

汕头大学 2017 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

科目代码: 624

科目名称: 基础英语

适用专业: 英语语言文学

考生须知

答案一律写在答题纸上, 答在
试题纸上的不得分! 请用黑色字迹
签字笔作答, 答题要写清题号, 不
必抄原题。

I. Vocabulary and structure (1-5: 1 point each; 6-15: 1.5 points each. Total: 20 points)

Part A: Multiple choice of vocabulary.

1. His dominant ____ was to take all things into earnest consideration.
A. trait B. trail C. trace D. track
2. My aunt tried her best to ____ the situation, but the damage was already done.
A. adjust B. regulate C. rectify D. amend
3. Just months after entering politics, he finds he has been under ____ by a dogged justice system.
A. sanity B. scarcity C. scrutiny D. serenity
4. The attendants who are ____ managed to cope with me without being able to speak English.
A. promising B. appealing C. pleasing D. obliging
5. The boxer got ____ and fell down when his opponent gave him the final blow.
A. staggered B. stamped C. scattered D. shattered

Part B: Choose one word to complete each of the following sentences:

A. abhor B. abdicate C. averse D. absconded E. avert

6. Congressman Riley did not retire from office willingly. He was forced to ____ by his involvement in political scandal.
7. Police also raided Pablo's house in East L.A., but found nothing. Apparently the drug lord had ____ to Mexico, where he usually runs and hides.
8. You don't want to grow old and fat, yet you aren't willing to put forth the effort to ____ it by exercising and eating less. Talk alone won't change anything.
9. There is only one kind of person I absolutely cannot stand: I ____ a man who takes advantage of my kindness.

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10. I'm shocked that Green Peace has not objected to NASA's proposal to deposit nuclear wastes on the moon. Are they only ____ to pollution on Earth?

Part C: Multiple choice of syntactic knowledge:

11. Which of the following sentences has an object complement?
- A. The directors appointed John manager.
 - B. I gave Mary a Christmas present.
 - C. You have done Peter a big favor.
 - D. She is teaching children English.
12. Which of the following sentences contains an appositive clause?
- A. A survey was carried out on the death rate of new-born babies in that region, the results of which were surprising.
 - B. The day that was important to Helen finally came.
 - C. Word came that the newly-elected president will visit our country.
 - D. It is well known that China has the largest population in the world.
13. In the sentence "It's no use *waiting for her*", the italicized part is ____.
- A. the object
 - B. an adverbial
 - C. a complement
 - D. the subject
14. Which of the following sentences has a correct nominative absolute construction?
- A. His homework finished, the boy went to play football with his friends.
 - B. Weather permits, we can go picnic next week.
 - C. Having lost his key, he couldn't enter his room.
 - D. Your being right doesn't necessarily mean my being wrong.
15. Which of the following sentences is INCORRECT?
- A. He is a Chinese tall intelligent young officer.
 - B. There are a few new major urban highways.
 - C. She is wearing a pretty pink woolen sweater.
 - D. He stands on a beautiful little white stone bridge.

II. Reading Comprehension (40 points)

Read the following passages and choose the best answer to each question.

Passage 1 (10 points)

Smartphones may soon displace some of the estimated 1 billion credit and debit cards in American wallets. AT&T (T), Verizon Wireless, and T-Mobile are

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planning a venture to develop a mobile payment system that works with smartphones, posing a new threat to Visa (V) and MasterCard (MA), three people with direct knowledge of the plan say. The partners aim to test the system at stores in Atlanta and three other US cities, the people say, though they didn't provide a timetable. The trial would be the carriers' biggest effort to spur mobile payments in the US. "This is definitely a game changer," says industry consultant Richard Crone. Mobile carriers "are the biggest recurring billers in every market. They are experts at processing payments".

While the technical details are sketchy, the service would let customers make purchases by holding a smartphone in front of an electronic reader in stores. Transactions would be processed by Discover Financial Services (DFS), the fourth biggest payments network in the US behind Visa, MasterCard, and American Express (AXP). London-based Barclays (BCS) would help manage the accounts, say the people, who requested anonymity because of confidentiality agreements. Representatives for the carriers, Barclays, and Discover declined to comment.

Retailers may be eager to support a rival network after years of tussling with Visa and MasterCard over transaction fees. "We have long argued that real competition is missing from today's payments market," says Brian Dodge of the Retail Industry Leaders Assn., which represents merchants such as Walmart (WMT), Home Depot (HD), and Target (TGT). "A secure and reliable competing network that...reduces retailers' costs would be welcomed news."

Visa and MasterCard are benefitting as people abandon cash and paper checks for cards and electronic payments, which account for more than half of US consumer purchases last year, compared with 36 percent in 2003, according to The Nilson Report, an industry newsletter. Visa and MasterCard accounted for \$2.45 trillion, or 79 percent, of \$3.1 trillion in US consumer spending last year on credit and debit cards. More than half of US consumers, and almost 80 percent of those between the aged of 18 and 34, will use mobile financial services within five years, according to Mercatus, a consulting firm in Boston.

Any new payment system may face barriers that prevent the technology from taking hold quickly in the US, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston said in a May policy paper. Consumers won't demand mobile payments "until they know that enough merchants accept them, and merchants will not implement the technology

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until a critical mass of consumers justifies the cost of doing so,” the report said. Merchants would have to spend an estimated \$200 per electronic reader, and updating mobile phones with embedded microchips would increase manufacturing costs by \$10 to \$15 per handset, according to the Boston Fed. That may be worth the money if accepting mobile payments allows retailers to send rewards and information about promotions to their customers’ phones at checkout.

1. What can we learn about the mobile payment plan?

- A. It’s only available at stores in Atlanta.
- B. It’s a new threat to credit and debit cards.
- C. It’s sponsored by Visa and MasterCard.
- D. It means more discounts for mobile carriers.

2. Which of the following is true about Barclays?

- A. It’s a payments network in the US.
- B. It requires anonymity from the carriers.
- C. It offers free electronic reader to stores.
- D. It will assist DFS with the accounts.

3. According to the passage, Brian Dodge _____.

- A. is a supporter of Visa and MasterCard
- B. benefits a lot from transaction fees
- C. holds an identical view with the retailers
- D. hopes to sustain the existing payments market

4. During last year, the cards and electronic payments in the US _____.

- A. attracted more than half of US young consumers
- B. accounted for more than half of consumer purchases
- C. took up 79 percent of the whole consumer spending
- D. had increased about 36 percent compared with 2003

5. Which of the following can be the best title of the passage?

- A. The May Policy Paper of the Boston Fed

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- B. The Nilson Report on US Consumer Purchases
- C. The Convenience of Credit and Debit Cards
- D. Smartphones May Soon Replace Credit Cards

Passage 2 (10 points)

As Gilbert White, Darwin, and others observed long ago, all species appear to have the innate capacity to increase their numbers from generation to generation. The task for ecologists is to untangle the environmental and biological factors that hold this intrinsic capacity for population growth in check over the long run. The great variety of dynamic behaviors exhibited by different populations makes this task more difficult: some populations remain roughly constant from year to year; others exhibit regular cycles of abundance and scarcity; still others vary wildly, with outbreaks and crashes that are in some cases plainly correlated with the weather, and in other cases not.

To impose some order on this kaleidoscope of patterns, one school of thought proposes dividing populations into two groups. These ecologists posit that the relatively steady populations have “density-dependent” growth parameters; that is, rates of birth, death, and migration which depend strongly on population density. The highly varying populations have “density-independent” growth parameters, with vital rates buffeted by environmental events; these rates fluctuate in a way that is wholly independent of population density.

This dichotomy has its uses, but it can cause problems if taken too literally. For one thing, no population can be driven entirely by density-independent factors all the time. No matter how severely or unpredictably birth, death and migration rates may be fluctuating around their long-term averages, if there were no density-dependent effects, the population would, in the long run, either increase or decrease without bound (barring a miracle by which gains and losses canceled exactly). Put another way, it may be that on average 99 percent of all deaths in a population arise from density-independent causes, and only one percent from factors varying with density. The factors making up the one percent may seem unimportant, and their cause may be correspondingly hard to determine. Yet whether recognized or not, they will usually determine the long-term average population density.

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In order to understand the nature of the ecologist's investigation, we may think of the density-dependent effects on growth parameters as the "signal" ecologists are trying to isolate and interpret, one that tends to make the population increase from relatively low values or decrease from relatively high ones, while the density-independent effects act to produce "noise" in the population dynamics. For populations that remain relatively constant, or that oscillate around repeated cycles, the signal can be fairly easily characterized and its effects described, even though the causative biological mechanism may remain unknown. For irregularly fluctuating populations, we are likely to have too few observations to have any hope of extracting the signal from the overwhelming noise. But it now seems clear that all populations are regulated by a mixture of density-dependent and density-independent effects in varying proportions.

6. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with ____.

- A. describing how growth rates in natural populations fluctuate over time and explaining why these changes occur.
- B. proposing a hypothesis concerning population sizes and suggesting ways to test it.
- C. discussing two categories of factors that control population growth and assessing their relative importance.
- D. refuting a commonly accepted theory about population density and offering a new alternative

7. According to the passage, which of the following behaviors has been exhibited by different populations?

- A. Unchecked increases in numbers over many generations.
- B. Regular cycles of increases and decreases in numbers.
- C. Erratic decreases in numbers correlated with the weather.
- D. Sudden declines in numbers at all time.

8. The author considers the dichotomy discussed in the second paragraph to be ____.

- A. useful, but only if its limitations are recognized

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- B. applicable only to erratically fluctuating populations
- C. dangerously misleading in most circumstances
- D. a complete and sufficient way to account for observed phenomena

9. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the last paragraph?

- A. For irregularly fluctuating populations, doubling the number of observations will result in the isolation of density-dependent effects.
- B. It is sometimes possible to infer the existence of a density-dependent factor controlling population growth without understanding its causative mechanism.
- C. Ecologists don't understand any of the underlying causes of the density-dependent effects they observe in population dynamics.
- D. Density-dependent effects on growth parameters are thought to be caused by some sort of biochemical "signaling".

10. Which of the following is true according to the passage?

- A. All species have the ability to increase their number from generation to generation through acquired effort.
- B. It is out of question that all populations are controlled by a combination of density-dependent and density-independent effects in varying proportions.
- C. Population can be driven entirely by density-independent factors all the time.
- D. The ecologists assume that the relative steady populations have "density-independent" growth parameters.

Passage 3 (10 points)

Let's not mince words: college can be tough. According to a 2007 study by the American College Health Association, 43 percent of students reported having felt "so depressed it was difficult to function" at least once in the prior year. Other studies, based on student surveys, suggest that one in five undergraduates reported having an eating disorder, one in six had deliberately cut or burned themselves and one in ten had considered suicide.

Given those numbers, it's deeply troubling that in 2007 just 8.5 percent of students used their college's counseling services. In other words, students were

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more likely to consider killing themselves than to seek help. Students feel more afraid to discuss mental-health problems. They think they'll be labeled as the craze kid who'll shoot up the school.

Counselors say that while they do keep an eye out for students who might pose a risk to others, the overwhelming majority of their patients are no threat to anyone but themselves. Counseling services must look for new ways to reach out to troubled students and let them know that seeking treatment is a strong, smart thing. At Harvard, students can win iPods for attending mental-health screening sessions and are invited to "pajama party" panels, where flannel-clad counselors dispense milk and cookies along with advice about the importance of sleep. "There's still a high level of stigma," says Richard Kadison, head of Harvard's mental-health services. "We're trying to find creative ways of getting the message out."

Many campuses also offer online services allowing students to complete informal diagnostic quizzes away from the prying eyes of their peers. The results are confidential, but can help nudge students toward counseling services. Besides, many colleges encourage parents to pitch in, whether by watching out for warning signs or by coaxing their kids to seek help. Philadelphia University now issues students' relatives with a calendar highlighting the toughest times of the year for freshmen, while the University of Minnesota offers online workshops, where parents can learn about conditions such as anxiety and Asperger's syndrome.

Still, students and counselors agree that the most effective outreach programs are those led by students themselves. "It's different when you hear something from another student," says Semmie Kim, a neuroscience major who founded MIT's chapter of Active Minds in 2007. She's held events like a bubble-wrap stomp to help students vent pre-exam stress, but says her group's most important role is to provide troubled peers with a sympathetic ear. "We want to make students realize they're not alone," she says. "College will always be tough, but there's no need to suffer in silence."

11. The statement "College can be tough" is used to introduce _____.

- A. the severity of mental illnesses at college
- B. the fierce competition of earning scholarships

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- C. the feeble relations between teachers and students
- D. the anxiety of coping with all kinds of examinations

12. According to Para. 2, few troubled students turn to counselors for help because they ____.

- A. will be asked to leave school
- B. will receive many screening tests
- C. are afraid to be laughed at by peers
- D. will pay more for counseling services

13. Which of the following is still bothering the counselors?

- A. Whether they should tell the truth to their patients directly.
- B. How much time they will spend on each screening session.
- C. What treatment should be included in their counseling services.
- D. How counseling services will be acceptable and available to troubled students.

14. It can be inferred from Para. 4 that ____.

- A. all universities in America have offered online counseling services
- B. parents play a vital role in solving students' mental-health problems
- C. university of Minnesota took the initiative to give lectures on mental health
- D. Philadelphia University used a calendar as the reminder of diagnostic quizzes

15. Semmie Kim believes that the most effective mental-health service at college is ____.

- A. the comfort and help from peers
- B. the advice from online workshops
- C. the love and warmth from teachers
- D. the treatment from neuroscience experts

Passage 4 (10 points)

If you smoke and you still don't believe that there's a definite link between smoking and bronchial troubles, heart disease and lung cancer, then you are certainly deceiving yourself. No one will accuse you of hypocrisy. Let us just say

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that you are suffering from a bad case of wishful thinking. This needn't make you too uncomfortable because you are in good company. Whenever the subject of smoking and health is raised, the governments of most countries hear no evil, see no evil and smell no evil. Admittedly, a few governments have taken timid measures. In Britain for instance, cigarette advertising has been banned on television. The conscience of the nation is appeased, while the population continues to puff its way to smoky, cancerous death.

You don't have to look very far to find out why the official reactions to medical findings have been so lukewarm. The answer is simply money. Tobacco is a wonderful commodity to tax. It's almost like a tax on our daily bread. In tax revenue alone, the government of Britain collects enough from smokers to pay for its entire educational facilities. So while the authorities point out ever so discreetly that smoking may, conceivably, be harmful, it doesn't do to shout too loudly about it.

This is surely the most short-sighted policy you could imagine. While money is eagerly collected in vast sums with one hand, it is paid out in increasingly vaster sums with the other. Enormous amounts are spent on cancer research and on efforts to cure people suffering from the disease. Countless valuable lives are lost. In the long run, there is no doubt that everybody would be much better-off if smoking were banned altogether.

Of course, we are not ready for such a drastic action. But if the governments of the world were honestly concerned about the welfare of their peoples, you'd think they'd conduct aggressive anti-smoking campaigns. Far from it! The tobacco industry is allowed to spend staggering sums on advertising. Its advertising is as insidious as it is dishonest. We are never shown pictures of real smokers coughing up their lungs early in the morning. That would never do. The advertisements always depict virile, clean-shaven young men. They suggest it is manly to smoke, even positively healthy! Smoking is associated with the great open-air life, with beautiful girls, true love and togetherness. What utter nonsense!

For a start, governments could begin by banning all cigarette and tobacco advertising and should then conduct anti-smoking advertising campaigns of their own. Smoking should be banned in all public places like theatres, cinemas and restaurants. Great efforts should be made to inform young people especially of the

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dire consequences of taking up the habit. A horrific warning – say, a picture of a death's head – should be included in every packet of cigarettes that is sold. As individuals, we are certainly weak, but if governments acted honestly and courageously, they could protect us from ourselves.

16. The tone of this passage is ____.

- A. critical B. distasteful C. ironical D. indifferent

17. What does the sentence “because you are in good company” mean?

- A. You are backed by the government.
B. You are not alone.
C. Governments are blind to evils of smoking too.
D. Governments have good friends.

18. Why do a few governments take timid measures toward smoking?

- A. Because they are afraid of people.
B. Because they are afraid of the cutting down of their revenue.
C. Because they are afraid of diseases.
D. Because they are afraid of manufacturers.

19. Which of the following do the pictures of tobacco advertisements show to people?

- A. Smoking having nothing to do with true love.
B. Smoking demonstrating people's manly activities.
C. Smoking being not associated with health.
D. Smoking costing a lot of money.

20. Which of the following themes is this passage about?

- A. World governments should conduct serious campaigns against smoking.
B. World governments take timid measures against smoking.
C. Tobacco industry spends a large sum of money on medical research.
D. Smoking is the most important source of income to many countries.

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III. Translation (40 points)

Directions: Students are required to do the following translation by applying necessary techniques to meet the criteria of "faithfulness, expressiveness and closeness".

Translate the following sentences into Chinese. (20 points)

1. Mary blew out all the candles on the cake at one go.
2. From my childhood, my father taught me to separate the sheep from the goats.
3. A successful ban of the trade in opium must be preceded by the destruction of the drug itself.
4. Courage is the thing. All goes if courage goes.
5. It is easier driving a flock than one.
6. Laws are like cobwebs, where the small flies are caught, and the great break through.
7. One man's guess is as good as another's.
8. He is a gentle horse that never casts its rider.
9. Long absence changes a friend.
10. There is a limit at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue.

Translate the following paragraph into English. (20 points)

古往今来，“时间”对人来说是个最难捉摸的东西。世上每人每天都有着等量的时间——24 小时。并且大家也都一样，只能占有“今天”。一点不假，昨日之日不可留，一去不复返了。而明天，也许要使人们期待着永远也盼不来。这就是说，每个活着的人就只能掌握“今天”——只能掌握此时此刻。

IV. Writing (35 points)

Read the following topic and write an essay of about 300 words.

During the last ten years, social networks have developed fast, evolving from simple communication hubs to platforms for exchanging experiences, ideas or even for advertising and marketing. It is estimated that today, more than 600 million users worldwide are active on Facebook, approximately 200 million

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people on twitter, and about 806 monthly active users on WeChat, which is the most popular social network in China. Some people think that these social networks enable users to upload their profiles, and share their feelings and ideas with friends or even strangers, which highly boosts intimacy among people. Others, however, believe that social networks distract people from developing regular, normal relationships, bring about delusion of intimacy, and hide many traps that may do harm to their users.

What do you think of the role of social networks in our life? What suggestions would you give people, particularly young people regarding using social networks?

V. Error correction (15 points)

The following passage contains TEN errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of ONE error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proof-read the passage and correct it in the following way:

For a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with a " ^ " sign and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with a slash " / " and put the word in the blank provided at the end of the line.

Example

When ^ art museum wants a new exhibit, it [1] an
~~never~~ buys things in finished form and hangs them on the wall. [2] never
When a natural history museum wants an exhibition, it often builds it. [3] exhibit

One truly remarkable achievement that sets us humans apart the [1] _____
rest of the animal kingdom is our creation and use of language.
Although animals can communicate with one another, their limited
number of calls and gestures are merely isolating signals that convey [2] _____
very specific messages (for example, a greeting, a threat, summons to [3] _____

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congregate) in much same way that single words or stereotyped phrases [4] _____
do in a human language. On contrast, human languages are amazingly [5] _____
flexible and producing. From a small number of individually [6] _____
meaningless sounds, a person who is proficient in a language can
generate thousands of meaningful auditory patterns (syllables, words)
that can then be combined according to a set of grammatical rules to
produce an infinite number of messages. Language is also an inventive
tool. Most of what people say or hear in any given situation is not
merely a repetition of what they have said or heard before; speakers
create novel utterances on the spot, and the topics they talk about may
have nothing to do with his current situation or the stream of ongoing [7] _____
events. Indeed, language is the only form of communication by which
we can easily produce a variety of messages that are blatantly untrue
(as in a lie or a sarcastic utterance) and otherwise figurative in nature [8] _____
(as in the simile "She's like a breath of fresh air"). Yet, creative as we
may be in generating new messages, but other people who know the [9] _____
language will be able to understand any and all of our ideas as long as
each of our statements adhere to the rules and convention of the [10] _____
language we are speaking.