**北大英语四级泛读网上小测**

**第8课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1. According to the author, being an author is a gainful occupation only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. in a broad sense         B. in a mental sense

C. in a limited sense        D. in a profitable sense

2. It can be inferred from the first three paragraphs that “this failure” (L21) refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. Wrath        B. Envy         C. Pride         D. Sloth

3. The sentence “it is Acedia which has claimed you for its own ” (L 44 ) means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. you are guilty of Acedia

B. you are losing touch with Acedia

C. you have become physically sluggish because of Acedia

D. you have overcome Acedia

4. What does the phrase “sense of proportion ” (L48 ) mean?

A. The ability to judge what is most important in a situation.

B. The capacity to keep one’s balance with the increasing age.

C. The possibility of feeling nothing at all.

D. The feeling of being troubled or wounded in one’s youth.

5. If “one lives at all times under a mental and spiritual cloud ” (L57), it shows that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. he has begun to feel pain

B. he has ceased to feel joy

C. he has gained wisdom and become more mature

D. he has abandoned satisfactions and delights of life

6. According to the context, the word “bias” ( L. 83) may stand for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. feeling      B. prejudice   C. preference        D. training

7. One of the reasons why we have to do things we detest sometimes is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A: we are not free to discuss it with our own wishes

B: we are not free to do whatever we like

C: we are free to act according to our wishes

D: we are victims of Acedia

8. It seems that people are afraid of joy because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

  A. being religious, they dread the passing of Jesus

  B. they want to escape the pain brought by joy

  C. they do not want to become the victims of Acedia

  D. they care too much about looking dignified

9. Which of the following is**Not**true of Acedia?

  A. Acedia reaches people gradually and silently without people’s knowledge.

  B. Acedia discourages and kills the spirit.

  C. Acedia causes people to feel pain.

  D. Acedia means intellectual and spiritual torpor, indifference and lethargy.

10. The author concludes his speech by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

  A. calling on the audience to break the padlock of their hearts in order to gain new freedom

  B. encouraging the audience to release their feelings of pleasure on receiving their degrees

  C. warning the audience against the danger of Acedia

  D. telling the audience the real purpose of education

**泛读 第10课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1. The author recounts her meeting with the Russian linguist in order to             .
   1. introduce the constant topic ofAmericaas a melting pot
   2. introduce boiling potters in contrast to the main course
   3. show the latter’s earnestness in pursuing his profession
   4. show the positive relationship between one’s accent and one’s ancestry

1. The word “blurred” (L 27) most probably means             .
   1. indefinite           B.      unreal

C.     rooted                      D.     displaced

1. “I suppose I’ve always known that my uninterest in it contains a large component of the willed: I am American, and those places purport to be my history. But they are not mine” (L. 29--31). From these two sentences, we can infer that             .

A.     American history is, to a certain degree, beyond the author’s understanding

B.     those places are special symbols of American history

C.     the author thought she had a different history

1. the author is going through an identity crisis

1. In the author’s eyes, Ellis Islandis not a place of honor because             .

A.     once it was in a state of dereliction for quite some time

B.     immigrants received many mistreatments when they landed there

C.     the pictures taken by Louis Hine reflect the dark realities there

1. three thousand people couldn’t help but commit suicide

1. Which of the following choices best explains this sentence fragment “…the machinery of immigration nearly collapsed under its own weight” (L108--109) ?

A.     The immigration institutions had a strong bias against immigrants.

B.     The medical examinations were too strict to be good.

C.     The immigration system failed to function properly.

1. The machinery concerned with immigration became too complicated.

6.    The meaning of the word “air” (L 82) is             .

       A.    mixture of gases            B.      an artificial manner

       C.    sentiment                      D.     mood

1. According to the passage, which of the following statement is**NOT** true?

A.     World War I madeAmericadislike people from other countries.

B.     Immigrants came to theUnited Statesin order to take part in a classy party.

C.    Ellis Islandhas a strong hold on the author’s imagination.

1. Ellis Islanddoes not reflect the bright side of American immigration history.

1. “It is part of being an American to be engaged in a somewhat tiresome but always self-absorbing process of national definition” (L159--161). According to this sentence, which of the following statements would the author most likely agree to?

A. It has been a trying task for the immigrants to maintain their identity.

B. American national definition is somewhat hard to come by.

C. In order to survive, immigrants had to meet the challenge of new circumstances.

1. Immigrants have been trying to assimilate themselves and become Americans.

1. What does the word “accidents” (L159) mean?

A.     incidental qualities                    B.    misfortunes

C.     unforeseen circumstances          D.    properties

1. Besides paying her respect to the ghost of Ellis Island, the author’s purpose in writing this passage is to             .

A.     criticize   B. entertain       C.  persuade          D.     fight back

**泛读 第11课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1.  At the end of the first paragraph, the author says “the more we learn about the two captains … the more powerful becomes their pull on our imagination.” The word “pull” probably means        .

1. sympathy     B.  influence   C. resistance         D. clarity

2.  What is true about the journals of the expedition?

A. Lewis edited part of the journals.

B. It was Lewis’s work to write the journals of the expedition.

C. William Clark edited the raw journals into the two-volume final form.

D. It was William Clark who published the whole editions of the journals.

3.  According to the article, which of the following statement is true?

A. Lewis and Clark treated each other as if they were both captains.

B. Clark had a higher military rank than Lewis.

C. Lewis and Clark both held the rank of captain.

D.Clarkhad never thought about his commission.

4.  In Line 58 the word “anticipated” means       .

A. opposed   B. looked forward to     C. shared in      D. agreed

5.  What made Lewis and Clark popular again a century later?

A. The exploration led by John Charles Fremont.

B. The Exploration led by John Wesley Powell.

C. The republication of the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

D. The publicity of the exploration by Fremont and Powell.

6.  In Line 138 the word “aspiration” means       .

    A. a love affair            B. expulsion of breath

C. a creative ideas         D. a strong desire for high achievement

7.  Charles McKenzie did not like Lewis at FortMandanmainly because        .

1. Lewis talked too much
2. Lewis tended to dislike the British
3. Lewis knew everything well
4. Lewis had an offensive character

8.  In Line 116 the word “unambiguous” means        .

1. unimaginable           B. practical

   C.  clear                 D. tough

9. Three years later after the expedition, Lewis died       .

A. because he had suffered the depression

B. because too much administrative work crushed him down

C. because he had a writing problem

D. but the cause of his death is not clear

10. “But when the revelers got to the captains in the 18th and final toast, they seemed to be at a loss for words” (L180--3). The expression “at a loss for words” probably means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. lost
2. not knowing where to go
3. unable to win

D.not knowing what to say

**泛读 第15课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1. “To give freely, spontaneously, like nature in her abundance. (‘How many are unworthy of the light, and yet the day rises to them.’ Seneca also wrote.)” (L54--7). How to understand the sentence in the brackets?
   1. Many people are not aware of the light, yet they still live in the world.
   2. There are many people who are not worthy of the light, yet the sun still shines on them.
   3. There are many people who don’t deserve the light, yet they are happy every day.
   4. When the sun rises every day, how many on earth don’t deserve the light?

1. Which *count*in the following sentences carries the same meaning as the one in “The niceties, of course, not the raw act of giving … are what count” (L32--3)?
   1. You can count on his help.
   2. They have 3 dogs, counting the puppies.
   3. She’s counted the best singer in this town.
   4. Every second counts when one is having an examination.

1. “She told me how; she was explicit about it” (L 98). The meaning of the second sentence is that she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. explained the reasons
   2. expressed herself clearly
   3. talked about it in detail
   4. had a sincere talk with me

1. “Foundation executives talk about their gifts as ‘investments’ and look for a return of sorts, for the kind of success in a project or program they can point to and call ‘mine’” (L153--6). Through this example, the author wants to argue that foundation executives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. are interested in big achievements
   2. try to expand their investment to a great extent
   3. expect some rewards from the donation
   4. expect a larger amount of money back in return

1. “Why not a broom? Why not a month’s supply of Wonder Bread?” (ll. 88-9). Through these two rhetorical questions, we can sense that the author \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. wants to give suggestions on better gifts
   2. doesn’t think practical gifts are always ideal
   3. is wondering there may be some better choices
   4. can’t understand why they are not able to give an ideal gift

1. The author mentions when gift-giving happened in his family, one didn’t have to wrap them, and cards were unnecessary. Why?
   1. His mother thought decoration was frivolous.
   2. When the family was so poor, decoration was meaningless.
   3. Decoration was important only on some special occasions.
   4. One should form the habit of thrift since childhood.

1. “But they’re an ideal gift. Purely symbolic. Purely cliché” (L101--2). The word “cliché” here means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. an over used word
   2. a custom
   3. an ordinary idea
   4. a sound

1. One of the purposes of the author is to prove \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. there is altruism, but most of time, we simply ignore it
   2. most people are not altruists, although there exists altruism
   3. even those altruists still expect something back in return
   4. the philanthropic organization is the typical representative of altruism

9.  The word “tension” in the sentence “We who are not poets live in the tension for the most part” (L188--9) means the strain between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. egoism and social regulations
2. altruism and social needs
3. altruism and egoism
4. altruism and self-accomplishment

10.   At one university a department chairman even asked me to write a critique of his department, which he then distributed to his faculty. The reason is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.    the author was a famous critic

1. there were some serious problems in this department

C.    as an altruist, the author was greatly respected by others

D.    the chairman wanted to please the author in this way

**泛读 第18课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1. In Line 2 of the text, “He was one, but not the other”, what does the expressions “one ” and “the other” respectively refer to?
   1. A beggar and a lunatic.
   2. A lunatic and a beggar.
   3. A beggar and a degenerate.
   4. A lunatic and a maniac.

1. In the sentence “In order to procure a quantity of false, perishable goods he has sold the only true, lasting good, his own independence” (L. 52--4), what does the expression “the only true, lasting good” mean?
   1. His expensive clothes.
   2. His own freedom.
   3. His big house.
   4. His bank accounts.

1. What is the main difference between Diogenes and other philosopher like Plato?
   1. Diogenes lived in sanctuaries but others didn’t.
   2. Diogenes lived inAthensor Cornth but others didn’t.
   3. Diogenes talked about the unreality of this contingent existence but others didn’t.
   4. Diogenes discoursed to ordinary people but others to a chosen few.

1. Alexander would be interested in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ according to the sentence “Jugglers and stunt artists and virtuosos of the absurd he dismissed with a shrug, but on reachingIndiahe was to spend hours discussing the problems of life and death with naked Hindu mystics, and later to see one demonstrate Yoga self-command by burning himself impassively to death” (Lines 128--132).
   1. a juggler
   2. a Hindu mystic
   3. a stunt artist
   4. a virtuoso

1. Which of the following would Diogenes least do?
   1. To wear a blanket through out the year.
   2. To live like a beggar in a quiet village.
   3. To teach in a crowd of ordinary people.
   4. To shout at the people he disliked.

1. In this narrative essay, the author’s tone proves to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. sarcastic
   2. skeptical
   3. humorous
   4. paradoxical

1. According to the text, what is the least likely reason that Alexander visited Diogenes?
   1. The curiosity to seek out anything strange yet instructive.
   2. The generosity taught by Aristotle.
   3. The desire to show his air of destiny.
   4. The fact that he was still young and civil.

1. Diogenes could be best described as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. a recluse   B. a beggar   C.  a sober man  D. a civil person

1. In the sentence “He understood Cynicism as the others could not” (Lines 171--172) the word “as” could be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. Because  B. while   C. when    D.  the way

1. In the last sentence of the text, who does the pronoun “he” refer to?
   1. One of Diogenes’ pupils.  B.  Diogenes.

C. One of Alexander servants.  D. Alexander.

**泛读 第21课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1. The reason that people with more confidence are less immune to flattery is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. they are not shrew enough
2. they haven’t got enough praise
3. they posses more wisdom
4. they think they deserve more praise

1. According to the author, flattery was regarded as dangerous in the Renaissance because people at the time believed that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. they would go to hell if they flattered others
   2. flattery would disturb the existing social hierarchy
   3. flattery was a serious offence against God
   4. only those in power had the rights to flatter

1. “And we believed him because it was a pleasing fiction” (L47--8). The word “fiction” probably means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. a story    B.  a theory   C. an untrue statement   D. flattery

1. The author uses the example ofClintonto show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. how the flattery of the people is exploited by politicians
   2. that most people have difficulty in judging what is the truth
   3. how flattery will damage people’s trust in the government
   4. people always know who is speaking the truth and who can be trusted

1. “Once social mobility became a good, flattery lost its moral stigma and became just another tool of social advancement” (L53--4). The expression “social mobility” probably means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. moving from one social group to another
   2. moving from one place to another
   3. changing jobs from time to time
   4. flattering those wealthy and powerful people

1. What was the attitude of the American Puritans toward flattery?
   1. They hated flattery and considered it as evil as people in the Old world did.
   2. They were more direct in flattering and didn’t mind being absurd.
   3. They believed that flattery should not be too direct and sincere.
   4. They thought flattery would be more effective if it was done sincerely.
   5. According to the author, flattery becomes more effective for modern Americans. It is because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      1. they believe that others’ views are more correct than their own
      2. they need others to direct the way of their life
      3. they have begun to consider it as noble to flatter others and themselves
      4. they need others to convince them how good they are

1. “It is the tactical omissions of everyday life that make society possible” (L92--3). The expression “the tactical omission” probably refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. the flattery directed at oneself
   2. the ignoring of other people’s flattery
   3. not questioning other people’s self-flattery
   4. contesting other people’s depictions of us

1. The author believes that too much undeserving public praise would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. be a serious threat to the stability of society and the government
   2. cheapen the value of private flattery and personal appreciation
   3. make the language we speak phony and clichéd
   4. make people distrust those great figures like Darwin and Martin Luther king

1. According to the author, to make flattery more authentic, we can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. share our secrets with others, the more the better
   2. talk in general when flattering others
   3. flatter people when they are not present
   4. mix a bit of criticism with flattery

**泛读 第24课**

***Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:***

1. The author believes that creativity is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. only the gift of God to a chosen few
   2. not a suitable topic for a television series
   3. a power that each of us has to a certain degree
   4. defined by people like Picasso and Michelangelos

1. Newtonfailed to develop a comprehensive theory for chemistry, because the science itself had not developed to the point \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he could see the new order.

A. when          B. where        C. which               D. why

1. The author uses the case ofNewtonto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. illustrate the relationship between convergent thinking and divergent thinking
   2. show that even a genius cannot break through without the shoulders of giants
   3. prove that overconfidence does no good in scientific study
   4. exemplify what a real genius can achieve in science

1. Which of the following best explains the sentence “creative thinking is discontinuous within a context of continuity (L 49--50)?”
   1. Creative thinking is a discontinuous process.
   2. Creative thinking is a continuous process.
   3. Creative thinking is based on what has preceded and at the same time breaks from the past.
   4. Creative thinking comes up with unpredictable conclusions through breaking from the past.

1. That “Maya Angelou had everything against her (L 169) ” means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. Maya objected her
   2. everybody objected Maya
   3. nothing is favorable to Maya
   4. Maya owned everything which helped her

1. One characteristic that the author does not say about the creative people is their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. powerful egos    B.  discipline   C.childlike wonder    D. reliability

1. Which of the following statements is **NOT**true about convergent and divergent thinking?
   1. Both kinds of thinking are characteristic of human thinking.
   2. Divergent thinking is directly related to creative thinking.
   3. Convergent thinking tends toward an unpredictable answer.
   4. They are fundamentally different but related.

1. Which of the following would the author disagree?
   1. We need to think more about why some people are creative than why others are using their creative power.
   2. We’d better avoid making judgments in order to keep creative thinking.
   3. Creative people keep their childlike wonder alive long into life.
   4. Peer prejudice is something to kill original thinking.

1. According to the text, which of the following is inconsistent with creativity?
   1. Conformity to other people.
   2. Novel use of a familiar object.
   3. Metaphors and similes.
   4. Tolerance of ambiguity.

10. By saying that “my heart leaps at the consensus emerging among some scientists that creative ability can be learned” (L192--3), the author means that he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the possibility that creativity can be learned.

1. suspicious of             B. willing to accept
2. surprised to hear about     C. at a loss as to