

西安外国语学院  
2001 年英语硕士研究生入学考试试题  
(专业英语)

考试科目: 英语专业基础

SECTION ONE: BASIC ENGLISH (40%)

I. Directions: This part consists of four groups of words and phrases, in each of which all the words (phrases) but one are similar or close in meaning. Select the ONE that does not belong. Mark your answer on the Answer Sheet. (5%)

- |                    |               |                 |                  |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. A. conceited    | B. arrogant   | C. impulsive    | D. haughty       |
| 2. A. engaging     | B. commanding | C. appealing    | D. inviting      |
| 3. A. consummate   | B. deliberate | C. calculated   | D. intended      |
| 4. A. apprehension | B. misgivings | C. mishap       | D. anxiety       |
| 5. A. preliminary  | B. majority   | C. predominance | D. preponderance |

II. Directions: This section contains five incomplete sentences, each followed by four possible answers. Choose the one alternative that best fits in with each sentence by marking your answer on the Answer Sheet. (5%)

6. Bill always \_\_\_\_\_ Mike in Math.  
A. beats      B. wins      C. defeats      D. outdoes
7. It seems that the \_\_\_\_\_ of Tom's landing this well-paid job are rather slim.  
A. odds      B. prospectus      C. sights      D. likelihoods
8. According to the latest report, the money raised for the people in the flood-stricken areas \_\_\_\_\_ to 80, 000, 000 RMB yuan.  
A. totaled      B. added      C. amounted      D. numbered
9. As Peter had a sore throat, his doctor advised him to \_\_\_\_\_ from alcohol.  
A. detain      B. retain      C. abstain      D. sustain
10. Natural selection tends to eliminate genes that cause inherited diseases, acting most strongly against the most severe diseases; consequently, hereditary diseases that are \_\_\_\_\_ would be expected to be very \_\_\_\_\_, but surprisingly, they are not.  
A. untreated ... dangerous      B. lethal ... rare  
C. widespread ... acute      D. new ... perplexing

III. Directions: Each of the following ten sentences has four underlined parts marked A, B, C, and D. Identify the ONE underlined part that would not be acceptable in standard written English by writing its corresponding letter on your Answer Sheet. (10%)

11. A dam stops the flow of water, creating a reservoir and raise the level of water.  
A B C D
12. The United States is the world's largest cheese producer, making more than two million tons of cheese annual.  
A B C D
13. The dense Belgian fogs, like the most inland fogs, are caused by the cooling of humid surface air to a relatively low temperature.  
A B C D
14. To say that Johann von Wolfgang Goethe, who penned *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, enjoyed a long life instead of committing suicide at an early age.  
A B C D
15. Bothered by the heavy traffic along interstates highways, some travelers prefer the more tranquil routes of older, two-lane roads.  
A B C D
16. Unlike light from other sources, which travels in all direction, the light from a laser is highly directional.  
A B C D
17. Close to 75 percentage of the United States' population is concentrated in metropolitan areas, and more than half the population lives in the South and West.  
A B C D
18. All Middle East peoples believed in life after death, but the Egyptians of ages past carried this idea further than any ancient civilization.  
A B C D
19. Fish are unable to sleep, but sometimes a fish in an aquarium will lie on their side and appear to be completely unaware of everything around it.  
A B C D



20. Popping in corn occurs whenever there is an explosion cause by the expansion under pressure of moisture in the starch grains during the kernel is dry heated.

#### IV. Directions: Gap-Filling

**Part A.** Fill in each of the numbered blanks in the following passage with the ONE most appropriate word. Please be advised that the initial letters of each word are already spelt out for you. Be sure to spell each word (FULL SPELLING) on your Answer Sheet. (5%)

The list of exercise objectives in *The Confident Writer: A Norton Workbook* introduces the reasons for doing the exercises tailored to meet the needs of freshmen and sophomores. The exercises give experience both in the recognition of the subject and in its use.

Each exercise begins with directions that are accompanied by examples of how to f\_\_\_\_\_ (1) them. The exercises are usually p\_\_\_\_\_ (2), the first helping you recognize the concept being studied, the second asking you to use it in an appropriate form. The exercises have not been constructed so a\_\_\_\_\_ (3) to trick you, but only to give you practice in recognizing and using forms. They should be easy to read and relate because they have been taken for the most part from essays written by c\_\_\_\_\_ (4) students. Try to do the exercises, not automatically but t\_\_\_\_\_ (5), reviewing the explanations, examining the examples, and fulfilling the directions with care.

Remember as you work that exercises are not e\_\_\_\_\_ (6) in themselves but steps toward your becoming a more confident writer. With this in mind, note in your thoughts and on the m\_\_\_\_\_ (7) of your essays or other pieces of writing your usage of techniques or forms studied in the workbook. In this way you w\_\_\_\_\_ (8) consciously make a transition between the exercise and your o\_\_\_\_\_ (9) creative writing and, at the same time, establish your new skills and understandings more firmly within your writing p\_\_\_\_\_ (10).

Part B. In each of the following 10 incomplete sentences, the initial letter of the word to be filled in with is already spelt out for you. Try to figure out the most appropriate word according to the notes given in Chinese in parenthesis and write the word (FULL SPELLING) on the corresponding space provided on your Answer Sheet. (5%)

1. This is the whole s \_\_\_\_\_ of the Speech Contest. (前前后后)
2. There are different v \_\_\_\_\_ of his mysterious disappearance. (众说纷纭)
3. Tropical plants are i \_\_\_\_\_ of severe cold. (不耐严寒)
4. Mrs. Smith treats her husband with absolute i \_\_\_\_\_. (冷若冰霜)
5. No c \_\_\_\_\_ was reached by the end of the meeting. (莫衷一是)
6. We all have sharp eyes but c \_\_\_\_\_ hands. (眼高手低)
7. Alice enjoys reading p \_\_\_\_\_ poetry. (田园诗)
8. R \_\_\_\_\_ scenes were their chief subject matter. (乡村景色)
9. This artist is by no means c \_\_\_\_\_. (才华超绝)
10. What's your u \_\_\_\_\_ goal in life? (最终目标)

V. Directions: Read the following passage carefully and select the best answer to each of the questions that follow and mark your answer on your Answer Sheet. (10%)

Beau Nash and the city of Bath increased in dignity, splendor and power side by side, and the indispensability of the Beau was realized so soon, that even "the magistrate of the city found he was necessary and useful, and took every opportunity of paying the same respect to his fictitious royalty that is generally paid to or claimed by real power." Understanding that, in the then existing state of the roads, and the primitive nature of the pleasures, Bath could not become a watering-place of the first standing, Beau Nash, as soon as he became Master of the Ceremonies, enforcing a regular tariff for lodgings - for he remembered the guinea he had been obliged to pay for his bed on the night of his arrival at Bath. It was useless for the harpies and the birds of prey to weep and to groan, his word was law, and that law was carried out. He hired an orchestra from



London, and although the players were, at that time, only six in number, the six were infinitely superior to the five painstaking but painful musicians who performed under the reign of Captain Webster. A row of new houses was built, fine pavements were laid down, and as much as £ 1,700 to £ 1,800 was raised by subscription in 1705, and early in 1706, and was spent in levelling the Alps and filling up the craters of the roads outside Bath. The houses and the streets became splendid in appearance, and, in short, Bath would have been unrecognizable to a visitor returning there after an absence of twenty years.

There were, too, minor reforms, such as that enforcing the proper lighting of the streets. For whereas, before the time of Beau Nash, the lighting of the town had been left entirely to chance and to the choice of the inhabitants, these latter were now enforced, by a by-law, to hang out lanterns between the 14th of September and March the 25th, "as it shall grow dark, until 12 o'clock at night, upon pain of forfeiting two shillings for default". Not content with this, Beau Nash, after considerable trouble, induced the Corporation, which had announced with some firmness that it found it "impracticable to keep the streets and public ways of the city clean and in good order by their own authority", to apply to Parliament for permission to force the inhabitants to take on this "impracticable" duty also, and, as well, for permission to institute a night watch, and to punish beggars and loiterers.

1. The phrase "the indispensability of the Beau" (line 2) means \_\_\_\_\_.
 

A. he was a sagacious man	B. he was experiencing an emotional strain
C. he was modest and reserved	D. the people could not do without him
2. The term "his fictitious royalty" (line 4) implies that \_\_\_\_\_.
 

A. he claimed to be of royal birth	B. he acted as if he were a king
C. he wrote books about the king	D. he was paid a share of the city's profits
3. The phrase "the harpies and the birds of prey" (line 9) refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
 

A. the members of the orchestra	B. the landladies of the city
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- C. wildlife around the town      D. people with religious feelings
4. Which figure of speech is used in describing Captain Webster's musicians?
- A. Metaphor      B. Onomatopoeia  
C. Simile      D. Alliteration
5. For which of the following reasons is it suggested that Beau Nash did not think that Bath could be a first-class spa?
1. It had poor entertainments.      2. The magistrates were too strict.  
3. The city was too dignified.      4. The roads were bad.  
5. The lodgings were poor.
- A. both 1 and 3    B. both 2 and 4    C. both 1 and 4    D. both 2 and 3
6. What information is true about Beau Nash's orchestra?
1. It had five players.      2. It came from London.  
3. It was better than its predecessor.      4. Its players were in pain and unwell.  
5. It was in royal employment.
- A. both 1 and 3    B. both 2 and 4    C. both 1 and 4    D. both 2 and 3
7. Bath would have been unrecognizable to the visitor after an absence of twenty years for all the following EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the streets were wide      B. new houses had been built  
C. the streets looked splendid      D. new pavements had been laid
8. The attitude of the Corporation to Beau Nash's reforms was \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. co-operative    B. reluctant      C. enthusiastic    D. indifferent
9. Permission to punish beggars and loiterers had to be given by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a by-law      B. Beau Nash      C. Parliament      D. the Corporation
10. What would be the most appropriate title for the reading selection?
- A. Bath in the Eighteenth Century    B. Beau Nash's Reform in Bath  
C. Beau Nash and His Life in Bath    D. The Development of Bath



Score \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Sheet for Basic English

*Note: Mark your choice by blackening the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet.*

I. 1. [A][B][C][D] 2. [A][B][C][D] 3. [A][B][C][D] 4. [A][B][C][D] 5. [A][B][C][D]

II. 6. [A][B][C][D] 7. [A][B][C][D] 8. [A][B][C][D] 9. [A][B][C][D] 10. [A][B][C][D]

III. 11. [A][B][C][D] 12. [A][B][C][D] 13. [A][B][C][D] 14. [A][B][C][D] 15. [A][B][C][D]

16. [A][B][C][D] 17. [A][B][C][D] 18. [A][B][C][D] 19. [A][B][C][D] 20. [A][B][C][D]

### IV. Gap Filling

#### Part A

1. f \_\_\_\_\_ 2. p \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a \_\_\_\_\_ 4. c \_\_\_\_\_ 5. t \_\_\_\_\_  
6. e \_\_\_\_\_ 7. m \_\_\_\_\_ 8. w \_\_\_\_\_ 9. o \_\_\_\_\_ 10. p \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part B

1. s \_\_\_\_\_ 2. v \_\_\_\_\_ 3. i \_\_\_\_\_ 4. i \_\_\_\_\_ 5. c \_\_\_\_\_  
6. c \_\_\_\_\_ 7. p \_\_\_\_\_ 8. R \_\_\_\_\_ 9. c \_\_\_\_\_ 10. u \_\_\_\_\_

### V. Reading Comprehension

1. [A][B][C][D] 2. [A][B][C][D] 3. [A][B][C][D] 4. [A][B][C][D] 5. [A][B][C][D]  
6. [A][B][C][D] 7. [A][B][C][D] 8. [A][B][C][D] 9. [A][B][C][D] 10. [A][B][C][D]

**SECTION TWO: LINGUISTICS (20%)**

**I. Short-answer questions (10%)**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions as briefly and clearly as possible.

1. What is meant by cultural transmission as one of the defining properties of human language?

2. Write out the symbol that corresponds to each of the following phonetic descriptions:

1) voiceless alveolar stop: / /

2) velar nasal: / /

3) low front vowel: / /

4) high back vowel: / /

3. What is the difference between derivation and inflection in morphology?

4. What is overgeneralization in foreign language learning?



5. What do you know about the critical period for first language acquisition?

SECTION II. Exemplify the following: (10%)

1. The relationship between competence and performance.

2. The role the first language in foreign language learning.

SECTION THREE: English and American Literature (20%)

I. Select the best answer to each of the following questions: (10%)

1. "The work presented, for the first time in English literature, a comprehensive realistic picture of the medieval English society and created a whole gallery of vivid characters from all walks of life." The work referred to here is most likely

A. William Langland's *Piers the Plowman*.

B. Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

C. John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*.

D. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

2. *The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus* is perhaps the first dramatization of the medieval legend of a man who sold his soul to the Devil in exchange for knowledge. It is a masterpiece by

A. William Shakespeare

B. Christopher Marlowe



3. The lines "it was a miracle of rare device, / A sunny pleasure dome with  
caves of ice!" are found in

A. William Wordsworth's "Lines Written in Early Spring"

B. John Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

C. George Gordon Byron's *Don Juan*.

D. Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Kubla Khan."

4. "Damn the fool! There he is," cried Heathcliff, sinking back into his seat.

"Hush, my darling! Hush, hush, Catherine! I'll stay. If he shot me so, I'd

expire with a blessing on my lips." The novel from which the passage is

taken is probably

A. Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

B. Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*

C. George Eliot's *Middlemarch*.

D. Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

5. As novelists, D. H. Lawrence, James Joyce and Virginia Woolf share one  
thing in common. That is,

A. they all dig into human consciousness.

B. they all take England as the setting for their novels.

- C. they all employ the "stream of consciousness" technique.
- D. they all show concern for the moral degeneration.
- 6 Goodman Brown, main character in Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story "Young Goodman Brown," shrank from the bosom of Faith, his wife, at midnight because
- A. Faith almost kissed him in public and that always annoyed him.
- B. Faith always wore a pink ribbon and he hated it.
- C. Faith was a witch, as he now believed.
- D. Faith promised him no verse upon his tombstone.
- 7 Which of the following influenced American naturalism in the 20th century?
- A. Darwinism                      B. Freudian Psychology
- C. Marxism                         D. Einstein's theory of relativity
- 8 He treated with great care the clashes between two different cultures and the emotional and moral problems Americans face in Europe or Europeans face in America. He is
- A. Mark Twain                      B. Henry James                      C. Theodore Dreiser
- D. Herman Melville.
- 9 *The Hairy Ape*, a play that concerns the problem of modern man's identity,



is one of the important works by

A. Eugene O'Neill

B. Arthur Miller

B. Langston Hughes

D. Edward Albee

10. Which of the following is NOT true of Ernest Hemingway's style?

A. Highly suggestive and connotative language

B. Heavy authorial comments

C. Minimum of adjectives and adverbs

D. Use of short, simple words and sentences

II. Explain each of the following literary terms BRIEFLY: (10%)

1. genre:

2. soliloquy:

3. conceit:

4. suspense:

5. point of view:

**SECTION FOUR: AMERICAN & BRITISH STUDIES (20%)**

Define the following terms: (10%)

1. AP
2. British Disease
3. The Monroe Doctrine
4. Mercantilism

Answer ONE of the following questions: (10%)

1. Make a list of the major historical events and/or figures that contributed to the development of the British Parliament.
2. Illustrate the system of Checks and Balances with your focus on the mechanism of the system. Point out the advantage and the drawback of the system.