**22) Claim: The best way to understand the character of a society is to examine the character of the men and women that the society chooses as its heroes or its role models.**

**Reason: Heroes and role models reveal a society's highest ideals.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim and the reason on which that claim is based.

**122) The best way to understand the character of a society is to examine the character of the men and women that the society chooses as its heroes or its role models.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons and/or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

1. 承认，社会的确可以通过一个人来认识社会的特点。一方面我们可以通过英雄来了解社 会普遍的价值。比如美国的三个总统。华盛顿(Washington)代表了美国社会对个人利 益的尊重(a society’s respect for the rights of individuals);林肯(Lincoln)代表了美国社会的 自由与平等(freedom and equality);罗斯福(Roosevelt)代表了美国社会的正义感以及工作 热情(sense of justice and passion for work)。这些正是不同时期美国社会的特点。通过不 同的时期的英雄，我们可以了解不同时代的社会价值，比如抗日战争，毛泽东被人们是 做英雄，反映了人们爱国主义(patriotism)。

2. 但是，虽然可以反映 trend and intention, 但是反映理想的状态。hero 一般被传媒夸大 (exaggerate)了。他们的缺点(defects)都被视而不见(overlook their shortcomings)，已经 不是原来的那个真的历史人物(original historical figures)。如:毛泽东(人多力量大)、斯 大林 Stalin 的独裁(autocracy)(阶级斗争激烈 class struggle),并且抑制了文化艺术的发 展。Idolatry hero 代表的是人们不可能达到的状态。是一种理想，而不一定现实中会这 样做。

3. 从英雄看社会是片面的，不能全面反应这个社会的特征。了解社会特征还有许多方法。 如:查看民众对 hero 的态度，文化习俗方面，中国的新年和西方的圣诞节。

Heroes mirror the value of a society. In the economics field, Bill Gates, the founder of the CEO and the chief software architect of Microsoft, devotion to the software design and innovation, and subsequent determination to give back through charitable organizations, makes him inspirational to people everywhere. He represents our society respect sense of justice and passion for work. In the scientific field, Albert Einstein, the most influential physicist of the 20th century, is a true science hero, not only because of his genius and physics theories, but also because of his philosophy and compassion for the universe and its creatures. He reflects our society value science and knowledge. In politics, Lincoln is remembered for his vital role as the leader in preserving the Union during the Civil War and beginning the process that led to the end of slavery in the United States. He illustrates our society esteem freedom and equality. To sum up, the feature of a society could be recognized by analyzing their heroes.

…most heroes are exaggerated by media, since nobody could live flawlessly. As regular individuals, role models are people who have actualized the values held dear by their groups: they have "made it" according to the standards of their people and their flaws are overlooked. Hence, they become a perfect historical figures. Besides, people regard those role models because they can realize people’s mutual dreams and goals which seem to be unattainable to people themselves. Therefore, those idols are just ideal state of the society and they could not represent the general characteristics of society.

… Although some features of society can be found in heroes, it is still too hasty to conclude that the culture elements extracted from the youth make the whole of the contemporary culture. Culture is the values, beliefs, behaviors, and materials objects that together from a people’s way of life. Tradition culture generally refers to patterns of customs and beliefs that reflect a group’s common identity. Traditions often come from deep-rooted beliefs. Tradition culture is passed down from one generation to the next through teaching and practice. Those culture can’t be totally ruling out when considering contemporary culture. Instead of studying youth trends, tracing back to the tradition culture would be more efficient way to deepen the understanding of current culture. In short, traditional culture still plays a significant role in contemporary culture.