

2021 年博士研究生招生考试题签

(请考生将题答在试题纸上)

科目名称: 英语

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Part I Reading Comprehension (60 points, 3 for each)

Directions: There are four passages in this part. Each of the passages is followed by five questions or unfinished statements. For each of the questions there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best one and mark your answer on the ANSWER SHEET.

Passage One

The desire for achievement is one of life's great mysteries. Social scientists have devoted lifetimes to studying the drives that spur us out of bed in the morning, compel us to work or study hard and spark all manner of human endeavors. Indeed, a 1992 textbook actually documents 32 distinct theories of human motivation.

Given this diversity of thought, it's easy to forget that for half a century, American society has been dominated by the psychological school known as behaviorism, or Skinnerian psychology. Although behaviorism and its fundamental principle of "positive reinforcement" have long since lost their sway in academic circles, the Skinnerian legacy remains powerful in every realm of daily life, from the home and classroom to the workplace. Don't want to take the trash out? Do it, and you can go to the movies Friday night. Not in the mood for work? Keep plugging away, and you might get a bonus. Not interested in calculus? Strive for an A in the class, and you will make the honor roll. The theory may be bankrupt, but incentives and rewards are so much a part of American culture that it's hard to imagine life without them.

Yet that's exactly what a growing group of researchers are advocating today. A steady stream of research has found that rather than encouraging motivation and productivity, rewards actually can undermine genuine interest and diminish performance. "Our society is caught in a whopping paradox," asserts Alfie Kohn, author of the new book *Punished by Rewards* (Houghton Mifflin), which surveys recent research on the effectiveness of rewards. "We complain loudly about declining productivity, the crisis of our school and the distorted values of our children. But the very strategy we use to solve those problems—dangling rewards like incentive plans and grade and candy bars in front of people—is partly responsible for the fix we're in."

It's tough argument to make in a culture that celebrates the spoils of success. Yet study after study shows that people tend to perform worse, to give up more easily and to lose interest more quickly when a reward is involved. Children who are given treats for doing artwork, for example, lose their initial love of art within weeks. Teenagers who are promised a reward for tutoring youngsters don't teach as enthusiastically as tutors offered nothing. And chief executive officers who have been awarded long-term incentive plans have often steered their companies toward lower returns.

1. According to behaviorism, all human actions _____.
 - A) are based on stimulus and response
 - B) have no bearing on human drives
 - C) are supposed to be highly motivated
 - D) are of a great mystery
2. Behaviorism basically believes in _____.
 - A) motivation
 - B) performance
 - C) rewards
 - D) human factors

3. In paragraph 2, "calculus" probably refers to _____.
A) a course
B) a sport
C) a kind of public service
D) a position in the student union
4. From the passage, it can be inferred that _____.
A) rewards are highly effective in America
B) rewards are not much sought-after in academic circles
C) rewards have long lost their appeal in American society
D) Americans are addicted to rewards
5. Which of the following statements is in support of the finding that "people tend to perform worse... when a reward is involved" (in the last paragraph)?
A) People are not used to being conditioned by prizes.
B) Rewards are attempts to control behavior.
C) Rewards are indispensable to American cultures.
D) The principle of "positive reinforcement" is not fully enforced.

Passage Two

The global humanitarian system is under "unprecedented strain"—with reactions to crises such as the threat of famine coming too late, according to David Miliband, head of the humanitarian relief group the International Rescue Committee.

Citing fresh figures showing that the 2017 humanitarian appeal for the crisis facing Somalia had achieved just 0.4% of the \$863.5m requested last month, the former UK foreign secretary said that rather than intervening early, the world was in grave danger of repeating the mistakes of the past when famine hits. Miliband was speaking as other figures from the humanitarian community warned that famine is looming in four different countries, threatening unprecedented levels of hunger.

Asked about the slow response of donors—not just to Somalia but to the appeals for Yemen, Nigeria and South Sudan—he said: "Overseas aid has not kept pace with the growing challenge of fragile states and displacement. The UK actually has a very proud record, but too many other governments have not been able to increase their funding and they fund on a very fragmented and reactive basis. One of the challenges of the international humanitarian system is to move on to a much more strategic, coordinated basis that would be a more proactive and pre-emptive basis of funding."

As conflicts prevented aid getting to those in need in at least three of the four looming famine areas, and particularly in South Sudan where aid workers complain of being denied access, Miliband said there was a need for what he described as "*muscular diplomacy*" (强力外交). "Peacemaking and diplomacy are at an absolute premium. Obviously the military context is very important, the security framework is very important, but what I see in somewhere like South Sudan is a desperate need for an effective political and diplomatic process," he added.

On reports that the Trump administration is preparing to order sweeping cuts in funding to the UN and other global bodies, he said: "Obviously we have all read the draft executive order that went around, but it has not yet been issued and I hope that means there is serious inter-agency thought—involving the defence department and state department too—about the importance of the US contribution to the UN."

Miliband, who backed the review being undertaken by the new UN secretary general, Antonio Guterres, added: "Far from walking away from support for the UN, now is the time to build up support for multilateral institutions. Some parts of the UN work life-savingly well and I think it's important to acknowledge that. In other ways the humanitarian aid system needs more than just more aid. It needs to be about better aid."

6. According to Miliband, in what aspect is the global humanitarian system under “unprecedented strain”?
- A) Financial.
 - B) Statistical.
 - C) Political.
 - D) Legal.
7. According to Miliband, the delay of humanitarian relief is mainly caused by _____.
- A) frequent attacks of grave natural disasters
 - B) the underestimate of the overall hunger levels
 - C) the retarded development of the fund-raising system
 - D) failure to establish an international alliance
8. Which of the following is closest in meaning to “proactive and pre-emptive” (Line 6, Para.3)?
- A) Taking the initiative.
 - B) Making full preparations.
 - C) Building sound systems.
 - D) Being inter-connected.
9. The main purpose of taking political and diplomatic measures may be _____.
- A) to improve the security in the conflict areas
 - B) to explore some better ways of peacemaking
 - C) to guarantee personal safety of aid workers
 - D) to smooth the channel of humanitarian aid
10. What is Miliband's attitude towards the draft order of the Trump administration?
- A) Unconcerned.
 - B) Critical.
 - C) Sympathetic.
 - D) Approving.

Passage Three

The month of your birth influences your risk of developing dementia. Although the effect is small compared to risk factors such as obesity, it may show how the first few months of life can affect cognitive health for decades to come.

Demographers Gabriele Doblhammer and Thomas Fritze from the University of Rostock, Germany, studied data from the Allgemeine Ortskrankenkasse—Germany’s largest public health insurer—for nearly 150,000 people aged 65 and over. After adjusting for age, they found that those born in the three months from December to February had a 7 percent lower risk of developing dementia than those born in June to August, with the risk for other months falling in between.

There’s nothing astrological about the effect, however. Instead, the birth month is a marker for environmental conditions such as weather and nutrition, says Gerard van den Berg, an economist at the University of Bristol, UK, who studies the effects of economic circumstances on health. Summer-born babies are younger when they face the respiratory infections of their first winter, for example. And in the past, babies born in spring and summer would have been in late gestation when the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables from the autumn harvest would have largely run out. Pollution from wood fires or coal heating might also have played a role.

An estimated 37 million people worldwide suffer from dementia, and that number is expected to double every 20 years, say the researchers. But although you can’t change your birth month, as far as your individual dementia risk is concerned, “it also matters what you do during the rest of your life”, Doblhammer says.

The researchers say the study can’t tell us anything directly about the mechanisms underlying the correlation

between birth month and later dementia risk—but they point to several possibilities. For example, poor nutrition might impact directly on brain development at a critical time. It's also known that infections brought on by poor nutrition or experienced very early in life—for instance, in a baby's first full winter—might cause epigenetic changes that affect metabolism and inflammation levels throughout life. This would increase the risk of chronic conditions such as obesity and high blood pressure, which are known to increase the risk of dementia.

Lifestyle changes aimed at lowering dementia risk are often aimed at people in mid or later life. But Doblhammer says tackling the rising incidence of dementia may require early-life interventions too—for example, programmes to improve the nutritional health of young mothers. Tom Russ, a psychiatrist at the Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Research Centre in Edinburgh, UK, agrees. “It is never too early to start thinking about reducing the risk of developing dementia,” he says.

11. What does Doblhammer and Fritze's study find?
 - A) The birth month affects cognitive health more than other factors.
 - B) People aged over 65 are more likely to suffer from dementia.
 - C) People born in July may face a higher risk of dementia.
 - D) The risk of dementia has nothing to do with astrology.
12. The findings of Gerard's study are mentioned to _____.
 - A) provide support for findings of Doblhammer and Fritze
 - B) raise a new theory about the risk factors of dementia
 - C) exemplify the environment effects on health
 - D) probe into the effect of environmental factors on gestation
13. What does Paragraph Five reveal?
 - A) Underlying enlightenment of the study.
 - B) The correlation between birth months and dementia.
 - C) The analysis about limitations of the study.
 - D) The possible research direction of further study.
14. What kind of suggestions do the experts make?
 - A) To choose the birth month more carefully.
 - B) To provide better nutrition for children.
 - C) To change lifestyles in mid or later life.
 - D) To take preventative measures earlier.
15. The author writes the passage to _____.
 - A) introduce a new scientific finding.
 - B) suggest the right month for child birth.
 - C) advise people to live more healthily.
 - D) explain possible causes of dementia.

Passage Four

In 1951, *Time* magazine set out to paint a portrait of the nation's youth, those born into the Great Depression. It doomed them as the Silent Generation, and a generally dull lot: cautious and obedient, uninterested in striking out in new directions or shaping the great issues of the day—the outwardly efficient types whose inner agonies the novel “*Revolutionary Road*” would analyze a decade later.

“Youth's ambitions have shrunk,” the magazine declared. “Few youngsters today want to mine diamonds in South Africa, ranch in Paraguay, climb Mount Everest, find a cure for cancer, sail around the world or build an individual empire. Some would like to own a small, independent business, but most want a good job with a big firm,

and with it, a kind of suburban *idyll* (田园生活)." The young soldier "lacks flame," students were "docile notetakers." And the young writer's talent "sometimes turns out to be nothing more than a byproduct of his nervous disposition."

"The best thing that can be said for American youth, in or out of uniform, is that it has learned that it must try to make the best of a bad and difficult job, whether that job is life, war, or both," *Time* concluded. "The generation which has been called the oldest young generation in the world has achieved a certain maturity."

Today we are in a recession the depth and duration of which are unknown; Friday's job loss figures were just the latest suggestion that it could well be prolonged and profound rather than shorter and shallower.

So what of the youth shaped by what some are already calling the Great Recession? Will a publication looking back from 2030 damn them with such faint praise? Will they marry younger, be satisfied with stable but less exciting jobs? Will their children mock them for reusing tea bags and counting pennies as if this paycheck were the last? At the very least, they will deal with tremendous instability, just as their Depression forebears did.

"The '30s challenged the whole idea of the American dream, the idea of open economic possibilities," said Morris Dickstein, an English professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. "The version you get of that today is the loss of confidence on the part of both parent and children that life in the next generation will inevitably be better."

How today's young will be affected 10, 20 or 40 years on will depend on many things. If history is any guide, what will matter most is where this recession generation is in the historical process.

16. What did the novel "Revolutionary Road" analyze?
- A) The inner pain of the Silent Generation.
 - B) The personality of the Silent Generation.
 - C) The characteristics of the efficient people.
 - D) The impact of the Depression on the youth.
17. By commenting that "students were 'docile notetakers'", the *Time* magazine suggested that students should have been _____.
- A) more independent
 - B) more ambitious
 - C) more creative
 - D) more diligent
18. What is the advantage of the Great Depression, according to *Time*?
- A) It increased the youth chances for a better job.
 - B) It increased the youth's crisis awareness.
 - C) It made the youth learn to be mature.
 - D) It made the youth more patriotic.
19. The author thinks that *Time* commented on the Silent Generation with _____.
- A) heartfelt sympathy
 - B) solid evidence
 - C) disguised praise
 - D) convincing criticism
20. Morris Dickstein points out that people now _____.
- A) tend to believe in a prosperous future
 - B) can rely on their children for a better life
 - C) lose faith in the open economic possibilities
 - D) was hopeless at a better life for their children

Part II Put the following into Chinese. (15 points)

Energy is an essential material basis for human survival and development. Every significant step in the progress of human civilization has been accompanied by energy innovations and substitutions. The development and utilization of energy has enormously boosted the development of the world economy and human society. China is now the world's second-largest energy producer and consumer. The sustained growth of energy supply has provided an important support for the country's economic growth and social progress, while the rapid expansion of energy consumption has created a vast scope for the global energy market. As an irreplaceable component of the world energy market, China plays an increasingly important role in maintaining global energy security.

Part III Essay Writing (25 points)

Write a composition of about 200 words on the following topic:

The Value of Work

You are to write in three parts.

In the first part, state specifically what your opinion is.

In the second part, support your opinion with appropriate details.

In the last part, bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or a summary.

Marks will be awarded for content, organization, grammar and appropriateness. Failure to follow the instructions may result in a loss of marks.