

英文閱讀寫作 試題 (限用答案本作答)

Part A: Reading Comprehension: 38% (請在答案本上作答)

Gloria Acunia comes to this bookshop for a New Age treatment known as raking. She sees it as a sort of spiritual counseling.

"I feel like some energy needs to be boosted."

But in the past Gloria says she has been hoodwinked by so called spiritual advisors, psychics who frightened her with the same line. "You have this curse and I can do candles. She said put your money on the bible." says Gloria.

All fortune-telling scams center around curse removals, but now the city of San Francisco is trying to stop those scams by forcing fortune-tellers, palm readers and the like to get finger printed and get a permit.

"We're trying to identify the people so that we will know when people get ripped off," says a city consumer protection advocate.

A San Francisco woman says she got ripped off seventeen thousand dollars by a psychic who said her daughter would die if she didn't give the fortune-teller her money. "She actually told me I will do something to my daughter and she is going to die."

Fraud investigators say the fortune-tellers prey on people's fears.

"They show there's a piece of grapefruit with blood in it or a little skull in it that the person is supposed to bring them, and please bring me your card to Macy's as well because I know you don't have enough money, but we will go shopping."

"People really fall for this?"

"They fall for it again because they are desperate."

Anjelique Royce, manager of the Psychic Eye, says psychics here give legitimate one-time services. "We don't practice curse removals for a certain fee of any kind."

"Hey it's a good opportunity. Go for it," says card-reader Patricia Carroll. Patricia Carroll reads tarot cards and practices raking for a one-time fee. She says the proposed law won't stop the rip-offs.

"Do you think this is going to drive the scam artist fortune-tellers underground?" asks Rusty Dornin.

"Oh definitely. But not away. Just underground. Because I think they will still operate and I think it will still be very difficult to stop them," says Patricia.

This new regulation is for people who want their fortune told, not taken

1. Psychics are
(A) doctors who treat mental illness (B) registered counselors (C) psychologists
(D) persons who gather information using extraordinary mental processes
2. Why do people believe the things psychic scammers tell them?
(A) They are fearful and desperate. (B) Their energy needs to be boosted.
(C) They are bewildered by their magic power. (D) They are cursed.
3. Why does the city of San Francisco want to license psychics?
(A) So inspectors can decide which ones are the most accurate
(B) To scare those unlicensed psychics away. (C) To drive psychics underground
(D) To make it easier to track down scam artist fortunetellers.
4. What does has been hoodwinked mean in line 4?

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- (A) to have been threatened (B) to have been performed magic on
(C) to have been tricked or deceived (D) to have been covered with an eye patch
5. How will the new law protect people?
(A) Clients will be safer whether they go to registered or unregistered psychics.
(B) Clients can make sure they go to psychics who are registered with the city.
(C) Police will be able to get money back for anyone who pays too much.
(D) Scam psychics will go underground where they can't cheat anybody.
6. How will psychics who want to cheat people respond to a licensing law?
(A) They will get licensed and fingerprinted. (B) They will stop cheating people.
(C) They will work harder to make sure their clients and police can't track them down.
(D) They will stop practicing curse removals.
7. What do **scams** mean in line 7?
(A) diagrams used to swindle people (B) systematic plans of action
(C) cameras used to swindle people (D) fraudulent business schemes
8. What does **prey** mean in line 15?
(A) To ask God, or some divine power, to make something happen.
(B) to make some one a victim, or profit at their expense (C) to survive
(D) to perform activities that make scared people more afraid.
9. Is the new law likely to actually protect clients, or make them more vulnerable?
(A) It could make it harder to track unlicensed psychics because they will hide better.
(B) Licensed psychics might raise their rates so they can afford licensing fees.
(C) It will probably protect people who go to licensed psychics. (D) All of the above.
10. Why do some psychics show clients grapefruit with blood or a small skull in it?
(A) They use it to prove the client's energy needs a boost.
(B) They used it to remind the client not to get ripped off.
(C) They use it to tell the client's fortune.
(D) They use it as a proof of a curse on the client or a loved one.

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Towering waterfalls, massive domes, and sheer granite walls rise thousands of feet nearly straight up from the valley floor, but it's something quite **mundane** that allows four million visitors to enjoy Yosemite National Park each year. And here, as in national parks across the country, the infrastructure has begun to crack.

Dennis Galvin works for the National Park Service, "In addition to being thirty years old, it's also handling two to three times as many visitors as it was thirty years ago, so it's not only old and worn out, it's over capacity."

Four years ago, the National Park Service trucked water to visitors of the Grand Canyon after a storm washed out a thirty year old pipe line. That nearly happened again last month, and trails were briefly closed. The park service says the solution is money. About three and a half billion dollars is needed to fix up the nation's 378 parks, monuments and wilderness areas.

Unlike other national parks, Yosemite does have money for repairs, nearly two hundred million dollars. It's just that it can't spend it. At least not the way it wants. Congress gave Yosemite the money to

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repair damage from the 1997 flood. But after the park service tried to widen a road into the park, the Sierra Club sued to stop road construction, claiming the work was damaging the park's lifblood, the Merced River.

Julia Olson is a Sierra Club attorney, "They're developing roads, widening roads into the Merced River; they're developing more hotels; they're increasing the basic infrastructure in Yosemite, rather than moving infrastructure out of Yosemite."

At Yellowstone, according to the New York Times, spring thaws overloaded leaky pipes and forced crews to siphon millions of gallons of treated sewage into meadows.

It's not just three hundred million national park visitors who suffer when the infrastructure falls apart. It's the country's national parks, as well.

11. Although thirty years old, Yosemite has
(A) been kept in good shape. (B) two or three times as many visitors as it did in 1969.
(C) continued to be the most popular national park. (D) never had water shortage.
12. When a storm washed out a Grand Canyon pipe line,
(A) the park was flooded. (B) there was a shortage of food.
(C) the park service brought trucks of water to the park. (D) mountains were .
13. According to the New York Times, what happened recently at Yellowstone?
(A) Trails were closed due to flooding. (B) Pipes were leaking because of heavy snow.
(C) Water had to be trucked in because of pipes broke.
(D) Millions of gallons of treated sewage was dumped into meadows.
14. When the infrastructure at the parks falls apart,
(A) both the visitors and the parks suffer (B) visitors are forced to camp out.
(C) the Sierra Club offers help (D) sewage is treated immediately.
15. What does mundane mean in line 3?
(A) unusual (B) ordinary or typical (C) heavenly (D) amazing
16. How does Dennis Galvin account for many of the Yosemite problems?
(A) He blames the Sierra Club. (B) Galvin thinks the entrance fees are too high.
(C) The park is old, worn out and over capacity. (D) The infrastructure has cracked.
17. What does the National Park Service say is the solution for crumbling parks?
(A) They need more than three billion dollars for repairs.
(B) More infrastructures should be moved out of the parks.
(C) Old parks should be closed until repaired. (D) All of the above.
18. Why did the Congress give money to Yosemite National Park?
(A) It's the most popular park in the country. (B) No other park is in worse shape.
(C) To prevent water shortage. (D) The 1997 flood had damaged the park.
19. What does Julia Olson think should be done at Yosemite?
(A) More infrastructures should be added to the park.
(B) New hotels and infrastructures should be built outside the park.
(C) Close some roads to Merced River. (D) Merced River should be cleaned.

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Part B: Cloze test: 12%

American universities since the mid-1960's have increasingly been afflicted by the problem of grade inflation. This refers to the tendency of many faculty members to __20__ the quality of a student's work and consequently to assign her/him a grade __21__ than the work deserves. The reason this practice is called inflation, a term borrowed from economics, is that it __22__ paying too high a price for a given item, for example twenty dollars for a loaf of bread. The problem is common among American universities, including even our most __23__ institutions, such as Harvard. As Craig Lambert reports in the article "Desperate Seeking Summa," the grade of A there accounted for about twenty-two percent of all grades in 1966-67, __24__ by 1991-92 it had come to account for forty-three percent-almost __25__.

20. (A) underestimate (B) over-evaluate (C) despise (D) appreciate
21. (A) lower (B) more (C) higher (D) fewer
22. (A) resembles (B) forbids (C) simulates (D) includes
23. (A) researching (B) prestigious (C) qualified (D) private
24. (A) so (B) later (C) whereas (D) then
25. (A) impossible (B) remarkable (C) unbelievable (D) double

Part C: Essay 50% (請在答案本上作答)

Write a short essay on ONE of the following topics:

- (1) Have you ever made any important decision in your life? Write an essay in which you analyze the most significant causes for the decision that you made or analyze the most significant effects of the decision that you made.
- (2) You have the opportunity to visit a foreign country for two weeks. Which country would you like to visit? Use specific reasons and details to explain your choice.
- (3) A person doesn't have to get married in order to lead a happy and fulfilling life. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

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