

# 汕头大学 2021 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

科目代码: 806

科目名称: 综合英语

适用专业: 学科教学(英语)

## 考生须知

答案一律写在答题纸上, 答在  
试题纸上的不得分! 请用黑色字迹  
签字笔作答, 答题要写清题号, 不  
必抄原题。

### Section I VOCABULARY (30 points)

Version A

**Directions:** For each italicized word or expression, choose the best meaning below. Write your answer on the ANSWER SHEET.

1. Your computer needs regular *maintenance* to run smoothly.  
A. keeping updated    B. keeping in good condition    C. keeping connected to the internet
2. We must all *strive* toward our goals.  
A. walk with long steps    B. attack forcefully    C. try hard
3. Government officials admit that they have not been able to *subdue* the rebels.  
A. get rid of    B. communicate with    C. gain control over
4. The new bridge is a wonderful sight to *behold*.  
A. look at    B. walk on    C. grasp
5. She was determined to *exact* a promise from him.  
A. be precise    B. give    C. demand
6. There is a \$50 *penalty* for late cancellation of tickets.  
A. discount    B. punishment    C. reward
7. He actively promoted the *dissemination* of ideas about scientific development.  
A. discussion    B. spread    C. argument
8. Heat and light are physical *stimuli*.  
A. things that cause a change or a reaction  
B. things that cause discomfort or dissatisfaction  
C. things that cause excitement and happiness
9. The under -18s *constitute* nearly 25% of the town's population.  
A. form    B. represent    C. create
10. Grammatical information helps learners to *decode* sentences.  
A. explore the meaning of    B. understand the meaning of    C. express the meaning of
11. TV *commercials* are very annoying because they often come in the middle of an interesting program.  
A. music    B. advertisements    C. viewers
12. The little path in the garden has pebbles *embedded* in the cement.  
A. decorated    B. scattered    C. fixed firmly
13. It can be difficult to give a *verbal* description of things like colors and sounds.  
A. relating to verbs    B. relating to words    C. relating to image or voice
14. Lower price may attract consumers. *Conversely*, you might also attract consumers if you raise the price.  
A. In words that are spoken rather than written    B. In a similar way    C. In an opposite way
15. The temperature *soared* to 100 degrees.

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- A. increase rapidly    B. rose to a great height    C. flew at a great height
16. Students now have access to the *courseware* over the Internet.  
A. entertainment software    B. educational game    C. software designed for education
17. He knitting technique is more *sophisticated* than mine.  
A. skilled    B. complex    C. beautiful
18. All the candidates were required to show their *credentials* at the interview.  
A. proofs of their abilities and expertise    B. identity cards    C. resumes
19. The house was very *remote* and I felt lonely all the time.  
A. isolated    B. far away in distance    C. shabby
20. The boy is fond of playing games and wants to be a *programmer*.  
A. one who supervises a project    B. one who organize activities    C. one who create computer programs
21. This method is *applicable* to a variety of problems.  
A. able to be used    B. able to be solved    C. able to be changed
22. I had *plow through* a stack of letters in the office for the whole day.  
A. browse quickly    B. finish with great effort    C. write in reply
23. I'm trying to improve my *fitness* by walking to work.  
A. being appropriate    B. being healthy    C. being ready
24. Her *workout* includes running on the treadmill and lifting weights.  
A. exercises    B. solutions    C. exhaustion
25. I heard a *rumor* that they broke up.  
A. low and secretive whisper    B. statement announced publicly    C. information with no reliable source
26. You should try to eat fewer *calories* and exercise more.  
A. a kind of leafy vegetable    B. energy provided by foods    C. very hot foods
27. There has not been enough *expenditure* of effort on this project.  
A. total amount spent    B. extensive attention attracted    C. priority given
28. She cannot skate well – she is only a *novice*.  
A. beginner    B. newcomer    C. novelty
29. A *stationary* target is easy to aim at.  
A. stationing    B. moving    C. fixed
30. After he finished 1.000 meters race, he *gaped for breath*.  
A. took in breath slowly    B. took in breath quickly    C. took in breath smoothly

## Section II: READING COMPREHENSION (40 points)

**Directions:** Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer for the questions provided. Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET.

### Passage 1

If we look around us at the things we have purchased at some point in our lives, we would no doubt notice that not everything we own is being put to good use: the thick woollen coat which we thought looked trendy despite the fact that we live in a tropical country, the smartphone that got put away when we bought ourselves the newest model, the car that only gets used at the weekends, or even the guest room in our house that somehow got turned into a storeroom.

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Those underutilized items may seem useless to some, but could be an asset to others. With the advent of the internet, online communities have figured out a way to generate profit from the sharing of those underused assets. Using websites and social media groups that facilitate the buying and selling of second-hand goods, it is now easier than ever for peer-to-peer sharing activities to take place. And this is known as the sharing economy.

These online platforms are providing a chance for people to make a quick buck or two. To give an example, busy parents previously might not have bothered with setting up a stall at the local market or car boot sale to sell their children's old equipment, but with online marketplaces, parents are now able to sell on those hardly worn baby clothes that their children have outgrown and the expensive pushchairs and baby equipment they have invested in, so as to put some cash back into their pockets.

Businesses have also caught on to the profitability of the sharing economy and are seeking to gain from making use of those underutilized resources. A business model that has rapidly risen in popularity sees companies providing an online platform that puts customers in contact with those who can provide a particular product or service.

This move towards a sharing economy is not without criticisms. Unlike businesses, unregulated individuals do not have to follow certain regulations and this can lead to poorer and inconsistent quality of goods and services and a higher risk of fraud. Nevertheless, in the consumerist society we live in today, the increased opportunities to sell on our unwanted and underused goods can lead to a lesser impact on our environment.

31. People can now sell things more easily because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. people nowadays buy more things.
  - B. businesses want to buy the things they don't use.
  - C. there are now more market stalls and car boot sales.
  - D. there are now online platforms where they can meet people who want to buy their goods and services.
32. Parents might want to sell their baby clothes and baby equipment because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they want to make back some of the money they spent on those baby purchases.
  - B. they don't like the baby items they have bought.
  - C. the baby clothes and equipment are old and worn out.
  - D. they need the money for other investments.
33. Which of these is something that the author says we might underutilize?
- A. A thick coat in a cold country
  - B. The latest smartphone
  - C. Clothes our babies don't or can't wear any more
  - D. The storeroom in our house

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34. It might be a problem for unregulated individuals to sell to others because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they have to follow certain regulations.
  - B. what they sell might be of a lower quality.
  - C. they don't have a business licence.
  - D. they like to criticize their buyers.

35. What might be a good title for this article?

- A. The consumerist society
- B. Parents who need money
- C. The rise of the sharing economy
- D. Why we buy things we don't need

## Passage 2

If you love chocolate, maybe you have eaten a bar of Cadbury's Bournville chocolate. But Bournville isn't just the name of an English chocolate bar. It's the name of a village which was built especially for workers at the Cadbury's chocolate factory.

George and Richard Cadbury took over the cocoa and chocolate business from their father in 1861. A few years later, they decided to move the factory out of the centre of Birmingham, a city in the middle of England, to a new location where they could expand. They chose an area close to the railways and canals so that they could receive milk deliveries easily and send the finished products to stores across the country.

Here, the air was much cleaner than in the city centre, and the Cadbury brothers thought it would be a much healthier place for their employees to work. They named the site Bournville after a local river called 'The Boum'. 'Ville', the French word for town, was used because at the time, people thought French chocolate was the highest quality. The new factory opened in 1879. Close to it, they built a village where the factory workers could live. By 1900, there were 313 houses on the site, and many more were built later.

The Cadbury family were religious and believed that it was right to help other people. They thought their workers deserved to live and work in good conditions. In the factory, workers were given a fair wage, a pension and access to medical treatment. The village was also designed to provide the best possible conditions for workers too. The houses, although traditional in style, had modern interiors, indoor bathrooms and large gardens.

The Cadbury brothers were among the first business owners to ensure that their workers had good standards of living. Soon, other British factory owners were copying their ideas by providing homes and communities for their workers designed with convenience and health in mind. Today, over 25,000 people live in Bournville village. There are several facilities there to help people with special needs, such as care homes for the elderly, a hostel for people with learning difficulties and affordable homes for first-time homeowners and single people. Over a hundred years since the first house in Bournville Village was built, the aims of its founders are still carried out.

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36. Bournville is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a plant
  - B. a river
  - C. the founder of a chocolate factory
  - D. a chocolate bar
37. The new site for the chocolate factory was chosen because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. it was close to farms which provided milk
  - B. a lot of people lived nearby
  - C. it was in the center of the city
  - D. it was close to several transportation routes
38. The original houses in Bournville were \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. built by the factory workers
  - B. large
  - C. free for workers
  - D. near to the chocolate factory
39. Workers at the Cadbury received \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. free health care
  - B. pensions
  - C. free food and drink
  - D. dancing lessons
40. Who can live in special homes for many people in Bournville now?
- A. chocolate factory workers.
  - B. young people.
  - C. single people.
  - D. people with learning problems.

## Passage 3

“Ronan”

I work in a fairly traditional office environment doing a typical nine-to-five job. I like my job, but it's annoying that my commute to work takes an hour and a half each way and most of my work could really be done online from home. But my boss doesn't seem to trust that we will get any work done if left to our own devices, and everyone in the company has to clock in and out every day. It's frustrating that they feel the need to monitor what we do so closely instead of judging us based on our task performance, like most companies do these days.

“Jo”

I used to do a typical five-day week, but after I came out of my maternity leave, I decided that I wanted to spend more time with my children before they start school. After negotiating with my boss, we decided to cut my working week down to a three-day work week. This of course meant a significant cut in my pay too, as I'm paid on a pro-rata basis. I've since noticed, though, that my

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workload hasn't decreased in the slightest! I'm now doing five days' worth of work in three days, but getting paid much less for it! I find myself having to take work home just so that I can meet the deadlines. It's wearing me out trying to juggle work with looking after my children and my family, but I don't dare to bring this up with my boss because I think he feels as if he's made a huge concession letting me come in only three days a week.

“Marcus”

I work for a global IT company, but because their headquarters is in the States, I do all my work online from home. That means that I don't waste time commuting or making idle chit-chat with colleagues. I work on a project basis, and this flexibility is very valuable to me because it means that I can easily take some time off when my children need me to go to their school performances or if I need to schedule an appointment with the dentist. The downside is that without clear office hours, I tend to work well into the evening, sometimes skipping dinner to finish a task. It can also get quite lonely working on my own, and I sometimes miss sharing ideas with colleagues.

“Lily”

I'm a freelancer and work for myself. This is great because I am in control of what I do and how I spend my time. At first, I was working from home, but I found it really hard to concentrate. There were just too many distractions around: housework that needed doing, another cup of tea, my family members wanting my attention for various things. So I started to go to a nearby café to work, but the Wi-Fi connection wasn't ideal and I found myself drinking too much coffee. In the end, I decided to rent a desk in a co-working space with five other freelancers like myself. I liked getting dressed to go to work in the morning and being able to focus in an office environment. The other freelancers do similar kinds of web-based work to me and so it's nice to have workmates to bounce ideas off as well.

41. Ronan would prefer it if he \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. wasn't left to his own devices
  - B. could spend more time commuting and less time in the office
  - C. could work from home and be judged based on task performance
  - D. could trust his boss more
42. Jo is unhappy with her three-day work week because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. she didn't realize how much the change would affect her economically
  - B. she now has to spend more time looking after her children and her family
  - C. she has more deadlines to meet
  - D. her workload has remained the same although she's reduced her hours
43. In Marcus's opinion, which of these is a disadvantage of working from home?
- A. You spend a lot of time in the house.
  - B. It's easy to get distracted by your family.
  - C. You tend to work later.
  - D. You end up eating more as you have access to the fridge all day.

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44. Why did Lily not like working from home?
- A. She found it lonely.
  - B. Her family didn't like her working.
  - C. She didn't have a good Wi-Fi connection.
  - D. There were a lot of distractions.
45. What solution did Lily find most suitable for her working needs?
- A. Renting an office space to work from.
  - B. Working from a café.
  - C. Working for an employer.
  - D. Working for other freelancers.

## Passage 4

In the 1950s, Central American commercial banana growers were facing the death of their most lucrative product, the Gros Michel banana, known as Big Mike. And now it's happening again to Big Mike's successor – the Cavendish.

With its easily transported, thick-skinned and sweet-tasting fruit, the Gros Michel banana plant dominated the plantations of Central America. United Fruit, the main grower and exporter in South America at the time, mass-produced its bananas in the most efficient way possible: it cloned shoots from the stems of plants instead of growing plants from seeds, and cultivated them in densely packed fields.

Unfortunately, these conditions are also perfect for the spread of the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense*, which attacks the plant's roots and prevents it from transporting water to the stem and leaves. The TR-1 strain of the fungus was resistant to crop sprays and travelled around on boots or the tyres of trucks, slowly infecting plantations across the region. In an attempt to escape the fungus, farmers abandoned infected fields, flooded them and then replanted crops somewhere else, often cutting down rainforest to do so.

Their efforts failed. So, instead, they searched for a variety of banana that the fungus didn't affect. They found the Cavendish, as it was called, in the greenhouse of a British duke. It wasn't as well suited to shipping as the Gros Michel, but its bananas tasted good enough to keep consumers happy. Most importantly, TR-1 didn't seem to affect it. In a few years, United Fruit had saved itself from bankruptcy by filling its plantations with thousands of the new plants, copying the same monoculture growing conditions Gros Michel had thrived in.

While the operation was a huge success for the Latin American industry, the Cavendish banana itself is far from safe. In 2014, South East Asia, another major banana producer, exported four million tons of Cavendish bananas. But, in 2015, its exports had dropped by 46 per cent thanks to a combination of another strain of the fungus, TR-4, and bad weather.

Growing practices in South East Asia haven't helped matters. Growers can't always afford the expensive lab-based methods to clone plants from shoots without spreading the disease. Also,

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they often aren't strict enough about cleaning farm equipment and quarantining infected fields. As a result, the fungus has spread to Australia, the Middle East and Mozambique – and Latin America, heavily dependent on its monoculture Cavendish crops, could easily be next.

Racing against the inevitable, scientists are working on solving the problem by genetically modifying the Cavendish with genes from TR-4-resistant banana species. Researchers at the Queensland University of Technology have successfully grown two kinds of modified plant which have remained resistant for three years so far. But some experts think this is just a sophisticated version of the same temporary solution the original Cavendish provided. If the new bananas are planted in the same monocultures as the Cavendish and the Gros Michel before it, the risk is that another strain of the disease may rise up to threaten the modified plants too.

46. Mass-produced bananas are \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. grown from seeds because it's efficient
  - B. cloned because it's a fast and cheap way to grow them
  - C. sweeter than other bananas
  - D. exported to Central America
47. The spread of the TR-1 strain was \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. caused by lack of water
  - B. speeded up by the flooding of banana fields
  - C. slowed down by crop spraying
  - D. helped by the movement of people and vehicles
48. Which sentence is NOT true?
- A. The Cavendish replaced the Gros Michel.
  - B. The Cavendish bananas were easier to transport than the Gros Michel.
  - C. The Cavendish was resistant to the fungus.
  - D. The Cavendish stopped United Fruit from losing more money.
49. South East Asia's Cavendish exports fell in 2015 because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a new strain of the fungus has developed
  - B. farmers can't afford new farming technology
  - C. they had to quarantine their fruit
  - D. they depended too much on other countries
50. Genetically modifying bananas may \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. mean farmers can grow the Gros Michel again
  - B. cause farmers to repeat the mistakes of the past
  - C. encourage farmers to try new growing methods
  - D. only be a short-term solution