

2004 年硕士学位研究生招生入学考试试题

试题编号： 200415058

考试科目： 基础英语 (满分 150 分)

考生注意：所有答案（包括填空题）按试题序号写在答题纸上，写在试卷上不加分

1. Give synonyms and antonyms of the following (20%)

1) Give synonyms

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (1) to grapple | (2) innate |
| (3) exhilarated | (4) aptly |
| (5) frivolous | (6) to coerce |
| (7) exertion | (8) entertaining |
| (9) nettled | (10) sensational |

2) Give antonyms

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (1) languid | (2) infallible |
| (3) reticent | (4) detachment |
| (5) transitory | (6) altruistic |
| (7) optional | (8) arrogant |
| (9) frustrated | (10) virtue |

2. Reading Comprehension (40%)

Passage 1

The speaker made the point that, although there were many good reasons in favour of equality for women in all spheres, and particularly perhaps in the sphere of political activity where they needed a voice, and above all needed to be able to influence others on their behalf, there were reasons against this as matters stood at the present time. He was asked whether any matters, regardless of how far they seemed to be in the interests of government and leaving aside the question of the popularity or otherwise of the move, could be more important than the liberty of a large section of the population of what was a so-called "free" country. He replied that he had repeated before that the moral issue was a clear one; however, emotional appeals and the use of words like "freedom" and "justice" avoided the most practical aspect of the affair. No government in its senses, however enlightened its leaders, however large its majority, however secure in the favour of the people was going to be able to introduce a

motion such as "Votes for Women" without considerable controversy flaring up. How much less were they going to be able to introduce it with a government on the brink of falling, the nation on the edge of war and the country radically opposed to any move which would seem to the electorate to threaten the long established traditions of the British way of life.

1. What was most probably the speaker?
[A] a journalist
[B] a politician
[C] a university professor
[D] a research student
2. In which sphere did the speaker think that women need equality most?
[A] in economic affairs
[B] in political activities
[C] in family life
[D] in social security
3. What was the question put to the speaker?
[A] what he thought the most important thing was for the country
[B] whether he thought liberty of the population was important
[C] whether there was anything more important than women's liberation
[D] what the government's stand was on the "Votes for Women"
4. What did the questioner wish to be excluded from discussion?
[A] practicability of the move
[B] emotional appeals
[C] freedom and justice
[D] votes for women
5. According to the speaker, under what circumstances might it have been easier to introduce "Votes for Women"?
[A] if the leaders of the nation had been more enlightened
[B] if the government had been in the favour of the population
[C] if women had been the majority of the population
[D] if the nation had been at its best economically and politically

Passage 2

Where the Books Are

They are what Angkor War is to Cambodia, or Disney World to America: the very souls of their countries, rendered in glass, wood and brick. In Paris, the Bibliotheque Nationale de France--four towers at the corners of a vast plaza--opened last winter with an exhibition whose title ("All the World's Knowledge") suggests that whatever library might occupy second place, you don't need to know about it. And in London, passersby can at last glimpse the shape of the British Library, whose architecture Prince Charles once famously likened to an academy for secret police. It is the most expensive building in Britain and its foremost monument to the national pastime of muddling through. Or it will be, if it's ever finished.

For architect Colin St. John Wilson, the British Library has ruled his life since the fateful day 35 years ago when he was asked to design a new home for the book collection of the British Museum. Over the next decade and a half he did two completely different plans for sites near the museum, but the residents of Bloomsbury vetoed the idea, so in 1977 he started over at a new site near St. Pancras station. Governments came and went, budgets were cut and restored, and five more years elapsed before construction began. Along the way, the computer was perfected, rendering obsolete the intended centerpiece of Wilson's design: a monumental six-story atrium displaying the card catalogs. "My heart dropped" on learning that the library had switched to a database, Wilson said. After much thought, he redesigned the atrium to house the 60,000-volume collection of King George III. Patriotically, Wilson turned down an offer to head "a major architecture school" in the States, and his reward was public humiliation at the hands of the prince, who, in his reverence for the 18th century, didn't understand why the building wasn't covered in moss, like a proper library. All of Wilson's other work promptly dried up. As his building prepares for the first phase of its opening in November, Wilson, 75, may be the only major English architect with a better shot at sainthood than knighthood.

The Bibliotheque, by contrast, was decreed one day in 1988 by French President Francois Mitterrand and constructed with a magisterial indifference to political, budgetary or esthetic considerations. An 18-acre site was cleared on the eastern edge of the city, the young architect Dominique Perrault was hired, construction began in 1990 and the first reading rooms opened to the public last December. Although Perrault has been spared a lecture by the prince, his creation is controversial both with the public and with employees, whose characteristic brusqueness is now charged with resentment that since moving to this remote part of Paris they haven't had a decent lunch.

The British Library is a big building, over a million square feet, but the Bibliotheque is half again as big. Both buildings bury much of their bulk below grade, but Perrault

perplexingly chose to put the people underground and house the books in the towers, he has an elaborate theoretical justification for this. The building, he says, "goes beyond the concept" of a "natural ground." Ground is wherever you walk. "This has received a lot of criticism," he admits, "but you have to experience it before you can understand it." In practice, though, it meant bringing daylight to the reading rooms by digging a 600-foot-long sunken garden, while protecting the books from the same daylight by lining the glass towers with wooden shutters. Britain's Wilson lights his reading rooms with clerestory windows and stores the books in cellars. "That," he says disingenuously, "is where a Frenchman puts his wine."

Both libraries, in addition to vast historical collections, receive copies of everything published in their respective countries each year. A press release from the Bibliotheque boasts that authors are thus assured that "their works will be preserved for posterity," while a guide at the British Library, making the same point, remarks that "this means we get all sorts of rubbish that no one will ever look at." The Bibliotheque stands in the great French tradition of logic carried to inhuman extremes: austere and rigidly symmetrical, an idea of a building projected full-blown onto the earth. ("It is a simple idea," says Perrauh. "I took everything but the four corners of a square and put it into the ground. So, you have the absence of a building. It is a paradox.") One enters from a vast plaza invisible from the street because it is rated on dozens of narrow- wooden steps; passes shrubs bizarrely locked behind metal grates; then descends a long, slow escalator. Fast the garden no one is allowed to use. By thus expressing in its architecture the futility and absurdity of existence, the library creates the proper frame of mind for appreciating Sartre or Derrida. The British Library, by contrast, is a sprawling warren of halls, arranged around a welcoming courtyard, whose warm red brick echoes the Victorian turrets of St. Pancras-the perfect place to curl up with a volume of Ruskin or Wordsworth. It is a building that for all its size manages to be oddly unassuming, that expresses its fundamental humanism in the most direct way possible. By never being finished.

With Maggie Malone

Comprehension

1. What is the main theme of the passage?

- A. The new British national library will never open.
- B. Two national libraries reflect their nations' characters.
- C. Colin St. John Wilson is a failure as an architect.
- D. The invention of the computer has made libraries obsolete.

2. According to the passage, Britain's national pastime is:

- A. Muddling through.
- B. Cricket.
- C. Reading.
- D. Criticizing academies.

3. The centerpiece of Wilson's design was rendered obsolete because:
 - A. Prince Charles publicly humiliated Wilson.
 - B. government budgets were cut and restored.
 - C. there were too many books in King George III's collection.
 - D. computer databases replaced traditional card catalogs.

4. Wilson lost his other work as a consequence of
 - A. the British Library's not being covered in moss.
 - B. his not being given a knighthood.
 - C. Prince Charles' criticism of his design for the British Library.
 - D. his turning down an offer to head a U.S. architecture school.

5. The author develops the passage by:
 - A. contrasting the national characters of the French and British.
 - B. arguing that the French library is superior to the British one.
 - C. following closely the career of Colin St. John Wilson.
 - D. discussing the modern trends in the architecture of libraries.

6. The writer mentions that the French library's employees "haven't had a decent lunch" in order to:
 - A. highlight the difficulties they are facing working in a remote part of Paris.
 - B. point out that Perrault chose the wrong site for the new library.
 - C. suggest that a restaurant is an important part of any library.
 - D. hint that French people are more interested in their stomachs than their brains.

7. "Projected full-blown onto the earth" is closest in meaning to:
 - A. blown by the wind from another planet.
 - B. put in place as single solid piece.
 - C. inflated like a balloon and anchored to the ground.
 - D. forced up out the ground by an explosion.

8. "Oddly unassuming" means:
 - A. Surprisingly incomplete.
 - B. Shockingly grotesque.
 - C. Strangely unimposing.
 - D. Amazing bizarre.

9. What does the final paragraph tell us about the respective characters of the French and British?
 - A. The French are more inhuman than the British.
 - B. The French like square buildings, while the British like buildings with more contours.
 - C. The French value books more than the British do.
 - D. The French are stiff and formal, while the British are casual and relaxed.

10. How would you describe the tone of the passage?

A. Cynical and indifferent.

B. Excited and approving.

C. Light-hearted and humorous.

D. Scornful and angry.

Passage 3

No company likes to be told it is contributing to the moral decline of a nation. "Is this what you intended to accomplish with your careers?" an American senator asked Time Warner executives recently. "You have sold your souls, but must you corrupt our nation and threaten our children as well?" At Time Warner, however, such questions are simply the latest manifestation of the soul-searching that has involved the company ever since the company was born in 1990. It's a self-examination that has, at various times, involved issues of responsibility, creative freedom and the corporate bottom line.

At the core of this debate is chairman Gerald Levin, 56, who took over from the late Steve Ross in the early 1990s. On the financial front, Levin is under pressure to raise the stock price and reduce the company's mountainous debt, which will increase to \$17.3 billion after two new cable deals close. He has promised to sell off some of the property and restructure the company, but investors are waiting impatiently.

The flap over rap is not making life any easier for him. Levin has consistently defended the company's rap music on the grounds of expression. In 1992, when Time Warner was under fire for releasing Ice-T's violent rap song *Cop Killer*, Levin described rap as a lawful expression of street culture, which deserves an outlet. "The test of any democratic society," he wrote in a Wall Street Journal column, "lies not in how well it can control expression but in whether it gives freedom of thought and expression the widest possible latitude, however disputable or irritating the results may sometimes be. We won't retreat in the face of any threats."

Levin would not comment on the debate last week, but there were signs that the chairman was backing off his hard-line stand, at least to some extent. During the discussion of rock singing verses at last month's stockholders' meeting, Levin asserted that "music is not the cause of society's ills" and even cited his son, a teacher in the Bronx, New York, who uses rap to communicate with students. But he talked as well about the "balanced struggle" between creative freedom and social responsibility, and he announced that the company would launch a drive to develop standards for distribution and labeling of potentially objectionable music.

The 15-member Time Warner board is generally supportive of Levin and his corporate strategy. But insiders say several of them have shown their concerns in this matter. "Some of us have known for many, many years that the freedoms under the First Amendment are not totally unlimited," says Luce. "I think it is perhaps the case that some people associated with the company have only recently come to realize this."

Please answer the following question:

1. Why did an American senator criticize Time Warner?
2. What does the author mean here (line 1, paragraph 3) by “flap”
3. In 1992, Why did Time Warner cause public outrage?
4. How did Levin do in face of recent affects on the company?
5. According to the passage, what do you infer from this sentence: “profits and social responsibility can rarely go hand in hand in the company.”

Passage 3

The Sacred “Rac”

1. An Indian anthropologist, Chandra Thapar, made a study of foreign cultures which had customs similar to those of his native land. One culture in particular fascinated him because it reveres one animal as sacred, much as the people in India revere the cow. The things he discovered might interest you since you will be studying India as part of this course.
2. The tribe Dr. Thapar studied is called the Asu and is found on the American continent north of the Tarahumara of Mexico. Though it seems to be a highly developed society of its type, it has an overwhelming preoccupation with the care and feeding of the rac-an animal much like a bull in size, strength and temperament. In the Asu tribe, it is almost a social obligation to own at least one if not more racs. Anyone not possessing at least one is held in low esteem by the community because he is too poor to maintain one of these beasts properly. Some members of the tribe, to display their wealth and social prestige, even own herds of racs.
3. Unfortunately the rac breed is not very healthy and usually does not live more than five to seven years. Each family invests large sums of money each year to keep its rac healthy and shod, for it has a tendency to throw its shoes often. There are rac specialists in each community, perhaps more than one if the community is particularly wealthy. These specialists, however, due to the long period of ritual training they must undergo and to the difficulty of obtaining the right selection of charms to treat the rac, demand costly offerings

whenever a tribesman must treat his ailing rac.

4. At the age of sixteen in many Asu communities, many youths undergo a puberty rite in which the rac figures prominently. The youth must petition a high priest in a grand temple. He is then initiated into the ceremonies that surround the care of the rac and is permitted to keep a rac.

5. Although the rac may be used as a beast of burden, it has many habits which would be considered by other cultures as detrimental to the life of the society. In the first place the rac breed is increasing at a very rapid rate and the Asu tribesmen have given no thought to curbing the rac population. As a consequence the Asu must build more and more paths for the rac to travel on since its delicate health and its love of racing other racs at high speeds necessitates that special areas be set aside for its use. The cost of smoothing the earth is too costly for any one individual to undertake; so it has become a community project and each tribesman must pay an annual tax to build new paths and maintain the old. There are so many paths needed that some people move their homes because the rac paths must be as straight as possible to keep the animal from injuring itself. Dr. Thapar also noted that unlike the cow, which many people in his country hold sacred, the excrement of the rac cannot be used as either fuel or fertilizer. On the contrary, its excrement is exceptionally foul and totally useless. Worst of all, the rac is prone to rampages in which it runs down anything in its path, much like stampeding cattle. Estimates are that the rac kills thousands of the Asu in a year.

6. Despite the high cost of its upkeep, the damage it does to the land, and its habit of destructive rampages, the Asu still regard it as being essential to the survival of their culture.

COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions.

1. What society reveres the rac? _____

2. Where is the tribe located? _____

3. T/F People who don't own racs are not respected in the Asu community.

4. Why does it cost so much to have a rac specialist treat an ailing rac? _____

5. T/F An Asu must pass through a special ceremony before being permitted to keep a rac.

6. How is the rac helpful to the Asu? _____

7. What effects does the size of the rac population have on the life of the Asu? _____

8. T/F Rac excrement can be used as fuel or as fertilizer.

9. According to the author, what is the worst characteristic of the rac? _____
10. T/F The Asu feel that their culture cannot survive without the rac. _____
11. What is rac spelled backward? _____

3. Translation (50%)

A. English — Chinese. (25%)

All language changes over a period of time, for reasons which are imperfectly understood. Or rather, since speech is really a form of human activity, like dancing or playing the piano—and not an entity in itself—it is more exact to say that each successive generation behaves linguistically in a slightly different manner from its predecessors. In his teens the young man is impatient of what he considers to be the unduly stilted vocabulary and pronunciation of his elders and he likes to show how up to date he is by the use of the latest slang, but as the years go by some of his slang becomes standard usage and in any case he slowly grows less receptive to linguistic novelties, so that by the time he reaches his forties he will probably be lamenting the slipshod speech of the younger generation, quite unaware that some of the expressions and pronunciations now being used in all seriousness in pulpit and law court were frowned upon by his own parents. In this respect language is a little like fashions in men's dress. The informal clothes of one generation become the everyday wear of the next, and just as young doctors and bank clerks nowadays go about their business in sports-jackets, so they allow into their normal vocabulary various expressions which were once confined to slang and familiar conversation. (Brian Fester: The Changing English Language)

B. Chinese — English. (25%)

科学的疆界经过多年研究，为科学所特有的语言、艺术、技术和知识从哪怕是最文明的社会普通遗产中划分开来。任何一个投身科学领域的工作者都有一种感觉，既远离家庭又远离以科学作为基础和起源的实践工艺的感觉。而这些实践工艺正是我们今天所说的艺术。

4. Writing (40%)

You have come across the following statement in a newspaper article. "Today any Chinese can enjoy the luxury of owning a private car—that is, if he can afford it. However,

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with conditions as they are in this country, one may well wonder who would ever want to own a private car. Cars, according to many Chinese citizens, can only bring people trouble."

Write a letter of about 300 words to the same newspaper to state your agreement or disagreement with the statement. You should use your own ideas, knowledge or experience to support your argument and include examples.

Marks will be awarded for content, organization, grammar and appropriacy. Failure to follow the above instructions may result in a loss of marks.