

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

第 1 页 共 6 页

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

Several years ago, I was teaching a course on the philosophical assumptions and cultural impact of massive multi-user online games at Williams College. The students in the course were very intelligent and obviously interested in the topic.

But as the semester progressed, I began to detect a problem with the class. The students were working hard and performing well but there was no energy in our discussions and no passion in the students. They were hesitant to express their ideas and often seemed to be going through the motions. I tried to encourage them to be more venturesome with tactics I had used successfully in the past but nothing worked.

One day I asked them what was or, perhaps better, was not going on. Why were they so cautious and where was their enthusiasm for learning? They seemed relieved to talk about it and their response surprised me. Since pre-kindergarten, they explained, they had been programmed to perform well so they could get to the next level. They had been taught the downside of risk and encouraged to play it safe. What mattered most was getting into a good elementary school, middle school and high school so that they would finally be admitted to a top college. Having succeeded beyond their parents' wildest expectations, they did not know why they were in college and had no idea what to do after graduation.

In today's market-driven economy we constantly hear that choice is the highest good and that competition fuels innovation. But this is not always true. Choice provokes anxiety and competition can *quell* (压倒) the imagination and discourage the spirit of experimentation that is necessary for creativity. In a world obsessed with ratings, well-meaning parents all too often train their children to jump through the hoops they think will lead to success.

This was a bad bet—the course many young people were forced to take has not paid off. The lucrative jobs they expected as a reward for years of hard work have vanished and show little sign of returning in the near future. The difficult truth is that their education has not prepared them for the world they face.

Though many young people have become disillusioned with Wall Street and all it represents and would like to pursue alternative careers, they have neither the educational nor financial resources to do so. The situation is critical—colleges and universities must be reformed in ways that allow students to develop the knowledge and skills they need for creative and productive lives. And parents must give their children the freedom to explore possibilities they never could have imagined.

1. By saying that students "seemed to be going through the motions", the author most probably means that the students were _____.
 - A) passionate enough
 - B) adventurous enough
 - C) not smart enough
 - D) not active enough

2. What was the students' problem at the university?
 - A) They were unable to make decisions.
 - B) They were unable to deal with risks.
 - C) They found it hard to meet the parents' expectations.
 - D) They found that their parents had little faith in them.
3. In order to become innovative, one must _____.
 - A) understand the market-driven economy
 - B) develop the spirit of experimentation
 - C) be able to choose
 - D) be imaginative
4. For many young people, the Wall Street used to represent _____.
 - A) lucrative jobs
 - B) illusion
 - C) alternative careers
 - D) adventures
5. As it is mentioned in the last paragraph, children should be allowed to explore possibilities that _____.
 - A) have not been fulfilled by the parents
 - B) have not been fulfilled by any others
 - C) are beyond the parents' imagination
 - D) are beyond their own imagination

Passage Two

In 30 years, your shoes will be smarter than you. That's not meant to be an insult but rather what Masayoshi Son believes will be the case as robots outnumber humans and exceed their intelligence in just three decades. "One of the chips in our shoes in the next 30 years will be smarter than our brain. We will be less than our shoes. And we are stepping on them," the chairman and CEO of Japan's SoftBank Group chuckled.

Son was talking up the concept of "*singularity* (奇点; 奇异)," that is when the artificial intelligence built into computers, connected Internet of Things objects and the cloud will surpass that of the human brain.

As robots gain that same level of intelligence, the societal impact is likely to be profound. Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban recently tweeted that "Automation is going to cause unemployment and we need to prepare for it." And Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates recently said in an interview that robots that take over a job formerly done by a real live person should be taxed at the same level as that human.

Softbank's Son notes that today, an average IQ for a person is around 100. If you're an Einstein or Da Vinci your IQ is around 200 marks, and you're considered a genius. In contrast, Son believes AI-infused (灌输; 充满) computers will eventually have an IQ of 10,000. "This burst of superintelligence," he says, "is going to become a reality." And this intelligence will make its way into all sorts of IOT devices, robots, cars and up in the cloud.

According to Son, a population of smart robots will exceed the population of mankind over this 30-year timeframe. Such brainy robots will make up all sizes and shapes. Some will fly, some will swim, some will have two legs, some will have hundreds of legs.

SoftBank is also spending a lot of time focused on security. There were 128 billion cyberattacks last year, 4.5 times the year before. "The number (of hacks) is *exponentially* (以指数方式) growing, so we have to be very careful," Son says. He played a video during his remarks demonstrating how hackers could steer a connected vehicle or prevent the brakes from working. To combat such threats, the company recently announced that it is putting new *encrypted* (编码, 加密) security features into the microcontroller chips that go into cars and IOT devices.

Some scholars at Oxford came up with 12 risks that threaten human intelligence, such things as nuclear war,

pandemics (流行病) and so forth. Artificial intelligence made the list too. But AI can also be the solution for the other crises, Son says. "If we misuse it, it's a risk. If we use it in good spirit, it will be our partner for a better life."

6. In what way can your shoes become smarter than you in a near future?
 - A) By implanting more chips.
 - B) By trying to lead our steps.
 - C) By connecting to computers.
 - D) By applying AI technology.
7. The remarks of Mark Cuban and Bill Gates demonstrate that _____.
 - A) social reforms are in urgent need in response to AI
 - B) automation and AI are likely to fuel social conflicts
 - C) new technology poses threats to human labor force
 - D) automation opens up broader ways of tax revenue
8. Which of the following is true of the smart robots as Son depicts?
 - A) They reproduce much faster than humans do.
 - B) They can change their appearances as they wish.
 - C) They are endowed with a large variety of functions.
 - D) They will overtake humans in all aspects of life.
9. What does the author imply about the artificial intelligence?
 - A) It may bring about more threats to the society.
 - B) It may turn out to be a double-edged sword.
 - C) It will be the answer to other social problems.
 - D) It will prove to substitute human intelligence.
10. What may be the main theme of this passage?
 - A) Shoes will become much smarter in a short period.
 - B) AI may reduce the risks posed by human activities.
 - C) The development of AI may trigger new social risks.
 - D) Robots will overall surpass humans in 30 years.

Passage Three

Care for children and older people has recently hit the headlines. Government announcements on funding reforms have put care firmly on the agenda for the next election.

But what do the announcements tell us about government priorities and the way childcare and eldercare are viewed and treated?

There are some striking parallels. Despite the *austerity* (紧缩) cuts, improving care has been *prioritized* (优先考虑) as an issue that affects most families in Britain. But with spending tight, funding reforms have been delayed until after the next election—until autumn 2015 for childcare and 2016 for care for older people.

Before then, pressures will continue to grow on care services and shrinking local authority budgets. Demand for childcare is being fuelled by the new baby boom, while the original baby boomers will demand better care for our ageing population.

The delay in implementation has also been accompanied by a sense of *anticlimax* (突降; 虎头蛇尾) and missed opportunities for both childcare and eldercare, with some fundamental issues remaining. So whichever party forms the next government in 2015 will have a lot to sort out.

First, both sets of proposals add more layers of complexity to systems that are already confusing for families. The government should be looking to simplify funding streams, not complicate them.

In childcare for example, three funding streams—tax breaks, universal credit and free places—are all being separately developed with complex *eligibility* (资格) standard rather than integrated. For eldercare, there will be two caps and a confusing means test, together with new rules about eligibility and qualifying care.

Secondly, both sets of proposals contain extra support for those on lower incomes and with fewer assets. But the main winners in both cases will be wealthier families. The bulk of funding for the childcare tax breaks will go to families with higher incomes, who can afford to spend at least £6, 000 a year on childcare for each of their children. And the older people and their families who will gain most from the cap on care costs will be those with the greatest assets, who will see their inheritances relatively well-protected.

Thirdly, with growing demand for care there should be more emphasis on prevention and early intervention. The cap on care costs focuses instead on crisis care, particularly for older people in care homes. This won't help integration with health services in local communities.

Finally, both proposals raise big questions about the future role of local authorities in supporting families who need care.

Despite this recent attention, care for both children and older people remains undervalued and underfunded. An analysis of reviews of care to be published shortly shows that families rate childcare better than eldercare. This may reflect a range of cultural and historical funding issues, but it also shows how society values children compared to older people.

What is true is that childcare and eldercare are now key issues in the run-up to the 2015 general election. We wait to see what alternatives the opposition proposes.

11. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
A) childcare and eldercare will become important issues in the following election
B) people have different opinions on the care for children and older people
C) the government decides to reform childcare and eldercare soon
D) childcare and eldercare were not the government's priorities in the past
12. Why does the British government have to postpone the funding reforms?
A) Because the government neglects childcare and eldercare.
B) Because the government spending has been cut.
C) Because British families are getting quality services.
D) Because politicians don't think it's the right time to reform.
13. What does the author think is the problem with the existing funding systems?
A) They are opposed by many poor families.
B) They cause confusion to most British families.
C) They have too many funding sources.
D) They couldn't meet the new baby boomers' demands.
14. Who will benefit the most from the funding reforms?
A) Families with baby boomers.
B) Families with many children.
C) Families with aging people.
D) Families with higher incomes and more assets.
15. The author's attitude towards the future of childcare and eldercare funding reforms is _____.
A) expectant
B) uninterested
C) critical
D) detached

Passage Four

Economists say confidence in the U.S. economy has improved since the financial crisis began, but it is still at a very low level. This week, the New York-based Conference board said its consumer confidence is about half of what it was this time last year. As people struggle to deal with job losses and dwindling retirement funds, their outlook of the country's economic situation remains pessimistic during the biggest consumer spending time of the year.

Claire Rusk, a shopper in Alexandria, Virginia, says she is changing her holiday spending habits this year because of the economic crisis, even though her nine-year-old son expects Christmas as usual. "His list is longer than ever, so I was listening to how you tell him that his list better be shorter this year," she said. Rusk says the crisis is forcing her to think hard about her purchases. "I'm just going to be more careful. I'm going to make a list. I'm not going to randomly shop," she noted. "I usually just go out and shop, but I'm going to have a plan before I go out this year."

And Rusk is not alone. Kilmer Caban, a shopper at the Pentagon City Mall outside Washington, D.C., says he is going to try to spend the same amount for gifts as last year, but he knows some of his family members are cutting back. "My sister and her husband say they will not be spending as much, due to the cost of gas and the economy and everything," he explained.

Some retail store owners, who normally make the bulk of their profits this time of year, are hopeful that the holiday shopping season will still be able to pull them out of the recent slump. Victoria Birkett, the owner of Embellishments, a gift store in Alexandria, Virginia, says she's a little worried, but she is looking forward to the holiday rush. "In this retail business I have cut my order down a little bit from prior years, but I can see people are being a little more cautious in their spending," she said. "I'm a little concerned, but it is just before Thanksgiving, so I'm hopeful that things will pick up just after Thanksgiving." Birkett says her gift shop has not felt the effects of the economic crisis as much as other store owners she knows because it is close to Washington D.C. and benefits from tourism.

Alexander McCall, a manager at Game Stop, in the Pentagon City Mall remains optimistic as well. "People are a little bit more careful with their money now, the spending has gone down a little, but I think all in all it's going to be a good business holiday for everybody," he said. Despite the slump in consumer confidence McCall still expects demand for some items to rise next month.

16. How are the retired people influenced by the economic situation?
- A) They are forced to retire at an earlier age.
 - B) They have to cope with reduced pensions.
 - C) Their spending power has increased to record high.
 - D) Their confidence has dropped to the lowest level.
17. Claire Rusk wanted to ask for advice on how to _____.
- A) get through the economic crisis
 - B) plan for the Christmas shopping
 - C) explain the economic situation to her son
 - D) change her random holiday spending habits
18. Kilmer Caban is mentioned in order to stress that _____.
- A) few shoppers can keep their spending habits
 - B) Claire Rusk faces the same situation
 - C) Christmas is the biggest spending time
 - D) the economic crisis has a sweeping influence
19. What has Victoria Birkett done in order to deal with the economic situation?
- A) She has reduced the goods in stock.

- B) She has special Thanksgiving gifts on sale.
- C) She will try to attract more tourists.
- D) She will move her stop to Washington D.C.

20. According to the retailers, the shoppers are _____ with their money.

- A) pessimistic
- B) restrained
- C) hopeful
- D) miserly

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

China will slash coal consumption to reduce air pollution. The 2015-2020 action plan on the efficient use of coal underlines the country's efforts and target for green energy use. Reducing coal consumption will involve eliminating outdated production capacity (落后产能) and using cleaner energy such as nuclear energy, wind energy and solar energy. The highlight of the action plan is using fiscal and financial policies to support coal consumption cuts by pumping more funds to battle pollution. China aims to increase its share of non-fossil energy to 15 percent by 2020 and 20 percent by 2030.

Part III Essay Writing (25 points)

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

The Value of Universities

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.