

重庆大学硕士研究生  
《学术交流英语》课程试卷 B 卷

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Part I Reading Comprehension (50 points)

Directions: Read the following passages carefully and then select the best answer from the four choices given to answer the questions or to complete the statements that follow each passage. Write your answers on your answer sheet.

Passage 1

When the right person is holding the right job at the right moment, that person’s influence is greatly expanded. That is the position in which Janet Yellen, who is expected to be confirmed as the next chair of the Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) in January, now finds herself. If you believe, as many do, that unemployment is the major economic and social concern of our day, then it is no stretch to think Yellen is the most powerful person in the world right now.

Throughout the 2008 financial crisis and the recession and recovery that followed, central banks have taken on the role of stimulators of last resort, holding up the global

economy with vast amounts of money in the form of asset buying. Yellen, previously a Fed vice chair, was one of the principal architects of the Fed \$3.8 trillion money dump. A star economist known for her groundbreaking work on labor markets, Yellen was a kind of prophetess early on in the crisis for her warnings about the subprime meltdown. Now it will be her job to get the Fed and the markets out of the biggest and most unconventional monetary program in history without derailing the fragile recovery.

The good news is that Yellen, 67, is particularly well suited to meet these challenges. She has a keen understanding of financial markets, an appreciation for their imperfections, and a strong belief that human suffering was more related to unemployment than anything else.

Some experts worry that Yellen will be inclined to chase unemployment to the neglect of inflation. But with wages still relatively flat and the economy increasingly divided between the well-off and the long-term unemployed, more people worry about the opposite, deflation that would aggravate the economy’s problems.

Either way, the incoming Fed chief will have to walk a fine line in slowly ending the stimulus. It must be steady enough to deflate bubbles and bring markets back down to earth but not so quickly that it creates another credit crisis.

Unlike many past Fed leaders, Yellen is not one to buy into the finance industry’s argument that it should be left alone to regulate itself. She knows all along the Fed has been too slack on the regulation of finance.

Yellen is likely to address the issue right after she pushes unemployment below 6%, stabilizes markets and makes sure that the recovery is more inclusive and robust. As Princeton Professor Alan Blinder says, “She’s smart as a whip, deeply logical, willing to argue but also a good listener. She can persuade without creating hostility” All those traits will be useful as the global economy’s new power player takes on its most annoying problems.

1. What do many people think is the biggest problem facing Janet Yellen?
- A. Lack of money.  
B. Subprime crisis.  
C. Unemployment.  
D. Social instability.

2. What did Yellen help the Fed do to tackle the 2008 financial crisis?
- A. Take effective measures to curb inflation.
  - B. Deflate the bubbles in the American economy.
  - C. Formulate policies to help financial institutions.
  - D. Pour money into the market through asset buying.
3. What is a greater concern of the general public?
- A. Recession.
  - B. Deflation.
  - C. Inequality.
  - D. Income.
4. What is Yellen likely to do in her position as the Fed chief?
- A. Develop a new monetary program.
  - B. Restore public confidence.
  - C. Tighten financial regulation.
  - D. Reform the credit system.
5. How does Alan Blinder portray Yellen?
- A. She possesses strong persuasive power.
  - B. She has confidence in what she is doing.
  - C. She is one of the world’s greatest economists.
  - D. She is the most powerful Fed chief in history.

Passage 2

There are few more sobering online activities than entering data into college-tuition calculators and gasping as the Web spits back a six-figure sum. But economists say families about to go into debt to fund four years of partying, as well as studying, can console themselves with the knowledge that college is an investment that, unlike many bank stocks, should yield huge dividends.

A 2008 study by two Harvard economists notes that the “labor-market premium to skill”—or the amount college graduates earned that’s greater than what high-school graduate

earned — decreased for much of the 20th century, but has come back with a vengeance (报复性地) since the 1980s. In 2005, The typical full-time year-round U.S. worker with a four-year college degree earned \$50,900, 62% more than the \$31,500 earned by a worker with only a high-school diploma.

There’s no question that going to college is a smart economic choice. But a look at the strange variations in tuition reveals that the choice about which college to attend doesn’t come down merely to dollars and cents. Does going to Columbia University (tuition, room and board \$49,260 in 2007-08) yield a 40% greater return than attending the University of Colorado at Boulder as an out-of-state student (\$35,542)? Probably not. Does being an out-of-state student at the University of Colorado at Boulder yield twice the amount of income as being an in-state student (\$17,380) there? Not likely.

No, in this consumerist age, most buyers aren’t evaluating college as an investment, but rather as a consumer product — like a car or clothes or a house. And with such purchases, price is only one of many crucial factors to consider.

As with automobiles, consumers in today’s college marketplace have vast choices, and people search for the one that gives them the most comfort and satisfaction in line with their budgets. This accounts for the willingness of people to pay more for different types of experiences (such as attending a private liberal-arts college or going to an out-of-state public school that has a great marine-biology program). And just as two auto purchasers might spend an equal amount of money on very different cars, college students (or, more accurately, their parents) often show a willingness to pay essentially the same price for vastly different products. So which is it? Is college an investment product like a stock or a consumer product like a car? In keeping with the automotive world’s hottest consumer trend, maybe it’s best to characterize it as a hybrid (混合动力汽车); an expensive consumer product that, over time, will pay rich dividends.

6. What’s the opinion of economists about going to college?
- A. Huge amounts of money is being wasted on campus socializing.
  - B. It doesn’t pay to run into debt to receive a college education.
  - C. College education is rewarding in spite of the startling costs.

- D. Going to college doesn't necessarily bring the expected returns.
7. The two Harvard economists note in their study that, for much of the 20th century, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. enrollment kept decreasing in virtually all American colleges and universities
  - B. the labor market preferred high-school to college graduates
  - C. competition for university admissions was far more fierce than today
  - D. the gap between the earnings of college and high-school graduates narrowed
8. Students who attend an in-state college or university can \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. save more on tuition
  - B. receive a better education
  - C. take more liberal-arts courses
  - D. avoid traveling long distances
9. In this consumerist age, most parents \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. regard college education as a wise investment
  - B. place a premium on the prestige of the College
  - C. think it crucial to send their children to college
  - D. consider college education a consumer product
10. What is the chief consideration when students choose a college today?
- A. Their employment prospects after graduation.
  - B. A satisfying experience within their budgets.
  - C. Its facilities and learning environment.
  - D. Its ranking among similar institutions.

Passage 3

Born from the accessibility of mass air travel, modern international tourism has been popularized as “holiday-making” in regions that offer comparative advantages of sand, sun and sea. Travel is often portrayed as a tool for personal growth and tourism as an economic motor for destination countries and cities. There is a tendency to assume that tourism is good for everyone involved.

Today the big bang of tourism drives over 1.2 billion tourists across international borders

annually. Many popular places are literally being loved to death. Recent protests in ports of call like Venice and Barcelona against disturbances created by cruise ships show the unfortunate consequences of emphasizing quantity over quality in tourism.

Uncontrolled tourism development has become a primary driver of social and environmental disruption. Tourism studies provide much documentation of the many negative social impacts of tourism and resulting resentment that local populations direct toward visitors.

Antagonism toward tourists typically develops in mature, heavily visited destinations. Protests in heavily visited destinations suggest that traditional tourism has overstayed its welcome.

Residents often become frustrated when the benefits of tourism are not felt locally. Although it can generate foreign exchange, income and employment, there's no guarantee that multinational hotel chains will allocate these benefits equitably among local communities.

On the contrary, when people stay at large resorts or on cruise ships, they make most of their purchases there, leaving local communities little opportunity to benefit from tourist spending. These forms of tourism widen economic and political gaps between haves and have-nots at local destinations. In recent decades, local residents in destination communities also have found themselves negotiating new cultural boundaries, class dynamics, service industry roles and lifestyle transformations. For example, data show that tourism activity corresponds to increased social problems as local residents adopt the behaviors of tourists.

What does all this mean for the everyday traveler?

First, all tourists should make every effort to honor their hosts and respect local conditions. This means being prepared to adapt to local customs and norms, rather than expecting local conditions to adapt to travelers.

Second, tourism is a market-based activity and works best when consumers reward better performers. In the information age, there's little excuse for travelers being uninformed about where their vacation money goes and who it enriches.

Informed travelers also are better able to distinguish between multinational companies and local entrepreneurs whose businesses provide direct social, environmental, and economic benefits for local residents. Such businesses are in love with the destination and are therefore

deserving of market reward. In the long run being a responsible traveler means ensuring net positive impacts for local people and environments. With the information available at our fingertips, there has never been more opportunity to do so.

11. What is the popular assumption about international tourism?
- A. Its benefits may compensate for the adverse environmental consequences.
- B. Its rapid development is attributed to people’s improved living standard.
- C. It appeals to people in places with favorable geographical conditions.
- D. It contributes to the economy of destination countries and regions.
12. What do we learn from some studies about uncontrolled tourism development?
- A. It gives rise to an increase in mass confrontations.
- B. It incurs local residents’ antagonism to tourists.
- C. It inhibits the steady growth of local economy.
- D. It brings in a large chunk of mobile population.
13. Why does the author say local residents of popular destinations often feel frustrated?
- A. They fall victim to social conflicts and environmental disturbances.
- B. They have little opportunity to enjoy themselves on cruise ships.
- C. They cannot find employment in multinational hotel chains.
- D. They do not think they benefit as much as they deserve.
14. How does the author say local residents in destination communities respond to tourism activity?
- A. They endeavor to adapt to it.
- B. They readily adopt new lifestyles.
- C. They immerse tourists in their culture.
- D. They try to upgrade their business models.
15. What can tourists do to exert more positive impacts on the tourist destinations?
- A. Show interest in local customs and lifestyles.
- B. Seek possibilities to invest in local companies.
- C. Use the services provided by local businesses.
- D. Give favorable comments about their services.

Passage 4

Back to the future of skyscraper design

*Answers to the problem of excessive electricity use by skyscrapers and large public buildings can be found in ingenious but forgotten architectural designs of the 19th and early-20th centuries*

A

The Recovery of Natural Environments in Architecture by Professor Alan Short is the culmination of 30 years of research and award-winning green building design by Short and colleagues in Architecture, Engineering, Applied Maths and Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge.

The crisis in building design is already here,’ said Short. ‘Policy makers think you can solve energy and building problems with gadgets. You can’t. As global temperatures continue to rise, we are going to continue to squander more and more energy on keeping our buildings mechanically cool until we have run out of capacity.’

B

Short is calling for a sweeping reinvention of how skyscrapers and major public buildings are designed- to end the reliance on sealed buildings which exist solely via the ‘life support’ system of vast air conditioning units. Instead, he shows it is entirely possible to accommodate natural ventilation and cooling in large buildings by looking into the past, before the widespread introduction of air conditioning systems, which were ‘relentlessly and aggressively marketed’ by their inventors.

C

Short points out that to make most contemporary buildings habitable, they have to be sealed and air conditioned. The energy use and carbon emissions this generates is spectacular and largely unnecessary. Buildings in the West account for 40-50% of electricity usage, generating substantial carbon emissions, and the rest of the world is catching up at a frightening rate. Short regards glass, steel and air-conditioned skyscrapers as symbols of status, rather than practical ways of meeting our requirements.

D

Short’s book highlights a developing and sophisticated art and science of ventilating buildings through the 19th and earlier-20th centuries, including the design of ingeniously ventilated hospitals. Of particular interest were those built to the designs of John Shaw Billings, including the first Johns Hopkins Hospital in the US city of Baltimore (1873-1889). ‘We spent three years digitally modelling Billings’ final designs,’ says Short. ‘We put pathogens\* in the air streams, modeled for someone with tuberculosis (TB) coughing in the wards and we found the ventilation systems in the room would have kept other patients safe from harm.

E

‘We discovered that 19th-century hospital wards could generate up to 24 air changes an hour- that’s similar to the performance of a modern-day, computer-controlled operating theatre. We believe you could build wards based on these principles now. Single rooms are not appropriate for all patients. Communal wards appropriate for certain patients- older people with dementia, for example- would work just as well in today’s hospitals, at a fraction of the energy cost.’ Professor Short contends the mindset and skill-sets behind these designs have been completely lost, lamenting the disappearance of expertly designed theatres, opera houses, and other buildings where up to half the volume of the building was given over to ensuring everyone got fresh air.

F

Much of the ingenuity present in 19th-century hospital and building design was driven by a panicked public clamoring for buildings that could protect against what was thought to be the lethal threat of miasmas- toxic air that spread disease. Miasmas were feared as the principal agents of disease and epidemics for centuries, and were used to explain the spread of infection from the Middle Ages right through to the cholera outbreaks in London and Paris during the 1850s. Foul air, rather than germs, was believed to be the main driver of ‘hospital fever’, leading to disease and frequent death. The prosperous steered clear of hospitals. While miasma theory has been long since disproved, Short has for the last 30 years advocated a return to some of the building design principles produced in its wake.

G

Today, huge amounts of a building’s space and construction cost are given over to air

conditioning. ‘But I have designed and built a series of buildings over the past three decades which have tried to reinvent some of these ideas and then measure what happens. To go forward into our new low-energy, low-carbon future, we would be well advised to look back at design before our high-energy, high-carbon present appeared. What is surprising is what a rich legacy we have abandoned.’

H

Successful examples of Short’s approach include the Queen’s Building at De Montfort University in Leicester. Containing as many as 2,000 staff and students, the entire building is naturally ventilated, passively cooled and naturally lit, including the two largest auditoria, each seating more than 150 people. The award-winning building uses a fraction of the electricity of comparable buildings in the UK. Short contends that glass skyscrapers in London and around the world will become a liability over the next 20 or 30 years if climate modelling predictions and energy price rises come to pass as expected.

I

He is convinced that sufficiently cooled skyscrapers using the natural environment can be produced in almost any climate. He and his team have worked on hybrid buildings in the harsh climates of Beijing and Chicago- built with natural ventilation assisted by back-up air conditioning- which, surprisingly perhaps, can be switched off more than half the time on milder days and during the spring and autumn. Short looks at how we might re-imagine the cities, offices and homes of the future. Maybe it’s time we changed our outlook.

**Questions 16-20**

The above reading passage has nine sections, A - I. Which section contains the following information?

*Write the correct letter, A-I, in blanks 16-20 on your answer sheet.*

- 16. \_\_\_\_\_ why some people avoided hospitals in the 19th century
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_ a suggestion that the popularity of tall buildings is linked to prestige
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_ a comparison between the circulation of air in a 19th-century building and modern standards
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_ how Short tested the circulation of air in a 19th-century building
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_ an implication that advertising led to the large increase in the use of air

conditioning

Questions 21-25

Complete the summary below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the box below for each answer.

Write your answers in blanks 21-25 on your answer sheet.

Ventilation in 19th-century hospital wards

Professor Alan Short examined the work of John Shaw Billings, who influenced the architectural 21\_\_\_\_\_ of hospitals to ensure they had good ventilation.

He calculated that pathogens in the air coming from patients suffering from tuberculosis would not have harmed other patients. He also found that the air in 22\_\_\_\_\_ in hospitals could change as often as in a modern operating theatre. He suggests that energy use could be reduced by locating more patients in 23\_\_\_\_\_ areas.

A major reason for improving ventilation in 19th-century hospitals was the demand from the 24\_\_\_\_\_ for protection against bad air, known as miasmas. These were blamed for the spread of disease for hundreds of years, including epidemics of 25\_\_\_\_\_ in London and Paris in the middle of the 19th century.

A) built	B) outbreak	C) design(s)	D) produce(s)	E) cholera
F) communal	G) legacy	H) public	I) prosperous	J) wards

Part II Writing for Academic Communication

(50 points: 5 points for Task 1; 10 points for Task 2; 15 points for Task 3; 20 points for Task 4.)

Task 1

Direction: Rearrange the following sentences in a logical order based on the title below. Each sentence is labeled with a letter. Choose the most logical sentences from among the four given choices to construct a coherent paragraph and mark the letter (A, B, C or D) for the correct answer. (5 points)

Title: Global hotspots for soil nature conservation

- 1) However, unlike for plants and animals, a global assessment of hotspots for soil nature conservation is still lacking.
- 2) This hampers our ability to establish nature conservation priorities for the multiple dimensions that support the soil system: from soil biodiversity to ecosystem services.
- 3) Soils are the foundation of all terrestrial ecosystems.
- 4) Here, to identify global hotspots for soil nature conservation, we performed a global field survey that includes observations of biodiversity (archaea, bacteria, fungi, protists and invertebrates) and functions (critical for six ecosystem services) in 615 composite samples of topsoil from a standardized survey in all continents. We found that each of the different ecological dimensions of soils peaked in contrasting regions of the planet, and were associated with different environmental factors.

A. 1324      B. 3124      C. 2134      D. 4132

Task 2

Direction: The following is an introductory paragraph extracted from an essay. Choose words from the box below to fill in the blanks. Each word should be used only once. Please mark the corresponding letters (A---J) on the Answer sheet. (10 points)

(A) concur	(B) claims	(C) genuine	(D) however	(E) have risked
(G) Constitute	(G) detected	(H) definite	(I) might involve	(J) are dividing

Since the 1970s, parapsychologists at leading universities and research institutions around the world \_\_\_(1)\_\_\_ the derision of sceptical colleagues by putting the various \_\_\_(2)\_\_\_ for telepathy to the test in dozens of rigorous scientific studies. The results and their implications \_\_\_(3)\_\_\_ even the researchers who uncovered them.

Some researchers say the results \_\_\_(4)\_\_\_ compelling evidence that telepathy is \_\_\_(5)\_\_\_. Other parapsychologists believe the field is on the brink of collapse, having tried to produce \_\_\_(6)\_\_\_ scientific proof and failed. Sceptics and advocates alike do \_\_\_(7)\_\_\_ on one issue, \_\_\_(8)\_\_\_: that the most impressive evidence so far has come from the so-called ‘ganzfeld’ experiments, a German term that means ‘whole field’. Reports of telepathic

experiences had by people during mediation led parapsychologists to suspect that telepathy \_\_\_\_ (9) \_\_\_\_ ‘signals’ passing between people that were so faint that they were usually swamped by normal brain activity. In this case, such signals might be more easily \_\_\_\_ (10) \_\_\_\_ by those experiencing mediation –like tranquility in a relaxing ‘whole field’ of light, sound and warmth.

**Task 3**

**Directions: In academic writing, writers need to be cautious and critical about the claims they make. With the use of hedges, writers can soften the statements to avoid criticism for being radical or overconfident. Consider the following 5 sentences. Add hedges when necessary to the verbs in brackets. When no hedges are needed, use the correct forms of words in the brackets. Please write your answers on the Answer Sheet. (15 points)**

- 1) We (design) machines that translate, rotate and separate multiple floating objects and that do work on submerged objects through cyclic vertical motion. We combine these elementary machines to make centimetre-scale compound machines that braid micrometre-scale filaments into prescribed topologies, including non-repeating braids. This approach (be used) to manipulate micrometre-scale particles or to braid microwires for high-frequency electronics.
- 2) Our findings suggest that the apparent coupling between the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and solid-Earth systems (occur) on relatively short timescales and (act) as an important driver for ocean biogeochemical change.
- 3) The underlying dynamics of the amplification, including a twofold redshift in the radiation frequency over a one-millimetre interaction length, (be resolved) as electromagnetic-field-profile evolutions using an optical pump–probe method.
- 4) By extending the approach to a properly phase-matched electron bunch, our theoretical analysis predicts a super-radiant surface-wave growth, which lays the ground for a stimulated surface-wave light source and (facilitate) capable means for matter manipulation,

especially in the terahertz band.

- 5) Observations (show) a diffuse background of high-energy neutrinos, which is known to be of extragalactic origin. However, it has been difficult to identify individual sources that contribute to this background.

**Task 4**

**Direction: Paraphrase the following sentences by using appropriate techniques. Please write your answers on the answer sheet. (20 points)**

- 1) Although every effort has been made to make this research complete and comprehensive, some limitations need to be addressed in future research.
- 2) Nowadays, owning a house to live is people’s basic living needs, but with the development of society and economy, people gradually change from having a house to live to owning a house to invest.
- 3) According to widespread beliefs, government and the nonprofit sector operate in separate spheres, and pursue different objectives.
- 4) From the learning by doing perspective, hands-on experience is critical in refining an individual's skills and decision-making ability.
- 5) Both informal and formal finance have their strengths and weaknesses, implying that a borrower may benefit by simultaneously obtaining both of them.