

**I. Vocabulary 15%**

1. The splendid park is \_\_\_\_\_ to the beautiful lake.  
(A) consonant (B) conspicuous (C) congruous (D) contiguous
2. The neighboring countries were inevitably drawn into the \_\_\_\_\_ of war.  
(A) virility (B) virtuosity (C) velocity (D) vortex
3. Every time McDonald's offers a new toy with their Happy Meals, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ of mums taking their kids to the nearest store.  
(A) stampede (B) transaction (C) commodity (D) arrears
4. I wish my parents were more \_\_\_\_\_. They never let me do anything I want to do.  
(A) authoritarian (B) prenuptial (C) lenient (D) judicious
5. The company appears to be unable to \_\_\_\_\_ their claims as to the effectiveness of the herbal medicine. I think it should be taken off the shelves.  
(A) substantiate (B) allege (C) insulate (D) fluctuate
6. There are still plenty of reasons for caution in these \_\_\_\_\_ times, including crude oil prices stuck above US\$75 a barrel.  
(A) volatile (B) volition (C) voluptuous (D) voluntary
7. Hundreds of dissidents in the riot areas have been \_\_\_\_\_ and imprisoned and many more will be.  
(A) interrogated (B) reminisced (C) tabulated (D) vigilance
8. As dermatologists recommend, bringing any shades help to \_\_\_\_\_ radiation under the sun.  
(A) obfuscate (B) excavate (C) emulate (D) attenuate
9. The governor concluded that, because the city's fiscal problems were \_\_\_\_\_ by entrenched mismanagement, providing rescue funding would be foolhardy.  
(A) supplanted (B) mitigated (C) ascertained (D) exacerbated
10. Because Russell was such a memorable and \_\_\_\_\_ public speaker, many people mistook his ability to talk about a wide range of topics for genuine \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) enervating; inquisitiveness (B) charismatic; animosity  
(C) daunting; diffidence (D) adroit; erudition
11. Ellen respects Gary's qualities of broad-mindedness and humanism; she cannot, however, \_\_\_\_\_ them with his \_\_\_\_\_ support of political creed that seems to oppose precisely those qualities.  
(A) reconcile; dogmatic (B) repudiate; jingoistic  
(C) assuage; logical (D) acknowledge; polemical
12. What had begun as good-natured teasing quickly gave way to \_\_\_\_\_ as the lost hikers blamed one another for their predicament.  
(A) supplications (B) permutations (C) recriminations (D) salutations
13. Like cartoonists, some painters seek to communicate character \_\_\_\_\_, but this economy of means is not artistic shallowness.

- (A) precociously      (B) succinctly      (C) ludicrously      (D) sinuously
14. Ramona practiced ceaselessly, but even such \_\_\_\_\_ efforts could not compensate for the poor performance of her teammates.
- (A) dilatory      (B) unremitting      (C) perfunctory      (D) clandestine
15. Harper Lee cannot be called \_\_\_\_\_ writer as she has published only one major work; however, her writing in that novel is so \_\_\_\_\_, so sharply perceptive, that it has earned her enduring popularity.
- (A) a productive; convoluted      (B) a prolific; trenchant  
(C) a verbose; timorous      (D) an astute; probing

## II. Discourse Analysis 10%

President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday apologized over a controversial Accounting Act amendment, saying that the Cabinet will propose a reconsideration of the Legislature's resolution.

During the revision of the act, there were a lot of controversies, \_\_16\_\_; therefore, the government needs to reexamine itself, the president said.

The revision of the act was reportedly intended to exempt legislators and professors from being audited over research grants and special allowances, following the indictment of more than 500 professors who argued that they were being persecuted over a technicality. The amendment passed by the Legislature, however, did not include the word "professor" due to a "typo," \_\_17\_\_.

If the newly amended law had taken effect, former lawmaker Yen Ching-piao, who was imprisoned for misusing public funds, would've been released following the decriminalization, \_\_18\_\_, according to local reports.

The cabinet's initial stance was to allow for a liberal interpretation of the act rather than propose a reconsideration.

Ma convened a meeting with Vice President Wu Den-yih, Premier Jiang Yi-huah, Legislative Speaker Wang Jin-pyng and Kuomintang (KMT) Secretary-General Tseng Yung-chuan at the Presidential Office. The meeting lasted roughly two hours.

Afterwards, the president held a press conference, \_\_19\_\_. The reason for the move is that there needs to be the same standard for elected officials and university professors, Ma said, \_\_20\_\_.

- (A) whereas the aforementioned professors would still face prosecution
- (B) with more than two-thirds of the lawmakers in attendance voting to uphold the resolution
- (C) saying that the Executive Yuan would file for a reconsideration
- (D) which harmed the public's trust in the administration
- (E) as the Executive Yuan may request a reconsideration of legislative resolutions following the president's approval
- (F) adding that there also needs to be a distinction between using funds for appropriate

ends and using funds for personal gains

(G) leading to a debate over the act's applicability

### III. Reading Comprehension 20%

A.

There is a new cell-phone ring tone that can't be heard by most people over the age of twenty, according to an NPR report. The tone is derived from something called the Mosquito, a device invented by a Welsh security firm for the noble purpose of driving hooligans, yobs, scamps, ne'er-do-wells, scapegraces, ruffians, tosspots, and bravos away from places where grownups are attempting to ply an honest trade. The device emits a seventeen-kilohertz buzz, a pitch that is too high for older ears to register but, as we learn from additional reporting by the Times, is "ear-splitting" for younger people. A person or persons unknown have produced a copy of the Mosquito buzz for use as a cell-phone ring tone, evidently with the idea that it will enable students to receive notification of new text messages while sitting in class, without the knowledge of the teacher.

The Times, in a welcome but highly uncharacteristic embrace of anarchy, celebrated this development as an ingenious guerrilla tactic in youth's eternal war against adult authority "a bit of techno-jujitsu," as the paper put it. But it's not entirely clear which side is the winner here. When you hear the tone, it apparently sets your teeth on edge, which means that, if the entire class suddenly grimaces, it's a good bet that one of the students just got a text message. (Which probably says "sup." Youth, as George Bernard Shaw correctly observed, is wasted on the young.) Anyway, what was wrong with "vibrate only?"

21. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) criticize the obsession of today's youth with technology.
- (B) make a parody of useless modern inventions.
- (C) describe the technical specs of this new ring tone.
- (D) introduce a new ilk of technology and initiate a discussion of its true efficacy.

22. Why is it important to note the "highly uncharacteristic embrace of anarchy" by the Times?

- (A) The deviation from the norm of the publication calls even more attention to the new technology by piquing readers' attention.
- (B) Such a prevalent publication's encouragement of anarchy could be perceived by the government as a serious threat.
- (C) It suggests that it is being used ironically by the Times to actually express disapproval.
- (D) Older adults need to be worried about the increasingly aggressive tactics of youth.

23. What is the author trying to convey by describing young people as "hooligans, yobs, scamps, ne'er-do-wells, scapegraces, ruffians, tosspots, and bravos"?

- (A) The opinion that, whatever name you call them by, young people will continue to disturb business transactions.
- (B) A sense of criticism on the part of older adults who feel patronizing toward young people.

- (C) An insulting tone implying the ignorance of youth.
- (D) Support for embracing jargon when communicating between people of different generations.

B.

Is there no way to recognize and reconcile the two undeniable extremes of art: its urgent, realistic depiction of human life and its retreat to a self-reflexive realm of language, forms, and ideas? I can answer only with a parable. Many years ago when I lived in Texas I was stuck by a type of side road fairly common along with highways of that state. Called “loop roads” and assigned a state number, these routes ran a few miles into the countryside, sometimes to a homestead of small community, and returned to the highway at the same point or a little farther on, thus forming a loop. They were neither dead ends nor connecting roads to another highway. By taking one of these loop roads you could explore the landscape, change your direction, break your journey, and perhaps discover an impressive outlook or landmark, knowing that you would return to your original path after the detour. I sensed even then that such roads would later furnish a compact analogy for something I could not yet identify.

A work of art or literature removes us temporarily from the regular path of our lives and diverts us into a partly imaginary domain where we can encounter thoughts and feelings that would not have occurred to us on the highway. These side experiences differ from our daily lives. In literature they are made up of words—disembodied, intense, complex, wonderfully malleable, and convincing. These differences permit a literary work to probe disturbingly deep into potential relation among character, action, thought, and the natural world. We accept the differences and expect them to observe or exceed certain conventions of plausibility and exaggeration, usefulness and fantasy. At the same time we know that this “detour” of art will deliver us back before long into the track of our lives, which may be changed or influenced in some manner by this side trip.

This loop analogy presents a work of art as a form of delay or relay along the path of living. Its processes are only temporarily autonomous; they turn off from and return to the realities of human existence. Humans have a great capacity for delayed response, for foresight based on hindsight. Artists and writers refine and develop this faculty by constantly rehearsing real and imaginary events in order somehow to get them right—in timing and tone. This process of pausing to reflect, of rehearsing (both before and after the fact) the consequences of our actions, has always inspired human artistic creativity. Art is free to try all the genres and modes it can imagine; some of them travel a long way from reality. Its responsibility is to return us to reality better prepared to continue our journey.

24. The tone of the passage might best be described as

- (A) openly critical
- (B) personal and reflective
- (C) cautiously argumentative
- (D) nostalgic and uncertain

25. Which statement best describes the extremes of art?

- (A) Any representation of life depends on the usual artistic means of expression.
- (B) Art makes the mundane appear more aesthetic appealing.
- (C) Art should not compromise its portrayal of using complex language.
- (D) Art can represent either the external concrete world or the abstract world.

26. As used in paragraph 2, the idea of a “detour” represents

- (A) a work of art as different from everyday life
- (B) the fact that art can be a guide through life
- (C) the fact that art is intentionally misleading
- (D) the stylistic shift that inevitably occurs in a field of art

C.

Prehistoric peoples subsisted for the most part as hunters and gatherers; they were dependent on what the ecosystem could provide naturally and probably did little or nothing, apart from devising more effective methods of hunting, to modify that output. However, this should not be taken as meaning they had no impact on their environment. Undoubtedly the animals they shared the plains and forests with, including some very large and impressive species, comprised an important part of the human diet. Assuming our ancestors were more than just scavengers; that they actively sought and killed their prey, they would have had at least as great an effect on the populations of those animals as did any other predator. In actuality, the impact was probable much greater given the relatively advanced capacity of humans to learn from mistakes; to modify their behavior based on observed results, and to pass on the accumulating lessons from generation to generation.

Among paleontologists there is an important controversy centering on the question of just how profound the effect of human activity was on prehistoric wildlife; in particular, how much human hunters contributed to the sudden disappearance of so many species of large animals from the North American continent between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago, at or near the end of the Pleistocene Epoch. One school of thought attributes the extinctions to climatic change too abrupt to allow adaptation by larger species. Another group, however, points to a different possibility. They support the view that the prehistoric *Homo sapiens* drove many of those species to extinction, mainly through over hunting. This has come to be known as the “Pleistocene Overkill Hypothesis.”

This theory helps explain what, in its absence, could only be regarded as a remarkable coincidence between the arrival of prehistoric peoples in the Western Hemisphere and the disappearance of mammoths, giant ground sloths, the giant bison, and numerous other large land mammals. Maybe, as the theory’s proponent’s claim, human-caused extinction is not exclusively a modern phenomenon; perhaps the human species has been driving other species to extinction since long before the dawn of history, and in complex ways that go beyond the immediate result of killing individual animals for food.

The reduction of animal populations through direct predation might be the most obvious mechanism of influence, but it may not have been the only one. Human hunter-gatherers could have contributed to the Pleistocene extinctions in more indirect ways. At least three other mechanisms have been suggested: direct competition, human-included

imbalances between competing species of game animals, and early agricultural practices.

Direct competition might have brought about the demise of large carnivores; animals such as the saber-toothed cats. Though probably too formidable to have been the objects of human hunting activity themselves, these animals would have preyed on many of the same species humans hunted. Their strength and speed would have proved inadequate when faced with human competition. Consequently, they would have suffered as the numbers of potential prey shrank.

Human activity could have created competitive imbalances among prey species as well. It is a generally recognized characteristic of predation that when non-human hunters, even those that hunt cooperatively, like wolves for example, prey on animals larger than themselves, they generally take higher proportions of each year's population of young. This is simply opportunism combined with risk reduction. The young are the most vulnerable and the least likely to cause injury to the predator during the kill. In contrast, human hunters, benefiting from their intelligence, ingenuity and adaptability, suffer fewer limitations and risks. As a result, when hunting larger animals, they tend to take the various age-groups in closer proportion to their actual occurrence.

If human hunters first competed with the larger predators and then eventually replaced them, they may have allowed more of the young of certain prey species to survive with each successive year, thus allowing the populations of these favored species to increase. As these populations expanded, they would have competed with other game species for the same inventory of environmental resources. Ultimately and somewhat ironically, this could have led to the extinction of the species less often hunted by humans.

27. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) The effects of human activities on prehistoric wildlife.
- (B) The origins of the hunter-gatherer way of life.
- (C) The evolution of predators during the Pleistocene Epoch.
- (D) Why humans were the most effective Pleistocene predators.

28. According to the Pleistocene Overkill Hypothesis, all of the following contributed to the Pleistocene extinctions EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) the hunting practices of humans.
- (B) competition between species of prey animals.
- (C) competition between predators.
- (D) climate change.

29. The author mentions saber-toothed cats in paragraph 5 as an example of a predator that \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) became extinct before the Pleistocene Epoch.
- (B) was unusually large for its time.
- (C) might not have been able to compete with humans.
- (D) caused the extinction of several species.

30. In paragraph 7, the author suggests that populations of prey animals \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) benefit from having a larger proportion of young.

- (B) have more young when under greater pressure from predators.
- (C) have fewer young as adults are killed off.
- (D) are usually effective in protecting their young from predators.

#### **IV. Test Design 20%**

Please adapt the following passage into a five-blank cloze test with answers

A.

Casino owners guard reports of revenue, but it might be safe to guess that boxing clearly has been good for them. Depending on arrangements of seats, Dark Diamond can fill between 1,800 to 2,800 seats on a fight night. “First-class boxing matches have had a positive impact on casino revenue,” is all marketing gurus at the casino will admit to. “We don’t give out details on dollars,” Gino Panini, Head of Marketing at Dark Diamond, acknowledges, “but I can say boxing is not a nickel-and-dime operation for us.”

Food, wine, and gambling also increase during boxing contests, although Panini won’t give specifics about that, either. “There’s a solid impact on fight nights,” he says.

Boxing can increasingly be found in southwestern casinos as well as the outdoor casinos located on Indian reservations, like the one owned by the Seminole Indian Tribe. However, the brightest spotlights and largest crowds are reserved for the 185,000-square-foot Dark Diamond Casino, near Red Valley, home to more than a dozen title fights in the last three years.

From its first fight card in the spring of 2003, Dark Diamond Casino officials have done their best to emphasize the concept of first-class fights and have earned the respect of fight followers all across the nation. They may keep their lips sealed about the earnings, but it looks like the future is wide open for the boxing-casino partnership.

Please design five reading questions with answers based on the following passage

B.

In a study performed by the Harvard Businessman and University of North Carolina, two groups of researchers have tried to answer the question of whether music sharing on the Internet has actually proved detrimental to CD sales or not. Researchers found that the average user doing music sharing on the net logged in only twice during the period of study, downloading about 17 songs. Some people overshot that average, however. One user apparently logged in 71 times, downloading more than 5,000 songs.

Two professors narrowed their sample base by choosing a random sample of 500 albums from the sales charts of various music genres and then compared the sales of these albums to the number of associated downloads.

Even in the most pessimistic version of their model, they found that it would take about 5,000 downloads to displace sales of just one physical CD. Despite the huge scale of downloading worldwide, that would be only a tiny contribution to the overall slide in album

sales over the past several years, they said.

Furthermore, their data seemed to show that downloads could even have a slightly positive effect on the sales of the top albums, the researchers said. The study is unlikely to be the last word on the issue. Previous studies have been released showing that file sharing had both positive and negative effects on music sales. The Recording Industry Association of America was quick to dismiss the results as inconsistent with early findings.

**V. Essay 35% (15%for question 1 and 20% for question 2)**

1. To most students, studies of English poetry are either dispensable or joy-killing. Create a three-course teaching plan that would help initiate the tenth graders who have never accessed English poetry into an appreciation of the following English poem. Also, you are required to assign some activities related to the poem to make learning the poem more compelling.

Whenever Richard Cory went down town,  
We people on the pavement looked at him:  
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,  
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,  
And he was always human when he talked;  
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,  
“Good-morning,” and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich—yes, richer than a king—  
And admirably schooled in every grace:  
In fine, we thought that he was everything  
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,  
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;  
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,  
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

*~Edwin Arlington Robinson*

2. Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below:

“Discipline” is a negative word for many people because it is associated with rigorous training, strict rules, and strong self-control. But we fail to realize that freedom comes only through discipline. Discipline compels us to sacrifice immediate rewards and pleasures, but it also gives our lives structure and prevents us from making costly



mistakes. It keeps us from being subject to our impulses and weaknesses and thus frees us to achieve our true goals.

**Assignment:** Do people need discipline to achieve freedom? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.