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2009年湖南农业大学硕士招生自命题科目试题

科目名称及代码：基础英语 （611）
适 用 专 业：外国语言学及应用语言学

考生注意事项：①所有答案必须做在答题纸上，做在试题纸上一律无效。
②按试题顺序答题，在答题纸上标明题目序号。

I. Paraphrase (20 points, 2 points each); write your answer on the answer sheet.

1. Serious looking men spoke to one another as if they were oblivious of the crowds about them.
2. She thinks her sister has held life always in the palm of one hand.
3. The Duchess of Croydon-----three centuries of inbred arrogance behind her----did not yield easily.
4. The widest benefits of the electronic revolution will accrue to the young.
5. Mark Twain was also a man who became obsessed with the frailties of the human race.
6. He is here because ignorance and bigotry are rampant.
7. Every white man there had this thought stowed somewhere or other in his mind.
8. Out of the melting pot emerges a race which hates beauty as it hates truth.
9. All are expressions of the creative transformation of nature by man's reason and skill
10. With a clamor of bells that set the swallows soaring, the Festival of Summer came to the city of Omela,bight-towered by the se.a.

II. Vocabulary and Grammar (20 points, 1 point each)

Decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

1. He knew the information could be of help to _____ took over the job.
A. anyone B. those C. whoever D. the person
2. Yesterday I bought this book _____ three dollars.
A. for B. at C. with D. in
3. _____ much effort, he still failed to pass his driving test.
A. Against B. Though C. Despite D. With

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4. Some people are under the impression that _____ to make a good fisherman is the ability to tell lies easily and without blushing; but this is a mistake.

A. all is required B. all are required

C. all that is required D. all required is

5. _____ to that book is a disadvantage.

A. There to be no index B. There not to be any index

C. There being no index D. There being not index

6. We cheer as a race car driver powers _____ a turn and head _____ the finish line.

A. around… to B. through…for C. about…for D. across…toward

7. It's not _____ that people form opinions of you based at least partly _____ the way you speak and write.

A. surprised…in B. surprising…on

C. being surprising…from D. surprising…by

8. _____ , there are a handful of events upon which most fans will be focusing their interest and their binoculars.

A. Be sure B. Being sure C. To be sure D. It's sure

9. The setting was a minor league town where, _____ just like it, baseball is being rediscovered on a folk level and writers get to throw out the first ball.

A. as many towns B. in as many as towns

C. as in many a town D. as many as towns

10. He as well as I _____ a jobber in the stockbroking firm.

A. is B. am C. are D. were

11.At the head of the valley we turned right and _____ the summit.

A. made for B. went for C. set up D. took up

12. We must _____ all hope of reaching our production target this year.

A. release B. retract C. resign D. abandon

13.To say that soldier fought in battle like lion may be descriptive_____, but it does not mean that he was on all fours, roaring and wagging his tail.

A. anode B. analogue C. analogy D. analytic

14. In World War II the Allies suffered a long _____ of defeats before they finally achieved victory.

A. succession B. compression C. suppression D. streamline

15. John made _____ keys for the house: one for his wife and one for himself.

A. deviate B. duplicate C. dozen D. deliberate

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16. He shook hands with his _____ before the match.
A. opposition B. opponent C. contestant D. competitor
17. He wrote the text book in _____ with his brother.
A. harmony B. collaboration C. union D. connection
18. A philanthropist may, during his lifetime, establish a(n) _____ for scholarship at a university.
A. bequest B. legacy C. endeavour D. endowment
19. He braced himself for the _____ of an evening spent with his mother-in-law.
A. dangers B. threats C. hazards D. menaces
20. A scientist _____ judgement and refrains from drawing conclusions until all the facts are known.
A. suspends B. delays C. adjourns D. defers

III. Fill in each blank with one suitable word (20 points, 1 point each); write your answer on the answer sheet.

We live 1___ an age of change and mobility. The person who has had the same job for twenty years and has lived in same house for that time may have 2___understanding my thoughts expressed here.

Until I was 15 years old I lived in Rochester,N.Y. During that time I 3___three elementary schools, one junior high school and one high school. My last two years of high school were in Miami Beach. I then attended a large state university for four years to earn my B.A., followed by four 4____ years at a second university where I earned my Ph.D. I spent no more 5____ fore years at any of these eight schools. I am employed in my third major job. I left the other 6___ voluntarily after three years each and went on to something new. Now after two years in my present position I'm actively considering what should come next.

Everything has come in two-, three- 7___ four-year cycles. No roots here, no roots there. Upward mobility is the theme. What's next, what's right to get there, thinking more of the future than the 8____ …

I was an excellent student in school;. My Phi Beta Kappa key reminds me that I played 9__ most of the rules. I realize now, 10___ many people do, that most of the book learning has slipped my mind, 11____ the messages given by the teachers all those years still ring loud and strong. Elementary school prepare you for junior high school. Junior high school prepare you for high

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school, so on and so forth. If you work hard enough 12___ the first job, the second job will offer more prestige, power and pay. You would get into the endless cycle of a prosperous and worthwhile life.

Now as an educator, I have become close friends 13____many of my past students. Their lives too are spent in two-, three-or four-year cycles. They too are spread all 14____ North America.

Needless to 15___ , I'm not sure that I want to change my life-style. I have an advantage that reportedly a majority of Americans do not 16___ : I like my work.. Each change of jobs has been stimulating and has caused me to grow as a person. I am away 17___ my extended family, but I spend a lot of time with my nuclear family and find my relationship with my wife and three children to

18___very rewarding. I have made friends all along the way. I have hated to leave any of them, but I have enjoyed watching us change and grow with each move and with each new group of friends. Life is a learning process and by living in a 19____ of places in the U.S. I have come to recognize and appreciate the pluralism within this country. Also, intellectually at least, I allow myself to think that I am 20___ of a free thinker, a person who will take risks and state his views even if it happens to endanger his job security; I pride myself on this, in fact.

IV. Reading (40 points, 2 points each)

Read the following passages and answer the multiple-choice questions; decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage 1

To talk about problem-solving or decision-making within a national environment means examining many complex cultural forces. It means trying to measure the impact of these forces on contemporary life, and also coming to grips with changes now taking place.

For example, the concept of professional identity differs markedly between the U.S. and Japan. In the West, the emphasis is on what a man or woman does for a living. In Japan the most important thing is what organization you work for. This becomes significant when you want to analyze the decision-taking or decision-making process. At least it explains the job stability in Japan, in contrast to the great job mobility in America.

While we differ in many ways, such differences are neither superior nor

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inferior to each other, A particular pattern of management behavior develops from a complexity of unique cultural factors—and will only work in a given culture.

A characteristic is based on “census opinion” and “bottom-up direction”. In Japan great consideration is given to and reliance placed on the thoughts and opinions of everyone at all levels. To understand this, it is important to realize that Japan is a densely populated homogeneous country. Moreover, the people are aware and are articulate. Literacy is almost 100 percent. Problems are shared.

This brings us the second part of this characteristic. The term “bottom-up” refers to a style of management — perhaps what you would call keeping your finger on the impulse of the public. The difference is that in Japan we record the impulse and it has real meaning. It influences the direction finally taken at the top regarding a specific important issue. In other words, western style of decision-making process predominantly from top management and often does not consult the middle management or the workers, while in Japan the direction can be formulated at the lowest level, travel upward through an organization, and have an impact on the final decision.

This places time as a different perspective. In Japan the western deadline approach is secondary to a thorough job. Thus Americans are often exasperated by seemingly endless meetings of the Japanese.

But where the Americans are pressing for a specific decision, the Japanese are trying to formulate a rather broad direction.

On the other hand, once an agreement is reached, it is the Japanese who sometimes wonder at the leisurely pace of execution of Westerners. The Japanese are eager for execution, and Westerners like to take the time for in-depth planning.

1. When comparing difference between concepts, we should take into account all the following EXCEPT_____.

A. cultural force

B. cultural force on contemporary life

C. changes taking place in life

D. preference for harmony or confrontation

2. According to the author, that ordinary employees have impact on decision-making has to do with_____.

A. Japanese dense population and excellent education

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B. its tradition of avoiding professional identity
C. its emphasis on the organization one works for
D. its avoidance of confrontations whenever possible

3. The phrase "to keep your finger on the impulse of the public" means_____.

A. to understand and take appropriate actions
B. to find what is wrong with the public
C. to know the feeling of a group of people
D. to find out if the public approve of a decision

4. Which of the following is a typical Japanese practice?

A. A person moves to other companies frequently in order to improve his position.
B. Several weeks pass after an agreement is reached before action is taken.
C. Several weeks of meetings pass before a decision is made.
D. A decision is made at the top management.

Passage2

His ignorance was as remarkable as his knowledge. Of contemporary literature, philosophy and politics he appeared to know next to nothing. Upon my quoting Thomas Carlyle, he inquired in the naivest way who he might be and what he had done. My surprise reached a climax, however, when I found incidentally that he was ignorant of the Copernican Theory and of the composition of the Solar system.

"You appear to be astonished," Holmes said, smiling at my expression. "Now that I do know it I shall do my best to forget it. You see, I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose: A fool takes in all the lumber of every sort that he comes across, so that the knowledge which might be useful to him gets crowded out, or at best jumbled up with a lot of other things, so that he has difficulty in laying his and upon it. It is a mistake to think that the little room has elastic walls and can distend to any extent. Depend upon it, there comes a time when for every addition of knowledge you forget something that you know before. It is of the highest importance, therefore, not to have useless facts elbowing out the useful ones."

"But the Solar System!" I protested.

"What the deuce is it to me?" he interrupted impatiently.

One morning, I picked up a magazine from the table and attempted to

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while away the time with it, while my companion munched silently at his toast. One of the articles had a pencil mark at the heading, and I naturally began to run my eye through it.

Its somewhat ambitious title was "The Book of Life," and it attempted to show how much an observant man might learn by an accurate and systematic examination of all that came in his way. It struck me as being a remarkable mixture of shrewdness and of absurdity. The reasoning was close and intense, but the deduction appeared to me to be far-fetched and exaggerated. The writer claimed by a momentary expression, a twitch of a muscle or a glance of an eye, to fathom a man's inmost thought. Deceit, according to him, was impossibility in the case of one trained to observation and analysis. His conclusions were as infallible as so many propositions of Eulid. So startling would his results appear to the uninitiated that until they learned the processes by which he had arrived at them they might well consider him as a necromancer.

"From a drop of water", said the writer, "a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic. So all life is a great chain, the nature of which is known whenever we are shown a single link of it. Like all other arts, the Science of Deduction and Analysis is one which can be acquired by long and patient study, nor is life long enough to allow any mortal to attain the highest possible perfection in it."

This smartly written piece of theory I could not accept until a succession of evidences justified it.

5. What is the author's attitude toward Holmes?

A. Praising. B. Critical.

C. Ironical. D. Distaste.

6. What way did the author take to stick out Holmes' uniqueness?

A. By deduction. B. By explanation.

C. By contrast. D. By analysis.

7. What was the Holmes' idea about knowledge- learning?

A. Learning what every body learned.

B. Learning what was useful to you.

C. Learning whatever you came across.

D. Learning what was different to you.

8. What did the article mentioned in the passage talk about?

A. One may master the way of reasoning through observation.

B. One may become rather critical through observation and analysis.

C. One may become rather sharp through observation and analysis.

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D. One may become practical through observation and analysis.

Passage3

Have we not had the best of science? Have we not come up against the law of diminishing returns, ever larger expenditure being needed for ever smaller advances? Would it not be better to call a halt to research and get along with existing knowledge, using the money saved to reduce taxes? This experiment was tried in China by what has been euphemistically called the Culture Revolution. Scientists were harnessed to the plough, research institute closed, or their work was paralysed by perpetual discussions of its political aim. Self-seeking scientists were ordered to shed their success solely to the guidance of Chairman Mao.

What was the result? Did it lead Chinese people back to the ideal of Rousseau, the ideal of so many young people in the West today, a society of noble men and women in harmony with Nature? No, it brought them to the brink of economic collapse, because the problem of keeping everyone fed, clothed and in reasonable health and of protecting the country from foreign invasion cannot be solved without science, not merely because new problems perpetually cry out for solution but because existing knowledge cannot be applied intelligently nor can problems even be formulated without advanced scientific training. So science is here to stay; we cannot wish it away, but must use it to the best advantage, There exists, however, a fundamental dilemma which scientists and society find difficult to face.

Science often exacts a price. Most technical advances are subject to Niels Bohr's principle of complementarily, which he formulated to explain that waves and particles are dual aspects of matter. According to this principle, benefits and risks are complementary aspects of each technical advance. Society must judge between them, but such judgement can present us with agonizing choices where neither moral values nor scientific facts lead us to clear decisions.

For instance, civilization demands that each human being should have a right to expect a reasonable span of life free from hunger and disease. Even partial fulfillment of this expectation has given rise to an exponential(指数的) growth of population that threatens to defeat the very defeat the very demand that produced it .

The replacement of slaves by machines needs energy whose consumption at an ever-increasing rate threatens to destroy the civilized life which it is

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supposed to sustain.

Civilised society will survive only in conditions of national and international peace, while science puts into its hands ever more elaborate, costly and effective means for its own destruction.

9. It is pointed out in the passage that_____.

A. we have had the best of science

B. we should not be satisfied with the existing knowledge if we hope to live a decent life

C. it would be better to stop any scientific research

D. the law of diminishing returns works in the research of any discipline of science

10. Which of the following statements concerning the Cultural Revolution in China is NOT true?

A. During the Culture Revolution period, Chinese scientists had to attribute their success to the guidance of Chairman Mao.

B. During the Culture Revolution period, scientific research in China were replaced by ceaseless political discussions.

C. As a result of the Culture Revolution, Chinese people were brought to the brink of economic ruin.

D. The culture Revolution has lead Chinese people to a society of noble men and women in harmony with Nature.

11. According to this passage, without science, _____.

A. there would be no civilization

B. there would b no human society

C. we would not be able to solve the problem of protecting our country from foreign invasion

D. the growth of population would be out of control

12. To say “most technical advances are subject to Niels Bohr’s principle of complementarity” means that_____.

A. science often demands huge sums of money

B. any technical advance can be used to explain the dual aspects of matter——waves and particles

C. each technical advance has its dual complementary aspects—benefits and risks

D. each technical advance contributes to the invention of more sophisticated and effective means for the destruction of civilized society

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Passage4

The year 1400 opened with more peacefulness than usual in England. On a few months before, Richard E, weak, wicked and treacherous, had been deposed, and Henry IV declared king in his stead. But it was only a seeming peacefulness, lasting for but little while, for King Henry proved himself a just and merciful man—as just and mercy went with the men of iron of those days—and though he did not care to shed blood needlessly, there were many noble families who had been benefited by King Richard during his reign, and who had lost somewhat of their power and prestige from the coming in of the new king.

Among these were a number of great lords who had been degraded from their former titles and estates, from which degradation King Richard had lifted them, they planned to fall upon King Heary and his followers and to massacre them during a great tournament which was being held at Oxford. And they might have succeeded had not one of their own members betrayed them.

But Henry did not appear at the lists, whereupon, knowing that he had been lodging at Windsor with only a few attendants, the conspirators marched there against him. In the mean time, the king had bee warned of the plot. So that instead of finding him in the royal castle, they discovered through their scouts that he had hurried to London, and that he was marching against them at the head of considerable army. So nothing was left but fight. One and another, they were all caught and some killed. Those few who found friends faithful and bold enough to afford them shelter dragged those friends down in their own ruin.

13. What does the author seem to think of King Henry?

A. he was the best king England ever had

B. he was unfair and cowardly

C. he was just as evil as King Richard

D. he was a better ruler than King Richard

14. How did King Henry find out about the plot?

A. his scouts discovered it

B. he saw the conspirators coming

C. one of the conspirators told him

D. he found a copy of the conspirator plan

15. How did the conspirator find out that Henry was in London?

A. they saw him leave Windsor

B. Henry’s attendants told them

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C. they saw him at the tournament
D. their scouts told them
16. Why did the nobles wish to kill King Henry?
A. Henry had taken away power given to them by Richard
B. Henry was weak, wicked and treacherous
C. Henry had needlessly killed members of their families
D. Henry had killed King Richard.

Passage5

Can a computer think? That depends on what you mean by "think". If solving a mathematical problem is "thinking", then a computer can "think" and do so much faster than a man. Of course, most mathematical problems can be solved quite mechanically by repeating certain straight forward processes over and over again. Even the simple computers of today can be geared for that.

It is frequently said that computers solve problems only because they are "programmed" to do so. They can only do what men have them do. One must remember that human beings also can only do what they are "programmed" to do. Our genes "program" us the instant the fertilized ovum is formed, and our potentialities are limited by that "program".

Our "program" is so much more enormously complex, though, that we might like to define "thinking" in terms of the creativity that goes into writing a great play or composing a great symphony, in conceiving a brilliant scientific theory or a profound ethical judgement. In that sense, computers certainly can't think and neither can most humans.

Surely, though, if a computer can be made complex enough, it can be as creative as we. If it could be made as complex as a human brain, it could be the equivalent of a human brain and do whatever a human brain can do.

To suppose anything else is to suppose hat there is more to the human brain than the matter that composes it. The brain is made up of cells in a certain arrangement and the cells are made up of atoms and molecules in certain arrangements. If anything else is there, no signs of it have ever been detected. To duplicate the material complexity of the brain is therefore to duplicate everything about it.

But how long will it take to build a computer complex enough to duplicate the human brain? Perhaps not as long as some think. Long before we approach a computer as complex as our brain, we will Perhaps build a

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computer that is at least complex enough to design another computer more complex than itself. This more complex computer could design one still more complex and so on and so on.

In other words, once we pass a certain critical point, the computers take over and there is a "complexity explosion". In a very short time thereafter, computers may exist that not only duplicate the human brain—but far surpass it.

17. What does the passage tell us about computers of today?
A. They are simple and they operate mechanically.
B. They cannot solve difficult mathematically problems.
C. Unlike human beings, they have to be programmed before they can do anything.
D. They will never be able to equal the human brain.
18. In what sense does the writer think that humans are programmed?
A. Their characteristics, powers, etc. are fixed before birth.
B. He thinks a man's abilities are not limited, as a computers ARE .
C. In the sense that humans will always be superior to computers.
D. Computer must be operated by men, but man can operate by himself.
19. In what sense is the average human being unable to "think"?
A. It is not true. All humans being can "think" in all sense.
B. It's only a question of speed. We are unable to think fast.
C. Most people do not have great creative ability.
D. The average human being has faults in his or her program, and that's why he or she can't think.
20. What does the writer think about the human brain?
A. That it is a very complex arrangement of atoms and molecules in cells.
B. He thinks that it has certain magical or spiritual qualities.
C. He thinks that it is just as the best modern computers.
D. That it is better than any computer can ever be.

V. Write out what figure of speech is used in each of the following sentences (15 points, 1.5 point each); write your answer on the answer sheet.
1. In the evening she wears soft rich colours. ( )
2. Doubtless a nine-year-old mind is housed in that 150 pounds of unguided muscle..( )
3.One shop announced:DarwinIs ight—Inside.( )
4. Gray peace pervaded the wilderness-ringed Argentia Bay in Newfoundland.

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( )

5. I want my fill of beauty before I go. ( )

6. One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. ( )

7.And then I like all the small noises of a ship: the faint creaking, as of the saddle-leather to a horseman riding across turf, the slap of a rope, the hiss of sudden spray. ( )

8. His speech brought the house down. ( )

9. …until we are marching backwards to the glorious age of the sixteenth century.( )

10. Dudley Field Malone called my conviction a "victorious defeat." ( )

VI. Writing (35 points)

Write an essay of 500 words according to the following topic:

On Beauty

First, put forward your point of view on beauty; second, explain the relationship between beauty and work; third, explain the relationship between beauty and life; at last, make a conclusion of your essay.

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