

Unit 13 The Possibility and Impossibility of History

I. Words and phrases

1.

- (1) ultimate history
- (2) social outlook
- (3) positive
- (4) skepticism
- (5) beat generation
- (6) historical fact
- (7) auxiliary sciences
- (8) a priori

2.

- (1) D
- (2) A
- (3) D
- (4) C
- (5) B
- (6) A
- (7) C
- (8) B; A
- (9) C; A
- (10) A; C

3.

- (1) rather than
- (2) entered into
- (3) at all
- (4) without
- (5) it may be that
- (6) however
- (7) occur to
- (8) for the present

4.

- (1) A (students; academics)
- (2) A (set out; take on; commence)
- (3) B (descendants; later generations)
- (4) B (overshadowed; obscured)
- (5) C (simple; modest)

II. Sentences and discourse

- 1. Paraphrase

- (1) Acton's opinion that ultimate history is possible reflects the social outlook of the later Victorian age, which is characterized by optimism, confidence, and a clear vision of the future; Clark's idea that historians' work supersede that of early generations, on the other hand, is in line with the social outlook of the post-war beat generation, which is characterized by a general sense of confusion, disorientation, and doubt.
- (2) The facts are to the historians as fish is to the fishmonger. Facts exist in different forms, such as documents and inscriptions, just like fish in the sea. Like the fishmonger who collects some of the fishes, takes them home, cooks and serves them in whatever way he likes, the historian also selects from the available facts, arranges them in an order that he considers appropriate, and endows them with historical significance.
- (3) The facts become historical facts and acquire historical significance only when they are selected by the historian, as the historian decides which facts to be chosen and put into his work, and how to arrange them or in what context.

2. E-C translation

- (1) 历史总是由胜利者书写的。在两种文化的冲突中，失败者被遗忘，而胜利者则提起了笔，在历史书中赞誉自己的伟业，贬低被征服的敌人。正如拿破仑所说：“什么是实力？不过是约定的寓言。”
- (2) 这部小说确实可以解读为寓言，侦探试图通过逻辑分析破解一系列案件的努力代表了人类破译宇宙意义之谜的企图，但最终侦探却成为了受害者，死于他对自己才智的盲目自信，惑于这个无解的世界，而他想要破译世界之谜的自负也变成了一种嘲讽。
- (3) 为了对人类事物进行全面研究，我首先要对最近西方学界的惯例进行质疑：为什么在西方学者的研究中，所有的人类历史都终结在他自己的国家、自己的时代？

3. C-E translation

History has a common definition—what happened before, a collection of unalterable facts. But to the historian, history has a more narrow

definition: history is a term of art, defined as a study of written history. While historians make use of archeological or physical evidence, the study of history focuses on historical writings.

History under the common definition can tell us what happened, but not why or how that is important to us today. History in the hands of the historian becomes a form of literature. That means history has an objective and a subjective element. In the hands of the historian, the study and recording of history is an attempt to give meaning to our past, present, and future. A good historian is one who gets the facts right and gives us guiding principles and universal concepts from the facts. The historian, in the details and through the universal concepts, gives us a sense of the people, places, and time. In this way, a good historian draws us into a personal relationship with the past, allowing us to grow and learn from it.

4.

(1) A-a; B-c; C-d; D-b

(2) D

(3) ③-②-①-④

(4) A