

考試科目	英文寫作 61112、61122	所別	英國語文學系	考試時間	2 月 28 日(六) 第二節
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Part I (50%)

The following passage, titled “Geography”, is from Elizabeth Bishop’s *The Collected Prose* (ed. Robert Giroux, 1994, 10-11):

Only the third and fourth grades studied geography. On their side of the room, over the blackboard, were two rolled-up maps, one of Canada and one of the whole world. When they had a geography lesson, Miss Morash pulled down one or both of these maps, like window shades. They were on cloth, very limp, with a shiny surface, and in pale colors – tan, pink, yellow, and green – surrounded by the blue that was the ocean. The light coming in from their windows, falling on the glazed, crackly surface, made it hard for me to see them properly from where I sat. On the whole world map, all of Canada was pink; on the Canadian, the provinces were different colors. I was so taken with the pull-down maps that I wanted to snap them up, and pull them down again, and touch all the countries and provinces with my own hands. Only dimly did I hear the pupils’ recitations of capital cities and islands and bays. But I got the general impression that Canada was the same size as the world, which somehow or other fitted into it, or the other way around, and that in the world and Canada the sun was always shining and everything was dry and glittering. At the same time, I knew perfectly well that this was not true.

- 1) What do you think Bishop means with “I knew perfectly well that this was not true” in her concluding sentence? What do you think is the main idea of this paragraph? (20%)
- 2) In the passage, Bishop recalled a situation in her childhood: “I was so taken with the pull-down maps that I wanted to snap them up, and pull them down again, and touch all the countries and provinces with my own hands. Only dimly did I hear the pupils’ recitations of capital cities and islands and bays.” Based on your response to the attitude of the writer, write a short essay of around 300 words to present a classroom event in your formative years, and use it to comment on the experience of learning in Taiwan. (30%)

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Part II. (50%)

Read the following news adapted from the BBC.

Getting in a spin: Why washing machines are no longer built to last

By Nigel Cassidy, Business correspondent, BBC News (2 May 2014)

Remember that old washing machine you bought back in the 1980s? The one that seemed to go on forever?

And then there was the one you bought only a couple of years back, which seemed to give up the ghost more quickly than an ultra-fast spin cycle.

They don't build them like they used to.

Even the industry admits that the lifespan of white goods has fallen. But then so too have prices.

So how long should a fridge or a freezer last, and is it worth spending a bit more on a better model?

With new technology constantly offering fresh features, many people have got used to the idea of upgrading devices nearly every year.

As a result, it seems our expectation of the lifespan of household gadgets is also reducing.

Shoppers constantly search online for the best deals and High Street retailers have to compete to make sales.

It is this erosion of prices which has inevitably taken its toll on the build quality and longevity of mass-market products.

Write a response essay of at least three paragraphs based on your experience of using household gadgets. In the essay, you should voice your agreement or disagreement. You should also explain why you (dis)agree. Do not exceed 600 words.

備註

- 一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。
- 二、試題請隨卷繳交。