

國立中正大學 107 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

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

Passage A

A research conducted by the University of Melbourne, Australia, found that one in four Americans surveyed are sensitive to household chemicals. Of those, almost half are diagnosed with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS): an umbrella term used to describe patients who say their lives are hit by low-level exposure to chemicals.

First noted in 1952, MCS is also known as "idiopathic environmental intolerance," "environmental illness," and "sick building syndrome." MCS is not officially recognized by bodies such as the American Medical Association or the World Health Organization (WHO). There is, therefore, currently no treatment for those who claim to suffer from it.

According to the study, rates of chemical sensitivity have spiked by 200% among Americans in the past decade, while the prevalence of MCS has risen by 300%. That amounts to an estimated 55 million adults with either a sensitivity or MCS. Among people with MCS, 71 % of people are asthmatic and 86.2 % report health problems from fragranced consumer products, such as air fresheners, scented laundry products, cleaning supplies, fragranced candles, perfume and personal care products. People with MCS are debilitated by a variety of symptoms, including migraines, dizziness, breathing difficulties and heart problems.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. the prevalence of MSC syndrome in the US
 - B. the relationship between chemical sensitivity syndrome and asthma
 - C. the evilness of household chemicals
 - D. the necessity to stop producing chemical products
2. What does "an umbrella term" in line 3 mean?
 - A. a term indicating specificity
 - B. a term indicating a wide range of things
 - C. a material an umbrella is made of
 - D. a term for the conditions of an umbrella
3. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
 - A. People with MSC can be cured.
 - B. MSC has been officially recognized by bodies like the WHO.

- C. MSC was first brought to notice in 1952.
 D. MSC syndrome is found only in people with asthma.
4. MSC is known as the following terms EXCEPT _____.
- A. sick building syndrome B. idiopathic environmental intolerance
 C. massive sensitivity clog D. environmental illness
5. What could be the closest meaning for the word “spiked” in line 1 of the last paragraph?
- A. released B. pierced C. attenuated D. skyrocketed
6. Which of the following product is UNLIKELY to cause MSC?
- A. air fresheners B. unscented soaps C. fragranced candles D. perfume
7. MSC is likely to cause the following symptoms EXCEPT _____.
- A. heart problem B. ulcer C. breathing difficulty D. migraines
8. In the penultimate line, what could be the closest meaning for the word “debilitated”?
- A. weakened B. defrauded C. animated D. enabled

Passage B

In the post-modern world, it has become human nature to expect our heroes to be perfect, despite overwhelming evidence that they never are. In the world of antiquity, the Greeks had no such expectations. To the contrary, it wouldn't be Greek mythology if the heroes weren't deeply flawed. And get this—there was no cure! If the hero failed to learn the lessons offered up by his flaws—well then—the story was a tragedy. Success didn't come from genius and rarely from talent. Only if the hero recognized the truth and wisdom in his weakness would the story end well. The plays of William Shakespeare were pretty much the same deal. If the heroes hit the *Aha!* moment before it was too late, the play was a comedy. If not, a tragedy. There were not that many comedies.

The lesson is always this: Weakness was not the cause of the tragedy; rather, the hero's relationship to the weakness became the cause of his undoing. At the heart of the hero's adventure was the idea that potentially tragic flaws or weaknesses must be embraced by the hero and included as elements of his authenticity—as part of who he was. To forget or deny this reality was the catalyst of tragedy.

In what passes for our civilized world, too many people spend too much time and too much money searching for “the cure,” rather than getting on with building a life that matters. Worse still, if you do this, you could be trying to “cure” yourself of a _____ for greatness!

9. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A. As the world is more advanced, we have more perfect heroes.
 B. Heroes in Greek mythology were usually deeply flawed.
 C. Greek people in the ancient time expected perfect heroes.
 D. That there were not many comedies is because the heroes were not gifted with humor.

10. According to the passage, the story ends well only when _____.
- A. the hero can recognize and embrace his weaknesses
 - B. it is a comedy
 - C. the hero reaches the *Aha!* moment to please everybody
 - D. the hero gains fame and wealth
11. What does the word “authenticity” in paragraph 2 mean?
- A. genuineness
 - B. authority
 - C. profession
 - D. capacity
12. What does the word “catalyst” in paragraph 2 mean?
- A. hindrance
 - B. element
 - C. foundation
 - D. stimulant
13. Which of the following words fits best in the blank in the last line?
- A. weakness
 - B. talent
 - C. virus
 - D. disability
14. Which of the following best conveys the message of this passage?
- A. It’s useless to find the best cure to one’s weaknesses since people will die some day.
 - B. What matters most is not to find the cure to one’s weakness in order to make oneself perfect but to continue building one’s life.
 - C. The worst situation in one’s life is that one cannot cure one’s weakness to reach greatness.
 - D. People often put the cart before the horse in trying to get rid of something that one thinks is worthless but that turns out to be valuable.

Passage C

The phrase “energy efficiency” is often used as a shorthand to describe any kind of energy-saving measure, though technically it should be distinguished from energy conservation—a broader term which can also include forgoing a service rather than changing the efficiency with which it is provided. Examples of energy conservation include turning down a thermostat in the winter or walking to the shops rather than driving there.

Increasing energy efficiency often costs money up-front but in many cases this capital outlay will be paid back in the form of reduced energy costs within a short time period. This makes efficiency improvements an attractive starting point for reducing carbon emissions.

The scope of the savings—and the techniques required—depend on the situation and location. For homes in cool countries such as the UK, the most effective measures include increasing insulation, draught proofing, installing good-quality double-glazed windows and switching to more efficient appliances and light bulbs. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) estimates that these improvements could reduce annual CO₂ emissions from British homes by around 17 million tonnes by 2020—around a tenth of the 2008 residential total.

By contrast, increasing efficiency in non-domestic buildings often means focusing on ventilation and air-conditioning, in addition to lighting, heating and appliances. Many such buildings have achieved savings of around 25% after undergoing a refit to increase efficiency.

Energy-intensive industries, such as iron, steel and cement manufacture, have become more efficient over time due to new equipment and better re-use of waste heat. Vehicles have also become more energy efficient over the decades thanks to factors such as improved engines and lighter, more aerodynamic designs. The CCC forecasts that the introduction of efficiency improvements to cars, vans and HGVs could reduce CO₂ emissions in the UK by 12.3 million tonnes by 2020—around 10% of total for surface transport in 2008.

Improving energy efficiency does not necessarily translate into reduced CO₂ emissions: the savings depend on the situation. If the energy is supplied from fossil fuels—such as petrol in a car or electricity from a coal-fired plant—then improved efficiency will cut emissions. But if the energy is supplied by a low-carbon source such as electricity from nuclear or renewables, then improving efficiency may have little impact on emissions.

15. What could be the main idea of the passage?
- A. the pros and cons of energy efficiency
 - B. the battle of generating electricity
 - C. the problems of CO₂ emissions
 - D. the relationship between energy efficiency and carbon emissions
16. What could be the closest meaning for the word “shorthand” in line 1?
- A. a hand which is short
 - B. lacking help or assistance
 - C. rapid writing
 - D. an amputated hand
17. What could be the closest meaning for the word “outlay” in line 2 of paragraph 2?
- A. expenditure
 - B. saving
 - C. outlet
 - D. lay out
18. According to the passage, which of the following is TRUE?
- A. There is no difference between energy efficiency and energy conservation.
 - B. Driving to a shop is less an action of energy conservation than walking there.
 - C. Improving energy efficiency is not cost-effective and thus it is a waste of money.
 - D. Improving energy efficiency will assuredly reduce CO₂ emissions.
19. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage that exemplifies Britain’s striving for energy efficiency?
- A. surface transport
 - B. domestic buildings
 - C. fishing industry
 - D. energy-intensive industries
20. According to the passage, which of the following situations will help cut CO₂ emissions MOST effectively?
- A. driving petrol vehicles more frequently
 - B. closing coal-fired plants
 - C. improving efficiency for nuclear power plants
 - D. reducing renewables

II. English Composition (40%)

During his visit at Harlow College of England in January 2018, Apple CEO Tim Cook said,

I think if you had to make a choice, it's more important to learn coding than a foreign language. I know people who disagree with me on that. But coding is a global language; it's the way you can converse with 7 billion people.

Write an essay of 200-250 words to express your agreement or disagreement with Cook's view that learning coding is more important than learning a foreign language.