

# 國立臺北科技大學

## 101 學年度四年制二、三年級轉學生招生考試

### 四技三年級 應用英文系

#### 第一節 英文閱讀與寫作 試題

第一頁 共二頁

#### 注意事項：

1. 本試題共 4 題，配分共 100 分。
2. 請標明大題、子題編號作答，不必抄題。
3. 全部答案均須在答案卷之答案欄內作答，否則不予計分。

**Direction:** The Reading and Writing test is designed to test your ability in critical reading and writing of academic topics. Read the article(s) thoroughly and write short essays that analyze issues and support your views. A successful essay will be at least 300 words. Please be reminded that illegible writing to cause difficulty in reading will not be graded.

The Asian tiger mom that Amy Chua portrays in her new book may seem like just one more species in the genus Extreme Parent — the counterpart to the hovering American *Parents helicopterus* or the Scandinavian Curling Parents, who frantically rush ahead of their children, sweeping their paths clear of the tiniest obstacles.

The common characteristics include an obsession with a child's success, a reflex to treat kids as extensions or reflections of oneself and patterns of conduct that impartial observers might class as insane if not criminal, if not both. In Chua's case, this famously includes prohibiting grades lower than an A, TV, playdates and sleepovers, and warning her pianist child that "if the next time's not PERFECT, I'm going to TAKE ALL YOUR STUFFED ANIMALS AND BURN THEM." In the case of the classic Western helicopter parent, it starts with Baby Einstein and reward charts for toilet training, and it never really ends, which is why colleges have to devote so many resources to teaching parents how to leave their kids alone.

But it is the differences between the Tigers and the Choppers that help explain the furor Chua has caused, at least in the U.S. Tigers fixate on success, defined as achievement in precision-oriented fields like music and math; Choppers are obsessed with failure and preventing it at all costs. Tigers operate in a culture of discipline; Choppers, in a culture of fear. Tigers view children as tough, able to take the abuse; Choppers view them as precious, to be raised under glass. Their fury at a bad grade is more likely to land on the teacher than

on the child.

And if Chua appears to sentence her children to slave labor, Western parents enshrine their children and crave their friendship. "The thing that impresses me most about America," observed Edward, Duke of Windsor, who knew something about indulgence, "is the way parents obey their children." There is something bracing about Chua's apparent indifference to her daughters' hostility, especially for parents who have learned that even if you let your teenagers spend 50 hours a week on Facebook, they'll still find reasons to hate you. (My favorite title of a parenting book: *Get Out of My Life, but First Could You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall?*)

**Question 1:** Analyze the different parenting / educational philosophies adopted and operated by the Tigers and the Choppers respectively. (30%)

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In recent decades, markets and market-oriented thinking have reached into spheres of life traditionally governed by nonmarket norms. More and more, we are putting a price on noneconomic goods. At the same time, economists have been recasting their discipline, making it more abstract and more ambitious. In the past, economists dealt with avowedly economic topics—inflation and unemployment, savings and investment, interest rates and foreign trade. They explained how countries become wealthy and how the price system aligns supply and demand for pork belly futures and other market goods.

Recently, however, many economists have set themselves a more ambitious project. What economics offers, they argue, is not merely a set of insights about the production and consumption of material goods but also a science of human behavior. At the heart of this science is a simple but sweeping idea: In all domains of life, human behavior can be explained by assuming that people decide what to do by weighing the costs and benefits of the options before them, and choosing the one they believe will give them the greatest welfare, or utility.

If this idea is right, then everything has its price. The price may be explicit, as with cars and toasters and pork bellies. Or it may be implicit, as with sex, marriage, children, education, criminal activity, racial discrimination, political participation, environmental protection, even human life. Whether or not we're aware of it, the law of supply and demand governs the provision of all these things.

The most influential statement of this view is offered by Gary Becker, and economists at the University of Chicago, in *The Economic Approach to Human Behavior* (1976). He rejects the old-fashion notion that economics is "the study of allocation of material goods." The

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persistence of the traditional view is due, he speculates, "to a reluctance to submit certain kinds of human behavior to the 'frigid' calculus of economics." Becker seeks to wean us from the reluctance.

According to Becker, people act to maximize their welfare, whatever activity they're engaged in. This assumption, "used relentlessly and unflinchingly, forms the heart of the economic approach" to human behavior. The economic approach applies regardless of what goods are at stake. It explains life-and-death decisions and "the choice of a brand of coffee." It applies to choosing a mate and buying a can of paint. Becker continues: "I have come to the position that the economic approach is a comprehensive one that is applicable to all human behavior, be it behavior involving money prices or imputed shadow prices, repeated or infrequent decisions, large or minor decisions, emotional or mechanical ends, rich or poor persons, men or women, adults or children, brilliant or stupid persons, patients or therapists, businessmen or politicians, teachers or students."

**Question 2:** Compare and analyze the central tenets that hold all past and current economic theories. In many respects, today's economists have begun to view economic activities differently from their forerunners. In what ways economic views are changed, and why? (30%)

**Question 3:** Based on Becker's view, provide a thorough and yet plausible economic analysis of marriage and divorce. (20%)

**Question 4:** Fully discuss the meaning and implications of the following statement. (20%)

*The persistence of the traditional view is due, he speculates, "to a reluctance to submit certain kinds of human behavior to the 'frigid' calculus of economics." Becker seeks to wean us from the reluctance.*