

华南理工大学

2014 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试卷

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科目名称:英语综合水平测试

适用专业:英语语言文学,外国语言学及应用语言学

Part I. Reading Comprehension (60 marks, 2 marks each)

Directions: *There are 6 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Passage 1

A new study from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University shows that today's youth vote in larger numbers than previous generations, and a 2008 study from the Center for American Progress adds that increasing numbers of young voters and activists support traditionally liberal causes. But there's no easy way to see what those figures mean in real life. During the presidential campaign, Barack Obama assembled a racially and ideologically diverse coalition with his message of hope and change; as the reality of life under a new administration settles in, some of those supporters might become disillusioned. As the nation moves further into the Obama presidency, will politically engaged young people continue to support the president and his agenda, or will they gradually drift away?

The writers of Generation O (short for Obama), a new Newsweek blog that seeks to chronicle the lives of a group of young Obama supporters, want to answer that question. For the next three months, Michelle Kremer and 11 other Obama supporters, ages 19 to 34, will blog about life across mainstream America, with one twist: by tying all of their ideas and experiences to the new president and his administration, the bloggers will try to start a conversation about what it means to be young and politically active in America today. Malena Amusa, a 24-year-old writer and dancer from St. Louis sees the project as a way to preserve history as it happens. Amusa, who is traveling to India this spring to finish a book, then to Senegal to teach English, has ongoing conversations with her friends about how the Obama presidency has changed their daily lives and hopes to put some of those ideas, along with her global perspective, into her posts. She's excited because, as she puts it, "I don't have to wait [until] 15 years from now" to make sense of the world.

Henry Flores, a political-science professor at St. Mary's University, credits this younger generation's political strength to their embrace of technology. "[The Internet] exposes them to more thinking," he says, "and groups that are like-minded in different parts of the country start to come together." That's exactly what the Generation O bloggers are hoping to do. The result could be a group of young people that, like their boomer parents, grows up with 9 / 13 a strong

sense of purpose and sheds the image of apathy they've inherited from Generation X. It's no small challenge for a blog run by a group of ordinary—if ambitious—young people, but the members of Generation O are up to the task.

- 1) What is the finding of a new study by CIRCLE?
 - A) More young voters are going to the polls than before.
 - B) The young generation supports traditionally liberal causes.
 - C) Young voters played a decisive role in Obama's election.
 - D) Young people in America are now more diverse ideologically.
- 2) What is the main concern of the writers of Generation O?
 - A) How Obama is going to live up to young people's expectations.
 - B) Whether America is going to change during Obama's presidency.
 - C) Whether young people will continue to support Obama's policy.
 - D) How Obama's agenda is going to affect the life of Americans.
- 3) What will the Generation O bloggers write about in their posts?
 - A) Their own interpretation of American politics.
 - B) Policy changes to take place in Obama's administration.
 - C) Obama's presidency viewed from a global perspective.
 - D) Their lives in relation to Obama's presidency.
- 4) What accounts for the younger generation's political strength according to Professor Henry Flores?
 - A) Their embrace of radical ideas.
 - B) Their desire to change America.
 - C) Their utilization of the Internet.
 - D) Their strong sense of responsibility.
- 5) What can we infer from the passage about Generation X?
 - A) They are politically conservative.
 - B) They reject conventional values.
 - C) They dare to take up challenges.
 - D) They are indifferent to politics.

Passage 2

In the old days measuring company performance was simply a case of looking at turnover, profits and dividends. However, the last few years have seen environmental and ethical issues move to the forefront of public concern and resulted in a closer scrutiny of a company's performance in terms of its business ethics. As the Government has been slow to respond to the increasing importance of ethics, companies have been forced to address the subject themselves and re-align their own management policies accordingly. These policies will determine how a company conducts all aspects of its business, from dealing with clients to reporting to shareholders.

By setting themselves up as ethical, however, companies are not so much promoting the importance of ethical conduct, the well-being of the local community or the development of society as a whole, as engaging in a powerful marketing and PR exercise to attract both discerning clients and bright young recruits. In today's markets, any company without a coherent ethics policy is in danger of surrendering a competitive advantage to its rivals. In order to develop an ethical code of conduct, companies will have to deal with issues

such as the legal implications of their disciplinary measures and the effect any new procedures will have on employees. However, new policies can only be developed once the company has identified the core values that underpin its day to day operations. Without a clear understanding of these values, it is impossible to develop a code of conduct compatible with the company's culture. An effective code will dictate how employees approach conflicts and other stressful dilemmas not covered by the normal terms and conditions of employment. It will provide employees with a clear understanding of what behavior is expected when they find themselves confronted with such dilemmas.

Ethical procedures are particularly critical in times of crisis. Pay disputes, sexual harassment charges or cases of fraud, for example, can involve very complex issues that require careful decision-making and can have a very negative effect on staff morale. At such times it is crucial that companies act in an ethical manner. By doing so, they may not be able to avoid the potentially damaging publicity such cases inevitably attract; they will, however, be in a much stronger position to defend themselves in a court of law.

The major obstacle which companies face, having established a code of conduct, is that of ensuring that each individual member of staff follows it. Some organizations simply distribute leaflets to all staff in the hope that they will read and act on them. Other companies take a more active approach and invite management gurus to hold seminars on the subject, which, while often highly entertaining, have little long-term impact. Although some companies now include ethics as part of their standard induction program, it is widely accepted that this is not enough. The issue of ethics in the workplace is now of such importance that it needs to be incorporated into in-company development programs for all employees, from the shop floor to the boardroom.

With little sign of public concern abating, no organization can afford to ignore the subject of ethics in the workplace. In order to address the issue effectively, companies need to ensure that staff at all levels feel committed to the company and its values and are motivated to transfer this commitment into ethical behavior.

6) Business ethics are becoming more important as a result of .

- A) consumer demands.
- B) shareholder concern.
- C) management theories
- D) government legislation

7) Why are companies promoting ethical practice?

- A) To develop customer awareness of social issues.
- B) To help raise money for the local community.
- C) To enhance the positive image of the company.
- D) To improve the conduct of employees.

8) What must companies do first to develop an ethical code?

- A) To take appropriate legal advice.
- B) To consult employees at all levels.
- C) To establish their basic principles.
- D) To set up disciplinary procedures.

9) At times of crisis, a code of conduct reduces the

- A) likelihood of negative publicity.

- C) negative effect on staff morale.
 - D) time it takes to make decisions.
- 10) How can companies ensure that staff follow ethical procedures?
- A) By distributing detailed leaflets to employees.
 - B) By integrating ethics into training at all levels.
 - C) By arranging seminars with ethics consultants.
 - D) By including ethics in induction programs.

Passage 3

Like most people, I've long understood that I will be judged by my occupation, that my profession is a gauge people use to see how smart or talented I am. Recently, however, I was disappointed to see that it also decides how I'm treated as a person.

Last year I left a professional position as a small-town reporter and took a job waiting tables. As someone paid to serve food to people. I had customers say and do things to me I suspect they'd never say or do to their most casual acquaintances. One night a man talking on his cell phone waved me away, then beckoned me back with his finger minute later, complaining he was ready to order and asking where I'd been.

I had waited tables during summers in college and was treated like a peon by plenty of people. But at 19 years old, I believed I deserved inferior treatment from professional adults. Besides, people responded to me differently after I told them I was in college. Customers would joke that one day I'd be sitting at their table, waiting to be served.

Once I graduated I took a job at a community newspaper. From my first day, I heard a respectful tone from everyone who called me. I assumed this was the way the professional world worked — cordially.

I soon found out differently. I sat several feet away from an advertising sales representative with a similar name. Our calls would often get mixed up and someone asking for Kristen would be transferred to Christie. The mistake was immediately evident. Perhaps it was because money was involved, but people used a tone with Kristen that they never used with me.

My job title made people treat me with courtesy. So it was a shock to return to the restaurant industry.

It's no secret that there's a lot to put up with when waiting tables, and fortunately, much of it can be easily forgotten when you pocket the tips. The service industry, by definition, exists to cater to others' needs. Still, it seemed that many of my customers didn't get the difference between server and servant.

I'm now applying to graduated school, which means someday I'll return to a profession where people need to be nice to me in order to get what they want, I think I'll take them to dinner first, and see how they treat someone whose only job is to serve them.

- 11) The author was disappointed to find that _____.
- A) one's position is used as a gauge to measure one's intelligence
 - B) talented people like her should fail to get a respectable job
 - C) one's occupation affects the way one is treated as a person
 - D) professionals tend to look down upon manual workers
- 12) What does the author intend to say by the example in the second paragraph?
- A) Some customers simply show no respect to those who serve them.

- B) People absorbed in a phone conversation tend to be absent-minded.
C) Waitresses are often treated by customers as casual acquaintances.
D) Some customers like to make loud complaints for no reason at all.
- 13) How did the author feel when waiting tables at the age of 19?
A) She felt it unfair to be treated as a mere servant by professionals.
B) She felt badly hurt when her customers regarded her as a peon.
C) She was embarrassed each time her customers joked with her.
D) She found it natural for professionals to treat her as inferior.
- 14) What does the author imply by saying "...many of my customers didn't get the difference between server and servant"(Para.7)?
A) Those who cater to others' needs are destined to be looked down upon.
B) Those working in the service industry shouldn't be treated as servants.
C) Those serving others have to put up with rough treatment to earn a living.
D) The majority of customers tend to look on a servant as a server nowadays.
- 15) The author says she'll one day take her clients to dinner in order to _____.
A) see what kind of person they are
B) experience the feeling of being served
C) show her generosity towards people inferior to her
D) arouse their sympathy for people living a humble life

Passage 4

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