

南开大学 2008 年硕士研究生入学考试试题

学院: 100 外国语学院

考试科目: 725 基础英语

专业: 英语语言文学、外国语言学及应用语言学

注意: 请将答案写在专用答题纸上, 答在此试题上无效!

Vocabulary and Structure (20 points)

Directions: There are 20 incomplete sentences in this part. For each sentence there are four choices marked A, B, C, D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet.

1. She gets along very well with everyone, so she is the most _____ member of our family.
A. congenital B. impetuous C. congenial D. imperious
2. Lucy Stone, _____ first feminists in the United States, helped organize the American Woman Suffrage Association in 1869.
A. the one B. who was the C. another D. one of the
3. A very full cup is filled to the _____.
A. plug B. dent C. hatch D. brim
4. The English weather defies forecast and hence is a source of interest and _____ to everyone.
A. speculation B. attribution C. utilization D. proposition
5. At present, it is not possible to confirm or to refute the suggestion that there is a causal relationship between the amount of fat we eat and the _____ of heart attacks.
A. incidence B. impetus C. rupture D. emergence
6. Executives of the company enjoyed an _____ lifestyle of free gifts, fine wines and high salaries.
A. exquisite B. extravagant C. exotic D. eccentric
7. A membership card _____ the holder to use the club's facilities for a period of twelve months.
A. approves B. authorizes C. rectifies D. endows
8. The members of the club voted to _____ the meeting until after lunch.
A. adjourn B. adjoin C. adjust D. adjudge
9. What I am telling you is strictly _____. Don't let anyone know of it.
A. secretive B. special C. confident D. confidential
10. She felt sad for a while, but fortunately, the feeling was _____.
A. short-sighted B. transitory C. shifty D. transcendent
11. Supposing the weather _____ bad, where would you go?
A. is B. will be C. were D. be
12. Van Gogh's rise to _____ fame as one of the world's great artists came despite the fact that he scarcely sold a single painting during his lifetime.

- A. postmodern B. posthumous C. postmortem D. posterior
13. _____ your request for an additional assistant, I can only say at this stage that this is being considered.
- A. For the purpose of B. In regard to C. In terms of D. In view of
14. Money sent _____ the broadcast appeal will be used to buy blankets and medical supplies.
- A. in favor of B. in return for C. in exchange for D. in response to
15. Sheep, cattle and antelope are _____, unlike dogs and cats, they show no interest in meat.
- A. voracious B. omnivorous C. carnivorous D. herbivorous
16. A body weighs _____ from the surface of the earth.
- A. less the farther it gets B. the farther it gets, the less
C. less than it gets farther D. less than the farther it gets
17. Essentially, a theory is an abstract, symbolic representation of _____ reality.
- A. that is conceived B. that is being conceived of
C. what it is conceived D. what is conceived to be
18. Captain Henry, _____, crept slowly through the underbrush.
- A. being remote from the enemy B. attempting to not encounter the enemy
C. trying to avoid the enemy D. not involving himself in the enemy
19. Human facial expressions differ from those of animals in the degree _____ they can be deliberately controlled and modified.
- A. to which B. in which C. at which D. on which
20. The formal language he used was much too _____ for his trivial subject.
- A. austere B. eccentric C. pompous D. languid

二. Cloze (10 points)

Directions: For each numbered blank in the following passage, there are four choices marked A, B, C, and D. Choose the best one and mark your answer on the Answer Sheet.

Until recently most historians spoke very critically of the Industrial Revolution. They 1 that in the long run industrialization greatly raised the standard of living for the 2 man. But they insisted that its 3 results during the period from 1750 to 1850 were widespread poverty and misery for the 4 of the English population. 5 contrast, they saw in the preceding hundred years from 1650 to 1750, when England was still a 6 agricultural country, a period of great abundance and prosperity.

This view, 7, is generally thought to be wrong. Specialists 8 history and economics, have 9 two things: that the period from 1650 to 1750 was 10 by great poverty, and that industrialization certainly did not worsen and may have actually improved the conditions for the majority of the populace.

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|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1. A. admitted | B. believed | C. claimed | D. predicted |
| 2. A. plain | B. average | C. mean | D. normal |
| 3. A. momentary | B. prompt | C. instant | D. immediate |
| 4. A. bulk | B. host | C. gross | D. magnitude |
| 5. A. On | B. With | C. For | D. By |
| 6. A. broadly | B. thoroughly | C. generally | D. completely |
| 7. A. however | B. meanwhile | C. therefore | D. moreover |
| 8. A. at | B. in | C. about | D. for |
| 9. A. manifested | B. approved | C. shown | D. speculated |
| 10. A. noted | B. impressed | C. labeled | D. marked |

三. Reading Comprehension (50 points)

Directions: There are five passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some 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 mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet.

Questions 1-6 are based on the following passage.

Overland transport in the United States was still extremely primitive in 1790. Roads were few and short, usually extending from inland communities to the nearest river town or seaport. Nearly all interstate commerce was carried out by sailing ships that served the bays and harbors of the seaboard. Yet, in 1790 the nation was on the threshold of a new era of road development. Unable to finance road construction, states turned for help to private companies, organized by merchants and land speculators who had a personal interest in improved communications with the interior. The pioneer in this move was the state of Pennsylvania, which chartered a company in 1792 to construct a turnpike, a road for the use of which a toll, or payment, is collected, from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The legislature gave the company the authority to erect tollgates at points along the road where payment would be collected, though it carefully regulated the rates. (The states had unquestioned authority to regulate private business in this period.)

The company built a gravel road within two years, and the success of the Lancaster Pike encouraged imitation. Northern states generally relied on private companies to build their toll roads, but Virginia constructed a network at public expense. Such was the road building fever that by 1810 New York alone had some 1,500 miles of turnpikes extending from the Atlantic to Lake Erie.

Transportation on these early turnpikes consisted of freight carrier wagons and passenger stagecoaches. The most common road freight carrier was the Conestoga wagon, a vehicle developed in the mid-eighteenth century by German immigrants in the area around Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It featured large, broad wheels able to negotiate all but the deepest ruts and holes, and its round bottom prevented the freight from shifting on a hill. Covered with canvas and drawn by four to six horses, the Conestoga wagon

rivalled the log cabin as the primary symbol of the frontier. Passengers traveled in a variety of stagecoaches, the most common of which had four benches, each holding three persons. It was only a platform on wheels, with no springs; slender poles held up the top, and leather curtains kept out dust and rain.

1. Paragraph 1 discusses early road building in the United States mainly in terms of the
 - A. popularity of turnpikes
 - B. financing of new roads
 - C. development of the interior
 - D. laws governing road use
2. In 1790 most roads connected towns in the interior of the country with
 - A. other inland communities
 - B. towns in other states
 - C. river towns or seaports
 - D. construction sites
3. The phrase "on the threshold of" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to
 - A. in need of
 - B. in place of
 - C. at the start of
 - D. with the purpose of
4. According to the passage, why did states want private companies to help with road building?
 - A. The states could not afford to build roads themselves.
 - B. The states were not as well equipped as private companies.
 - C. Private companies could complete roads faster than the states.
 - D. Private companies had greater knowledge of the interior.
5. Virginia is mentioned as an example of a state that
 - A. built roads without tollgates
 - B. built roads with government money
 - C. completed 1,500 miles of turnpikes in one year
 - D. introduced new law restricting road use
6. The "large, broad wheels" of the Conestoga wagon are mentioned in the last paragraph as an example of a feature of wagons that was
 - A. unusual in mid-eighteenth century vehicles
 - B. first found in Germany
 - C. effective on roads with uneven surfaces
 - D. responsible for frequent damage to freight

Questions 7-11 are based on the following passage.

Drunken driving—sometimes called America's socially accepted form of murder—has become a national infectious disease. Every hour of every day about three Americans

on average are killed by drunken drivers, adding up to an incredible 250,000 over the past decade.

A drunken driver is usually defined as one with a 0.01 blood alcohol content or roughly three beers, glasses of wine or shots of whisky drunk within two hours. Heavy drinking used to be an acceptable part of the American strong man image and judges were not severe in most courts, but the drunken slaughter has recently caused so many well-publicized tragedies, especially involving young children, that public opinion is no longer so tolerant.

Twenty states have raised the legal drinking age to 21, reversing a trend in the 1960s to reduce it to 18. After New Jersey lowered it to 18, the number of people killed by 18-20 year old drivers more than doubled, so the state recently upped it back to 21. Reformers, however, fear raising the drinking age will have little effect unless accompanied by educational programs to help young people to develop "responsible attitudes" about drinking and teach them to resist strong pressure to drink.

Tough new laws have led to increased arrests and tests and, in many areas already, to a marked decline in fatalities. Some states are also penalizing bars for serving customers too many drinks. An inn in Massachusetts was fined for serving six or more double brandies to a customer who was "obviously drunk" and later drove off the road, killing a nine-year-old boy.

As the fatalities continue to occur daily in every state, some Americans are even beginning to speak well of the 13 years of national prohibition of alcohol that began in 1919, what President Hoover called the "noble experiment". They forget that legal prohibition didn't stop drinking, but encouraged political corruption and organized crime. As with booming drug trade generally, there is no easy solution.

7. Drunken driving has become a major problem in America because _____.

- A. most Americans are heavy drinkers.
- B. Americans are now less shocked by road accidents.
- C. Accidents attract so much publicity.
- D. Drinking is a socially accepted habit in America.

8. Why has public opinion regarding drunken driving changed?

- A. Detailed statistics are now available.
- B. The news media have revealed the problem.
- C. Judges are giving more severe sentences.
- D. Drivers are more conscious of their image.

9. Statistics issued in New Jersey suggested that _____.

- A. many drivers were not of legal age.
- B. young drivers were often bad drivers.
- C. the level of drinking increased in the 1960s.
- D. the legal drinking age should be raised.

10. Laws recently introduced in some states have _____.

- A. reduces the number of punishment.

- B. resulted in fewer serious accident.
- C. prevented bars from serving drunken customers.
- D. specified the amount drivers can drink.

11. Why is the problem of drinking and driving difficult to solve?

- A. Alcohol is easily obtained.
- B. Drinking is linked to organize crime.
- C. Legal prohibition has already failed.
- D. Legislation alone is not sufficient.

Questions 12-19 are based on the following passage.

Native Americans probably arrived from Asia in successive waves over several millennia, crossing a plain hundreds of miles wide that now lies inundated by 160 feet of water released by melting glaciers. For several periods of time, the first beginning around 60,000 B. C. and the last ending around 7,000 B. C., this land bridge was open. The first people traveled in the dusty trails of the animals they hunted. They brought with them not only their families, weapons, and tools but also a broad metaphysical understanding, sprung from dreams and visions and articulated in myth and song, which complemented their scientific and historical knowledge of the lives of animals and of people. All this they shaped in a variety of languages, bringing into being oral literatures of power and beauty.

Contemporary readers, forgetting the origins of western epic, lyric, and dramatic forms, are easily disposed to think of "literature" only as something written. But on reflection it becomes clear that the more critically useful as well as the more frequently employed sense of the term concerns the artfulness of the verbal creation, not its mode of presentation. Ultimately, literature is aesthetically valued, regardless of language, culture, or mode of presentation, because some significant verbal achievement results from the struggle in words between tradition and talent. Verbal art has the ability to shape out a compelling inner vision in some skillfully crafted public verbal form.

Of course, the differences between the written and oral modes of expression are not without consequences for an understanding of Native American literature. The essential difference is that a speech event is an evolving communication, an "emergent form," the shape, functions, and aesthetic values of which become more clearly realized over the course of the performance. In performing verbal art, the performer assumes responsibility for the manner as well as the content of the performance, while the audience assumes the responsibility for evaluating the performer's competence in both areas. It is this intense mutual engagement that elicits the display of skill and shapes the emerging performance. Where written literature provides us with a tradition of texts, oral literature offers a tradition of performances.

12. According to the passage, why did the first people who came to North America leave their homeland?

- A. They were hoping to find a better climate.

- B. They were seeking freedom.
- C. They were following instructions given in a dream.
- D. They were looking for food.
13. The word "compelling" in the second paragraph is closest in meaning to
- A. joyous
- B. intricate
- C. compelling
- D. forceful
14. What is the main point of the second paragraph?
- A. Public performance is essential to verbal art.
- B. Oral narratives are a valid form of literature.
- C. Native Americans have a strong oral tradition in art.
- D. The production of literature provides employment for many artists.
15. What can be inferred about the nature of the Native American literature discussed in the passage?
- A. It reflects historical and contemporary life in Asia.
- B. Its main focus is on daily activities.
- C. It is based primarily on scientific knowledge.
- D. It is reshaped each time it is experienced.
16. According to the passage, what responsibility does the audience of a verbal art performance have?
- A. They provide financial support for performances.
- B. They judge the quality of the content and presentation.
- C. They participate in the performance by chanting responses.
- D. They determine the length of the performance by requesting a continuation.
17. Which of the following is NOT true of the Native American literature discussed in the passage?
- A. It involves acting.
- B. It has ancient origins.
- C. It has a set form.
- D. It expresses an inner vision.
18. What can be inferred from the passage about the difference between written and oral literature?
- A. Written literature reflects social values better than oral literature does.
- B. Written literature involves less interaction between audience and creator during the creative process than oral literature does.
- C. Written literature usually is not based on historical events, whereas oral literature is.
- D. Written literature is not as highly respected as oral literature is.
19. What is the author's attitude toward Native American literature?
- A. Admiring of its form

- B. Critical of the cost of its production
- C. Amused by its content
- D. Skeptical about its origins

Questions 20-25 are based on the following passage.

In the United States the per capita costs of schooling have risen almost as fast as the cost of medical treatment. But increased treatment by both doctors and teachers has shown steadily declining results. Medical expenses concentrated on those above forty-five have doubled several times over a period of forty years with a resulting 3 percent increase in the life expectancy of men. The increase in educational expenditures has produced even stranger results, otherwise President Nixon could not have been moved this spring to promise that every child shall soon have the "Right to Read" before leaving school.

In the United States it would take eighty billion dollars per year to provide what educators regard as equal treatment for all in grammar and high school. This is well over twice the \$36 billion now being spent. Independent cost projections prepared at HEW and at the University of Florida indicate that by 1974 the comparable figures will be \$107 billion as against the \$45 billion now projected, and these figures wholly omit the enormous costs of what is called "higher education," for which demand is growing even faster. The United States, which spent nearly eighty billion dollars in 1969 for "defense," including its deployment in Vietnam, is obviously too poor to provide equal schooling. The President's committee for the study of school finance should ask not how to support or how to trim such increasing costs, but how they can be avoided.

Equal obligatory schooling must be recognized as at least economically unfeasible. In Latin America the amount of public money spent on each graduate student is between 350 and 1,500 times the amount spent on the median citizen (that is, the citizen who holds the middle ground between the poorest and the richest). In the United States the discrepancy is smaller, but the discrimination is keener. The richest parents, some 10 percent, can afford private education for their children and help them to benefit from foundation grants. But in addition they obtain ten times the per capita amount of public funds if this is compared with the per capita expenditure made on the children of the 10 percent who are poorest. The principal reasons for this are that rich children stay longer in school, that a year in a university is disproportionately more expensive than a year in high school, and that most private universities depend— at least indirectly— on tax-derived finances.

Obligatory schooling inevitably polarizes a society; it also grades the nations of the world according to an international caste system. Countries are rated like castes whose educational dignity is determined by the average years of schooling of its citizens, a rating which is closely related to per capita gross national product, and much more painful.

20. Which one of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?

- A. The educational shortcomings of the United States, in contrast to those of Latin America, are merely the result of poor allocation of available resources.
- B. Both education and medical care are severely under funded.
- C. Obligatory schooling must be scrapped if the goal of educational equality is to be realized.
- D. Obligatory education does not and cannot provide equal education.
21. The author most likely would agree with which one of the following solutions to the problems presented by obligatory education?
- A. Education should not be obligatory at all.
- B. Education should not be obligatory for those who cannot afford it.
- C. More money should be diverted to education for the poorest.
- D. Countries should cooperate to establish common minimal educational standards.
22. According to the passage, education is like health care in all of the following ways EXCEPT
- A. It has reached a point of diminishing returns, increased spending no longer results in significant improvement.
- B. It has an inappropriate "more is better" philosophy.
- C. It is unfairly distributed between rich and poor.
- D. The amount of money being spent on older students is increasing.
23. Why does the author consider the results from increased educational expenditures to be "even stranger" than those from increased medical expenditures?
- A. The aging of the population should have had an impact only on medical care, not on education.
- B. The "Right to Read" should be a bare minimum, not a Presidential ideal.
- C. Education has become even more discriminatory than health care.
- D. It inevitably polarizes society.
24. Which one of the following most accurately characterizes the author's attitude with respect to obligatory schooling?
- A. qualified admiration
- B. critical
- C. neutral
- D. ambivalent
25. By stating "In Latin America the amount of public money spent on each graduate student is between 350 and 1,500 times the amount spent on the median citizen" and "In the United States the discrepancy is smaller" the author implies that
- A. equal education is possible in the United States but not in Latin America.
- B. equal education for all at the graduate level is an unrealistic ideal.
- C. educational spending is more efficient in the United States.
- D. higher education is more expensive than lower education both in Latin America and in the United States, but more so in Latin America.

IV. Translation (50 points)

1. Translate the following two passages into Chinese on the Answer Sheet (24 points):

I had scarcely got into bed when a strain of music seemed to break forth in the air just below the window. I listened, and found it proceeded from a band, which I concluded to be the amateur musicians from some neighboring village. They went round the house, playing under the windows. I drew aside the curtains to hear them more distinctly. The moonbeams fell through the upper part of the window, partially lighting up the antiquated apartment. The sounds, as they receded, became more soft and aerial, and seemed to accord with the quiet and moonlight. I listened and listened, — they became more and more tender and remote, and, as they gradually died away, my head sunk upon the pillow, and I fell asleep.

A plant breeder (植物育种工作者) tries to assemble a combination of genes in a crop plant which will make it as useful and productive as possible. Depending on where and for what purpose the plant is grown, desirable genes may provide features such as higher yield or improved quality, pest or disease resistance, or tolerance to heat, cold and drought. Combining the best genes in one plant is a long and difficult process, especially as traditional plant breeding has been limited to artificially crossing plants within the same species or with closely related species to bring different genes together. For example, a gene for protein in soybean could not be transferred to a completely different crop such as corn using traditional techniques.

2. Translate the following passages into English on the Answer Sheet (26 points):

某年某月某日,气象台预报天气: B市今日晴转阴,气温 27 至 32℃。王老与张老两人相约上午在郊外公园赏玩。途中,忽暴雨如注,两老人急忙至凉亭避雨。然步履踉跄,上下衣裳均被淋湿。脾气暴躁之王老慨然长叹:目前说真话的单位太少,连气象台也不说真话。生性随和的张老云:气象台还是想说真话的单位,只不过有时说不准罢了,我认为想说真话而不能说准的总比睁眼说假话的好。

我国政府强化了对外贸的控管,强化了商会这类中介机构的服务与协调功能。我们希望继续加强外贸体制的改革,使之逐渐走向竞争,并受到诸如关税、汇率和利率等法律和经济手段的制约。所有这些都应有利于加速中国外贸的国际化进程,为宏观经贸局面的形成创造一个较好的环境。通过促进商贸业、制造业、农业、技术产业和银行之间更为密切的合作,我们能够为国际市场提供更多、更好的出口产品。在这种情况下,中国自然会成为一个大市场。

V. Composition (20 points)

Write a composition of no less than 300 words on the topic below:

Employment Market Today