

淡江大學 98 學年度進修學士班轉學生招生考試試題

系別：各學系二、三年級

科目：英 文

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Part One: Vocabulary and Structure (30%)

Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence. Give one answer only to each question.

1. With an increasing number of _____ parents taking their children out of class, many school officials are looking for ways to restore parents' confidence in the public education system.
a. careless b. disgruntled c. satisfied d. fascinated
2. The city of Los Angeles derives its name from a Spanish term _____ "those angels."
a. meant b. meaning c. that it means d. which is meant
3. The theory of multiple intelligences may help instructors plan lessons for all students; _____, not all educators agree with the theory.
a. furthermore b. whether c. however d. consequently
4. What makes something "cute" _____ what makes something "beautiful." People often describe pandas as cute, but they don't usually say they are beautiful.
a. is differing b. is different from c. be different d. differing from
5. Australia has floods in some years, _____.
a. in others drought b. droughts are others c. others in drought d. while other droughts
6. _____ the quality of our lives and the lives of future generations, we must protect plant and animal species now.
a. Being preserved b. Preserved c. To be preserving d. To preserve
7. The film "Jurassic Park" is fiction, but it reflects _____ genetic engineering which are getting ever closer to reality.
a. recently advancing of b. recent advances in c. an advance recently in d. advanced recently in
8. One technique for effective study is drawing a picture of the information, to _____ the visual part of the brain.
a. renovate b. injure c. activate d. obstruct
9. Results of a 2008 Poll on leisure time, _____ in North America, showed that the average workweek for many North Americans is 55 hours.
a. which conducts b. conducting c. conducted d. to conduct
10. Many popular dinner foods, such as French fries and steak, are heavy in fat, which makes people feel _____. That's why people often fall asleep after dinner.
a. irritated b. vigorous c. depressed d. lethargic
11. Many educational reformers realize that some students, _____, are not always good at taking tests or at memorization. This makes it harder for them to achieve passing grades or get into good schools.

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- a. though intelligent b. as long as diligent c. despite poor d. besides talkative

12. John Locke, a British philosopher, wrote that newborn infants were a "blank slate" _____ their education and experience would be "written."

- a. for that b. on which c. due to that d. in whose

13. _____ most Japanese weddings these days are in a traditional Western style, many couples in Western countries are looking for a non-Western wedding experience that expresses something of their personal interests.

- a. Afterwards b. Since c. While d. Hence

14. Prof. Smith believes that learners should develop autonomy, and responsibility. Teachers have to resist their instinct to come to the aid of students at the slightest _____: they have to "get out of the way" while students work out solutions.

- a. dissatisfaction b. surprise c. downfall d. triumph

15. _____ the overcrowding in urban areas, many cities have problems with air pollution, disease, and crime. People spend hours in gridlock when they commute, and there isn't enough water, transportation, or housing.

- a. Due to b. Based on c. Resulting in d. As soon as

Part Two: Reading Comprehension (30%)

Read the following passages and choose the best answer to each question.

Death Penalty?

Death penalty, also dubbed the "capital punishment," is the pre-meditated and planned taking of a human life by a government in response to a crime committed by that legally convicted person. The United States remains in the minority of nations in the world that still uses death as penalty for certain crimes. Many see the penalty as barbaric and against American values. Others see it as a very important tool in fighting violent pre-meditated murder. Two things have once again brought this issue to national debate. One is the release of some highly publicized studies that show a number of innocents had been put to death. The second is the issue of terrorism and the need to punish its perpetrators.

People who support the banning of death penalty argue that, first of all, financial costs to taxpayers of capital punishment is several times that of keeping someone in prison for life. Most people don't realize that carrying out one death sentence costs 2-5 times more than keeping that same criminal in prison for the rest of his life. How can this be? It has to do with the endless appeals, additional required procedures, and legal wrangling that drag the process out. It is not unusual for a prisoner to be on death row for 15-20 years. Judges, attorneys, court reporters,

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clerks, and court facilities all require a substantial investment by the taxpayers. Secondly, death penalty is barbaric and violates the "cruel and unusual" clause in the Bill of Rights. Whether it's a firing squad, electric chair, gas chamber, lethal injection, or hanging, it is barbaric to allow state-sanctioned murder before a crowd of people. We condemn people like Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong Il when they murder their own people while we continue to do the same (although our procedures for allowing it are obviously more thorough). The 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prevents the use of "cruel and unusual punishment." Many would interpret the death penalty as violating this restriction. Thirdly, we as a society have to move away from the "eye for an eye" revenge mentality if civilization is to advance. The "eye for an eye" mentality will never solve anything. A revenge philosophy inevitably leads to an endless cycle of violence. Why do you think the Israeli-Palestine conflict has been going on for over 50 years? Why do you think gang violence in this country never seems to end? It is important to send a message to society that striking back at your enemy purely for revenge will always make matters worse.

On the other hand, people supporting death penalty have different opinions. To begin with, the death penalty gives closure to the victim's families who have suffered so much. Some family members of crime victims may take years or decades to recover from the shock and loss of a loved one. Some may never recover. One of the things that helps hasten this recovery is to achieve some kind of closure. Life in prison just means the criminal is still around to haunt the victim. A death sentence brings finality to a horrible chapter in the lives of these family members. In addition, it creates another form of crime deterrent. Crime would run rampant as never before if there wasn't some way to deter people from committing the acts. Prison time is an effective deterrent, but with some people, more is needed. Prosecutors should have the option of using a variety of punishments in order to minimize crime. Finally, justice is better served. The most fundamental principle of justice is that the punishment should fit the crime. When someone plans and brutally murders another person, doesn't it make sense that the punishment for the perpetrator also be death?

1. The purpose of this passage is to:
 - a. Argue that capital punishment should be banned in some states
 - b. Present the two sides of a controversial issue
 - c. Discuss why crime rates remain high in the U.S.
 - d. Analyze the underlying philosophies of judicial systems
2. What does "hasten" mean?
 - a. Stop

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- b. Heighten
 - c. Speed
 - d. Predict
3. Which of the following about death penalty is NOT true?
- a. Death penalty is much more expensive than life sentence.
 - b. Death penalty is practiced in most of the countries around the world.
 - c. An argument for death penalty is "an eye for an eye."
 - d. People arguing against death penalty claim that it violates the Constitution.
4. What does "deterrent" mean?
- a. Attraction
 - b. Stimulus
 - c. Determination
 - d. Prevention
5. Which of the following is the best conclusion for this passage?
- a. Since death penalty brings about financial, physical, and emotional burden to the government and the victims' families, it should be banned as soon as possible.
 - b. Besides death penalty, there are many other controversial issues we need to pay attention, such as the legalization of marijuana, mercy killing or abortion.
 - c. Whatever the arguments for or against death penalty, it has become a controversial issue widely debated in the U.S.
 - d. In conclusion, death penalty is not only practiced in some states of the U.S., but also in some Asian countries like Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Words that camouflage

People use words to express their thoughts and feelings. As everyone knows who has tried to write, choosing just the right word to express an idea can be difficult. Nevertheless, it is important to choose words carefully, for words can suggest meanings not intended at all; words can also be used to deceive. In order to express ourselves accurately and to understand what other people express, we must be aware that words can camouflage real attitudes. English is full of examples.

Experts at camouflage are those in advertising. Advertisers obviously want to emphasize the virtues of their products and detract from the products' faults. To do this, they use carefully chosen words designed to mislead the unwary customer. Carl Wright in his book *I can Sell You Anything* has dubbed these expressions "weasel words," which the dictionary defines as words "used in order to evade or retreat from a direct or forthright statement or position." Let's say, for instance, that the

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advertiser wants you to think that using his product will require no work or trouble. He cannot state that the product will be trouble free because there is usually no such guarantee; instead, he suggests it by using the expression "virtually," as in this product is "virtually trouble free." The careless listener will ignore the qualifier "virtually" and imagine that the product is no trouble at all. Another misleading expression is "up to." During a sale a car dealer may advertise reductions of "up to 25 percent." Our inclination again is to ignore "up to" and think that most of the reductions are 25 percent, but too often we find that only a few products are reduced this much. The other day I saw a sign on a shoe store advertising "up to 40% off" for athletic shoes. Needing some walking shoes and wanting a good bargain, I went in, only to find that there were only a few shoes marked down by 40 percent; most of the shoes were not even on sale.

Just as "weasel words" are used to engender favorable impressions, so are euphemisms. A euphemism is defined as "the substitution of an agreeable for inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant." We often use euphemisms when our intentions are good. For example, it is difficult to accept that someone we love has died, so people use all kinds of euphemisms for death such as "He passed away," "She's gone to meet her maker," or "He is no longer with us." To defend against the pain of such a reality some use the humorous euphemism, "She's kicked the bucket." To make certain jobs sound less unappealing, people use euphemisms. A janitor is now a "custodial worker" or "maintenance person." A trash man may be called a "sanitation engineer." Such euphemisms are not harmful, but sometimes euphemisms can be used to camouflage potentially controversial or objectionable actions. For examples, instead of saying we need to raise taxes, a politician might say we need "revenue enhancement measure." When psychologists kill an animal they have experimented with, they prefer to use the term "sacrifice" the animal. Doctors prefer "terminate a pregnancy" to "abort the fetus."

A final example of language that conveys unintended impressions is sexist language. Sexist language refers to expressions that demean females in some way. For instance, when someone refers to a grown woman as a "girl," the implication is that she is still a child. Therefore, instead of an employer saying, "I'll have my girl type that," what should be said is, "I'll have my assistant (or secretary) type that." Other offensive expressions include "young things," as in "She's a cute young thing." The proper term, "girl," should be used in this case, since the "thing" is a young female. Further, the names of many jobs suggest women should not fill these positions. Thus, we use "chair" or "chairperson" instead of the sexist "chairman." Likewise, a "foreman" should be called a "supervisor."

We must always be careful to choose the words that convey what we really mean.

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If we do not want to give offense, then we should always be on guard against sexist (as well as racist) language. If we do not want to be misled by advertisements, we must keep our ears open for weasel words. Finally, when we use a euphemism, we should be aware that we are trying to make an idea more acceptable. At times this may be preferable, but let's not forget that euphemisms camouflage reality. After all, "coloring the truth" is still lying.

6. Based on your understanding of this article, which statement is **NOT** true?
- When a raincoat is "virtually water-proof," it is 100% waterproof.
 - "Weasel words" is a phrase created by Carl Wright in his book.
 - "Firefighters" are preferred over "firemen."
 - Using "girls" to call grown-up women is impolite and inappropriate.
7. What is the main idea of this passage?
- Do not trust language of advertising because it often exaggerates, and it is usually too good to be true.
 - Examples of words that camouflage can be found in advertising, euphemisms, as well as sexist language.
 - Sexist language is often offensive to women and children, rather than men.
 - People should be encouraged to use euphemisms and avoid sexist language in their everyday life.
8. What does "engender" mean?
- Avoid
 - Please
 - Produce
 - Demonize
9. Which of the following is a "euphemism" usage?
- The doctor had to abort the fetus because it was not healthy.
 - I am so sorry to hear that your grandmother died last week.
 - Ashton, is your Dad a janitor at the Riverside High School?
 - Researchers sacrificed the guinea pig for this drug experiment.
10. The word "camouflage" may be substituted with which of the following?
- Tell stories
 - Disguise
 - Influence
 - Exemplify

Fast breeder reactors

The need to generate enormous additional amounts of electric power while at

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the same time protecting the environment is taking form as one of the major social and technological problems that our society must resolve over the next few decades. The Federal Power Commission has estimated that during the next 30 years the American power industry will have to add some 1,600 million kilowatts of electric generating capacity to the present capacity of 300 million kilowatts. As for the environment, the extent of public concern over improving the quality of air, water, and landscape hardly needs elaboration, except for one point that is often overlooked: it will take large amounts of electrical energy to run the many kinds of purification plants that will be needed to clean up the air and water and to recycle wastes.

A related problem of equal magnitude is the rational utilization of the nation's finite reserves of coal, oil and gas. In the long term they will be far more precious as sources of organic molecules than as sources of heat. Moreover, any reduction in the consumption of organic fuels brings about a proportional reduction in air pollution from their combustion products.

The breeder type of nuclear reactors holds great promise as the solution to these problems. Breeder reactors produce more nuclear fuel than they consume: they would make it feasible to utilize enormous quantities of low-grade uranium and thorium ores dispersed in the rocks of the earth as a source of low-cost energy for thousands of years. In addition, these reactors would operate without adding noxious combustion products to the air. It is in the light of these considerations that the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, the nuclear industry and the electric utilities have mounted a large-scale effort to develop the technology whereby it will be possible to have a breeder reactor generating electric power on a commercial scale by 1984.

11. What type of text organization is this passage?

- a. History
- b. Categories
- c. Problem-solution
- d. Example

12. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Americans need to find a cheap way of generating great amounts of electricity before 1984.
- b. Breeder nuclear reactors are the environment-friendly, and economic solution to the electricity shortage problem.
- c. The Federal Power Commission and the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission are responsible for launching the breeder reactor project.
- d. Large amounts of electrical energy is needed to run the purification plants

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that can clean up the air, water and recycle wastes.

13. What does "overlooked" mean in this passage?

- a. Neglected
- b. Undermined
- c. Previewed
- d. Terminated

14. Which statement is **NOT** true?

- a. 1,900 million kilowatts will be needed for the next 3 decades in the U.S.
- b. Breeder reactors do not pollute the air.
- c. The quantities of uranium and thorium ores on earth are very limited.
- d. The improvement of water, air, and landscape is of concern to the public.

15. What does "feasible" mean?

- a. Possible
- b. Challenging
- c. Questionable
- d. Predictable

Part Three: Writing (40%)

In 150-200 words, discuss in your opinion the THREE best ways to improve English writing skills.