

华中科技大学

二〇〇六年招收硕士研究生入学考试试题

考试科目: 英语

适用专业: 单考各专业

(除画图题外, 所有答案都必须写在答题纸上, 写在试题上及草稿纸上无效, 考完后试题随答题纸交回)

I. Vocabulary and structure (10%)

Directions: There are 20 incomplete sentences in this part. For each sentence there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the ONE answer that best completes the sentence. Then write your answer on the Answer Sheet.

1. ___ a certain doubt among the students as to the necessity of doing the work.
A. It existed B. There existed C. They existed D. There existing
2. Fortunately we had a map, without ___ we would have got lost.
A. that B. one C. which D. it
3. The twins are so much ___ that it is difficult to tell one from the other.
A. like B. alike C. same D. similar
4. Newspapers both received and run so many advertisements each day that it is ___ to expect them to check each item for the honesty and integrity of its claim.
A. a too far great task B. a far too great task
C. far too great a task D. a great too far task
5. You should not only learn the basics of a theory, but also apply ___ you learn in the interest of society.
A. that B. which C. those D. what
6. Many people favor ___ more nuclear plants.
A. to build B. build C. building D. built
7. By the year 2000, the earth will inhabit twice as many people as it ___ today.
A. is B. does C. had D. has
8. ___ that the pilot couldn't fly through it.
A. The storm so severe was B. So the storm was severe
C. So severe was the storm D. Such was the storm severe

9. I ___ the plumber as I learned later that John had already phoned him.
 A. needn't phone B. needn't have phoned
 C. didn't have to phone D. shouldn't have phoned
10. There are many places to which I return with pleasure again and again, but ___ full of memories and nostalgia than the island of Martha's..
 A. one rather B. no more C. none more D. few so
11. We may ___ with confidence that sooner or later large numbers of people will feel the effects of influenza virus.
 A. proclaim B. focus C. prophesy D. persist
12. John was ___ kept under house-arrest for these five days.
 A. secretly B. practically C. judicially D. rightfully
13. There still exists some ___ between his explanation of the theory and yours.
 A. disparity B. disjunction C. discredit D. distinction
14. He often ___ the purpose of life.
 A. swerves from B. embarks upon C. adheres to D. ponders
15. Do you know all the ___ of the case?
 A. gist B. outlines C. synopsis D. details
16. Ideas are, in the long run, more powerful than ___ weapons.
 A. imaginary B. sophisticated C. real D. atomic
17. Nobody knows how he has ___ such a large fortune.
 A. obtained B. spent C. seen D. taken
18. Most traditional folk songs are of ___ origin.
 A. insignificant B. inconspicuous C. unusual D. unknown
19. My years of hard work and research will _____.
 A. cost much money B. end in failure
 C. come to an end D. have good results
20. Even though no one was seriously injured, the plane crash was a terrible ___ for the passengers.
 A. fantasy B. distress C. flight D. deviation

II. Cloze (10%)

Directions: *Of the fifteen words given, choose ten words which best fill in the ten numbered blanks of the following passage. Each word can be used once.*

predict tell scientists investigators prescribe classify typical
 detect frequently evident showed correct against identify with

Test conducted at the University of Pennsylvania's Psychological Laboratory 21 that anger is one of the most difficult emotions to 22 from facial expression. Professor Dallas E. Buzby confronted 716 students 23 pictures of extremely angry persons and asked them to 24 the emotion from the facial expression. Only two percent made 25 judgments. Anger was most 26 judged as "pleased". And a 27 reaction of a student confronted with the picture of a man who was hopping mad was to 28 his expression as either bewildered, "quizzical", or simply "amazed". Other studies showed that it is extremely difficult to 29 whether a man is angry or not just by looking at his face. The 30 found further that women are better at detecting anger from facial expression than men are. Paradoxically, they judge emotions by the expressions but appear actually to hinder it. For in the university tests, the more courses the subject had taken in psychology, the poorer judgment scores he turned in.

III. Reading comprehension (20%)

Directions: *There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by 5 questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and write your answer on the Answer Sheet.*

Passage One

In recent years, there has been an increasing awareness for the inadequacies of the judicial system in the United States. Costs are staggering both for the taxpayers and the litigants, and the litigants or parties, have to wait sometimes many years before having their day in court.

Many suggestions have been made concerning methods of improving the situation, but as in most branches of government, changes come slowly. One suggestion that has been made in order to maximize the efficiency of the system is to allow judges from other districts that do not have such a backlog. Another suggestion is to use pretrial conference, in which the judge meets in his chambers with the litigants and their attorneys in order to narrow the issues, limit the witnesses, and provide for a more orderly trial. The theory behind pretrial conferences is that judges will spend less time on each case and parties will more readily settle before trial when they realize the adequacy of their claims and their opponent's evidence. Unfortunately, at least one study has shown that pretrial conferences actually use more judicial time than they save, rarely result in pretrial settlements, and actually result in higher damage settlement.

Many states have now established another method, small-claims courts, in which cases over small sums of money can be disposed of with considerable dispatch. Such proceedings cost the litigants almost nothing. In California, for example, the parties must appear before the judge without the assistance of counsel. The proceedings are quite informal and there is no pleading – the litigants need to make only a one-sentence statement of their claim. By going to this type of court, the plaintiff waives any right to a jury trial and the right to appeal the decision.

31. The pretrial conference in theory is supposed to do all of the following except ____.

- A. narrow the issues
 B. save judicial time
 C. cause early settlements
 D. increase settlement costs
32. What is the main topic of the passage?
 A. All states should follow California's example in using small-claims courts in order to free judges from other work.
 B. The legislature needs to formulate fewer laws so that the judiciary can catch up on its old class.
 C. Nobody seems to care enough to attempt to find method for asking the judicial system more efficient.
 D. While there are many problems with the court system, there are various suggestions for improvement.
33. The word "litigants" means most nearly _____.
 A. jury members B. parties in a lawsuit C. commentators D. taxpayers
34. Which of the following is true about small-claims courts?
 A. It is possible to have one's case heard by a jury if he is dissatisfied with the court's decision.
 B. The litigants must plead accurately and according to a form.
 C. The decision may not be appealed to a higher court.
 D. The parties may not present their case without an attorney's help.
35. What can we assume from the passage?
 A. Most people who feel they have been wronged have a ready remedy in courts of law.
 B. Many people would like to bring a case to a court but are unable to because of the cost and time required.
 C. The judicial system in the US is highly acclaimed for its efficiency.
 D. Pretrial conferences will someday have replaced trials completely.

Passage Two

Icebergs are among nature's most spectacular creations, and yet most people have never seen one. A vague air of mystery envelops them. They come into being – somewhere – in faraway, frigid waters, among thunderous noise and splashing turbulence, which in most cases no one hears or sees. They exist only a short time and then slowly waste away just as unnoticed. Objects of sheerest beauty, they have been called. Appearing in an endless variety of shapes, they may be dazzlingly white, or they may be glassy blue, green or purple, tinted faintly or in darker hues. They are graceful, stately, inspiring – in calm, sunlit seas.

But they are also called frightening and dangerous, and that they are – in the night, the fog, and in storms. Even in clear weather one is wise to stay a safe distance away from them. Most of their bulk is hidden below the water, so their underwater parts may extend out far beyond the visible top. Also, they may roll over unexpectedly, churning the waters around them.

Icebergs are parts of glaciers that break off, drift into the water, float about awhile, and finally melt. Icebergs afloat today are made of snowflakes that have fallen over long ages of time. They embody snows that drifted down hundreds, or many thousands, or in some cases maybe a million years ago. The snows fell in polar regions and on cold mountains, where they melted only a little or not at all, and so collected to great depths over the years and centuries.

As each year's snow accumulation lay on the surface, evaporation and melting caused the snowflakes slowly to lose their feathery points and become tiny grains of ice. When new snow fell on top of the old, it too turned to icy grains. So blankets of snow and ice grains mounted compressed the lower ones. With time and pressure from above, the many small ice grains joined and changed to larger crystals, and eventually the deeper crystals merged into a solid mass of ice.

36. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

- A. The melting of icebergs.
- B. The nature and origin of icebergs.
- C. The size and shape of icebergs.
- D. The dangers of icebergs.

37. The author states that icebergs are rarely seen because they are ____.

- A. surrounded by fog
- B. hidden beneath the mountains
- C. located in remote regions of the world
- D. broken by waves soon after they are formed

38. The passage mentions all the following colors for icebergs EXCEPT ____.

- A. yellow
- B. blue
- C. green
- D. purple

39. According to the passage, icebergs are dangerous because they ____.

- A. usually melt quickly
- B. can turn over very suddenly
- C. may create immense snowdrifts
- D. can cause unexpected collapse

40. According to the passage, icebergs originate from a buildup of ____.

- A. turbulent water
- B. feathers
- C. underwater pressure
- D. snowflakes

Passage Three

The year 1400 opened with more peacefulness than usual in England. On a few months before, Richard II, 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 Henry 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 meantime, the king had been 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.

41. 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.
42. 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.
43. How did the conspirator find out that Henry was in London?
- A. They saw him leave Windsor.
 - B. Henry's attendants told them.
 - C. They saw him at the tournament.
 - D. Their scouts told them.

44. 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 Richards.

45. It can be inferred that Richard II's reign was _____.

- A. peaceful
- B. democratic
- C. corrupt
- D. illegal

Passage Four

Scientists in the 1950s proclaimed the robot, the brainwave of the future – it would free housewives of drudgery and fill factories with a tireless work force. But in many ways, the brainwave has been a washout.

Robots can paint cars, salvage nuclear fuel and even assist in brain survey, but they're still pretty dumb. Mr. Reddy says robots are dumb "because we haven't taken the trouble to put the pieces together not because we don't know how. That takes money and time and effort, and we don't have the money."

But today robots can recognize forms and shapes and measure distances. They can hear and speak by using computers that recognize thousands of words. Their sensors can detect smoke or fumes. They can move about rolling on wheels or walk with as many as eight legs like a spider on uneven terrain. In addition, they can recognize texture and the force of a movement, such as a pressing.

Many robots have one or two of these abilities to some degree, but creating a competent robot that combines most or all of them has been difficult. Scientists have also found it difficult to match human abilities that most people take for granted, such as the finger's dexterity or the ability to identify objects.

"The list of things that robots can do better than humans is much, much shorter than the list of things robots cannot", says Tom Smith, co-director of the Cambridge Mellon Institute.

46. Which of the following best expresses the idea of the passage?

- A. Robots will have a long way to go.
- B. What can robots do today.
- C. How to improve the abilities of robots.
- D. Difficulties in creating a competent robots.

47. In the 50's scientists predicted that robots _____.

- A. would have brains
- B. would replace workers in factories
- C. would be able to salvage nuclear fuel
- D. would be pretty dumb

48. The present state of robot is due to ____.
- A. scientist's inability of creating a competent robot
 - B. shortage of money and time
 - C. inadequate technical know-how
 - D. the trouble in putting together a robot
49. Which of the following ability is NOT possessed by robots?
- A. identifying objects B. sense of smell
 - C. moving on flat floor D. recognizing things
50. When the author says robots are still dumb, he means ____.
- A. robots have not yet possessed sense of touch
 - B. robots still cannot read
 - C. there are still many things robots cannot do
 - D. humans are no match for robots

IV. Writing (10%)

Directions: Write a composition in about 150 words based on the title "Launching into the outer space".