

华东师范大学

一九九八年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试

考试科目：基础英语

专业：英语语言文学

共8页

I. Beneath each sentence you will see four words. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.(20%)

1. The management has been promising a(n) _____ in salary for ages, but nothing has happened.
a. raising b. rise c. augmentation d. growth
2. He arrived late at work and gave his boss a lame _____.
a. apology b. reason c. excuse d. argument
3. In some countries, people who are dissatisfied with the political system are too frightened to _____ out.
a. speak b. tell c. protest d. shout
4. If you don't ask for more money than you think you'll get, you've no room to _____.
a. argue b. discuss c. negotiate d. compromise
5. He felt _____ to work for aristocracy.
a. profited b. privileged c. benefited d. advantaged
6. If the workers want to improve their working conditions and terms of service, they will have to show _____.
a. solidarity b. solidity c. union d. togetherness
7. The _____ of a general strike would be impossible to calculate exactly.
a. repercussions b. rebounds c. issues d. outcomes
8. Considering that her son-in-law was not good enough for her daughter, the snobbish woman displayed a frigid _____ towards him.
a. enmity b. bitterness c. hostility d. opposition
9. It is rather naïve to accept everything at face _____.
a. surface b. appearance c. value d. worth
10. Most people are _____ to flattery.
a. sensible b. susceptible c. affected d. impressionable

11. He is really clumsy; he can't _____ bumping into things.
 a. help b. prevent c. refrain d. resist
12. When she fell ill, she preferred not to see a doctor; she had lost _____ in them.
 a. loyalty b. devotion c. faith d. reliance
13. Success or failure in gambling all boils _____ luck in the end.
 a. away from b. over to c. down to d. down on
14. If you want to learn English, you must _____ in mind that it would be better to go to an English-speaking country.
 a. bear b. take c. have d. carry
15. She's all _____ her husband helping her with the housework.
 a. about b. for c. towards d. after
16. He left his car on a hill without putting the brake on, and it ran over him! Can you _____ that for stupidity?
 a. exceed b. improve c. better d. beat
17. When the dentist told him he would have to have a tooth out, he _____ himself to go through with it.
 a. steeled b. strengthened c. hardened d. ironed
18. Everyone borrows money from him; he's an easy _____.
 a. touch b. contact c. lender d. victim
19. In the army, soldiers are expected to knuckle _____ the strict discipline.
 a. down to b. down with c. under to d. under with
20. Before you drink and drive, you should weigh _____ the possible consequences.
 a. down b. in c. against d. up

II. Cloze (10%)

Fill in the following blank with an appropriate word.

In the money-dominated and stylish 80s, everyone loved the cool and sophisticated soul singer Sade but in the 90s the British public seem to have fallen out of love with her.

In 1984, Sade (1) _____ to fame with the release of her debut single *Your Love Is King*, which went straight into the British Top Ten charts, and her debut album

Diamond Life, which stayed in the UK charts for 98 weeks and was the biggest selling debut album by a British female singer. Her music was (2) _____ everywhere, her face appeared on countless magazine (3) _____, and she was hounded by the media.

But just over a (4) _____ later, the picture has changed dramatically, and Sade's "*Diamond Life*," in Britain at least, is (5) _____. Her fourth album *Love Deluxe*, (6) _____ in 1992, sold only a fraction of her first two albums *Diamond Life* and *Promise* (1985), and was (7) _____ by some as being too much like her previous albums. Only one song, *No Ordinary Love*, got into the Top 20 charts (number 14); towards the end of last year, *The Best of Sade* was released, whose (8) _____, again, are far less than those of her first two albums.

So, why have Sade's UK fans deserted her? Between her third album *Stronger Than Pride* (1988) and *Love Deluxe*, there was a (9) _____ of four years. British music fans have very short (10) _____, and four years without releasing even a single is not the best way to (11) _____ yourself popular and in the charts.

Then there is her music. Her style is restrained and understated, something that the UK white rock establishment has always found (12) _____ to distinguish from blandness. It suited perfectly the affluent and (13) _____ 80s but is now clearly out of fashion in the hard, rap-dominated 90s.

Sade doesn't seem too worried by her now fickle British supporters and for two good (14) _____. Firstly, she is still hugely popular throughout the world. She has sold over 32.5 million albums world-wide, and in the United States, her album sales rival (15) _____ of Madonna and Michael Jackson.

Secondly, she is a very private person. She disliked the intense (16) _____ of the 80s, and now enjoys her relative obscurity. From her north London house, she can come and go as she (17) _____. "People here are indifferent to me now and I enjoy that (18) _____," she says.

Sade herself is not clear as to why her UK fans stopped buying her albums. "It makes me wonder why they (19) _____ liked us in the first place. When I really like some music, I don't just get tired of it like that," she says, "It can be very hostile, England. Not just to me, to everybody. England's like a sour old auntie. You go and stay with her (20) _____ she criticises you all the time and doesn't treat you right, even when you're doing your best. But you keep on loving her, in a certain way."

III. Proof Reading (20%)

Edit the text with the following symbols. There is no more than one mistake in each line if there is any. When you edit, add the symbols in the places of change.

Editing Symbols:

- + add a word (Put the word to be added into the corresponding blank)
- delete a word (Put the horizontal bar through the word to be deleted, e.g. delete)
- ⊙ change a word (Put the alternative word into the corresponding blank, and strike through the word to be replaced, e.g. ~~replace~~)
- no mistake (If there is no mistake, put the symbol "O" in the blank.)

The few hours I spent at the "Wonderful Ageing Club", a small organisation hidden away down a side street in Tokyo, were, it has to be said, rather depressing. For I was transformed, rather too quickly I thought, from a relatively healthy 36-year-old to an 80-year-old, and, wear in the club's "ageing suit", growing old did not seem like a wonderful prospect at all.

First, I had to put on restrictive bindings to impede the movements of my main joints. Then a contraption was placed over my ankle and foot, seriously my ability to move my foot independently of the rest of my leg. Similar bindings were then applied to my knees and elbows, and it was with some gratitude that, now unable to move normally, I accepted the kind of offer of a walking stick. The ladies of the Wonderful Ageing Club, however, were already far from finished. Assuring me that their suit had been carefully designed on a basis of scientific research into the exact effects of ageing, they next applied a pair of special gloves to my hands to make gripping much more difficulty.

Thus finished, it took me quite a few minutes before I managed to open a can of Coke --- a dexterity test which, I should add, I was still able to begin after I had managed to locate the ring-pull in the first place. My vision had grown rather clouded as a result of my special glasses, which had the effects of cataracts.

A number of weights were attached to my body to create the sensation of weakening muscles, and a pair of earplugs muffled my hearing. This completed my imprisonment in a body more than twice my own age. At this point, eager to see as well as feel the effects of all this ageing engineering, I looked into a nearby mirror and found staring at what I can only describe as an evil in the *Star Wars* films.

There, however, is any similarity with powerful science-

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

fiction heroes, living or dead, abruptly ended. For now I found myself clumsily hobbling way through an extremely tiring obstacle course of such newly difficult tasks such as going up and down stairs, sitting down on a chair and then standing up again, or reaching for things on a high shelf. Not to mention wrestling with that can of Coke or struggling, through my cataract-clouded vision, to read a newspaper.

14. _____

15. _____

But what is the purpose of this ageing suit? The Wonderful Ageing Club claims that it gives a very accurate presentation of what being old is really to like, and that, when it comes to planning for the next century, that experience will be enormous value. And people are evidently hearing: about 8,000 people have tried the suit so far, and half of them have been from local authorities, manufacturing companies or emergency service providers, all interested to see whether the products or services they offer really do meet the needs of the elderly.

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

IV. Reading comprehension and use of language (30%)

(1) Read the following article and answer the questions on your answer sheet:

Chinese Food

"Few things in life are as positive as food, or are taken as intimately and completely by the individual. One can listen to music, but the sound may enter in one ear and go out through the other; one may listen to a lecturer or conversation, and day-dream about many other things; one may attend to matters of business, and one's heart or interest may be altogether elsewhere ... In the matter of food and eating however one can hardly remain completely indifferent to what one is doing for long. How can one remain entirely indifferent to something which is going to enter one's body and become part of oneself? How can one remain indifferent to something which will determine one's physical strength and ultimately one's spiritual and moral fibre and well-being?"

_____ Kenneth Lo

This is an easy question for a Chinese to ask, but a Westerner might find it difficult to answer. Many people in the West are gourmets and others are gluttons, but scattered among them also is a large number of people who are apparently pretty indifferent to what goes into their stomachs, and do not regard food as having any ultimate moral effect on them. How, they might ask, could eating a hamburger or drinking Coca Cola contribute anything to making you a saint or a sinner? For them, food is quite simply a fuel.

Kenneth Lo, however, expresses a point of view that is profoundly different and typically Chinese, deriving from thousands of years of tradition. The London restaurateur Fu Tong, for example, quotes no less an authority than Confucius (the ancient sage known in Chinese as K'ung-Fu-Tzu) with regard to the primal importance of food. Food, said the sage, is the first happiness. Fu Tong adds: "Food to my countrymen is one of the

ecstasies of life, to be thought about in advance; to be smothered with loving care throughout its preparation; and to have time lavished on it in the final pleasure of eating.”

Lo observes that when Westerners go to a restaurant they ask for a good table, which means a good position from which to see and be seen. They are usually there to be entertained socially --- and also, incidentally, to eat. When the Chinese go to a restaurant, however, they ask for a small room with plain walls where they cannot be seen except by the members of their own party, where jackets can come off and they can proceed with the serious business which brought them there. The Chinese intentions “are both honourable and whole-hearted: to eat with a capital E.”

Despite such a marked difference in attitudes towards what one consumes, there is no doubt that people in the west have come to regard the cuisine of China as something special. In fact, one can assert with some justice that Chinese food is, nowadays, the only truly international food. It is ubiquitous. Restaurants bedecked with dragons and delicate landscapes --- serving such exotica as *Dim Sin Gai* (sweet and sour chicken), and *Ging Kwar* (steamed aubergines) --- have sprung up everywhere from Hong Kong to Honolulu to Hoboken to Huddersfield.

How did this come about? Certainly, a kind of Chinese food was exported to North America when many thousands of Chinese went there in the 19th century to work on such things as the U.S. railways. They settled on or near the west coast, where the famous --- or infamous --- “chop suey joints” grew up, with their rather inferior brand of Chinese cooking. The standard of the restaurants improved steadily in the United States, but Lo considers that the crucial factor in spreading this kind of food throughout the Western world was population pressure in the British colony of Hong Kong, especially after 1950, which sent families out all over the world to seek their fortunes in the opening of restaurants. He adds, however, that this could not have happened if the world had not been interested in what the Hong Kong Chinese had to cook and sell. He detects an increased interest in sensuality in the Western world: “Colour, texture, movement, food, drink, and rock music --- all these have become much more a part and parcel of the average person’s life than they have ever been. It is this increased sensuality and the desire for greater freedom from age-bound habits in the West, combined with the inherent sensual concept of Chinese food, always quick to satisfy the taste buds, that is at the root of the sudden and phenomenal spread of Chinese food throughout the length and breadth of the Western World.”

There is no doubt that the traditional high-quality Chinese meal is a serious matter, fastidiously prepared and fastidiously enjoyed. Indeed, the bringing together and initial cutting up and organising of the materials is, according to Helen Burke, about 90% of the actual preparation, the cooking itself being only about 10%. This 10% is not, however, a simple matter. There are many possibilities to choose from; Kenneth Lo, for example, lists forty methods available for the heating of food, from *chu* or the art of boiling to such others as *ts’ang*, a kind of stir-frying and braising, *t’a*, deep-frying in batter, and *wei*, burying food in hot solids such as charcoal, heated stones, sand, salt and lime.

The preparation is detailed, and the enjoyment must therefore match it. Thus, a proper Chinese meal can last four hours and proceed almost like a religious ceremony. It is a shared experience for the participants, not a lonely chore, with its procession of planned and carefully contrived dishes, some elements designed to blend, others to contrast. Meat

and fish, solids and soups, sweet and sour sauces, crisp and smooth textures, fresh and dried vegetables --- all these and more challenge the palate with their appropriate charms.

In a Chinese meal that has not been altered to conform to Western ideas of eating, everything is presented as a kind of buffet, the guest eating a little of this, a little of that. Individual portions as such are not provided. A properly planned dinner will include at least one fowl, one fish and one meat dish, and their presentation with appropriate vegetables is not just a matter of taste but also a question of harmonious colours. The eye must be pleased as well as the palate; if not, then a certain essentially Chinese element is missing, an element that links this cuisine with that most typical and yet elusive concept Tao. Emily Hahn, an American who has lived and worked in China, has a great appreciation both of Chinese cooking and the "way" that leads to morality and harmony. She insists that "there is moral excellence in good cooking", and adds that to the Chinese, traditionally, all life, all action and all knowledge are one. They may be chopped up and given parts with labels, such as "Cooking", "Health", "Character" and the like, but none is in reality separate from the other. The smooth harmonies and piquant contrasts in Chinese food are more than just the products of recipes and personal enterprise. They are an expression of basic assumptions about life itself.

Answer the following questions on your answer sheet:

1. How does Lo's view of food and eating contrast with the approach common among many westerners?
2. What proof is provided to show that Lo's position is typically Chinese?
3. What is the difference between typical Westerners and Chinese in restaurants?
4. How has Chinese food fared in the world at large?
5. And how did this come about?
6. What is a proper Chinese meal like and how is it presented to a guest?
7. What else must be pleased besides the palate and why?

Reading comprehension and use of language

(2) Read the following article and answer the questions on your answer sheet.

The Bird of Truth

By Noel Annan

Every change in society is preceded by a change in men's beliefs, by an addition to their store of knowledge. Society is changed by man's mind. This is why *John Stuart Mill*¹ pleads for freedom of expression. Discussion must be free lest bigotry suppress a fruitful idea which might be the decisive factor in pushing society forward. Truth, for Mill, exists in a palpable form. If you will only dig for it, you will gather minute particles and add to knowledge and hence to man's happiness.

In Oliver Schreiner's *Story of an African Farm*, a stranger passing across the *veldt*² tells a farm boy the parable of a hunter who spent his life stalking the beautiful white bird

¹ Philosopher, 1806-73

² flat grassland in South Africa.

of truth, whose reflection he had once seen in a lake when out shooting. He sets snares for the bird, the snares of credulity and a cage of a new creed, until he learns that nothing but truth can hold truth. So he leaves the valleys of superstition and sets out to climb the mountains of reality. On he climbs till he reaches a precipice towering above him. Year after year he cuts steps in the stone until, old and wizened, he reaches the summit --- and sees towering above him a still higher range. He lays himself down to die as old age and weariness overwhelm him, but as he dies, he consoles himself. "Where I lie down, worn out, other men will stand, young and fresh. By the steps that I have cut they will climb. They will never know the name of the man who made them. At the clumsy work they will laugh; when the stones roll they will curse me. But they will mount and on *my* work. They will climb and by *my* stair. They will find truth and through me!" Then slowly from the white sky above, through the still air, there came something, falling, falling, falling. Softly it fluttered down and dropped on to the breast of the dying man. He felt it in his hands. It was a feather. He died holding it.

We can never catch the bird of truth itself, but so long as we are never deterred by fear that a new truth will endanger society, we can discover parts of it. These truth-particles are already improving society.

Answer the following questions on your answer sheet:

1. What is the value of man's digging for truth?
2. What does the *Story of an African Farm* try to tell the reader?
3. If the bird of truth is impossible to catch, why do people bother to pursue it?

Comment: (20%)

Write a short essay about 300 words, commenting on the following statement: "You will add to knowledge and hence to man's happiness." Does knowledge add to happiness? Does it always? Write down what you think on your answer sheet.