

# 武汉大学

## 2017 年攻读博士学位研究生外语综合水平考试试题

(满分值 100 分)

科目名称: 英语

科目代码: 1101

注意: 所有的答题内容必须写在答题纸上, 凡写在试题或草稿纸上的一律无效。

### Part I Reading Comprehension (2×20=40 分)

*Directions: In this part for the test, there will be 5 passages for you to read. Each passage is followed by 4 questions or unfinished statement, and each question or unfinished statement is followed by four choices marked A, B, C and D. You are to decide on the best choice by blackening the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET.*

#### Passage One

Mr. Gordon is right that the second industrial revolution involved never-to-be-repeated changes. But that does not mean that driverless cars count for nothing. Messrs Erixon and Weigel are also right to worry about the West's dismal recent record in producing new companies. But many old firms are not run by bureaucrats and have reinvented themselves many times over: General Electric must be on at least its ninth life. And the impact of giant new firms born in the past 20 years such as Uber, Google and Facebook should not be underestimated: they have all the Schumpeterian characteristics the authors admire.

On the pessimists' side the strongest argument relies not on closely watching corporate and investor behavior but rather on macro-level statistics on productivity. The figures from recent years are truly dismal. Karim Foda, of the Brookings Institution, calculates that labor productivity in the rich world is growing at its slowest rate since 1950. Total factor productivity (which tries to measure innovation) has grown at just 0.1% in advanced economies since 2004, well below its historical average.

Optimists have two retorts. The first is that there must be something wrong with the figures. One possibility is that they fail to count the huge consumer surplus given away free of charge on the internet. But this is unconvincing. The official figures may well be understating the impact of the internet revolution, just as they downplayed the impact of electricity and cars in the past, but they are not understating it enough to explain the

recent decline in productivity growth.

Another, second line of argument that the productivity revolution has only just begun is more persuasive. Over the past decade many IT companies may have focused on things that were more "fun than fundamental" in Paul Krugman's phrase. But Silicon Valley's best companies are certainly focusing on things that change the material world.

Uber and Airbnb are bringing dramatic improvements to two large industries that have been more or less stuck for decades. Morgan Stanley estimates that driverless cars could result in \$507 billion a year of productivity gains in America, mainly from people being able to stare at their laptops instead of at the road.

1. What has led to the pessimistic opinion concerning the world's economy?
  - A) It is based on macro-level statistics on productivity.
  - B) It is based on close observation on corporate and investor behavior.
  - C) It is due to the fact that many old firms are not run by bureaucrats.
  - D) It is due to the fact that not enough new firms have been created.
2. The first argument on the optimists' side is unconvincing because the official figures\_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) are both wrong and unconvincing.
  - B) downplay the internet revolution.
  - C) fail to include the consumer surplus.
  - D) can't explain the decline in productivity growth.
3. What is true about the IT companies in Silicon Valley?
  - A) They have only focused on the fun part of life.
  - B) They have made a difference in the real world.
  - C) They have more persuasive productivity.
  - D) They have only just begun to develop.
4. How can driverless cars benefit American industries?
  - A) Driverless cars have revived two large American industries.
  - B) The sale of driverless cars can reach hundreds of billions of dollars.
  - C) Thanks to them people free from driving can do more creative work.
  - D) Driverless cars have stimulated the development of Uber and Airbnb.

### Passage Two

Winston Churchill was one of the central statesmen of the 20th century and, almost 50 years after his death, remains a subject of enduring fascination. Part of the current interest in this venerable figure can be attributed to two superb biographies written in the 1980s by historian William Manchester: "The Last Lion: Visions of Glory" and "The Last Lion: Alone." These two books examined the first two-thirds of Churchill's life.

Unfortunately, after completing the second volume, Manchester's health declined and the rest of the project stalled. So great was public interest in the long-delayed final volume that it was the subject of a front page story in The New York Times.

Eventually, in 2003, Manchester asked his friend Paul Reid to complete the trilogy. Now, nearly a decade later, Reid has published *The Last Lion*, the final piece of this monumental undertaking. Reid starts when Churchill was appointed prime minister in May 1940 and follows him through his death in 1965. While most of this volume is appropriately devoted to World War II, it also includes the vast expansion of the British welfare state following the war, the start of the Cold War and the enormous dangers it carried, and the loss of the British Empire.

Reid has written a thorough and complete analysis of these years, and it is a worthy finale to the first two volumes. Exhaustively researched and carefully written, it draws on a full range of primary and secondary materials. This book will be essential reading for those who enjoyed the first two volumes and those with a deep interest in understanding this seminal figure and his place in history.

Reid does a wonderful job of capturing Churchill in all his complexity. He gives Churchill great praise for his personal courage and inspirational leadership during the dark days when Britain stood alone, but he is equally clear about Churchill's poor strategic judgments, such as the efforts to defend Greece and Crete, the Allied assault on Anzio, and the decision to send the battleship *Prince of Wales* and battle cruiser *Repulse* to the South China Sea without adequate air cover where they were promptly sunk by the Japanese.

He highlights Churchill's naiveté in dealing with Soviet Premier Stalin in the early years of the war, but praises his prescience in anticipating Stalin's land grab in Eastern Europe at the end of the conflict. Reid also gives welcome attention to aspects of the

war – such as Churchill's fear that the United States might decide to put its primary emphasis on defeating Japan regardless of the "Germany first" understanding he shared with Roosevelt – that have received little attention in other books.

5. What can be known about the two biographies of Churchill?
- A) They are written in an interesting style.
  - B) They were written prior to Churchill's death.
  - C) They are mainly written from a historical point of view.
  - D) They have helped intrigue the readers over a long period.
6. Why did the biography once become a front page story in The New York Times?
- A) People were looking forward to the publication of the final volume.
  - B) Readers were angry with the author for the delay of the final volume.
  - C) The publication of the final volume was then a heatedly discussed issue.
  - D) Readers wanted to know who would be the new author of the final volume.
7. Why does the third volume prove to be worthy?
- A) It is widely read and welcomed by readers.
  - B) It involves enough details in Churchill's life.
  - C) It is based on thorough and reliable research.
  - D) It offers a unique understanding of Churchill.
8. What can we know about Churchill through the third volume?
- A) He is a man with complexity.
  - B) He pulled Britain through WWII.
  - C) He made many strategic mistakes.
  - D) He is courageous and inspirational.

### Passage Three

Asteroids and comets that repeatedly smashed into the early Earth covered the planet's surface with molten rock during its earliest days, but still may have left oases of water that could have supported the evolution of life, scientists say. The new study reveals that during the planet's infancy, the surface of the Earth was a hellish environment, but perhaps not as hellish as often thought, scientists added.

Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago. The first 500 million years of its life are known as the Hadean Eon. Although this time amounts to more than 10 percent of

Earth's history, little is known about it, since few rocks are known that are older than 3.8 billion years old.

For much of the Hadean, Earth and its sister worlds in the inner solar system were pummeled with an extraordinary number of cosmic impacts. "It was thought that because of these asteroids and comets flying around colliding with Earth, conditions on early Earth may have been hellish," said lead study author Simone Marchi, a planetary scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado. This imagined hellishness gave the eon its name — Hadean comes from Hades, the lord of the underworld in Greek mythology.

However, in the past dozen years or so, a radically different picture of the Hadean began to emerge. Analysis of minerals trapped within microscopic zircon crystals dating from this eon "suggested there was liquid water on the surface of the Earth back then, clashing with the previous picture that the Hadean was hellish," Marchi said. This could explain why the evidence of the earliest life on Earth appears during the Hadean — maybe the planet was less inhospitable during that eon than previously thought.

The exact timing and magnitude of the impacts that smashed Earth during the Hadean are unknown. To get an idea of the effects of this bombardment, Marchi and his colleagues looked at the moon, whose heavily cratered surface helped model the battering that its close neighbor Earth must have experienced back then.

"We also looked at highly siderophile elements (elements that bind tightly to iron), such as gold, delivered to Earth as a result of these early collisions, and the amounts of these elements tells us the total mass accreted by Earth as the result of these collisions," Marchi said. Prior research suggests these impacts probably contributed less than 0.5 percent of the Earth's present-day mass.

The researchers discovered that "the surface of the Earth during the Hadean was heavily affected by very large collisions, by impactors larger than 100 kilometers (60 miles) or so — really, really big impactors," Marchi said. "When Earth has a collision with an object that big, that melts a large volume of the Earth's crust and mantle, covering a large fraction of the surface," Marchi added. These findings suggest that Earth's surface was buried over and over again by large volumes of molten rock — enough to cover the surface of the Earth several times. This helps explain why so few rocks survive from the Hadean, the researchers said.

9. Why is little known about the Earth's first 500 million years?
- A) Because it is an imagined period of time.
  - B) Because this period is of little significance.
  - C) Because it is impossible to know about this period.
  - D) Because no rocks are available as research evidence.
10. Why is the early Earth imagined to be hellish?
- A) Because it was often smashed by asteroids and comets.
  - B) Because back then Hades, the lord of Hell, reigned.
  - C) Because it was so according to Greek mythology.
  - D) Because back then there was no life.
11. Why was the early Earth in fact less inhospitable than often thought?
- A) Because minerals of the Hadean have been found suggesting the existence of life.
  - B) Because the clashing brought by asteroids and comets was not completely damaging.
  - C) Because during the Hadean there already existed the evidence of life.
  - D) Because there had already been liquid water on the Earth back then.
12. How can the moon help with the understanding of the impacts that smashed the Earth?
- A) The moon once smashed into the Earth too.
  - B) The moon was battered earlier than the Earth.
  - C) The moon, as a close neighbor, is easier to observe.
  - D) The moon's surface is heavily cratered as the Earth's.

#### **Passage Four**

From beach balls, pool toys, and jump houses, inflatable technology takes a big step forward for its next frontier: space stations. A new kind of tech will be aboard SpaceX's eighth supply mission to the International Space Station (ISS). A compressed living module will be delivered and attached to the station where, in the void of space, it will expand into a new habitat for astronauts.

Designed by Bigelow Aerospace, the inflatable space habitat is one area NASA is exploring for potential deep space habitats and other advanced space missions. "The 'Bigelow Expandable Activity Module,' or the BEAM, is an expandable habitat that



will be used to investigate technology and understand the potential benefits of such habitats for human missions to deep space,” NASA Administrator Charles Bolden wrote in a blog post.

The habitats could be a way to “dramatically increase” the space available for astronauts while also offering added protection from the dangers of space, like radiation and space debris, the NASA press release says.

But how is an inflatable space station supposed to be a viable means of housing for space travelers? BEAMs are far more than balloon-like rooms where astronauts can take asylum. Technically, the modules don’t inflate – they expand, according to the company. And beyond just air, the habitats are reinforced with an internal metal structure. The outside is composed of multiple layers of material including things like rubber and kevlar (凯夫拉尔纤维) to protect from any speeding debris.

Inside SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft on the way to the ISS, the BEAM will be approximately 8 feet in diameter. It will expand once deployed in space to offer 565 cubic feet of space for astronauts. “It’ll be the first time human beings will actually step inside this expandable habitat in space,” former astronaut George Zamka, who has worked for Bigelow Aerospace, told USA Today. **“There won’t be this sense of it being like a balloon.”**

But astronauts won’t be getting inside the module for some time yet. The BEAM will be attached to the Tranquility Node and deployed. Inside the module are a series of tools that will help the crew of the ISS monitor different aspects of the expandable area to see how it acts in space. The crew will watch heat, radiation, orbital debris, and provide information about the viability of using similar modules in the future.

The testing is scheduled to go on for a two-year time period, after which the module will be released and burn up in the atmosphere. NASA’s partnership with Bigelow fits Mr. Bolden’s desire to help grow a robust private sector industry to commercialize aspects of space – a process he sees as vital if humans want to reach farther cosmic destinations. “The world of low Earth orbit belongs to industry,” Bolden said at a press conference in January 2015.

13. What is special about the new living module on SpaceX’s eighth mission to ISS?

- A) It is expandable. C) It is going to deep space.

B) It looks like a toy.

D) It will not return to Earth.

14. What is the purpose of designing the inflatable space habitat?

A) It is to find out its potential capacity.

B) It is to give a try on a new technology.

C) It is to save time and money in production.

D) It is to see if it can be applied in deep space.

15. What does the underlined sentence in Paragraph 5 mean?

A) The habitat will not be a balloon-like room.

B) The habitat will not feel like a balloon.

C) The habitat will be like a senseless balloon.

D) The habitat will be a different kind of balloon.

16. Why does NASA intend to commercialize aspects of space?

A) It can save NASA time and energy.

B) It is necessary for a robust industry.

C) It is crucial for further space explorations.

D) It meets both NASA's and Bigelow's needs.

### Passage Five

Of all the people on my holiday shopping list, there was one little boy for whom buying a gift had become increasingly difficult. He's a wonderful child, adorable and loving, and he's not fussy or irritable or spoiled. Though he lives across the country from me, I receive regular updates and photos, and he likes all the things that the boys his age want to play with. Shopping for him should be easy, but I find it hard to summon up any enthusiasm, because in all the years I've given him presents, he has never once sent me a thank-you note.

"Sending thank-you notes is becoming a lost art," mourns Mary Mitchell, a syndicated columnist known as "Ms. Demeanor" and author of six etiquette books. In her view, each generation, compared with the one before, is losing a sense of consideration for other people. "Without respect," she says, "you have conflict."

Ms. Demeanor would be proud of me: I have figured out a way to ensure that my children always send thank-you notes. And such a gesture is important, says Ms.



Demeanor, because "a grateful attitude is tremendous life skill, an efficient and inexpensive way to set ourselves apart in the work force and in our adult lives. Teach your children that the habit of manners comes from inside—it's an attitude based on respecting people."

A few years ago, as my children descended like piranhas on their presents under the Christmas tree, the only attitude I could see was greed. Where was the appreciation of time and effort?

A thank-you note should contain three things: an acknowledgment of the gift (Love the tie with the picture of a horse on it); a recognition of the time and effort spent to select it (You must have shopped all over the state to find such a unique item!); and a prediction of how you will use your gift or the way it has enhanced your life (I'll be sure to wear it to the next Mr. Ed convention!).

So, five years ago, in one of my rare flashes of parental insight, I decided that the most opportune time to teach this basic courtesy is **while the tinsel is hot**. To the horror of my children, I announced that henceforth every gift received will be an occasion for a thank-you note written immediately, on the spot. I have explained to my kids how I have reacted to not hearing from that little boy—how it made me feel unappreciated and unmotivated to repeat the process next year.

I have reluctantly given my kids the green light to send e-mail thank-you notes; though hand-lettered ones still seem friendlier. But pretty much any thank-you makes the gift giver feel special—just as, we hope, the recipient feels. It's a gesture that perfectly captures the spirit of the holidays.

17. The author felt unmotivated when buying a gift for the little boy because he \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) purposely intended not to show gratitude for her kindness and consideration
- B) had never expressed appreciation of the gifts he received in previous years
- C) had no idea how thoughtful she was in choosing a gift for him
- D) didn't like any of the gifts she had given him

18. According to Ms. Demeanor, showing appreciation has the benefit of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) forming the habit of good manners
- B) regaining the lost art of expressing thanks
- C) motivating the gift giver to buy more gifts

D) distinguishing oneself from others in work and life

19. In a thank-you note, "The book will be my good companion when I am alone" serves as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) a recognition of the time and effort spent to select it
- B) an announcement of how it has enhanced your life
- C) a prediction of how you will use your gift
- D) an acknowledgment of the gift

20. What does the author mean by "while the tinsel is hot" (Line 3, Para. 6)?

- A) The moment her kids receive a gift.
- B) The moment she starts choosing gifts for each kid.
- C) When the art of sending thank-you notes isn't lost yet.
- D) When her kids still remember who bought the gifts for them.

## Part II English-Chinese Translation (5×4=20 分)

*Directions: Read the following passage, and then translate the underlined parts, numbered from (1) to (4), from English into Chinese. Please write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET.*

Every field of study has its own language and its own way of thinking. Mathematicians talk about axioms, integrals, and vector spaces. Psychologists talk about ego, id, and cognitive dissonance. Lawyers talk about venue, torts, and promissory estoppel.

Economics is no different. Supply, demand, elasticity, comparative advantage, consumer surplus, deadweight loss—these terms are part of the economist's language. In the coming chapters, you will encounter many new terms and some familiar words that economists use in specialized ways. (1)At first, this new language may seem needlessly arcane. But, as you will see, its value lies in its ability to provide you a new and useful way of thinking about the world in which you live.

Economists try to address their subject with a scientist's objectivity. They approach the study of the economy in much the same way as a physicist approaches the study of matter and a biologist approaches the study of life: (2)They devise theories, collect data, and then analyze these data in an attempt to verify or refute their theories.

To beginners, it can seem odd to claim that economics is a science. After all, economists do not work with test tubes or telescopes. (3)The essence of science, however, is the

scientific method—the dispassionate development and testing of theories about how the world works. This method of inquiry is as applicable to studying a nation's economy as it is to studying the earth's gravity or a species' evolution. (4) As Albert Einstein once put it, "The whole of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking."

### **Part III Chinese-English Translation (20 分)**

*Directions: Translate the following paragraph from Chinese into English. Please write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET.*

为了找到实验室试验的替代实验，经济学家会密切关注由历史提供的自然实验。例如，当中东的一次战争中断了原油供应时，油价在全球范围内狂涨。对于石油及石油产品的消费者来说，这样的一次事件会降低生活水平。对于经济决策者来说，它给他们出了一道难题，即如何做出最佳应对。但对于经济学家来说，它为研究重要自然资源对世界经济的影响提供了一次机会，且这种机会在战时的油价飞涨结束后很久依然存在。因此，整本书中，我们会分析很多历史事件。这些历史事件值得研究，因为，它们让我们对旧时的经济有所了解，更重要的是，因为它们使我们能够说明和评价当今的经济理论。

### **Part IV Short Essay Writing (20 分)**

*Directions: Write a composition in no less than 150 words on the topic: **What Do You Think of Advanced Artificial Intelligence.** Read the following words in English. You should write according to the outline given below. Write your composition on the Answer Sheet.*

1. Google's Deep mind Alpha Go program has beaten all the world champions of the game Go (围棋) in a series of battles between man and artificial intelligence.
2. Some people fear advanced artificial intelligence because...
3. Your attitude towards advanced artificial intelligence.