

华南理工大学
2017 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试卷

(试卷上做答无效, 请在答题纸上做答, 试后本卷必须与答题纸一同交回)

科目名称: 英语综合水平测试

适用专业: 英语语言文学; 外国语言学及应用语言学

共 页

Part 1 Reading Comprehension (50 scores, 2.5 scores each)

Directions: There are 4 passages, each of which is followed by 5 statements or questions. Read the passages and make ONE choice that best completes or answers each of the statements or questions.

Passage 1

Unlike most of Western Europe, where paid vacations for regular workers are typical four to six weeks, the U.S. has no official vacation policy. Employers are not required to provide them, and the starting norm is good jobs remains a paltry two weeks. Millions of the hard-working poor, without steady employment, have no paid vacation at all. And millions of the hard-working well-to-do have nice allotments that exist only on paper—the excessive demands of positions make planning and taking significant time off almost impossible.

The failure to increase vacation time in the U.S. is especially scandalous these days, given how much harder most Americans are working. They are working more hours than they are scheduled to work, they do more overtime, bring more work home, and take more business trips. And 60 percent still report that they don't have enough time at work to finish "every thing that needs to get done." Despite the fact that 68 percent report having to work "very fast" and 88 percent reporting having to work "very hard", American corporations seem downright ungracious about vacations when viewed in this light, or when we consider that they give their European employees the same months to six weeks that European companies do.

The Western Europeans understand that being a good, hard-working employee requires an annual period of serious relaxation. Not just a three-day jet to the Bahams, but a genuine unwinding, not only from work, but also from the hectic pace of daily life. In the U.S., we tend to use vacations as opportunities for consuming, whether it's expensive hotel stays, outlet shopping, or exotic luxury destinations. This is part of our longer pattern of work and spend, using economic progress to consume more rather than give ourselves more time off. Europeans, by contrast, are more likely to go camping, or hiking, or stay in the country, where they can live more simply, enjoy nature, and reflect on their lives. The

vacation bonus ensures that everyone can afford to do this. In Western Europe, vacations have become a basic human right. In the U.S., they feel more like an endangered species.

1. We learn from the first paragraph that _____.
 - A) American employers refuse to grant vacation to employees although they are required to do so.
 - B) The longest vacation American employees can take is two weeks.
 - C) Americans without steady employment can have a limited amount of paid vacation.
 - D) Many American executives skip the vacation they are entitled to.
2. A very strong case for increasing vacation time in America is that _____.
 - A) America has a very strong economy.
 - B) Europeans take vacation more than Americans do.
 - C) Americans are working extremely hard.
 - D) Americans have a stronger desire to take vacation than European.
3. In granting vacation to Europeans, American employers _____.
 - A) take a double standard
 - B) are extremely patriotic
 - C) do worse than their European counterparts
 - D) do better than their European counterparts
4. What do Americans do when they take vacation?
 - A) They know how to enjoy themselves.
 - B) They spent a lot of money.
 - C) They do everything economically.
 - D) They try to imitate their European counterparts.
5. In discussing vacation in America, the tone of the author is _____.
 - A) critical
 - B) tolerant
 - C) humorous
 - D) desperate

Passage 2

By the year 2020 AD, a single silicon chip will contain more components than the number of cells in the human brain. And electronic chip makers will have turned away from silicon and other conventional materials and will be designing a generation of biological computers, made partly nor entirely of protein molecules like those in living cells. These are some of the forecasts being made by Mr. Brain Oakley, one of Britain's top

men in the computer world.

Mr. Oakley is director of the Alvey program set up as a collaborative effort by the UK Government, the academic world and private industry to keep Britain among the leaders in the fast developing world of silicon chips and computer technology.

Mr. Oakley predicts that in 10 years, computers will be working 10 times faster than today, and the trend will continue. Every year silicon chips will double in complexity. But fortunately as they get smaller they use less power and are cheaper to produce as well as working faster, so the cost of chips is being reduced by one-tenth every six years. This means that computers are getting smaller and at the same time more powerful and more intelligent, but little or no more expensive.

By 2020, says Mr. Oakley, typist should be getting uneasy about their future, for their job will finally be on the way out because speech recognition will transform even messy dictation straight into the printed word. By 2030 AD computers will be to reason from inadequate data, get the sense of rambling conversations and recognize blurred or faulty pictures of things as human beings can. Such developments will need computers 1,000 times more powerful than those of today.

6. Mr. Brian Oakley predicts that by the year 2020 _____.

- A) computers will become more completed
- B) silicon chips contain more information
- C) computers will be made of living cells
- D) other conventional materials will take the place of silicon

7. Alvey program is _____.

- A) the academic world
- B) part of the UK government
- C) a collaborative effort by private industry
- D) to advance UK's computer technology

8. If a silicon chip costs 100 dollars to produce today, six years later it will cost ____.

- A) 99 dollars
- B) 90 dollars
- C) 10 dollars
- D) 11 dollars

9. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

- A) Typists will be out of work before 2020.
- B) Silicon chips will become more complicated.
- C) Mr. Oakley is an expert on computer.
- D) Both B and C.

10. Which of the following may be considered as the best title for this passage?

- A) Comparison Between Old and New Computers
- B) Typists' Trouble in Future
- C) Computers in the Year 2020
- D) Relationship Between Silicon Chip and Computer

Passage 3

Is Harvard worth it? Conventional wisdom says yes. But with the price of degree from America's most famous university and other elite private colleges now surpassing \$125,000, many families and a number of economists—are not so sure. Here's a look at the evidence.

For America's high school seniors, April is the cruelest month. That's when colleges flood the postal system with news of who has won a place in next fall's freshman class. For more than a few families, a difficult decision will follow: Is it worth paying some \$125,000 to give their child an education at an elite best private college? Or would her future be just as bright if she went to less expensive school?

These questions have no easy answers. Of course, that's not the impression you get from the \$500-million-a-year college-admissions industry, with its magazine rankings, test prep courses, and guidebooks. Certainly many neurotic boomer parents—and their stressed-out resume-building teenagers—assume that it is always better to choose Harvard over Big State U. because of Harvard's presumably superior educational environment, better alumni connections, and more lucrative on-campus recruiting opportunities.

It's true that big law firms, major teaching hospitals, and investment banks—even the offices of FORTUNE—are stuffed with Ivy Leaguers. It's also true that if you want a career in big leading firms in the U.S., a gilt-edged diploma is a distinct advantage. Then again, there's plenty of anecdotal evidence that an elite education is hardly necessary. The majority of top CEOs surveyed by FORTUNE in 1990s did not attend an elite college.

So what kind of return is there likely to be on that \$125,000 investment? And how does it compare with the return on a less expensive but also less prestigious education? The academic evidence is **murky**. To start with the basics: College pays. On average, a person with an undergraduate degree now earns almost twice as much as someone with only a high school diploma, up from 1.5 times in 1975.

The economic literature on the payoff of graduating from an elite college, however, as opposed to any college, is far less conclusive. Several studies during the past decade found a connection between higher future earnings and attendance at college with high SAT scores. Most of the research concluded that for each 100-point increase in the average SAT score, a graduate could expect a 3% to 7% increase in lifetime's earnings.

But the studies compared schools, not people. You would expect graduates of selective schools—which attract successful students—to have successful careers. (It would be stunning if they didn't.) What such studies do not measure is how an individual's earnings are affected by the choice of college. Researchers found that those who went to the more prestigious schools reported higher earnings.

But SAT scores are not everything. Admission offices at elite schools include many other criteria in their decisions—grades, extracurricular activities, recommendations, essays, interviews. These factors may reveal abilities, like good communication skills, which are far more valuable in the workplace than a perfect 600. Because economists have no data on these traits, they term them “unobserved”. But they are hardly unimportant. Until recently, no one had tried to control unobserved characteristics in measuring the effect of an elite education on earnings.

11. Why April is the crudest month in U.S.?

- A) Because the postal system is full of all kinds of news.
- B) Because an education at an elite private college is high-standard.
- C) Because it is time for college to admit students.
- D) Because it is hard for parents to make a decision.

12. It is better to choose Harvard rather than state university, for the following factors EXCEPT _____.

- A) reasonable cost
- B) better alumni connections
- C) more profitable chance of future work
- D) better educational conditions

13. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A) FORTUNE is a famous magazine.
- B) Graduates from an elite college can get gilt-edged diplomas.
- C) It is necessary to have an elite education to work at big law firms.
- D) FORTUNE offices are stuffed with Ivy Leaguers.

14. “Murky” in paragraph 5 means _____.

- A) true B) untrue C) clear D) unclear

15. What is the most appropriate title for this passage?

- A) The Crudest Month
- B) Is An Elite College Worth It?
- C) A Difficult Decision.
- D) Higher Education

Passage 4

Occasional self-medication has always been part of normal living. The making and selling of drugs have a long history and are closely linked, like medical practice itself, with the belief in magic. Only during the last hundred years or so has the development of scientific techniques made it possible for some of the causes of symptoms to be understood, so that more accurate diagnosis has become possible. The doctor is now able to follow up the correct diagnosis of many illnesses with specific treatment of their causes. In many other illnesses, of which the causes remain unknown, it is still limited, like the unqualified prescriber, to the treatment of symptoms. The doctor is trained to decide when to treat symptoms only and when to attack the cause: this is the essential difference between medical prescribing and self-medication.

The advance of technology has brought about much progress in some fields of medicine, including the development of scientific drug therapy. In many countries public health organization is improving and people's nutritional standards have risen. Parallel with such beneficial trends have two adverse effects. One is the use of high-pressure advertising by the pharmaceutical industry, which has tended to influence both patients and doctors and has led to the overuse of drugs generally. The other is the emergence of the sedentary society with its faulty ways of life: lack of exercise, over-eating, unsuitable eating, insufficient sleep, excessive smoking and drinking. People with disorders arising from faulty habits such as these, as well as from unhappy human relationships, often resort to self-medication and so add the taking of pharmaceuticals to the list. Advertisers go to great lengths to catch this market.

Clever advertising, aimed at chronic sufferers who will try anything because doctors have not been able to cure them, can induce such faith in a preparation, particularly if steeply priced, that it will produce—by suggestion—a very real effect in some people. Advertisements are also aimed at people suffering from mild complaints such as simple colds and coughs, which clear up by themselves within a short time.

These are the main reasons why laxatives, indigestion remedies, painkillers, tonics, vitamin and iron tablets and many other preparations are found in quantity in many households. It is doubtful whether taking these things ever improves a person's health; it may even make it worse. Worse because the preparation may contain unsuitable ingredients; worse because the taker may become dependent on them; worse because they might be taken in excess; worse because they may cause poisoning, and worse of all because symptoms of some serious underlying cause may be masked and therefore medical help may not be sought.

16. The first paragraph is intended to _____.
A) suggest that self-medication has a long history
B) define what diagnosis means exactly
C) praise doctors for their expertise
D) tell the symptoms from the causes
17. Advertisements are aimed at people suffering from mild complaints because _____.
A) they often watch ads on TV
B) may recover soon even without taking medicine
C) they generally lead a sedentary life
D) they don't take sports and easily catch colds
18. Paragraphs 2 and 3 explain _____.
A) those good things are not without side effects
B) why clever advertising is so powerful
C) why in modern times self-medication is still practised
D) why people develop faulty ways of life
19. The author tells us in paragraph 4 _____.
A) the reasons for keeping medicine at home
B) people's doubt about taking medicine
C) what kind of medicine people should prepare at home
D) the possible harms self-medication may do to people
20. The best title for the passage would be _____.
A) Medical Practice
B) Clever Advertising
C) Self-Medication
D) Self-Treatment

Part 2 Short Answer and Translation (50 scores, 5 scores each)

Directions: There are two passages in this part. Please read them and answer the questions in English and translate the underlined sentences into Chinese.

A Promise Kept

By Ed Cook

[1] I had my first chocolate bar at five years old. I'll never forget the delicious, comforting taste. But the circumstances were anything but sweet. It was World War II. I lived with my family in the Lithuanian town of Taurage when the Russian army swept west toward Nazi Germany. Many people in our village fled in panic.

[2] In the confusion, I stood with my 12-year-old sister, Elyte, and my three-year-old

brother, Joseph, near the railroad station, where a train bound for Germany waited.

[3] Only families were allowed to board the train. Just before departure, a woman traveling alone approached us. “I’ll take care of him,” she told Elyte, and pulled me onto the train as it left the station. The entire trip I cried for my *motina*, my mother.

[4] We arrived in Hamburg. Corpses littered the bombed-out streets. Now that the woman had escaped Taurage she had no more use for me. I lived on the streets, like thousands of other children in that war-torn city. I survived by stealing food. Still, there was never enough. I was skin and bones, close to starving.

[5] Then the American occupation troops arrived. They looked so big and healthy. Filching food from them was a cinch. I’d slip into the mess hall, hide under a table and make off with loaves of fresh bread.

[6] One afternoon as I lurked around a mess tent in search of food, a huge hand lifted me up by the collar. An American soldier. “Got ya!” He shouted.

[7] I was scared, and I could see it upset him. “It’s okay, kid,” he said. He reached into his fatigue jacket and handed me a chocolate bar. “Here, have some of this.” I unwrapped it and took a small bite. *I thought I’d gone to heaven.*

[8] The soldier took me and some other homeless children to an orphanage run by the Red Cross. Four years later I was transferred to an orphanage in America. Soon after, a family who lived in Donaldson, Pennsylvania, adopted me. Again, as with that first taste of chocolate, *it was as if I’d gone to heaven.* Later, I joined the Army, then attended college under the GI Bill. Eventually I earned a master’s degree in clinical social work. **God, I want to pay back all the people who were so good to me, I prayed.**

[9] So in 1983 I went to work for the Department of Veteran Affairs as a clinical counselor, treating veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome.

[10] The troubled soldiers sit in my office and wonder how I can possibly understand them or help ease their pain. “What do you know about living with terror?” Asked one Marine, who still was tormented by the image of a platoon member being killed in a battle.

[11] That is when I tell them my story, and about the GI God sent to save my life.

[12] “I never did learn his name, but I remember his kindness,” I say. And then I open a drawer in my desk that is always full and offer them some chocolate.

1. In your opinion, why does the author entitle the story “A Promise Kept”?

2. Translate the underlined sentence in paragraph 2.

3. In paragraphs 7 and 8, the author uses “*I’d gone to heaven*” twice. How do you understand this expression?

4. Translate the underlined sentence in paragraph 9.

Is Your Name to Blame for Unhappiness?

By *Richard Wiseman*

[1] How the name that we choose for our child will affect his or her life is a question parents-to-be ponder endlessly. However, it seems that no amount of poring over baby books will make a difference—it's the surname that matters.

[2] As contrived—or cruel—as the names Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz might be, the happiness of the Beckham boys could be salvaged by their surname. Not, as you might think, because it's a famous name; if their father had been called David Wickham things could have been quite different.

[3] A few weeks ago, I invited *Telegraph* readers to take part in a unique experiment to explore whether your surname influence your life. There was a massive response, with 15,000 readers participating online.

[4] The results yielded a fascinating insight into a hitherto hidden aspect of the human psyche.

[5] I wanted to know if people who had a surname that began with a letter near the start of the alphabet were more successful in life than those with names towards the end. *In short, are the Abbots and Adams of the world likely to do better than the Youngs and the Yorks?*

[6] Past research gave me good reason to think so. Last year, American economists Liran Einav, of Stanford University, California, and Leeat Yariv, of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, analyzed the surnames of academics working in economics departments at U.S. universities, and found that those with initials early in the alphabet were more likely to be in the best-rated departments, to become fellows of the Econometric Society and even to win a Nobel Prize.

[7] Publishing their findings in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, they argued that such “alphabetical discrimination” was probably due to the convention of listing authors of academic journal papers in alphabetical order, resulting in professors with surnames towards the start of the alphabet appearing to be more prominent in their field than their alphabetically challenged peers.

[8] I wondered whether the same effect might apply outside the world of economics. After all, whether it is on a school register, at a job interview, or in the exam hall, people with surnames towards the start of the alphabet are used to being first.

[9] Given that we often associate the top of a list with winners and the bottom with

losers, could all of these small experiences add up and make a long-term impact on someone's life?

[10] Everyone participating in the *Telegraph* experiment was asked to indicate their sex, age, surname and rate how successful they had been in various aspects of their life, such as their health, finances, career, and “life in general”.

[11] Scores in all these categories were added up to obtain an overall “measure of success”.

[12] The results revealed that readers whose surnames began with letters at the beginning of the alphabet did indeed rate themselves as significantly more successful overall than those with surnames starting with lowly, end-of-the-alphabet initials.

[13] The surname effect was especially pronounced when it came to career, suggesting that *alphabetical discrimination* was alive and well in the workplace.

[14] Interestingly, the effect was also more visible in men than in women. This may, of course, reflect the fact that many women change their surname when they marry.

[15] Perhaps women who are considering whether to adopt their husband's surname should take into account the alphabetical implications—or choose a real Alphonse in the first place.

[16] What might account for this seemingly strange effect? One pattern in the data provided an important clue.

[17] The surname effect became more pronounced in older age groups, suggesting that it was not due to childhood experiences, but rather that it built up gradually during our lives. It seems that constant exposure to being at the top or bottom of the alphabet league—the A-list or the Z-list—slowly makes an impact on the way in which people see themselves.

[18] Again, as I reported before my surname investigation, past studies suggest that this is a real possibility.

[19] In 1999, Nicholas Christenfeld and his colleagues from the University of California, San Diego, uncovered evidence suggesting that a person's initials might affect perhaps the most important of their life—the moment of their death.

[20] Using a large, computerized database of death certificates, they identified people whose initials formed a positive sounding word (such as A. C. E., H.U.G. and J.O.Y.), and those that had very negative connotations, like P. I. G., B. U. G. and D. I.E.

[21] Using factors such as race, year of death and socio-economic status as controls, the researchers discovered that men with positive initials lived approximately four and a half years longer than average, whereas those with negative initials died about three years early.

[22] Women with positive initials lived an extra three years, although there was no detrimental effect for those with negative initials. Further analysis suggested that those

with negative initials were especially likely to die from psychological causes, such as suicides and self-inflicted accidents.

[23] *So should these results give those whose surname initial falls towards the end of the alphabet cause for concern?*

[24] *Well, as a Wiseman, and therefore someone with a lifetime's experience of coming towards the bottom of alphabetical lists, I take some comfort from the fact that the effect is very small.*

[25] *Then again, when you look at some of the best-known people around today—Blair, Brown, Bush, Cameron, Branson—it does make me wonder.*

5. Translate the underlined sentences in paragraph 1.

6. If you are the author, how do you answer the question raised in the last sentence of paragraph 5?

7. Translate the underlined sentence in paragraph 7.

8. According to the text, what does “alphabetical discrimination” mean? (paragraph 13)

9. Translate the underlined sentence in paragraph 21.

10. According to the last three paragraphs, what attitude does the author have towards the surname effect?

Part 3 Composition (50 scores)

Directions: In the past decades, great achievements have been made in higher education in China. At the same time, some existing problems are pointed out and being discussed in many kinds of traditional and new media. In order to solve these problems and develop more universities in China into international top universities, what measures should we take? Please write an essay of about 400 words to state your view and support it. You should supply an appropriate title for your essay.