

# 國立中正大學 109 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

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**Notice: Please write down all your answers for Reading Comprehension and Composition on the Answer Sheet**

**I. Reading Comprehension (60%):** Read the following passages and choose the best answer to each question

## **Passage A**

A hydroelectric power plant produces electricity from the energy of a natural element—**(a)**. Hydro is often praised as an almost pollution-free method of generating power. But one very smelly man-made lake in South America shows why hydro power may not always deserve its clean, green reputation.

The Petit Saut Reservoir lies behind a hydroelectric dam in French Guyana on the north coast of South America. It is near the site from which France launches its Ariane rockets into space, and the launch facility depends on the Petit Saut plant for its electricity supply. The **reservoir**, however, is hardly a good neighbor. Rotting vegetation and hungry bacteria have turned it into an open sewer. As microorganisms consume the leaves and branches and slime in the reservoir, they produce large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane, the two gases that contribute most seriously to global warming.

In some ways, the Petit Saut can be a bigger polluter than a coal-burning plant producing the same amount of electricity. The reservoir and the streams that run into it **(b)** more than twice as much CO<sub>2</sub> each year as would come from an equivalent coal-fired plant. Even worse is the huge amount of methane coming out of the stagnant water. Not only does it smell very bad, but methane is 20 times more effective at holding in the planet's heat than CO<sub>2</sub> is.

The problem is caused, in part, by the trees and other vegetation that were drowned when the new reservoir was created in the 1990s. They now lie slowly decaying under water. But most scientists agree that a far bigger gas generator is the vegetable matter **washed** into the reservoir from the jungle upstream. It is exposed to more free oxygen, so it rots faster. Also, it is almost certain to keep streaming in from the deep interior forests as long as the reservoir exists. The problems at the Petit Saut are **replicated** at many other reservoirs near tropical forests around the world. Keeping these vegetation-choked waters from gurgling up

dangerous amounts of greenhouse gas would be enormously expensive. So far, no method of doing so has appealed to the operators of the power plants on their shores.

1. What could be the most appropriate phrase to fill in the blank **(a)** in paragraph 1?  
A. blowing wind    B. flowing water    C. shiny sunshine    D. burning fire
2. The word “**reservoir**” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. forest                    B. river                    C. lake                    D. dam
3. Why has the Petit Saut reservoir become an open sewer?  
A. because it contains disposed wastewater from the households near the reservoir  
B. because the reservoir uses sewage to generate power  
C. because there are many sewers gathered in the reservoir  
D. because there lies rotting vegetation which provides hungry bacteria to consume it
4. What could be the most appropriate phrase to fill in the blank **(b)** in paragraph 3?  
A. give off                    B. take off                    C. level off                    D. keep off
5. Which of the following about methane at the Petit Saut is **INCORRECT**?  
A. It smells very bad.  
B. It is a gas contributing to global warming.  
C. Part of its source is from microorganisms’ consumption of vegetation drowned in the water.  
D. Its effectiveness at holding the planet’s heat is equivalent to that of CO<sub>2</sub>.
6. The word “**washed**” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. cleaned                    B. consumed                    C. carried                    D. seen
7. Why does the vegetable matter from the jungle upstream produce more gasses at the Petit Saut?  
A. because it is thinner than branches  
B. because it is exposed to more free oxygen and rots faster  
C. because the power to wash it into the reservoir is strong enough to decompose it  
D. because it grows in the jungle
8. Why do other reservoirs near tropical forests around the world experience the same problems as the Petit Saut?  
A. because vegetation keeps streaming into the reservoirs from the deep interior forests  
B. because reservoirs have to be built around jungles to generate power  
C. because operators of the power plants like to build reservoirs near tropical forests  
D. none of the above
9. The word “**replicated**” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. happened                    B. replaced                    C. duplicated                    D. rejected

10. Which of the following is **NOT** suggested in the passage?
- A. There is not yet any practical way of solving the gas problem at reservoirs like the Petit Saut.
  - B. People can die from breathing in the gasses at the reservoirs like the Petit Saut.
  - C. Reservoirs like the Petit Saut actually produce more pollution than coal-burning plants.
  - D. Operators of the Petit Saut and the like don't want to clear the vegetation-choked waters because it is too expensive.

**Passage B**

Serving on a jury in the United States to determine the guilt or innocence of an accused person is one of the most important civic duties a citizen can perform. Jurors are randomly selected from voter registration—and sometimes drivers' license—lists. To serve on a jury, a person must be a U.S. citizen, be at least 18 years old, live in the judicial district for a year, and know English well enough to follow the court proceedings. People with a serious mental or physical condition or with a felony record are disqualified from serving on a jury. Members of the military on active duty, police and firefighters, as well as public officials may not serve on federal juries. Also, people for whom jury duty would cause a severe hardship or inconvenience are often excused. Employers by law cannot **penalize** an employee for missing work to serve on a jury, but someone who lost wages to serve on a jury would be under a hardship to serve. Potential jurors fill out questionnaires to see if they are qualified to serve. These methods help to ensure that jurors represent a (c) section of the community without consideration of race, gender, national origin, age, or political **affiliation**.

Being called for jury duty does not mean a person will actually serve. The judge and lawyers involved in an actual case have the opportunity to question potential jurors in order to exclude those who may not be able to decide the case fairly. Potential jurors who know someone in the case, who have information about the case, or who may have strong prejudices about the case will typically be excused by the judge. The lawyers for the defense and the prosecution may also exclude a certain number of jurors without giving a reason. A person who is against the death sentence would probably be excluded by the judge in a capital case, in other words, a case that could call for the death penalty if the defendant were found guilty. This is a clear-cut example. Lawyers defending or prosecuting a defendant will often have far less obvious reasons for excluding a potential jury member.

11. What is the main idea of the passage?
- A. the duty of a U.S. citizen in the legal system
  - B. jury selection
  - C. death penalty versus jury decision
  - D. the power of the judge over jurors

12. Potential jurors in the U.S. need to know English well enough because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. this affirms their national identity
  - B. the accused people speak English
  - C. they have to defend themselves in English
  - D. this enables them to follow the court proceedings
13. The word “**penalize**” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. investigate
  - B. encrypt
  - C. punish
  - D. excavate
14. What could be the most appropriate phrase to fill in the blank (c) in paragraph 1?
- A. various
  - B. cross
  - C. unified
  - D. crystal
15. The word “**affiliation**” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. connection
  - B. status
  - C. title
  - D. inclination
16. Which of the following **is suggested** in the passage?
- A. The judge and lawyers involved in an actual case may exclude some potential jurors without giving any obvious reasons.
  - B. If a person is called for jury duty, he or she will literally serve.
  - C. All potential jurors are qualified to serve.
  - D. Serving on a jury is more suitable for those who are under a hardship and need a job.

### Passage C

Without doubt chewing gum is very popular. Studies show that the annual sales of gum in the U.S. are over \$2 billion, and that Americans on average chew about 300 sticks of gum per person a year. Worldwide, the Wrigley Company sells more than \$4 billion of chewing gum each year—that’s lot of gum!

Why is chewing gum so popular? One manufacturer says that it not only helps people relax more, but it also helps people to stay awake. This is the reason why the U.S. armed forces have given chewing gum to their soldiers since World War One. People also chew gum after a meal to have fresh breath. It can help fight tooth decay, too, which may mean fewer visits to the dentist.

There’s also a better reason for chewing gum—it can improve memory! Why? One possible reason is that when people chew there is more activity in an area of the brain that is important for memory. Another possible reason is that when people chew their heart beats faster so more oxygen goes to the brain. However, scientists say that chewing gum doesn’t help people to concentrate better.

Meanwhile study experts include chewing gums in their list of tips for students to prepare for exams. They say that students are under a lot of pressure to get good grades, but they often do the wrong things when reviewing for exams, wrong things like eating unhealthy snacks between meals, drinking a lot more coffee, or studying until very late at night. This

means that when students take the exams, they are both tired and unhealthy. The experts suggest that students should exercise or chat with friends instead of eating during study breaks. They should study during the day when they can concentrate better, and not at night. Students should also study in a comfortable place while listening to their favorite music. Finally, students should chew gum because it helps them to relax and keeps them away from the fridge. If it also helps improve memory, start chewing now!

17. Why are American soldiers given chewing gum?
- A. to help them fight tooth decay                      B. to help them concentrate better  
C. to help them stay awake                                D. to help them improve their memory
18. Which of the following is **NOT** discussed in the passage?
- A. the benefits of chewing gum                      B. the popularity of chewing gum  
C. the reasons why chewing gum helps memory    D. the drawbacks of chewing gum
19. Which of the following is **NOT** suggested in the passage?
- A. Students often study for exams in bad ways.  
B. Chewing gum helps students to concentrate when they are preparing for exams.  
C. Study experts think that chewing gum keeps students from the fridge when they are preparing for exams.  
D. The article suggests students to chew gum when they are preparing for exams because it may help to improve their memory.
20. What could be the most appropriate topic for this passage?
- A. Why You Should Chew Gum  
B. A Vindication of Chewing Gum  
C. Chewing for a Better Grade  
D. Study Habits in Relation to Chewing Gum

## **II. English Composition (40%)**

In the face of the global coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), we see a number of phenomena arouse us which tend to cause more alarm and fears among people. Take one phenomenon as an example and write an essay of 200-250 words to give your critical views and comments about it.