

科目：英文測驗

系所組：跨文化研究所翻譯學碩士班
中英組

I. Précis (60%)

Instructions: For each of the following two articles: (1) Write a short English title for each. (2) Summarize each article in no more than 250 words in English.

Use your own words to express the main ideas and relevant details, and keep the general writing style of the original. Avoid using the same language and sentence structure. No points will be given for sentences copied from the original text. Do not list points; your summary should read like a coherent short article.

Article 1:

Last week, the European climate monitor Copernicus reported that the globe's average temperature hit 14.98 degrees Celsius last year, 1.48 degrees above that of the second half of the 19th century. Two U.S. agencies, NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, followed suit, putting warming since then at 1.4 and 1.35 degrees, respectively. The synthesis by the World Meteorological Organization landed on 1.45 degrees above the preindustrial average, with an uncertainty band of plus or minus 0.12 degrees.

The data underscores just how wishful the thinking was back in 2015, when countries gathered at the U.N. climate summit in Paris agreed that preventing severe droughts, downpours, heat waves and other climate impacts required them to try to keep warming to the 1.5-degree target.

The evidence that global efforts have not met global ambitions does not change the nature of the task, though. Even if the world is, in fact, careening toward some catastrophic scenario, it remains true that each ton of carbon dioxide removed from the world's energy matrix, and each ton of methane and nitrous oxide removed from the livestock and agriculture industries, will help limit climate change and its associated damage.

If anything, evidence of the globe's warming so far should spur world leaders to consider every tool at their disposal; to develop every technology to curtail emissions; to explore every option to remove greenhouse gases from the environment; even to study, cautiously, available techniques to reduce the global temperature directly, approaches collectively called "geoengineering."

Too many technologies and mechanisms have been left by the wayside. Nuclear energy is still assailed by some environmentalists invoking misleading images of a nuclear apocalypse that is vanishingly improbable. Technologies to capture carbon from the air and sea are rejected as enablers of the continued use of fossil fuels, sapping the world's urgency to end the carbon-based economy.

Carbon markets and carbon taxes have been resisted by everybody from the pope to activists who hope to use the battle against climate change to end capitalism. And solar radiation management to reflect heat-carrying rays directly back into space has been rejected as potentially worse than climate change itself.

Fortunately, the evidence of blown targets does seem to be stirring some sense of urgency among world leaders. Last year, the Biden administration produced a report mandated by Congress that outlined options for research into radiation management to block sunlight from reaching the Earth, one outside-the-box idea that deserves at least a look.

Germany closed its last nuclear reactor last year, making its carbon-reduction plans harder to achieve. But California bucked environmentalists' opposition to keep open the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant through 2030. And the federal government has delivered incentives to maintain existing nuclear reactors and invest in new reactor technologies.

In hindsight, it might seem foolish to have pinned the battle against climate change to an improbable number. Blasting past the vaunted warming ceiling could discourage countries from investing in a costly energy transition that might seem to have already failed. And yet, if failure spurs the world to double down on its climate goals, it might provide the needed incentive to take the challenge as seriously as it deserves.

(Condensed from an essay published on January 18, 2024
in *The Washington Post*)

Article 2:

Education strikes at the heart of what makes us human. And the special status of education is why generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are likely to profoundly disrupt this sector. This isn't a reflection of their intelligence, but of our failure to build education systems that nurture and value our unique human intelligence.

We are being duped into believing these AI tools are far more intelligent than they really are. A tool like ChatGPT has no understanding or knowledge. It merely collates bits of words together based on statistical probabilities to produce useful texts. It is an incredibly helpful assistant.

AI could be a force for tremendous good within education. It could release teachers from administrative tasks, giving them more opportunities to spend time with students. However, we are woefully equipped to benefit from the AI that is flooding the market. It does not have to be like this. There is still time to prepare, but we must act quickly and wisely.

AI has been used in education for more than a decade. AI-powered systems can analyze student responses to questions and adapt learning materials to meet their individual needs. AI tools can also enhance teacher training and support. To reap the benefits of these technologies, we must design effective ways to roll out AI across the education system, and regulate this properly.

Staying ahead of AI will mean radically rethinking what education is for, and what success means. Human intelligence is far more impressive than any AI system we see today. We possess a rich and diverse intelligence, much of which is unrecognized by our current education system.

We are capable of sophisticated, high-level thinking, yet the school curriculum takes a rigid approach to learning, prioritizing the memorizing of facts, rather than creative thinking. Students are rewarded for rote learning rather than critical thought. Take the English syllabus, for instance, which requires students to learn quotations and the rules of grammar. This time-consuming work encourages students to marshal facts, rather than interpret texts or think critically about language.

Our education system should recognize the unique aspects of human intelligence. At school, this would mean a focus on teaching high-level thinking capabilities and designing a system to supercharge our intelligence. Literacy and numeracy remain fundamental, but now we must add AI literacy. Traditional subject areas, such as history, science and geography, should become the context through which critical thinking, increased creativity and knowledge mastery are taught. Rather than teaching students only how to collate and memorize information, we should prize their ability to interpret facts and weigh up the evidence to make an original argument.

Failure to change isn't an option. Now these technologies are here, we need humans to excel at what AI cannot do, so any workplace automation complements and enriches our lives and our intelligence.

This should be an amazing opportunity to use AI to become much smarter, but we must ensure that AI serves us, not the other way round. This will mean confronting the profit-driven imperatives of big tech companies and the illusionist tricks played by Silicon Valley. It will also mean carefully considering what types of tasks we're willing to offload to AI.

Some aspects of our intellectual activity may be dispensable, but many are not. While Silicon Valley conjures up its next magic trick, we must prepare ourselves to protect what we hold dear – for ourselves and for future generations.

(Condensed from an essay by Rose Luckin published on July 14, 2023
in *The Guardian*)

II. Cloze Test (40%)

Instructions: Supply the missing word or string of words in the body of the following editorial essay. **Make sure that they make sense, are grammatically correct, relevant, and conform to proper collocation.** There are **nineteen (19) items** in all.

In January, Taiwan will hold a presidential election. China's leaders hope former New Taipei City mayor Hou (1), candidate of the Kuomintang opposition party will win the job, but the smart money is on current Vice President (2) Lai, who represents the incumbent Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Lai and his party favor a tougher approach to Beijing.

If Lai wins, Beijing will become much more confrontational in the coming months. A Chinese invasion of Taiwan (3) highly unlikely, but an expected deterioration in China-Taiwan relations is bad news for both sides, and for any forces caught (4) them.

For now, Beijing is wielding both sticks and carrots to influence (5). Earlier this month, China's navy conducted its largest-ever military exercises in the western Pacific, but China has also announced a plan to develop China's Fujian province into a "demonstration zone" for integrated economic development with Taiwan. It's a proposal that looks an awful lot like one recently floated by Hou that (6) China's Xiamen city (in Fujian) with Taiwan's Kinmen islands.

This good-cop-bad-cop strategy probably won't work. Recent polling suggests that about three-quarters of Taiwan's 24 million people now (7), rather than Chinese, whatever their family history—a sharp jump over the past 10 years. Some of that trend is likely the natural product of generational change, as the percentage of island residents old enough to remember life on the mainland continues to fall. But China's crackdown on the democracy rights movement in Hong Kong in 2020 (8) a role in that shift too.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's DPP leaders are looking beyond the election toward the more threatening approach from China. Their latest pushback comes in the form of a new defense report they hope will make China think harder about a future invasion. On September 12, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense released its "National Defense Report 2023," which details the lessons Taiwan has learned from Russia's war on Ukraine. In particular, the report calls for bolstering Taiwan's asymmetric warfare capabilities, including the (9) of "mobile, cost-effective, portable, and AI-enabled" weapons and equipment. In particular, the report cites (10) successful use of drone aircraft against Russian forces as evidence Taiwan should produce 7,700 military drones by 2028.

China has also (11) from the war in Ukraine. Its leaders recognize that an enemy fighting for its land can make territorial gain prohibitively expensive for the invader, and that Western powers are (12) than to divide in the face of naked military aggression. It should also be clear for now that Beijing badly needs to focus its current attention and resources on (13)—a slumping economy, in particular.

Over the longer-term, (14) remains determined to reincorporate Taiwan into China by any means necessary, and he'll respond forcefully to any moves he considers foreign interference in this mission. But Beijing also understands that Washington has domestic challenges too and will not welcome any (15) by anyone in Taiwan for the foreseeable future. That gives Beijing time to wait for better conditions for decisive action against the (16) autonomy.

But there is still a rising risk of military accident that (17) a sharp escalation in tensions. If China's military responds to a Lai victory in January by challenging Taiwanese defenses much closer to the island's shores, if it demands the right to inspect all Taiwan-bound shipping, or if its aircraft (18) more aggressive about challenging U.S. planes over the Taiwan Strait, Beijing and Washington could find themselves managing a crisis (19) side really wants but can't avoid.

These are the Taiwan risks most likely to develop sooner rather than later.

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Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/19/opinion/peng-shuai-china.html>

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2. 本試題紙空白部份可當稿紙使用。

3. 考生於作答時可否使用計算機、法典、字典或其他資料或工具，以簡章之規定為準。