

# 外研社杯·国才杯·2018 年阅读大赛复赛第一场

**Questions 1-3 (Suggested completion time: 3 minutes)**

Directions: Read the following descriptions and choose the correct author for each description. Please note there are two extra options you do not need.

A. John Henry Newman	<p><b>1.</b> He is a professor of geography at the University of California and the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the widely acclaimed <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i>. He formerly also pursued a separate career of laboratory research in membrane physiology and biophysics at UCLA Medical School.</p> <p><b>2.</b> In 1817 he was admitted to Trinity College, Oxford. Then he led the Oxford Movement in the Church of England and later became a cardinal-deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. He was an important and controversial figure in the religious history of England in the 19th century.</p> <p><b>3.</b> He was fluent in English, French, German and some other languages. In 1877, he graduated from the University of Edinburgh with a Master’ s degree. His works had far-reaching effects on both West and East.</p>
B. Jared Diamond	
C. Jerry Brotton	
D. Ku Hung-ming	
E. Richard Paul	

**Question 4 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

When Harvard scientists analyzed more than two decades of data on more than 77,000 people, they found that those with AB blood had a 23 percent increased risk for heart disease compared to people with type O blood. Those with type B blood had an 11 percent higher risk and those with type A blood had 5 percent greater risk. Researchers aren’ t sure why, but posit that type A blood is associated with LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol and that type O blood, which is associated with reduced risk, may contain a chemical that boosts blood flow and prevents clots.

However, researchers are quick to point out that lifestyle factors like weight, smoking, and diet, which, unlike blood type, are modifiable, have a much greater impact on heart disease.

**4.** What does the writer mainly discuss in the text?

- A) The reason why blood type has an impact on heart disease.
- B) The relation between blood type and the risk of heart disease.
- C) The factors contributing to heart disease.
- D) The methods to predict heart disease.

**Question 5 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)**

**Directions:** *Read the text and answer the question according to the text.*

The vessel is named after the Norwegian pilot and polar explorer Helmer Hanssen, who took part in three of Roald Amundsen's polar expeditions. On the second of these he was among the first people to reach the South Pole.

Among the array of scientific tools on board, his modern namesake will be a small flock of robotic underwater gliders which will continue the survey long after the scientists have returned to port. These seaglid­ers have been developed at the Sams Marine Robotics Facility and do not have conventional *propulsion*.

They use a "buoyancy engine" which changes their density and shifts the centre of gravity to send them diving and rising through the top layer of the ocean.

5. What is the most probable meaning of *propulsion*?

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A) the function of staying afloat | C) the function of changing direction |
| B) the power of decreasing weight | D) the power of moving something      |

**Question 6 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

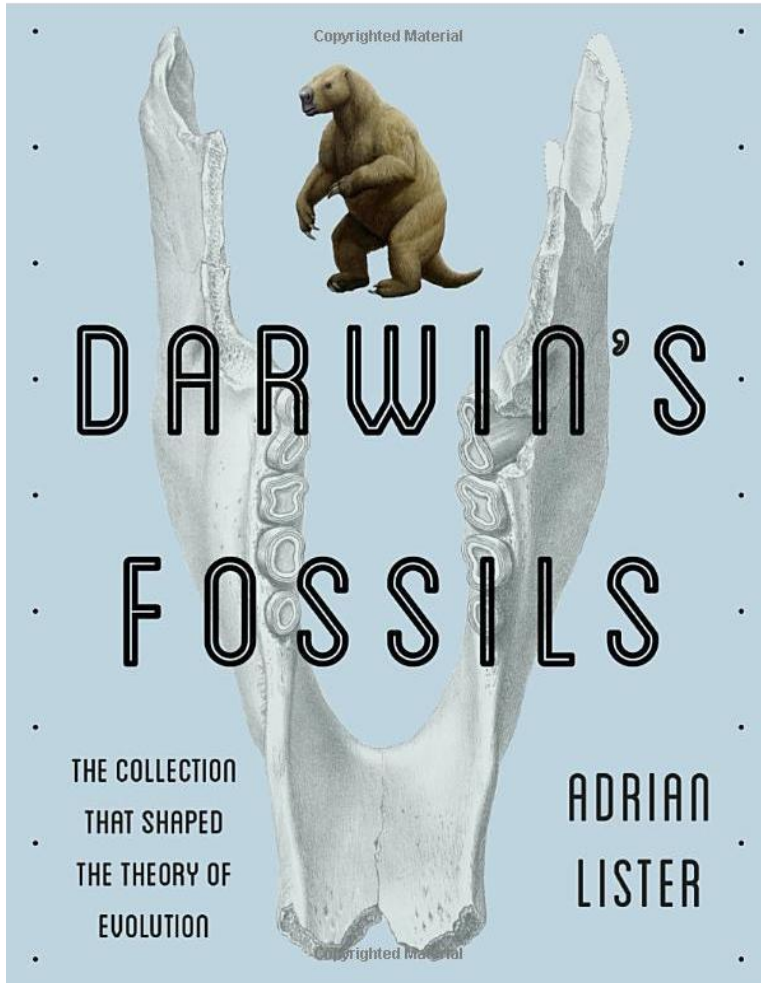
Writing was a reputable and harmless occupation. The family peace was not broken by the scratching of a pen. No demand was made upon the family purse. For ten and six pence one can buy paper enough to write all the plays of Shakespeare – if one has a mind that way. Pianos and models, Paris, Vienna and Berlin, masters and mistresses, are not needed by a writer. The cheapness of writing paper is, of course, the reason why women have succeeded as writers before they have succeeded in the other professions.

6. The tone of the text can be described as \_\_\_\_\_ when the author mentions women's success as writers.

- A) sympathetic   B) complimentary   C) playful   D) optimistic

**Question 7 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.



Charles Darwin famously derived his theory of evolution from observations he made of species and their geographic distributions during his five-year voyage around the world on the *H.M.S. Beagle*. But in the introduction of *On the Origin of Species*, the naturalist also cites another influence: the thousands of fossils that he collected on that trip. *Darwin's Fossils* is paleobiologist Adrian Lister's account of that little-appreciated foundation of evolutionary theory.

While sailors on board the *Beagle* charted the coastal waters of South America (the actual purpose of the expedition), Darwin explored the shore and rambled inland on excursions that sometimes lasted weeks. The fossils he unearthed — some relatively fresh, others millions of years old — have tremendous significance in the history of science, Lister contends.

7. What can be inferred from the text?

- A) Darwin's theory is based on his observations during his voyage on board.
- B) Adrian Lister does not really appreciate *On the Origin of Species*.
- C) Darwin and the sailors on board the *Beagle* had multiple purposes for the voyage.
- D) Darwin thought the thousands of fossils played a significant role in his theory of evolution.

**Question 8 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

"Traces of DNA are left behind by every species everywhere," says Ryan Kelly. He is an ecologist at the University of Washington in Seattle. He also works at the Center for Ocean Solutions at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. Scratch an itch, he says, and you shed skin cells containing your DNA. Pets and other animals leave behind bits of dead skin known as *dander*. Reptiles shed skin as they grow. There's even DNA in poop.

"Just like forensic scientists do at a crime scene every day, we are detecting that trail of DNA that's left behind," explains David Lodge. He's a biologist at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. And he hunts for signs an animal has been around by scouting for bits of the DNA it had shed. Scientists refer to this genetic litter as e-DNA. Here, the "e" stands for "environmental."

8. Which of the following is the best title for this text?

- A) Animals' DNA
- B) Invisible DNA
- C) DNA Hunters
- D) DNA in Skin

**Question 9 (Suggested completion time: 2 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text and answer the question according to the text.

Some grand philanthropic donations are visible and public-facing, but they distract from a broader pattern in charitable giving: As a group, the wealthy do donate more money overall, but as a proportion of earnings, many of them give less than those with far less wealth. The Philanthropy Roundtable, an organization of philanthropic groups, has found that while households with annual earnings of less than \$50,000 were less likely to donate any money to charity than those earning more than that, if they did donate, they gave a greater percentage of their income than those wealthier than them. A survey by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* released in 2014 reached a similar finding: Those earning \$200,000 or more per year reduced their giving during the Great Recession and its aftermath by 4.6 percent, while those bringing home less than \$100,000 upped their donations by very nearly as much — 4.5 percent, to be specific.

9. Which of the following is correct according to the text?

A) Many wealthy people are reluctant to donate more money to charity organizations.

C) Wealthy people donated much less money than those with far less wealth during the Great Recession.

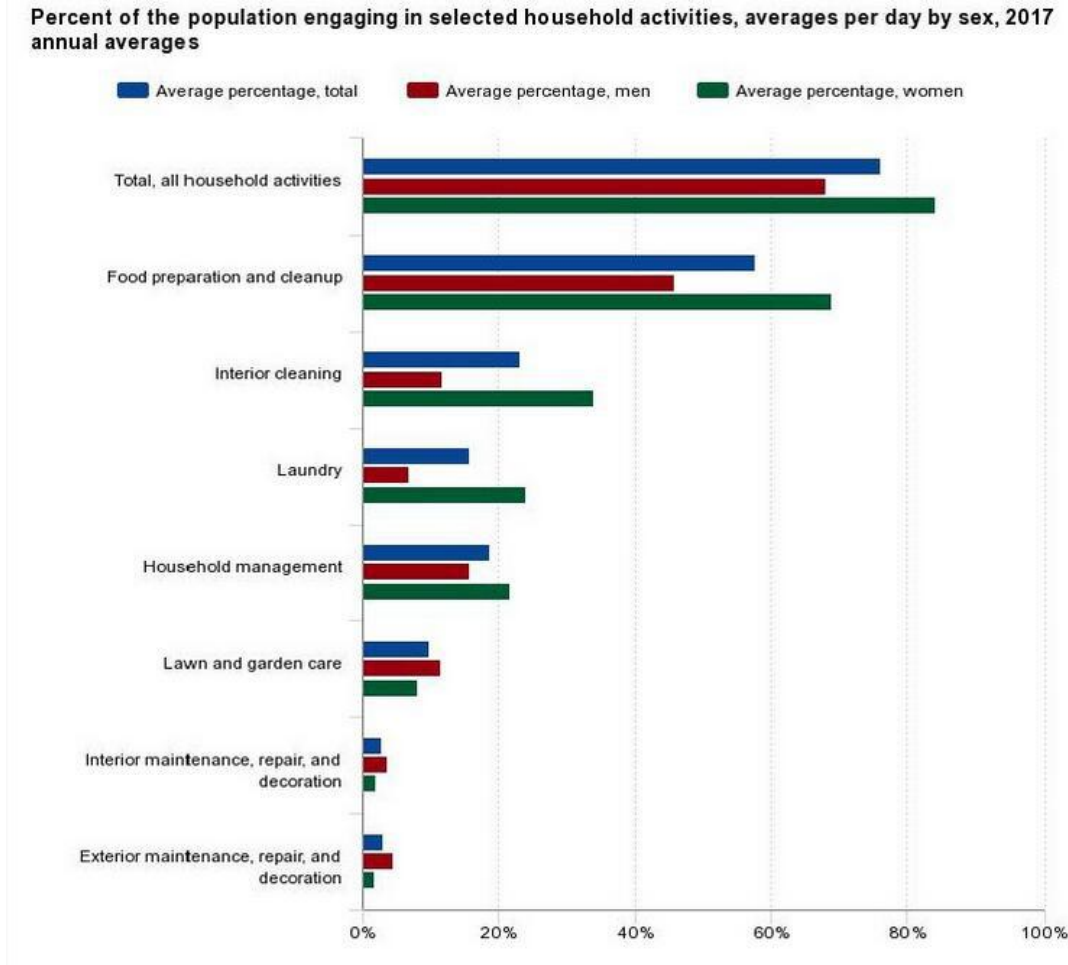
B) Wealthy people choose different ways in charitable giving from those who earn much less.

D) Many wealthy people give away much of their fortune to charity organizations.

**Question 10 (Suggested completion time: 5 minutes)**

Directions: Answer the question according to the information in the charts.

**Average hours per day spent in selected household activities**



Activity	Average hours, total	Average hours, men	Average hours, women
Total, all household activities	1.81	1.41	2.19
Food preparation and cleanup	0.60	0.36	0.83
Interior cleaning	0.35	0.16	0.53
Laundry	0.16	0.06	0.25
Household management	0.13	0.12	0.14
Lawn and garden care	0.18	0.25	0.11
Interior maintenance, repair, and decoration	0.06	0.08	0.04
Exterior maintenance, repair, and decoration	0.06	0.09	0.02

Note: Data refer to persons 15 years and over.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.

10. Which of the following provides an INCORRECT description of the charts?

- A) On average, men spend 0.16 hours less per day in interior cleaning compared with women (0.53 hours).
- B) A little less than 50 percent of men do food preparation or cleanup, compared with nearly 70 percent of women.
- C) Men are more likely to engage in such household activities as lawn and garden care than women.
- D) The average hours spent by men on maintenance, repair, and decoration more than doubled compared with that of women.

Question 11 (Suggested completion time: 4 minutes)

Directions: Read the following definition of a logical fallacy. Answer the question according to the definition.

### Stolen Concept Fallacy

The “stolen concept” fallacy, first identified by Ayn Rand, is the fallacy of using a concept while denying the validity of its genetic roots, *i.e.*, of an earlier concept(s) on which it logically depends.

11. Which of the following provides a typical example of *Stolen Concept Fallacy*?

- A) AIDS first emerged as an epidemic back in the very same era when Disco music was becoming popular — that' s too much of a coincidence: It proves that Disco caused AIDS!
- B) Since the students have no questions concerning the topics discussed in class, the students are ready for a test.
- C) Nothing is certain; there are only probabilities.
- D) One day robots will enslave us all. It' s true. My computer science teacher says so.

**Question 12 (Suggested completion time: 4 minutes)**

Directions: Read the following example of a logical fallacy. Answer the question according to the example.

**Stacking the Deck Fallacy**

People sometimes make decisions by folding a piece of paper in half, and listing reasons in favor on one side, and reasons against on the other; then they decide intuitively which side has stronger (not necessarily more) reasons. This method forces us to look at both sides of an issue before we decide. In the incorrect form, we just look at half the picture; this is called "stacking the deck."

12. Which of the following is NOT of the same logical fallacy as in the text?

- A) Students who break the rules should be suspended from school. I broke a rule, but I shouldn't be suspended because I would be in a lot of trouble with my parents.
- B) Yes, I do think that all drunk drivers should go to prison, but your honor, he is my son! He is a good boy who just made a mistake!
- C) Superstition is a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation — unless it is astrology.
- D) How many school shootings should we tolerate before we change the gun laws?

**Questions 13-14 Reasoning (Suggested completion time: 10 minutes)**

13.

“Some people claim that the values that this country was built on are now being ignored by modern-day corporations. But this is incorrect. Corporations are purely profit-driven enterprises, beholden only to their shareholders, and as such they can only assess objects based on their value.”

Which of the following best describes the above argument?

- A) Depending on the ambiguous use of a key term.
- B) Assuming without warrant that a situation allows only two possibilities.
- C) Relying on subjective rather than objective evidence.
- D) Confusing the coincidence of two events with a causal relation between the two.

14.

“Richardson recently claimed that we must do something in response to the university’s current economic crisis. I have repeatedly proposed that we lay off a percentage of all workers and simultaneously reduce all budgets to last year’s levels. If we are to follow Richardson’s advice, and actually do something, we must implement my program of action immediately.”

Which of the following best summarizes the flaw in the reasoning above?

- A) It appeals to an authority in an attempt to persuade the reader to implement the author’s program of action.
- B) It fails to exclude an alternative proposal for the current economic crisis.
- C) It responds to a distorted version of an opposing position.
- D) It uses “something” in different senses, which undermines the integrity of the argument.

**Questions 15-16 (Suggested completion time: 6 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text about Princess Eugenie. Answer the questions according to the text.

*Princess Eugenie was rejected from university but then given a place when they realised who she was, claims lecturer Dr. Martin Farr, a senior history lecturer, who made the allegations at a convention. He said many students became republicans as she received “special treatment” . The princess studied English literature, history of art and politics and graduated with a 2:1.*

Princess Eugenie was initially rejected by Newcastle University and then given a place because of who she was, it was claimed.

Her application was allegedly dismissed as “not good enough” by an admissions officer who hadn’t realised the applicant was a member of the royal family.

When the “horrified” university authorities realised what had happened they offered the Duke and Duchess of York’s daughter a place on an alternative degree course.

The allegations were made by Dr. Martin Farr, a senior history lecturer at Newcastle University, in a speech to the anti-monarchist campaign group Republic’s annual convention in the city.

Eugenie ended up doing a combined BA honours degree in English literature, history of art and politics at Newcastle and graduated at the end of her three-year course in 2012 with a 2:1. The comments by Dr. Farr imply that she was given special treatment to get her into the university for public relations purposes.

Speaking to an audience in favour of abolishing the monarchy, Dr. Farr said his information had come from a colleague who he didn’t name.

He said the royal VIP was rejected for a degree in English literature before being found a place on the apparently less competitive combined degree when her identity came to light.

**15.** Which statement about Princess Eugenie fits the text above?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A) She has graduated from Newcastle University. | C) She got her Master’s degree in English literature.         |
| B) She performed badly in academic study.       | D) She was favored by her classmates in Newcastle University. |

**16.** According to the text, why did Dr. Farr make the claim?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A) He thought royal members should get special treatment. | C) He believed Eugenie doesn’t match her grades.     |
| B) He advocated abolishing the monarchy.                  | D) He encountered prejudice in Newcastle University. |

**Questions 17-20 (Suggested completion time: 8 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text about the Great Barrier Reef. Answer the questions according to the text





You can spend a lifetime exploring the Great Barrier Reef and still not see all of this colorful coral realm — it’ s nearly the size of Montana. Sprawling off the east coast of Queensland, Australia, the Great Barrier Reef is not a single reef but a group of more than 2,800 distinct entities. It stretches over 1,250 miles (2,000 kilometers) north to south and covers some 135,000 square miles (350,000 square kilometers) in total.

The reef system is the largest structure on Earth built by living organisms, tiny hard corals that are no bigger than a fingernail. When corals die in countless numbers their limestone-secreted skeletons build upon one another to form the bedrock of the reef. The magnificent structures we see today were produced by a slow process played out over millions of years. Reefs grow only about half an inch (1.3 centimeters) a year.

Some 2,000 different fish species have been identified on the Great Barrier Reef, and new ones are found each year. Scientists estimate that the reef is home to 4,000 mollusk species and over 250 different shrimp species. Even the corals that construct the reef itself are diverse — numbering some 400 species.

This colorful aquatic ecosystem is home to a staggering diversity of plant and lower animal life but is also frequented by larger species like dugongs, sea turtles, sharks, and dolphins. In order to protect these biological treasures, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was designated a World Heritage site in 1981. Some two million tourists visit the Great Barrier Reef each year, driving an eco-economy that generates billions of dollars annually. But in recent years, the reef has suffered unprecedented coral bleaching.

Most day trips to the reef leave on boats from coastal centers like Cairns or Port Douglas. Most of the reef is dozens of miles offshore and must be reached by boat journeys of one to several hours. The Great Barrier Reef lies in tropical waters where temperatures are warm enough to offer enjoyable swimming and diving year round — though averages can vary 10°F (5.5°C) from winter to summer. Peak tourism time on the reef is April through November, but even in winter ocean water temperatures typically top 72°F (22°C). Daytime temperatures during the summer months (December to March) can be quite hot — particularly in the northern regions of the reef.

High-speed catamarans take day-trip visitors to the reef, often docking at special base camp platforms equipped for snorkeling, diving, or exploration via glass-sided semi-submersibles. Other boat tours, including sailboats, provide a more leisurely experience. Private charters are available for snorkeling, diving, whale watching, or fishing adventures — including overnight live-aboard vessels for journeys to more remote locations. Aircraft and helicopter flights offer a bird’ s-eye view of the massive reef system, much of which lies close to the surface in clear, warm waters

17. What can be the best title for the text?

A) The Great Barrier Reef, the Heaven on Earth

C) Urgent Measures Needed to Protect the Great Barrier Reef

B) Dive into the Vibrant Waters of the Great Barrier Reef

D) The Reef System at the Great Barrier Reef

18. All of the following provide true descriptions about the Great Barrier Reef EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) The enormous number of tourists is the very reason for coral bleaching.
- B) It's the largest coral reef in the world.
- C) It lies on the east coast of Queensland, Australia and is not a single reef.
- D) Its ecosystem is full of plants and lower animals.

19. Which of the following is true about corals?

- A) Their living temperature is at least 72°F (22°C) in winter.
- B) Their living skeletons build the reef.
- C) They are very tiny, no bigger than 1.3 cm.
- D) There are about 400 coral species in the Great Barrier Reef.

20. Which of the following is true about travelling to the Great Barrier Reef?

- A) Its peak tourism time is from November to April.
- B) It only accepts day-trips, no overnight trips.
- C) It is a World Heritage site, so No Fishing there.
- D) It is a suitable place for swimming and diving.

**Questions 21-23 (Suggested completion time: 8 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text about an accidental poisoning. Answer the questions according to the text.

A tropical fish enthusiast accidentally poisoned himself and his family while cleaning a fish tank after coral released deadly fumes as he scraped off the grime.

Chris Matthews, 27, was hospitalised along with his girlfriend, mum, dad, sister and her boyfriend, and four firefighters after they breathed in toxic fumes.

Experienced fish owner Chris was cleaning out a tank and moving the contents to another container when the accident happened in Steventon, Oxfordshire. In the process he took out a rock covered in coral and scraped it clean. Inadvertently he released deadly substance palytoxin into the atmosphere, and then closed the door and went to sleep.

The following day the entire family suffered flu-like symptoms, and even their two dogs became ill. Chris suffered breathlessness, coughing and fever which he said was "as bad as pneumonia". Over the course of the day, his mother, sister and her boyfriend all came down with varying levels of illness. Chris realised that it was likely the family had been poisoned and dialed 999. When his father, Ian, returned home from work, he was also taken to hospital.

Chris said: "It was worse than flu, we couldn't concentrate on anything. We couldn't regulate our temperature, we were struggling to breathe and coughing. We woke up the next morning feeling groggy but initially put it down to flu. It was when we noticed our two dogs had similar symptoms that we knew something wasn't right."



B) Chris knew about palytoxin before.

D) Chris has kept the pulsing xenia for 12 years.

**Questions 24-27 (Suggested completion time: 7 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text about package delivery. Answer the questions according to the text.

If your package is long overdue or you think it may be lost in the mail, you should contact your local post office and request that a parcel tracer action be initiated to locate it. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is unable to track packages into or out of our facilities unless you have received a notice of detention issued by CBP, otherwise we will not be able to locate your package even if it is being held by CBP.

Please note, the International Sorting Center (ISC) is a U.S. Postal Service Processing Facility and not a CBP one. If the post office has a tracking number that indicates the package went into CBP, but no record of it exiting the facility, you might ask USPS' s customer service representatives to work directly with the CBP facility to see if it is still there — although the absence of a record is not proof that the package is still in the CBP area.

CBP enforces a wide range of laws, including health, safety, and intellectual property rights, so other U.S. agencies also may need to inspect packages. This is particularly common for goods subject to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, such as medicine, medical devices, and food items.

If CBP has detained your package for some reason (for example, lack of a proper invoice, bill of sale, or other documentation, a possible trademark violation, or if the package requires a formal entry) the CBP International Mail Branch holding it will notify you of the reason for detention (in writing) and how you can get it released.

When you have fulfilled the requirements necessary to effect release, CBP will clear the package, note how much duty is owed, and return it to the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for delivery. Usually, you will receive notification in a matter of days, but it can take as long as 30-45 days.

Questions about the USPS Customs Declaration Forms 2976 and 2976A should be directed to the United States Postal Service 1800-ASK-USPS/1800-275-8777.

**24.** Who will most probably read this text?

A) People who buy international parcels.

B) People whose package items are restricted.

C) People who don' t know how to pay customs duties.

D) People whose package is lost or missing in the mail.

**25-27 Decide whether the following statements are True or False according to the text.**

**25.** If your package is overdue, you can request CBP to track it and then ask for package release.

A) True                      B) False

**26.** If the tracking number indicates your package still remains in CBP, you can ask the staff in CBP to check its current status.

A) True                      B) False

**27.** If your package is overdue, it may be detained by CBP or other agencies.

A) True                      B) False

**Questions 28-30 (Suggested completion time: 8 minutes)**

Directions: Read the text about opioids. Answer the questions according to the text.

U.S. deaths from opioid overdoses are mounting with breathtaking speed. These powerful drugs — including heroin, morphine and fentanyl — can relieve pain and evoke intense feelings of pleasure. But the same drugs, whether prescribed by a doctor or bought on the street, can quickly turn deadly by simultaneously messing with crucial systems in the body.

Among the many rapid effects that opioids have on the body, one is particularly lethal: Breathing is restricted. “Opioids kill people by slowing the rate of breathing and the depth of breathing,” says medical toxicologist and emergency physician Andrew Stolbach of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Breathing delivers fresh oxygen to the body’s cells and eliminates carbon dioxide. Opioids can interfere with that life-sustaining process in multiple, dangerous ways.

**Here’s how opioids kill.**

In the brain stem, regions called *the medulla* and *the pons* control the depth and rate of breathing. Both are loaded with opioid receptors — proteins that sit on the surface of cells and grab onto opioids. Upon activating, the receptors change the behavior of cells in ways that can slow or even stop breathing.

Opioid receptors have also been found in areas of the brain that regulate voluntary breathing — when you feel the need to take in a deep swallow of air, you do it. So, opioids might depress breathing by working directly on areas of the brain outside the brain stem.

The brain stem and certain other parts of the brain are particularly rich in the receptors that attach to opioids. When the connection is made between opioids and these receptors, the cell reacts. The effects vary depending on the cell's location. Opioid receptors are found in tissues, organs and muscles throughout the body.

Sensing small increases in CO<sub>2</sub>, the carotid body, a small cluster of cells in the neck, spurs big increases in breathing to remove excess CO<sub>2</sub> and keep a person out of trouble. But opioids dampen these sensors and silence the body's CO<sub>2</sub> warning system. Emergency signals to increase breathing go unsent.

One of the telltale signs of opioid overdose is frothy fluid around the nose and mouth and fluid in the lungs, called *pulmonary edema*. It's not clear how opioids trigger this, but filled with fluid, the lungs can't oxygenate blood very well, and a person may slip further into respiratory trouble. A fast-acting injection of the opioid fentanyl can cause the diaphragm (隔膜) and other muscles in the chest to seize up, leading to what's called "wooden chest syndrome."

**28.** Which of the following statements about opioid receptors is NOT true?

- A) Opioid receptors are widely distributed in the body.
- B) Opioid receptors affect breathing once activated.
- C) Opioid receptors can regulate voluntary breathing.
- D) Opioid receptors' distribution in the body is uneven.

**29.** Which of the following is an important symptom of opioid overdose?

- A) Fluid in the lungs.
- B) Intense pains.
- C) Fast breathing.
- D) Deep breathing.

**Decide whether the following statement is True or False according to the text.**

**30.** Though opioid receptors can be found in many parts of the body, they lead to similar consequences.

- A) True
- B) False

**Questions 31-40 (Suggested completion time: 35 minutes)**

Directions: Read three passages about fake news. Answer the questions according to the passages.

**Passage A**

In the 16th and 17th centuries, printers would crank out pamphlets, or newsbooks, offering detailed accounts of monstrous beasts or unusual occurrences. A newsbook published in Catalonia in 1654 reports the discovery of a monster with “goat’s legs, a human body, seven arms and seven heads;” an English pamphlet from 1611 tells of a Dutch woman who lived for 14 years without eating or drinking. So what if they weren’t true? Printers argued, as Internet giants do today, that they were merely providing a means of distribution, and were not responsible for ensuring accuracy.

\_\_\_\_\_31\_\_\_\_\_ They contained a bundle of different stories, not just one, and appeared regularly under a consistent title. They therefore had reputations to maintain. *The Sun*, founded in 1833, was the first modern newspaper, funded primarily by advertisers rather than subscriptions, so it initially pursued readership at all costs. At first it prospered from the “Moon hoax (a series of six articles published in 1835 describing fantastic animals on the Moon),” even collecting its reports in a bestselling pamphlet. But it was soon exposed by rival papers. Editors also realised that an infinite supply of genuine human drama could be found by sending reporters to the courts and police stations to write true-crime stories — a far more sustainable model. As the 19th century progressed, impartiality and objectivity were increasingly venerated at the most prestigious newspapers.

\_\_\_\_\_32\_\_\_\_\_ Facebook shows an endless stream of items from all over the web. Click an interesting headline and you may end up on a fake-news site, set up by a political propagandist or a teenager in Macedonia to attract traffic and generate advertising revenue. Peddlers of fake stories have no reputation to maintain and no incentive to stay honest; they are only interested in the clicks. The impetus behind these was commercial rather than political.

\_\_\_\_\_33\_\_\_\_\_ This flowering of fabricated stories corrodes trust in the media in general, and makes it easier for unscrupulous politicians to peddle half-truths. Media organisations and technology companies are struggling to determine how best to respond. Perhaps more overt fact-checking or improved media literacy will help. But what is clear is that a mechanism that held fake news in check for nearly two centuries — the bundle of stories from an organisation with a reputation to protect — no longer works. We will need to invent new ones.

**Passage B**

It is said that a lie will travel around the world while the truth is pulling on its boots, and now scientists have proven that it is true.

The adage, variously attributed to Mark Twain and 19th century London preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeons, was coined way before the advent of social networks and 24 hour rolling news.

But a new study by MIT found that false stories spread far more rapidly on Twitter than genuine news, and also reach a much wider audience, a result which researchers describe as “very scary.”

An analysis of stories between 2006 and 2017 found that false news is 70 percent more likely to be retweeted over *bona fide* articles. It also takes true stories about six times longer to reach 1,500 people as it does for untrue reports.

Deb Roy, who served as Twitter’s chief media scientist from 2013 to 2017 and is now an associate professor of media arts and sciences at MIT, said his team was “somewhere between surprised and stunned” by the findings.

“These findings shed new light on fundamental aspects of our online communication ecosystem,” she said and advised people to “think before you retweet.”

The researchers began the study after MIT’s Dr. Soroush Vosoughi noticed a slew of false information on Twitter following the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013.

Some tweets claimed an eight-year-old girl, who had been running in memory of victims of the Sandy Hook shooting, was killed even though children are not allowed into the race.

Another story said a woman was blown up shortly before her boyfriend was due to propose.

“I realized that a good chunk of what I was reading on social media was rumors,” said Dr. Vosoughi. “It was false news.”

To find out if false news was disseminated more quickly the team used Twitter’s archive to track around 126,000 cascades (or network trees) of real and fake news stories involving politics, urban legends, business, terrorism, science, entertainment and natural disasters.

Fake new stories included a claim that boxer Floyd Mayweather wore a Muslim headscarf to a Donald Trump rally and that a Trump’s dead cousin used his obituary to urge people to vote against the president.

True stories included Michelle Obama’s claim that the White House was built by slaves and Hilary Clinton’s assertion that top hedge fund managers make more money than all kindergarten teachers combined.

The stories reached three million people and were retweeted about 4.5 million times.

Professor Sinan Aral, of MIT’s Sloan School of Management added: “We found that falsehood defuses significantly farther, faster, deeper, and more broadly than the truth, in all categories of information, and in many cases by an order of magnitude.”

### Passage C

1. Appalled by the misinformation that characterized both the U.S. elections and U.K. Brexit campaign, a group of behavioral scientists at The Ohio State University and the University of Pennsylvania, including me, wanted to create a tool to fight misinformation. The pledge, launched in December 2016, is a project of a nonprofit I co-founded called “Intentional Insights” .



2. The pledge aims to promote honesty by asking people to commit to 12 behaviors that research shows correlate with an orientation toward truthfulness. For example, the pledge asks takers to fact-check information before sharing it, cite sources, ask friends and foes alike to retract info shown to be false, and discourage others from using unreliable news sources.
3. About 10 months after launching the pledge, my colleagues and I wanted to evaluate whether in fact it has been effective at changing behavior and reducing the spread of unverified news. So we conducted two studies comparing pledge-takers' sharing on Facebook. To add a little outside perspective, we included a researcher from the University of Stuttgart who did not take part in creating the pledge.
4. While self-reporting is a well-accepted methodology that emulates the approach of studies such as honor codes (a set of rules or ethical principles governing a specific community), it's subject to the potential bias of subjects reporting desirable changes — such as more truthful behaviors — regardless of whether these changes are present.
5. In one study, we asked participants to fill out a survey evaluating how well their sharing of information on their own and others' profile pages aligned with the 12 behaviors outlined in the pledge a month before and after they signed it. The survey revealed large and statistically significant changes in behavior, including more thorough fact-checking, a growing reluctance to share emotionally charged posts, and a new tendency to push back against friends who shared information.
6. So far, about 6,700 people and organizations have taken the pledge, including American social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, Australian moral philosopher Peter Singer, Media Bias/Fact Check and U.S. lawmakers Beto O'Rourke, Matt Cartwright and Marcia Fudge.
7. So in a second study we got permission from participants to observe their actual Facebook sharing. We examined the first 10 news-relevant posts one month after they took the pledge and graded the quality of the information shared, including the links, to determine how closely their posts matched the behaviors of the pledge. We then looked at the first 10 news-relevant posts 11 months before they took the pledge and rated those. We again found large, statistically significant changes in pledge-takers' adherence to the 12 behaviors, such as fewer posts containing misinformation and including more sources.
8. The reason the pledge works, I believe, is because it replaces the fuzzy concept of "truth," which people can interpret differently, with clearly observable behaviors, such as fact-checking before sharing, differentiating one's opinions from the facts and citing sources.
9. The pledge we developed is only one part of a larger effort to fight misinformation. Ultimately, this shows that simple tools exist and can be used by Facebook and other social media companies to battle the onslaught of misinformation people face online, without resorting to censorship.

**31-33 Choose one sentence for each blank in Passage A. Please note there is one extra option.**

- A. The history of made-up stories explains why they have re-emerged in the Internet era.
- B. Thanks to Internet distribution, fake news is again a profitable business.
- C. But newspapers were different.
- D. But in recent years search engines and social media have blown apart newspapers' bundles of stories.

31.

32.

33.

34. According to Passage A, what is the motivation in the shift of story resource for *The Sun*?

A) Competition    B) Profits        C) Readership    D) Reputation

35. The word ***bona fide*** in the fourth paragraph of Passage B can be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.

A) novel        B) unique        C) genuine        D) decent

36. Which of the following is TRUE about the MIT' s research in Passage B?

A) Its participants retweeted the fake stories over 4.5 million times.        C) It proves that people love reading and spreading fictions.  
B) Its result is beyond the expectation of the researchers.        D) It finds that what we read online are either false or half-true.

37. Paragraphs 3-7 in Passage C are given in the wrong order. Which should be the correct order?

A) 6-3-5-7-4    B) 6-3-5-4-7    C) 3-6-4-5-7    D) 3-6-7-4-5

38. According to Passage C, why can the pledge work on the prevention of fake news on the Internet?

A) Because it provides specified instructions for people to carry out.        C) Because it definitely distinguishes fake news from true ones.  
B) Because it imposes severe punishment on those who break it.        D) Because it formulates the concept of “truth” for the Internet era.

39. Choose the best title for each passage. Please note there are two extra options.

(Please answer with capitalized letters without punctuation marks in the order of the passages, for example: ABC)

A. Fake News Is Nothing New

B. War on Fake News Could Be Won

C. The True History of Fake News

D. Down with Fake News

E. Rapid Spreading: Fake News over Genuine Articles

**40.** Which of the following is mentioned in all three passages?

A) The online diffusion of fake news.

C) The sources of fake news.

B) The strategies to stop fake news.

D) The reasons of fake news.

**Question 41 (Suggested completion time: 40 minutes)**

**Directions:** Read two excerpts from *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond. Write a short essay according to the two excerpts.

Excerpt 1

... People of Eurasian origin, especially those still living in Europe and eastern Asia, plus those transplanted to North America, dominate the modern world in wealth and power. ... Why did wealth and power become distributed as they now are, rather than in some other way? For instance, why weren't Native Americans, Africans, and Aboriginal Australians the ones who decimated, subjugated, or exterminated Europeans and Asians?

Excerpt 2

Was it just a random stroke of good luck that a glorious revolution and wealth dropped into Britain's lap? Would Zambia now be rich, and Britain poor, if a glorious revolution had broken out in Zambia rather than in Britain?

Of course not. To stress the Glorious Revolution as the cause of Britain's modern wealth is to fall into the trap of focusing on proximate causes and ignoring ultimate causes as if a marital therapist counseling an angry husband and wife were to focus only on the lurid details of how the wife slapped her husband. Zambia couldn't have experienced a glorious revolution in 1688, because of obvious ultimate causes resulting in its not having any king to overthrow, nor any parliament to increase in power. That was because agriculture arrived in Britain around 5,500 years ago, but in Zambia only around 2,000 years ago. Most of modern Britain's area became politically unified under the Roman Empire by around A.D. 80; modern Zambia's area didn't become unified under the British Empire until the 1890s. Britain had its own kings by about A.D. 600, and a parliament around A.D. 1300; Zambia never developed either by itself. Britain enjoys high agricultural productivity because of its fertile glaciated soils and its temperate location; Zambia suffers from low agricultural productivity because of its infertile soils and tropical location. Compared to other European countries sharing those British geographic and historical advantages, Britain has enjoyed the huge additional advantages of being an island, much less exposed to military invasion than continental European countries (and hence without need of a standing army for protection) — and of having an Atlantic location ideal

colonizing other continents. In contrast, Zambia is landlocked and never had any overwater trade or colonies. Britain was the first country in the world to eliminate the chronic risk of famine, thanks to factors such as its agricultural productivity, its acquisition of New World crops, and its political unity.

All of those favorable ultimate causes of geography and history form the background to Britain's rise to wealth, in which the Glorious Revolution was nothing more than a significant late stage and proximate cause. That illustrates how a glance at a map goes a long way toward helping us understand the big influence of geography on history, and the ultimate causes of national wealth and poverty in the modern world.

**41. Write a short essay of about 300 words based on your understanding of the two excerpts. Remember to write in your OWN words. Your essay should respond to the following questions:**

- 1) What is the question that the excerpts explore? What is the answer provided by the author?
- 2) How does the example of Britain and Zambia illustrate the main point(s) of the author? Please explain.
- 3) What is YOUR answer to the question the author explored?