

Unit 5

Part I Introduction

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|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| (1) self-evident | (2) Liberty | (3) reflecting | (4) rooted | (5) volunteerism |
| (6) immigrants | (7) Dutch | (8) eventually | (9) economic | (10) nurtured |

Part II Background Information

Task 1

Section 1

1.

(1) Individualism, also known as individual freedom, is the core and main value in western society. It stresses “the moral worth of the individual” and involves “the right of the individual to freedom and self-realization”. Promoting the exercise of one’s goals and desires, individualists value independence and self-reliance as well as the right to control one’s own destiny while opposing external interference upon their own interests by society or institutions.

(2) Here “historic decisions” refers to the decisions by US forefathers to separate church and state, and to orbade titles of nobility when writing the Constitution for their new nation in 1789. This was to make sure that there would never be a government-supported church and that an aristocratic society would not develop.

(3) In the US, people believe that each individual is endowed freedom, so they should take care of themselves, solve their own problems, and “stand on their own two feet” otherwise they might risk losing it, which is the most important to all. Traditionally, this means achieving both financial and emotional independence from their parents as early as possible, usually by age eighteen or twenty-one.

Section 2

1.

(1) Equality (social equality) is defined as a state of affairs in which all people within a specific society or isolated group have the same status in certain respects, which includes equal rights under the law, such as security, voting rights, freedom of speech and assembly, property rights, and equal access to social goods and services. In addition, it also includes concepts of health equity, economic equality, some other social securities, as well as equal opportunities and obligations. So it involves the whole society.

(2) No.

Equality is a broad concept, which generally refers to a state in which all people within a specific society or isolated group have the same status in certain respects, including equal rights, equal access to social goods and services as well as equal opportunities and obligations.

While Equal Opportunities, which are included in “Equality”, means people believe that each individual should have an equal chance for success. So if life is seen as a race for success, So “Equal Opportunities” means that everyone should have an equal chance to enter the race and win. In other words, equality of opportunity may be thought of as an ethical rule, which helps ensure that the race for success is a fair one and that a person does not win because he or she was born into a wealthy family, or lose because of race or religion.

(3) Answers are open.

Section 3

1.

(1) The essence of volunteering lies in the fact that it is an altruistic activity and that there is no financial gain involved.

(2) People are willing to engage themselves in volunteer work for the following reasons:

- 1) Volunteer work can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect.
- 2) Volunteer work can help people improve themselves. They believe each can improve oneself by helping others. In other words, individuals can make themselves into better persons by contributing some of their time or money to charitable, educational, or religious causes that are designed to help others.
- 3) People also do volunteer work out of religious belief. Many successful people believe that they should devote part of their time and wealth to religious or humanitarian causes in order to be acceptable in the eyes of God and in the eyes of others.
- (3) “Virtual volunteering” is defined as the practice of volunteering using the Internet, off-site from the organization being assisted. It is also known as online volunteering, remote volunteering or e-volunteering.
- (4) Answers are open.

Section 4

1.

(1) Pragmatism was shaped during the period of Industrial Revolution. People in Britain tried their best and made all kinds of creation, ranging from the invention of various machines to the introduction of advanced political and social systems as well as diversified forms of science and literature. The tremendous development of pragmatism during that period reinforced its importance in the nation and later became one of the national characters.

Can-do Spirit was formulated when the first settlers started their life at the new land, shaped and developed in the frontier experience. The American frontier consisted of the relatively unsettled regions of the United States, usually found in the western part of the country, where both land and life were more rugged and primitive than in the more settled eastern part. That piece of land was rich in natural undeveloped resources. Only by hard work could these natural resources be converted into material possessions, allowing a more comfortable standard of living.

(2) Can-do Spirit has always been influencing the American people's life.

Can-do Spirit has traditionally given Americans a sense of optimism about themselves and their country. Americans like to believe that that every problem has a solution — a difficult problem can be solved immediately while an impossible one may take a little longer. They take pride in meeting challenges and overcoming difficult obstacles.

Traditionally, when times were hard, political leaders have reminded Americans of their frontier heritage and the tough determination of their pioneer ancestors; the Can-do Spirit has become a source of pride and inspiration. Currently, this Can-do Spirit provides the Americans with confidence in going through economic crisis and building a better life in the future.

Part III Anecdotes

Video 1

Task 1

1. F 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F

Video 2

Task 1

- (1) He is working all the way up on the call sheets to sign clients, from bottom to the top, from doorman to CEO
- (2) To save time, he never hangs up the phone between calls and he never drinks water so as not to go to the bathroom.
- (3) He works 6 hours each day.
- (4) He is hard-working, diligent, and positive toward his work.

Part IV Problem and Solution

1. The case is that today more and more young people (even younger children) are crazy about western festivals. They prefer to celebrate the western festivals rather than ours.
- 2, 3, 4 Answers are open

Part V How I See It

Step 1

Topic: studying-abroad craze in China and difficulties facing those students

Title: Difficulties of the Chinese Students Studying in the US

Step 2

Features: The numbers of the Chinese students studying abroad shown in the table and the chart are changing, getting bigger and bigger.

Trend: The number of the Chinese students studying abroad is on the rise year on year

Difficulties living abroad: pressures from sluggish economy and fierce competition; language barrier; being lonely; etc.

Part VI Exploration of Chinese Culture

Task 1

China Pavilion Dougong architectural style pavilion the Spring and Autumn period

Task 2

China Pavilion

Pavilion Preview

Theme: Chinese Wisdom in Urban Development

Highlights: Traditional Dougong Style

National Pavilion Day: October 1

Location: Zone A of the Expo Site

Pavilion Features

The main structure of the China Pavilion, “The Crown of the East”, has a distinctive roof, made of traditional dougong or brackets, which date back to more than 2,000 years. Dougong was widely used in the Spring and Autumn Period (770BC --- 467BC).

Pavilion Display

The contour design of the pavilion is based on the concept of “Oriental Crown, Splendid China, Ample Barn, and Rich People”, to express the spirit and disposition of the Chinese culture. The pavilion will have a core exhibition area on the top floor, an experience area on the second and a functional area on the first. China’s achievements in urban development from ancient to modern times will be the core theme of the pavilion.