

※ 考生請注意：本試題不可使用計算機。請於答案卷(卡)作答，於本試題紙上作答者，不予計分。

Notes:

1. All the reading excerpts in this examination are from the same report: "The English Effect: The impact of English, what it's worth to the UK and why it matters to the world", published by British Council (2013). Retrieved from www.britishcouncil.org
2. Please answer all questions in English and in full sentences.

Part I. Reading comprehension and summarizing/paraphrasing

Question 1: Read Excerpt 1 and use one or two sentences to SUMMARIZE what you thought the reading is about. (10%)

(Excerpt 1)

English is spoken at a useful level by some 1.75 billion people worldwide—that's one in every four. By 2020, we forecast that two billion people will be using it – or learning to use it. And it is the economically active, the thought leaders, the business decision-makers, the young, the movers and shakers present and future who are learning and speaking English. They are talking to each other more and more and English is the 'operating system' of that global conversation.

Question 2: Read Excerpt 2 and use one or two sentences to SUMMARIZE what you thought the reading is about. (10%)

(Excerpt 2)

Research shows how a good command of English can not only enhance an individual's economic prospects but also contribute to national growth and competitiveness. In a 2012 survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit, nearly 70 per cent of executives said their workforce will need to master English to realize corporate expansion plans, and a quarter said that more than 50 per cent of their total workforce will need English ability. English is becoming a core criterion in determining employability. Early adopter advantages are gradually fading and are being replaced by economic disadvantage for those who do not speak the language. Those who are not online or cannot speak English are increasingly left behind. (underline added)

Question 3: PARAPHRASE the following sentence (underlined above) from excerpt 2: "Early adopter advantages are gradually fading and are being replaced by economic disadvantage for those who do not speak the language." (10%)

Part II. Understanding relationship between sentences and cloze

Question 4: For each of the following extract, decide which of the labels in the box BEST describes the relationship between the second and the first sentence (or clauses) in each extract. Each label is to be used once. (15%)

compare	example	expansion	reason	contrast
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1. English is becoming a core criterion in determining employability. Early adopter advantages are gradually fading and are being replaced by economic disadvantage for those who do not speak the language. _____
2. Just as culture can create the space where individuals can express, explore and re-imagining difficult issues, so English as the common language aids dialogue, understanding, trust and the brokering of business deals. _____
3. The spreading of English has intensified today—with many more scientific discoveries not described and named in English when once they were introduced to the world in German and French. Words expand their meanings to cover new situations; the language incorporates or creates new words to express new concepts. _____
4. The new growth markets for English are largely outside the traditional countries of the developed world. China and India show an enormous scale of demand _____
5. Although there are some 12 million English teachers active in the world today, [the increasing demand around the world for English learning] masks a huge global shortage. _____

Question 5: cloze (15%)

convenience	debate	diverse	prosperous	sustainable
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English makes a significant contribution to (1) _____ global development. It eases trade between countries that do not share a common language. It is used as a language of (2) _____, facilitating dialogue and building trust where an understanding of (3) _____ positions is crucial – notably in peacekeeping and conflict resolution, where security forces and other uniformed services increasingly speak to each other in English. A fairer, more (4) _____ world is a safer and more secure world, and English is increasingly the lingua franca that holds together the international conversation and (5) _____ in areas such as climate change, terrorism and human rights. [English has become] the world's common language.

Part III: Essay writing

Question 6: Read Excerpts 1 & 2 from Part I again and write an essay that 1) identify possible factors contributing to the dominance of the English language described in the excerpts, and 2) present your opinions towards its impact on Taiwan's higher education. (40%)