

I Summarizing and commenting (30%): Summarize the main ideas of the following passage in about 150 words and write a paragraph of about 150 words to comment on it.

For years I have started my classes by asking students if they thought computers could reason and I was always told that they couldn't. I then would claim that I was actually a computer and ask if they believed I could reason. They said I could but, of course didn't believe that I was a computer. I accused them of being "fleshists," that is, of being prejudiced against devices that can reason that are not made of human flesh. The sad story is that we all somehow seem to believe that humans are better at reasoning than a computer could ever be, which is clearly false, or better at teaching than a computer could ever be, which is also clearly false. Of course, there are some pretty exceptional humans, but there are also some pretty bad ones. I say we give the computers the chance to show their stuff.

The computer-based online world which we are about to enter can be very powerful. We can be pretty sure that politicians, teachers, and other people with vested interests will do very little to help this world come about because they are afraid of being replaced. They are not going to be replaced by superior beings of course – that stuff is the stuff of science fiction. They could, on the other hand, be replaced in tasks that are simply too much for any one human to bear. Making complex decisions based on tremendous amounts of data would seem to be one of these. Another is bringing all the world's knowledge to bear to help out a student in just the right way at just the right time. Well-intentioned teachers may simply not know enough or be able to spend the individual one on one time that a student might need. We have progressed beyond the time when the teacher was the most knowledgeable person in a community or school. We have also progressed beyond the time when decision makers can rely on their own experience or the experience of their assistants to deal with a complex environment. We must stop being fleshists and encourage the building of these kinds of programs as well as their deployment.

II. Composition: (20%): Write a composition in about 300 words on the following topic.

What is linguistics?

(While you define the term, state how linguistics makes sense to you personally. For instance, why did you choose to take the entrance examination of this graduate program, not other related fields?)

九十學年度 語言學研究所 系(所) _____ 組碩士班研究生招生考試

科目 國文與英文 科號 4703 共 2 頁第 2 頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

III. 作文：論當前我國的語言和語文問題 (50%)