

九十三學年度__外國語文學系__系(所)__乙__組碩士班入學考試

科目__英文閱讀與寫作__科號__5103__共__6__頁第__1__頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

Part 1. Reading Comprehension (30 points). Read the following passages and select the best answer for each question.

Passage One

Our culture has caused most Americans to assume not only that our language is universal but that the gestures we use are understood by everyone. We do not realize that waving good-bye is the way to summon a person from the Philippines to one's side, or that in Italy and some Latin-American countries, curling the finger to oneself is a sign of farewell.

Those private citizens who sent packages to our troops occupying Germany after World War II and marked them GIFT to escape duty payments did not bother to find out that 'Gift' means poison in German. Moreover, we like to think of ourselves as friendly, yet we prefer to be at least 3 feet or an arm's away from others. Latinos and Middle Easterners like to come closer and touch, which makes Americans uncomfortable.

Our linguistic and cultural blindness and the casualness with which we take notice of the developed tastes, gestures, customs and language of other countries, are losing us friends, business and respect in the world.

Even here in the United States, we make few concessions to the needs of foreign visitors. There are no information signs in four languages on our public buildings or monuments; we do not have multilingual guided tours. Very few restaurant menus have translations, and multilingual waiters, bank clerks and policemen are rare. Our transportation systems have maps in English only and often we ourselves have difficulty understanding them.

When we go abroad, we tend to cluster in hotels and restaurants where English is spoken. The attitudes and information we pick up are conditioned by those natives—usually the richer—who speak English. Our business dealings, as well as the nation's diplomacy, are conducted through interpreters.

For many years, America and Americans could get by with cultural blindness and linguistic ignorance. After all, America was the most powerful country of the free world, the distributor of needed funds and goods.

But all that is past. American dollars no longer buy all good things, and we are slowly beginning to realize that our proper role in the world is changing. A 1979 Harris poll reported that 55 percent of

Americans want this country to play a more significant role in the world affairs; we want to have a hand in the important decisions, even though it may not always be the upper hand.

1. It can be inferred that Americans being approached too closely by Middle Easterners would most probably _____.
A) stand still B) jump aside C) step forward D) draw back
2. The author gives many examples to criticize Americans for their _____.
A) cultural self-centeredness
B) casual manners
C) indifference towards foreign visitors
D) arrogance towards other cultures.
3. In countries other than their own most Americans _____.
A) are isolated by the local people
B) are not well informed due to the language barrier
C) tend to get along well with the natives.
D) Need interpreters in hotels and restaurants
4. According to the author, Americans' cultural blindness and linguistic ignorance will _____.
A) affect their image in the new era
B) cut themselves off from the outside world
C) limit their role in world affairs
D) weaken the position of the US dollar
5. The author's intention in writing this article is to make Americans realize that _____.
A) it is dangerous to ignore their foreign friends
B) it is important to maintain their leading role in world affairs
C) it is necessary to use several languages in public places
D) it is time to get acquainted with other cultures.

Passage 2

About the time that schools and others quite reasonably became interested in seeing to it that all children, whatever their background, were fairly treated, intelligence testing became unpopular.

Some thought it was unfair to minority children. Through the past few decades such testing has gone out of fashion and many communities have indeed forbidden it.

However, paradoxically, just recently a group of black parents filed a lawsuit in California claiming that the state's ban on IQ testing discriminates against their children by denying them the opportunity to take the test. (They believe, correctly, that IQ tests are valid method of evaluating children for special education classes.) The judge, therefore, reversed, at least partially, his original decision.

And so the argument goes on and on. Does it benefit or harm children from minority groups to have their intelligence tested? We have always been on the side of permitting, even facilitating, such testing. If a child of any color or group is doing poorly in school it seems to us very important to know whether it is because he or she is of low intelligence, or whether some other factor is the cause.

What school and family can do to improve poor performance is influenced by its cause. It is not discriminative to evaluate either a child's physical condition or their intellectual level.

Unfortunately, intellectual level seems to be a sensitive subject, and what the law allows us to do varies from time to time. The same fluctuation back and forth occurs in areas other than intelligence. thirty years or so ago, for instance, white families were encouraged to adopt black children. It was considered discriminative not to do so.

And then the style changed and this cross-racial adopting became generally unpopular, and social agencies felt that black children go to black families only. It is hard to say what are the best procedures. But surely good will on the part of all of us is needed.

As to intelligence, in our opinion, the more we know about any child's intellectual level, the better for the child in question.

6. Why did the intelligence test become unpopular in the past few decades?
 - A) Many communities challenged its validity.
 - B) It was considered discriminative against minority children.
 - C) It met with strong opposition from the majority of black parents.
 - D) It deprived the black children of their rights to a good education.
7. The recent legal action taken by some black parents in California aimed to _____.
 - A) draw public attention to IQ testing
 - B) put an end to special education
 - C) remove the state's ban on intelligence tests
 - D) have their children enter white schools.

8. The author believes that intelligence testing _____.
- A) may ease racial confrontation in the United States
 - B) can encourage black children to keep up with white children
 - C) may seriously aggravate racial discrimination in the United States
 - D) can help black parents make decisions about their children's education
9. The author's opinion of child adoption seems to be that _____.
- A) no rules whatsoever can be prescribed
 - B) white families should adopt black children
 - C) adoption should be based on IQ test results
 - D) cross racial adoption is to be advocated.
10. Child adoption is mentioned in the passage to show that _____.
- A) good will may sometimes complicate racial problems
 - B) social surroundings are vital to the healthy growth of children
 - C) intelligence testing also applies to non-academic areas
 - D) American opinion can shift when it comes to sensitive issues

Passage Three

Not too many decades ago it seemed 'obvious' both to the general public and to sociologists that modern society has changed people's natural relations, loosened their responsibilities to kin and neighbors, and substituted in their place superficial relationships with passing acquaintances. However, in recent years a growing body of research has revealed that the 'obvious' is not true. It seems that if you are a city resident, you typically know a smaller proportion of your neighbors than you do if you are a resident of a smaller community. But, for the most part, this fact has few significant consequences. It does not necessarily follow that if you know few of your neighbors you will know no one else.

Even in very large cities, people maintain close social ties within small, private social worlds. Indeed, the number and quality of meaningful relationships do not differ between more and less urban people. Small town residents are more involved with kin than are big-city residents. Yet city dwellers compensate by developing friendships with people who share similar interests and activities. Urbanism may produce a different style of life, but the quality of life does not differ between town and city. Nor are residents of large communities any likelier to display psychological symptoms of stress or alienation, a feeling of not belonging, than are residents of smaller communities. However, city dwellers do worry more about crime, and this leads them to a distrust of strangers.

These findings do not imply that urbanism makes little or no difference. If neighbors are strangers to one another, they are less likely to sweep the sidewalk of an elderly couple living next door or keep an eye out for young troublemakers. Moreover, as Writhe suggested, there may be a link between a community's population size and its social heterogeneity. For instance, sociologists have found much evidence that the size of community is associated with bad behavior including gambling, drugs, etc.

Large-city urbanites are also more likely than their small town counterparts to have a cosmopolitan outlook, to display less responsibility to traditional kinship roles, to vote for leftist political candidates, and to be tolerant of non-traditional religious groups, unpopular political groups, and so-called undesirables. Everything considered, heterogeneity and unusual behavior seem to be outcomes of large population size.

11. Which of the following statements best describes the organization of the first paragraph?
 - A) Two contrasting views are presented.
 - B) An argument is examined and possible solutions given.
 - C) Research results concerning the quality of urban life are presented in order of time.
 - D) A detailed description of the difference between urban and small town life is given.
12. According to the passage, it was once a common belief that urban residents _____.
 - A) did not have the same interests as their neighbors.
 - B) could not develop long standing relationship.
 - C) tended to be associated with bad behavior.
 - D) usually had more friends.
13. One of the consequences of urban life is that impersonal relationships among neighbors _____.
 - A) disrupt people's natural relations.
 - B) make them worry about crime.
 - C) cause them not to show concern for one another.
 - D) cause them to be suspicious of each other.
14. It can be inferred from the passage that the bigger a community is _____.
 - A) the better its quality of life.
 - B) the more similar its interests.
 - C) the more tolerant and open-minded it is.
 - D) the likelier it is to display psychological symptoms of stress.
15. What is the passage mainly about?
 - A) Similarities in the interpersonal relationships between urbanites and small town dwellers.
 - B) Advantages of living in big cities as compared with living in small towns.

- C) The positive role that urbanism plays in modern life.
- D) The strong feeling of alienation of city inhabitants.

Part 2

Translate the following passage into Chinese and write a 150 word response (in English) to it. (40 points)

More interesting for me as author was the sense I had of trying always to translate experiences that I had not only in a remote environment but also in a different language. Everyone lives life in a given language; everyone's experiences therefore are had, absorbed, and recalled in that language. The basic split in my life was the one between Arabic, my native language, and English, the language of my education and subsequent expression as a scholar and teacher, and so trying to produce a narrative of one in the language of the other—to say nothing of the numerous ways in which the languages were mixed up for me and crossed over from one realm to the other—has been a complicated task. Thus it has been difficult to explain in English the actual verbal distinctions (as well as the rich associations) that Arabic uses to differentiate between, for example, maternal and paternal uncles; but since such nuances played a definite role in my early life I had to try to render them here. (Taken from *Out of Place*, by Edward Said)

Part 3

Write a response (in English) to the following passage in approximately 200 words. (30 points)

Rampton (1990) asserts that linguistic 'expertise' is more important than notions of who is and who is not a 'native speaker'. In the long run, what seems to matter most to students is the teacher's ability to do the job; it is not 'who you are, but what you know' that students will pay for. Non-native-speaker teachers of English are not necessary worse off than their native-speaker colleagues: they can be, and often are, as 'expert' in English and ELT methodology as native speakers, and have the added advantage of being able to draw on the vast reservoir of the students' first language and culture. (Taken from *ELT Journal*, Vol. 46, No. 1, 1992)