

全国硕士研究生入学考试



# 历届试题与答案汇编

(英语分册)

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## 前 言

英语、政治、数学为全国硕士研究生入学考试统一命题的必考公共课,也是考生最感棘手、最难复习的部分。根据历年情况来看,许多考生专业科目得分一般较满意,却往往因为英语、政治、数学等公共科目成绩不佳而功亏一篑,痛失成功机会。为此,我们郑重建议考生认真加强公共科目复习,千万不可掉以轻心。

在复习过程中,许多考生反映难以收齐一套完整的历届考研试题,以便反复演习、揣摩。为此,我们特将 1988~1999 年(共 12 年)硕士研究生入学考试英语试题及答案汇编成册,为考生提供一套完整的参考资料。纵观历年试题,虽然题型有所变化,但考生不难看出,每年考查的要点却十分相似,而且后几届往往有不少与前几届相似甚至雷同的题目出现,真可谓万变不离其宗。因此,我们要求考生将这些试题反复揣摩,解剖分析其要点,掌握这些重点、难点,了解历年考研命题的范围、题型、题量、难易程度与命题趋势,掌握解题规律与技巧,从而找到一条考研成功的捷径,临考时便可以不变应万变,无论题目怎样变化均可从容应答,游刃有余。

实践证明,本书不仅是考生首选的复习资料,而且是考研辅导班的必备教材,一册在手,事半功倍。

预祝考研成功!

编 者

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# 硕士研究生入学英语考试说明

## 一、考试性质

全国硕士研究生入学考试是为高等学校招收硕士研究生而设置的。其中,英语实行全国统一考试。它的评价标准是高等学校优秀本科毕业生能达到的及格或及格以上水平,以保证被录取者具有一定的英语水平,有利于各高等学校在专业上择优选拔。

考试对象为参加全国硕士研究生入学考试的本科应届毕业生,以及符合报考条件的具有同等学力的在职人员。

本考试对课程和教材不作统一规定,凡符合下列评价目标的课程及教材都适于考生应考复习。

## 二、评价目标

考生应掌握下列语言知识和技能:

### (一)词汇

考试所涉及的词汇、短语主要限于本大纲附录“词汇表”,总量为 5300 个左右。

### (二)语法

#### I. 词法

1. 动词的时态、语态、语气及情态动词、非限定动词的用法;
2. 名词、形容词和副词的用法;
3. 介词、连词和代词的用法。

#### II. 句法

简单句、并列句和复合句的结构及用法

### (三)阅读理解能力

考生应能综合运用英语语言知识和阅读技能来理解英语书面材料,能以每分钟 60 词的速度阅读各种题材(社会生活、人物传记、科普、史地、政治、经济等)和体裁(议论文、记叙文、说明文、应用文等)的文字材料(生词量不超过文章字数的 3%)。

考生应能:

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;
2. 了解用以阐述主旨的事实和有关细节;
3. 根据上下文判断大纲附录“词汇表”以外的某些词汇和短语的意义;
4. 既理解单句的意义,也理解上下句之间的逻辑关系;
5. 根据所读材料进行一定的判断、推理和引申;
6. 领会作者的观点和态度;
7. 正确理解英语原文并用汉语表达原文所述内容。

### (四)书面表达能力

1. 根据所给题目或素材写出叙述、说明或议论性的短文;
2. 语言比较规范,条理清楚。

## 三、试卷结构及考试形式

试题为主、客观混合型。客观题分数占总分的 70%,主观题分数占总分的 30%。本试卷分五部分,共 76 题。考试时间为 180 分钟。

试卷分试题和答题卡(纸)两部分,考生应将第一、二、三部分的答案填写在答题卡(ANSWER SHEET I)上,将第四、五部分的答案写在答题纸(ANSWER SHEET II)上。

### 第一部分 语法结构与词汇

40 小题,每小题 0.5 分,共 20 分。

题目分三节:

A 节 语法填空,10 题,共 5 分。每题为一个或两个句子,其中留有一个空白处,要求考生从

所给的四个选项项中选出一个最佳答案;

B 节 语法辨错,10 题,共 5 分。每题为一个或两个句子,有四个划线部分,其中一处是错误的,要求考生将错误项选出;

C 节 词语填空,20 题,共 10 分。每题为一个或两个句子,其中留有一个空白处,要求考生从所给的四个选择项中选出一个最佳答案。

### 第二部分 完形填空

10 小题,每小题 1 分,共 10 分。

在一篇短文中,有 10 处空白,每个空白为一小题。每题有四个选择项,要求考生在理解文章的基础上,选择一个最佳答案,使短文的内容和结构完整、合理。

### 第三部分 阅读理解

20 小题,每小题 2 分,共 40 分。

阅读五篇左右的短文,阅读量为 2000~2500 词。每篇短文后有 3~5 道选择题,共计 20 题。考生应根据短文内容从各题的四个选择项中选出一个最佳答案。

### 第四部分 英译汉

5 小题,每小题 3 分,共 15 分。

在一篇短文中有五个划线部分,考生应根据上下文将各划线部分译成汉语。要求译文准确、完整、通顺。

### 第五部分 短文写作

1 题,15 分。

考生应根据题目以及写作提纲或规定情景、图表、图画等写出不少于 150 词的短文。要求内容切题,表达清楚,意思连贯,语言比较规范。

## 四、试卷内容、题量、计分和答题参考时间

题 号	内 容	题 量	计分(百分比)	时间(分钟)
I	语法结构与词汇	40	20	35
II	完形填空	10	10	15
III	阅读理解	20	40	60
IV	英译汉	5	15	30
V	短文写作	1	15	40
总 计		76	100	180

# 历届硕士研究生入学考试英语试题汇编

## 1988 年硕士研究生入学考试英语试题

### I. Multiple choice (15 points)

1. I didn't buy the apple ;she gave them to me \_\_\_\_\_ nothing.  
A. with B. as C. for D. by
2. It's \_\_\_\_\_ my power to make final decision on the matter.  
A. off B. outside C. above D. beyond
3. I should say Henry is not \_\_\_\_\_ much a writer as a reporter.  
A. that B. so C. this D. as
4. I won't pay ¥20 for the coat ; it's not worth \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. all that much B. that much all  
C. that all much D. much all that
5. He didn't go into detail on the subject ; he spoke \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. in common B. in particular C. in general D. in short
6. It's true that the old is less direct and a bit longer. We won't take the new one, \_\_\_\_\_, because we don't feel as safe on it .  
A. somehow B. though C. therefore D. otherwise
7. When you are about \_\_\_\_\_ through the story. try to make a guess how the plot will develop  
A. half B. midway C. halfway D. one - half
8. Though already a teenager. Peter still finds it hard to \_\_\_\_\_ his favorite toys.  
A. part off B. part with C. part away D. part from
9. Strenuous efforts have been made to \_\_\_\_\_ government expenses to a desirable level.  
A. cut dwon B. cut short C. cut out D. cut off
10. When at a party be sure not to \_\_\_\_\_ from the person who tries to engage you in conversation .  
A. turn dwon B. turn away C. trun off D. turn back
11. The survival \_\_\_\_\_ of some wild animals is not very high as they are ruthlessly hunted skins .  
A. rate B. degree C. ratio D. scale
12. He was \_\_\_\_\_ admittance to the theatre for not being properly dressed.  
A. denied B. rejected C. repelled D. deprived
13. When I ask a question. I expect a \_\_\_\_\_ answer  
A. punctual B. fast C. rapid D. prompt
14. If a man is legally separated from his wife. is he still \_\_\_\_\_ for her debts?  
A. answerabpe B. chargeable C. recoverable D. payable
15. At the meeting . Roland argued \_\_\_\_\_ in favor of the proposal.  
A. severely B. heavily C. forcefully D. warmly

### II. Reading Comprehension (20 poits)

#### passage 1

It doesn't come as a surprise to you to realize that it makes no difference what you read or study

if you can't remember it You just waste your valuable time. Maybe you have already discovered some clever ways to keep yourself from forgetting.

One dependable aid that does help you remember what you study is to have a specific purpose or reason for reading. You remember better what you read when you know why you're reading.

Why does a clerk in a store go away and leave you when your reply to her offer to help is. "No, thank you. I'm just looking"? Both you and she know that if you aren't sure what you want, you are not likely to find it. But suppose you say in stead. "Yes, thank you, I want a pair of sun glasses," she says, "Right this way, please." And you and she are off - both eager to look for exactly what you want.

It's quite the same with your studying. If you chose a book at random, "just looking" for nothing in particular. you are likely to get just that - nothing. But if you do know what you want, and if you have the right book, you are almost sure to get it. your reasons will vary; they will include reading or studying "to find out how". A good student has a clear purpose or reason for what he is doing.

This is the way it works. Before you start to study, you say to yourself something like this, "I want to know why Stephen Vincent Benet happened to write about America. I'm reading this article to find out," Or, I'm going to skim this story to see what life was like in medieval England." Because you know why you are reading or studying, you relate the information to your purpose and remember it better.

Reading is not one single activity. At least two important processes go on at the same time. As you read, you take in ideas rapidly and accurately as you react to what you read. But at the same time you express your own ideas to yourself as you react to what you read. You have a kind of mental conversation with the author. If you expressed your ideas orally. they might sound like this: "Yes, I agree. That's my opinion too," or "Ummmm, I thought that record was broken much earlier. I'd better check those dates," or "But there are some other facts to be considered!" You don't just sit there taking in ideas - you do, and that something else something else is very important.

This additional process of thing about what you read includes evaluating it, relating it to what you already know, and using it for your purposes. In other words, a good reader is a critical reader. One part of critical reading, as you have discovered, is distinguishing between facts and opinions. Facts can be checked by evidence. Opinions are one's own personal reactions.

Another part of critical reading sources. still another part is drawingpart is drawing accurate inferences.

16. If you cannot remember what you read or study.

- A. it is no surprise
- B. it means you have not really learned anything
- C. it means you have not the right book.
- D. you realize it is of no importance

17. Before you start reading, it is important

- A. to make sure why you are reading
- B. to relate the information your purpose
- C. to remember what you read
- D. to choose an interesting book.

18. Reading activity involves

- A. only two simultaneous processes.
- B. primarily learning about ideas and evaluating them critically.
- C. merely distinguishing between facts and opinions.
- D. mainly drawing accurate inferences.

19. A good reader is one who



- A. relates what he reads to his own knowledge about the subject matter.
- B. does lots of thinking in his reading
- C. takes a critical attitude his reading .
- D. is able to check the preesented against what he has already known.

passage 2

If you live in large city, you are quite familiar with some of the problems of noise, but because of some of its harmful effects, you may not be aware of the extent of its influence on human behavior everyone more or less knows what noise is, i.e., it is sounds that one would rather not hear, it is perhaps best to define it more precisely for scientific purposes. One definition is that noise is sounds that are unrelated to the task at hand. Thus stimuli that at one time might be considered relevant will at another time be considered noise, depending on what one is doing at the moment. In recent years there has been a great great deal of interest in the effects of noise on human behavior, and concepts such as "noise pollution" have arisen, together with movements to reduce noise.

Exposure to loud noises can definitely produce a partial or complete loss of hearing, depending on the intensity, duration, and frequency composition of the noise. Many jobs present noise hazards, such as working in factories and around jet aircraft, driving farm tractors. and working (or sitting) in music halls where rock bands are playing. In general, continuous exposure to sounds of over 80 decibels (a measure of the loudness of sound) can be considered dangerous. Decibel values correspond to various Sounds. Sounds above about 85 decibels may, if exposure is for a sufficient period of time, produce significant hearing loss. Actual loss will depend upon the particular frequencies to which one is exposed, and whether the sound is continuous or intermittent.

Noise can have unexpected harmful effects on performance of certain kinds of tasks, for instance, if one is performing a watch keeping task that requires vigilance, in which he is responsible for detecting weak signals of some kind (e.g., watching a radar screen for the appearance of aircraft).

Communicating with other people is unfavorably affected by noise. If you have ridden in the rear of a jet transport, you may have noticed that it was difficult to carry on a conversation at first, and that, eventually, effect, you adjusted the loudness of your speech to compensate for the effect, The problem is noise.

20. Noise differs from sound in that
- A. it is sounds that interfere with the task being done.
  - B. it is a special type of loud sound.
  - C. it is usually unavoidable in big cities
  - D. it can be defined more precisely than the latter.
21. One of the harmful effects of noise on human performance is that
- A. it reduces one's sensitivity .
  - B. it renders the victim helpless.
  - C. it deprives one of the enjoyment of music .
  - D. it drowns out conversations at worksites.
22. The purpose of this passage is
- A. to define the effects of noise on human behavior.
  - B. to warn people of the danger of noise pollution .
  - C. to give advice as to how to prevent hearing loss.
  - D. to tell the difference between noise and sound.

The traditional belief that a woman's place is in the home and that a woman ought not to go out to work can hardly be reasonably maintained in present conditions. It is said that it is a woman's task to care for the children. but families today tend to be small and with a year or two between children. Thus a woman's whole period of childbearing may occur within five years. Furthermore, with compulsory education from the age of five or six, her role as chief educator of her children soon ceases. Thus, even if we agree that a woman should stay at home to look after her children before they are of school age, for many women, this period would extend only for about ten years.

It might be argued that the house - proud woman would still find plenty to do about the home. That may be so, but it is certainly no longer necessary for a woman to spend her whole life cooking, cleaning, mending and sewing. washing machines take the drudgery out of laundry, the latest models being entirely automatic and able to wash and dry a large quantity of clothes in a few minutes. Refrigerators have made it possible to store food for long periods and many precooked foods are obtainable in tins. Shopping, instead of being a daily task, can be completed in one day a week. The new man - made fibers are more hardwearing than natural handwearing and greatly reduce mending. while good readmade clothes are cheap and plentiful.

Apart from women's own happiness, The needs of the community must be considered, modern society cannot do well without the contribution that women can make in the professions and other kinds of work. There is a serious shortage of nurses and teachers, to mention only two of the occupations followed by women. It is extremely wasteful to give years of training at public expense only to have the qualified teacher or nurse marry after a year or two and be lost forever to her profession. The training, it is true, will help her in duties as a mother, but if she continued to work, her service would be more widely useful. Many factories and shops, too, are largely staffed by women, many of them married. while here the question of training is not so important, industry and trade would be seriously short of staff if married women did not work.

23. The author holds that

- A. the right place for all women married or otherwise, is the home, not elsewhere.
- B. all married women should have some occupation outside the home.
- C. a married woman should give first priority to her duties as a mother.
- D. it is desirable for uneducated married women to stay at home and take care of the family.

24. A house - proud woman

- A. would devote her whole life to her family.
- B. would take her own happiness and that of her family as her chief concern.
- C. would still need some special training at public expense to help her in her duties as a housewife

25. According to the author, modern society

- A. can operate just as well even without women participation.
- B. has been greatly hampered in its development by the shortage of women nurses and women teachers.
- C. cannot operate properly without the contribution of women.
- D. will be seriously affected by the continuing shortage of working women in heavy industries and international trade.

### III. Cloze Test (10 points)

In 1620, a small sailboat named the Mayflower left England for the New world. The Mayflower

headed for the Jamestown colony on the warm shore of Virginia. Its one hundred passengers were the Pilgrims. They were looking for a place where they could worship God 26

Because of strong winds and severe storms, the Mayflower lost its 27. The brave group of colonists finally had to land at Plymouth on the rocky coast of Massachusetts in December 1620. It was the middle of the stern northern winter. 28 months of starvation, disease, and death were ahead of them. Only the strongest of the pilgrims 29 that winter. Many women gave their own pitiful rations to their children and died for lack of food for themselves.

living 30 began to improve in the spring of 1621. There were wild vegetables. There were berries and fruit. Fish and game were plentiful. Therefore, they were able to get enough fresh meat despite their lack of skill or experience in hunting and fishing. The colonists' health 31 with the warm weather and their better diet.

In the fall, they look back 32 the past year. They were both regretful and thankful. Only fifty or the original one hundred passengers remained. The price in human life and tragedy had been great. On the other hand, they saw new hope for the future. A splendid harvest was 33 them. They were ready for the second winter with confidence. They had eleven crude houses for protection against the severe winter. Seven were for families, and four were for communal use. 34, they had established a treaty of friendship with their Indian neighbors under Chief Massasoit in the summer. The woods and forests became safe. When the Mayflower returned to England that summer, there were no colonists 35.

At the end of their first year in their new home, the Pilgrims wanted to celebrate with a real holiday. It was their first Thanksgiving Day.

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 26. A. in their own style | B. in their own way |
| C. on their own           | D. of their own     |
| 27. A. course             | B. route            |
| C. passage                | D. channel          |
| 28. A. Uncomfortable      | B. Bad              |
| C. Unfavourable           | D. Terrible         |
| 29. A. passed             | B. sustained        |
| C. survived               | D. spent            |
| 30. A. situations         | B. environments     |
| C. conditions             | D. circumstances    |
| 31. A. strengthened       | B. regained         |
| C. recovered              | D. improved         |
| 32. A. in                 | B. of               |
| C. over                   | D. at               |
| 33. A. on                 | B. behind           |
| C. for                    | D. beyond           |
| 34. A. Best of all        | B. For the best     |
| C. to their best          | D. All in all       |
| 35. A. ashore             | B. around           |
| C. about                  | D. aboard           |

#### IV. Error detection and correction (10 points)

36. The union and the management are having such a difficult time agreeing no a contract for forthcoming year that the workers may go on strike.  
A B C D
37. He got up, walked across the room, and with a sharp quick movement flung the door widely open.  
A B C D
38. His victory in the final was no more convinced than I had expected.  
A B C D
39. Because there are less members present tonight than there were last night, we must wait until the  
A B C

next voting.

D

40. We've given him just about everything he asked; whatever else can he want?

A

B

C D

41. In note-taking a strict discipline has to be kept and all inessential details ignored unnecessary

A

B

C

words eliminated.

D

42. When the tank car carried the poisonous gas ran off the rails, the friemen tried to isolate the village

A

B

from all traffic.

C

D

43. To be frank, that is a great relief to have the task fulfilled in so short a time.

A

B

C

D

44. At a minimum the negotiators are hoping of achieving an agreement im principle with details to

A

B

C

be worked out later.

D

45. It is encouraging to note that in recent years, cigarette smokers have been in the decline, especially

A

B

C

among older people.

D

#### V. Verb Forms (10 points)

46. In the Middle Ages, in Rome, Venice and other Italian cities, there developed an intellectual movement \_\_\_\_\_ (call) humanism, which was the basis of the Renaissance.

47. If law and order \_\_\_\_\_ (be) not preserved, neither the citizen nor property is safe.

48. The colonel was decorated for bravery, \_\_\_\_\_ (fight) off the enemy.

49. It's quite obvious that Paul won't sell his business now that he's got it \_\_\_\_\_ (run) so well.

50. \_\_\_\_\_ (Not wish) to disturb his baby sister, he tiptoed into the room.

51. I happened \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) with him when he was hit by a ball and collapsed.

52. The applicants \_\_\_\_\_ (interview) are required to bring all the necessary papers.

53. Victor obviously doesn't know what's happened, otherwise he \_\_\_\_\_ (not make) such a stupid remark.

54. Such \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the case, there are no grounds to justify your complaints.

55. The car shows no signs of \_\_\_\_\_ (repair); it looks like a new one.

#### VI. Translate the following sentences into English. (15 points)

56. 恶劣的天气使她无法按时动身去北京。

57. 请先把事故的原因查清楚再向主任汇报。

58. 直到演出已经开始,他才匆匆赶到。

59. 经当地政府批准后,他们取消了原定的项目。

60. 他听到这意外消息,吃惊得连一句话也说不出。

VI. Read the following passage carefully and then translate the sentences in heavy type into Chinese.  
(20 points)

Seated behind the front desk a new York firm, the receptionist was efficient. Stylishly dressed, the firm's newest employee had a pleasant telephone voice and a natural charm that put clients at ease. The company was pleased (61) Clearly, this was a person who took considerable pride in personal appearance. David King, the receptionist, is unusual, but by no means unique. (62) Just as all truck driver and construction workers are no longer necessarily men, all secretaries and receptionists are no longer automatically women, The number of men in women-dominated fields is still small and they haven't attracted the attention that has often followed women advancing into male-dominated fields. but men are moving into more and more jobs that have traditionally been held by women.

Strictly speaking, the phenomenon is not new. For the past several decades, men have been quietly entering fields such as nursing, social work and elementary education. But today no job seems off-limits. Men serve coffee in offices and meals on airplanes. (63) These changes are helping to influence some of the long-standing traditions about the types of work men and women can do - but they also produce some undeniable problems for the men who are entering those fields formerly dominated by women.

What kinds of men venture into these so-called "women's fields"? All kinds. (64) "I don't know of any definite answers I'd be comfortable with," explains Joseph Pleck, Ph.D., of the Wellesley Center for Research on Women.

Sam Ormont, for example, a thirty-year-old nurse at a Boston hospital, went into nursing because the army had trained him as a medical worker. (65) "I found that work very interesting," he recalled, "and when I got out of the service it just seemed natural for me to go into something medical. I wasn't really interested in becoming a doctor."

Thirty-five-year-old David King, an out-of-work actor, found a job as a receptionist because he was having trouble landing roles in Broadway plays and he needed to pay the rent.

(66) In other words, men enter "female" jobs out of the same consideration for personal interest and economic necessity that motivates anyone looking for work. But similarities often end there. Men in female-dominated jobs are conspicuous. As a group, their work histories differ in most respects from those of their female colleagues, and they are frequently treated differently by the people with whom they are in professional contact.

The question naturally arises: Why are there still approximately ninety-nine female secretaries for every one male? There is also a more serious issue. Most men don't want to be receptionists, nurses, secretaries or sewing workers. Put simply, these are not generally considered very masculine jobs. (67) To choose such a line of work is to invite ridicule.

"There was kidding in the beginning," recalls Ormont, "Kids coming from school ask what I am, and when I say 'A nurse,' they laugh at me. I just smile and say, 'You know, there are female doctors, too.'"

Still there are encouraging signs. Years ago, male grade school teachers were as rare as male nurses. Today more than one elementary school teacher in six is male.

(68) Can we anticipate a day when secretaries will be an even mix of men and women - or when the mention of a male nurse will no longer raise eyebrows? It's probably coming - but not very soon.

## 1989 年硕士研究生入学考试英语试题

### I. Multiple Choice (10 points)

1. Modern man faces dangers completely unknown \_\_\_\_\_ his predecessors.  
A. for                      B. to                      C. of                      D. by
2. The chances of seeing a helicopter in my hometown are one \_\_\_\_\_ a million.  
A. for                      B. to                      C. in                      D. against
3. \_\_\_\_\_ we have all the materials ready, we should begin the new task at once.  
A. Since that              B. Since now              C. By now              D. Now that
4. We hope the measures to control prices, \_\_\_\_\_ taken by the government, will succeed.  
A. when                      B. as                      C. since                      D. after
5. The historical events of that period are arranged \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. in alphabetical order              B. in an alphabetical order  
C. in the alphabetical orders              D. in alphabetical orders
6. In some markets there may be only one seller. \_\_\_\_\_ is called a monopoly.  
A. Situation as this              B. Such kind of situation  
C. Such a situation              D. A situation of this
7. He is \_\_\_\_\_ to speak the truth.  
A. too much of a coward              B. too much a coward  
C. so much a coward              D. so much of a coward
8. He always gives \_\_\_\_\_ to his wife's demands and does whatever she tells him to.  
A. up                      B. away                      C. in                      D. out
9. It's \_\_\_\_\_ in the regulations that you can take 20 kilos of luggage with you.  
A. laid upon              B. laid out              C. laid up              D. laid down
10. Look at all the corruption that's going on. It's time the city was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. cleaned out              B. cleaned down              C. cleaned away              D. cleaned up
11. Though he did not say so directly, the inspector \_\_\_\_\_ the man was guilty.  
A. declared              B. implied              C. disclosed              D. said
12. The Prime Minister refused to \_\_\_\_\_ on the rumour that he had planned to resign.  
A. explain              B. comment              C. remark              D. talk
13. I asked the tailor to make a small \_\_\_\_\_ to my trousers because they were too long.  
A. change              B. variation              C. revision              D. alteration
14. Magnificent views over the countryside have often \_\_\_\_\_ people to write poems.  
A. excited              B. inspired              C. induced              D. attracted
15. The food was divided \_\_\_\_\_ according to the age and size of the children.  
A. equally              B. proportionately              C. sufficiently              D. adequately

### II. Reading Comprehension (20 points)

#### passage 1

A scientist once said: "I have concluded that the earth is being visited by intelligently controlled vehicles from outer space."

If we take this as a reasonable explanation for UFOs (unidentified, flying objects), questions im-

mediately come up.

"Why don't they get in touch with us, then? Why don't they land right on the White House lawn and declare themselves?" people asked.

In reply, scientists say that, while this may be what we want, it may not necessarily be what they want.

"The most likely explanation, it seems to me," said Dr. Mead, "is that they are simply watching what we are up to — that responsible society outside our solar system is keeping an eye on us to see that we don't set in motion a chain reaction that might have unexpected effects for outside our solar system."

Opinions from other scientists might go like this; "Why should they want to get in touch with us? We may feel we're more important than we really are! They may want to observe us only and not interfere with the development of our civilization. They may not care if we see them but they also may not care to say 'hello'."

Some scientists have also suggested that Earth is a kind of zoo or wildlife reserve. Just as we set aside wilderness areas and wildlife reserves to allow animals and growing things to develop naturally while we observe them, so perhaps Earth was set aside ages ago for the same purpose.

Are we being observed by intelligent beings from other civilizations in the universe? Are they watching our progress in space travel? Do we live in a gigantic "zoo" observed by our "keepers", but having no communication with them?

Never before in our history have we had to confront ideas like these. The simple fact is that we, who have always regarded ourselves as supreme in the universe, may not be so. Now we have to recognize that, among the stars in the heavens, there may very well be worlds inhabited by beings who are to us as we are to ants.

16. People who ask the question "Why don't they get in touch with us...and declare themselves?" think that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. there are no such things as UFOs  
B. UFOs are visitors from solar system  
C. there's no reason for UFOs not to land on Earth  
D. we are bound to see UFOs sooner or later
17. According to Dr Mead, the attitude of beings from outer space toward us is one of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. unfriendliness B. suspicion C. superiority D. hostility
18. The tone of the writer is that of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. doubt B. warning C. indifference D. criticism

#### passage 2

The use of the motor is becoming more and more widespread in the twentieth century; as an increasing number of countries develop both technically and economically, so a larger proportion of the world's population is able to buy and use a car. Possessing a car gives a much greater degree of mobility, enabling the driver to move around freely. The owner of a car is no longer forced to rely on public transport and is, therefore, not compelled to work locally. He can choose from different jobs and probably changes his work more frequently as he is not restricted to a choice within a small radius. Traveling to work by car is also more comfortable than having to use public transport; the driver can adjust the heating in winter and the air conditioning in the summer to suit his own needs and preference. There is no irritation caused by waiting for trains, buses or underground trains, standing in long patient queues, or sitting on windy platforms, for as long as half an hour sometimes. With the building

of good, fast motorways long distances can be covered rapidly and pleasantly. For the first time in this century also, many people are now able to enjoy their leisure time to the full by main trips to the country or seaside at the weekends, instead of being confined to their immediate neighbourhood. This feeling of independence, and the freedom to go where you please, is perhaps the greatest advantage of the car.

When considering the drawbacks, perhaps pollution is of prime importance. As more and more cars are produced and used, so the emission from their exhaust-pipes contains an ever larger volume of poisonous gas. Some of the contents of this gas, such as lead, not only pollute the atmosphere but cause actual harm to the health of people. Many of the minor illnesses of modern industrial society, headaches, tiredness, and stomach upsets are thought to arise from breathing polluted air; doctors' surgeries are full of people suffering from illnesses caused by pollution. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to deal with the problem of traffic in towns; most of the important cities of the world suffer from traffic congestion. In fact, any advantage gained in comfort is often cancelled out in city driving by the frustration caused by traffic jams: endless queues of cars crawling one after another through all the main streets. As an increasing number of traffic regulation schemes are devised, the poor bewildered driver finds himself diverted and forced into one-way systems which cause even greater delays than the traffic jams they are supposed to prevent. The mounting cost of petrol and the increased licence fees and road tax all add to the driver's worries. In fact, he must sometimes wonder if the motor car is such a blessing and not just a menace.

19. More and more people can afford to buy and use cars because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. an increasing number of cars are being produced
  - B. the cost of cars is getting cheaper with the development of technology
  - C. lots of countries have become more developed
  - D. the use of cars has proved to be more economical
20. The advantages of having a car are best experienced in the driver's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. freedom in choosing his job
  - B. comfort during the travels
  - C. enjoyment of his leisure time
  - D. feeling of self-reliance
21. What is considered by the writer as the greatest menace to the people caused by the widespread use of motor cars? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. air pollution
  - B. traffic jams
  - C. fatal diseases
  - D. high cost

### passage 3

Manners nowadays in metropolitan cities like London are practically non-existent. It is nothing for a big, strong schoolboy to elbow an elderly woman aside in the dash for the last remaining seat on the tube or bus, much less stand up and offer his seat to her, as he ought. In fact, it is saddening to note that if a man does offer his seat to an older woman, it is nearly always a Continental man or one from the older generation.

This question of giving up seats in public transport is much argued about by young men, who say that, since women have claimed equality, they no longer deserve to be treated with courtesy and that those who go out to work should take their turn in the rat race like anyone else. Women have never claimed to be physically as strong as men. Even if it is not agreed, however, that young men should stand up for younger women, the fact remains that courtesy should be shown to the old, the sick and the burdened. Are we really so lost to all ideals of unselfishness that we can sit there indifferently reading the paper or a book, saying to ourselves 'First come, first served,' while a grey-haired woman, a



mother with a young child or a cripple stands? Yet this is all too often seen.

Conditions in travel are really very hard on everyone, we know, but hardship is surely no excuse. Sometimes one wonders what would have been the behaviour of these stout young men in a packed refugee train or a train on its way to a prison - camp during the War. Would they have considered it only right and their proper due to keep the best places for themselves then?

Older people, tired and irritable from a day's work, are not angels, either - far from it. Many a brisk argument or an insulting quarrel breaks out as the weary queues push and shove each other to get on buses and tubes. One cannot commend this, of course, but one does feel there is just a little more excuse.

If cities are to remain pleasant places to live in at all, however, it seems imperative, not only that communications in transport should be improved, but also that communication between human beings should be kept smooth and polite. All over cities, it seems that people are too tired and too rushed to be polite. Shop assistants won't bother to assist, taxidrivrs growl at each other as they dash dangerously round corners, bus conductor pull the bell before their desperate passengers have had time to get on or off the bus, and so on and so on. It seems to us that it is up to the young and strong to do their small part to stop such deterioration.

22. From what you have read, would you expect manners to improve among people \_\_\_\_\_?
- A. who are physically weak or crippled
  - B. who once lived in a prison - camp during the War
  - C. who live in big modern cities
  - D. who live only in metropolitan cities
23. What is the writer's opinion concerning courteous manners towards women? \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Now that women have claimed equality, they no longer need to be treated differently from men.
  - B. It is generally considered old - fashioned for young men to give up their seats to young women.
  - C. "Lady First" should be universally practised.
  - D. Special consideration ought to be shown them.
24. According to the author communication between human beings would be smoother if \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. people were more considerate towards other
  - B. people were not so tired and irritable
  - C. women were treated with more courtesy
  - D. public transport could be improved
25. What is the possible meaning of the word "deterioration" in the last paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. worsening of general situation
  - B. lowering of moral standards
  - C. declining of physical constitution
  - D. spreading of evil conduct

### III. Cloze Test (10 points)

One day drought may be a thing of the past at least in coastal cities. Vast areas of desert throughout the world may for the first time 26 and provide millions of hectares of land where now nothing grows.

By the end of this century this may not be mere 27. Scientists are already looking into the possibility of using some of the available ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. In these regions there are vast ice - caps formed by snow that has fallen over the past 50,000 - years. Layer 28 layer of deep snow means that, when melted, the snow water would be pure, not salty as sea ice would be. There is so