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华南理工大学

2015 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试卷

（试卷上做答无效，请在答题纸上做答，试后本卷必须与答题纸一同交回）

科目名称： 英语综合水平测试

适用专业： 英语语言文学

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

Directions: Read the following passages and make ONE choice that best complete or answer each of the statements or questions after the passages.

Passage 1

A few common misconceptions. Beauty is only skin-deep. One's physical assets and liabilities don't count all that much in a managerial career. A woman should always try to look her best.

Over the last 30 years, social scientists have conducted more than 1,000 studies of how we react to beautiful and not-so-beautiful people. The virtually unanimous conclusion: Looks do matter, more than most of us

realize. The data suggest, for example, that physically attractive individuals are more likely to be treated well by their parents, sought out as friends, and pursued romantically. With the possible exception of women seeking managerial jobs, they are also more likely to be hired, paid well, and promoted.

Un-American, you say, unfair and extremely unbelievable? Once again, the scientists have caught us mouthing pieties while acting just the contrary. Their typical experiment works something like this. They give each member of a group – college students, perhaps, or teachers or corporate personnel managers – a piece of paper relating an individual's accomplishments. Attached to the paper is a photograph. While the papers all say exactly the same thing the pictures are different. Some show a strikingly attractive person, some an average-looking character, and some an unusually unattractive human being. Group members are asked to rate the individual on certain attributes, anything from personal warmth to the likelihood that he or she will be promoted.

Almost invariably, the better looking the person in the picture, the higher the person is rated. In the phrase, borrowed from Salpho, that the social scientists use to sum up the common perception, what is beautiful is good.

In business, however, good looks cut both ways for women, and deeper than for men. A Utah State University professor, who is an authority on

the subject, explains: In terms of their careers, the impact of physical attractiveness on males is only modest. But its potential impact on females can be tremendous, making it easier, for example, for the more attractive to get jobs where they are in the public eye. On another note, though, there is enough literature now for us to conclude that attractive women who aspire to managerial positions do not get on as well as women who may be less attractive.

1. According to the passage, people often wrongly believe that in pursuing a career as manager _____.

- A. women should always dress fashionably
- B. a person's property or debts do not matter much
- C. a person's outward appearance isn't a critical qualification
- D. women should not only be attractive but also high-minded

2. The result of research carried out by social scientists show that _____.

- A. good-looking women aspire to managerial positions
- B. women in pursuit of managerial jobs are not likely to be paid well
- C. people generally do not realize the importance of looking one's best
- D. attractive people generally have an advantage over those who are not

3. Experiments by scientists have shown that when people evaluate individuals on certain attributes _____.

- A. they give ordinary-looking persons the lowest ratings

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- B. they do not usually act according to the views they support
 - C. they tend to observe the principle that beauty is only skin-deep
 - D. they tend to base their judgment on the individual's accomplishments

4. "Good looks cut both ways for women" (Line 1, Para. 5) means that _____.

- A. being attractive is not always an advantage for women
- B. good-looking women always get the best of everything
- C. attractive women have tremendous potential impact on public jobs
- D. attractive women do not do as well as unattractive women in managerial positions

5. It can be inferred from the passage that in the business world _____.

- A. good looks are important for women as they are for men
- B. physically attractive women who are in the public eye usually do quite well
- C. handsome men are not affected as much by their looks as attractive women are
- D. physically attractive men and women who are in the public eye usually get along quite well

Passage 2

We all know that the normal human daily cycle of activity is of some 7-8 hours' sleep alternating with some 16-17 hours' wakefulness and that,

broadly speaking, the sleep normally coincides with the hours of darkness. Our present concern is with how easily and to what extent this cycle can be modified.

The question is no mere academic one. The ease, for example, with which people can change from working in the day to working at night is a question of growing importance in industry where automation calls for round-the-clock working of machines. It normally takes from five days to one week for a person to adapt to a reversed routine of sleep and wakefulness, sleeping during the day and working at night. Unfortunately, it is often the case in industry that shifts are changed every week; a person may work from 12:00 midnight to 8:00 a.m. one week, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the next, and 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight the third and so on. This means that no sooner has he got used to one routine than he has to change to another, so that much of his time is spent neither working nor sleeping very efficiently.

The only real solution appears to be to hand over the night shift to a number of permanent night workers. An interesting study of the domestic life and health of night-shift workers was carried out by Brown in 1957. She found a high incidence of disturbed sleep and other disorders among those on alternating day and night shifts, but no abnormal occurrence of these phenomena among those on permanent night work.

This latter system then appears to be the best long-term policy, but meanwhile something may be done to relieve the strains of alternate day and night work by selecting those people who can adapt most quickly to the changes of routine. One way of knowing when a person has adapted is by measuring his body temperature. People engaged in normal daytime work will have a high temperature during the hours of wakefulness and a low one at night; when they change to night work, the pattern will only gradually go back to match the new routine and the speed with which it does so parallels, broadly speaking, the adaptation of the body as a whole, particularly in terms of performance. Therefore, by taking body temperature at intervals of two hours throughout the period of wakefulness it can be seen how quickly a person can adapt to a reversed routine, and this could be used as a basis for selection. So far, however, such a form of selection does not seem to have been applied in practice.

6. Why is the question of "how easily people can get used to working at night" no mere academic one?

- A. Because sleep normally coincides with the hours of darkness.
- B. Because few people like to reverse the cycle of sleep and wakefulness.
- C. Because people are required to work at night in some fields of industry.
- D. Because shift work in industry requires people to change their sleeping habits.

7. The main problem of the round-the-clock working system lies in

_____.

- A. the fact that people working at night are often less effective
- B. the fact that it is difficult to find a number of good night workers
- C. the disturbance of the daily cycle of workers who have to change shifts too frequently
- D. the inconveniences that are brought about to the workers by the introduction of automation

8. The best solution to implementing the 24-hour working system seems

_____.

- A. to employ people who work on night shifts only
- B. to create better living conditions for night workers
- C. to have longer shifts
- D. to change shifts at longer intervals

9. It is possible to find out if a person has adapted to the changes of routine by measuring his body temperature because _____.

- A. the temperature reverses when the routine is changed.
- B. people have higher temperature when they're working efficiently.
- C. body temperature changes when he changes to night shift or back
- D. body temperature changes when the cycle of sleep and wakefulness alternates

10. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

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- A. Disturbed sleep occurs more frequently among shift workers.
 - B. Body temperature may serve as an indication of a worker's performance.
 - C. The strains of alternate day and night work can be relieved by changing the shift at longer intervals.
 - D. Taking body temperature at regular intervals can show how a person adapts to the changes of routine.

Passage 3

The first mention of slavery in the statutes of the English colonies of North America does not occur until after 1660—some forty years after the importation of the first Black people. Lest we think that slavery existed in fact before it did in law, Oscar and Mary Handlin assure us that the status of Black people down to the 1660's was that of servants. A critique of the Handlins' interpretation of why legal slavery did not appear until the 1660s suggests that assumptions about the relation between slavery and racial prejudice should be reexamined, and that explanations for the different treatment of Black slaves in North and South America should be expanded.

The Handlins explain the appearance of legal slavery by arguing that, during the 1660's, the position of White servants was improving relative to that of Black servants. Thus, the Handlins contend, Black and White servants, heretofore treated alike, each attained a different status. There

are, however, important objections to this argument. First, the Handlins cannot adequately demonstrate that the White servant's position was improving during and after the 1660's; several acts of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures indicate otherwise. Another flaw in the Handlins' interpretation is their assumption that prior to the establishment of legal slavery there was no discrimination against Black people. It is true that before the 1660's Black people were rarely called slaves. But this should not overshadow evidence from the 1630's on that points to racial discrimination without using the term slavery. Such discrimination sometimes stopped short of lifetime servitude or inherited status—the two attributes of true slavery— yet in other cases it included both. The Handlins' argument excludes the real possibility that Black people in the English colonies were never treated as the equals of White people.

This possibility has important ramifications. If from the outset Black people were discriminated against, then legal slavery should be viewed as a reflection and an extension of racial prejudice rather than, as many historians including the Handlins have argued, the cause of prejudice. In addition, the existence of discrimination before the advent of legal slavery offers a further explanation for the harsher treatment of Black slaves in North than in South America. Freyre and Tannenbaum have rightly argued that the lack of certain traditions in North America—such as a Roman conception of slavery and a Roman

Catholic emphasis on equality—explains why the treatment of Black slaves was more severe there than in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies of South America. But this cannot be the whole explanation since it is merely negative, based only on a lack of something. A more compelling explanation is that the early and sometimes extreme racial discrimination in the English colonies helped determine the particular nature of the slavery that followed.

11. Which of the following is the most logical inference to be drawn from the passage about the effects of “several acts of the Maryland Virginia legislatures” passed during and after the 1660’s?

- A. The acts negatively affected the pre-1660’s position of Black as well as of White servants.
- B. The acts had the effect of impairing rather than improving the position of White servants relative to what it had been before the 1660’s.
- C. The acts had a different effect on the position of White servants than did many of the acts passed during this time by the legislatures of other colonies.
- D. The acts, at the very least, caused the position of White servants to remain no better than it had been before the 1660’s.

12. With which of the following statements regarding the status of Black people in the English colonies of North America before the 1660’s would the author be LEAST likely to agree?

A. Although Black people were not legally considered to be slaves, they were often called slaves.

B. Although subject to some discrimination, Black people had a higher legal status than they did after the 1660's .

C. Although sometimes subject to lifetime servitude, Black people were not legally considered to be slaves.

D. Although often not treated the same as White people, Black people, like many White people, possessed the legal status of servants.

13. According to the passage, the Handlins have argued which of the following about the relationship between racial prejudice and the institution of legal slavery in the English colonies of North America?

A. The source of racial prejudice was the institution of slavery.

B. Racial prejudice and the institution of slavery arose simultaneously.

C. Racial prejudice most often took the form of the imposition of inherited status, one of the attributes of slavery.

D. Because of the influence of the Roman Catholic church, racial prejudice sometimes did not result in slavery.

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