

华南理工大学
2014 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试卷

(试卷上做答无效, 请在答题纸上做答, 试后本卷必须与答题纸一同交回)

科目名称: 翻译硕士英语
适用专业: 英语笔译(专硕)

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Part I. Vocabulary and Grammar (30 points, 1 point for each)

Directions: *After each statement there are four choices marked A, B, C, and D. Select the only one choice that best completes the statement. Write your answers on your ANSWER SHEET.*

1. At first the company refused to purchase the equipment, but this decision was _____ revised.
A. subsequently B. successively C. predominantly D. preliminarily
2. More than one third of the Chinese in the United States live in California, _____ in San Francisco.
A. previously B. predominantly C. practically D. permanently
3. The company employs new manufacturing technology to _____ its competitive position in China's market.
A. contrive B. consolidate C. heave D. intensify
4. Siemens AG is a global electrical and electronics business with a _____ of nearly £60 billion.
A. takeover B. turnover C. overtake D. overturn
5. The company strives to _____ itself _____ from competitors by offering a money-back guarantee, a first in the home delivery market.
A. set...up B. set...apart C. set...down D. set...in
6. The chances of a repetition of these unfortunate events are _____ indeed.
A. distant B. slim C. unlikely D. narrow
7. It is obvious that the head of the department has made a _____ attempt to empower his associates to make decisions.
A. genuine B. gracious C. gorgeous D. spacious
8. These days sales of Japanese cars remain slow in China. Experts _____ some of the sales decline to nationalistic feelings in the country.
A. commit B. contribute C. attribute D. evaluate
9. In order to enjoy lower monthly _____ fees, free incoming calls and per second billing, some mobile phone users change their service providers rather frequently.

- A. jurisdiction B. institution C. subscription D. conjunction
10. His career was not noticeably ____ by the fact that he had never been to college.
A. prevented B. restrained C. hindered D. refrained
11. With food prices soaring, many countries find it a tough job to ____ hunger from their lands.
A. contaminate B. eliminate C. discriminate D. stem
12. But if you're going to be out exercising anyway, you may ____ whether you should go out in the morning, when it is cooler but the relative humidity is higher, or at night, when it tends to be hotter but less wet.
A. suspect B. wonder C. doubt D. ponder
13. TV stations have been urged to avoid prompting a worship of violence among children and to ____ the amount of violence they show.
A. make up for B. go in for C. crack down on D. cut down on
14. Please do not be ____ by his offensive remarks since he is merely trying to attract attention.
A. distracted B. disregarded C. irritated D. intervened
15. Often such arguments have the effect of ____ rather than clarifying the issues involved.
A. obscuring B. prejudicing C. tackling D. blocking
16. I have no doubt that ____ all of these people were taught in school that the earth revolves around the sun.
A. virtually B. remarkably C. ideally D. preferably
17. Mr. Hawks is quite worn out from years of hard work. He is no longer the man ____ he was twenty years ago.
A. which B. whom C. who D. that
18. Asteroids are small and therefore very difficult to identify, even when ____ to Earth.
A. quite closely B. are being quite close
C. are they quite closely D. they are quite close
19. Bottled water sells at least ____ of tap water, with substantial price differentials between different brands.
A. the price of 200 times B. 200 times the price
C. as much as the 200 times price D. 200 times more than the price
20. It is not ____ much his attractive appearance as his speech that impresses the audience immediately.
A. that B. as C. so D. very
21. Call me back whenever _____.
A. you are convenient B. you will be convenient
C. it is convenient to you D. it will be convenient to you

22. Agriculture is the country's chief source of wealth, wheat ____ by far the biggest cereal crop.
A. is B. been C. be D. being
23. _____, he remains humble and modest.
A. Instead of his remarkable contributions
B. For all his remarkable contributions
C. His making remarkable contributions
D. However his remarkable contributions
24. Many people think it is difficult to build a winning image because there are no identifiable standards ____ they can measure the results of their efforts.
A. on which B. by which C. over which D. at which
25. To help the promising executives develop as leaders, this multinational company insists that they ____ in its overseas offices for a period of time.
A. must work B. will work C. work D. have worked
26. Thirty is to five ____ six is to one.
A. when B. that C. which D. what
27. Only in the seas and rivers, and sometimes lakes, where mud and silt has been continuously deposited, _____ rapidly be covered and preserved.
A. can bodies and the like B. bodies and the like can
C. can bodies and like D. bodies and like can
28. By the middle of the twenty-first century, India ____ China in terms of numbers of inhabitants, making it the most populated nation on earth.
A. has passed B. will pass C. will have passed D. is to pass
29. _____ happened in Japan between 1954 and 1990 is starting to happen in China, but on an unimaginably greater scale.
A. that B. this C. which D. what
30. We consider ____ he should have left without telling anyone beforehand.
A. strange why B. it strange what C. it strange that D. that strange

Part II. Reading Comprehension (40 points)

Section 1 Multiple choices questions (25 points, 2.5 points for each)

Directions: *In this section there are 2 reading passages followed by multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then write one best answer for each question on your ANSWER SHEET.*

Passage 1

In the college-admissions wars, we parents are the true fighters. We're pushing our

kids to get good grades, take SAT preparatory courses and build résumés so they can get into the college of our first choice. I've twice been to the wars, and as I survey the battlefield, something different is happening. We see our kids' college background as a prize demonstrating how well we've raised them. But we can't acknowledge that our obsession is more about us than them. So we've contrived various justifications that turn out to be half-truths, prejudices or myths. It actually doesn't matter much whether Aaron and Nicole go to Stanford.

We have a full-blown prestige panic; we worry that there won't be enough prizes to go around. Fearful parents urge their children to apply to more schools than ever. Underlying the hysteria is the belief that scarce elite degrees must be highly valuable. Their graduates must enjoy more success because they get a better education and develop better contacts. All that is plausible — and mostly wrong. We haven't found any convincing evidence that selectivity or prestige matters. Selective schools don't systematically employ better instructional approaches than less-selective schools. On two measures—professors' feedback and the number of essay exams—selective schools do slightly worse.

By some studies, selective schools do enhance their graduates' lifetime earnings. The gain is reckoned at 2-4% for every 100-point increase in a school's average SAT scores. But even this advantage is probably a statistical fluke. A well-known study examined students who got into highly selective schools and then went elsewhere. They earned just as much as graduates from higher-status schools.

Kids count more than their colleges. Getting into Yale may signify intelligence, talent and ambition. But it's not the only indicator and, paradoxically, its significance is declining. The reason: so many similar people go elsewhere. Getting into college isn't life's only competition. In the next competition—the job market and graduate school—the results may change. Old-boy networks are breaking down. Princeton economist Alan Krueger studied admissions to one top Ph.D. program. High scores on the GRE helped explain who got in; degrees of prestigious universities didn't.

So, parents, lighten up. The stakes have been vastly exaggerated. Up to a point, we can rationalize our pushiness. America is a competitive society; our kids need to adjust to that. But too much pushiness can be destructive. The very ambition we impose on our children may get some into Harvard but may also set them up for disappointment. One study found that, other things being equal, graduates of highly selective schools experienced more job dissatisfaction. They may have been so conditioned to being on top that anything less disappoints.

31. Why does the author say that parents are the true fighters in the college-admissions wars?

A. They have the final say in which university their children are to attend.

- B. They know best which universities are most suitable for their children.
 - C. They have to carry out intensive surveys of colleges before children make an application.
 - D. They care more about which college their children go to than the children themselves.
32. Why do parents urge their children to apply to more schools than ever?
- A. They want to increase their children's chances of entering a prestigious college.
 - B. They hope their children can enter a university that offers attractive scholarships.
 - C. Their children will have a wider choice of which college to go to.
 - D. Elite universities now enroll fewer students than they used to.
33. What does Krueger's study tell us?
- A. Getting into Ph.D. programs may be more competitive than getting into college.
 - B. Degrees of prestigious universities do not guarantee entry to graduate programs.
 - C. Graduates from prestigious universities do not care much about their GRE scores.
 - D. Connections built in prestigious universities may be sustained long after graduation.
34. What does the author mean by "Kids count more than their colleges" (Line 1, Para.4)?
- A. Continuing education is more important to a person's success.
 - B. A person's happiness should be valued more than their education.
 - C. Kids' actual abilities are more important than their college backgrounds.
 - D. What kids learn at college cannot keep up with job market requirements.
35. One possible result of pushing children into elite universities is that _____.
- A. they earn less than their peers from other institutions
 - B. they turn out to be less competitive in the job market
 - C. they experience more job dissatisfaction after graduation
 - D. they overemphasize their qualifications in job applications

Passage 2

Code switching is when people switch from one language to another while speaking. They might begin a conversation in one language and then, later in the conversation, switch to another. They might also begin a sentence in one language but end it in another. Or they might insert a word or phrase from another language. When and why people code switch depends on the speaker and the situation.

One reason people code switch is to show social closeness. Imagine that two women meet at a party in New York. Gabriela is Brazilian, and Pamela is British. In their conversation, Pamela asks:

Pamela: Where are you from?

Gabriela: Rio.

Pamela: Really? Uma cidade muito bonita [A beautiful city]. I was there last year.

Gabriela: Oh, do you speak Portuguese?

Pamela: Um pouco [only a little]...

Here, Pamela uses a little Portuguese in order to show closeness or friendliness to Gabriela.

On the other hand, people also code switch to create social distance. Sometimes this happens in immigrant homes in the United States where children can speak English, but the parents understand only the language of their native country. Children can code switch to keep their parents from understanding everything they say. Likewise, parents may code switch when they share a language that their children do not understand.

One final reason that people code switch is lack of knowledge about a language or lack of attention to one's language. Imagine a teenage girl living in a Latino community in Los Angeles. Talking with her friends, she says, "Espérate [Wait a minute]. What did you just say?" It is possible that the teenager was not trying to show social closeness or distance. Perhaps she didn't know how to express the second idea in Spanish. Most likely, she may simply have switched to English without paying much attention to which language she was using.

Code switching occurs between people who share more than one common language; however, it can also occur between people who share a language and a dialect, or variation, of that language. A person may use one dialect at home and then switch to another dialect at school or work. One example is the way teenagers use slang when talking to their friends. For instance, a teen might say to his friend, "Gotta bunce. Me 'n' the crew're goin' shoppin' for some mad phat gear." Gotta bunce means "I have to leave," the crew means "my friends," and mad phat gear means "nice clothes." Therefore, the teen is saying, "I'm going shopping with my friends," but only speakers of both English and this teen dialect can understand. Teens use their dialect because it helps them to show that they fit in with their friends. It also shows that they are separate from their parents.

Regardless of the situation, there are two important rules of code switching. First, the speakers have to know both languages or dialects—at least well enough to follow the changes. More importantly, the switches have to be grammatical. For example, the sentence "Tengo que do my homework" follows the subject + verb + object grammar rules in both Spanish and English.

One day you may be riding on a train, listening to the people next to you having a conversation. If you can understand only 50 percent of what they are saying, perhaps they are code switching—to show each other closeness—or—perhaps to stop you from listening in to their conversation.

36. Which of the following instances is NOT a case of code switching?

A. An American utters one word from Chinese when speaking an English sentence.

- B. A Chinese converses in Chinese at the beginning and then changes to English.
 - C. An American uses both Chinese and English in a single sentence.
 - D. A Chinese uses English only without uttering a single Chinese word.
37. Code switching does NOT typically occur between people who can _____
- A. speak both Chinese and English
 - B. speak both Mandarin and Cantonese
 - C. talk about different topics in a conversation
 - D. know both a standard language and a slang
38. Which one is NOT the reason mentioned in the text that people code switch?
- A. To show off their multilingual skills.
 - B. To show that they are friends to each other.
 - C. To prevent other people from understanding them.
 - D. To compensate for their lack of competence in a language.
39. The changes during code switching should be correct in terms of _____.
- A. pronunciation
 - B. word order
 - C. lexical choice
 - D. text structure
40. If you happen to overhear a conversation of which you can only understand a small part, it means that the speakers in the conversation probably _____.
- A. want to keep their conversation private
 - B. show their love for each other
 - C. keep the noise out of their conversation
 - D. show respect for other people

Section 2 Answering questions (15 points, 3 points for each)

Directions: *Read the following passage and then answer IN COMPLETE SENTENCES the questions following it. Use only the information from the passage you have read and write your answers in the corresponding space on your ANSWER SHEET.*

Passage 3

In the old days, when I was writing a great deal of fiction, there would come, once in a while, moments when I was stymied. Suddenly, I would find I had written myself into a hole and could see no way out. To take care of that, I developed a technique which invariably worked.

It was simply this--I went to the movies. Not just any movie. I had to pick a movie which was loaded with action but which made no demands on the intellect. As I watched, I did my best to avoid any conscious thinking concerning my problem, and when I came out

of the movie I knew exactly what I would have to do to put the story back on the track.

In fact, when I was working on my doctoral dissertation, too many years ago, I suddenly came across a flaw in my logic that I had not noticed before and that knocked out everything I had done. In utter panic, I made my way to a Bob Hope movie—and came out with the necessary change in point of view.

It is my belief, you see, that thinking a double phenomenon like breathing.

You can control breathing by deliberate voluntary action: you can breathe deeply and quickly, or you can hold your breath altogether, regardless of the body's needs at the time. This, however, doesn't work well for very long. Your chest muscles grow tired, your body clamors for more oxygen, or less, and you relax. The automatic involuntary control of breathing takes over, adjusts it to the body's needs and unless you have some respiratory disorder, you can forget about the whole thing.

Well, you can think by deliberate voluntary action, too, and I don't think it is much more efficient on the whole than voluntary breath control is. You can deliberately force your mind through channels of deductions and associations in search of a solution to some problem and before long you have dug mental furrows for yourself and find yourself circling round and round the same limited pathways. If those pathways yield no solution, no amount of further conscious thought will help.

On the other hand, if you let go, then the thinking process comes under automatic involuntary control and is more apt to take new pathways and make erratic associations you would not think of consciously. The solution will then come while you think you are not thinking.

The trouble is, though, that conscious thought involves no muscular action and so there is no sensation of physical weariness that would force you to quit. What's more, the panic of necessity tends to force you to go on uselessly, with each added bit of useless effort adding to the panic in a vicious cycle.

It is my feeling that it helps to relax, deliberately, by subjecting your mind to material complicated enough to occupy the voluntary faculty of thought, but superficial enough not to engage the deeper involuntary one. In my case, it is an action movie; in your case, it might be something else.

I suspect it is the involuntary faculty of thought that gives rise to what we call "a flash of intuition," something that I imagine must be merely the result of unnoticed thinking.

Perhaps the most famous flash of intuition in the history of science took place in the city of Syracuse in third-century B. C. Sicily. Bear with me and I will tell you the story---

About 250 B. C., the city of Syracuse was experiencing a kind of Golden Age. It was under the protection of the rising power of Rome, but it retained a king of its own and considerable self-government; it was prosperous; and it had a flourishing intellectual life.

The king was Hieron II, and he had commissioned a new golden crown from a goldsmith, to whom he had given an ingot of gold as raw material. Hieron, being a practical man, had carefully weighed the ingot and then weighed the crown he received back. The two weights were precisely equal. Good deal!

But then he sat and thought for a while. Suppose the goldsmith had subtracted a little bit of the gold, not too much, and had substituted an equal weight of the considerably less valuable copper. The resulting alloy would still have the appearance of pure gold, but the goldsmith would be plus a quantity of gold over and above his fee. He would be buying gold with copper, so to speak, and Hieron would be neatly cheated.

Hieron didn't like the thought of being cheated any more than you or I would, but he didn't know how to find out for sure if he had been. He could scarcely punish the goldsmith just because he was suspicious. What to do?

Fortunately, Hieron had an advantage few rulers in the history of the world could boast. He had a relative of considerable talent. The relative was named Archimedes and he probably had the greatest intellect the world was to see prior to the birth of Newton.

Archimedes was called in and was posed the problem. He had to determine whether the crown Hieron showed him was pure gold, or was gold to which a small but significant quantity of copper had been added.

If we were to reconstruct Archimedes' reasoning, it might go as follows. Gold was the densest known substance (at that time). Its density in modern terms is 19.3 grams per cubic centimeter. This means that a given weight of gold takes up less volume than the same weight of anything else! In fact, a given weight of pure gold takes up less volume than the same weight of any kind of impure gold.

The density of copper is 8.92 grams per cubic centimeter, just about half that of gold. If we consider 100 grams of pure gold, for instance, it is easy to calculate it to have a volume of 5.18 cubic centimeters. But suppose that 100 grams of what looked like pure gold was really only 90 grams of gold and 10 grams of copper. The 90 grams of gold would have a volume of 4.66 cubic centimeters, while the 10 grams of copper would have a volume of 1.12 cubic centimeters; for a total value of 5.78 cubic centimeters.

The difference between 5.18 cubic centimeters and 5.78 cubic centimeters is quite a noticeable one, and would instantly tell if the crown were of pure gold, or if it contained 10 per cent copper (with the missing 10 per cent of gold tucked neatly in the goldsmith's strongbox).

All one had to do, then, was measure the volume of the crown and compare it with the volume of the same weight of pure gold.

The mathematics of the time made it easy to measure the volume of many simple shapes: a cube, a sphere, a cone, a cylinder, any flattened object of simple regular shape

and known thickness, and so on.

We can imagine Archimedes saying, “All that is necessary, sire, is to pound that crown flat, shape it into a square of uniform thickness, and then I can have the answer for you in a moment.”

Whereupon Hieron must certainly have snatched the crown away and said, “No such thing. I can do that much without you; I’ve studied the principles of mathematics, too. This crown is a highly satisfactory work of art and I won’t have it damaged. Just calculate its volume without in any way altering it.”

But Greek mathematics had no way of determining the volume of anything with a shape as irregular as the crown, since integral calculus had not yet been invented (and wouldn’t be for two thousand years, almost). Archimedes would have had to say, “There is no known way, sire, to carry through a non-destructive determination of volume.”

“Then think of one,” said Hieron testily.

And Archimedes must have set about thinking of one, and gotten nowhere. Nobody knows how long he thought, or how hard, or what hypotheses he considered and discarded, or any of the details.

What we do know is that, worn out with thinking, Archimedes decided to visit the public baths and relax. I think we are quite safe in saying that Archimedes had no intention of taking his problem to the baths with him. It would be ridiculous to imagine he would, for the public baths of a Greek metropolis weren’t intended for that sort of thing.

The Greek baths were a place for relaxation. Half the social aristocracy of the town would be there and there was a great deal more to do than wash. One steamed one’s self, got a massage, exercised, and engaged in general socializing. We can be sure that Archimedes intended to forget the stupid crown for a while.

One can envisage him engaging in light talk, discussing that latest news from Alexandria and Carthage, the latest scandals in town, the latest funny jokes at the expense of the country-squire Romans—and then he lowered himself into a nice hot bath which some bumbling attendant has filled too full.

The water in the bath slopped over as Archimedes got in. Did Archimedes notice that at once, or did he sigh, sink back, and paddle his feet a while before noting the water slop. I guess the latter. But, whether soon or late, he noticed, and that one fact, added to all the chains of reasoning his brain had been working on during the period of relaxation when it was unhampered by the comparative stupidities (even in Archimedes) of voluntary thought, gave Archimedes his answer in one blinding flash of insight.

Jumping out of the bath, he proceeded to run home at top speed through the streets of Syracuse. He did not bother to put on his clothes. The thought of Archimedes running naked through Syracuse has titillated dozens of generations of youngsters who have heard

this story, but I must explain that the ancient Greeks were quite lighthearted in their attitude toward nudity. They thought no more of seeing a naked man on the streets of Syracuse, than we would on the Broadway stage.

And as he ran, Archimedes shouted over and over, “I’ve got it! I’ve got it!”

Archimedes’ solution was so simple that anyone could understand it—once Archimedes explained it.

If an object that is not affected by water in any way, is immersed in water, it is bound to displace an amount of water equal to its own volume, since two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time.

Suppose, then, you had a vessel large enough to hold the crown and suppose it had a small overflow spout set into the middle of its side. And suppose further that the vessel was filled with water exactly to the spout, so that if the water level were raised a bit higher, however slightly, some would overflow.

Next, suppose that you carefully lower the crown into the water. The water level would rise by an amount equal to the volume of the crown, and that volume of water would pour out the overflow and be caught in a small vessel. Next, a lump of gold, known to be pure and exactly equal in weight to the crown, is also immersed in the water and again the level rises and the overflow is caught in a second vessel.

If the crown were pure gold, the overflow would be exactly the same in each case, and the volume of water caught in the two small vessels would be equal. If, however, the crown were of alloy, it would produce a larger overflow than the pure gold would and this would be easily noticeable.

What’s more, the crown would in no way be harmed, defaced, or even as much as scratched. More important, Archimedes had discovered the “principle of buoyancy.”

And was the crown pure gold? I’ve heard that it turned out to be alloy and that the goldsmith was executed, but I wouldn’t swear to it.

How often does this happen? How often is there this flash of deep insight during a moment of relaxation, this triumphant cry of “I’ve got it! I’ve got it!” which must surely be a moment of the purest ecstasy this sorry world can afford?

I wish there were some way we could tell. I suspect that in the history of science it happens often; I suspect that very few significant discoveries are made by the pure technique of voluntary thought; I suspect that voluntary thought may possibly prepare the ground (if even that), but that the final touch, the real inspiration, comes when thinking is under involuntary control.

41. According to the author, thinking is “a double phenomenon”, what does the author mean?

42. Which two adjectives would you think can best describe Hieron II?

43. What problem was posed to Archimedes when he was called in?
44. What was Hieron's reaction to Archimedes' first proposal for solving the problem?
45. Does the author in the last paragraph argue that science ought to abandon reasoned thought in favor of intuition? Explain.

Part III. Writing (30 points)

46. Write an essay of about 400 words in English on the following topic. Write your essay on your ANSWER SHEET.

The Role of Translation in the Age of Globalization