

中山大学

二〇一一年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

科目代码: 632

科目名称: 基础英语

考试时间: 1月16日上午

考生须知

全部答案一律写在答题纸上, 答在试题纸上的不计分! 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 comprehension (40 points)

Passage 1:

This passage, about infant language acquisition, was adapted from a research paper that explores early childhood development.

For an infant just beginning to interact with the surrounding world, it is imperative that he quickly become proficient in his native language. While developing a vocabulary and the ability to communicate using it are obviously important steps in this process, an infant must first be able to learn from the various streams of audible communication around him. To that end, during the course of even the first few months of development, an infant will begin to absorb the rhythmic patterns and sequences of sounds that characterize his language, and will begin to differentiate between the meanings of various pitch and stress changes.

However, it is important to recognize that such learning does not take place in a vacuum. Infants must confront these language acquisition challenges in an environment where, quite frequently, several streams of communication or noise are occurring simultaneously. In other words, infants must not only learn how to segment individual speech streams into their component words, but they must also be able to distinguish between concurrent streams of sound.

Consider, for example, an infant being spoken to by his mother. Before he can learn from the slight differences of his mother's speech, he must first separate that speech from the sounds of the dishwasher, the family dog, the bus stopping on the street outside, and, quite possibly, background noise in the form of speech: a newscaster on the television down the hall or siblings playing in an adjacent room.

How exactly do infants wade through such a murky conglomeration of audible stimuli? While most infants are capable of separating out two different voices despite the presence of additional, competing streams of sound, this capability is predicated upon several specific conditions.

First, infants are better able to learn from a particular speech stream when that voice is louder than any of the competing streams of background speech; when two voices are of equal amplitude, infants typically demonstrate little preference towards one stream or the other. Most likely, equally loud competing voice streams, for the infant, become combined into a single stream that necessarily contains unfamiliar patterns and sounds that can quite easily induce confusion. Secondly, an infant is more likely to attend to a particular voice stream if it is perceived as more familiar than another stream. When an infant, for example, is presented with a voice stream spoken by his mother and a background stream

delivered by an unfamiliar voice, usually he can easily separate out her voice from the distraction of the background stream. By using these simple yet important cues an infant can become quite adept at concentrating on a single stream of communication and, therefore, capable of more quickly learning the invaluable characteristics and rules of his native language.

1. Which of the following best conveys the main idea of Paragraph 1?

- A. Infants are fully aware of their environments.
- B. Infants have natural talent to develop vocabulary.
- C. Infants are able to take in information from the environment.
- D. Infants like rhythmic patterns and sequences of sounds.

2. The phrase "predicated upon several specific conditions" (Para. 4) is used by the author to suggest that _____.

- A. most infants have trouble separating out simultaneous streams of speech
- B. infants can only learn when they are comfortable in their surroundings
- C. only in rare instances do these required conditions occur
- D. infants are not always able to learn from their surrounding environment

3. The author uses the word "necessarily" (line 4 of Para. 5) in order to suggest that _____.

- A. an individual stream understandably changes character when mixed with another
- B. even adults can have trouble distinguishing between streams of equal volume
- C. infants always combine separate streams into a single sound
- D. it is inevitable that two streams of speech are more confusing than one

4. Before an infant can learn from the slight differences of his mother's speech, he must first _____.

- A. understand his father's communication stream
- B. be able to distinguish between his mother's voice from that of the background noise
- C. absorb the sounds of dishwasher and pets
- D. learn something about his language from the television voice

5. The example in the last paragraph is used to illustrate how _____.

- A. an infant who spends little time with his parents would probably have trouble with language acquisition
- B. an infant in constant vocal interaction with his parents could experience accelerated language acquisition
- C. the complexity of an infant's native language is not a factor in determining whether that language will be easily acquired
- D. infants with particularly attentive parents are more likely to acquire language skills more quickly

Passage 2:

When I accepted a volunteer position as a social worker at a domestic violence shelter in a developing nation, I imagined the position for which my university experience had prepared me. I envisioned conducting intake interviews and traipsing around from organization to organization seeking the legal, psychological, and financial support that the women would need to rebuild their lives. When I arrived, I felt as if I already had months of experience, experience garnered in the hypothetical situations I had invented and subsequently resolved single-handedly and seamlessly. I felt thoroughly prepared to tackle head-on the situation I assumed was waiting for me.

I arrived full of zeal, knocking at the shelter's door. Within moments, my reality made a sharp break from that which I had anticipated. The coordinator explained that the shelter's need for financial self-sufficiency had become obvious and acute. To address this, the center was planning to open a bakery. I immediately enthused about the project, making many references to the small enterprise case studies I had researched at the university. In response to my impassioned reply, the coordinator declared me in charge of the bakery and left in order to "get out of my way." At that moment, I was as prepared to bake bread as I was to run for political office. The bigger problem, however, was that I was completely unfamiliar with the for-profit business models necessary to run the bakery. I was out of my depth in a foreign river with only my coordinator's confidence to keep me afloat.

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. I soon found that it is also the mother of initiative. I began finding recipes and appropriating the expertise of friends. With their help making bread, balancing books, printing pamphlets and making contacts, the bakery was soon running smoothly and successfully. After a short time it became a significant source of income for the house.

In addition to funds, baking bread provided a natural environment in which to work with and get to know the women of the shelter. Kneading dough side by side, I shared in the camaraderie of the kitchen, treated to stories about their children and the towns and jobs they had had to leave behind to ensure their safety. Baking helped me develop strong relationships with the women and advanced my understanding of their situations. It also improved the women's self-esteem. Their ability to master a new skill gave them confidence in themselves, and the fact that the bakery contributed to the upkeep of the house gave the women, many of them newly single, a sense of pride and the conviction that they had the capability to support themselves.

Baking gave me the opportunity to work in a capacity I had not at all anticipated, but one that proved very successful. I became a more sensitive and skillful social worker, capable of making a mean seven-grain loaf. Learning to bake gave me as much newfound self-confidence as it gave the women, and I found that sometimes quality social work can be as simple as kneading dough.

6. The primary purpose of the passage is to show how the author _____.
- A. was shocked by the discrepancy between her earlier ideas about her work and the reality she faced
 - B. discovered a talent her overly-focused mind had never allowed her to explore
 - C. broadened how she defined the scope of her work
 - D. developed her abilities to orchestrate a for-profit business enterprise

7. In line 5 of Para. 1 "garnered" most nearly means _____.
- A. exchanged
 - B. collected
 - C. required
 - D. enriched

8. The statement that the author arrived "full of zeal" (line 1 of Para. 2) indicates that she was _____.
- A. anxious and insecure
 - B. eager and interested
 - C. confident but uninformed
 - D. cheerful but exhausted

9. The author was initially enthusiastic about the idea of the bakery because she _____.
- A. considered it from a theoretical point of view
 - B. hoped to obtain a leadership position in the bakery
 - C. wanted to demonstrate her baking knowledge to her new coordinator
 - D. believed it would be a good way to build the women's self-esteem

10. The comparison in lines 6—7 of Para. 2 ("At that moment...political office") demonstrates the author's belief that _____.
- A. it was unfair of the coordinator to ask the author to run the bakery
 - B. social workers should not be involved in either baking or politics
 - C. she was unqualified for a job baking bread
 - D. similar skills were involved in both baking and politics

11. Lines 7—8 of Para. 2 ("The bigger...bakery") suggest that the author believed that _____.
- A. learning the necessary business practices would be a more daunting challenge than learning to bake bread
 - B. good business practices are more important to running a successful bakery than is the quality of the bread
 - C. her coordinator's confidence in for-profit business models was misplaced
 - D. for-profit business models are significantly more complex than the non-profit models with which she was familiar

12. The last sentence ("Learning...dough") indicates that the author _____.
- A. lacked self-confidence just as much as the women with whom she worked
 - B. found that performing social work is surprisingly easy with no education
 - C. underestimated her own ability to learn new skills
 - D. derived a benefit from her work while helping others

Passage 3:

Though he would one day be considered an innovator and founding father of the artistic movement known as Impressionism, Claude Monet (1840-1926) began his career as a fairly traditional representational artist. His painting gradually changed, however, as he became interested in light and how

it affects perception—an interest that led him to attempt to paint light itself rather than the objects off of which light reflected. Monet also rejected the tradition of painting in a dedicated studio, and left the confines of his dusty room to paint outside. Many of his friends and fellow artists, including Pissarro, Renoir and Cezanne, were also interested in working al fresco and joined him in painting outdoors. This group, the core of the movement that would later be classified as Impressionism, made it a common practice to paint the same scene many times in a day to explore the changes in the light, using small patches of color rather than the large brush strokes and blended color that had characterized artistic technique until that time. The Impressionists were thus attempting to evoke a mood rather than document a specific scene or event, as had been the aim of earlier painters.

This move away from representation was also effected by a technological development, as photography became more affordable and popular. Before the development of photography, painting was the primary means of documenting the marriages, births, and business successes of the wealthy. Photographers soon took over much of this role because photographs were faster, more accurate, and less expensive than paintings. This freed the Impressionists to find new roles for their medium and encouraged the public to think about painting in a new way. It was no longer just a means of recording significant events; it now reflected an artist's unique vision of a scene or moment.

Today, Impressionism enjoys a privileged position with many art historians and critics, although this was certainly not always the case. As the movement was developing, most critics were at best uninterested and often appalled by the work. Even the name of the movement was originally a derisive critique. A critic who, like most of his colleagues, prized realism in paintings, declared the movement "Impressionism" after the name of the painting *Impression: A Sunrise*, by Monet. The critic considered the Impressionists' works unfinished — only an impression, rather than a complete painting. It is safe to say that such a critic would be in the minority today, however. Impressionist paintings are now some of the most prized works in the art world. Museums and individuals pay huge sums to add these works to their collections, and the reproductions of the artworks are among the most popular fine art posters sold.

13. The primary purpose of the passage is to _____.
- A. condemn the critics who prevented the Impressionists from exhibiting their work
 - B. contrast Monet's work with that of Pissarro, Renoir, and Cezanne
 - C. describe the primary characteristics of Monet's paintings
 - D. explain the origins of Impressionism and Monet's role in the movement
14. According to the passage, the Impressionists did all of the following EXCEPT _____.
- A. paint the same scene at different times of the day
 - B. paint the light reflected by objects
 - C. receive acclaim from their contemporaries
 - D. reconsider the role of painting in society
15. In line 10 of Para. 1, the author most likely mentions "patches of color" to describe _____.
- A. the light that the Impressionists encountered when they worked outdoors
 - B. a shortcoming of traditional paintings
 - C. a distinguishing characteristic of modern painters
 - D. an innovative technique used by Impressionist painters

16. The discussion of photography (Para. 2) serves as _____.
- A. a description of an innovation that affected the development of Impressionism
 - B. the most important context in which to understand Impressionism
 - C. a demonstration of its similarities to painting
 - D. a clarification of the public's dislike of Impressionism
17. The author of the passage would most likely describe the medium of photography as _____.
- A. expensive
 - B. precise
 - C. false
 - D. inconsistent
18. In Para. 3 "a derisive critique" most nearly means that the criticism was made in a(n) _____ way.
- A. careless
 - B. constructive
 - C. exaggerating
 - D. mocking
19. The "critic" mentioned in line 5 of Para. 3 would most likely agree that _____.
- A. Impressionist paintings are inferior because they fail to clearly represent their subjects
 - B. Impressionism now enjoys a much more prestigious place in the art world than it once did
 - C. Monet's *Impression: A Sunrise* was a highly influential work
 - D. the use of photography to document important events freed painters to explore other roles
20. In line 8 of Para. 3 "prized" most nearly means _____.
- A. awarded
 - B. discovered
 - C. valued
 - D. decorated

II. Correct the mistakes in the following sentences: underline the wrong parts and put the correct ones in the brackets. If there is no error, use a ✓ or write "No error" on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

1. My parents, my younger sister, and me were delighted to see how much my cousin had grown since we last visited his family in the summer.
2. We spent a most enjoyable afternoon sitting on the grass, watching for unusual shaped cloud formation.
3. Beside the dusty road sets a pond, which serves as a breeding ground for several species of the noisiest animals such as fogs.
4. The other students and she felt unprepared when tested on facts not learned in class.
5. Working two jobs is common among struggling actors, the majority of them work in restaurants that allow them flexible hours to audition.
6. Food produced without pesticides poses fewer danger and promotes easier digestion than that produced through traditional agriculture.
7. When Shirin Abadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, many of her colleagues praised her exceptional efforts for democracy and human rights in Iran.

8. Concerned about the coming game on Saturday, each of the team members spent most of the week practicing their plays.
9. Even the San Francisco Earthquake in the spring of 1906 leveled many buildings, it was the subsequent series of fires that destroyed most of the city
10. Studies indicate that the environment in schools where there are fewer adults on staff is often not conducive to learning.

III. English composition (40 points)

Here's a description of a company manager's personal experience in his job:

"I've been working in and with international companies for more than a decade, often specifically brought in to help solve cross-cultural communication or management challenges, or to fix dysfunctional internal corporate cultures. So my ear has become attuned to the 'us versus they' clues. They never listen. They just don't understand. We are right, they are wrong."

The British poet Rudyard Kipling (1865 – 1936) also expressed his understanding of cultural differences by means of a poem "We and They". The following box contains the beginning and the end stanzas excerpted from the poem. Now read the following two stanzas, and then write an argumentation of about 400 words on the topic: "Why are 'They' always wrong?".

We And They (Rudyard Kipling(1865-1936))	
Father and Mother, and Me, Sister and Auntie say All the people like us are We, And every one else is They. And They live over the sea, While We live over the way, But — would you believe it?—They look upon We As only a sort of They! ...	All good people agree, And all good people say, All nice people, like Us, are We And every one else is They; But if you cross over the sea, Instead of over the way, You may end by (think of it!) looking on We As only a sort of They!

Discuss the causes and effects of the differences people feel in cross-cultural communication. Make any recommendations you feel are necessary to help reduce the "we" and "they" gap.

You are required to support your arguments with relevant information and examples based on your own ideas, knowledge and experience.

Marks will be awarded for Content, Organization, Grammar, and Appropriateness. Failure to follow the instruction will result in a loss of marks.

IV. Translation

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

The period of Chinese scientific activity did not begin until the first years of the Republic. The older reformers only introduced a book knowledge of the sciences, without fully understanding their intellectual significance, without adequate equipment for laboratory work, and without adequately trained leaders to organize the studies and researches. Most of the textbooks on science were translated by men who admired science most sincerely but who had only a very superficial book knowledge of the subjects in the Japanese schools, and never did real laboratory work or undertook field expeditions. The schools were beginning to have classroom experiments in physics and chemistry, and botanical and zoological specimens; but they were as bookish as the textbooks, and were useless for the training of scientific workers.

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

徐志摩在《吸烟与文化》中深情地写道：“我在康桥的日子可真是幸福，生怕这辈子再也得不到那样甜蜜的机会了。我不敢说康桥给了我多少学问或是教会了我什么。我不敢说受了康桥的洗礼，一个人就会变气息，脱凡胎。我敢说的只是——就我个人说，我的眼是康桥教我睁的，我的求知欲是康桥给我拨动的，我的自我意识是康桥给我胚胎的。”进入剑桥的人文环境，扑面而来的是诗的气息，各种流派的文学氛围令每一个学子陶醉，让他们的灵魂受到熏陶。徐志摩也不例外。他通读了哈代、狄更斯、雪莱、拜伦等撰写的名著、名诗。他所创作的诗歌都打上了这些大家的烙印。

V.

1. Give short answers to the following questions. Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

- 1) Mention four of the responsibilities of county councils in the UK
- 2) What type of music developed from bluegrass music?
- 3) What has been the aim of the 'Quiet Revolution' in Quebec since the 1980s?
- 4) Which country uses the voting system called Proportional Representation?
- 5) What kind of foreign policy does modern Ireland adopt?

2. Answer the following question. Write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

What is the established church in England? How is it related to the Crown and the State, and on what ground can it change its form of worship?