

國立清華大學 105 學年度碩士班考試入學試題

系所班組別：科技管理研究所(0542)/乙組

考試科目 (4202)：英文

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There are total 20 multiple-choice questions, carrying 5 points each. Please choose the one best answer to each question.

Passage 1

The propensity to engage in artistic expression is one of the characteristics that distinguish humans from all other animals on this planet. Since it is something so distinctly human, there is great interest on the part of anthropologists and paleontologist alike as to when and why Homo sapiens, or one of our immediate predecessors started producing decorative objects and images. The answer has such profound significance because artistic activity along with the use of language is not just considered to be distinctly human, but also as indicative of a qualitative advance in the development of our human ancestors; it is seen as the start of what is termed “modern behavior”.

The discovery of Paleolithic art in the form of cave painting in the caves of Lascaux and Chauvet in the Pyrenees Mountains of France transformed our judgments about the culture of early humans. These were, at the time of their discovery in the 1940’s, the oldest examples of anything that could be regarded as artistic expression yet known. Their discovery led to the long-dominant hypothesis that while humans most likely originated in Africa and learned to make tools there, it was not until 35,000 years ago – after they had migrated off the continent of their origin and roughly the time of the French cave painting – that other forms of modern behavior including advanced language and artistic expression began to appear. This theory had a serious structural weakness from the outset in that it relied for its validity on a lack of evidence rather than on the presence of it – a flaw that new discoveries would eventually make obvious.

The fallacy became apparent with the more recent unearthing of Paleolithic art in a cave of South Africa. While excavating a cave near the southernmost part of South Africa, paleontologists discovered two pieces of ocher rock *adorned* with geometric patterns. Sophisticated dating techniques confirmed that the artifacts were made more than 70,000 years ago – making them twice as the oldest age given for the cave paintings in France and

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shaking to its very foundation a theory that had held sway for many years. 30
This new evidence is forcing researchers to consider a less Euro-centric view
of the origins of what we consider to be modern behavior.

The artifacts in question were made of a reddish mineral known as iron
ore stone ocher. But most significantly, the early artist decorated the stones
with a complex geometric array of carved lines. These non-representational 35
markings suggest that early Homo sapiens were able to think abstract
thoughts and to behave like modern humans much earlier than was
previously believed possible. And that behavior was not limited to artistic
expression. The choice of material indicates a previously unsuspected level
of economic sophistication. Red ochre does not occur naturally at the site 40
where the discovery was made. The nearest deposit is 20 miles away.
Therefore the material would have had to be both mined and transported that
considerable distance. Though we cannot be certain whether they were
designed with symbolic intent, or were merely decorative, the geometric
quality of the carvings hints at the development of the basis for written 45
language. At the very least, these objects constitute evidence that ocher use
in the Middle Stone Age was not exclusively for *utilitarian* purposes.

This revelation comes at a time of considerable intellectual *ferment* in
paleontology and anthropology concerning the origins of the human race. It
is generally agreed that stone tools were used from about 2.5 million to 50
100,000 years ago and that humans had become quite good at modifying and
improving those tools during a period that extended from about 100,000 to
40,000 years ago. But that is as far as the *consensus* goes. From there
opinions diverge. One school of thought holds that modern behavior,
characterized by language and art appeared relatively recently – less than 55
50,000 years ago – and that it did so in Europe. The recently more popular,
though actually somewhat older hypothesis has been that modern behavior
goes back much further; that it actually developed in step with the evolution
of the human anatomical features that facilitated it. This perspective pushes
the beginnings of the development of modern behavior back, perhaps as far 60
as 200,000 years.

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01. What is the main subject of the passage?
 - A. The relationship between art and human intellectual development.
 - B. The history of early human artistic development.
 - C. The origins of modern human behavior.
 - D. The argument for an African origin of the human species.

02. According to the passage, why is determining when humans first started producing art so important for paleontologists?
 - A. It will indicate where humans originated.
 - B. It will allow the comparison of different cultures.
 - C. It will indicate which culture is oldest.
 - D. It represents a key point in human development.

03. Which of the following statements is supported in paragraph 1 of the passage?
 - A. There is a close relationship between art and language.
 - B. Anthropologists and paleontologists disagree on what modern behavior is.
 - C. Art is a more important indication of modern behavior than language.
 - D. Art cannot develop without language.

04. The word *adorned* in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. formed
 - B. selected
 - C. embellished
 - D. sorted

05. The word *utilitarian* in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. practical
 - B. artistic
 - C. recreational
 - D. monetary

06. In paragraph 4, why did the author imply that the material used to make the South African artifacts was significant?
 - A. It required great skill to work with the material.

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- B. The material would have required effort to obtain.
C. The material is only found in the part of the world.
D. It is one of the few materials that would have survived for 70,000 years.
07. According to the passage, how are the artifacts in South Africa changing paleontologists' view of man's early development?
A. They are forcing them to reexamine an old theory.
B. They are forcing them to come up with an entirely new theory.
C. They are forcing them to combine elements of existing theories.
D. They are forcing them to abandon a generally accepted theory.
08. The word ferment in the passage is closest in meaning to
A. stagnation
B. transformation
C. corruption
D. repression
09. Which of the following statements is supported by paragraph 5?
A. The use and modification of stone tools is the best indicator of modern behavior.
B. The use and modification of stone tools probably came after art and language.
C. The use and modification of stone tools probably developed before art and language.
D. The use and modification of stone tools probably came at the same time as the development of art and language.
10. The word consensus in the passage is closest in meaning to
A. dispute
B. evidence
C. concept
D. accord
11. In paragraph 5 the author
A. shows the significance of a new discovery in a broader context.

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- B. debates the significance of a new discovery.
- C. admits that there are still unanswered questions surrounding a discovery.
- D. laments the reluctance of the scientific community to accept the significance of a new discovery.

Passage 2

How many really suffer as a result of labor market problems? This is one of the most critical yet contentious social policy questions. In many ways, our social statistics exaggerate the degree of hardship. Unemployment does not have the same dire consequences today as it did in the 1930's when most of the unemployed were primary breadwinners, when income and earnings were usually much closer to the margin of subsistence, and when there were no countervailing social programs for those failing in the labor market. Increasing affluence, the rise of families with more than one wage earner, the growing predominance of secondary earners among the unemployed, and improved social welfare protection have unquestionably mitigated the consequences of joblessness. Earnings and income data also overstate the dimensions of hardship. Among the millions with hourly earnings at or below the minimum wage level, the overwhelming majority are from multiple-earner, relatively affluent families. Most of those counted by the poverty statistics are elderly or handicapped or have family responsibilities which keep them out of the labor force, so the poverty statistics are by no means an accurate indicator of labor market pathologies.

Yet there are also any ways our social statistics underestimate the degree of labor-market-related hardship. The unemployment counts exclude the millions of fully employed workers whose wages are so low that their families remain in poverty. Low wages and repeated or prolonged unemployment frequently interact to undermine the capacity of self-support. Since the number experiencing joblessness at some time during the year is several times the number unemployed in any month, those who suffer as a result of forced idleness can equal or exceed average annual unemployment, even though only a minority of the jobless in any month really suffer. For every person counted in the monthly unemployment tallies, there is another working part-time because of the inability to find full-time work, or else

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outside the labor force but wanting a job. Finally, income transfers in our country have always focused on the elderly, disabled, and dependent, 30 neglecting the needs of the working poor, so that the dramatic expansion of case and in-kind transfers does not necessarily mean that those failing in the labor market are adequately protected.

As a result of such contradictory evidence, it is uncertain whether those suffering seriously as a result of thousands or the tens of millions, and, 35 hence, whether high levels of joblessness can be tolerated or must be countered by job creation and economic stimulus. There is only one area of agreement in this debate – that the existing poverty, employment, and earnings statistics are inadequate for one of their primary applications, measuring the consequences of labor market problems. 40

12. Which of the following is the principal topic of the passage?
- A. What causes labor market pathologies that result in suffering?
 - B. Why income measures are imprecise in measuring degrees of poverty.
 - C. Which of the currently used statistical procedures are the best for estimating the incidence of hardship that is due to unemployment.
 - D. Where the areas of agreement are among poverty, employment, and earnings figures.
 - E. How social statistics give an unclear picture of the degree of hardship caused by low wages and insufficient employment opportunities.
13. The author uses “labor market problems” in line 1 to refer to which of the followings?
- A. The overall causes of poverty.
 - B. Deficiencies in the training of the work force.
 - C. Trade relationships among producers of goods.
 - D. Shortages of jobs providing adequate income.
 - E. Strikes and inadequate supplies of labor.
14. The author contrasts the 1930’s with the present in order to show that
- A. more people were unemployed in the 1930’s.
 - B. unemployment now has less severe effects.

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- C. social programs are more needed now.
- D. there now is a greater proportion of elderly and handicapped people among those in poverty.
- E. poverty has increased since the 1930's.
15. Which of the following proposals best responds to the issues raised by the author?
- A. Innovative programs using multiple approaches should be set up to reduce the level of unemployment.
- B. A compromise should be found between the positions of those who view joblessness as an evil greater than economic control and those who hold the opposite view.
- C. New statistical indices should be developed to measure the degree to which unemployment and inadequately paid unemployment cause suffering.
- D. Consideration should be given to the ways in which statistics can act as partial causes of the phenomena that they purport to measure.
- E. The labor force should be restructured so that it corresponds to the range of job vacancies.
16. The author's purpose in citing those who are repeatedly unemployed during a twelve-month period is most probably to show that
- A. there are several factors that cause the payment of low wages to some members of the labor force.
- B. unemployment statistics can underestimate the hardship resulting from joblessness.
- C. recurrent inadequacies in the labor market can exist and can cause hardships for individual workers.
- D. a majority of those who are jobless at any one time do not suffer severe hardship.
- E. there are fewer individuals who are without jobs at some time during a year than would be expected on the basis of monthly unemployment figures.
17. The author states that the mitigating effect of social programs involving

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- income transfers on the income level of low-income people is often not felt by
- A. the employed poor.
 - B. dependent children in single-earner families.
 - C. workers who become disabled.
 - D. retired workers.
 - E. full-time workers who become unemployed.
18. According to the passage, one factor that causes unemployment and earnings figures to over-predict the amount of economic hardships is the
- A. recurrence of periods of unemployment for a group of low-wage workers.
 - B. possibility that earnings may be received from more than one job per worker.
 - C. fact that unemployment counts do not include those who work for low wages and remain poor.
 - D. establishment of a system of record-keeping that makes it possible to compile poverty statistics.
 - E. prevalence, among low-wage workers and the unemployed, of members of families in which others are employed.
19. The conclusion stated in the line 23-26 about the number of people who suffer as a result of forced idleness depends primarily on the point that
- A. in times of high unemployment, there are some people who do not remain unemployed for long.
 - B. the capacity for self-support depends on receiving moderate-to-high wages.
 - C. those in forced idleness include, besides the unemployed, both underemployed part-time workers and those not actively seeking work.
 - D. at different times during the year, different people are unemployed.
 - E. many of those who are affected by unemployment are dependents of unemployed workers.
20. Which of the following, if true, is the best criticism of the author's argument concerning why poverty statistics cannot properly be used to show the effects of problems in the labor market?
- A. A short-term increase in the number of those in poverty can indicate a

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shortage of jobs because the basic number of those unable to accept employment remains approximately constant.

- B. For those who are in poverty as a result of joblessness, there are social programs available that provide a minimum standard of living.
- C. Poverty statistics do not consistently agree with earnings statistics, when each is taken as a measure of hardship resulting from unemployment.
- D. The elderly and handicapped categories include many who previously were employed in the labor market.
- E. Since the labor market is global in nature, poor workers in one country are competing with poor workers in another with respect to the level of wages and the existence of jobs.