



竞赛系列丛书

2011 ~ 2015

全国大学生英语竞赛

Decoding NECCS Exam and Simulation Papers

历届真题及模拟题详解

主 编 潘 丽 徐卓睿
副主编 程 杰 王毓琦 金晓玲

- 直面竞赛真题 把握考点
- 详尽逐题解读 分析透彻
- 透析题型特点 策略应考

(第6版)

赠光盘



哈尔滨工业大学出版社

(2011 ~ 2015)

全国大学生英语竞赛历届真题 及模拟题详解

B 类(英语专业本科生)

(第 6 版)

主 编 潘 丽 徐卓睿

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内 容 提 要

- ◇ 全面了解“全国大学生英语竞赛”题型,通过实战练习稳步提高
- ◇ 分析“全国大学生英语竞赛”题型特点,为参赛考生热身
- ◇ 详细解析“全国大学生英语竞赛”真题,掌握应考策略
- ◇ 2套模拟试题,强化训练,提高竞赛能力

本书提供 2011~2015 年 10 套 B 类初赛、决赛真题以及 2 套模拟试题,方便学生检验自己考前复习成果,增强考试信心;后附答案与解析,解答详尽,分析透彻,有利于学生掌握答题角度和方法。随书附赠光盘一张,采用 MP3 格式,均为原版录音。

本书是学生了解和应考“全国大学生英语竞赛”的必备用书。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

2011~2015 全国大学生英语竞赛历届真题及模拟题
详解.B类/潘丽,徐卓睿主编.—6版.—哈尔滨:哈尔
滨工业大学出版社,2016.1

ISBN 978-7-5603-5774-4

I. ①2… II. ①潘…②徐… III. ①英语-高等学校-
题解 IV. ①H319.6

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2015)第 289986 号

策划编辑 常 雨
责任编辑 张凤涛 常 雨
封面设计 刘长友
出版发行 哈尔滨工业大学出版社
社 址 哈尔滨市南岗区复华四道街 10 号 邮编 150006
传 真 0451-86414749
网 址 <http://hitpress.hit.edu.cn>
印 刷 黑龙江省教育厅印刷厂
开 本 787mm×1092mm 1/16 印张 20.75 字数 517 千字
版 次 2010 年 10 月第 1 版 2016 年 1 月第 6 版
2016 年 1 月第 1 次印刷
书 号 ISBN 978-7-5603-5774-4
定 价 39.80 元(赠光盘)

(如因印装质量问题影响阅读,我社负责调换)

第6版前言

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students,简称NECCS)是经教育部批准,由高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会和高等学校大学外语教学研究会联合主办的全国唯一的大学生英语综合能力竞赛。该竞赛知识性强、涉及面广、含金量高,有助于大学生夯实和扩展英语基础知识和基本技能,全面提高英语综合运用能力,进一步推动全国大学英语教学与实践。竞赛以《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》为依据,既广泛吸纳现行各种大学英语教材的知识点和覆盖面,又不拘泥于任何一种教材内容,既源于当代大学生的学习和生活,又侧重于检测考生的英语专业知识和综合应用水平,试题更多地着眼于体现实用性、交流性和时代性,是以考验学、以考促学、以考助学的重要平台和载体,得到了广泛的认可和好评,是社会接受度和认可度较高的英语综合水平检验考试。

竞赛设四个国家奖励等级:特等奖、一等奖、二等奖和三等奖。二等奖和三等奖通过初赛产生。特等奖和一等奖通过决赛产生,由省(自治区、直辖市)竞赛组织机构根据决赛成绩确定。其获奖名额按参赛人数的比例而确定。总获奖比率为参加初赛人数的51%,特等奖获奖比率为1%,一等奖获奖比率为5%,二等奖获奖比率为15%,三等奖获奖比率为30%。

竞赛既考查大学生的英语基础知识和基本技能,又侧重考查大学生的英语综合运用能力、阅读能力和智力水平。综合分析近年来的竞赛试卷情况,考试在保持题型相对稳定性和连续性的基础上,在题型、结构和比重等方面也都做了一些调整,主要体现在:(1)将完形填空调整到阅读理解的前面,完形填空试题难度系数相对降低,试题数量减少(2010年、2012年、2013年、2014年及2015年试题数目减少为10题);(2)阅读理解测试题型多样,设计更科学,阅读能力考查更全面,包括选择题、简答题,填写概要,补充句子与段落以及段落排序等;(3)英译汉试题内容更贴近中华优秀传统文化,长句仍然是此题的试金石,翻译技巧主要体现在长句的处理是否准确、得体;汉译英难度基本保持不变,侧重于考查基础语言点及语法知识的运用;(4)智力测试试题难度降低;(5)作文难度逐步增加,作文字数有增加的趋势,且更倾向于图表作文,等等。

为帮助广大考生更好地了解和把握全国大学生英语竞赛的题型演变过程和考评点的变化脉搏,本书在前5版的基础上,新增加了2015年初赛和2015年决赛真题。至此,本书囊括了2011年至2015年英语专业本科生类别的10

第5版前言

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students,简称NECCS)是经教育部批准,由高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会和高等学校大学外语教学研究会联合主办的全国唯一的大学生英语综合能力竞赛。该竞赛有助于学生夯实和扩展英语基础知识和基本技能,全面提高大学生英语综合运用能力,进一步推动全国大学英语教学。竞赛以《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》为依据,既广泛参考现行的各种大学英语教材,又不拘泥于任何一种教材;既源于当代大学生的学习和生活,又侧重于检测考生的英语专业知识和综合应用水平。考试内容注重体现实用性、交流性和时代性,是以考验学、以考促学、以考助学的重要平台和载体,得到了广泛的认可和好评。

综合分析近年来的竞赛试卷情况,考试在保持稳定性和连续性的基础上,在题型、结构和比重等方面也都做了一些调整,主要体现在:(1)将完形填空调整到阅读理解的前面,完形填空试题难度系数相对降低,试题数量减少(2010年、2012年、2013年及2014年试题数目减少为10题);(2)阅读理解测试题型多样,设计更科学,包括选择、简答题、正误判断、填写概要、补充段落以及段落排序等;(3)翻译试题难度基本保持不变;(4)智力测试试题难度降低;(5)作文难度逐步增加,作文字数有增加的趋势,且更倾向于图表作文等。

为帮助广大考生熟悉竞赛的题型和内容,在竞赛中发挥出应有的水平,本书在前四版的基础上,新增加了2014年初赛和2014年决赛真题。至此,本书囊括了2010年至2014年英语专业本科生类别的10套初赛和决赛真题。同时,本书还提供了两套模拟题,供考生模拟演练。每套真题均给出了标准答案并做了详细解析,配有听力原文和MP3格式的光盘(2012年决赛听力录音略),每篇作文都给出了参考范文,是应考全国大学生英语竞赛、提高英语综合能力的宝贵资料。

本书编者均为大学英语教学的一线骨干教师,持续关注NECCS考试,多次参与监考、评卷等工作,并将多年教学科研的心得体会融入本书编写之中,对竞赛的题型、考点进行了系统分析,相信会较好地起到答疑解惑、举一反三的作用,帮助考生在“真题实战”中学习提高、增强本领。

本书自出版以来,深受广大考生的喜爱,也收到了一些非常有价值的反馈意见,我们在认真汲取的基础上,做了一些有建设性的改进,但由于水平有限,难免存在疏漏和不足,敬请批评指正。

编者

2014年11月

第 4 版前言

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students,简称 NECCS)是经教育部有关部门批准,由高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会和高等学校大学外语教学研究会联合主办的全国唯一的大学生英语综合能力竞赛。该竞赛的命题依据《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》等文件,既参考现行的各种大学英语教材,又不依据任何一种教材,既源于当代大学生的学习和生活,又侧重于检测考生的英语综合水平。竞赛赛题的内容注重体现真实性、实用性、交流性和时代性。

近年来,竞赛题型在保持相对稳定和连贯的基础上,也发生了一些结构性和比重性的变化,主要体现在:(1)将完形填空调整到阅读理解的前面,完形填空赛题难度系数相对降低,试题数量减少(2010年、2012年、2013年试题数目减少为10题);(2)阅读理解测试题型多样,设计更科学;(3)智力测试试题难度降低;(4)作文难度逐步增加,作文字数有增加的趋势,且更倾向于图表作文,等等。

为帮助广大考生熟悉竞赛的题型和内容,在竞赛中发挥出应有的水平,本书在前三版的基础上,新增加了2013年初赛和2013年决赛真题。至此,本书囊括了2009年至2013年英语专业本科生类别的10套初赛和决赛真题。同时,本书还提供了两套模拟题,供考生模拟演练。每套真题均给出了标准答案并做了详细解析,配有听力原文和MP3格式的光盘(2012年决赛听力录音略),每篇作文都给出了参考范文,是应对全国大学生英语竞赛、提高英语综合能力的难得资料。

本书编者均为大学英语教学的一线骨干教师,持续关注 NECCS 考试,多次参与监考、评卷等工作,并将多年潜心研究的心得融入本书编写之中,对竞赛的题型、考点进行了系统分析,相信会对考生起到答疑解惑、举一反三的参考作用。

本书自出版以来,深受广大考生喜爱,也收到了一些非常有价值的反馈意见,我们在认真汲取的基础上,做了一些有建设性的改进,但由于水平有限,难免存在疏漏和不足,敬请批评指正。

编 者

2013 年 11 月

第3版前言

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students,简称NECCS)是经教育部批准、全国唯一的大学生英语综合能力竞赛,至今已经成功举办了14届。随着竞赛的日益规范和“参与面”的不断提高,其影响力和知名度越来越大,竞赛成绩也越来越被社会重视和认可。从某种意义上说,全国大学生英语竞赛(NECCS)已经成为检验广大英语学习者英语能力和水平的一个重要标准。

本书秉承“原汁原味、真题真解”的宗旨,在前两版的基础上,新增加了2012年初赛和2012年决赛真题。至此,本书囊括了2008年至2012年英语专业本科生类别的10套初赛和决赛真题。同时,本书还提供了两套模拟题,供考生模拟演练。所有试题均配有听力原文和MP3格式的光盘(2012年决赛听力录音略),每套试题都给出了标准答案,并做了详细解析,每篇作文都给出了参考范文,是应对全国大学生英语竞赛、提高英语综合能力的难得资料。

本书编者均为大学英语一线骨干教师,持续关注NECCS考试,多次参与监考、评卷等工作,并将多年潜心研究的心得融入本书编写之中,对竞赛的题型、考点进行了系统分析,能够对考生起到解疑释惑、举一反三的参考作用。

本书出版以来,深受广大考生喜爱,也收到了一些非常有价值的反馈意见,我们在认真汲取的基础上,做了一些有建设性的改进。但由于水平有限,难免存在疏漏和不足,敬请批评指正。

编者

2012年10月

第2版前言

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students,简称NECCS)到目前为止已经举办了13届。竞赛凭借其对知识储量要求大、英语综合应用能力强、题型灵活规范等特点,赢得了社会各界广泛高度关注,吸引了越来越多的考生加入,竞赛成绩越来越得到社会的重视和认可,竞赛证书的分量也越来越重。可以说,全国大学生英语竞赛(NECCS)已经成为衡量广大英语学习者的英语能力和水平的一个重要标尺。

本书秉承“原汁原味、真题真解”的一贯宗旨,在第1版的基础上,新增加了2010年决赛、2011年初赛和2011年决赛真题。至此,本书囊括了2007~2011年英语专业本科生类别的10套初赛和决赛真题。同时,本书还精心提供了两套模拟题,供大家实战练习。对所有真题和模拟题均配有翔实的听力原文和MP3格式的光盘,且对每套真题和模拟题给出答案,做出详细解析,对每篇作文给出了参考范文,是难得的应考复习资料。

本书编者均为大学英语一线骨干教师,多年关注NECCS,参与了竞赛监考、阅卷及评卷等工作。在编写本书的过程中有重点、有针对性地对竞赛题型、考点进行了系统分析,力求对考生起到解疑释惑、举一反三的作用。

本书出版以来,受到了广大参赛考生的欢迎,也收到了许多反馈,在吸取大家意见的基础上,我们也对本书进行了一些改进。由于水平有限,书中错误和疏漏在所难免,敬请批评指正。

编者

2011年12月

前 言

全国大学生英语竞赛(National English Contest for College Students,简称NECCS)是经教育部批准举办的全国唯一的大学英语综合能力竞赛活动,由高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会和高等学校大学外语教学研究会主办。到目前为止已经举办了12届。

本竞赛旨在促进大学生英语水平的全面提高,激发广大大学生学习英语的兴趣,鼓励英语学习成绩优秀的大学生。开展此项竞赛活动,有助于学生夯实和扩展英语基础知识和基本技能,全面提高大学生英语综合运用能力。

全国大学生英语B类竞赛初、决赛笔试满分均为150分(主观题占90分,客观题占60分),其中听力均为30分。决赛口试满分为50分。赛题既考查大学生的英语基础知识和基本技能,又侧重考查大学生的英语综合运用能力、阅读能力和智力水平,并且针对英语专业学生考查英语国家的文化常识、文学作品等,尤其是作文部分常常以文学作品形式出现。竞赛借鉴国内外英语测试新题型及测试方法,在保持题型相对稳定性和连续性的基础上每次都有所创新。竞赛内容加大了语篇层次上语言运用能力的考查,同时设计一些考查智力和综合运用英语能力的赛题,以增加赛题的区分度。

本书是专为参加全国大学生英语竞赛B类考生(英语专业学生)编写的一本复习资料。其内容为2007年~2010年B类的7套真题以及3套模拟题,共计10套题。每套题均给出答案与解析。考生多做历年真外,有助于了解考题的命题特点和出题规律,模拟题有利于强化训练。答案与解析则有助于考生自学,掌握解题技巧和思路。

本书含有听力原文的竞赛真题均配有MP3格式的录音。

由于编者水平有限,书中错误和疏漏在所难免,敬请批评指正。

编 者

2010年12月

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2015 年全国大学生英语竞赛 B 类初赛赛卷

2015 National English Contest for College Students

(Level B — Preliminary)

(总分:150 分 时间:120 分钟)

Part I Listening Comprehension (30 marks)

Section A (5 marks)

In this section, you will hear **five** short conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, there will be a **fifteen-second** pause. During the pause, read the question and the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **Answer Sheet** with a single line through the centre.

1. What kind of program is Doctor Levy describing?

- A. Yoga. B. Art. C. Comedy. D. Drama.

2. What is the woman trying to stop the man doing?

- A. Smoking in a public area. B. Taking photographs.
C. Entering the building. D. Harassing other visitors.

3. Why is the woman going to attend the class?

- A. She can't think of any excuse for being absent.
B. She is not interested in swimming.
C. She wants to keep up with her classmates.
D. She has been absent for two weeks.

4. What do we learn about the woman?

- A. She has never met the man before. B. She knows the man's father well.
C. She is a distant relative of the man. D. She is one of the man's students.

5. What does the woman ask her husband to do?

- A. Make less noise at night. B. Fit new windows in the room.
C. Stop bothering the students. D. Complain to their neighbors.

Section B (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear **two** long conversations. Each conversation will be read only **once**. At the end of each conversation, there will be a **one-minute** pause. During the pause, read the questions and the **four** choices marked **A, B, C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **Answer Sheet** with a single line through the centre.

Conversation One

6. When was the International Friendship Club established?
A. Five years ago. B. Three years ago. C. A month ago. D. Three weeks ago.
7. What does a club member have to pay for?
A. Watching films. B. Newsletter subscriptions.
C. Joining the social programme. D. Special arranged trips.
8. What reward can an active participant get?
A. A special certificate. B. A free newsletter.
C. A recommendation letter. D. A golden medal.
9. How much is the membership fee?
A. £ 4 for a term. B. £ 15 for an academic year.
C. £ 3 for a term. D. £ 12 for an academic year.
10. What does one need to provide to become a club member?
A. Name and address. B. Name and nationality.
C. Name and age. D. Name and gender.

Conversation Two

11. Who is Jennifer Jenkins?
A. A lecturer of English Literature. B. A lecturer of English History.
C. A lecturer of International English. D. A lecturer of Applied linguistics.
12. What is said to be International English?
A. English spoken by the majority of non-native speakers.
B. English widely used in academic circles.
C. English spoken by both native and non-native speakers.
D. English used in the teaching of the language.
13. Why is the sound [θ] or [ð] missed out in International English?
A. People can communicate without being able to pronounce it.
B. It is too difficult to teach such unique sounds in English.
C. Most non-native speakers aren't used to pronouncing it.
D. Many non-native speakers don't try to imitate native speakers.
14. What is the most important factor in International English according to Jennifer Jenkins?
A. Pronunciation. B. Usage. C. Grammar. D. Spelling.
15. Why are more and more people learning International English?
A. It is gaining popularity.
B. It is much easier to learn.
C. It is more helpful in job hunting.
D. Native speakers of English accept it readily.

Section C (5 marks)

*In this section, you will hear **five** short news items. After each item, which will be read only **once**, there will be a **fifteen-second** pause. During the pause, read the question and the **four** choices*

marked **A**, **B**, **C** and **D**, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **Answer Sheet** with a single line through the centre.

16. What caused the boat wreck?

- A. The boat leaked during the voyage.
- B. There was a big storm in the Mediterranean.
- C. People on the boat were frightened by a whale in the sea.
- D. People crowded to one side of the boat.

17. What is said about the 7:15 train to London?

- A. It has been cancelled.
- B. It will leave from a different platform.
- C. It has been delayed.
- D. It will arrive as scheduled.

18. What is the speaker reporting?

- A. A plane crash.
- B. An explosion.
- C. An earthquake.
- D. A car accident.

19. How many people were killed in the storm?

- A. 200.
- B. 16.
- C. 25.
- D. 75.

20. Why does the President Obama call for the use of more body cameras?

- A. To prevent further campus violence.
- B. To increase the confidence of police officers.
- C. To strengthen the police force.
- D. To build trust between local residents and the police.

Section D (10 marks)

In this section, you will hear a short passage. For questions 21—30, complete the notes using **three words or fewer** for each blank. The passage will be read **twice**. Remember to write the answers on the **Answer Sheet**.

Addicted to the Net?

◆ Symptoms of Internet addiction:

- i. A constant (21) _____ to get online.
- ii. Feelings of (22) _____ when not online
- iii. Using the Internet to find satisfaction, to (23) _____, lying to family about the time spent on the Internet.

* **Net addict:** A person shows (24) _____ of these symptoms throughout the year.

◆ Three factors that make the Internet addictive:

- (25) _____, control, and excitement.
- With access to the Internet, people can go online at any time to (26) _____ in gambling, bidding in auction for (27) _____ and to satisfy whims.
- People who have a lot more control over their finances tend to develop an (28) _____ monitoring their investments.
- The excitement surrounding compulsive activity often becomes a (29) _____ encouraging future behavior.

In the future, (30) _____ and wireless access way increase addiction rates among Internet users.

Part II Vocabulary, Grammar & Cultures (15 marks)

There are 15 incomplete sentences in this section. For each blank there are **four** choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on the **Answer Sheet** with a single line through the centre.

Section A Vocabulary and Grammar (10 marks)

31. In my free time I wear _____ clothes—jeans and a shirt, things like that.
A. random B. casual C. convenient D. unprofessional
32. Six out of ten women admit they regularly give _____ to temptation as the main reason for shopping on _____.
A. up; instinct B. up; consciousness C. in; impulse D. in; response
33. Individuals can and should make their own legal decisions _____ who their employer is.
A. except for B. by virtue of C. in the light of D. regardless of
34. We go to Mt. Qomolangma not only with the personal goal of _____ the summit, but we also _____ a purpose higher than to simply stand on top of the world.
A. conquering; strive for B. ascending; hope for
C. overwhelming; carry out D. climbing; work out
35. When travelling, you are advised to take your credit card, which provides a secure _____ to carrying your money in cash.
A. selection B. preference C. alternative D. replacement
36. A minority language is often put _____, for it lives in the shadow of a culturally dominant language, for example, Irish in _____ of English.
A. at risk; that B. at will; case C. at last; favor D. at ease; spite
37. _____ the geography class, Mandy went to the teacher and asked for the assignment.
A. Having been missed B. Being missed
C. Having missed D. Missing
38. If you want a shop to keep something for you until later, you may have to _____.
A. request a discount B. give a refund
C. open an account D. pay a deposit
39. —They are building a new entertainment complex at the end of the road.
—Have you only just heard of it? I've known it for ages. In fact, I'm sure I told you about it last week.
—_____ But I've been forgetting things lately. My memory is failing.
A. It's only your imagination. B. You probably did.
C. You can say that again. D. How annoying!
40. —Could you please write down the prescription for me?
—_____
A. No. You need to see a doctor first.
B. Yes. You can buy the medicine from any drugstore.
C. Certainly. I'll do it for you right away.

D. Well. Prevention is better than cure.

Section B Culture (5 marks)

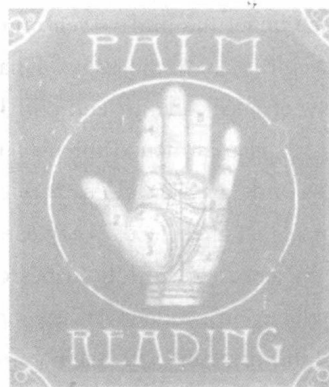
41. Chinese poetry and philosophy have exerted great influence on _____.
 A. Ezra Pound B. Ralph Waldo Emerson
 C. Robert Frost D. Emily Dickinson
42. Which degree is offered in community colleges in the United States?
 A. Master's degree. B. Doctor's degree.
 C. Bachelor's degree. D. Associate's degree.
43. Which of the following is James Joyce's work?
 A. *A Tale of Two Cities*. B. *Vanity Fair*.
 C. *Ulysses*. D. *Jude the Obscure*.
44. The most famous Arts Festival is the _____ International Festival of Music and Drama. It takes place for a period of 3 to 4 weeks between August and September.
 A. Belfast B. Edinburgh C. Liverpool D. Cardiff
45. The word "holiday" originally meant "holy day", but now it signifies any day on which we don't have to work. This is an example of _____.
 A. meaning shift B. widening of meaning
 C. narrowing of meaning D. loss of meaning

Part III Cloze (10 marks)

Read the following passage and fill in each blank with **one** word. Choose the correct word in one of the following **three** ways: according to the context, by using the correct form of the given word, or by using the given letter(s) of the word. Remember to write the answers on the **Answer Sheet**.

The ancient art of reading someone's palm has always been (46) a _____ the most popular ways of foretelling the future. After all, you don't have to believe it, and the best thing about it is that it doesn't require a lot of time or expensive (47) eq _____ either. But many are skeptical that palm reading has any scientific basis at all. (48) _____ could be more ridiculous than the idea that our future can be predicted from the random lines and creases on our hands? Cynics claim that palmists use other clues to gain their "amazing" insights. In (49) _____ words, the more experienced and observant the reader is, the better they become at noticing things which help them to "predict" the future. While the more cynical the "victim" is, the (50) _____ likely they are to believe a word of it!

However, scientists at the University of Barcelona have discovered that palmistry may have some basis in scientific truth. (51) _____ (compare) the palms of 140 children, they



discovered that the more arches and loops children have on their palms, the more likely they are to be (52) _____ (intellectual) impaired. And the existence of a Simian line—a rare, crease across the palm—appears to be one of the most reliable (53) _____ (indicate) of mental deficiency. This may be connected with events between the thirteenth and eighteenth weeks of pregnancy, a crucial time for brain (54) dev _____ and the period when fingerprints are formed. So maybe there is some truth in what the palm reader says and there is nothing more guaranteed to cheer you up than the news that you are about to meet a tall dark stranger (55) w _____ will change your life for the better.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (35 marks)

Read the following passages. Each passage is followed by several questions. Respond to the questions using information from the passage. Remember to write the answers on the Answer Sheet.

Section A (5 marks)

Questions 56—60 are based on the following passage.

Eagles, soaring high, powerful, and fearless, have always made people think of strength, freedom and courage. For this reason, countries, empires, and rulers from ancient Egypt, Persia, and Rome to the modern United States have made eagles their symbol. The bald eagle became the United States' national bird in 1782 when Congress adopted a design depicting the bird for the Great Seal of the United States.



Most Americans have seen enough pictures and emblems to recognize an eagle. Surprisingly, few know much about the bird. Even ornithologists, people who study birds, do not know a great deal. It is difficult to study the eagle's habits because it is dangerous and fierce. Also, it nests high up in trees or on mountains and cliff ledges which are difficult to reach.

Eagles are found throughout the world except in Antarctica and a few remote islands. Whereas most birds are vegetarians eating fruit and seeds, eagles are birds of prey—they hunt other birds and animals for their food. They eat reptiles, small mammals, and birds up to the size of small turkeys. In ancient times, in the tribes of northern Russia, golden eagles were used to hunt small deer and antelope. In Scotland, these same golden eagles have been known to carry away lambs from flocks, picking them up with their powerful talons and flying away to a mountain crag with their victims. They kill with their talons and dismember with their hooked bills which are nearly as long as their heads.

It is possible to recognize eagles by their large, broad wingspread, their wide tails that are spread like a fan in flight, their soaring, gliding flight, and the way they are able to hover in the sky when they spot their prey below. Their eyes are very keen and so is their hearing, but they seem to have a poor sense of smell.

The name “eagle” comes from the Roman name for the golden eagle. The golden eagle is dark brown with a golden wash over its head and neck—hence its name. The adult has a brown tail, while the young bird’s tail is white. Unlike other birds and eagles, the golden eagle’s legs are feathered down to the toes. Females grow to about three feet (about one meter) from the tip of the beak to the tip of the tail. Males are smaller as is usual for most birds of prey. Most golden eagles nest on cliff ledges, but they may also choose high trees. They used to be found throughout most of the Northern Hemisphere, but they are nearly extinct in most of the British Isles and are now rare in the east of the Rocky Mountains in North America.

The bald eagle is one of the sea eagles. Its name is a misnomer because the bird does not lack feathers. The name comes from an old word meaning “marked with white” which is appropriate because the mature bald eagle has a white head and tail. The rest of its body is blackish brown. It is about the same size as the golden eagle. However, the bald eagle has a longer and heavier bill which is bright yellow rather than gray.



The bald eagle inhabits lakes and streams as well as coastal regions. It is found in North America, from Alaska to Florida and south into Mexico. For a time its population was greatly decreased mainly because of pesticide poisoning. By 1970, it was estimated that there were about 1,000 in existence. However, since the D.D.T ban of 1972 and use of repopulation, the number has increased significantly to more than 5,000.

The bald eagle feeds on fish and any trash it can find; however, it is also a robber, either pirating its food from other birds or picking up dead fish on the shore. As a matter of fact, it looks rather like a pirate with its big, hooked beak and intimidating yellow eyes.

There is still a great deal to be learned about these formidable birds. They are frightening, but they are fascinating. They are ruthless but remarkable. They are cruel, but there is nothing more beautiful than seeing an eagle soaring high in the sky.

Questions 56 to 60: Mark each statement as either true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

56. The eagle has become the symbol of courage, liberty and power.
57. Another unusual feature about eagles is that they have excellent sense of smell.
58. Most golden eagles are similar to birds in that their legs are feathered down to the toes.
59. The golden eagle and the bald eagle are about the same length.
60. It is found that the eagles are becoming an endangered species in the Northern Hemisphere.

Section B (10 marks)

Questions 61—65 are based on the following passage.

You may not know it, but your body is constantly under attack. The enemies are microscopic invaders called “microbes” or “germs”. Microbes, such as bacteria and viruses, are all around