

國立中正大學 106 學年度大學甄選入學「個人申請」考試

系所別：外國語文學系

考試科目：閱讀測驗及英文作文

Part I – Reading Comprehension (60%) – Read each passage below carefully; then follow the instructions to complete the quiz below it.

Passage #1

Standing alone at the Browns' party, Anna Mackintosh thought about her husband Edward, establishing him clearly in her mind's eye. He was a thin man forty-one years of age. With fair hair that was often untidy. In the seventeen years they'd been married he had changed very little: he was still nervous with other people and smiled in the same abashed way, and his face was still almost boyish.

She believed she had failed him because he had wished for children and she had not been able to supply any. She had, over the years become neurotic about this fact and in the end, quite some time ago now she had consulted a psychiatrist, a Dr. Abbat at Edwards's pleading.

In the Browns' rich drawing room, its walls and ceiling gleaming with a metallic surface of imitation gold. Anna listened to dance music coming from a tape recorder and continued to think about her husband.

In a moment he would be at the party too since they had agreed to meet there, although by now it was three - quarters of an hour later than the time he had stipulated.

The Browns were people he knew in a business way, and he had said he thought it wise that he and Anna should attend this gathering of theirs. She had never met them before which made it more difficult for her having to wait about not knowing a soul in the room.

When she thought about it she felt hard done by, for although Edward was kind to her and always had been, it was far from considerate to be as late as this. Because of her nervous condition she left afraid and had developed a sickness in her stomach. She looked at her watch and sighed.

Circle the letter of the phrase that best completes each sentence below:

1. Anna feels awkward at the party because
 - a. of her husband's nervousness.
 - b. she doesn't like the Browns.
 - c. her husband isn't coming.
 - d. she doesn't know anybody at the party.

2. Anna feels inadequate because
 - a. she has a bad relationship with her husband.
 - b. her husband looks too young.
 - c. she can't have children.
 - d. she's not good at parties.

3. Anna becomes angry because
 - a. she's jealous of the Browns' wealth.
 - b. she's not feeling very well.
 - c. her husband isn't being thoughtful.
 - d. the Browns are only business acquaintances.

4. Edward wanted Anna to attend the party because
 - a. he was going to be late.
 - b. he wanted her to have more of a social life.
 - c. he needed her support.
 - d. he thought she would impress the Browns.

5. Edward looks younger than he really is because
 - a. he hasn't begun to lose his hair like other men his age.
 - b. he's smaller than most other men, which makes him seem boyish.
 - c. he's changed little in the seventeen years he and Anna have been married.
 - d. he still doesn't know how to talk with older people.

Passage #2

How to get started growing bananas.

First you need to make sure that bananas can grow where you live.

You need a tropical or warm subtropical climate. Bananas can handle extreme heat (if they have enough water), but they don't like it. They can handle cool weather for a short while, but they don't like that either. Below 14°C (57F) they just stop growing.

If the temperatures drop any lower the fruit suffers (the skin turns greyish) and the leaves can turn yellow. Frost kills the plant above ground, but the corm can survive and may re-shoot.

The ideal temperature range for banana growing is around 26-30°C (78-86F).

You need a lot of water to grow bananas. The huge soft leaves evaporate a lot, and you have to keep up the supply. Bananas also need high humidity to be happy. (Where I live the commercial banana growers water their plants two or three times a day with sprinklers to keep up the humidity in the banana plantation!)

You need very rich soil. If you don't have good soil to start with, make some. Incorporate lots and lots of compost and plenty of chicken manure before you plant your bananas (wood ash for extra potassium doesn't hurt either), and then mulch them very thickly. And keep mulching and feeding them!

And you need room so you can plant enough of them together. Bananas need shelter from wind. Growing many banana plants together increases the humidity in the middle, evens out temperature changes a bit, and it shades and cools the trunks. (You don't want to cook the flower that's forming in the middle...)

If you get a chance look at a commercial banana plantation somewhere. The outside rows, especially the western side, always look sad. The best bananas grow on the inside...

You should plant bananas in blocks or clumps, not single rows and definitely not single plants. If you have very little room you can grow a few banana plants together and grow something else on the outside to protect them. But you do need to give them that sheltered jungle environment if you want them to be happy.

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question below:

6. Where do the best bananas grow?

- a. Where the sun doesn't shine all day long.
- b. In the outside rows on the west side.
- c. Where they are protected from wind and the humidity is highest.
- d. In isolated areas where they don't have to compete with other plants.

7. What is the best way to keep bananas happy?

- a. Make sure their roots are covered with water.
- b. Plant them in very rich soil and water them several times a day.
- c. Plant them in single rows where each plant has plenty of room.
- d. Protect them from too much sun and rain.

8. What is the best temperature range for bananas?

- a. Below 14°C (57F).
- b. Extreme heat if there is enough water.
- c. 26-30°C (78-86F).
- d. Over 30°C (86F).

9. What are the effects of growing a number of banana plants together?
- It shades and cools their trunks.
 - It causes them to rot and die.
 - It makes it easier to take care of them.
 - It improves the bananas' taste.
10. Why should you include lots of compost around your banana plants?
- It helps protect them from pests.
 - It helps cool the soil.
 - It keeps weeds from growing.
 - It helps enrich the soil.

Passage #3

Science has made great progress in deepening our understanding of dreaming. Still, there is no answer to the question: *Why do we dream?*

There are, however, a great number of theories being explored. While some scientists posit that dreaming has *no* direct function—but instead is a consequence of other biological processes that occur during sleep—many studying sleep and dreams believe dreaming serves a *primary* purpose. Theories of dreaming span scientific disciplines, from psychiatry and psychology to neurobiology. Some current theories suggest that dreaming is:

- A component and form of memory processing, aiding in the consolidation of learning and short-term memory to long-term memory storage.
- An extension of waking consciousness, reflecting the experiences of waking life.
- A means by which the mind works through difficult, complicated, unsettling thoughts, emotions, and experiences, to achieve psychological and emotional balance.
- The brain responding to biochemical changes and electrical impulses that occur during sleep.
- A form of consciousness that unites past, present and future in processing information from the first two, and preparing for the third.
- A protective act by the brain to prepare itself to face threats, dangers and challenges.

There is not likely ever to be a simple answer, or a single theory that explains the full role of dreaming to human life. Biological, cognitive, psychological—it's very likely that dreaming may serve important functions in *each* of these realms.

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question below:

11. What is the main idea of this passage?
- a. Dreaming is something we all do, so we should try to understand it thoroughly.
 - b. Dreaming is very complex and may never be fully explained.
 - c. The question of why we dream has been studied by many scientific disciplines.
 - d. Science has made much progress in understanding dreaming.
12. Is dreaming a biological process?
- a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. No one knows for sure.
 - d. Some scientists say yes; some say no.
13. Which of these theories of why we dream is **not** mentioned?
- a. A form of memory processing.
 - b. A form of consciousness that prepares dreamers for the future.
 - c. An extension of our real life that helps us work through the difficulties we experience.
 - d. A way the brain uses outside forces to protect the dreamer from evil powers.
14. How do some scientists connect dreaming to memory?
- a. By seeing it as a way to turn short-term memory into long-term memory.
 - b. By interpreting dreams as our brains' attempt to understand how accurate memory is.
 - c. By explaining it as our sub-conscious attempts to forget disturbing memories.
 - d. By recording our waking memories and comparing them to our dreams.
15. What does the passage conclude about the biological, cognitive, and psychological approaches to understanding why we dream?
- a. All three of these realms work together in every dream we have.
 - b. Dreams probably help us live more comfortably in each of these realms..
 - c. Each of our dreams is dominated by one of these realms.
 - d. Dreaming functions as a way to distinguish these realms from each other.

Part II – English Composition (40%) – Write a 200-300 word essay in response to the following question:

Which leads to the best education in high school, a sex-segregated system (boys separate from girls) or a coeducational system (boys and girls together in the same classrooms)? Include specific examples and details to explain the reasons for your answer.