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# 2021军队文职笔试 考前30分

## 《英语》

华图教育部队事业部文职研究院编制

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## 第一部分 应试必知

外国语言文学类（英语）专业科目考试主要主要测查应试者外语基础知识、专业技能以及相关专业知识。

专业科目的题型主要包括客观题和主观题两大题型。专业科目的试卷构成如下：第一部分是语法词汇单项选择题（20题，每题0.5分）共计10分；第二部分是常识单项选择题（10题，每题1分）共计10分；第三部分是阅读理解单项选择题（5篇文章，25题，每题2分）共计50分；第四部分是英汉互译（英译汉与汉译英共2篇）共计30分。

试卷分值为100分，考试时间为120分钟。各位考生注意把握好时间，合理分配客观题与主观题的所用时间。

## 第二部分 笔试点睛

### 一、阅读理解

#### 考点一：主旨题

##### (一) 题型特征

主旨题一般出现在文章的第一题或最后一题，考察该文的中心思想，主旨大意。

常见问法如下：

What is the passage mainly about?

The main idea of the passage might be ( )?

The best title for this passage is ( )?

##### (二) 解题策略

1. 找首段或尾段，或综合概括各段第一句
2. 找频率较高的词
3. 排除原文中过于细节化的选项
4. 片面绝对的语气不可选，委婉语气可能大

【例】 Signs of corporate distress will stoke concerns about the ability of Turkey's banks to withstand a rise in bad debts. The sector were given a major overhaul after a financial crisis in 2000 and 2001 and the banks, but their capital adequacy ratios have been eroded by the falling lira. Low domestic savings rates mean that Turkish banks are heavily reliant on foreign funding. Last week, the rating agency Moody's downgraded 18 banks because of concerns about their ability to refinance.

What does the last paragraph indicate? ( )

- A. Turkish banks will rely on foreign funding rather than domestic savings.
- B. The banking sector in Turkey will finally come through the difficulties.
- C. Turkish banks might face a crisis.
- D. All the rating agencies are pessimistic about Turkish banks.

【答案】C。段落主旨题。根据题目定位文章最后一段，发现选项 B 原文未提及。根据原文 Low domestic savings rates mean that Turkish banks are heavily reliant on foreign funding 可知选项 A 表述前半句符合，但是后半句未提及。选项 D 表达当中的 All 太绝对，可优先排除。故本题选 C。

## 考点二：细节题

### （一）题型特征

细节题考察对文章某一处细节的理解，以及迅速定位的能力。

what、why、when、where、who、how

### （二）解题策略

#### 1. 找关键词。

关键词有两种：一种是显性关键词，如包含大写字母的词/词组(如：人名、地名、时间等)、数字；一种是隐性关键词，主要指句子的主干内容，即句子的主体(即主语)和对象(即宾语)。

2. 通过关键词回到原文定位。要注意同义替换，常见为名词、名词词组、形容词等。

3. 结合上下语境分析。

4. 顺序原则。即出题顺序与行文顺序基本一致。

【例】Gaining green card may involve the black market costs. The green card application process can take a long time, and people often have to eat while waiting for their papers. Many immigrants have resolved this through the acquisition of fake documents. (Note as an attorney, I emphatically do not recommend this. But people do it. A lot.) At their best (and most expensive), fake papers can be quite useful. From taking to immigrants, I have learned that there is a man in a certain Central American capital who, for \$6,000 will get you a U.S. passport with a name and photo of your choosing that will scan as real on border crossing computers. In New York City, \$150-\$200 will get you work documents connected to a real Social Security number. \$75 will get you a color copy on thick paper that looks like a Social Security card as long as you don't look closely enough to see that it is actually a "Social Security" card.

Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?

A. The writer finds fake paper a good solution.

B. Social Security Number is the most expensive.

C. All fake materials are free of any flaw.

D. Fake papers do works quite well sometimes.

【答案】D。选项 A：作者认为假证是很好的解决问题的方式，根据Note as an attorney, I emphatically do not recommend this.可知作者并不推崇假证；选项 B：社保卡是最贵的，根据for \$6,000 will get you a U.S. passport...可知文章提到的数字中只有护照最贵；选项 C：所有的假证都完美无瑕，表述错误；选项 D：假证有时候很有用，根据At their best (and most expensive), fake papers can be quite useful.可知假证有时候确实比较有用。故正确答案是选项 D。

## 二、语法串讲

### 考点三：比较级的特殊用法

(一) as/so + 形容词/副词的原级+ as 的用法

肯定句中用 as+形容词/副词原级+ as, 比如:

He is as clever as any other boy in the class.

否定句中用 not as/so+形容词/副词原级+ as (not 也可以由否定含义的词充当), 比如:

He is not as/ so suitable for the job as me /I am.

(二) 有些 as + 形容词/副词+ as 结构, 有其固定含义, 比如:

as soon as 一... 就... as well as 不仅...

as good as 与...几乎一样好 as/ so far as... 就...来说, 至于...

as/ so long as 只要 as much as 差不多, 几乎等于....

(三) The + 比较级..., the + 比较级..., 比如:

The more he talked, the less I understood.

### 考点四：If 条件句中的虚拟语气

(一) 对现在的虚拟

从句: did (虚拟语气中 be→were)

主句: would(should, could, might)+do

If I saw him now, I would be very happy.

(二) 对过去的虚拟

从句: had+done;

主句: would(should, could, might)+have+done

If it had not rained yesterday, we would have played football.

(三) 对将来的虚拟

从句: should+do/were to+do/did;

主句: would(should, could, might)+do

If it were to snow/should snow tomorrow, we would cancel the 1000-meter race.

(四) 混合的虚拟语气

从句发生的动作和主句发生的动作, 不在同一个时间范围内发生。

If he were alive now, he might have finished his scientific researches on the bridge building three years ago.

如果他现在还活着, 他可能三年前就完成了他的桥梁建筑科研工作了。

If it had not snowed yesterday, we would be on the way to Shanghai.

要是昨天不下雪的话, 我们现在就应该在去上海的路上了。

【例】( ) we introspect ourselves, the better we will understand ourselves.

A. The more frequent

B. The frequenter

C. The more frequently

D. The frequentlier

【答案】C。此题结构为: the---,the---, 表示: 越..., 越...。句意: “我们自省的越频繁, 我们就会越了解自己。” 题干中填入的是需要修饰动词 introspect, 结合词性特点可知需要用副词。所以正确答案是选项 C。

【例】If you ( ) in such a hurry, you ( ) sugar into the sauce instead of salt.

A. were not, would not put

B. were, would put

C. had been, would have put

D. had not been, would not have put

【答案】D。根据句意，如果你不那么着急，就不会错把糖当作盐放进蘸料里面了。我们可以看出，这里需要使用虚拟语气，表示对一般过去的假设。从句用 had done, 主句用 would have done。本题中，主句和分句都需要用否定的语气，故此题选择 D 项。

### 三、英语国家概况

#### 考点五：英国

##### （一）政府

实行内阁制（Cabinet system）。由君主任命在议会中占多数席位的政党领袖出任首相并组阁，向议会负责。现任内阁首相为特雷莎·梅（Theresa May）。她是继撒切尔夫人之后英历史上第二位女首相。

##### （二）行政区划

分为英格兰(England)、苏格兰(Scotland)、威尔士(Wales)、北爱尔兰(Northern Ireland)四部分，对应的首府分别是伦敦 (London)、爱丁堡 (Edinburgh)、卡迪夫 (Cardiff)、贝尔法斯特 (Belfast)。

##### （三）教育

英格兰、威尔士和苏格兰实行 5 至 16 岁义务教育制度，北爱地区实行 4 至 16 岁义务教育制度。义务教育归地方政府主管，高等教育则由中央政府负责。

#### 考点六：美国

##### （一）地理

1. 洛基山脉（Rocky mountain）是北美大陆的脊梁（backbone of the North American Continent），被称作是大陆分水岭（Continental Divide）。

2. 密西西比河（The Mississippi River）被称为是“众河之父”（Father of Waters）或“老人河”（Old man River）。



3. 美国最重要的五大湖分别是：苏必利尔湖（Lake Superior）—世界上最大的淡水湖，密歇根湖（Lake Michigan）是唯一完全在美国境内的湖，休伦湖（Lake Huron），伊利湖（Lake Erie），安大略湖（Lake Ontario）。

#### （二）南北战争

1861年4月—1865年4月，美国内战，又称南北战争（civil war）最终北方胜利。1861年，美国总统亚伯拉罕·林肯公布的（Abraham Lincoln）宣布《解放黑人奴隶宣言》（The Emancipation Proclamation）。此宣言立即解放了部分奴隶，并为最终废除全美奴隶制度预先铺路。

#### （四）政党

1. 共和党（Republican Party）：成立于1854年。1861年林肯就任总统，共和党首次执政。“大象”是共和党的党徽。

2. 民主党（Democratic Party）：1791年成立，当时称共和党。1794年改称民主共和党，1828年改为民主党。“驴子”是民主党的党徽

#### 考点七：加拿大

Ottawa，渥太华是加拿大的首都，是全国政治、经济、文化和交通中心。Toronto，多伦多是加拿大最大的城市，是安大略省首府，重要的港口和全国金融、商业、工业，文化中心之一。Vancouver，温哥华，为全国第三大城市和工业中心，太平洋沿岸最大的港口城市，国际贸易的重要中转站，世界著名的旅游城市。Montreal，蒙特利尔是加拿大第二大城市和海港，为全国最大的海港和金融，商业、工业中心，北美唯一以讲法语为主的大城市。Quebec，魁北克市是加拿大第一座被发现的城市。

#### 考点八：澳大利亚

澳大利亚土著人（Aboriginal 或者 Aborigine）是澳大利亚最早的居民，他们属游牧民族，分散在整个澳大利亚，在欧洲人占领澳大利亚之前，共有500多个部落，人数达七十五万之多。

【例】The Emancipation Proclamation to end the plantation slavery in the south of US was issued by ( ).

A. Abraham Lincoln

- B. Thomas Paine
- C. George Washington
- D. Thomas Jefferson.

【答案】A。1861年，美国总统亚伯拉罕·林肯公布的（Abraham Lincoln）宣布《解放黑人奴隶宣言》（The Emancipation Proclamation）。故正确答案为选项A。

【例】Who were the natives of Australia before the arrival of the British settlers?

- A. The Eskimos.
- B. The Maori.
- C. The Indians.
- D. The Aborigines.

【答案】D。澳洲最早居民为土著人 Aboriginal 或者 Aborigine。Aborigines are members of the tribes that were living in Australia when Europeans arrived there: 澳大利亚土著人是澳大利亚最早的居民，他们属游牧民族，分散在整个澳大利亚，在欧洲人占领澳大利亚之前，共有 500 多个部落，人数达七十五万之多。故正确答案为选项 D。

## 四、英语语言学

### 考点九：语音学

Phoneme（音素，音位）：any one of the set of smallest units of speech in a language that distinguish one word from another. In English, the |s| in sip and the |z| in zip represent two different phonemes. 区分单词的最小语音单位，如英语 sip 中的 s 和 zip 中的 z 是两个不同的音素。

### 考点十：句法学

Syntax（句法学）：study of the internal structures of sentence and the rules for the combination of words.

### 考点十一：语用学

（一）Speech act theory（言语行为理论）

1. A locutionary act is the act of uttering words, phrases, clauses. It is the act of conveying literal meaning by means of syntax lexicon and phonology.

2. An illocutionary act is the act of expressing the speaker's intention; it is the act performed in saying something.

3. A perlocutionary act is the act performed by or resulting from saying something; it is the consequence of, or the change brought about the utterance; it is the act performed by saying something.

(二) 会话准则

1. Maxim of quality 质量准则：使你的话尽量真实。

2. Maxim of quantity 数量原则：你的话应当包含所需要的信息内容。

3. Maxim of relevance 相关准则：使你的话与话题相关

4. Maxim of manner 方式准则：表达要清晰，避免模糊、歧义。

【例】Speech act theory is an important theory in the ( ) study of language.

A. semantic

B. pragmatic

C. phonetic

D. morphological

【答案】B。言语行为理论是语言学语用研究中的一个重要理论，所以应该选择 B 项。

A 项：语义学；C 项：语音学；D 项：形态学，均不符合题目要求。故正确答案为选项 B。

## 五、英美文学

### 考点十二：英国文学

英国文学的时间跨度长，涉及范围广，下面以表格形式提炼出重点可能考到的作家和代表作品。

William Shakespeare 威廉·莎士比亚	<i>Macbeth</i> <i>Hamlet</i> <i>King Lear</i>	Until about 1608, he wrote mainly tragedies, among them Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth, all
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	<i>Othello</i>	considered to be among the finest works in the English language.
Percy Bysshe Shelley 珀西·比希·雪莱	Ode to the West Wind 《西风颂》 To a Skylark 《致云雀》	P B Shelley was one of the major English Romantic poets, who is regarded by some as among the finer lyric and philosophical poets in the English language, and one of the more influential.
Charles Dickens 查尔斯·狄更斯	<i>Oliver Twist</i> 《雾都孤儿》 <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> 《双城记》 <i>Great Expectations</i> 《远大前程》 <i>Hard Times</i> 《艰难时世》	He was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era.
Charlotte Brontë 夏洛蒂·勃朗特	<i>Jane Eyre</i> 《简·爱》	She was an English novelist and poet, the eldest of the three Brontë sisters who survived into adulthood and whose novels became classics of English literature.
George Bernard Shaw 乔治·萧伯纳	<i>Widower' Houses</i> 《鳏夫的房产》 <i>Pygmalion</i> 《皮格马利翁》	With a range incorporating both contemporary satire and historical allegory, Shaw became the leading dramatist of his generation, and in 1925 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

## 考点十三：美国文学

美国文学的涉及范围广，涉及作家较多，下面以表格形式提炼出重点可能考到的作家和代表作品。

Thomas Paine 托马斯·潘恩	<i>Common Sense</i> 《常识》  <i>The American Crisis</i> 《美国危机》	One of the Founding Fathers of the United States, he authored the two most influential pamphlets at the start of the American Revolution and inspired the patriots in 1776 to declare independence from Britain.
Herman Melville 赫尔曼·梅尔维尔	<i>Typee</i> 《泰比》  <i>Moby-Dick</i> 《白鲸》	His writing draws on his experience at sea as a common sailor, exploration of literature and philosophy, and engagement in the contradictions of American society in a period of rapid change.
Walt Whitman 沃尔特·惠特曼	<i>Leaves of Grass</i> 《草叶集》	He was an American poet, essayist, and journalist. A humanist, he was a part of the transition between transcendentalism and realism, incorporating both views in his works. Whitman is among the most influential poets in the American canon, often called the father of free verse.
Mark Twain 马克·吐温	<i>The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today</i> 《镀金时代》  <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer,

	<p>《汤姆·索亚历险记》 <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i></p> <p>《哈克贝利·费恩历险记》</p>	<p>humorist, entrepreneur, publisher, and lecturer. Among his novels are <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> and its sequel, <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>, the latter often called “The Great American Novel”.</p>
<p>Theodore Dreiser 西奥多·德莱塞</p>	<p><i>Sister Carrie</i> 《嘉莉妹妹》</p> <p><i>An American Tragedy</i> 《美国的悲剧》</p> <p><i>The Financier</i> 《金融家》</p>	<p>He was an American novelist and journalist of the naturalist school. His novels often featured main characters who succeeded at their objectives despite a lack of a firm moral code, and literary situations that more closely resemble studies of nature than tales of choice and agency</p>
<p>Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald F. 司各特·菲茨杰拉德</p>	<p><i>This Side of Paradise</i> 《人间天堂》</p> <p><i>Tender Is the Night</i> 《夜色温柔》</p> <p><i>The Great Gatsby</i> 《了不起的盖茨比》</p> <p><i>Tales of the Jazz Age</i> 《爵士时代的故事》</p>	<p>He was an American fiction writer, whose works helped to illustrate the flamboyance and excess of the Jazz Age.</p> <p>Perhaps the most notable member of the “<b>Lost Generation</b>” of the 1920s, Fitzgerald is now widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century.</p>
<p>Ernest Miller Hemingway 欧内斯特·海明威</p>	<p><i>The Sun Also Rises</i> 《太阳照常升起》</p> <p><i>A Farewell to Arms</i> 《永别了，武器》</p>	<p>He was an American journalist, novelist, and short-story writer. His economical and understated style—which he termed the <b>iceberg</b></p>

	<p><i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> 《丧钟为谁而鸣》</p> <p><i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> 《老人与海》</p>	<p><b>theory</b>—had a strong influence on 20th-century fiction, while his adventurous lifestyle and his public image brought him admiration from later generations. Hemingway won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954.</p>
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【例】The novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is written by ( ).

- A. Scott Fitzgerald
- B. William Faulkner
- C. Eugene O' Neill
- D. Ernest Hemingway.

【答案】D。《丧钟为谁而鸣》是海明威的代表作品。所以答案选D。

## 第三部分 高频习题

### 一、语法常识单选题

1. Since taxi fare in the city may run ( ) twenty dollars, I suggest that you take a bus.

- A. as high as
- B. as expensive as
- C. so high that
- D. so expensive as

2. ( ) money you make, ( ) you spend.

- A. /, more
- B. more, more
- C. the less, the more
- D. the more, the more

3. If you ( ) my advice, you would be better now.

- A. had followed
- B. followed
- C. were to follow
- D. follow

4. It is a pity that he ( ) to accept the offer.

- A. refuses
- B. refused
- C. refuse
- D. refusing

5. The University of Oxford and Cambridge date from ( ).

- A. the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century
- B. the 12<sup>th</sup> century
- C. the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century
- D. the 13<sup>th</sup> century



6. The largest fresh water lake in the world is ( ).
- A. the Thames
  - B. Lake Superior
  - C. the Great Lakes
  - D. the Yangtze River
7. Which of the following is the oldest sport in the United States? ( )
- A. Baseball
  - B. Tennis
  - C. Basketball
  - D. American football
8. The largest city in Canada is ( ).
- A. Vancouver
  - B. Montreal
  - C. Toronto
  - D. Ottawa
9. According to the Official Language of Act of Canada, there are two official language in this country: they are ( ).
- A. English and Spanish
  - B. English and Portuguese
  - C. English and French
  - D. English and Celtic
10. The Australian population is mainly of ( ) descents.
- A. British
  - B. American
  - C. Japanese
  - D. Chinese
11. The distinction between parole and lange was proposed by ( ).
- A. Halliday
  - B. Chomsky

- C. Bloomfield
- D. Saussure
12. The study of how sounds are put together and used to convey meaning in communication is ( ).
- A. morphology
- B. general linguistics
- C. phonology
- D. semantics
13. Which of the following is not a compound word? ( ).
- A. landlady
- B. greenhouse
- C. uplift
- D. unacceptable
14. ( ) refers to the study of the rules governing the way words are combined to form sentences in a language, or simply, the study of the formation of sentences.
- A. Morphology
- B. Syntax
- C. Phonetics
- D. Semantics
15. A (an) ( ) is using a sentence to perform a function.
- A. Locutionary Act
- B. Illocutionary Act
- C. Perlocutionary Act
- D. In-locutionary Act
16. Which of the following is NOT the Earnest Hemingway's work? ( ).
- A. *The Sun Also Rises*
- B. *A Farewell to Arms*
- C. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*
- D. *Tender Is the Night*

17. ( ) is one of the leading figures of the postwar American dramatists.

- A. Hemingway
- B. Arthur Miller
- C. Saul Bellow
- D. John Steinbeck

18. Which of the following writings is not the work by Charles Dickens? ( )

- A. A Tale of Two Cities
- B. Hard Times
- C. Oliver Twist
- D. Sons and Lovers

19. Who is the author of *The Waste Land*? ( ).

- A. George Bernard Shaw
- B. W.B. Yeats.
- C. Dylan Thomas.
- D. T.S. Eliot.

20. Mark Twain, one of the greatest 19th century American writers, is well known for his ( ).

- A. international theme
- B. waste-land imagery
- C. local color
- D. symbolism

### 语法常识单选题答案解析

1.【答案】A。用比较级表示价格高低时，用 high 或者 low 表示。选项 C 中的 so high that 后面应接句子。故正确答案是选项 A。

2.【答案】D。根据句意“你挣的钱越...，花的越...”可知两个空缺处应当都填入表示“越多”的比较级，形成：the+比较级...the+比较级结构，故正确答案是选项 D。

3.【答案】A。观察句子结构可知是 if 引导的混合虚拟语气，主句是对现在的假设，从句根据句意可知是对过去的假设，所以从句谓语动词应当使用 had done 形式，故正确答案是选项 A。

4.【答案】C。观察空缺处结构可知题干是主语从句，主句宾语是 pity，所以从句谓动词应当是用 should+V，should 可以省略掉。形成结构 it is+ 形容词、名词、过去分词+that+ 主语+should+V（should 可以省略掉），类似这样的词有 duty/ pity/ no wonder/ advisable/ necessary/ decided/ recommended 等。故正确答案是选项 C。

5.【答案】C。牛津大学和剑桥大学的历史可以上溯到 12/13 世纪。故正确答案是选项 C。

6.【答案】B。世界上最大的淡水湖是苏必利尔湖，故正确答案是选项 B。

7.【答案】A。美国最古老的运动是棒球，美式英语中有很多词都与棒球有关，故正确答案是选项 A。

8.【答案】C。加拿大最大的城市是多伦多，首府是渥太华，故正确答案是选项 C。

9.【答案】C。加拿大的官方语言为英语和法语，英语为加拿大使用的最广泛的语言，法语主要分布在魁北克省。故此题选择 C 项。

10.【答案】A。澳大利亚人主要是英国移民的后代，故正确答案是选项 A。

11.【答案】D。此题考查语言学中重要的人物及其贡献。A 项 Halliday 主要研究 functional 系统功能；B 项 Chomsky 的研究领域主要是 competence & performance 转换生成；C 项 Bloomfield 研究 S-R；D 项 Saussure 研究 language 和 parole，并且索绪尔被称为现代语言学之父。D 项正确，故本题选 D。

12.【答案】C。Phonology 音位学研究的是声音如何排列以及如何传达信息。正确答案是选项 C。

13.【答案】D。由自由词素构成的单词是复合词，unacceptable 中-un 是粘着词素，构成派生词。正确答案是选项 D。

14.【答案】B。句法学主要研究句子的结构，词、词组和短语组成的句子的规则。Morphology：形态学；Phonetics：语音学；Semantics：语义学。正确答案是选项 B。

15.【答案】B。言外行为指说话时，因为语言本身的一些习惯力量而随之产生的其他一些行为。选项 A 指言内行为，通常表述的是话语的字面意思；选项 C 是言后行为，指话语在听者身上产生的效果。不存在选项 D 这个概念，故正确答案是选项 B。

16.【答案】D。海明威的作品包括《太阳照常升起》、《永别了，武器》、《丧钟为谁而鸣》。《夜色温柔》是 Fitzgerald 菲茨杰拉德的作品。故正确答案是选项 D。

17.【答案】B。阿瑟米勒是战后美国剧作家之一，其余三个选项都是小说家。故正确答案是选项 B。

18.【答案】D。A项,《双城记》,B项,《艰难时世》,C项,《雾都孤儿》,都是狄更斯的作品。D项《儿子与情人》是D. H. 劳伦斯的作品。所以答案选D。

19.【答案】D。The Waste Land,即《荒原》是T.S. Eliot的代表作。该诗被广泛地认为是现代英美诗歌史上一个具有划时代意义的里程碑,是象征主义文学中最具有代表性的作品,表达了西方一代人的精神危机。所以答案选D。

20.【答案】C。马克·吐温的作品中具有浓厚的地方主义色彩,例如在Adventures of Tom Sawyer《汤姆索亚历险记》一书中,吐温大量使用方言土语,即密苏里州黑人土话,有利于表现地方色彩和黑人的种族色彩,采用方言土语而不是单用叙述人语言,是文学史上的一大进步。故正确答案为C。

## 二、阅读理解题

### Passage 1

You should treat skeptically the loud cries now coming from colleges and universities that the last bastion of excellence in American education is being gutted by state budget cuts and mounting costs. Whatever else it is, higher education is not a bastion of excellence. It is shot through with waste, lax academic standards and mediocre teaching and scholarship.

True, the economic pressures – from the Ivy League to state systems – are intense. Last year, nearly two-thirds of schools had to make midyear spending cuts to stay within their budgets. It is also true (as university presidents and deans argue) that relieving those pressures merely by raising tuitions and cutting courses will make matters worse. Students will pay more and get less. The university presidents and deans want to be spared from further government budget cuts. Their case is weak.

Higher education is a bloated enterprise. Too many professors do too little teaching to too many ill-prepared students. Costs can be cut and quality improved without reducing the number of graduates. Many colleges and universities should shrink. Some should go out of business. Consider:

Except for elite schools, admissions standards are low. About 70 percent of freshmen at four-year colleges and universities attend their first-choice schools. Roughly 20 percent go to their second choices. Most schools have eagerly boosted enrollments to maximize revenues (tuition and

state subsidies).

Dropout rates are high. Half or more of freshmen don't get degrees. A recent study of PhD programs at 10 major universities also found high dropout rates for doctoral candidates.

The attrition among undergraduates is particularly surprising because college standards have apparently fallen. One study of seven top schools found widespread grade inflation. In 1963, half of the students in introductory philosophy courses got a B – or worse. By 1986, only 21 percent did. If elite schools have relaxed standards, the practice is almost surely widespread.

Faculty teaching loads have fallen steadily since the 1960s. In major universities, senior faculty members often do less than two hours a day of teaching. Professors are “socialized to publish, teach graduate students and spend as little time teaching (undergraduates) as possible,” concludes James Fairweather of Penn State University in a new study. Faculty pay consistently rises as undergraduate teaching loads drop.

Universities have encouraged an almost mindless explosion of graduate degrees. Since 1960, the number of masters' degrees awarded annually has risen more than fourfold to 337,000. Between 1965 and 1989, the annual number of MBAs (masters in business administration) jumped from 7,600 to 73,100.

Even so, our system has strengths. It boasts many top-notch schools and allows almost anyone to go to college. But mediocrity is pervasive. We push as many freshmen as possible through the door, regardless of qualifications. Because bachelors' degrees are so common, we create more graduate degrees of dubious worth. Does anyone believe the MBA explosion has improved management?

You won't hear much about this from college deans or university presidents. They created this mess and are its biggest beneficiaries. Large enrollments support large faculties. More graduate students liberate tenured faculty from undergraduate teaching to concentrate on writing and research: the source of status. Richard Huber, a former college dean, writes knowingly in a new book (“How Professors Play the Cat Guarding the Cream: Why We're Paying More and Getting Less in Higher Education”): Presidents, deans and trustees ... call for more recognition of good teaching with prizes and salary incentives.

The reality is closer to the experience of Harvard University's distinguished paleontologist

Stephen Jay Gould: “To be perfectly honest, though lip service is given to teaching, I have never seriously heard teaching considered in any meeting for promotion... Writing is the currency of prestige and promotion.”

About four-fifths of all students attend state-subsidized systems, from community colleges to prestige universities. How governors and state legislatures deal with their budget pressures will be decisive. Private schools will, for better or worse, be influenced by state actions. The states need to do three things.

First, create genuine entrance requirements. Today’s low standards tell high school students: You don’t have to work hard to go to college. States should change the message by raising tuitions sharply and coupling the increase with generous scholarships based on merit and income. To get scholarships, students would have to pass meaningful entrance exams. Ideally, the scholarships should be available for use at in-state private schools. All schools would then compete for students on the basis of academic quality and costs. Today’s system of general tuition subsidies provides aid to well-to-do families that don’t need it or to unqualified students who don’t deserve it.

Next, states should raise faculty teaching loads, mainly at four-year schools. (Teaching loads at community colleges are already high.) This would cut costs and reemphasize the primacy of teaching at most schools. What we need are teachers who know their fields and can communicate enthusiasm to students. Not all professors can be path-breaking scholars. The excessive emphasis on scholarship generates many unread books and mediocre articles in academic journals. “You can’t do more of one (research) without less of the other (teaching),” says Fairweather. “People are working hard – it’s just where they’re working.”

Finally, states should reduce or eliminate the least useful graduate programs. Journalism (now dubbed “communications”), business and education are prime candidates. A lot of what they teach can – and should – be learned on the job. If colleges and universities did a better job of teaching undergraduates, there would be less need for graduate degrees.

Our colleges and universities need to provide a better education to deserving students. This may mean smaller enrollments, but given today’s attrition rates, the number of graduates need not drop. Higher education could become a bastion of excellence, if we would only try.

1. It can be concluded from Para.3 that the author was ( ) towards the education.

- A. indifferent
- B. neutral
- C. positive
- D. negative
2. The following are current problems facing all American universities EXCEPT ( ).
- A. high dropout rates
- B. low admission standards
- C. low undergraduate teaching loads
- D. explosion of graduate degrees
3. In order to ensure teaching quality, the author suggests that the states do all the following EXCEPT ( ).
- A. set entrance requirements
- B. raise faculty teaching loads
- C. increase undergraduate programs
- D. reduce useless graduate programs
4. "Prime candidates" in Para. 10 is used as ( ).
- A. euphemism
- B. metaphor
- C. analogy
- D. personification
5. What is the author's main argument in the passage? ( )
- A. American education can remain excellent by ensuring state budget.
- B. Professors should teach more undergraduates than postgraduates.
- C. Academic standard are the main means to ensure educational quality.
- D. American education can remain excellent only by raising teaching quality.

#### 阅读理解答案解析

1. 【答案】D。态度题。作者对教育倾向于什么态度，根据题干定位至第3段，该段开头提到，高等教育就像一个臃肿的企业。太多的教授对太多准备不足学生的教学做的太少……很多高等院校都应该缩小规模。有些甚至应该被取缔。可以判断作者对高等教育持



否定态度。故正确答案为 D 选项。

2. 【答案】B。是非题。根据题干定位至第 3 段，该段中作者列举了美国大学普遍存在的五个问题。其中包括：部分高校入学标准低，辍学率高、本科学生流失严重、教职工教学任务量下降及盲目增加研究生学位的授予数量。A：高辍学率；B：低录取标准；C：低本科教学负荷；D：研究生学位激增。因此 ACD 均有提及。文中提到除了名校外，其他院校入学标准确实低，B 项与题干中所说的所有高校面临的问题不符。故正确答案为 B 选项。

3. 【答案】C。根据题干定位至第 8、9、10 段，作者在这三段中提出了国家需要做好的三件事：首先，制定真正的入学标准；其次，国家应该增加教师的教学工作量；最后，国家应该削减或取消无用的研究生课程，它们分别对应了 ABD。A：设置入学要求；B：提高教师教学负担；C：增加本科项目；D：减少无用的研究生项目。故正确答案为 C 选项。

4. 【答案】B。修辞格题。根据题干定位至第 10 段第二句，该段第一二句句意为：最后，国家应该削减或取消无用的研究生课程。新闻专业（现被冠以通信专业之名）、商科和教育学都应该被首先考虑在内。A：委婉语；B：暗喻；C：类比；D：拟人。Candidates 原意是候选人，此处本体是新闻专业、商科和教育学，喻体是候选人，比喻词是 are。故正确答案为 B 选项。

5. 【答案】C。主旨题。此题涉及作者的主要观点，需要纵观全文进行解答。文章开篇提到如今的高等教育学术标准不规范，教学平庸，接着列举了美国大学中普遍存在的问题。教授们为了名声和升职，只顾科研而忽略教学，结尾部分提出国家应该重视教师的专业素质。因此作者意在说明学术标准才是教学质量的保证，故正确答案为 C 选项。

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青海省西宁市城中区西大街40号西  
门王府井A馆写字楼7楼  
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青海华图



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河南华图