

对外经济贸易大学

二零零一年攻读硕士研究生入学考试

基础英语试题

Part One: Vocabulary

I. Check the word or phrase you believe is closest in meaning to the key word. (7.5%)

1. Ravage ---- a. to enrage b. to plunder c. to devour d. to wear away
2. Edify ---- a. to scold b. to praise c. to improve and enlighten d. to have exceptional pleasure from
3. Haggle ---- a. to wrangle or dispute b. to scold c. to lie d. to beg
4. Curtail ---- a. to curl or intertwine b. to deprive of c. to confuse d. to cut short
5. Supplicate ---- a. to strangle b. to grow weak c. to beg humbly d. to curse
6. Extol ---- a. to announce b. to collect c. to scold or harass d. to praise
7. Facilitate ---- a. to tease b. to make easy c. to pretend d. to congratulate
8. Cavort ---- a. to prance around b. to fling c. to find fault with d. to enjoy in a carefree manner
9. Sully ---- a. to keep hidden; make secret b. to hinder c. to defile; soil d. to put the blame on someone
10. Usurp ---- a. to charge high interest rates b. to intrude upon c. to disturb d. to seize power or position
11. Goad ---- a. to annoy b. to incite or spur c. to argue d. to beg
12. Augment ---- a. to urge b. to dispute c. to promise d. to increase; add to
13. Inundate ---- a. to flood; deluge b. to break down c. to retreat d. to enter into an agreement
14. Waive ---- a. to forgo b. to demand c. to look for d. to be irresolute
15. Confound ---- a. to impress b. to bring together c. to frustrate d. to confuse; perplex

II. Check the word or phrase you believe is best to fill in the blank in each sentence. (7.5%)

1. The teacher _____ the dozing student to pay attention.

- a. admonished b. administered c. adjudicated d. adjusted
2. His explanation did not _____ of any misunderstanding.
a. permeate b. permit c. perplex d. perpetrate
3. He followed his _____ and gave the stranger a lift.
a. impulsion b. impulse c. conscientious d. conscious
4. Many alcoholics are _____ drinkers.
a. compatible b. competent c. competitive d. compulsive
5. The computer was _____ a low buzz.
a. dismissing b. emitting c. admitting d. omitting
6. She has a friendly, _____ personality.
a. genuine b. genitive c. generative d. genial
7. The wounded man clung to life _____.
a. tenaciously b. tantalizingly c. tenably d. tendentiously
8. I don't see how your statement _____ to my question.
a. retains b. detains c. pertains d. abstains
9. Anne loudly _____ her beliefs into every conversation.
a. obtrudes b. obsesses c. obviates d. obtains
10. Tom brags about his work, but his boss considers him a _____.
a. nonsense b. nonevent c. nonentity d. nonchalant
11. Ed's wife has a way of breaking into serious conversations with _____ small talk.
a. impertinent b. pertinacious c. pertinent d. impertinacious
12. The power to confirm presidential appointments _____ in the Senate.
a. reseats b. reserves c. resides d. resits
13. The Nile River _____ silt over the ages to form a delta.
a. deposited b. demoted c. deported d. depraved
14. He was elected by a _____ of the two political parties.
a. infusion b. fusion c. confusion d. injunction
15. He had written a _____ of a symphony before his death.
a. fragment b. fraction c. fiction d. diction

Part Two: Usage

I. In each of the sentences below, choose the word in parentheses that is correct or preferred usage. (15%)

- The weather forecast says it is (apt, likely, liable) to rain today.
- She is an (alumnus, alumni, alumna, alumnae) of the local college.
- The word red has an unpleasant (connotation, denotation) for many people.
- (Because of, Due to) the bad weather, we arrived late.
- One could say that all cats are (egoists, egotists).

6. The audience yawned and seemed (disinterested, uninterested) in the speech.
7. My little son is (anxiously, eagerly) looking forward to Christmas.
8. He has a (contemptible, contemptuous) attitude toward sloppy work.
9. The Grand Canyon is of (incomparable, uncomparable) beauty.
10. My (ophthalmologist, optometrist) will soon be operating on the cataract in my left eye.
11. Golf is the (vocation, avocation) of a professional golfer.
12. Your work for the committee has been most (credible, creditable, credulous).
13. This is the most (historic, historical) building in the town.
14. I can't stand your (continual, continuous) interruption.
15. If you have a cough accompanied (by, with) a fever, see a doctor.

II. Fill in the missing words: (20%)

I

Take for instance the evening of December 31, 1994, when I began my assignment ___ (1) the foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*. I started the column ___ (2) writing from Tokyo, and when I arrived at the Okura Hotel ___ (3) a long transpacific flight, I called room service ___ (4) one simple request: "Could you please send me ___ (5) four oranges." I am addicted ___ (6) citrus and I needed a fix. It seemed to me a simple ___ (7) order when I telephoned it in, and the person on the other end ___ (8) to understand. About twenty minutes ___ (9) there was a knock at my door. A room service waiter was standing there ___ (10) his perfectly creased uniform. In front of him was a cart ___ (11) by a starched white tablecloth. ___ (12) the tablecloth were four tall ___ (13) of fresh-squeezed orange juice, ___ (14) glass set regally ___ (15) a small silver bowl of ice.

II

I believe that ___ (16) you want to understand the post-Cold War world you ___ (17) to start by understanding that a new international system ___ (18) succeeded it--globalization. ___ (19) is "The One Big Thing" people should focus on. Globalization is not the only thing ___ (20) events in the world today, but to the ___ (21) that there is a North Star and a worldwide shaping ___ (22), it is this system. What is new is the ___ (23); what is ___ (24) is power politics, chaos, clashing civilizations ___ (25) liberalism. ___ (26) what is the drama of the post-Cold War world is the interaction ___ (27) this new system ___ (28) all these old passions and aspirations. It is a complex drama, ___ (29) the final act still not written.

III

Elections alone will never be enough to ensure ___ (30) governance; Russia and Pakistan are proof ___ (31) of that. At the same ___ (32), just installing modern

operating ___(33) and software in a country, ___(34) holding regular elections that can ___(35) corrupt leaders, will never be ___(36) either. That is why the wisest ___(37) in developing countries will be ___(38) who understand quickest that without the herd there will be no ___(39), and without better software and ___(40) systems there will be no herd.

Part Three: Reading and Writing

I. Read the following essay and answer the questions briefly. (25%)

In recent years it seems that language as it relates to software programming has come to be worth more in the job market than a mastery of English or Chinese. But natural language isn't just the gift of the gab. It's also a talent necessary for communication, which is distinct from mere conversation. Communication can be verbal or written. In the working world, the ability to communicate well is known as a soft skill. Soft skills have always been critical to professions like journalism, advertising or medicine. Now they're proving to be just as important to high-tech industries and businesses.

Effective communication isn't the only soft skill employers crave. Inter-personal skills, like the ability to create and maintain a rapport with others, are high on the list, too. Time management, initiative, working well under pressure, and image or appearance--- especially as it bears on non-verbal communication---are also essential.

Technology has meant the blurring of traditional lines between workers and departments at many companies, particularly small, information technology start-ups. Businesses are less departmentalized. E-mail, for example, now allows all kinds of workers and managers to communicate directly with one another. Technical support staff who once worked in obscurity many now interact daily with sales and marketing staff, and with customers and clients.

Obviously, employers want programmers or developers who are at the top of their technical game. But increasingly, they also want employees who can articulate their goals clearly, write evocatively, work well with others and build relationships, take initiative, and represent a company's image of itself.

Soft skills---or, as they might have been called in another era, people skills.

Yet what does "effective communication" mean? First, understand that it can be verbal, non-verbal or written. Communication can include telephone links, telecommunication exchanges, E-mail, the Internet or writing reports. Thus, communication and conversation are not the same animal. But at the same time, language experts say conversation is often more than 90 percent non-verbal. Words alone make up only a tiny portion of the messages people send one another.

In his *Dictionary of Cybernetics*, Klaus Krippendorff, of the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania, writes that non-verbal

communication is: processes of communication without the use of language proper.”

“Body movements, gesture, smells but also such extra-linguistic features of speech as intonation, speed, pause,” Krippendorff said. “Non-verbal communication is expressive and manifest as opposed to being about something outside the communicator. Non-verbal communication tends to provide the context of verbal communication and has the power to disambiguate (but also to invalidate) the content of linguistic expressions.

So the way we talk---our speech patterns, our expressions, our eye movements---are critical to providing the context and clarity that words alone cannot. But how does the average worker learn to do this well?

Unfortunately, most of the large, popular career and job sites on the World Wide Web are devoted to finding, applying for and winning a new job. Most do not tell workers who already have a job how to improve their soft skills.

Smaller, and more obscure, subject-specific sites exist, but you have to hunt for them. Leading Edge Communications, for example has a site devoted to promoting publications and seminars on effective business communication. But it also offers an intriguing page of written exercises designed to teach people to communicate better. The Writing Center also offers books and seminars on writing better at work, and Summer Institute for Languages offers a tutorial on what constitutes written communication.

What else can a worker do? First, seek out a mentor among project leaders, managers or other more seniors, more experienced colleagues. Second, many businesses offer communications, assertiveness and team-building training courses. In addition, some career and recruiting experts advise clients to take public speaking classes, sign up for writing courses through university extension programs, and even try out for community theater. Also, though many people who already have jobs think an employment agency or career counselor has nothing to offer them, such consultants often advise on communication, interpersonal and image strategies.

Image? Appearance can be an important part of soft skills. Remember that most communication is non-verbal. That can certainly be true during a job interview. An interviewer may become your new boss or colleague, and, as everyone knows, comes to an opinion about you based in part on appearance. Interviewers want to hire applicants with the best shot of fitting into the company's culture---and most workplaces have a distinct culture. Appearance, from the way a candidate dresses to his body language, can tell an interviewer a lot about an applicant's background, education, personality and outlook.

In fact soft skills may be a deciding factor at a job interview, which is often the venue for an employer to test a candidate's communication or inter-personal skills. Can this candidate clearly and eloquently express his goals, or his ideas of how he will contribute to the company if hired? When asked how he would solve a technical problem, is his answer well-expressed and easy to understand? How much input did he have on projects at previous jobs and what kind of leadership roles did he take---

meaning, did he take initiative, work well with a team, and communicate frequently during the old assignment? Does he establish a rapport with the interviewer and others he meets during the hiring process? Does he seem able to build relationships? Can he provide some writing samples?

Recruiters and employment specialists say that in the last few years, a job applicant's performance in these areas has weighed more heavily in the decision of who to hire. In a survey last year, RHI Consulting, a high-tech recruiting firm, asked information technology managers what they looked for in employees. RHI says 85 percent responded that they want "well-developed soft skills," and 68 percent believe those soft skills are more important now than five years ago.

Questions: (Please answer them on your Answer Sheet.)

1. When is communication different from conversation?
2. What does "effective communication" mean?
3. What could be considered non-verbal communication?
4. What functions could non-verbal communication serve?
5. How can you improve your soft skills?

II. Read the following message and write a summary in CHINESE. (25%)

Remember the great Asian economic crisis? In late 1997 and 1998, it seemed to be the perfect doom-and-gloom story for *fin de siecle* eschatologists: The monetary crisis that had first erupted in Thailand in July 1997 was rippling throughout East Asia, to Russia, to Latin America, and then---watch out! It was only a matter of time before it would be coming to America. A new word, "contagion," crept the mysterious way the crisis would spread.

Looking backward, it's hard to see what the fuss was about. Most economists foresaw little damage to the U.S. from Asia's problems.

But the time was ripe for pessimism. America's economic expansion was in record-breaking territory (this year it became the longest expansion in U.S. history), and forecasters were nervously scanning the horizon for signs of the next recession. The stock market, already at unheard-of levels (Dow 8000!), seemed like nothing if not a bubble about to burst. All the bad news from Asia had to affect the U.S. somehow, didn't it?

A well-publicized band of pessimists thought so. David Jones, chief economist at Aubrey G. Lanston, cut his estimate for 1998 real GDP growth to 1.6% in November 1997 (it turned out to be 4.3%). The Asian contagion, he told the *Wall Street Journal*, would produce "shock waves of pessimism emanating every three or four weeks in the stock market."

The prognoses got drearier, and by October 1998 a no less august figure than former Fed Chairman Paul Volcker intoned at a speech in Washington, "Suddenly, it all seems in jeopardy. All that real growth--- all the trillions in paper wealth creation--

-is at risk. What started as a blip on the radar screen in Thailand---about as far away from Washington or New York as you can get---has somehow turned into something of a financial contagion."

Well today, less than a year and a half after that speech and just over 2 and a half years since the first whiff of crisis, the final grades are in, and the pessimists flunked. Not only did the U.S. survive the Asian crisis---it roared through it with barely a gearshift. Neither the big drop in exports that was forecast nor the mysterious contagion effect ever hit the U.S.

A recent postmortem by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis found that merchandise exports to Asia fell 12% in 1998 and notes that ---other things being equal---this might have cut GDP growth by 0.4%. But as is often the case, other things were *not* equal, and even that modest decline never materialized. One reason is that manufacturers found other markets for their goods. In California, for example, exports to East Asia accounted for 47% of all manufactured goods in 1997. In 1998 exports to the region dropped 18.5%, but exports to all countries fell by only 1.6%. For the U.S. as a whole, merchandise exports in 1998 grew 3%.

What about "contagion"? It was always a slippery term, used when there was no apparent chain of events that could produce serious damage to the U.S. economy. The implication was that the banking system would be the point of infection.

But overall, U.S. banks weren't that heavily exposed to the Asian economy. A recent study by the Federal Reserve Board found that total U.S. bank exposure to developing countries was \$195 billion on June 30, 1997, with exposure to the five "troubled" economies---Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand---at \$55 billion. While that's a lot of money, it was just 1.9% of total bank assets. A banking system as well capitalized and profitable as America's can easily handle bad loans in that range. "for the most part," the study says, "U.S. banks did not suffer large losses stemming directly from emerging market crises in recent years. When (individual) banks did suffer losses, they were generally able to offset them with earnings from other business segments."

So the next time you read some gloomy prediction of economic meltdown, make sure that whoever is selling it has a reason explaining both why---and how---it will happen.