

# 温州大學

## 2007 年研究生入学考试试题 A

考试科目: 416 英语写作

报考学科、专业: 英语语言文学

请注意:全部答案必须写在答题纸上, 否则不给分。

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

According to Xiao Li, the fifteen students of his class fall into three groups. Seven of them work hard and study well. They always get good marks in examinations and are often praised by the teachers. Li calls them “ good students.” The monitor, the secretary of the Youth League branch, and the captain of the class volleyball team, are quick in finding out what their fellow students are interested in or what they should do as a collective. They always organize proper activities at the proper time, so Li calls them “ good organizers”. Four other students are very kind to other classmates, always ready to lend them a helping hand. They also help clean the classroom and the corridor even when they are not on duty. Li says that they are “ good fellows.” “ What about you?” someone asks him. “ I’m a group by myself-----a good observer.”

Here is the comment on the above passage. “ The writer’s way of classifying his classmates , though unscientific, is suited to his purpose”.

#### Questions:

1. Why is it unscientific?
2. How does it suit its purpose?

### II. Read the passage and write a précis of approximately one-third of its original length ( 25/150 points ).

“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 insane.

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".

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?

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.

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!

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 oriented society. Regardless of how much I hate it, I must continue 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 who probably thought this whole thing up.

( About 800 words )

### **III. Read and write ( 35/150 points ).**

Not too long ago, a local radio talk show was giving young people free tickets to some concert. All you needed to do was to call and play a music instrument on the radio. This mother called and got her 12-year old daughter to the phone with her violin. From the very first note, I knew my day was ruined: it was not much more musical than the nerve-racking squawking made by a chicken being chased by a naughty puppy and I had a hard time shaking it off of my ear-drums for the rest of the day. When the acoustic torture was over, the mother cheered: " Isn't she wonderful?!" for a second, even the forever nice, warm ,and enthusiastic host and hostess found themselves tongue-tied. " How long has your daughter learnt to play the violin?" they recovered right away. " Four years. Isn't she wonderful?!" answered the proud mother.

This reminded me of the early summer of 1981 on the breath-takingly beautiful campus of Beijing University.

The Fulbright program ( one of the first such cultural exchange programs run in China after it reopened its door to the outside world ) was just over and we were excited. We were shamelessly anxious to find out how the grey-haired, distinguished-looking American professor was going to evaluate us. " You're the best student I've ever taught..." one of us tore open his report and read loud proudly. His joy proved premature: " You're the very best I've ever taught..." another of us was thus congratulated by the same venerable professor, which was quickly challenged by another announcement in another report: " You're by far the best I've ever

taught....”

We were confused, scratching our heads off: who was really the best?

A few years later in a graduate seminar on Shakespeare during my first semester in the States, I wrote a paper on the paradoxical nature of Othello’s character. At the end of a heated discussion, ( among a group of “ cocky neurotics,” to borrow Vladimir Nebokov ) on the paper, the professor, his well-trimmed whiskers quivering, his eyes sparkling with humor, declared to the conclave that my paper was an excellent example of the Humanistic approach to... .”

My head began to turn, until I saw the grade when I got the paperback. It wasn’t a bad grade at all, but not exactly what his enthusiasm had led me to expect. Little did I know that in my absence the fashion-sensitive academia had been swept off its feet by the deconstructive performance of Jacques Derrida and the time honored Humanistic approach smelt like great-granny’s old petticoat stored away in a dark, damp, and dusty attic

I’ve since learnt that on this side of the Pacific generosity is nor short in supply when it comes to make people feel proud of themselves... .

**1. Paraphrase the following sentence:**

“Little did I know that in my absence the fashion-sensitive academia had been swept off its feet by the deconstructive performance of Jacques Derrida and the time honored Humanistic approach smelt like great-granny’s old petticoat stored away in a dark, damp, and dusty attic.”

**2. Make detailed comments on the whole passage in terms of its thesis, development and way or tone of expression.**

**IV. Essay writing ( 70/150 points ).**

It is morally wrong to pass off as your own any writing you did not do. To present such work without acknowledging the source----and therefore let someone assume it is yours when , in fact, it is not----is plagiarism. Please write an essay in over 300 words under the title given below. Grading will be based on the ideas, language and logic of the writing.

**Plagiarism**