外语学院

华东师范大学

2001年研究生入学试题

考试科目：基础英语
专　　业：英语语言文学

I. Multiple Choices (15%)

1. He is …
a. foolish intentionally.　　b. being foolish intentionally
c. a fool intentionally　　d. a fool intentional.

2. He very much … the situation.
a. judged　　b. has misjudged　　c. misjudged　　d. has judged

3. You …-and we … ought to be allies.
a. France and Britain　　b. the French and the British
c. French and British　　d. Frenchman and Briton

4. I think … music is too loud in here.
a. zero article　　b. a　　c. some　　d. the

5. I won't stop because …　not been paid yet.
a. the damage has　　b. the damages have　　c. damage has　　d. damages have

6. The students have all moved into the new … outside the campus.
a. lodging　　b. lodgings　　c. lodge　　d. quarter

7. His … speech reminded us of the sound of a machine gun.
a. soporific　　b. fast　　c. staccato　　d. sporadic

8. Perfect as their plan sounded, it ended in …
a. triumph　　b. collapse　　c. debris　　d. fiasco

9. The tiger is a … animal.
a. carnivorous　　b. vegetarian　　c. herbivorous　　d. celibate

10. The proposal took … before it was finally approved.
a. a great deal of detour　　b. a number of detours
c. detour　　d. the detour

11. He… her boyfriend.
a. abducted　　b. hijacked　　c. captivated　　d. kidnapped

12. He acceded … the proposal she put forward at the meeting.
a. with　　b. for　　c. /　　d. to

13. When John was away, Tom acted in the … of the dean of the faculty.

a. capability b. capacity c. ability d. office

14. Although I am now down and out , I still don't want to ··· .
a. change places with her b. change place with her
c. change places for her d. change the place with her

15. The committee finally decided to send ··· to the area.
a. relief b. reliefs c. release d. releases

II. **Explain the meaning of the following proverbs or sayings:(9%)**

1. A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.

2. He took bread and salt.

3. A wonder lasts nine days, and then the puppy's eyes are open.

III. **Explain the meaning of the following terms with at least one example for each:** (10%)

1. Metonymy

2. euphemism

2. periodic sentence

3. diphthong

IV. Cloze Test (15%)

The same ___1__ that make people good house guests __2___ them good hospital patients. Good house guests can __3___ a reasonable amount of service and ___4___ on their behalf, and hospital patients can __5___. Guests have to adjust to what is ___6__ them a change, and certainly hospital patients must __7___ the same. No one appreciates a complaining, ___8___, unappreciative house guest, and the hospital ___9__ is no exception. House guests who __10___ vast changes to be made for their ____11__ are not popular for long. __12__, nurses and other personnel with their __13__ feel the same way about the patients in their __14___care. Just as house guests must make adjustments to enjoy their __15___, so patients must make adjustments to make their stays reasonably pleasant and satisfying under the circumstances.

V. Error correction: (8%)

1. We have come to preliminary understanding.

2. He hailed at me from the fourth floor.

3. I think that the hot weather in Beijing will insist for quite a while.

4. Although we are of different colours, we are the same in the skin.

VI. Read the following essay and answer the questions: (30%)

Is there Earth Round or Flat?

Alan Lightman

I propose that there are few of us who have personally verified that the Earth is round. The suggestive globe in the den or the Apollo photographs don't count. These are secondhand pieces of evidence that might be thrown out entirely in court. When you think about it, most of us simply believe what we hear. Round or flat, whatever. It's not a life-or-death matter, unless you happen to live near the edge.

A few years ago, I suddenly realized, to my dismay, that I didn't know with certainty if the Earth was round or flat. I have scientific colleagues, geodesists they called, whose sole business is determining the detailed shape of the Earth by fitting mathematical formulae to someone else's measurements of the precise locations of test stations on the Earth's surface. And I don't think those people really know, either.

• Aristotle is the first person in recorded history to have given proof that the Earth is round. He used several different arguments, most likely because he wanted to convince others as well as himself. A lot of people believed everything Aristotle said for 19 centuries.

His first proof was that the shadow of the Earth during a lunar eclipse is always curved, a segment of a circle. If the Earth were any shape but spherical, the shadow it casts, in some orientations, would not be circular. (That the normal phases of the moon are crescent-shaped reveals the moon is round.) I find this argument wonderfully appealing. It is simple and direct. What's more, an inquisitive and untrusting person can knock off the experiment alone, without special equipment. From any given spot on the Earth, a lunar eclipse can be seen about once a year. You simply have to look up on the right night and carefully observe what's happening. I've never done it.

Aristotle's second proof was that stars rise and set sooner for people in the East than in the West. If the Earth were flat from east to west, stars would rise as soon as for Occidentals as for Orientals. With a little scribbling on a piece of paper, you can see that these observations imply a round Earth, regardless of whether it is the Earth that spins around or the stars that revolve around the Earth. Finally, northbound travelers observe previously invisible stars appearing above the northern horizon, showing the Earth is curved from north to south. Of course, you do have to accept the reports of a number of friends in different places or be willing to do some traveling.

Aristotle's last argument was purely theoretical and even philosophical. If the Earth had been formed from smaller pieces at some time in the past (or could have been so formed), its pieces would fall toward a common center, thus making a sphere. Furthermore, a sphere is clearly the most perfect solid shape. Interesting, Aristotle placed as much emphasis on this last argument as one the first two. Those days, before the modern "scientific method," observational check wasn't required for investigating reality.

Assuming for the moment that the Earth is round, the first person who measured its circumference accurately was another Greek Eratosthene (276-197 B.C.). Eratosthenes noted that on the first day of summer, sunlight struck the bottom of a vertical well in Syene, Egypt, indicating the sun was directly overhead. At the same time in Alexandria, 5,000 stadia distant, the sun made an angle with the vertical equal to 1/50 of a circle. (A stadium equaled about a tenth of a mile.) Since the sun is so far away, its rays arrive almost in parallel. If you draw a circle with two radii extending from the center outward through the perimeter (where they become local verticals), you'll see that a sun ray coming in parallel to one of the radii (at Syene) makes an angle with the other (at Alexandria) equal to the angle between the two radii. Therefore Eratosthenes concluded that the full circumference of the Earth is 50× 5,000 stadia, or about 25,000 miles. This calculation is within one percent of the best modern value.

For at least 600 years educated people have believed the Earth is round. At nearly any medieval university, the quadrivium was standard fare, consisting of arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy. The astronomy portion was based on the *Tractatus de Sphaera*, a popular textbook first published at Ferrara, Italy, in 1472 and written by a 13th century, Oxford-educated astronomer and mathematician, Johannes di Sacrobosco. The *Sphaera* proves its astronomical assertions, in part, by a set of diagrams with movable parts, a graphical demonstration of Aristotle's second method of proof. The round Earth, being the obvious center of the universe, provides a fixed pivot for the assembly. The cutout figures of the sun, the moon, and the stars revolve about the Earth.

By the year 1500, 24 editors of the Sphaera had appeared. There is no question that many people *believed* the Earth was round. I wonder how many *knew* this. You would think that Columbus and Magellan might have wanted to ascertain the facts for themselves before waving good-bye.

To protect my honor as a scientist, someone who is supposed to taking nothing for granted, I set out with my wife on a sailing voyage in the Greek islands. I reasoned that at sea I would e able to calmly observe landmasses disappear over the curve of the Earth and thus convince myself, firsthand, that the Earth is round.

Greece seemed a particular satisfying place to conduct my experiment. I could sense those great ancient thinkers looking on approvingly, and the layout of the place is perfect. Hydra rises about 2,000 feet above sea level. If the Earth has a radius of 4,000 miles, as they say, Hydra should sink down to the horizon at a distance of about 50 miles, somewhat less than the distance we were to sail from Hydra to Kea. The theory was sound and comfortable. At the very least, I thought, we would have a pleasant vacation.

As it turned out, that was all we got. Every single day was hazy. Islands faded from view at a distance of only eight miles, when the land was still a couple of degrees above the horizon. I learned how much water vapor was in the air but nothing about he curvature of the Earth.

I suspect that there are quite a few items we take on faith, even important things, even things we could verify without much trouble. Is the gas we exhale the same as

the gas we inhale? (Do we indeed burn oxygen in our metabolism, as they say?) What is our blood made of (Does it indeed have read and white "cell") ? These questions could be answered with a balloon, a candle and a microscope.

When we finally do the experiment, we relish the knowledge. At one time or another ,we have all learned something for ourselves, from the ground floor up, taking no one's word for it. There is a special satisfaction and joy in being able to tell somebody something you have pieced together from scratch, something you really now. I think that exhilaration is a big reason why people do science.

Someday soon, I'm going to catch the Earth's shadow in a lunar eclipse, or go to sea in clear air, and find out for sure if the Earth is round or flat. Actually, the Earth is reported to flatten at the poles, because it rotates. But that's another story.

Questions for explanation (20%):

1. Explain the meaning of the sentence " It's not a life-or-death matter, unless you happen to live near the edge."

2. What is the main point of his argument? Does he really doubt that the Earth is round?

3. Why does Lightman discuss Aristotle's arguments in such detail?

4. "There is no question that many people *believed* the Earth was round. I wonder how many *knew* this?" What does this statement mean? What does "this" refer to?

5. Explain the meaning of the last paragraph. What does Lightman intend to convey in this paragraph?

Question for discussion (10%):

How effectively do our beliefs explain what is taking place and to what extent are our beliefs supported by sound reasons and compelling evidence derived from reliable sources? You have to use at least one example to illustrate your point.

VII. Translation (13%)

The excess which is in the defect of preaching has made the pulpit slighted; I mean the much bad oratory we find it guilty of. It is a wonder to me how men can preach so little, and so long: so long a time, and so little matter; as if they thought to please by the inculcation of their vain tautologies. I see no reason that so high a princess as Divinity is should be presented to the people in the sordid rags of the tongue; nor that he which speaks from the Father languages should deliver his embassage in an ill one. A man can never speak too well while he speaks not too obscure.

Embassage =embassy