

八十七學年度 外國語文 系(所) 乙 組碩士班研究生入學考試

科目 英文閱讀與寫作 科號 4803 共 5 頁第 1 頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

I. Reading Comprehension (20%)

Directions

Read the following passage and write *a summary for each paragraph and the whole passage*. Each of the four summaries must be written in *no more than 40 Chinese characters*. If any summary contains more than 40 Chinese characters, only the first 40 Chinese characters will be graded.

Perhaps the key value that underlies many aspects of the American way of life is self-reliance. Our self-reliance springs from the English concept of individualism, but has, like most things American, gone much further than what the English conceived. Dating back to the signing of the Magna Carta in England in the thirteenth century, individualism insists that all people have certain inalienable rights that have been bestowed by God, and therefore, must not be taken away by others. Among the rights guaranteed are the right to practice the faith of one's choice, the right to choose one's spouse, the right to have enough food for one's family, and the right to express oneself freely. Our view of individualism has taken the form of insistence on the right to economic, political, and social equality for all individuals. In turn, if the rights of individuals are recognizable, and if individuals are viewed as deserving equality, then each person must depend on himself; that is, he must be self-reliant.

Thus, although self-reliance is inherent in our concept of individualism, the American concept of self-reliance goes far beyond individualism. Under the ideal conditions, all individuals are perceived to be their own masters, in control of their own destinies, and therefore in control of their own advancement or regression in society. Because we believe in this theory of free will, we judge people by their ability to succeed through their own efforts. As recently as two decades ago, students in an American high school were given a statement that cited self-reliance as the key to individual freedom, noting that the only real security we have comes from the determination to work hard, to plan ahead, and to save for our future needs.

Perhaps a good way of explaining Americans' perceptions of self-reliance is by illustration. Let's look at two families, one Chinese Americans and one Angle-Americans. Similarly, parents in both families worked hard all their lives in order to

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give their children all the possible benefits of a good education. "The parents in both families struggled to send their children to good schools and, later, to good universities. In both families, the children grew up, and all became very successful. The children now had good jobs so they could afford to purchase material comforts for their parents--things that their parents had never been able to buy for themselves. "in both families, the children decided to help their parents. The Chinese parents were extremely happy, but the Angle parents were not. The Chinese parents told all their friends and neighbors that their children were helping them, proud that their children loved and respected them enough to want to help. The Angle parents, on the other hand, were too embarrassed to tell anyone that their children were helping them; they did not even tell their closest friends. Why? Because, in our culture, being dependent upon someone else, even one's own children, is an admission of failure. Failure is not being self-reliant; failure means that, given free will, we lost our chance and did not succeed.

II. Comment -Writing 20%

Directions

Write a *Two-Paragraph Comment* on the following statement.

Your comment has to be written in English and include (1) describing the pros and cons of this statement in the first paragraph and (2) discussion of your viewpoints on this issue in the second paragraph.

"In Foreign Language Learning, Adults Are More Advantageous Than Children"

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III. Translation and Writing (30%)

Directions

Read the following text, of which the first paragraph is written in Chinese, and write (1) an introductory paragraph by *translating the Chinese into English* and (2) a *concluding paragraph in English* that incorporates the central theme of this passage.

過分強調科技的現象在現今的社會到處可見。在世界各地，每天都有成千的人湧向電子商展和會議中心去接觸最新科技。電視上充斥著「未來這個」「未來那個」的節目，個個都想都想炫過對方。然而，討論「社會改造」這個同等重要議題的會議或電視節目究竟在哪兒呢？

The fact is that some of the most spectacular advances of our times are unfolding in our values and in our emotional and social lives. The accelerating phase-out of patriarchy and puritanism, the proliferation of fluid lifestyles and flex work schedules, the increasing expectation of a vigorous long life, the shift from command decision-making to power-sharing, the leapfrog from national loyalties to a global consciousness.

These and other social revolutions are just as powerful, just as glamorous and futuristic as the new technology and they demand just as much attention and adaptation as does the new hardware.

In fact the new technology and the new social revolution are part of the same continuum. Sooner or later, each reinforces the other. Without the new technology, social progress would not unfold so quickly and without the new values, technology can be all too often used as a weapon to spread bigotries or monopolize power.

(Concluding Paragraph)

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IV. Essay Questions 30%

Directions

Read the following text and *use your own words* to answer the essay questions below the text. Your discussions must be *written in English* and organized in the forms of *paragraphs*.

This information about limited genetic differences among human groups is useful as well as interesting, often in the deepest sense--for saving lives. When American eugenicists attributed diseases of poverty to the inferior genetic construction of poor people, they could propose no systematic remedy other than sterilization. When Joseph Goldberger proved that pellagra was not a genetic disorder, but a result of vitamin deficiency among the poor, he could cure it.

If people are so similar genetically, and if previous claims for a direct biological mapping of human affairs have recorded cultural prejudice and not nature, then does *biology come up empty* as a guide in our search to know ourselves? Are we after all, at birth, the *tabula rasa*, or blank slate, imagined by some eighteenth-century empiricist philosophers? As an evolutionary biologist, I cannot adopt such a nihilistic position without denying the fundamental insight of my profession. The *evolutionary unity* of humans with all other organisms is the cardinal message of Darwin's revolution for nature's most arrogant species.

We are inextricably part of nature, but human uniqueness is not negated thereby. "Nothing but" an animal is as fallacious a statement as "created in God's own image." It is not mere hubris to argue that *Homo sapiens* is special in some sense--for each species is unique in its own way; shall we judge among the dance of the bees, the song of the humpback whale, and human intelligence?

The impact of uniqueness upon the world has been enormous because it has established a new kind of evolution to support the transmission across generations of learned knowledge and behavior. Human uniqueness resides primarily in our brains. It is expressed in the culture built upon our intelligence and the power it gives us to manipulate the world. Human societies change by cultural evolution, not as a result of biological alteration. We have no evidence for biological change in brain size or structure since *Homo sapiens* appeared in the fossil record some fifty thousand years

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ago. All that we have done since then--the greatest transformation in the shortest time that our planet has experienced since its crust solidified nearly four billion years ago--is the product of cultural evolution. Biological (Darwinian) evolution continues in our species, but its rate, compared with cultural evolution, is so incomparably slow that its impact upon the history of *Homo sapiens* has been small. While the gene for sickle-cell anemia declines in frequency among black Americans, we have invented the railroad, the automobile, radio and television, the atom bomb, the computer, the airplane and spaceship.

1. According to the author, how are humans similar to and different from all other creatures?
2. According to the author, what role does human biology have in helping us to understand human cultural evolution?
3. The author describes humans as "nature's most arrogant species." What does he mean by using this term?