

Listening and Speaking

1.

Although liberal arts colleges were 1) typically institutions created for wealthy white men in the early days of the American higher education system, there are 2) exceptions. For example, Smith College founded in 1871 was established in order to provide 3) the highest-quality undergraduate education for women". The establishment of Smith College was primarily 4) a reaction to early prejudiced beliefs that 5) prohibited women from attending college. Liberal arts colleges today are a small but 6) well-regarded academic force in America which 7) seeks to create better people with a better balance of character through a broad range of study. Due to their 8) unique philosophy and teaching method, liberal arts colleges have over time become a unique part of the American education system. There are hundreds of liberal arts colleges available in the country, all of which are 9) dedicated to supporting a curriculum that wishes to create 10) well-rounded students.

Text A

Reading Comprehension

1.

The students' response

1. As the room filled with chattering voices, each one grew louder to compete with the clamor around them.

Inference: The students were indifferent to the history class.

2. A soft murmur rippled across the room as students turned from side to side and whispered expressions of disbelief.

Inference: The students doubted about the history teacher's words.

3. The room grew still now.

Inference: The students became serious about the history course.

4. No one dropped the course.

Inference: The students were convinced to take the course.

2.

Cons of liberal education:

A. Many students would reject the appeal of pursuing liberal education, for they believe that:

1) In an increasingly specialized world you must concentrate on a single area and become an expert in that field, forsaking all other subjects.

2) "Liberal arts" is like something you pursue if you don't have a real major.

3) Liberal arts courses should be got out of the way, and the advisors should help students check off those requirements.

4) Schools exist only to get you the right certificate or degree, not to help you develop as a creative, critically intelligent, compassionate, and concerned human being.

B. Many professors and deans also don't understand why students should take all those general education requirements because they know very little about what the whole tradition of liberal education entails.

C. Some influential policy-makers in Washington, D.C. dismiss liberal education as meaningless for they hold that:

1) The value of education is to prepare for a job.

2) The aim of higher learning is to train someone to do a task that would make them money.

Pros of liberal education:

Our most creative and productive subjects found great value in general and liberal education because:

1) It enables students to encounter a vast range of ideas and creations, so that they can recognize good ideas when meeting them.

2) It helps students to engage and stimulate their minds, and understand education as a developmental process in which they sought to grow the power of their minds.

Language in Use

4.

- 1) stimulating, stimuli

- 2) implicate, implication

- 3) compassion, compassionate

- 4) specialize, specialization

- 5) reject, rejection

- 6) defined, definite

- 7) utilizing, utility

- 8) influential, influence

5.

- 1) by accident

- 2) by turns

- 3) By contrast

- 4) by definition

- 5) in case of

- 6) in terms of

- 7) in consideration of

- 8) in honor of

6.

- 1) groping for

- 2) strive for

- 3) applauded for

- 4) substituted for
- 5) compensate for

- 6) stand for

- 7) weep for

- 8) blame for

7.

- 1) comment on

- 2) deciding on

- 3) elaborate on

- 4) imposed on

- 5) concentrate on

- 6) acts on

- 7) feed on

- 8) relied on

8.

Reference translation

1) 接下来的几分钟里，他简要介绍了通识教育的发展历史，告诉学生们“通识”一词来自拉丁语，意为“自由”，这种学校教育在古代只有自由的小孩（而非奴隶）才能享受。

2) 现代的通识教育让学生接触许多理工和人文学科，这些学科知识有助于深入探求人生重大问题的答案。

3) 他们认为，高等教育如果不以培训学生做事挣钱为核心，就是毫无意义的。

4) 如果想弄清我们的调查对象究竟做了什么成就了极富成效与创造力的人生，我们就必须理解为什么他们如此重视在选定专业领域之前所接受的通识教育。

5) 他们把教育理解为一种成长历程，在此过程中，他们致力于思维能力的提升，这样一种理解也影响到了他们所尝试的学习方向。

9.

Reference translation

The imperial examination system in China began to be put into practice in the Sui Dynasty and lasted more than 1,300 years. In ancient China, class consciousness was distinct and people from lower classes had little chance to gain a position in the official court. But once the imperial examination system was introduced, scholars from poor families had opportunities to take the government exams, which enabled them to bring honor to their families. Such a talent-selection system had great impact not only on the politics, economy, education, cultural concepts and social customs in Chinese feudal society, but also on the education systems of such neighboring countries as Japan, Korea and Vietnam. To some extent, China's current education system has selectively inherited some advantages from the imperial examination system.

Text B

Reading Comprehension

1.

1) pro

Plumbing college clearly has a lot to recommend it. You learn useful and relevant skills there. You become eminently employable. And you probably don't find yourself having £30,000 of tuition fees to pay back when you finally complete the course.

2) con

A humanities student in the 1980s, pursuing a non-vocational course, could still feel confident that the degree he or she was studying was worthwhile in itself. University was supposed to be about a broadening and deepening of the individual.

3) con

Job prospects, employability skills and building networks of “contacts”, must be a secondary or even tertiary concern. Study something that fascinates you, and worry about the future later on.

4) con

Classicists would be able to tell us that Aristotle's concept of “flourishing” as an individual — eudaimonia — does not imply great material success at all. Living and doing well is what matters. One probably needs to be well educated to achieve this, but not necessarily paid an investment banker's salary (or bonus).

Language in Use

2.

- 1) affordable

- 2) conscientious

- 3) synthetic

- 4) suppress

- 5) defiant

- 6) condemn



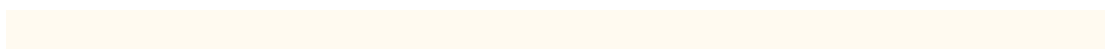
- 7) incurred



- 8) fascinate

3.

- 1) as far as ... is concerned

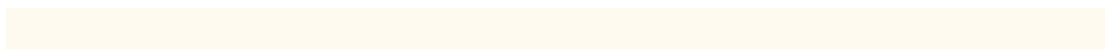


- 2) take on



- 3) die down

- 4) in due course

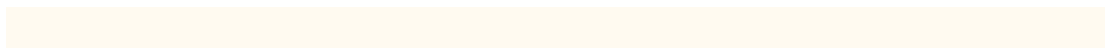


- 5) may as well



- 6) go through

- 7) for the sake of



- 8) pays off

4.

Reference translation

1) 这位焦虑的家长上世纪 80 年代读的本科，那时学生生活的某些本质还是不言自明的，尽管英国当时正经历着一次重大的经济转型。

2) 我曾亲耳听到时任首相托尼•布莱尔（他毕业于牛津大学圣约翰学院）宣称“学得越多，挣得也越多”，说这话时他显然没有挖苦之意。

3) 一旦政治上的争执和愤慨（不管是真义愤还是伪装的）平息下来，我们所有人将不得不冷静思考如何帮助我们的孩子应付他们终将面对的债务。

4) 与最初用来替代助学金的学生贷款一样，贷款付学费、再慢慢偿还的方式，可能将成为年轻人所能获取的最好最实惠的贷款之一。

5) 就在 20 多年前我们很多人都还得到过父母的经济支持，然而随着这个国家里“夹缝中的中产阶级”日益沦落，极有可能这也要变成稀罕事了。

Writing

1

1) Victoria as a favorite tourist city and a comfortable place to live

2) location and climate, interesting things to do there, lifestyle

3) healthy life, clean and pleasant environment, good standard of living, artistic atmosphere and good taste

2

American Fast Food: Why Is It So Popular in China?

I. American fast food is now very popular in China.

A. There are several kinds of popular American fast food restaurants in China.

(McDonald, Kentucky, Pizza Hut, etc.)

B. These fast food restaurants serve different kinds of food.

C. The number of American fast food restaurants in China is increasing dramatically.

II. There are several reasons for the popularity of American fast food in China.

A. The service is generally good.

1. It is fast.

2. The employees of the restaurants are professional and friendly.

3. It is convenient for people too busy to prepare a meal.

4. The environment is clean and pleasant.

B. The food tastes good.

1. It tastes different from typical Chinese food and excites Chinese taste buds.

2. The taste is the same in chain stores, which provides a sense of security and standard.

C. The packaging makes the food look appealing.

1. Colorful paper wrappings appear appealing.

2. Plastic utensils are clean and convenient.

D. Various promotions attract customers.

1. Discount and special prices help the sales.

2. TV commercials and newspaper advertisements greet regular customers and catch new ones.

III. The popularity of American fast food is a result of both the food culture and the lifestyle it represents.