

Writing and Translation

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1 CT6-2019-12-first

1.1 Translation

牡丹花色艳丽，形象高雅，象征着和平与繁荣，因而在中国被称为“花中之王”。中国许多地方都培育和种植牡丹。千百年来，创造了许多诗歌和绘画赞美牡丹。唐代时期，牡丹在皇家园林普遍种植并被誉为国花，因而特别风行。十世纪时，洛阳古城成为牡丹栽培中心，而且这一地位一直保持到今天。现在，成千上万的国内游客蜂拥到洛阳参加一年一度的牡丹节，欣赏洛阳牡丹的独特之美，同时探索九朝古都的历史。

The peony, boasting bright colors and an elegant appearance, is a symbol of peace and prosperity and thus recognized as “king of the flowers” in China. Peonies are bred and grown in many parts of the country. Over the centuries, numerous poems and paintings have been created to praise the flower. Peonies were particularly popular during the Tang Dynasty, when they were extensively cultivated in the imperial gardens and praised as the national flower. In the tenth century, the ancient city of Luoyang became the center for peony cultivation, a position it still holds today. Nowadays, thousands of tourists from home and abroad flock to Luoyang for the annual Peony Festival to both admire the unique beauty of the city’s peonies and explore the history of the ancient capital of nine dynasties.

1.2 Writing

Directions: The importance of having a sense of social responsibility.

Problems such as the violation of privacy and environmental pollution are becoming increasingly prevalent in modern society. To some extent, they can be ascribed to a distinct lack of a sense of social responsibility among enterprises and individuals, which is of crucial importance in building a better world.

When seeking profits, socially responsible corporations never forget to make positive contributions to our society. Take Alibaba, a leading tech company in China. The Ant Forest green initiative it launched in 2016 has so far inspired up to 500 million Alipay users to adopt low-carbon lifestyles and resulted in over 100 million trees planted in China’s most barren regions. At the individual level, a sense of social responsibility motivates us college students to acquire as much knowledge as possible and put it into practice. It also prevents us from engaging in unethical behaviors such as campus violence and academic misconduct that cause

negative social impacts.

To sum up, a healthy society requires all its members to take on their respective responsibilities, therefore, should develop a sense of social responsibility, especially we college students who will be a pillar of society in the future.

2 CT6-2019-12-second

2.1 Translation

梅花 (plum blossom) 位居中国十大名花之首，源于中国南方，已有三千多年的栽培和种植历史。隆冬时节，五颜六色的梅花不畏严寒，迎着风雪傲然绽放。在中国传统文化中，梅花象征着坚强、纯洁、高雅，激励人们不畏艰难、砥砺前行。自古以来，许多诗人和画家从梅花中获取灵感，创作了无数不朽的作品。普通大众也都喜爱梅花，春节期间常用于家庭装饰。南京市已将梅花定为市花，每年举办梅花节，成千上万的人冒着严寒到梅花山踏雪赏梅。

The plum blossom, the king of China's top ten famous flowers, originated in southern China and has been cultivated for 3,000 years. In the depths of winter, colorful plum blossoms boom vibrantly against the wind and snow, brave severe frost. The plum blossom, a symbol of strength, purity and elegant in traditional Chinese culture, motivates people to brave hardship and forge ahead. Since ancient times, many poets and painters have been drawing inspirations from plum blossoms and created countless immortal works. Plum blossoms are also particularly popular with general public and used as home decoration during the Spring Festival. Nanjing has designated the plum blossom as the city flower and holds Plum Blossom Festival, which attracts thousands of people to Plum Blossom Hill to enjoy the full bloom in the snow in spite of the severe cold.

2.2 Writing

Directions: The importance of having a sense of family responsibility.

Home should be where people feel secure and comfortable. Maintaining harmony at home is essential for the well-being of an individual, a couple and their offspring, and even the society. But many are being plagued by family discord, a problem that boils down to the

lack of family responsibility.

Everyone has certain roles to take on in his or her family. Parents are expected to ensure their children are well-nourished and well-educated, helping them build a strong body and great character. We college students also need to take our responsibility as adult children. Being independent of our parents as early as possible lightens the financial burden on them. Learning to be mature and sensible can prevent us from becoming a constant source of worry to them. Fulfilling our filial duty to best of our abilities allows them to enjoy life in midlife years, retirement and the twilight years.

In brief, a sense of responsibility among family members is prerequisite for a warm and loving family. Often far away from home, we may start by keeping in contact with our parents, as a means to meet our obligations as parts our family.

3 CT6-2019-12-third

3.1 Translation

荷花是中国的名花之一，深受人们喜爱。中国许多地方的湖泊和池塘都适宜荷花生长。荷花色彩鲜艳，夏日清晨绽放，夜晚闭合，花期长达两三个月，吸引来自各地的游客前往观赏。荷花具有多种功能，既能绿化水面，又能美化庭园，还可净化水质、减少污染、改善环境。荷花迎骄阳而不惧，出污泥而不染，象征纯洁、高雅，常来比喻人的高尚品德，历来是诗人画家创作的重要题材。荷花盛开的地方也是许多摄影爱好者经常光顾之地。

The lotus flower, one of the most famous flowers in China, has been deeply loved by people. Numerous lakes and ponds in many parts of China are suitable for the growth of lotus plants. The Lotus flower, boasting bright colors, blooms in the early morning and closes at night in summer, with the flowering lasting up to two or three months, attracting tourists from all over the country. The lotus has multiple uses, including purify water, reducing pollution and improving the environment, as well as greening water surfaces and beautifying gardens. The flower is characterized by its abilities to tolerate intense sun exposure and emerge pure and clean from the murky water, thus symbolizing purity and elegance. So it is often used as a metaphor for a person's noble character and has been a main subject for poets and painters throughout history. Places with lotus flowers in full bloom are also frequented by many pho-

tography enthusiasts.

3.2 Writing

Directions: The importance of having a sense of community responsibility.

Any community is composed of individuals. Naturally, it matters a great deal to our communities that we have a sense of responsibility towards them.

People living in the same area should be considered a group under an obligation to create a comfortable living environment for the whole community. Reaching this goal requires a sense of responsibility among all residents, which encourages them to start with small steps, such as to avoid making excessive noise that disturbs their neighbors. Moreover, a sense of collective responsibility among us students contributes to a warm and friendly atmosphere, where we respect and help each other, as well as a strong communal sense of belonging. It will ultimately be conducive to our academic and moral progress. After we graduate from college and get employed, we will find ourselves in a new community made up of colleagues. A sense of community responsibility, also known as team spirit in the workplace, will be the key to forming a united and cohesive group, where we strive towards a common objective in close cooperation with each other.

In conclusion, a sense of community responsibility is worth fostering in that it plays a significant role in living, learning and working.

4 CT6-2020-7-whole

4.1 Translation

《三国演义》(The Romance of the Three Kingdoms) 是中国一部著名的历史小说，写于十四世纪。这部文学作品以三国时期的历史为背景，描写了从公元二世纪下半叶到公元三世纪下半叶的魏、蜀、吴三国之间的战争。小说刻画了近千个人物和无数个历史事件。这些人物和事件虽然大多数都基于真实的历史，但都不同程度地被浪漫化和戏剧化了。《三国演义》是一部公认的文学杰作。自面世以来，这部小说不断吸引着一代又一代的读者，并对中国文化产生了广泛而持久的影响。

The Romance of the Three Kingdoms, which were written in the 14th century, is a well-

known Chinese historical novel. This piece of literature is based on the history of the Three Kingdoms period and depicts the wars between the states of Wei, Shu and Wu from the latter part of the 2nd century AD to the second half of 3rd century AD. The novel portrays almost a thousand characters and countless historical events. Although most of these figures and incidents are based on real history, they are romanticized and dramatized to varying degrees. The Romance of the Three Kingdoms is generally recognized as a literary masterpiece. Since its publication, the novel has constantly attracted generations of readers and had a widespread and long-lasting impact on Chinese culture.

4.2 Writing

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

While we all desire to lead an ideal life someday, not many of us take practical actions to realize it. Some may excuse themselves by claiming that they are not ready to get started. As a matter of fact, they have yet to grasp the truth of that saying: the best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

While tomorrow is unpredictable, today is to a large extent manageable. This means that a constant focus on tomorrow is futile, but due attention paid to today will bear fruit. Take physical training as an example. If you want to improve your physical fitness, the most effective way is to start now rather than spend hours making complicated workout plans for the following weeks. It is not that planning is of little value. It is just that people are inclined to indulge in the illusory satisfaction from planning, and it often holds them back from taking immediate actions.

It is very difficult to shake off inertia. Only by confronting it and acting now can we move toward success. Those who put off what really matters to them until tomorrow will end up with achieving nothing.

5 CT6-2020-9-first

5.1 Translation

《西游记》(Journey to the West) 也许是中国文学四大经典小说中最具影响力的一部, 当然也是在国外最广为人知的一部小说。这部小说描绘了著名僧侣玄奘在三个随从的陪同下穿越中国西部地区前往印度取经 (Buddhist scripture) 的艰难历程。虽然故事的主题基于佛教, 但这部小说采用了大量中国民间故事和神话的素材, 创造了各种栩栩如生的人物和动物形象。其中最著名的是孙悟空, 他与各种各样妖魔作斗争的故事几乎为每个中国孩子所熟知。

Journey to the West is perhaps the most influential of the Four Classical Novels of Chinese literature, and certainly the most widely known beyond China's borders. It depicts the tough journey of the famous monk Xunzang, who accompanied by three followers, travelled across Western China to India for Buddhist scripture. While the theme of the story is based on Buddhism, the novel draws on a host of Chinese folk tales and mythology to create various vivid and lifelike human and animal characters. The best known among them is the monkey Sun Wukong, whose tales of fighting against all kinds of monsters and demons are well known to just about every child in China.

5.2 Writing

Beauty of the soul is the essential beauty.

"Beauty of the soul is the essential beauty." In other words, the true beauty is a person comes from within, from his or her virtues. This saying is quite thought-provoking for many of today's young adults who are obsessed with physical appearance.

Outer beauty, to be sure, is not insignificant, but it will eventually fade with age. Inner beauty, on the other hand, lasts forever and even has the potential to get more radiant with time. Such radiance from the inside out can not only help increase personal charisma, but also bring hope and warmth to others. That is why people of lofty character always command wide respect, no matter whether they look gorgeous or not. Take the medical staff who have risked their lives to battle the novel coronavirus in the front line as an example. Despite the bruises and marks the protective masks left on their faces, they have been praised as heroes in harm's way for their selfless dedication to public health.

Therefore, we must bear in mind that genuine beauty is found in our character rather than our external appearance. And to attain a beautiful soul, it is crucial to strive for self-improvement and enjoy doing good deeds.

6 Appendix

6.1 Population ageing

Problem:

In many countries, the proportion of older people is steadily increasing. Does this trend have positive or negative effects on society?

Technological change and the increase in personal wealth have contributed to the improvement in life expectancy, and many countries have seen their population ageing at an unprecedented pace. The problems of this demographic change far outweigh its positive impact.

One social problem related to population ageing is that the medical costs will increase dramatically and hurt the economy. The need for medical care as well as the spending on it tends to increase with age. Elderly people are prone to health problems such as heart disease, arthritis and cancer, so a country with a large proportion of people over 65 has to increase the expenditure on medical services to treat age-related conditions. This leads to a budget cut for education, infrastructure projects and scientific not only in the quality of life but also in long-term economic growth.