

國立彰化師範大學104學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系所： 翻譯研究所

科目： 英文(含作文)

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Part A: Summary (40%)

Read the following report extracted from *The Economist*. Summarize the report in your own words (using different sentence structures, synonyms and etc.). Do not write more than 200 words.

Guangdong province pioneers a new approach to keeping workers happy

AS CHINA'S economy slows, and labour-intensive manufacturing moves elsewhere in search of cheaper workers, anxious and angry employees are becoming ever bolshier. According to China Labour Bulletin, an NGO in Hong Kong, the number of strikes and labour protests reported in 2014 doubled to more than 1,300. In the last quarter they rose threefold year-on-year, with factory workers, taxi drivers and teachers across the country demanding better treatment.

The authorities often respond with heavy-handedness: rounding up activists and crushing independent labour groups. But in parts of the country, they have also begun to give state-controlled unions more power to put pressure on management. Officials, usually in cahoots with factory bosses, are beginning to see a need to placate workers, too.

Independent unions are banned in China. Labour organisations have to be affiliated with the state-controlled All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), whose constitution describes the working class as “the leading class of China” but which usually sides with management. In recent years, officials have stepped up efforts to unionise workforces, especially in privately run factories where they fear a lack of unions might encourage independent ones to grow. But official unions have largely refrained from baring any teeth.



New regulations in the southern province of Guangdong, home to much of China's labour-intensive manufacturing and many of its strikes (see map), might begin to change that. They codify the right of workers to engage in collective bargaining; that is, to negotiate their terms of employment through representatives who speak for all employees. The rules use the term “collective consultation”, which in Chinese sounds less confrontational than the usual term. But, on paper at least, they give the official unions greater power to initiate negotiations with management rather than, as in the past, confining themselves largely to organising leisure activities and hoping that workers stay docile.

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Meng Han, a hospital security-guard in Guangzhou, the provincial capital, would have welcomed a more proactive approach by official-union leaders. He was released last year after nine months in jail for taking matters into his own hands and leading a protest in demand of higher wages. “China’s unions do not belong to the workers,” Mr. Meng complains. The new rules would help satisfy his main demand, that workers like him who are hired on short-term contracts through employment agencies should be paid the same as permanent staff (they commonly are paid far less). The regulations say there should be “equal pay for equal work”.

Guangdong’s aim is not to embolden workers, but to keep their grievances from erupting into open protest that might turn against the government. Huang Qiaoyan of Zhongshan University in Guangzhou says businesses in Hong Kong, which control many of Guangdong’s factories, opposed the new rules, fearing they would lead to even higher labour costs. Wages are already rising fast, partly because of a shortage of migrant labour. But the government is less inclined than it once was to heed such concerns. It has been raising minimum-wage levels, one of its aims being to upgrade Guangdong’s industry by pushing out low-end, polluting factories. The new rules could help achieve this too.

Employers have won some concessions. Drafters of the new rules dropped provisions which would have fined companies for resisting workers’ attempts to bargain collectively and which would have banned the firing of employees for work stoppages resulting from management’s refusal to negotiate with workers’ representatives. The regulations require more than half of a company’s workers to support collective-bargaining before such action can begin. Drafts had called for thresholds of only one-third or less.

The regulations effectively shut the door to the kind of spontaneously-formed groups of workers that have often taken the lead in Guangdong’s strikes. Employees must channel their requests for consultation through unions under the ACFTU.

But by taking on greater responsibility for handling disputes, the ACFTU is also taking on higher risk, says Aaron Halegua of New York University. He believes workers are likely to step up pressure on the official unions to represent them better; if they fail, workers could turn on the unions as well as factory bosses. The new rules stop far short of permitting strikes, but Mr. Meng, the security guard, sees a hint of change. Not long ago, he says, many people were afraid even to mention the word. “Now it is used all the time. So that is some progress.”

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Part B: Multiple Choices (60%)

Instructions: There are two reading sections and each contains ten questions. Answer these questions. In each question, you must select one best answer out of four choices.

Section 1:

Anyone who does not share the ideology of the so-called “Islamic State” in Iraq and Syria is likely to agree that it is wrong for the group’s adherents to behead some of those they have held hostage. Much more controversial, however, are the secret decisions by European governments to pay such groups ransoms for the release of their nationals.

Although the Islamic State’s hostages have come from several countries, so far it has beheaded only those from the United States and the United Kingdom. The only European hostage reported to have been executed directly by the Islamic State appears to have been a Russian, Sergey Gorbunov, but little is known about him. No friend or relative has come forward, and no video of his death has been released. Russian officials have publicly doubted that he was a Russian citizen.

On the other hand, the Islamic State has released 15 hostages, including citizens of Italy, France, Switzerland, Denmark, and Spain.

Rukmini Callimachi, reporting for the *New York Times*, has explained the difference in treatment. The US and UK governments have a long-standing 1 of refusing to pay ransoms to terrorist organizations. Moreover, when Michael Foley, brother of James Foley, one of the hostages, received a ransom 2, the FBI warned him that under US law, to pay money to terrorists is a crime. Foley was later executed.

By contrast, for more than a decade several European governments have been willing to pay terrorists millions of euros for the release of their captive citizens, or have facilitated the payment of ransoms by relatives and friends of hostages. This is notwithstanding the United Nations Security Council’s unanimous adoption in January of a 3 opposing payment of such ransoms, and a similar declaration at last year’s G-8 summit – which was signed by some of the governments that have continued to pay.

France has, according to Callimachi, paid more ransom money than any other country – a total of \$58 million since 2008, including a single payment of \$40 million in 2013 for four French citizens captured in Mali. But French policy may be changing. After France participated in airstrikes against the Islamic State in September 2014, an Algerian jihadist group captured Hervé Gourdel, a French tourist, and threatened to execute him unless France 4 its participation in the operations. This time France stood firm, with Prime Minister Manuel Valls saying that to retreat one inch would be to hand victory to the militants. Gourdel was beheaded.

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The pressure on governments to pay ransoms, or at least facilitate the payment of ransoms by families desperate to save their loved ones' lives, is understandable. It is a/an 5 of the so-called "Rule of Rescue": our perceived duty to spend almost any amount to save an identifiable victim, such as a trapped miner, an injured mountain climber, or an extremely premature baby. We are far less willing to invest in saving lives when the victims cannot be identified in advance, even when the number of lives saved would be higher – for example, by providing better road safety or education in preventive health 6.

The Rule of Rescue should be understood as a rule about human psychology, not about morality. Applying it can seem 7 if we put ourselves in the position of a captive, or imagine that our child, parent, or spouse has been captured by terrorists who make a credible offer to release our loved one for a ransom.

But this argument trades on our inability to put ourselves in the position of any of the larger number of people killed by the Islamic State and other terrorist groups. They have become victims only because the estimated \$125 million in ransom money paid to such groups over the past six years has enabled them to arm more militants to carry out lethal attacks. We ought to use our resources to save the most lives; and, overall, paying ransoms is likely to lead to more lives being lost.

Moreover, the additional military strength that terrorists gain from ransom 8 is not the only harm caused by paying ransoms. Ransoming one Western hostage 9 an incentive for militants to capture another. Graeme Wood, a journalist who spent four years working in the Middle East, notes that journalists in dangerous areas were always at risk of being kidnapped or killed for ideological reasons; but it does not help that a Western journalist could be worth millions of dollars, a sum he calls "universally motivating."

General John Allen, a former US commander in Afghanistan and now President Barack Obama's special envoy to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State, argues that we cannot know how many Americans have not been kidnapped because the group knows that it will not receive ransoms for them. He points out that "the fact that there are Americans in the region who were never taken because [the Islamic State and its allies] knew there was no advantage to doing so needs to be factored 10."

Governments that pay ransoms are saving the lives of some of their citizens, but putting the remainder of their citizens – and others – at greater risk. The refusal to pay ransoms to terrorists can seem callous, but in truth it is the only ethical policy. Every government should adhere to it.

The Ransom Dilemma by Peter Singer

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1. (A) strategy (B) policy (C) goal (D) plan
2. (A) demand (B) call (C) bargain (D) negotiation
3. (A) decision (B) determination (C) consensus (D) resolution
4. (A) suspended (B) diverted (C) renounced (D) denounced
5. (A) application (B) realization (C) fulfillment (D) practice
6. (A) practices (B) measures (C) policies (D) customs
7. (A) acceptable (B) reasonable (C) justifiable (D) equitable
8. (A) income (B) asset (C) revenue (D) profit
9. (A) invents (B) creates (C) produces (D) promotes
10. (A) on (B) with (C) upon (D) in

Section 2:

The biggest economic news of the year came almost without notice: China has overtaken the United States as the world's largest economy, according to the scorekeepers at the International Monetary Fund. And, while China's geopolitical 11 is rising rapidly, alongside its economic might, the US continues to squander its global leadership, owing to the unchecked greed of its political and economic elites and the self-made trap of perpetual war in the Middle East.

According to the IMF, China's GDP will be \$17.6 trillion in 2014, outstripping US output of \$17.4 trillion. Of course, because China's population is more than four times larger, its *per capita* GDP, at \$12,900, is still less than a quarter of the \$54,700 recorded in the US, which 12 America's much higher living standards.

China's rise is momentous, but it also signifies a return. After all, China has been the world's most populous country since it became a unified state more than 2,000 years ago, so it makes sense that it would also be the world's largest economy. And, indeed, the evidence suggests that China was larger (in terms of purchasing power parity) than any other economy in the world until around 1889, when the US eclipsed it. Now, 125 years later, the rankings have 13 again, following decades of rapid economic development in China.

With rising economic power has come growing geopolitical clout. Chinese leaders are feted around the world. Many European countries are looking to China as the key to stronger domestic growth. African leaders view China as their countries' new indispensable growth partner, particularly in infrastructure and business development.

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Similarly, economic strategists and business leaders in Latin America now look to China at least as much as they look to the US. China and Japan seem to be taking steps toward better relations, after a period of high tensions. Even Russia has recently “_14_” toward China, establishing stronger connections on many fronts, including energy and transport.

Like the US after World War II, China is putting real money on the table – a lot of it – to build strong economic and infrastructure links with countries around the world. This will enable other countries to _15_ their own growth, while cementing China’s global economic and geopolitical leadership.

The number of Chinese initiatives is staggering. In just the past year, China has _16_ four major projects that promise to give it a greatly expanded role in global _17_ and finance. China joined Russia, Brazil, India, and South Africa in establishing the New Development Bank, to be based in Shanghai. A new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, to be based in Beijing, will help to fund infrastructure projects (roads, power, and rail, among others) throughout the region. The New Silk Road land belt seeks to connect China with the economies of East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and Europe through an expanded grid of rail, highways, power, fiber, and other networks. And the new 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is aimed _18_ boosting ocean-based trade in East Asia and the Indian Ocean.

All told, these various initiatives are likely to leverage hundreds of billions of dollars in investment over the coming decade, speeding growth in the counterpart countries while deepening their production, trade, and financial linkages with China.

There is no guarantee that all of this will succeed or proceed smoothly. China faces huge internal challenges, including high and rising income inequality, massive air and water pollution, the need to move to a low-carbon economy, and the same risks of financial-market instabilities that bedevil the US and Europe. And if China becomes too aggressive toward its neighbors – for example, by demanding rights to offshore oil or territory in disputed waters – it will generate a serious diplomatic backlash. No one should assume smooth sailing for China (or for any other part of the world, for that matter) in the years ahead.

Still, it is striking that just as China is rising economically and geopolitically, the US seems to be doing everything possible to waste its own economic, technological, and geopolitical advantages. The US political system has been captured by the greed of its wealthy elites, whose narrow goals are to cut _19_ and personal tax rates, maximize their vast personal fortunes, and curtail constructive US leadership in global economic development. They so scorn US foreign assistance that they have thrown open the doors to China’s new global leadership in development financing.

Even worse, as China flexes its geopolitical muscles, the only foreign policy that the US systematically _20_ is unceasing and fruitless war in the Middle East. The US endlessly drains its

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resources and energy in Syria and Iraq in the same way that it once did in Vietnam. China, meanwhile, has avoided becoming enmeshed in overseas military debacles, emphasizing win-win economic initiatives instead.

China's economic rise can contribute to global wellbeing if its leaders emphasize investment in infrastructure, clean energy, public health, and other international priorities. Still, the world would be better off if the US also continued to lead constructively, alongside China. The recent announcement by Presidents Barack Obama and Xi Jinping of bilateral agreements on climate change and clean energy show the best of what's possible. America's perpetual war-making in the Middle East shows the worst.

China's New Global Leadership by Jeffrey D. Sachs

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|---------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 11. (A) status | (B) position | (C) strength | (D) leverage |
| 12. (A) illustrates | (B) demonstrates | (C) highlights | (D) elaborates |
| 13. (A) overhauled | (B) reversed | (C) changed | (D) rescinded |
| 14. (A) switched | (B) swung | (C) tilted | (D) diverted |
| 15. (A) maintain | (B) up keep | (C) strengthen | (D) boost |
| 16. (A) launched | (B) introduced | (C) created | (D) promoted |
| 17. (A) business | (B) commerce | (C) trade | (D) transaction |
| 18. (A) at | (B) in | (C) on | (D) with |
| 19. (A) company | (B) commercial | (C) corporate | (D) firm |
| 20. (A) follows | (B) pursues | (C) assumes | (D) quests |