

國立臺北科技大學

九十六學年度四年制二、三年級轉學生招生考試

系所組別：四技二年級應用英文系

05-1

第三節 專業科目 (二) 英文閱讀與寫作 試題

第一頁 共二頁

注意事項：

1. 本試題共兩大部份,共 100 分。第一部分為閱讀理解及簡短問答題,包含兩篇短文,共十題,每題八分,共八十分。第二部分為寫作,共一題二十分。
2. 請標明大題、子題編號作答,不必抄題。
3. 全部以英文作答,否則不予計分。
4. 禁止使用任何形式之字典及查詢工具。
5. 全部答案均須在答案卷之答案欄內作答,否則不予計分。

- I. **Reading Comprehension and Short Writings:** Read the TWO PASSAGES and answer the TEN questions pertaining to the meaning conveyed in the underlined statements. Limit your writing to 50 words for each. 80% (8 points for each)

PASSAGE ONE

Affirmative action is the most ambitious attempt in the U.S. to redress its long history of racial and sexual discrimination. But these days it seems to incite, rather than ease, the nation's internal divisions. An increasingly assertive opposition movement argues that the battle to guarantee equal rights for all citizens has been fought and won – and that favoring members of one group over another simply goes against the American grain. (Question 1) But defenders of affirmative action say that the playing field is not level yet – and that granting modest advantages to minorities and women is more than fair, given hundreds of years of discrimination that benefited whites and men.

Born of the civil rights movement three decades ago, affirmative action calls for minorities and women to be given special consideration in employment, education and contracting decisions. (Question 2) Institutions with affirmative action policies generally set goals and timetables for increased diversity – and use recruitment, set-asides and preference as ways of achieving those goals.

In its modern form, affirmative action can call for an admissions officer faced with two similarly qualified applicants to choose the minority over the white, or for a manager to recruit and hire a qualified woman for a job instead of a man. Affirmative action decisions are generally not supposed to be based on quotas, nor are they supposed to give any preference to unqualified candidates. And they are not supposed to harm anyone through "reverse discrimination." (Question 3)

Former U.S. President, Bill Clinton, asserting that the job of ending discrimination remains unfinished, strongly defends affirmative action. "Mend it, but don't end it," he said. Conservatives, however, see ending affirmative action as a powerful political issue. Heartened by recent Supreme Court decisions that have limited affirmative action – and by the passage in 1996 of a California ballot initiative abolishing sexual and racial preferences – Republicans are taking up the battle wherever they can. (Question 4)

The debate over affirmative action takes on a particularly bitter tenor in the trenches. (Question 5) "Angry white men" blame affirmative action for robbing them of promotions and other opportunities. And while many minorities and women support affirmative action, a growing number say its benefits are no longer worth its side effect: the perception that their success is unearned. (Question 6)

Judging simply by the results, the playing field would appear to still be tilted very much in favor of white men. Overall, minorities and women are in vastly lower paying jobs and still face active discrimination in some sectors. Now the real question is: Does affirmative action make things better or worse? The debate rages on.

Question 1): According to the underlined statement, what does the opposition assert?

Question 2): Based on this underlined statement, infer a possible scenario that best illustrates the special consideration given to the minorities.

Question 3): What does "reverse discrimination" refer to?

Question 4): What is most likely the Republicans' political standpoint in the issue of affirmative action? By what do they firmly hold their ground?

Question 5): What does the underlined phrase mean? Explain and paraphrase it.

Question 6): What does the underlined phrase possibly imply?

PASSAGE TWO

The world economy is increasingly becoming global. National boundaries are impediments and cost centers. (Question 7) Business—and increasingly many other institutions as well—can

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no longer define their scope in terms of national economies and national boundaries. They have to define their scope in terms of industries and services worldwide.

But at the same time, political boundaries are not going to go away. In fact, it is doubtful that even the new regional economic units, the European Economic Community, the North American Free Trade Zone (NAFTA) or Mercosur, the proposed economic community in South America, will actually weaken political boundaries, let alone overcome them. ----- Even within transnational economic units, national politics still overrule economic rationality. Despite the European Economic Community, for instance, it has proven all but politically impossible to close a totally redundant plant in Belgium and shift the work to a French plant of the same company only thirty miles away, but on the other side of a national border. (Question 8)

We have in fact three overlapping spheres. There is a true global economy of money and information. There are regional economies in which goods circulate freely and in which impediments to the movement of services and of people are being cut back, though by no means eliminated. And then increasingly there are national and local realities, which are both economic, but above all political. And all three are growing fast. And businesses—and other institutions, for example, universities—have no choice. They have to live and perform in all spheres, and at the same time. (Question 9) This is the reality on which strategy has to be based. But no management anyplace knows yet what this reality actually means. They are all still groping. (Question 10)

(Extracted from Peter Drucker's *Management Challenges for the 21st Century* (New York: HarperBusiness, 1999), pp.63-64)

Question 7): In what way(s) does this underlined sentence define the thesis statement and also serve as a summary of the argument discussed in the rest of the passage?

Question 8): What does the underlined statement mean? Explain the current example. What is the underlying mindset in such a circumstance?

Question 9): What does the author suggest for all businesses and institutions?

Question 10): What does the author mean by indicating that strategy has to be based on “this” reality and that they are still groping? What reality is this? And why are they still groping?

II Writing: Write a short review commentary on either of the two preceding passages. Limit your writing to 150-200 words. 20%