

# 北京师范大学

2000 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

专 业：英语语言文学

研究方向：语言与教学，教学法，翻译学

考试科目：基础英语

## I. Grammar (25%)

1. Use appropriate articles where necessary to fill in the blanks

\_\_\_\_\_ discovery in 1932 of \_\_\_\_\_ extra-terrestrial radio-radiation has created \_\_\_\_\_ new science of Radio Astronomy. As contrasted with \_\_\_\_\_ optical telescopes, \_\_\_\_\_ tolerance in \_\_\_\_\_ surface of radio reflecting telescopes at best need be only one centimeter. \_\_\_\_\_ reflecting surfaces are made of \_\_\_\_\_ metal, frequently of wire mesh. \_\_\_\_\_ large radio telescope has \_\_\_\_\_ resolving power of barely one degree of arc.

2. Fill in the blanks with proper forms of the verb.

In natural languages, there \_\_\_\_\_ (be) many propositions \_\_\_\_\_ (express) possibility, which cannot be judged within the two-valued system. Therefore, various many-valued systems of modal logic \_\_\_\_\_ (be) developed. Modality is a term \_\_\_\_\_ (use) in modal logic, which \_\_\_\_\_ (concern) the notion of necessity, possibility and impossibility together with the relation which may be perceived \_\_\_\_\_ (exist) between them. The notions seem to be conceptually grounded in the fact that human beings often think and behave as though things \_\_\_\_\_ (be), or \_\_\_\_\_ (be), rather than they actually \_\_\_\_\_ (be), or \_\_\_\_\_ (be). Such a world view appears to contribute an essential part of the fabric of our everyday lives.

3. Analyze the construction of the following sentence, specifying the forms of verbs; then give another (preferably proverbial) example to tell if this is a common sentence pattern.

*Give them an inch and they will take a mile.*

## II. Vocabulary (20%)

A. For each of the following questions, select the appropriate word that is opposite in meaning to the word underlined. Circle your choice.  
6%

Example: outward: careful tiny rigid **inward**

1. agnostic: aged inebriate fanatic logical
2. mitigation: verdant aggravation restriction interaction
3. capricious: constant ignominious redoubtable regional
4. innocuous: silly dogmatic serious harmful
5. inexorable: impregnable quixotic indulgent cheerful
6. abridge: augment subdue encourage epitomize
7. solicitude: diffidence nonchalance adversity sensitivity
8. alienate: protract liberate prove conjoin
9. redundant: eminent obvious insufficient dilatory
10. opportune: unplanned weird ill-timed dialectical
11. averse: reasonable agreeable coincidental palatable
12. categorical: ambiguous unregenerate daniel cynical

**B. Fill in each blank of the following story with an appropriate word/ phrase from those given in the box below, making changes in form if necessary. 8%**

wages, salary, stability, work, vacancies, fussy, diversified, glamorous, managerial, self-confidence, drab, executive, secretarial, clerical, to query, to strip off, to shirk, to avert, to struggle, to aim, to fight, to amend, to accommodate

“Having separated from my husband, I was looking for a job. Of course, there were plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ for shop-assistants, but the \_\_\_\_\_ were low, and I was looking for something a little more \_\_\_\_\_. It’s not that I’m or \_\_\_\_\_ menial \_\_\_\_\_, but having \_\_\_\_\_ at night school to pass a few exams, it would have been a wry comment on my success if I ended up in some \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ job. On the other hand, I wasn’t \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ status, with a \_\_\_\_\_ in the upper-income bracket! No. I was looking for an opening into some kind of social work; there at least one could count on the work being \_\_\_\_\_ and full of human interests. An interesting job is the best medicine for mending a broken heart!

I’d \_\_\_\_\_ for years to keep my husband, but once I realised that I couldn’t \_\_\_\_\_ the inevitable, I was pleased when the separation came. Of course, I miss the \_\_\_\_\_ which marriage involves, but I’ve tried to \_\_\_\_\_ for that loss by building up my own \_\_\_\_\_, or rather, let me \_\_\_\_\_ that by saying my own self-reliance. It’s of course impossible to \_\_\_\_\_, in one go, all the trappings of marriage, and I would even \_\_\_\_\_ the advisability of doing so. And anyway, it must be in the \_\_\_\_\_ of things that my life turned out this way.”

**C. Give synonyms of the following words. The first letter is given for your assistance. 6%**

1. threat: m\_\_\_\_\_

2. result: o\_\_\_\_\_

3. sincere: g\_\_\_\_\_

4. furtive: s\_\_\_\_\_

5. reciprocal: m\_\_\_\_\_

6. rationale: r\_\_\_\_\_

7. quit: l\_\_\_\_\_

8. tranquil: c\_\_\_\_\_

9. premium: e\_\_\_\_\_

### III. Reading Comprehension. 25%

**Read the following passage and complete the tasks.**

My mother told me a story every evening while we waited for Father to close the shop and come home. The shop remained open till midnight. Bullock-carts in long caravans arrived late in the evening from distant villages, loaded with coconut, rice, and other <sup>1</sup>commodities for the market. The animals were unyoked under the big tamarind tree for the night, and the cartmen drifted in <sup>2</sup>twos and threes to the shop, for a chat or to ask for things to eat or smoke. How my father loved to discuss with them the price of grain, rainfall, harvest, and the state of irrigation channels. Or they talked about old <sup>3</sup>litigations. One heard repeated references to magistrates, affidavits, witnesses in the case, and appeals, punctuated with roars of laughter -- possibly the memory of some absurd legality or loophole tickled them.

My father ignored food and sleep when he had <sup>4</sup>company. My mother sent me out several times to see if he could be made to <sup>5</sup>turn in. He was a man of uncertain temper and one could not really guess how he would react to interruptions, and so my mother coached me to go up, watch his mood, and gently remind him of food and home. I stood under the shop-awning, coughing and clearing my throat, hoping to catch his eye. But the talk was all-absorbing and he would not glance in my direction, and I got absorbed in their talk, although I did not understand a word of it.

After a while my mother's voice came gently on the night air, calling, 'Raju, Raju,' and my father interrupted his activities to look at me and say, 'Tell your mother not to wait for me. Tell her to place a handful of rice and buttermilk in a bowl, with just one piece of lime pickle, and keep it in the oven for me. I'll come in later.' It was almost a formula with him five days in a week. He always added, 'Not that I'm really hungry tonight.' And then I believe he went on to discuss health problems with his cronies.

But I didn't stop to hear further. I made a quick dash back home. There was a dark <sup>6</sup>patch between the light from the shop and the dim lantern shedding its light on our threshold, a matter of about ten yards, I suppose, but the passage through it gave me a cold sweat. I expected wild animals and supernatural creatures to emerge and grab me. My mother waited on the doorstep to receive me and said, 'Not hungry, I suppose! That'll give him an excuse to talk to the village folk all night, and then come in for an hour's sleep and get up with the crowing of that foolish cock somewhere. He will spoil his health.'

I followed her into the kitchen. She placed my plate and hers side by side on the floor, drew the rice-pot within reach, and served me and herself simultaneously, and we finished our dinner by the <sup>7</sup>sooty tin lamp, stuck on a nail in the wall. She unrolled a mat for me in the front room, and I lay down to sleep. She sat at my side, awaiting Father's return. Her presence gave me a feeling of <sup>8</sup>inexplicable cosiness. I felt I ought to put her proximity to good use, and complained, 'Something's bothering my hair,' and she ran her fingers through my hair, and scratched the <sup>9</sup>nape of my neck. And then I commanded, 'A story.'

Immediately she began, 'Once upon a time there was a man called Devaka ...' I heard his name mentioned almost every night. He was a hero, saint, or something of the kind. I never learned fully what he did or why, sleep overcoming me before my mother was through even the <sup>10</sup>preamble.

*Task 1: Explain the following words or expressions as used in the extract. 5%*

1) commodities

2) twos and threes

3) litigations

4) company

5) turn in

6) patch

7) sooty

8) inexplicable

9) nape

10) preamble

**Task 2: Explain the sentences from the extract in your own words. 10%**

- 1) One heard repeated references to magistrates, affidavits, witnesses in the cases, and appeals, punctuated with roars of laughter -- possibly the memory of some absurd legality or loophole tickled them.
  
- 2) It was almost a formula with him five days in a week.
  
- 3) There was a dark patch between the light from the shop and the dim lantern shedding its light on our threshold, a matter of about ten yards, I suppose, but the passage through it gave me a cold sweat.
  
- 4) I felt I ought to put her proximity to good use, and complained, 'Something's bothering my hair.'

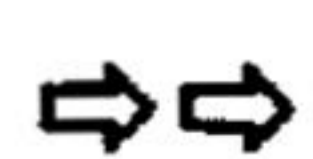
**Task 3: Answer the questions below. 10%**

- 1) What seems to be of primary concern of Raju's father and the people coming to the shop? Why do you think so?

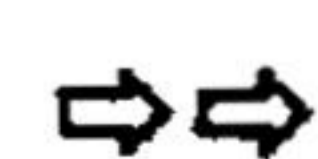
2) Who were the men Raju's father had with him at the shop in the evenings, and what were they there for?

3) How would you describe Raju's father according to what the writer says in the extract?

4) What role did the little boy start to play in the family?



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**IV. Translation. 30%****A. Translate the following passage into Chinese. 15%**

History as the artificial extension of the social memory (and I willingly concede that there are other appropriate ways of apprehending human experience) is an art of long standing, necessarily so since it springs instinctively from the impulse to enlarge the range of immediate experience; and however camouflaged by the disfiguring jargon of science, it is still in essence what it has always been. History in this sense is story, in aim always a true story; a story that employs all the devices of literary art (statement and generalisation, narration and description, comparison and comment and analogy) to present the succession of events in the life of man, and from the succession of events thus presented to derive a satisfactory meaning. The history written by historians, like the history informally fashioned by Mr. Everyman, is thus a convenient blend of truth and fancy, of what we commonly distinguish as 'fact' and 'interpretation'. In primitive times, when tradition is orally transmitted, bards and story-tellers frankly embroider or improvise the facts to heighten the dramatic import of the story. With the use of written records, history, gradually differentiated from fiction, is understood as the story of events that actually occurred; and with the increase and refinement of knowledge the historian recognised that his first duty is to be sure of his facts, let their meaning be what it may. Nevertheless, in every age history is taken to be a story of actual events from which a significant meaning may be derived; and in every age the illusion is that the present version is valid because the related facts are true, whereas former versions are invalid because based upon inaccurate or inadequate facts.

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**B. Translate the following into English. 15%**

四十年前，我住在城里在明朝曾经是特务机关的东厂里面。几座深深的大院子，在最里面三个院子里只住着我一个人。朋友们都说这地方阴森可怕，晚上很少有人敢来找我，我则怡然自得。每当夏夜，我起床以后，立刻就闻到院子里那些高大的马缨花树散发出来的阵阵幽香，这些香气破窗而入，我于此时神清气爽，乐不可支，连手中那一支笨拙的笔也仿佛生了花。

几年以后，我搬到西郊来住，照例四点起床，坐在窗前工作。白天透过窗子能够看到北京展览馆那金光闪闪的高塔的尖顶，此时当然看不到了。但是我知道，即使我看不见它，它仍然在那里挺然耸入天空，仿佛想给人以希望，以上进的劲头。我仍然是乐不可支，心也仿佛飞上了高空。

过了十年，我又搬了家。这新居既没有马缨花，也看不到金色的塔顶。但是门前却有一片清碧的荷塘。刚搬来的几年，池塘里还有荷花。夏天早晨四点已经算是黎明时分。在薄暗中透过窗子可以看到接天莲叶，而荷花的香气也悠然袭来，我顾而乐之，大有超出马缨花和金色塔顶之上的意味了。