

國立中正大學 100 學年度大學甄選入學「個人申請」考試試題

系所別：外國語文學系

考試科目：閱讀測驗及英文作文

English Composition and Reading Comprehension

Part 1. English Composition 40%

Write an essay on a recent cultural event. This may be a sporting spectacle, a religious or national festival, an artistic performance (music, dance, painting), or a public exhibition. Your essay should include (1) a description of the features of the event and its performance/performers, (2) the audience or public reaction to the event, and (3) the larger social or political significance of the event. Your response should be at least 200 words.

Part 2. Reading Comprehension 60%

Read each passage and select the option which best answers each question.

Question 1

Guy Fawkes Night

One of the more prominent and unusual festivals in the annual English calendar occurs on the fifth of November. On this day, in 1605, an aggrieved Catholic, known as Guy Fawkes, took part in a conspiracy to rid England of its Protestant ruler, King James I. A plot was devised to blow up the House of Lords during the state opening of parliament, which was scheduled for the fifth of November. A relative of one of the conspirators was alerted to plans afoot and contacted authorities, with a view to averting their scheming. Fawkes was apprehended in Westminster Palace, guarding the gunpowder that was intended to reduce the seat of power to rubble. Fawkes was charged with treason, and hanged, drawn and quartered, in keeping with the forms of capital punishment of the day. Since then, the English have annually recognized the discovery of the conspirators and celebrated the protection of their state's central assembly by creating 'a guy' – a life-size effigy made of newspaper, assorted trash, or Papier Mache, and dressed in men's clothing, with a hat modeled on the style of the day. The 'guy' is positioned on top of a large wooden construct and set alight. This festival has been retained across the country, and is enthusiastically carried out in school grounds and public parks, involving large groups of spectators; fireworks are set off to conclude the evening. Along with these festivities, English children are

usually familiarized with the following rhyme: 'Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder and treason should ever be forgot.'

1. The phrase 'a prominent festival' means –
 - (a) A festival conducted infrequently
 - (b) One of the longest-standing festivals
 - (c) One of the more significant national festivals
 - (d) A festival which is a source of public strife

2. Guy Fawkes was involved in a plot to –
 - (a) Strengthen the position of the English monarch
 - (b) Remove the English King and restore Catholicism to England
 - (c) Undermine the Catholic campaign in England
 - (d) Democratize the English political system

3. In committing 'treason', the passage suggests that Fawkes was charged with –
 - (a) Betraying the head of state and his country
 - (b) Making a sacrifice on behalf of his people
 - (c) An early form of terrorism
 - (d) Religious intolerance

4. The passage indicates the English public today –
 - (a) Supported the action of Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators
 - (b) Revered the plot devised by the conspirators
 - (c) Opposed the plan to destroy the base of political assembly
 - (d) Are largely indifferent to the political aspect of the story

5. According to the passage, the festival today –
 - (a) Involves a minor number of participants
 - (b) Enjoys a broad, popular level of public support
 - (c) Is perceived as old-fashioned and politically inconsequential
 - (d) Poses a risk to public safety

Question 2

The Spanish in the Americas

When the Spanish began their conquest of the country today known as Mexico in 1519, they discovered a civilization and capital city to rival many in their European homeland. In making contact with the Aztecs, they found a people with a highly developed approach to irrigating their lands, and urban architecture on par with Madrid; in short, a society boasting influence over large areas of Central America and highly complex religious rituals. The Spanish journey into the interior of Aztec territory is a historic drama featuring two antagonists – the conquistador Hernan Cortez and the indigenous people's leader, Montezuma. The arrival of the Spanish caused great consternation among the Aztec leaders, not least for the introduction of horses to their lands, which initially led them to confuse the Europeans with gods. To appease these heavenly creatures, Montezuma arranged for gold to be taken to the coast and given to the explorers. This proved to be a fatal error on the Aztec leader's part, as it confirmed the presence of gold in this land, and intensified Cortez's hunger to reach the capital and conquer the territory for Spain. In paving the way for an acquisition of Aztec land, Cortez detained Montezuma, and engaged in a conflict which led to the complete destruction of the capital and the establishment of Spanish rule within two years of the initial expedition.

6. The passage conveys an impression of the Spanish explorers as –
 - (a) Religious missionaries intent on establishing Christianity in 'heathen' lands
 - (b) Unsuspecting voyagers landing on the Central American coast by chance
 - (c) Conquistadors committed to taking the Aztec lands from the outset
 - (d) Vulnerable exiles in contact with a vastly more powerful civilization

7. The Aztec civilization is characterized in the passage as –
 - (a) An undeveloped, barren environment
 - (b) An economically and culturally developed state
 - (c) A warlike society
 - (d) A hospitable ally of the Spanish

8. The passage indicates the primary motive for conquest was –
 - (a) An expansion of Spain's colonial territory
 - (b) An extension of the realm of Christendom
 - (c) To acquire Aztec know-how
 - (d) To acquire gold

9. Which of the following adjectives best characterizes the Aztec leader Montezuma?
- (a) Superstitious
 - (b) Rational
 - (c) Wise
 - (d) Witty
10. Which of the following terms accurately characterizes the Aztec's immediate reaction to the arrival of Europeans?
- (a) Cautiousness
 - (b) Idleness
 - (c) Indifference
 - (d) Excitement