题纸上答题无效)

1. Read the passage and answer the questions (20/150 points).

The television western of several years ago differs greatly from the western of today. Ten years ago, the swindler or bank robber in a western could be identified not by the crimes he committed so much as by the color of the clothing he wore---which was black. Today the television western reveals the villain by mannerisms and personality. At one time, every western had a superhuman, invincible “ good guy “ with whom the viewers could identify because he too lived out on the farm. Currently, the central figures of the west are average people who may live on a middle class street in any part of the country. They are the characters like the bus drivers, mail-clerks and accountants who live next door to you in suburbia. At night they come in off the horses to ride the television range. They become persons who respect others, drink and smoke only just a bit, and are able not only to outshoot the “ bad guy “, but also to outsmart him with good common sense.

Questions:

1. How is this paragraph developed?
2. What specific key points are made in the passage?

II. Read the passage and write a précis of approximately 150 words (25/150 points).

Psychological sources of stress

In discussing the psychological sources of stress, Coleman, Morris, and Glaros identify frustration, conflict, and pressure as the key elements. Consider each of these sources of stress by applying them to yourself and your situation.

Frustration results from a blocking of your needs and goals. External sources of frustration, all of which have psychological components, include accidents, delays, hurtful interpersonal relationships, loneliness, and isolation. Additionally, internal factors can hinder you in attaining your goals. These include a lack of basic skills, physical handicaps, and a lack of belief in yourself....

Conflict, another source of stress, occurs when there are two or more incompatible motives. Conflicts can be classified in terms of the reward or punishment values the alternatives have for the person.

Approach/approach conflicts occur when a choice must be made between two or more attractive or desirable alternatives. Such conflicts are inevitable because we have a limited time to do all the things we would like to do and be all the places we'd like to be. An example of this type of conflict is being forced to choose between [two courses you wish to take that are offered at the same time].

Avoidance/avoidance conflicts arise when a choice must be made between two or more unattractive or undesirable options. At times you may feel "caught between a rock and a

hard place.” You may have to choose between being unemployed or accepting a job you do not like, neither of which appeals to you.

Approach/avoidance conflicts are produced when a choice must be made between two or more goals, each of which has positive and negative elements. For example, [you may want to study to become a teacher but be unhappy about the salary you will earn if you do]....

Pressure is part of the “hurry sickness” of modern living. We may respond to the pressure placed on us by others at home, school, and work and in our social lives. Also, we continually place internally created pressures on ourselves. Many people are extremely demanding of themselves, driving themselves and never quite feeling satisfied that they’ve done all they could or should have. If you find yourself in this situation, consider some of the irrational and unrealistic beliefs that you might be living by.

III. Read the passage carefully and complete the related statements below (35/150 points).

(1) “You’ve got mail,” pipes the tinny voice of my computer. I Obediently double-click my virtual mailbox to find sixty-plus E-mail awaiting my perusal. During my Christmas break, I had fallen behind in my ongoing race to keep up with this technological marvel of modern communication. An hour-and-a-half later, after wading through it all, I realized that this blessed medium for conveying messages had become a convenient curse that is slowly driving me insane.

(2) I'll be the first one to admit that I was initially very excited about getting an E-mail address and conversing on the world-wide-web. I got on-line when I started college last fall. I sent my first tentative messages to friends back home. They were long and carefully proofread for spelling errors and readability. The next day, I couldn't believe how excited I was when I logged on to find that I had received my first E-mail! Two clicks later I discovered that I had been chosen for a Golden Business Opportunity and, for a mere \$30 (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover), I could become a millionaire at home in my spare time! You can imagine my excitement. I later realized that, in the jargon of the internet, I had been "spammed".

(3).Spamming is when businesses, large and small, send out hundreds of thousands of unsolicited E-mail as a way of marketing their product. I've received messages offering Incredible FREE offers like FREE CD's, FREE software, FREE porn, and, my all-time favorite, a FREE juicer with an order of sixty dollars or more of frozen meat. It seems the infomercial has hit the virtual airwaves. Meanwhile, I waste a lot of my time pushing the delete button whenever I see a message with the word FREE, multiple dollar signs, or more than one "X" attached to it. However, it's not always that easy. The marketing gurus have found ways to trick you into opening and reading their advertisements. One of my professors told me she had received trick E-mails with subject lines that read "Re: Your Question Answered," "Here's the information you requested!" and "Returned mail: cannot send message." The most irritating trick I encountered was the one that read "Attn: about your paper," which, having just turned one in that morning in my English class, I immediately opened to find an offer to buy a Virtual Girlfriend on disk. The ad said she'd "give me a reason to procrastinate." Don't these people know I'm a student and that I don't have any money?

(4) When I finally did receive a reply from an actual person, I discovered another danger of this technological miracle, the more you E-mail, the more illiterate you become. One friend responded to the long, carefully prepared message I had sent him about my first week in college with, "Snds great dude don't forget study." Even though I understood his minimal reply, it angered me that he didn't even take the time to check his spelling or respond with at least a few more sentences. It seems that with the advent of E-mail, captions have replaced letters as the

norm, and this informal message system is fast becoming illegible.

(5) As well as being informal it is also impersonal. More and more communication between people seems to be occurring via E-mail. You no longer have to speak with other people in person. That form of communicating became unnecessary with the introduction of automated message response system, those annoying computer voice recordings telling you to choose from an endless menu of options before finally talking to a human. Now that, too, is increasingly becoming unnecessary. Progress has removed the need to listen and talk by creating a purely textual medium where you can complain and get your questions answered electronically! You don't even have to open your mouth. How convenient!

(6) Today's society is becoming more and more dependent on this fast, cheap technology. According to Time magazine "in 1994, 776 billion E-mail messages moved through U.S.-based computer networks, this year that number is expected to more than triple, to 2.6 trillion and, by the year 2000, is expected to triple again to 6.6 trillion." We can't escape it. Everything is going to E-mail, even signing up for financial-aid and scheduling classes for the fall term. Because of this, I have resolved to retain my E-mail address. I really don't have a choice if I want to function efficiently in our increasingly computer to put up with an infuriating medium that sends annoying Mailer-Daemon's to taunt and frustrate me as I reluctantly check my mailbox, but which, in the end, reminds me whom the evil being was and who probably thought this whole thing up.

Complete the following statements:

1. The main idea of the 1st paragraph is _____

2. The main idea of the 2nd paragraph is _____

3. The main idea of the 3rd paragraph is _____

4. The main idea of the 4th paragraph is _____

5. The main idea of the 5th paragraph is _____

6. The main idea of the 6th paragraph is _____

7. Your suggested title for this passage is _____

IV. Essay writing (70/150 points).

During the last session of the People's Congress of China, a proposal was made to abandon the 30-year-old College Entrance Examination and it evoked nation-wide yes-no responses. Please write **an essay in over 300 words** to voice your opinions on the topic given below. Grading will be based on the **idea, language and logic** of the writing.

The College Entrance Examination