

托福口語真題

Task 1

Describe a type of book, such as mystery, biography, science fiction that you do not enjoy reading. Explain why you do not like that type of book.

Task 2

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Talking face to face to a person is usually a better way to communicate than by using email or text messages. Use specific examples and details to support your opinion.

Task 3

A student has written a letter to the newspaper of city university:

Stop Serving Junk Food in Dining Hall

The university's dining hall currently offers many healthy foods but also a lot of unhealthy snacks and junk food, like cookies and potato chips. I think the university should stop serving the unhealthy items and offer only healthier options, like fruits and vegetables. Students would benefit from the change in two ways. First, they'd be healthier, because they'd eat lots of nutritious food. Also, students would save money. Many students buy unhealthy snacks and desserts, like ice cream, even if they're full after a meal—but with the new plan, they will no longer waste money on food that they really don't need.

Sincerely,

Mary Johnson

Now listen to two students discussing the letter.

S1: Did you see Mary's letter in the paper?

S2: Yea, but I totally disagree with her.

S1: Why not?

S2: I think what she proposes is kind of unnecessary. I mean most of us are healthy enough. We should be able to have a little junk food from time to time if we want.

S1: I'm with you there.

S2: I mean eating it occasionally is not going to hurt us.

S1: I agree. Just keep it in moderation.

S2: Like toward the end of the semester, when everybody's studying and finishing their papers and stuff...

S1: Sure! Times like that it's nice to have a treat like ice cream.

S2: And the argument about the money?

S1: Well that seemed to make sense, didn't it?

S2: I don't think so. If we can't buy it here, we're just going to go to a store off campus and it's more expensive there.

S1: That's true.

S2: Yep. I mean, we're going to buy this stuff occasionally, right? So, it'll end up costing us more money by forcing us to go to an off-campus store, which is the opposite effect from what the letter says.

Narrator: The man expresses his opinion about the letter writer's proposal. Briefly describe the requirement then state his opinion and explain his reasons for holding that opinion.

Task 4

Read a passage about Rational Ignorance from the psychology textbook:

Rational Ignorance

When people are planning to make an important purchase, they often spend a great deal of time gathering information about their various options to make the best possible choice. However, when making less important purchases, people may decide it is not worth gathering information beforehand. This phenomenon is called rational ignorance. If the differences between products seem small or unimportant, people may decide not to learn about them. In other words, people deliberately choose to remain ignorant of the differences because learning about them is not worth the time or energy. The products are so similar that no significant benefit can come from choosing one over another.

Now listen to part of a lecture in a psychology class.

Ok, well, so recently when I was buying a new car I was looking at several different cars and I took a lot of time researching the advantages and disadvantages of each one before finally making up my mind to buy one particular car. However, it was a different matter yesterday when I had to go to the store to buy some batteries for a flashlight and there must have been at least four or five different brands of batteries at the store; batteries made by different companies. Well, no doubt, some batteries may last longer than others and some might be higher in quality or cost slightly more or slightly less, but do you think I stood there reading each battery's package? Or do you think I asked the sales people questions so I could compare them? Of course not because frankly they all cost around the same and they probably last about the same amount of time and well, I didn't want to waste ten minutes standing there trying to figure out which batteries were best. I just grabbed the first ones I saw and paid for them.

Narrator: Explain how the example from the professor's lecture illustrates the concept of rational ignorance.

Task 5

Listen to a conversation between two students.

S1: Hey Mary! How are things?

S2: Well, pretty good... I'm a little worried about tomorrow afternoon though.

S1: Why? What's happening then?

S2: You probably know about the spring concert. You know, the one we have on campus every year. Well, this year I'm organizing it. There are going to be a couple student bands playing and it should be a lot of fun, sort of a celebration for the beginning of spring.

S1: Oh yea, that's right. I've seen the posters around campus. I'm planning on going.

S2: Well, I don't know if it's going to happen tomorrow. I just heard the weather forecast...

S1: Oh no... Don't tell me...

S2: Yea, they're predicting rain.

S1: So what are you going to do about holding the concert?

S2: Well, if we want to have it tomorrow, we can move it indoors. One of the school auditoriums is available. There'd be plenty of room for people to sit and listen to the music.

S1: Ok, that makes sense.

S2: Wouldn't be as much fun as having it outside though. Having it outside, it would feel like a real celebration of the spring season. People could be free to walk around, relax on the grass during the performances, stuff like that.

S1: Hmm... yea...

S2: But the weather report says it'll be clear the day after tomorrow on Sunday, so we could postpone the concert until Sunday afternoon.

S1: That way you could have it outside.

S2: Exactly. I talked to the musicians in the bands and they'd be fine with playing on Sunday.

S1: Great!

S2: I just don't know how many people would come. It usually seems quieter around here on Sunday afternoons. Remember some people go off campus to visit family or friends, so I'm not sure if enough people are going to be around to enjoy it.

Narrator: briefly summarize the problem the speakers are discussing, then state which of the two solutions from the conversation you would recommend. Explain the reasons for your recommendation.

Task 6

Listen to part of a lecture in a biology class.

Scientists have noticed that female animals that are mothers are better at finding food than those that don't have young. They think it's because the female's mental abilities improve when they become mothers. In particular, research has shown that the mother's memory actually improves, which makes her better at caring for her young, better at finding food for her young. What's the evidence for this? Well, scientists did an experiment with mother rats and rats that weren't mothers, non-mother rats, and they built a maze. Object was for the rats to find their way through the network of paths in order to get to the food at the end. The rats had to explore a bit because only one path in the maze led to the food and what the scientists were interested in was the speed. They tested the time it took the rats to find the food and it turned out that mother rats were faster and spent less time finding their way through the maze than non-mother rats. Mother rats were much better at remembering which places in the maze they had already checked. They didn't waste time repeating the same wrong turn or returning to the same dead end over and over. What did scientists learn from this? Well, they concluded that these enhanced mental abilities help a mother care for her young in the wild. With her improved memory, a mother is faster at finding food; in the woods, fields, wherever she and her young are living because she can remember where the best places are to look, so she'll spend less time searching, which is good for the survival of her young because it means she'll be able to get back to her nest faster to protect her young, which are vulnerable to attack by predators when she's away.

Narrator: The professor discussed an experiment with mother rats. Using the experiment to explain what scientists have learned about the natural ability of some mother animals.