

一、今年是鄭和首次下西洋的 600 周年，請以鄭和的身份擬一文(用白話文)在出航時激勵船隊之用，惟下西洋的理由不必然與史實完全相符。(7+2分)

Part A: Sentence Completion (22%, 2 points for each question)

This part of the test has 11 incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). You are to choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Then, on your answer sheet, write the number of the question and your answer.

1. After working all day in the heat, the farmers fell asleep, _____ exhausted.
(A) anxiously
(B) utterly
(C) playfully
(D) desperately
2. After a bitter quarrel, Maggie and Tom _____ and become friendly again.
(A) retaliate
(B) reconcile
(C) ridicule
(D) reinforce
3. The rising tensions between India and Pakistan caused all of the embassies and business offices to _____ their personnel.
(A) evacuate
(B) enlarge
(C) employ
(D) endanger
4. In sign language people use hand movements _____ speech in order to communicate.
(A) in place of
(B) nevertheless
(C) other
(D) instead
5. The North Star is _____ from the Southern Hemisphere.
(A) visible no
(B) visible not
(C) nothing visible
(D) never visible

6. _____ widespread creation of Women's Studies departments, many academic institutions now offer majors in the field.
- (A) The
 - (B) Whereas the
 - (C) Only the
 - (D) With the
7. Consuming excessive caffeine can be harmful because _____, elevates the body's blood pressure, and increases the resting heart rate.
- (A) the lining of the stomach is irritated
 - (B) irritating the stomach lining
 - (C) the stomach lining is irritated
 - (D) it irritates the lining of the stomach
8. From an early age, infants seek the attention of adults by crying when they are unhappy, smiling at friendly faces, and _____.
- (A) they imitate adult behavior
 - (B) imitate adult behavior
 - (C) imitating adult behavior
 - (D) adult behavior they do imitate
9. _____ is not the first priority for improving traffic conditions.
- (A) The streets are widened
 - (B) Widening the streets
 - (C) That the widening of streets
 - (D) The streets of widening
10. The common cold, _____, is not caused by wet or cold weather but by an airborne virus.
- (A) that an inconvenient short term nuisance is
 - (B) is an inconvenient short term nuisance
 - (C) an inconvenient short term nuisance
 - (D) when is there an inconvenient short term nuisance
11. The decades immediately following World War II _____ a rapid rise in the standard of living.
- (A) was witnessed
 - (B) witnessed
 - (C) witness
 - (D) was witnessing

Part B: Reading Comprehension (33%, 3 points for each question)

In this part of the test, you will find several passages. Each passage is followed by several questions. You are to choose the best answer, (A), (B), (C), or (D), to each question on the basis of the information provided or implied in the passage. Then, on your answer sheet, write the number of the question and your answer.

Questions 12-14

A tsunami, or seismic sea wave, is usually caused by an earthquake beneath the surface of the ocean floor. Although often called "tidal waves," tsunamis have nothing to do with ocean tides. When there is a shock in or near the ocean, a huge ripple spreads out, which may create seismic sea waves along nearby shores.

Although it is nearly invisible in deep water, increasing the sea depth by less than a meter, this ripple slows down as it reaches shallow water, due to friction with the bottom. It therefore bunches into enormous waves such as those which killed 100, 000 people in Awa, Japan in 1703. After the volcanic explosion which destroyed Krakatoa Island, waves as high as 35 meters were created along the coastal beaches of Indonesia and killed 36,000.

Ironically, the first sign of a tsunami may be an unusual low tide which exposes the sea bed for quite a distance from the usual shoreline. Then the water returns, often flooding coastal towns and sometimes even sweeping them out to sea. Although this phenomenon is still not very well understood, scientists are now able to record earthquakes around the world and issue tsunami alerts several hours before they strike.

12. What is the most common cause of tsunami?

- (A) Earthquakes.
- (B) Storms at sea.
- (C) Ocean tides.
- (D) Scientific research.

13. How do tsunamis become large waves?

- (A) They pile up in the open sea.
- (B) They slow down near the shoreline.
- (C) The water mixes with sand.
- (D) Distance is increased.

14. What is a common indication that a seismic sea wave is occurring?

- (A) Massive storms at sea.
- (B) An unusually low tide.
- (C) Ripples in coastal waters.
- (D) A decline in fish populations.

Questions 15-18

Eczema is a chronic condition where skin becomes reddened, dry, and swollen. Unlike simple dermatitis, an isolated irritation of the skin, the causes of eczema are found deep inside the body. Half of all eczema patients also suffer from hay fever, while 20 percent have asthma—all are diseases associated with immune system dysfunction. Therefore, we can safely claim that immune system dysfunction plays a pivotal role in eczema. When the body has an imbalance in the production of the chemicals that control inflammation, some illnesses, such as eczema, can occur.

It may seem obvious, but the first step in treating eczema or dry skin is prevention—don't let the skin dry out. The moister you keep the skin, the more under control the eczema will be.

Here are some suggestions that should help lessen the severity of eczema outbreaks:

- Avoid irritants, particularly fragrances and dyes. Foods that tend to cause allergic reactions, such as dairy products, eggs, and nuts, may make eczema flare-ups worse.
- Use a non-irritating detergent. Liquids are preferable to powders because they rinse easily. Run clothes through the rinse cycle twice and wash new clothes before wearing them.
- Don't use soap. Most soaps tend to dry the skin. Non-soap cleansers are usually gentler and allow the skin to retain more moisture.
- Moisturize. In general, the thicker the moisturizer, the better it is. Go for one with an ointment base because lotions are mostly water with just a little oil thrown in. Low-cost products such as petroleum jelly and even solid vegetable shortening such as Crisco work well, too.
- Avoid hot water for hand washing, bathing, or showering because it dries skin. Limit baths and showers to 5-10 minutes. Gently pat skin dry.

15. What is eczema?

- (A) A skin disease where the infected area appears red, dry and inflamed.
- (B) Simple dermatitis.
- (C) An isolated irritation of the skin.
- (D) A disease found inside the body

16. According to the passage, what is the main cause of eczema?

- (A) Hay fever.
- (B) Asthma.
- (C) Chemical infection.
- (D) Immune system of dysfunction.

17. What is the best way to treat eczema?
- (A) Keep the skin moisturized all the time.
 - (B) Lessen the severity of eczema outbreaks.
 - (C) Use detergent and do not use soap.
 - (D) Do not use water while taking a shower.
18. Why should eczema patients avoid dairy products?
- (A) Because they are poisons.
 - (B) Because they can cause pimples.
 - (C) Because they can cause allergic reactions.
 - (D) Because they may upset one's stomach.

Questions 19-22

Simply being bilingual does not qualify someone to interpret. Interpreting is not merely a mechanical process of converting one sentence in language A into the same sentence in language B. Rather, it's a complex art in which thoughts and idioms that have no obvious analogues from tongue to tongue—or words that have multiple meanings—must quickly be transformed in such a way that the message is clearly and accurately expressed to the listener.

At one international conference, an American speaker said, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," which meant nothing to the Spanish audience. The interpretation was, "A monkey in a silk dress is still a monkey"—an idiom that the Spanish understood and that conveyed the same idea.

There are two kinds of interpreters, simultaneous and consecutive, each requiring separate talents. The former, sitting in an isolated booth, usually at a large multilingual conference, speaks to listeners who wear headphones, interpreting what a foreign-language speaker says as he says it—actually a sentence behind. Consecutive interpreters are the ones most international negotiators use. They are mainly employed for smaller meetings without sound booths, headphones, and other high-tech gear. Equally taxing in its own way, consecutive interpretation also requires two-person teams. A foreign speaker says his piece while the interpreter, using a special shorthand, takes notes and during a pause, tells the client what was said.

19. What is the purpose of this passage?
- (A) To explain the scope of interpreting.
 - (B) To differentiate between simultaneous and consecutive interpreters.
 - (C) To state the qualifications of an interpreter.
 - (D) To point out the importance of an interpreter.

20. The author implies that most people are of the opinion that the skill of interpreting is
- (A) simpler than it really is.
 - (B) very complex and demanding.
 - (C) highly valued and admired.
 - (D) based on principles of business.
21. The example of the expression “You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear” is used to
- (A) show the difference in language A and language B.
 - (B) stress the importance of word-for-word translation.
 - (C) emphasize the need for translation of the meaning of the utterance.
 - (D) point out the difference in attributes of animals in English and Spanish.
22. It can be inferred from the passage that a necessary prerequisite of being a translator is
- (A) being a linguist.
 - (B) being bilingual.
 - (C) being able to use high-tech equipment.
 - (D) working well with people.

Part D: Writing (20%)

Write an essay of 150-180 words in an appropriate style on the following topic. Write your answer on the answer sheet.

Each year people in Taiwan are showing more and more interest in celebrating Western holidays and special occasions like Christmas, Halloween and Valentine’s Day (on February 14th). Do you think it is a good idea that people here celebrate these non-Chinese holidays, and why do you think this?