

西安外国语学院  
2001年英语硕士研究生入学考试试题  
(英语写作)

*Note: Write all your answers as well as the essay on the answer sheets given to you by the invigilators. Answers on this exam text will NOT be read.*

I. Rewrite the following sentences, correcting any mistakes that you find. (15%)

1. By placing two or more ideas of equal value in the same grammatical form will enable us to express these ideas clearly and emphatically.
2. James Joyce's *Ulysses*, a long and complicated novel and which is on our reading list, has been banned by the school board.
3. The tenant kept the woodwork in his apartment flawlessly.
4. Djalma was disappointed with the grant proposals she read—she thought the projects they proposed should have been more unique.
5. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
6. City Hall had been built in 1864 to house the wounded Civil War veterans, but it was used for that purpose only one month. The time it took for one wounded veteran to get better.
7. She read a poem to the class that didn't seem to make any sense.
8. Most elderly people wish to preserve their skills and possessions; therefore, they wish to maintain their sense of freedom and prestige in the family, group, and community.
9. I have no reservations or concerns about her ability to interact with native speakers of English in a graduate program on either a personal or academic level.
10. Angered by the crowd's booing, the concert was canceled.

II. Analyze the writing techniques and rhetorical devices of the passage below by answering the questions following the text. (15%)

In a society based on self-reliance and free will, the institutionalization of life scares me. Today, American has government-funded programs to treat all society's ills. We have day-care centers for the young, nursing homes for the old, psychologists in schools who use mental health as an instrument of discipline, and mental hospitals for those whose behavior does not conform to the norm.



We have drug-abuse programs, methadone-maintenance programs, alcohol programs, vocational programs, rehabilitation programs, learning-how-to-cope-with-death-for-the-terminally-ill programs, make-friends-with-your-neighborhood-policeman programs, helping-emotionally-disturbed-children programs, and how-to-accept-divorce programs. Unemployment benefits and welfare are programs designed to institutionalize a growing body of citizens whose purpose in life is the avoidance of work. They are dependent on the state for their livelihood. We can't even let people die in peace. We put them in hospitals for the dying, so that they can be programmed into dying correctly. They don't need to be hospitalized; they would be better off with their families, dying with dignity instead of in these macabre halfway houses. All this is a displacement of confidence from the individual to the program. We can't rely on people to take care of themselves anymore so we have to funnel them into programs. This is a self-perpetuating thing, for the more programs we make available, the more people will become accustomed to seeking help from the government.

1. Who do you think are the author's intended audience? What do you suppose the author wants his audience to be thinking or feeling after reading this passage?
2. Can you find a definite thesis that announces the writer's viewpoint? How does the author develop his thesis?
3. Can you identify the transitional devices? How do these devices unify this passage?
4. Why does the author coin such long words as "learning-how-to-cope-with-death-for-the-terminally-ill," "helping-emotionally-disturbed-children," "how-to-accept-divorce," and "make-friends-with-your-neighborhood-policeman" to modify "program"? What rhetorical effect do these words achieve?
5. What kind of tone does this passage employ? Is it appropriate?

III. Write an essay of no less than four hundred words on one of the following issues in a form of discourse and method appropriate to your subject and purpose, and devise a title for your essay. (70%)

1. Should college students be allowed to live off campus?
2. Should human beings be cloned?