

安徽师范大学

2017 年硕士研究生招生考试初试试题

科目代码: 652

科目名称: 基础英语

Part I. Vocabulary (20 points)

Directions: There are twenty sentences in this part. From the four choices marked A, B, C and D, choose the one that is closest in meaning to each underlined word or phrase.

1. The diffusion of knowledge is the dominant trend of this information age, which occurs very quickly due to the easily accessible internet.
A. mastery B. dissemination C. movement D. accumulation
2. How do you account for the economic disparity between the developed and underdeveloped countries? The gap is always there, hard to be narrowed down.
A. prosperity B. inequality C. equality D. wonder
3. The daughters and nieces of the survivors of Hiroshima bombardment are marginalized for non-victims are afraid of a possible genetic mutation that might happen to their offspring.
A. change B. model C. progress D. renewal
4. In the old days of two-party adversarial politics, voting was not difficult.
A. clean B. dirty C. opposing D. friendly
5. He's under the delusion that he can beat his opponent as easily as turning his wrists. He is flattering himself!
A. influence B. confidence C. false impression D. conviction
6. That guy is a sophisticated person. You can never fathom what's going on in his mind behind his charming smile.
A. measure B. believe C. interpret D. predict
7. Prejudice often proceeds from lack of contact and lack of knowledge. In other words, bias is rooted in ignorance.
A. results in B. leads to C. brings about D. arises from
8. As a righteous journalist, she refuses to gloss over their faults or silence their critics. She is trying to let the facts speak for themselves.
A. set up B. take over C. cover up D. get over
9. Whether women obey or disobey social conventions, our society is sure to raise its eyebrows at them. What a predicament women are trapped in!
A. dilemma B. excitement C. struggle D. expatriation

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10. How has the billionaire amassed all his fortune? It seems that he is always on vacation and never works.
- A. accumulated B. cheated C. wasted D. squandered
11. I hate those busybodies who like to poke into others' private affairs. They are always meddling in others' business.
- A. pry B. chat C. push D. gossip
12. Laozi greatly sympathized with the common people, fulminating against the warlords who brought endless sufferings to them.
- A. exploding B. threatening C. cursing D. blaming
13. Buildings are supposed to be at rest with respect to the earth but the earth itself is not motionless.
- A. resumed B. assumed C. presumed D. consumed
14. He gained infamy in the email-gate of the presidential candidate.
- A. notoriety B. celebrity C. renown D. reputation
15. We were amazed at their thick-skin. They were pushing aside the elders to occupy the courtesy seats reserved for them.
- A. brazenness B. indignation C. humility D. humiliation
16. The lounge is too dark for people to read there even in daytime. It is not well illuminated.
- A. dim B. dingy C. gloomy D. creepy
17. Churchill's anecdotes are fascinating to listen to for his witty humor and biting satire sugarcoated with courtesy and consideration.
- A. catching B. pleasing C. absorbing D. appalling
18. We didn't appreciate the sellers' subtle schemes to make money at the expense of the customers.
- A. delicate B. profound C. tricky D. well-meant
19. I am not conversant with chemistry because I've never studied it.
- A. interested in B. concerned about C. prolific in D. knowledgeable about
20. If you keep staying up late every night you could wind up with a heart attack.
- A. start with B. cope with C. end up with D. be diagnosed with

Part II. Reading Comprehension (40 points)

Directions: Read each text carefully and make the best choice based on the information in the text. There is only one correct answer to each question.

Text 1

In the early days of the United States, postal charges were paid by the recipient and charges varied with the distance carried. In 1825, the United States Congress permitted local postmasters to give letters to mail carriers for home delivery, but these carriers received no government salary and their entire compensation depended on what they were paid by the recipients of individual letters.

In 1847, the United States Post Office Department adopted the idea of a postage stamp, which of course simplified the payment for postal service but caused grumbling among those who did not like to

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prepay. Besides, the stamp covered only delivery to the post office and did not include carrying it to a private address. In Philadelphia, for example, with a population of 150,000, people still had to go to the post office to get their mail. The confusion and congestion of individual citizens looking for their letters was itself enough to discourage use of the mail. It is no wonder that, during the years of these cumbersome arrangements, private letter-carrying and express businesses developed. Although their activities were only semi-legal, they thrived, and actually advertised that between Boston and Philadelphia they were a half-day speedier than the government mail. The government postal service lost volume to private competition and was not able to handle efficiently even the business it had.

Finally, in 1863, congress provided that the mail carriers who delivered the mail from the post offices to private address should receive a government salary and that there should be no extra charge for that delivery. But the delivery service was at first confined to cities, and free home delivery became a mark of urbanism. As late as 1887, a town had to have 10,000 people to be eligible for free home delivery. In 1890, of the 75 million people in the United States, fewer than 20 million had mail delivered to their doors. The rest, nearly three-quarters of the populace, still received no mail unless they went to their post office.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
 - A. The increased use of private mail services
 - B. The development of a government postal system
 - C. A comparison of urban and rural postal services
 - D. The history of postage stamps
2. Which of the following was viewed as a disadvantage of the postage stamp?
 - A. It had to be purchased by the sender in advance.
 - B. It increased the cost of mail delivery.
 - C. It was difficult to affix to letters.
 - D. It was easy to counterfeit.
3. What's the purpose of mentioning the city of Philadelphia in the second paragraph?
 - A. It was the site of the first post office in the U.S.
 - B. Its postal service was inadequate for its population.
 - C. It was the largest city in the U.S. in 1847.
 - D. It was commemorated by the first U.S. postage stamp.
4. In paragraph 2, the underlined word "cumbersome" is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. burdensome
 - B. handsome
 - C. loathsome
 - D. quarrelsome
5. The private postal services of the nineteenth century claimed that they could outdo the government in that _____.
 - A. Delivery a higher volume of mail
 - B. Deliver mail more cheaply
 - C. Deliver mail more quickly
 - D. Deliver mail to rural areas

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Text 2

Mark Davins, the principle character in Phillip Simms' trilogy of novels *Whetherworld* (1956) represents the beginning of a new form in the science fiction genre. Simms creates Davins in a world surrounded by technological devices and futuristic settings. Although those settings are what place the *Whetherworld* collection in the classification of science fiction, the truly fascinating aspect of the novels is the way Davins deals with his own personal conflicts and feelings in relation to the constructed worlds of the novels. This aspect of Simms' writing is best illustrated in *Knife Dancer*. In this first book of the *Whetherworld* series, Simms creates a group of artificial life forms which have rebelled against their creators in an attempt to remain alive. The drama that unfolds could not have been possible without the introduction of a form of writing that would allow such events to be taken seriously. Although the various technical trappings of the *Whetherworld* books could have been written by hundreds of other authors, it was not until the advent of Simms' innovative style that the human drama was so eloquently developed within such a setting. Because of the way that Simms has brought a literary palette of unprecedented depth to bear on such a seemingly limited realm of literature, it is difficult to place him in any specific historical lineage. Indeed, many may argue that one of the most profound qualities of Simms' novels is that they have created an entirely new tradition. It is in that very sense of breaking with the past that we can see Simms' heritage most plainly traced. He is not only a great stylist, but a great creator of style.

1. What is the main point to the passage?
 - A. To explain why *Whetherworld* was written
 - B. To examine the genre of science fiction
 - C. To prove Simms was a great science fiction writer
 - D. To illustrate how Simms' work was different from other writers
2. What's considered "truly fascinating"?
 - A. The novels of Phillip Simms
 - B. The worlds constructed within the novels
 - C. The relationship between emotions and artificial worlds
 - D. The concept of introspection
3. Which is NOT mentioned as an aspect of Simms' writing?
 - A. Addressing human issues
 - B. Combining technology and humanity
 - C. Exciting action scenes
 - D. The exploration of new forms of writing
4. According to the passage, why is it difficult to put Simmons into one specific literary tradition?
 - A. He always fought against tradition.
 - B. He developed a unique style.
 - C. His writing was difficult to understand.
 - D. He tried to hide his style.

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5. According to the passage, what is the best way to understand Simms' literary lineage?
- Examine the history of fiction
 - Trace the history of literary style
 - Study writers who began new literary traditions
 - Study the history of technical literature

Text 3

To many web-building spiders, most of whom are nearly blind, the web is their essential window to the world: their means of communicating, capturing prey, meeting mates and protecting themselves. A web-building spider without its web is like a man marooned on an island of solid rock, totally out of touch and destined to starve to death. So vital is the web to an orb-web spider's survival that the animal will continue to construct new webs daily even if it is being starved. For 16 days the starving spider builds completely normal webs. Then, as the animal gets scrawnier, it constructs a wider-meshed web using fewer strands. Such webs would only trap larger prey, which is more economical from the perspective of a starving spider.

The spider conserves energy by recycling web protein. It simply eats its own web each evening and re-uses it to manufacture new silk. In studies with radioactively labeled materials, it was found that 95 percent of web protein reappears in the next day's web. Most of the energy needed for web-building is used in walking over the strands as they are laid down. Scientists are impressed by the adaptability of the spider's highly preprogrammed brain, which is larger for its size than the brain of any other invertebrate. If web-building is interrupted, or if some of the existing strands are destroyed, the spider simply retraces its steps to see where the web is left off and then finishes building a normal web. One spider will even finish building the incomplete web of another.

- What can be the best title for this passage?
 - Secrets of Spider
 - Secrets of the Spider Web
 - Secrets of Nature
 - A New Discovery of Scientists
- According to the passage, which statement is TRUE?
 - All web-building spiders are blind.
 - All spiders can weave webs.
 - A starving web-building spider stops building webs.
 - The web has a multifunction.
- Without its web, a web-spider would NOT be able to _____.
 - walk quickly
 - see the prey clearly
 - conserve its energy
 - survive

4. A spider conserves its energy _____.
- A. because it constructs new webs daily
 - B. as it walks over the strands it lays
 - C. by eating its own web protein and then re-using it in the new web
 - D. by eating only in the evening
5. That a spider is able to finish an incomplete web of another proves that _____.
- A. a spider re-uses its web protein to reproduce new silk
 - B. spiders have a highly preprogrammed brain
 - C. the web is everything to a spider
 - D. a spider is able to remedy a destroyed web

Text 4

How is communication actually achieved? It depends, of course, either on a common language or on known conventions, or at least on the beginnings of these. If the common language and the conventions exist, the contributor, for example, the creative artist, the performer, or the reporter, tries to use them as well as he can. But often, especially with original artists and thinkers, the problem is one way that of creating a language, or creating a convention, or at least of developing the language and conventions to the point where they are capable of bearing his precise meaning. In literature, in music, in the visual arts, in the sciences, in social thinking, in philosophy, this kind of development has occurred again and again. It often takes a long time to get through, and for many people it will remain difficult. But we need never think that it is impossible; creative energy is much more powerful than we sometimes suppose. While a man is engaged in this struggle to say new things in new ways, he is usually more than ever concentrated on the actual work, and not on its possible audience. Many artists and scientists share this fundamental unconcern about the ways in which their work will be received. They may be glad if it is understood and appreciated, hurt if it is not, but while the work is being done there can be no argument. The thing has to come out as the man himself sees it.

In this sense it is true that it is the duty of society to create conditions in which such men can live. For whatever the value of any individual contribution, the general body of work is of immense value to everyone. But of course things are not so formal, in reality. There is not society on the one hand and these individuals on the other. In ordinary living, and in his work, the contributor shares in the life of his society, which often affects him both in minor ways and in ways sometimes so deep that his not even aware of them. His ability to make his work public depends on the actual communication system: the language itself, or certain visual or musical or scientific conventions, and the institutions through which the communication will be passed. The effect of these on his actual work can be almost infinitely variable. For it is not only a communication system outside him; it is also, however original he may be, a communication system which is in fact part of himself. Many contributors make active use of this kind of internal communication system. It is to themselves, in a way, that they first show their conceptions, play their music, or present their arguments. Not only as a way of getting themselves clear, in the process of almost endless testing that active composition involves; But also, whether consciously or not, as a way of putting the experience into a

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communicable form. If one mind has grasped it, then it may be open to other minds.

In this deep sense, the society is in some ways already present in the act of composition. This is always very difficult to understand, but often, when we have the advantage of looking back at a period, we can see, even if we cannot explain, how this was so. We can see how much, in their actual work, and in what is called their "structure of feeling", even highly original individuals had in common with other individual workers of the time, and with the society of that time to which they belonged. The historian is also continually struck by the fact that men of this kind felt isolated at the very time when in reality they were beginning to get through. This can also be noticed in our time, when some of the most deeply influential men feel isolated and even rejected. The society and the communication are there, but it is difficult to recognize them, difficult to be sure.

1. Creative artists and thinkers achieve communication by _____.
 - A. depending on shared conventions
 - B. fashioning their own conventions
 - C. adjusting their personal feelings
 - D. elaborating a common language
2. A common characteristic of artists and scientists involved in creative work is that _____.
 - A. they care about the audience's possible reaction to their work
 - B. public response is one of their primary concern
 - C. they are keenly aware of public interest in their work
 - D. they are indifferent toward response to their work
3. According to the passage, which of the following statements is INCORRECT?
 - A. Individual contributions combined possess great significance to the public.
 - B. Good contributors don't neglect the use of internal communication system.
 - C. Everyone except those original people comes under the influence of society.
 - D. Knowing how to communicate is universal among human beings.
4. It is implied at the end of the passage that highly original individuals feel isolated because they _____.
 - A. fail to acknowledge and use an acceptable form of communication
 - B. actually differ from other individuals in the same period
 - C. have little in common with the society of the time
 - D. refuse to admit parallels between themselves and the society
5. What can be the major topic for this passage?
 - A. The way how human beings communicate with one another.
 - B. The way how creative thinkers and artists communicate with one another.
 - C. The way how creative thinkers and artists try their best to reach out to their audiences.
 - D. The interrelationship between human communication in general and artistic communication.

Part III. Knowledge of target language and culture (15 points)

Directions: Choose the best answer from the given items.

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1. The full name of Britain is _____.
 - A. British Empire
 - B. Great Britain
 - C. The United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations
 - D. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
2. Who were the ancestors of the English and the founders of England?
 - A. The Anglo-Saxons.
 - B. The Normans.
 - C. The Vikings.
 - D. The Romans.
3. Which of the following is NOT based on the fact?
 - A. Members of Parliament elect the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.
 - B. Members of Parliament receive salaries and some other allowances.
 - C. Members of Parliament are expected to represent their interests of the public.
 - D. Most Members of Parliament belong to the major political parties.
4. Who is the present British Prime Minister?
 - A. Tony Blair.
 - B. David Cameron.
 - C. Theresa May.
 - D. Andrea Leadsom.
5. Who of the following writers and poets did NOT belong to Romanticism?
 - A. Keats.
 - B. Shelley.
 - C. Wordsworth.
 - D. Defoe.
6. Who of the following writers was the most famous Scottish novelist?
 - A. D.H. Lawrence.
 - B. Charles Dickens.
 - C. Jonathan Swift.
 - D. Sir Walter Scott.
7. Who of following writers wrote the book *1984* that began "Postmodernism" in British literature?
 - A. George Orwell.
 - B. Robert L. Stevenson.
 - C. D.H. Lawrence.
 - D. Virginia Woolf.
8. Which of the following is NOT involved in making the British foreign policy?
 - A. The Queen of Britain
 - B. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
 - C. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet.
 - D. The Ministry of Defense and the Treasury.
9. "No taxation without presentation" was the rallying cry of _____.
 - A. the settlers of Virginia
 - B. the people of Pennsylvania
 - C. the colonists in New England
 - D. the people of the 13 colonies on the eve of the American Revolution

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10. Which of the following can make federal laws, and levy federal taxes?
- The executive.
 - The legislative.
 - The Judicial.
 - The president.
11. The New Deal was started by _____.
- Franklin Roosevelt
 - J.F. Kennedy
 - George Washington
 - Thomas Jefferson
12. Which of the following is NOT regarded as one of the three basic religious beliefs for the Americans?
- Protestant.
 - Catholic.
 - Islamic.
 - Judaism.
13. Mark Twain's works are characterized by the following EXCEPT _____.
- sense of humor
 - egotism
 - jokes
 - fall tales
14. Which of the following expressions represents the core value of the mainstream society in the USA?
- "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."
 - "Blood, sweat, and toil."
 - "Freedom, equality, and spirituality."
 - "Eat, drink, and be merry."
15. Due to his firm belief in nonviolent peaceful protest in the spirit of India's leader Gandhi, _____ was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
- John F. Kennedy
 - James Farmer
 - Ella Baker
 - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Part IV. Cloze (20 points)

Directions: Choose the right word from the list given below for each blank. Note: each word can only be used once. You don't have to change the form of words.

alone	broad	case	complaint	convenience
cruellest	disorderly	even	harmless	imprisonment
industrious	interfered	peaceable	resenting	stoned
support	swear	testify	that	witnessed

Of course there was a large Chinese population in Virginia City — it is the 1) _____ with every town and city on the Pacific coast. They are a harmless race when white men either let them 2) _____ or treat them no worse than dogs; in fact, they are almost entirely 3) _____ anyhow. For they seldom

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think of 4) _____ the vilest insults or the 5) _____ injuries. They are quiet, 6) _____ tractable, free from drunkenness, and they are as 7) _____ as the day is long. A 8) _____ Chinaman is rare, and a lazy one does not exist. So long as a Chinaman has strength to use his hands he needs no 9) _____ from anybody; white men often complain of want of work, but a Chinaman offers no such 10) _____; he always manages to find something to do. He is a great 11) _____ to everybody — 12) _____ to the worst class of white men, for he bears the most of their sins, suffering fines for their petty thefts, 13) _____ for their robberies, and death for their murders. Any white man can 14) _____ a Chinaman's life away in the courts, but no Chinaman can 15) _____ against a white man. Ours is the "land of the free" — nobody denies that — nobody challenges it. [Maybe it is because we won't let other people testify.] As I write, news comes that in 16) _____ daylight in San Francisco, some boys have 17) _____ an inoffensive Chinaman to death, and 18) _____ although a large crowd 19) _____ the shameful deed, no one 20) _____.

Part V. Translation (15 points)

A. Translate the following English passage into Chinese, paying attention to accuracy and readability. (6 points)

All of us wonder, sometime or often, about our place in the world.... To philosophize is to wonder about life — about right and wrong, love and loneliness, war and death. It is to wonder creatively about freedom, truth, beauty, time and a thousand other things. To philosophize is to explore life. It especially means breaking free to ask questions. It means resisting easy answers. To philosophize is to seek in oneself the courage to ask painful questions.

B. Translate the following Chinese passage into English, paying attention to accuracy and readability. (9 points)

人为什么会没有敬畏感？为什么会从破坏美好中体验到无穷的乐趣？孔子云：“君子有三畏：畏天命，畏大人，畏圣人之言。”但那个时代，却演绎着“东风吹，战鼓擂，这个世界谁怕谁”的无畏精神，人人都癫狂起来，本来我们应该敬畏法律，但法律被束之高阁；我们应该敬畏道德，但道德已被砸得稀巴烂；我们应该敬畏自然，但我们充满了冲天的革命精神.....

Part VI. Composition (40 points)

Directions: Read the following passage and write a critical essay in English (400 words).

During recent two months, Donald Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton is almost on everybody's tongue and makes the headline repeatedly. Some critic says that it is a victory of the grassroots over the elites; some says that it is truth that wins over "political correctness"; and others say that it's the new media that triumph over the traditional media.... How do you account for Trump's success? If you are a qualified voter, who are you going to vote for and why? Does your choice have anything to do with your gender, social status, educational background, etc? Are there any other factors that may affect your decision? Make your own comments.

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