

西安建筑科技大学

2018 年招收攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

(答案书写在本试题纸上无效。考试结束后本试题纸须附在答题纸内交回) 共 10 页

考试科目: (624) 英语水平测试

适用专业: 戏剧戏曲学

I. Vocabulary (30 points / 1 point each)

Directions: There are 30 incomplete statements in this part. You are required to complete each statement by choosing the appropriate answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D, and then write the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet.

- One of the examination questions _____ me completely and I couldn't answer it.
A. baffled B. mingled C. provoked D. diverted
- Because of the shortage of water there is a _____ on the use of hose-pipes.
A. ban B. veto C. taboo D. boycott
- You can see clearly from the chart that today mortgage debt is almost about 60% of personal consumption _____.
A. payment B. expenditure C. exposition D. expend
- Over the past few months this has had some _____ successes, which both weaken rivals and tackle some of the more blatant problems with economic management.
A. unilateral B. residential C. noteworthy D. curious
- The police were alerted that the escaped criminal might be in the _____.
A. vain B. vicinity C. court D. jail
- Can I apply for the unemployment _____ when I am out of job?
A. bonus B. payment C. subsidy D. salary
- He turned suddenly and majestically _____ away.
A. sneaked B. stalked C. strayed D. strolled
- Their _____ ideas are often misunderstood by their own generation.
A. vocational B. versatile C. visionary D. visible
- He _____ that he would die rather than surrender.
A. voted B. vowed C. vetoed D. vented
- The Microscope and telescope, with their capacity to enlarge, isolate and probe, demonstrate how details can be _____ and separated from the whole.
A. radiated B. extended C. prolonged D. magnified

- His illness first _____ itself as severe stomach pains and headaches.
A. manifested B. displayed C. expressed D. reflected
- The medicine _____ his pain but did not cure his illness.
A. activated B. alleviated C. mediated D. deteriorated
- Today, our country is experiencing widespread pain because of that _____ belief.
A. substantial B. brutal C. rational D. erroneous
- The bride and groom promised to _____ each other through sickness and health.
A. nourish B. nominate C. foster D. cherish
- A membership card _____ the holder to use the club's facilities for a period of twelve months.
A. approves B. authorizes C. rectifies D. endows
- Police fired shots and used teargas to _____ the demonstrators.
A. spread B. dispense C. displace D. disperse
- He was a man of decisive action and an adventurous _____.
A. exposition B. tendency C. hazard D. disposition
- The device can _____ between the cancerous and the normal cells.
A. diagnose B. discriminate C. acknowledge D. identify
- It is a bitterly _____ view, but that doesn't necessary mean he is wrong.
A. conversational B. collaborated C. cynical D. classified
- My grandfather, a retired worker, often _____ the past with a feeling of longing and respect.
A. considers B. contemplates C. contrives D. contacts
- On balance, we feel it is more likely to _____ the capital-allocation problem than to solve it.
A. accentuate B. influence C. accelerate D. sympathize
- Hollywood's latest _____ for trying to convince men to watch romantic comedies is to deny that the movies are romantic comedies at all.
A. target B. tactic C. objective D. taboo
- One very _____ argument against direct reseeding in the spring is that land may be out of production for such a long time.
A. coincidental B. coherent C. conscientious D. cogent
- Many big companies periodically need to _____ the sort of patient restructuring that they can only get when they leave public markets.
A. undertake B. undergo C. underestimate D. understand
- The amount of water in the pond will _____ as the dry season continues.
A. diminish B. disband C. discern D. discharge
- She felt great pressure in this project because she knew failure would definitely _____ her future.
A. jeopardize B. justify C. irritate D. irrigate

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27. Good benefits and a cash bonus should ____ new graduates to accept the job here.
A. loom B. loot C. lure D. limp
28. A ____ person weighs facts carefully and he would not feel defected for bad news and exult over unpredictable auspicious.
A. justice B. jungle C. judicial D. judicious
29. Arrows would continue to fly forward forever in a straight line were it not for ____, which brings them down to earth.
A. gravity B. gratuity C. granite D. geography
30. Color has a profound, though often ____ influence on our senses and moods.
A. subliminal B. convict C. solicit D. vulgar

II. Paraphrase (20 points / 2 points each)

Directions: Explain the following sentences in your own words, bringing out any implied meanings.

- So far, however, we seem oblivious of the fragility of the earth’s natural systems.
- The place has been here since 1915, and no hurricane has ever bothered it.
- The Duchess of Croydon kept firm, tight rein on her racing mind.
- Bargaining is the order of the day.
- We shall be strengthened not weakened in determination and in resources.
- “No” is a word the world never learned to say to her.
- The cab driver’s door popped open at the very sight of a traveler.
- By a shade of a shade, Roosevelt looked like Number One.
- This is the new Edmund Carr with a vengeance.
- Well, that is California all over.

III. Proofreading and Error Correction (20 points / 1 point each)

Directions: The following passage contains 17 errors. Each line contains a maximum of one error, and three are free from error. In each case only one word is involved, You are required to proofread the passage and correct them in the following way:

For awrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank.
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.
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.
If the line is correct, place a tick “√” in the blank provided at the end of the line.
Write all your answers on the Answer Sheet.

It was market day so people and traffic had been pouring into
(1) the town from early morning. There was not enough room (1) _____
(2) for all the pedestrians on the pavements and they overflowed (2) _____
(3) into the road, endangered their lives from passing (3) _____
(4) vehicles, the drivers which were constantly blowing their (4) _____
(5) horns to convince people to get out of the way. (5) _____
(6) Yet it was a colorful view. Peasants swayed along the (6) _____
(7) street, their heads banded high with baskets or (7) _____
(8) beautifully woven blankets which they hoped to sell to (8) _____
(9) the townsfolk. Men with barrows forced their way along (9) _____
(10) shouting their wares at the tops of their voices. They (10) _____
(11) were selling peaches, melons and grapes—harvest (11) _____
(12) of their fields. Through it, women in bright summer (12) _____
(13) clothes headed their way, laughing and chattering (13) _____
(14) but children darted in and out of the crowds shrieking (14) _____
(15) with laughter or sobbing with fear because they lost (15) _____
(16) The noise went on all the day. People did not even (16) _____
(17) stop for every meal. The rubbish from all the (17) _____
(18) activities of the day began to collect in the street (18) _____
(19) Finally, when night came, the street was emptied and (19) _____
(20) only the rubbish remained sad blowing in the cool night wind. (20) _____

IV. Reading Comprehension (50 points)

Directions: In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of 17 questions. Read the passages and then answer the questions briefly. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

Passage 1

“History is written by the victors.” This famous phrase reverberates throughout the halls of history, constantly reminding us to take all that we learn with a grain of salt, knowing that the information provided for our dissemination was provided, shaped and influenced by those left to hold the pen that

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recorded it. In that respect, one of the worst crimes against history is the revision of it, the altering of the record of the past so as to reflect the viewpoint of a biased group who stand to benefit from the altered version.

By revising the lens by which history is judged, valuable information is lost, to the detriment of both students of the field as well as the awareness that comes from experience. Without an accurately recorded account to serve as a guiding light, nations and societies are left to stumble their way about their affairs, ignorant of what has and hasn't worked before, and unaware of what past events shaped and determined their present situation. Such dismal situations emerge from simple pride, as well as the desire of the revisionists to depict themselves in a better light to posterity or to cover up an embarrassing legacy, no matter the cost to the future.

Recent attempts by nations involved in the Second World War to minimize or erase altogether certain shameful incidents from their history textbooks have been met with international outrage and protest, and rightly so. By allowing future generations to forget or never even learn about how their ancestors stumbled on the path to progress, the experiences of those who suffered as a result of those mistakes are trivialized and made to be in vain. Also, a false sense of national identity emerges, inconsistent and inaccurate in its formation. Both are heinous results for both nationals of that particular nation as well as those of the international community, whose stories intertwine to form the larger picture.

When a single string in the tapestry of world history is unraveled by revision, the entire piece becomes a weaker one, subject to additional modification at the whim of those who would like to use history as a tool for their own purposes, even if it means fundamentally changing it. His outcome must be avoided at all costs, firstly by not allowing a precedent to be established that makes it acceptable, even in a single case, to commit the revision. Otherwise, humans as a race will fall prey to yet another oft-quoted phrase: "History, if forgotten, is doomed to be repeated."

1. What is the author's view of the revision of history? (5 points)
2. What is the meaning of the statement "When a single string in the tapestry of world history is unraveled by revision, the entire piece becomes a weaker one" in paragraph 4? (3 points)
3. What is implied in the statement that "History is written by the victors" in paragraph 1? (3 points)

Passage 2

What can rigid, cold calculating mathematics possibly have in common with subtle, creative, lofty, imaginative art? This question faithfully mirrors the state of mind of most people, even of most educated people, when they regard the numbers and symbols that populate the world of mathematics. But the great leaders of mathematics thought have frequently and repeatedly asserted that the object of their pursuit is just as much an art as it is a science, and perhaps even a fine art. Maxime Bocher, eminent mathematician living at the beginning of last century, wrote: "I like to look at mathematics almost more as an art than as a science; for the activity of the mathematician, constantly creating as he is, guided although not controlled by the external world of the senses, bears a resemblance, not fanciful, I believe, but real, to the activities of the artist—of a painter, let us say. Rigorous deductive reasoning on the part of the mathematician may be likened here to the technical skill in drawing on the part of the painter. Just as one cannot become a painter without a certain amount of skill, so no one can become a mathematician without the power to Reason accurately up to a certain point." "Yet these qualities, fundamental though they are, do not make a painter or a mathematician worthy of the name, nor indeed are they the most important factors in the case. Other qualities of a far more subtle sort, chief among which in both cases is imagination, go into the making of a good artist or a good mathematician."

If mathematics wants to lay claim to being an art, however, it must show that it possesses and makes use of at least some of the elements that go to make up the things of beauty. Is not imagination, creative imagination, the most essential element of an art? Let us take a geometric object, such as the circle. To the ordinary man, this is the rim of a wheel, perhaps with spokes in it. Elementary geometry has crowded this simple figure with radii, chords, sectors, tangents, diameters, inscribed and circumscribed polygons, and so on.

Here you have already an entire geometrical world created from a very rudimentary beginning. These and other miracles are undeniable proof of the creative power of the mathematician; and, as if this were not enough, the mathematician allows the whole circle to "vanish", declares it to be imaginary, then keeps on toying with his new creation in much the same way and with much the same gusto as he did with the innocent little thing you allowed him to start out with. And all this, remember please, is just elementary plane geometry. Truly, the creative imagination displayed by the mathematician has nowhere been exceeded, not even paralleled, and, I would make bold to say, now even closely approached anywhere else. In many ways mathematics exhibits the same elements of beauty that are generally acknowledged to be the essence of poetry. First let us consider a minor point: the poet arranges his writings on the page in verses. His poem first appeals to the eye before it reaches the ear or the mind; and similarly, the mathematician lines up his formulas and equations so that their form may make an aesthetic impression. Some mathematicians are given to this love of arranging and exhibiting their equations to a degree that borders on a fault. Trigonometry, a branch of elementary mathematics particularly rich in formulas, offers some curious groups of them, curious in their symmetry and their arrangement.

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The superiority of poetry over other forms of verbal expression lies first in the symbolism used in poetry, and secondly in its extreme condensation and economy of words. Take a poem of universally acknowledged merit, say, Shelley's poem "To Night". Here is the second stanza: Wrap thy form in a mantle gray, star-inwrought! Blind with thine hair the eyes of Day; Kiss her until she be wearied out; Then wander o'er city, and sea, and land; Touching all with thine opiate wand—Come, long-sought!

Take literally, all this is, of course, sheer nonsense and nothing else. Night has no hair, night does not wear any clothes, and night is not an illicit peddler of narcotics. But is there anybody balmy enough to take the words of the poet literally? The words here are not only comparisons, only symbols; for the sake of condensation the poet doesn't bother stating that his symbols mean such and such, but goes on to treat them as if they were realities.

The mathematician does these things precisely as the poet does. Take numbers for example, the very idea of which is an abstraction, or symbol. When you write the figure 3, you have created a symbol for a symbol, and when you say in algebra that a is a number, you have condensed all the symbols for the numbers into one all-embracing symbol. These, like other mathematical symbols, and like the poets' symbols, are a condensed, concentrated way of stating a long and rather complicated chain of simple geometrical, algebraic, or numerical relations.

Now, is mathematics an art?

4. What is the similarity between the activities of mathematicians and those of artists? (3 points)
5. In Maxime Bocher's opinion, what is the most fundamental element that makes a good artist or mathematician? (3 points)
6. In what way do mathematicians exhibit the same elements of beauty as poets? (3 points)
7. What makes poetry superior to other forms of expression? (3 points)
8. Just like poets, what may mathematicians use for the sake of condensation and concentration? (2 points)

Passage 3

Speaking two languages rather than just one has obvious practical benefits in an increasingly globalized world. But in recent years, scientists have begun to show that the advantages of bilingualism are even more fundamental than being able to converse with a wider range of people. Being bilingual, it turned out, makes you smarter. It can have a profound effect on your brain, improving cognitive skills not related to language and even shielding against dementia (痴呆) in old age.

This view of bilingualism is remarkably different from the understanding of bilingualism through much of the 20th century. Researchers, educators and policy makers long considered a second language to be an interference, cognitively speaking, that hindered a child's academic and intellectual development.

They were not wrong about the interference: there is ample evidence that in a bilingual's brain both language systems are active even when he is using only one language, thus creating situations in which one system obstructs the other. But this interference, researchers are finding out, isn't so much a handicap as a blessing in disguise. It forces the brain to resolve internal conflict, giving the mind a workout that strengthens its cognitive muscles.

The collective evidence from a number of such studies suggests that the bilingual experience improves the brain's so-called executive function—a command system that directs the attention processes that we use for planning, solving problems and performing various other mentally demanding tasks. These processes include ignoring distractions to stay focused, switching attention willfully from one thing to another and holding information in mind—like remembering a sequence of directions while driving.

Why does the tussle between two simultaneously active language systems improve these aspects of cognition? Until recently, researchers thought the bilingual advantage stemmed primarily from an ability for inhibition that was honed by the exercise of suppressing one language system: this suppression, it was thought, would help train the bilingual mind to ignore distractions in other contexts. But that explanation increasingly appears to be inadequate, since studies have shown that bilinguals perform better than monolinguals even at tasks that do not require inhibition, like threading a line through an ascending series of numbers scattered randomly on a page.

The key difference between bilinguals and monolinguals may be more basic: a heightened ability to monitor the environment. "Bilinguals have to switch languages quite often—you may talk to your father in one language and to your mother in another language," says Albert Costa, a researcher at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Spain. "It requires keeping track of changes around you in the same way that we monitor our surroundings when driving." In a study comparing German-Italian bilinguals with Italian monolinguals in completing monitoring tasks, Mr. Costa and his colleagues found that the bilingual subjects not only performed better, but also did so with less activity in parts of the brain involved in monitoring, indicating that they were efficient at it.

The bilingual experience appears to influence the brain from infancy to old age, and there is reason to believe that it may also apply to those who learn a second language later in life.

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9. What is the theme of the passage? (3 points)
10. What differentiates the more recent views of bilingualism from the old ones? (3 points)
11. What is the meaning of the statement “this interference...isn’t so much a handicap as a blessing in disguise” in paragraph 3? (3 points)
12. What is the role of paragraph 4 in relation to paragraph 3? (3 points)

Passage 4

Google recently announced it will attempt to provide a select group of US communities with Internet access at an unprecedentedly high rate of 1 gigabit per second—between 100 and 1,000 times greater than what’s available in most countries. But although the Googlers are sure that such a speed boost is a good thing, even product managers Minnie Ingersoll and James Kelly admit they don’t know what people will do with such capacity. What suggestions they do have are a little uninspiring. Would users, they ask, stream 3D medical scans to distant doctors for second opinions? Or watch lectures in 3D while simultaneously collaborating with classmates? Meh. Doesn’t sound much fun.

Technology market research firm In-Stat has some better clues in its latest report. That 3D TV is on the way is already clear, it says, but TV makers, public broadcasters such as Japan’s NHK and Britain’s BBC, plus some of the movie studios, are already thinking about ultra-high-definition TV (Ultra-HD). Standards bodies like the International Telecommunications Union and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers are on the case, too. The Ultra-HD format currently requires bandwidths of around 45 megabits per second to broadcast 2D images. With TV on demand evidently here to stay, and 3D and gaming variants of Ultra-HD plausible too, it isn’t hard to see how future gigabit fibre networks could be rapidly eaten up. Just like software always expands to fill the memory available, apps that eat gigabits will doubtless appear.

And yet these services are still theoretical. While right now having your broadband speed quadruple might change your life, having it increase hundredfold would probably just deliver more of the same, unless someone can make me a holodeck (平台) to use up the bandwidth. As the chief executive of the UK’s largest broadband provider, BT, said last year—explaining why he didn’t think optical fibre connections to the home are needed—“a Ferrari is faster than a Ford, but most people are happy with a Ford.”

It’s reminiscent of the way Google barged into the mobile and wireless arena with ideas for major changes to the way we buy cellphones and airtime, similarly alienating the people it needs on its side.

13. What does Google intend to do recently? (2 points)
14. According to the latest report of In-Stat, how will the future gigabit fibre networks be mostly made use of? (2 points)
15. What does the chief executive of BT mean by saying “a Ferrari is faster than a Ford, but most people are happy with a Ford” in paragraph 3? (3 points)
16. What do critics think of Google’s experiment? (3 points)
17. What does the passage anticipate concerning Google’s gigabit service? (3 points)

V. Writing (30 points)

Directions: Write an essay of about 300 words on the Answer Sheet in response to the poem below. Write your essay on the Answer Sheet.

Virtue by George Herbert

Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky!
The dew shall weep thy fall to-night;
For thou must die.

Sweet rose, whose hue, angry and brave,
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,
Thy root is ever in its grave,
And thou must die.

Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses,
A box where sweets compacted lie,
My music shows ye have your closes,
And all must die.

Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
Like seasoned timber, never gives;
But though the whole world turn to coal,
Then chiefly lives.