**北京外国语大学硕士研究生入学考试试题（样卷）**

**招生专业：英语语言文学、翻译学、外国语言学及应用语言学**

**科目名称：英语基础测试（技能）**

**（考试时间3小时，满分150分，全部写在答题纸上，答在试题页上无效）**

**Part I GRAMMAR (30 points, 3 points each)**

**Correct Errors**

*The passage contains ten errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of one error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proofread the passage and correct it in the following way:*

*For a wrong word, copy the wrong word to your answer sheet and write the correct one after it.*

*For a missing word, write ∧ on the answer sheet followed by the word after the missing word, and then write the word which you believe is missing.*

*For an unnecessary word, copy the unnecessary word to your answer sheet and cross it with a slash／.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| There has been much talk in recent years about the end of the book, but |  |
| the Austen industry appears to have heard the news. All four of the | [1]\_\_\_ |
| books under reviewing are published in high-quality hardback editions, with | [2]\_\_\_ |
| Bharat Tandon’s annotated edition of *Emma* being the most handsome. Its |  |
| large size and heavy weight, complemented by thick, wood-textured |  |
| endpapers, acid-free cream-vellum paper, generous margins and woven |  |
| bindings that suggest an object important in their own right, an object and a | [3]\_\_\_ |
| form that will not go quiet into the good night. | [4]\_\_\_ |
| Holding a book of this size and weight, one is reminded not only of the |  |
| book as a thing, but also of the important role that things themselves play in |  |
| books. In literary studies, this has fostered a new method of criticism under |  |
| the heading of “thing theory”. Taking its cue from the anthropology, this | [5]\_\_\_ |
| practice considers how objects are invested with meanings beyond their |  |
| material existence. It would be a mistake, however, to read Austen’s fictions | [6]\_\_\_ |
| as primarily, or even predominantly, about things. In a letter, Austen |  |
| famously concluded that “three or four families in a country village is the |  |
| very thing to work”, and her novels focus not only on the courtship plots | [7]\_\_\_ |
| that structure her narratives, but also on the manners, the judgement, the |  |
| subtlety and the tact requiring to negotiate day-to-day encounters with those | [8]\_\_\_ |
| whom, like Mrs. Elton in *Emma*, one often loathes but of whom one will |  |
| likely never be free. They are novels of social evaluation, of minutely and | [9]\_\_\_ |
| careful observation, both of manners and of internal mental processes, |  |
| novels in which ideas and thoughts matter. Austen’s works, however, are | [10]\_\_\_ |
| novels in which even seemingly simple words bear multiple resonances, |  |
| and in this context, Tandon’s notes are superb. |  |

**Part II READING COMPREHENSION**

**(60 points, 3 points each)**

1. **Multiple Choice**

*Please read the following passages and choose A, B, C or D to best complete the statements or best answer the questions in front of them.*

***Passage 1***

The baby-boomer generation is in the process of retiring, and all those ex-hippies and punks can expect to live longer than the Americans who retired before them. But the financial challenge this poses is less well understood. Any lingering complacency ought to be exploded by two articles in the latest *Journal of Retirement.*

The first, from the Centre for Retirement Research (CRR) at Boston College, estimates the proportion of 65-year-olds who will be able to retire without a big hit to their disposable income. Pensioners do not usually need as much money coming in as workers: for a start, they no longer need to save for retirement. The CRR estimates that 65-85% of their previous income is a reasonable “replacement rate”, depending on the type of household. As well as private pensions, elderly Americans receive income from the federal government (in the form of Social Security, the public pension) and many earn money from their accumulated wealth, particularly by taking equity out of their houses. Even allowing for these sources of income, the CRR estimates that 52% of Americans may not be able to maintain their standard of living.

Unsurprisingly, the biggest problems face those with no private pension at all: 68% of these Americans are expected to fall short. Those lucky enough to be covered by defined-benefit plans—in which pensions are linked to a worker’s salary—have the least difficulty: only 20% are deemed at risk. Of those in defined-contribution (DC) plans—in which workers receive whatever pension pot they have accumulated by retirement—53% probably will not reach the replacement rate. The problem is that many people simply do not save enough in a DC pension. The combined contributions of employers and employees average just 11.3% of salary. This will not generate the same level of pension as a typical defined-benefit plan. The CRR found that the average retirement assets of those aged 50-59 were just $110,000 in 2013, slightly lower than in 2010. This balance will improve over time, since DC plans are relatively new, but there is a long way to go. If pensioners take an (inflation-adjusted) 4% a year from their pot, they will need $250,000 just to generate an income of $10,000.

At least, you might think, Social Security will provide a basic income for the elderly. But the second paper, by Sylvester Schieber, a former chairman of the Social Security Advisory Board, points out that there are holes in the safety net. Retirement income is based on an average of every worker’s highest 35 years of earnings. But if a worker was not in employment for the full 35 years—because of sickness, an inability to find work or time spent caring for children or other relatives—the missing years count as zeroes for the calculation. Mr Schieber finds that people whose total careers lasted just 10-19 years comprise 8% of pensioners, but just over half of the poorest tenth of the elderly. Such workers could hardly have saved more for their retirement; they had barely adequate income in the first place. That could be a looming problem, given Social Security’s finances. Payroll taxes on current workers no longer exceed the benefits paid out, prompting the government to tap the surplus of past years. On current projections, this will run out in 2034. After that, the cost of pensions could still be met mainly by contributions from workers. But the politicians of the day may be forced to consider benefit cuts. Mr Schieber thinks the Social Security system is underfunded by around 25%. If an across-the-board benefit cut of that magnitude were applied, it would hit the poorest workers hardest, since they have few alternative sources of income. At present, a 25% benefit cut would reduce the income of the median pensioner by 12.3%. But the poorest tenth would lose 18.9% of their aggregate income.

So budding pension reformers will have to solve several problems simultaneously. First, they need to stabilize Social Security while protecting the incomes of the poorest. That should involve some combination of higher taxes, benefit cuts for the best-paid and greater saving in the middle rungs of the income ladder—at the same time as ensuring that people do not save too much too quickly, in case the impact on demand crashes the economy.

1. Which of the following is an appropriate title for this passage?
2. Elderly Americans receive pensions from the federal government.
3. Social Security will provide a basic income for the elderly.
4. Americans are not saving enough for their retirement.
5. Americans are expected to fall short.
6. Which of the following statements is true about American baby boomers?
7. Most of them were hippies and punks.
8. They are expected to live longer than the average American.
9. They will retire with enough disposable income.
10. **They are reaching retirement age.**
11. What does “fall short” mean, in Paragraph 3?
12. have inadequate pension to live on
13. live under the poverty line
14. lower their replacement rate
15. receive lower salaries
16. Statistics from the CRR indicates that the average retirement assets of Americans aged 50-59 in 2013 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
17. decreased by $110,000 from the 2010 level.
18. were higher than in 2010.
19. were lower than in 2010.
20. remained the 2010 level.
21. Which of the following measures will help most in stabilizing the U.S. Social Security, according to this passage?

[A] Across-the-board benefit cut

[B] Greater savings from the middle class

[C] Higher incomes for the poorest

[D] Higher taxes for the higher income group

***Passage 2***

Jumping a fence of prickly pears, Gumat Hussain, a local chief in the driest district of North Wollo, Ethiopia’s most drought-prone province, walks gloomily through his sorghum. “The crops have not produced grain. They are useless even for the animals,” he sighs. El Niño, the world’s largest climatic weather phenomenon, is keeping the rains away across swathes of Africa this year. Ethiopian officials say that the harvest is failing as completely as in a series of droughts that together killed more than 1m of the country’s people between 1965 and 1985, and made Ethiopia a byword for hopeless famine. More than 8 million Ethiopians are now going hungry. But a decade-old food-security program is keeping the poorest from starvation—and showing how preparation for extreme weather events can mitigate the worst effects. In Africa’s largest social-protection scheme, 6 million Ethiopians spend five days each month for the lean half of the year on public works such as digging water-holes for animals and building terraces for crops. In return they get 13kg of cereal and 4kg of pulses a month, or the cash equivalent. Another million who are unable to work get the handout, too.

El Niño was named after the Christ-child by Peruvian fishermen who noticed that the global weather pattern, which happens every two to seven years, cut their hauls around Christmas. El Niño sees warm water, collected over several years in the western tropical Pacific, slosh back eastwards when winds that normally blow westwards weaken, or sometimes reverse. America’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says that this year’s Niño could be the strongest since records began in 1950.

The weather effects, both good and bad, are felt in many places. Rich countries gain more from mighty Niños, on balance, than they lose. Their largely temperate climes mean that extra deaths during heat waves are more than offset by fewer during cold snaps. A study from the IMF and Cambridge University found that a strong Niño in 1997-98 boosted America’s economy by $15 billion, partly because of higher agricultural yields: farmers in the Midwest gained from extra rain. The total rise in agricultural incomes in rich countries is greater than the fall in poor ones, says Solomon Hsiang of the University of California, Berkeley. One knock-on effect of El Niño—fewer Atlantic hurricanes—particularly benefits America. The most recent mighty Niño, in 1997-98, killed around 21,000 people and caused damage to infrastructure worth $36 billion around the globe. But such Niños come with months of warning, and so much is known about how they play out that governments can prepare—if they are sufficiently farsighted. According to the Overseas Development Institute, a British think-tank, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, however, just 12% of disaster-relief funding in the past two decades has gone on reducing risks in advance, rather than recovery and reconstruction afterwards. That is despite evidence that a dollar spent on risk-reduction saves at least two on mopping up.

Simple improvements to infrastructure, such as those carried out by Ethiopia’s public-works program, can reduce the spread of disease. Better sewers make it less likely that heavy rain is followed by an outbreak of diarrhoea. Stronger bridges mean villages are less likely to be left without food and medicine after floods. According to a paper in 2011, civil conflict is correlated with El Niño’s malign effects—and the poorer the country, the stronger the link. Though the relationship may not be causal, helping divided communities to prepare for disasters would at least lessen the risk that those disasters are followed by bloodshed.

Disaster insurance can be too costly for poor governments and individuals: uncertain demand, weak regulation and local corruption all put insurers off, too. But by making the cost of risks explicit, insurance can encourage their mitigation. Collective schemes, such as the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, can make insurance more affordable, and disseminate information that helps governments, citizens and those running ports and airports to prepare. Since the poorest are least likely to recoup their losses from disasters linked to El Niño, minimizing their losses needs to be the priority.

1. Ethiopia’s harvest has failed completely this year because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. El Niño killed many Ethiopian people.
3. Ethiopia is a byword for hopeless famine.
4. El Niño caused severe droughts to the country.
5. this year’s Niño is the strongest since 1950.
6. Which of the following statements is NOT true about Africa’s largest social-protection scheme?
7. It put six million Ethiopians to dig water-holes for animals
8. It put six million Ethiopians to build terraces for crops.
9. It provided food or cash for six million Ethiopians in return for their time spent on public works.
10. It provided food or cash for six million Ethiopians who are unable to work.
11. In paragraph 3, the word “knock-on” means .
12. indirect
13. damaging
14. direct
15. domino
16. The report by the Overseas Development Institute and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery suggests that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[A] a dollar spent on risk-reduction saves at least two on prevention.

[B] prevention is more important than risk reduction.

[C] more funding should have gone to risk reduction in the past two years.

[D] more funding should have gone to disaster-relief in the past two decades.

1. Which of the following is an appropriate title for this passage?
2. El Niño and Ethiopia
3. Effects of El Niño
4. Disaster foretold
5. Planning for El Niño

**B. True or False**

*Read the following passage carefully and then decide whether the statements which follow are true (T) or false (F).*

What do a Braille printer made out of Lego and a drone that helps farmers monitor crops have to do with chipmaking? Intel Capital, the venture-capital VC unit of the American technology giant, is not quite sure yet but it wants to find out. It recently announced it was taking stakes in 16 startups, including the firms making these products. Intel has been in the venture-capital business for over 20 years, and has invested in more than 1,300 companies in 56 countries. Over that time corporate enthusiasm for venture capital has waxed and waned—but has seldom been greater than it is now.

Companies as diverse as convenience stores (7-Eleven), chemists (Boots), financial firms (Visa and Citigroup) and carmakers (BMW) are all getting into the game. They are looking for quicker, cheaper and better sources of innovation than R&D (Research and Development), which often disappoints. In return, the startups they invest in benefit from their capital, expertise and connections. Over the past five years the number of corporate-venture units worldwide has doubled to 1,100; 25 of the 30 firms that comprise the Dow Jones Industrial Average have one according to Global Corporate Venturing, a trade publication. The $6.4 billion such units have invested so far this year is over 60% more than they did in 2012. America’s corporate investors have been involved in 18% of the country’s venture-capital deals this year.

Skeptics see a bubble. Three previous booms, which coincided with ones in conventional venture capital, ended in tears—in the late 1960s, the early 1980s and, most spectacularly, during the dotcom bubble, when a staggering $21 billion was invested in 2000 alone. After each bust, venture units were mothballed or shut.

Believers say the likes of Intel Capital and Google Ventures have learned to use their expertise rather than just their deep pockets. This boom is also driven by necessity, says Dörte Höppner of the European Venture Capital Association. Disruptive innovation has become the single biggest worry for many firms. Setting up VC arms is a way to identify life-threatening changes to their business early, so that they can adapt or, better yet, get in on the act, says Ben Veghte of America’s National Venture Capital Association, whose membership has mushroomed in recent years.

Perhaps as a result, the new generation of venture units looks better integrated with their parents: instead of chasing the next Facebook (or drone), they tend to invest in industries related to the firm’s main business. IBM, for instance, has set up a $100m fund to back startups that use the technology behind Watson, a computer that can communicate in colloquial language. It has already invested in Welltok, a health-care startup which has invented an app which uses the technology to analyse users’ habits and give medical advice.

There are some indications that corporate VC is working better than in the past. Startups backed by firms are more likely to list their shares than those championed by conventional venture groups. A bank in Silicon Valley estimated last year that corporate VC yields three times the number of patents per dollar invested than in-house R&D. The longevity of corporate VC arms is also increasing: the average age is now five and 120 have lasted a decade or more. That makes them hardier than many chief executives.

[21] Large corporations like BMW are getting increasingly interested in investing in startups.

[22] It’s often cheaper for corporations to fund a hot startup as a source of innovation

than to do innovative research themselves.

[23] Corporations rely mostly on venture capital arms for innovation and survival.

[24] Corporate venture units tend to invest in startups engaged in industries related to

the corporation’s main business.

[25] Corporate VC arms work better and harder than many chief executives.

**C. Gap Filling**

*Choose from the list [A] to [F] after the passage the best sentences to fill in the gaps in the text. There are more sentences than gaps.*

The developed world is heading into what Shakespeare described as “second childishness and mere oblivion, sans eyes, sans teeth, sans taste, sans everything”. The share of the population aged over 65 in rich countries will rise from 15% in 2010 to 27% by 2050, while those aged over 80 will increase from 4% to 9%. While this trend is well known, countries are only just starting to grapple with the implications. The issue was the subject of a conference held at the London School of Economics last month.

(26) . The first is how to achieve economic growth in the face of a shrinking workforce. The second issue, given that shrinking workforce, is how to look after the very elderly, many of whom will need round-the-clock nursing.

In terms of growth, one obvious answer is to get people to work longer. Since 1970, the life expectancy of the average 65-year-old in the OECD, a club mostly of rich countries, has risen by four or five years, virtually all of which has been spent in retirement. The age at which governments start paying pensions is at last starting to edge higher, from 65 to 67 or 68.

(27) . These pots may be too small to generate a decent income, as many people are discovering; they will need to keep working, whatever the official retirement age may be.

In Britain the proportion of men aged over 65 in employment has risen from less than 8% at the turn of the century to more than 13% today. In addition, fewer people are taking early retirement, whether voluntary or involuntary. (28) . Since the recession, the biggest single gain in employment has been among women aged 60-64.

Similar trends have been seen in America. Since 2000, employment of those aged 65 and over has risen by 51%, while that of those aged 25-64 has fallen 3.5%.

(29) . The growing ranks of older workers (particularly those working part-time) may be putting pressure on wages.

Could they also be less productive? It is hard to be certain. Whether, and how fast, workers’ productivity declines with age must depend on what they do; what is true for manual labour may not be true for consultancy. Economists assume that wages move in tandem with productivity, as employers reward workers for the value of their output (minus a profit margin). In practice, however, wages are set by a more complex process that is partly a matter of custom. (30) . Many companies have pay scales that reward seniority.

One field in which the growing number of elderly workers may soon be needed is in looking after those who are even older and frailer. One paper, based on a survey of five countries, estimated that the number of people needing formal care could rise by 35% by 2025. In all five countries the demand for formal care is likely to outstrip the supply of care workers by a substantial margin.

[A] At the turn of the century, 54% of British women aged 50-64 were in work; now it is nearly 66%.

[B] However, it may well be that changes in private-sector pensions are more important in determining how long the elderly work. Generous final-salary pensions are dying out; they have been replaced with defined-contribution schemes, whereby the employee accumulates a pot to see him through his dotage.

[C] There are two main ageing-related problems.

[D] Nor is this an area where productivity is likely to increase much: someone always needs to be on hand to help the incapacitated if they fall out of bed at night or if they need changing in the morning.

[E] Most workers are not paid “piece rates” for every item they produce, even in those industries where such things can be measured; few workers ever suffer a pay cut in the same job, unless they opt to go part-time.

[F] An interesting question is whether this shift explains two big trends in the labour market: the weakness of wages and poor productivity.

**Part III TRANSLATION (60 points)**

**[31] *Please read the following passage and translate it into Chinese. (30 points)***

Freud thought of the Oedipus complex as a universal, but it can be argued that it is very much a Western concept, which particularly applies to the small, “nuclear” family. Do children brought up in extended families, in which polygamy is the norm, experience the jealousy, possessiveness, and fear which Freud found in his patients? We do not know; but anecdotal evidence suggests the contrary. A Nigerian analyst told me that, during his training analysis, it took him over a year to make his analyst understand the entirely different emotional climate which obtains in a family in which the father has several wives.

We have already observed that Freud, at least in the early stages of his thought, was more concerned with the child’s relation with the father than with its relation with the mother. Moreover, the father was also portrayed as authoritarian and severe, the source of prohibitions and threats, and the origin of what later became called the “super-ego.” Modern research supports Freud’s idea of a stage of male development in which the boy feels rivalry with the father, but indicates that the boy’s subsequent identification with the father is not “identification with the aggressor,” but because the father makes friendly, loving overtures.

**[32] *Please read the following passage and translate it into English.(30 points)***

和我一同玩的是许多小朋友，因为有了远客，他们也都从父母那里得了减少工作的许可，伴我来游戏。在小村里，一家的客，几乎也就是公共的。我们年纪都相仿，但论起行辈来，却至少是叔子，有几个还是太公，因为他们合村都同姓，是本家。然而我们是朋友，即使偶而吵闹起来，打了太公，一村的老老少少，也决没有一个会想出“犯上”这两个字来，而他们也百分之九十九不识字。

我们每天的事情大概是掘蚯蚓，掘来穿在铜丝做的小钩上，伏在河沿上去钓虾。虾是水世界里的呆子，决不惮用了自己的两个钳捧着钩尖送到嘴里去的，所以不半天便可以钓到一大碗。这虾照例是归我吃的。其次便是一同去放牛，但或者因为高等动物了的缘故罢，黄牛水牛都欺生，敢于欺侮我，因此我也总不敢走近身，只好远远地跟着，站着。这时候，小朋友们便不再原谅我会读“秩秩斯干”，却全都嘲笑起来了。

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The End \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_