

考試科目	英文寫作	所別	英國語文學系	考試時間	2 月 5 日(五) 第一節
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**Part I (70%):** Please read the following passage and answer **one** of the questions beneath it in a coherent essay of around 500 words. You may use **short** quotations to support your arguments, but most of your writing should be in your own words.

Science, since people must do it, is a socially **embedded** activity. It progresses by **hunch**, vision, and intuition. Much of its change through time does not record a closer approach to absolute truth, but the alteration of cultural contexts that influence it so strongly. Facts are not pure and **unsullied** bits of information; culture also influences what we see and how we see it. Theories, moreover, are not **inexorable inductions** from facts. The most creative theories are often imaginative visions imposed upon facts; the source of imagination is also strongly cultural.

In advancing [this argument], however, I do not ally myself with an over-extension now popular in some historical circles: the purely relativistic claim that scientific change only reflects the modification of social contexts, that truth is a meaningless notion outside cultural assumptions, and that science can therefore provide no enduring answers. As a practicing scientist, I share the **credo** of my colleagues: I believe that a factual reality exists and that science, though often in an **obtuse** and **erratic** manner, can learn about it.

*from Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man* (pp. 21-22)*

vocabulary:

*embedded*: 植入的, 內含的, 深入的, 嵌入的

*induction*: 歸納法, 歸納所得的結論

*hunch*: 直覺, 預感

*credo*: 信經, 信條, 使徒信經

*unsullied*: 無污點的, 清白的

*obtuse*: 遲鈍的, 魯鈍的

*inexorable*: 無情的, 冷酷的, 不屈不撓的

*erratic*: 不穩定的, 不一致的, 反復無常的

questions (choose **one**):

1) In trying to understand a work of literature, is the use of a suitable methodology and theory of reading more or less important than individual insight and imagination? Explain, using examples to illustrate your ideas.

OR

2) In what ways (if any) is language-teaching dependent on objective, scientific knowledge, and in what ways (if any) is it related to a teacher's personal skills? Explain, using examples to illustrate your ideas.

**Part II (30%):** In a coherent paragraph of around 150 words, explain the greatest academic difficulty you have ever faced, including ways you tried overcoming it and the results of your efforts.

備

註

- 一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。
- 二、試題請隨卷繳交。