

國 立 清 華 大 學 命 題 紙

九十三學年度 外國語文學 系(所) 乙 組碩士班入學考試

科目 英語語言學概論 科號 5101 共 3 頁第 1 頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

I. Multiple choice. In the blank, write the letter of the best answer. Each answer is worth one points. (10 points)

- _____ 1. If a word borrowed from Latin into English has undergone umlaut (vowel mutation) we can say (a) the word was in the English language when the rule was productive; (b) the word came into English after the rule was lost; (c) the word did not meet the structural description (criteria) for undergoing the rule; (d) the word is ultimately from Greek.
- _____ 2. During Old English times, the language depended mainly on _____ to express grammatical relationships. (a) word order; (b) prepositions; (c) word endings; (d) all of the above.
- _____ 3. What can we say about words beginning in *sk-*, such as *skirt*, *skin*, *scatter*, and *scab*? (a) They come from Scandinavian; (b) they come from French; (c) they are of Old English/Germanic origin; (d) they come from Latin.
- _____ 4. What do word pairs like *cow/beef*, *deer/venison*, *sheep/mutton* tell us about the situation in England after the Norman Conquest? (a) words for live animals are of Germanic origin because peasants/farmers were English speakers; (b) words for meat on the table are of French origin because the French speakers were upper class; (c) French speakers were more likely to have enough money to eat meat; (d) all of the above.
- _____ 5. What effect did the changing conditions of the middle class have upon the English language? (a) the success of the middle class meant the success of their language—English; (b) the middle class abandoned English and used French; (c) middle class children went to schools and, since all schools had to teach in Latin, the middle class gradually forgot English; (d) all of the above.
- _____ 6. What was the Great Vowel Shift? (a) a shifting up of the long vowels; (b) an explanation of the development of new diphthongs in Middle English; (c) a development affecting the shortening of long vowels; (d) a change in the Middle English short vowels.
- _____ 7. How has the structure of English changed over the past 1500 years? (a) word order has been replaced by word endings; (b) word endings have been replaced by word order; (c) the structure has remained almost the same; (d) the structure has become more complex.
- _____ 8. Why did the King James Version of the Bible have so much influence on English speakers a few hundred years ago? (a) if a family could afford to own a book, it was most likely a Bible; (b) most people learned to read using a Bible; (c) the translation was very good; (d) all of the above.
- _____ 9. What sorts of standardizations in spelling were taking effect in the late 16th century? (a) double consonants came to mean a preceding long vowel; (b) double consonants were used at the ends of words; (c) final silent *-e* came to mark length of the vowel in the preceding syllable; (d) all of the above.
- _____ 10. Which of the following is NOT a reason why English spelling is rather unpredictable? (a) Most English words reflect their etymology rather than their pronunciation; (b) English spelling reflects British rather than American pronunciation; (c) English has borrowed words

from many languages, and spelling sometimes reflects the source of the words; (d) different letters were used to distinguish homonyms.

II. The following text uses several words and expressions common in British English. Change those words to their American English equivalents. (10 points)

This winter vacation I plan to go on **holiday** _____ in Central Europe. I've already purchased a **return** _____ ticket to Vienna and **booked** _____ at the same hotel I've stayed at before. I hope I can get a room on the **first floor** _____, like last year, as the **lift** _____ is not always dependable.

The neighborhood where I stay is primarily residential and there are many blocks of **flats** _____ no more than six storeys high. Travel around the city by tram or **underground** _____ is very convenient and I can meet my friends quickly. I hope I don't forget to **post** _____ some greetings to my family back home.

At the weekend we plan to visit Prague. We can drive along the **motorway** _____, though I hope there won't be too many **lorries** _____ on the road. The journey takes only four hours and there are plenty of **petrol** _____ stations and restaurants along the way where one can also stop and go to the **loo** _____ or even pick up a packet of **crisps** _____. And after May 1, when the Czech Republic becomes a member of the EU, the journey will be even faster as we will no longer have to stop at the **frontier** _____ and **queue** _____ for passport control.

Alas, I had forgotten that my friend's car was stolen and last year we had to make the journey by **rail** _____. It's also convenient, but we were lucky to return to Vienna just one day before the start of industrial action; workers were demanding a **pay rise** _____.

I like going to Europe in winter because there are few tourists and one does not have to queue for any services or at the **shops** _____. There is more of an opportunity to understand the life style of the local people. However, it is rather cold, so I have to take my big black winter coat and an extra **jumper** _____. And the wise traveller always packs a few extra pairs of **knickers** _____, too!

III. Provide the phonetic symbol representing each of the following sounds according to the IPA system. (10 points)

1. high front tense unrounded vowel
2. mid back lax rounded vowel
3. voiced velar nasal
4. voiceless palatal fricative
5. voiced alveolar lateral liquid

IV. In some dialects of American English the "complex" vowels (often called diphthongs) [ay] and [ɔy] bear a special relationship to each other. Examine the forms below and then answer the questions that follow.

bite	[bɔyt]	time	[taym]	rice	[rɔys]
tie	[tay]	rise	[rayz]	type	[tɔyp]
ride	[rayd]	write	[rɔyt]	ninth	[naynθ]
file	[fayl]	fight	[fɔyt]		
life	[lɔyf]	buy	[bay]		

1. Are the two diphthongs [ay] and [ɔy] two different phonemes or are they allophones of the same phoneme? (3 points)
2. If they are allophones of the same phoneme, state their respective distributions. If they are two

separate phonemes, state how they contrast. (4 points)

3. Transcribe the following 3 words according to your findings. (3 points)

fire bike try

V. 1. That new car cost/*spent my father a lot of money.

2. I *cost/spent NT\$500 on this dictionary.

3. The train to Taichung costs/*spends NT\$375.

4. It normally costs/*spends me NT\$200 to have a decent lunch.

5. Linda *costs/spends hours every night practicing the piano.

(* asterisk means if the verb so marked is used in the sentence it will lead to ungrammaticality.)

Even though "cost" and "spend" can both be translated into Chinese as "花", yet they are used quite differently in English. On the basis of the grammaticality/ungrammaticality distribution of the sentences, give a brief description of how the two verbs are used differently in English. (10 points)

VI. In English there are three types of verbs that can all take an infinitive complement, as represented by (a) try, (b) force, and (c) want. The infinitive complement each takes, however, is different from the others. First, give three illustrative examples to show the syntactic differences of the three types of complements and then give two more verbs that belong to each type. (15 points)

VII. Formulate a reduction rule of English (in plain English) to account for the conjoined sentences below, and determine as precisely as possible from the data the conditions under which the rule can apply. Identical subscripts indicate coreference. (15 points)

1. Tom plays the trombone, Joy plays the flute, George plays the drums and Abernathy plays the baritone.

2. *Tom plays the trombone, and Joy the trombone.

3. Tom plays the trombone, Joy the flute, George the drums, and Abernathy the baritone.

4. *Tom the trombone, Joy the flute, George the drums, and Abernathy plays the baritone.

5. *Tom_i plays the trombone and Tom_i the flute.

6. Tom plays the trombone, Joy plays the flute, George the drums, and Abernathy the baritone.

7. *Tom plays the trombone, Joy the flute, George the drums, and Abernathy plays the baritone.

8. Tom plays the trombone, Joy plays the flute, George plays the drums, and Abernathy the baritone.

VIII. Distinguish the following pairs of contrasting terms, giving illustrative examples whereas relevant.

Choose any five. (20 points)

1. Langue vs. parole

2. Progressive vs. regressive assimilation

3. Agglutinating vs. isolating languages

4. Tone vs. intonation

5. Paradigmatic vs. syntagmatic relation

6. Complementary pairs vs. gradable pairs of antonyms

7. Sonorants vs. obstruents