

综合英语样题

PART ONE READING COMPREHENSION (50 Points)

Directions: Please read the following passages and answer the questions briefly.

Text 1

In ordinary neighborhoods across the United States, people share their homes with wildlife kept as pets. The laws around privately owning wild animals vary by state, with essentially no restrictions in some places. So while you need a license to own a dog, you may be allowed to bring home a monkey, a tiger, or a boa constrictor and keep it as a pet.

When people buy exotic pets, they're keeping a global trade in wildlife going. This trade makes a lot of money. It can also harm the environment, the animals themselves, and the people, who care for them. Removing animals from the wild may disrupt ecosystems and drive species toward extinction. Wild animals, whether captured from their natural habitat or bred in captivity, sometimes suffer greatly when kept as pets. These pets can also carry diseases that can be passed on to native wildlife, livestock, or even people. Finally, large portions of the wildlife trade are illegal and linked to other forms of organized crime.

Despite all these concerns and the potential dangers of owning a wild animal, the idea continues to appeal to many people. What makes a person feel the need to own a bear or a baboon as a pet?

For some, sharing their lives with a wild animal may offer a way to reconnect with the natural world. They may be motivated by admiration or affection for the animal.

Some owners are animal lovers inspired by a desire to preserve and protect threatened species. Their hearts are often in the right place. But conservation groups say that captive breeding continues the process of buying and selling these animals, putting those still living in the wild at risk.

For other owners of unusual pets, the allure comes from the animal's wildness and untameability. A wild animal, especially a dangerous one like a big cat or a bear, may make its owner feel powerful.

Wild pets may also serve as status symbols—rare and expensive accessories that feed their owners' egos. Some people are attracted to exotic pets as a way to signal their uniqueness and set themselves apart from the crowd.

In one study, a group of researchers wanted to know how to steer people away from buying wild animals as pets. They used an online survey to test different messages. The survey asked how likely people would be to purchase a specific exotic pet. But each participant received different information. Some only saw the animal's diet. Others read cautionary information describing the risk of disease from the animal or possible legal problems associated with owning the pet. Still other messages focused on negative effects on the animal's well-being or on its wild population.

Statements about disease and legal problems reduced the chances that someone would say he or she would purchase an exotic pet.

But statements about a pet's well-being or wild population did not. Neil D'Cruze, a wildlife biologist at World Animal Protection, United Kingdom, and one of the study's authors, says that it seems like people who purchase exotic pets care more about themselves than they do the animals. But that might not be the whole story.

"I think, in most cases, people are willing to accept that animals have suffered or died in the

exotic pet industry, but they believe the animal they own is getting the best possible care,” says D’Cruze.

Some scientists and animal advocates want to make a case against keeping wild animals as pets. They often start by trying to understand why people seek exotic pets in the first place. Owners may be motivated by affection for an animal or a desire to help protect a species. Or perhaps wild pets help them feel powerful or unique. Then advocates can test out the most useful ways to talk to possible owners before they buy.

1. What are the potential dangers of owning wild animals as pets to the environment according to the text?
2. What are the possible reasons for people to keep wild animals as pets? Please name at least three.
3. What is the main purpose of the online investigation narrated in Para. 8?
4. According to the survey, what kind of statements can lower people’s intentions to buy a wild animal as a pet?
5. Why do scientists and animal advocates need to understand people’s motivation for the seeking of exotic pets?

Text 2

Archaeologists have found glass beads dating to as early as the third millenium BCE. But it was in the Late Bronze Age — 1600 to 1200 BCE — that the use of glass seems to have really taken off, in Egypt, Greece and the Near East.

Unlike today, glass of those times was often opaque and saturated with color, and the source of the silica was crushed quartz pebbles, not sand. Clever ancients figured out how to lower the melting temperature of the crushed quartz to what could be reached in Bronze Age furnaces: They used the ash of desert plants, which contain high levels of salts such as sodium carbonate or bicarbonates. The plants also contain lime — calcium oxide — that made the glass more stable. Ancient glassmakers also added materials that impart color to glass, such as cobalt for dark blue, or lead antimonate for yellow. The ingredients melded in the melt, contributing chemical clues that researchers look for today.

When Shortland and colleagues were investigating glass’s origins around 20 years ago, glass from Egypt, the Near East and Greece appeared to be chemical lookalikes, difficult to distinguish based on the techniques available at the time.

The exception was blue glass, thanks to work by Polish-born chemist Alexander Kaczmarczyk who in the 1980s discovered that elements such as aluminum, manganese, nickel and zinc tag along with the cobalt that gives glass an abyssal blue hue. By examining the relative amounts of these, Kaczmarczyk’s team even tracked the cobalt ore used for blue coloring to its mineral source in specific Egyptian oases. Picking up where Kaczmarczyk left off, Shortland set out to understand how ancient Egyptians worked with that cobalt ore. The material, a sulfate-containing compound called alum, won’t incorporate into the glass. But in the lab, Shortland and colleagues reproduced a chemical reaction that Late Bronze Age craftspeople may have used to create a compatible pigment. And they created a deep blue glass that did, in fact, resemble Egyptian blue glass.

In the first years of this century, a relatively new method offered more insights. Called laser

ablation inductively coupled mass spectrometry, or LA-ICP-MS, the technique uses a laser to remove a tiny speck of material, invisible to the naked eye. Based on this method, in 2009, Walton and others analyzed Late Bronze Age glass beads unearthed in Greece. The analysis revealed that the Grecian glass had either Near Eastern or Egyptian signatures, supporting the idea that Greece imported glass from both places and, though it may have worked the glass, did not make it locally. Egyptian glasses tended to have higher levels of lanthanum, zirconium and titanium, while Near Eastern glasses tended to have more chromium.

But where was glass first birthed? Based on some beautiful, well-preserved glass artifacts dating from around 1500 BCE, Egypt was favored at first. But by the 1980s, researchers were placing their bets on the Near East after excavators found loads of glass at Nuzi, a Late Bronze Age provincial town in modern-day Iraq, thought to date from the 1500s BCE. A reanalysis of archaeological texts revealed that Nuzi was 100 to 150 years younger than estimated, and the Egyptian glass industry from that time period seems to have been more advanced — favoring Egypt once again.

But that isn't the end of the story. Glass can degrade, especially in wet conditions. Objects from Egypt's ancient tombs and towns have lasted millennia, aided by the desert's nearly ideal preservation environment. Near Eastern glass, on the other hand, from tombs on Mesopotamian floodplains, more frequently faced attacks by water, which can leach out stabilizing compounds and turn glass to flaky powder. This deteriorated glass is difficult to identify and impossible to display, meaning lots of Near East glass may be missed. "You can't really decide which is the earliest at the moment," Shortland says.

1. Where was glass first fashioned?
2. What materials were used to make glass in the Late Bronze Age?
3. According to Para. 6, how have researchers attempted to identify the birth place of glass?
4. What's the difference between Egyptian glasses and Near Eastern glasses?
5. What's the result of searching for origin of glass?

PART TWO TRANSLATION (50 Points)

Section A (20 points)

Directions: Please translate the following passage into Chinese.

It begins to look, more and more disturbingly, as if the gift of language is the single human trait that marks us all genetically, setting us apart from the rest of life.

Language is, like nest-building or hive-making, the universal and biologically specific activity of human beings. We engage in it communally, compulsively, and automatically. We cannot be human without it; if we were to be separated from it our minds would die, as surely as bees lost from the hive.

We are born knowing how to use language. The capacity to recognize syntax, to organize and deploy words into intelligible sentences, is innate in the human mind. We are programmed to identify patterns and generate grammar. There are invariant and variable structures in speech that are common to all of us. As chicks are endowed with an innate capacity to read information in the shapes of overhanging shadows, telling hawk from other birds, we can identify the meaning of grammar in a string of words, and we are born this way. According to Chomsky, who has examined it as a biologist looks at live tissue, language "must simply be a biological property

of the human mind.” The universal attributes of language are genetically set; we do not learn them, or make them up as we go along.

Section B (20 points)

Directions: Please translate the following passage into English.

近年来有一种观点，把人比喻成木桶，说这个木桶如果有一块短板，它的容积就会受到影响，这样的人就会缺乏发展潜力，将来就难以获得成功。我坚决反对把人比喻成木桶的。人不是容器，可以终身学习终身发展的。他今天没有学到的东西明天需要就可以学，谁说这个缺陷会存在一辈子带进棺材？研究表明，人在离开学校后所学的知识远比在学校学得多。今天有不少的学生缺少了学习动力和兴趣，离开学校就不爱读书了，这倒是值得担忧的。

Section C (10 points)

Directions: Please translate the following passage into English.

虎求百兽而食之，得狐。狐曰：“子无敢食我也！天帝使我长百兽。今子食我，是逆天帝命也！子以我为不信，吾为子先行，于随我后，观百兽之见我而敢不走乎？”虎以为然，故遂与之行。兽见之，皆走。虎不知兽畏己而走也，以为畏狐也。

PART THREE INTEGRATED WRITING (50 Points)

Directions: The following are opinions on the future of artificial intelligence (AI) from different experts. You should **synthesize** the ideas of the given materials and state your own point of view on this issue. You may paraphrase or summarize when you use the source ideas in your own texts.

Write an essay of 400-500 words.

Simpson (2021)

The idea of creating something that can rival or exceed human intelligence frightens me. Computers are currently being taught how to learn on their own by scientists. Their intellect may easily take off and increase at an ever-increasing rate in the near future. Humans evolve at a fairly sluggish rate biologically, and we would be quickly surpassed. In the short term, there is a risk that robots will take millions of human jobs, creating a big unemployed population. This could mean large-scale poverty and instability. In the long term, machines may determine that the world is a better place without humans.

Toolan (2022)

It is fascinating to consider how we may accelerate our species' evolution by upgrading our bodies. Imagine being able to implant a computer into our heads. Soon, we'll be able to do precisely that, improving our arithmetic abilities, audiovisual perception, and memory, and this concept will only get more popular. AI is also becoming more prevalent in the world around us. Self-driving automobiles and drones carrying life-saving equipment to individuals at sea are examples of recent breakthroughs. Granted, there have been a few teething problems in the system: one woman's hair was eaten by her robot vacuum cleaner while she was sleeping on the floor, and self-driving cars have been involved in tragic accidents. However, progress always comes at a cost, and for me the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.