

Instructions

This test consists of 50 multiple-choice questions designed to assess advanced academic reading, discourse analysis, and inferential reasoning skills.

Read all questions carefully and choose the **ONE** best answer.

- Each question has four options: (A), (B), (C), and (D).
- Answers must be based on close reading and interpretation.
- No points will be deducted for incorrect answers.

Part I. Academic Vocabulary

Select the term that most logically completes each sentence based on the provided context.

1. The report highlights the urgent need to address global income ____, noting that the wealth gap between the top 1% and the rest of the population has reached historic levels. Without intervention, economists warn that this imbalance could trigger long-term social instability.
(A) equality
(B) inequality
(C) harmony
(D) stability
2. The researcher's claims were supported by extensive empirical ____ gathered over a ten-year longitudinal study. By providing raw data and measurable results, the team was able to move the theory from a mere hypothesis to a widely accepted scientific fact.
(A) imagination
(B) evidence
(C) ideology
(D) rhetoric
3. The policy aims to promote sustainable development rather than short-term ____ that satisfy quarterly shareholders but deplete natural resources. This shift in strategy prioritizes the health of the ecosystem for future generations over immediate financial profit.
(A) gains
(B) delays
(C) ethics
(D) equity
4. The findings were later ____ by independent studies conducted at three different universities. This successful reproduction of the original results confirmed the reliability of the initial data and strengthened the scientific consensus.
(A) contradicted
(B) replicated
(C) ignored
(D) concealed

見背面

題號： 8
科目：英文(A)
節次： 3

國立臺灣大學 115 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

題號： 8
共 9 頁之第 2 頁

5. The author adopts a ___ tone throughout the article, carefully weighing the pros and cons of the legislation without showing personal bias. This objective approach allows readers to form their own conclusions based on the presented facts.
(A) sarcastic
(B) sentimental
(C) hostile
(D) neutral
6. Advances in biotechnology, such as CRISPR and gene editing, have raised serious ethical ___ regarding the limits of human intervention. Scientists and philosophers alike are now debating whether the ability to "design" offspring outweighs the potential social risks.
(A) conveniences
(B) dilemmas
(C) advantages
(D) traditions
7. The proposal was rejected due to its lack of theoretical ___, as the committee felt the project was based more on anecdotal observation than established academic frameworks. Without a solid starting point, the reviewers felt the project's goals were unattainable.
(A) rigor
(B) decoration
(C) ambition
(D) curiosity
8. The data suggest a clear ___ between education level and health outcomes, indicating that individuals with higher degrees often have better access to preventative care. Researchers are now looking into whether this link is primarily driven by income or by health literacy.
(A) obstacle
(B) correlation
(C) contradiction
(D) illusion
9. The committee reached a ___ decision after extensive discussion, ensuring that every member was in full agreement before moving forward. This total consensus was seen as a vital show of unity during a period of corporate restructuring.
(A) unanimous
(B) accidental
(C) impulsive
(D) reluctant
10. The study focuses on communities that are socially and economically ___, specifically those living in "food deserts" with limited access to fresh produce. By highlighting these underserved populations, the researchers hope to influence local zoning laws.
(A) dominant
(B) privileged
(C) marginalized
(D) commercial

接次頁

11. The lecture emphasized the importance of critical thinking in an age of information ____, where the sheer volume of digital content can make it difficult to distinguish fact from fiction. Students were encouraged to verify sources before sharing headlines.
- (A) scarcity
 - (B) balance
 - (C) equality
 - (D) overload
12. The theory has been widely accepted, though not without ____ from a small group of physicists who believe the mathematical model is incomplete. Despite these objections, the theory remains the primary framework used in the field today.
- (A) consensus
 - (B) popularity
 - (C) efficiency
 - (D) criticism

Part II. Reading Comprehension

Reading Passage A

Language has long functioned not merely as a medium of communication but as a site where power is negotiated and exercised. In contemporary digital environments, this function is increasingly mediated by technological systems that regulate how language circulates and acquires authority.

Although such systems are often framed as neutral tools, their design embeds assumptions about legitimacy and normativity. Algorithms that rank, filter, or generate language do not eliminate power relations; instead, they reconfigure them in less visible forms. As a result, linguistic authority becomes intertwined with technical infrastructure.

As universities work to cultivate critical awareness of technological mediation, language education must extend beyond mere proficiency to include an interrogation of the conditions under which meaning is produced.

13. The passage primarily argues that technological systems:
- (A) eliminate linguistic power relations
 - (B) operate independently of discourse
 - (C) reshape how power circulates through language
 - (D) neutralize ideological influence
14. The author challenges claims of technological neutrality by emphasizing:
- (A) computational error
 - (B) market incentives
 - (C) embedded assumptions in design
 - (D) user resistance

見背面

題號： 8
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節次： 3

國立臺灣大學 115 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

題號： 8
共 9 頁之第 4 頁

15. The phrase “*less visible forms*” suggests that power relations are:
- (A) diminishing
 - (B) becoming more transparent
 - (C) irrelevant to discourse
 - (D) concealed within technical systems
16. Universities are presented as institutions that must:
- (A) adapt by adopting new technologies
 - (B) abandon traditional language instruction
 - (C) resist digital transformation
 - (D) cultivate critical awareness of mediation
17. Which implied concept is central to the passage’s argument?
- (A) Discursive authority
 - (B) Technological autonomy
 - (C) Economic productivity
 - (D) Linguistic efficiency

Reading Passage B

As artificial intelligence systems become increasingly embedded in education, research, and professional practice, concerns about their reliability have grown more urgent. One major concern is the phenomenon known as “hallucination,” in which AI systems generate responses that appear fluent and authoritative but are factually incorrect. These errors arise from the probabilistic nature of language models, which predict plausible sequences of words rather than verify truth. Because such outputs often sound confident, hallucinations can be difficult to detect without careful scrutiny.

Closely related is the issue of bias. Trained on large datasets that reflect existing social patterns, AI systems may reproduce or amplify historical inequalities. When AI-generated content is treated as neutral or objective, biased outputs risk being accepted uncritically, particularly in academic or institutional contexts.

These risks have already been impacting real-life practices. In several documented cases, AI tools used for legal research have generated fictitious court cases that were subsequently cited by lawyers in formal filings. Although the text appeared professionally written and legally coherent, the sources did not exist. These incidents demonstrate how fluency can mask inaccuracy and how overreliance on AI can shift responsibility away from human users.

Technical improvements—such as better training data or refined model architecture—may reduce error rates, but they cannot eliminate these limitations. AI systems lack understanding and epistemic judgment. Responsibility therefore remains with human users. In educational settings especially, responsible AI use requires cultivating critical literacy: the ability to evaluate AI-generated content with informed skepticism. Integrating AI successfully depends not on replacing judgment, but on strengthening it.

18. The primary purpose of the passage is to:
- (A) describe recent advances in AI technology
 - (B) argue that AI errors are unavoidable and harmless
 - (C) examine risks associated with AI use
 - (D) promote wider adoption of AI in education

接次頁

19. According to the passage, why are AI hallucinations particularly problematic?
- (A) They occur randomly and unpredictably
 - (B) They are caused by intentional system design
 - (C) They often appear confident and credible
 - (D) They only affect non-expert users
20. The legal research example primarily serves to:
- (A) criticize the legal profession
 - (B) argue that AI should be banned from professional use
 - (C) show how bias affects AI training data
 - (D) illustrate how fluency can conceal factual errors
21. Which conclusion does the author reach?
- (A) AI systems will soon develop independent judgment
 - (B) Technical solutions can fully eliminate bias
 - (C) Human users remain responsible for verifying AI output
 - (D) AI is more reliable than traditional research methods
22. The phrase "informed skepticism" most nearly means:
- (A) complete rejection of AI-generated content
 - (B) uncritical acceptance of fluent language
 - (C) reliance on AI over human expertise
 - (D) careful evaluation rather than automatic trust
23. The author's overall stance toward AI in education can best be described as:
- (A) strongly optimistic
 - (B) cautiously critical but constructive
 - (C) entirely oppositional
 - (D) neutral and descriptive

Part III. Fill in the blank

Choose the best or most context-appropriate word to finish the sentence.

24. In a move seen as a symbolic step toward reconciliation between the Catholic and Anglican churches, King Charles has made history as the first ___ British monarch to pray publicly with a pope since Henry VIII's 1534 split from Rome.
- (A) crowning
 - (B) aspiring
 - (C) achieving
 - (D) reigning
25. As public concern over digital surveillance and data misuse continues to grow, several governments around the world have begun to ___ new regulations requiring technology companies to disclose in greater detail how user data are collected, stored, and monetized.
- (A) loosen
 - (B) enact
 - (C) inherit
 - (D) speculate

見背面

題號： 8
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節次： 3

國立臺灣大學 115 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

題號： 8
共 9 頁之第 6 頁

26. In its official citation, the Nobel Committee emphasized that the prize was awarded not for a single breakthrough or isolated experiment, but for decades of ___ research that fundamentally reshaped both theory and practice in the field.

- (A) intermittent
- (B) speculative
- (C) sustained
- (D) accidental

27. Facing mounting criticism from regulators and the public, the company issued a formal apology, conceding that its earlier public statement had been ___ and therefore failed to address key concerns raised by stakeholders.

- (A) ambiguous
- (B) redundant
- (C) transparent
- (D) consistent

28. Fueled by prolonged drought conditions and unusually strong winds, the wildfire rapidly ___ containment efforts, overwhelming emergency responders and spreading across multiple regions within days.

- (A) undermined
- (B) justified
- (C) predicted
- (D) regulated

29. Although the economic reform package was initially met with skepticism from both opposition parties and financial analysts, it has since been ___ by subsequent data showing improved fiscal stability.

- (A) dismissed
- (B) contested
- (C) vindicated
- (D) postponed

30. What began as a single employee's disclosure soon ___ a broader public debate about corporate accountability, regulatory oversight, and the ethical responsibilities of multinational firms.

- (A) obscured
- (B) triggered
- (C) neutralized
- (D) confined

31. Rather than relying on dramatic imagery or emotional appeals, the documentary adopts a ___ approach, offering a careful and evidence-based examination of the long-term social consequences of rapid urbanization.

- (A) superficial
- (B) partisan
- (C) measured
- (D) fragmented

32. Despite early optimism and repeated rounds of negotiation, the peace talks eventually ___ when the two sides failed to reach agreement on territorial boundaries and security guarantees.

- (A) culminated
- (B) stabilized
- (C) converged
- (D) collapsed

接次頁

33. In its ruling, the court concluded that the surveillance program, although justified on grounds of national security, nevertheless ___ constitutional protections related to privacy and due process.

- (A) reinforced
- (B) expanded
- (C) clarified
- (D) infringed

34. What initially appeared to be a minor technical malfunction was later recognized by engineers as ___ of deeper structural flaws embedded in the system's original design.

- (A) symptomatic
- (B) dismissive
- (C) incidental
- (D) decorative

After years of pandemic restrictions, Japan has experienced a dramatic rebound in international tourism, driven by a weak yen, expanded flight routes, and pent-up global demand. While the surge has delivered clear economic benefits, it has also (35)___ long-standing tensions between national growth strategies and local capacity, particularly in historic districts and rural destinations unaccustomed to sustained visitor pressure.

In cities such as Kyoto and Kamakura, residents have raised concerns about congestion, noise, and the erosion of everyday life. Local governments, once eager to attract tourists, now find themselves (36)___ by needing to balance between promoting economic recovery and responding to mounting public frustration. Measures such as higher accommodation taxes, restricted access to certain areas, and differentiated pricing for foreign visitors have been proposed, though each carries political and ethical implications.

Critics argue that Japan's tourism model has relied too heavily on volume rather than sustainability, (37)___ short-term gains while externalizing social costs. At the same time, officials caution that abrupt restrictions could undermine regional economies still struggling to recover. The result is a policy environment marked less by decisive reform than by incremental adjustment.

Ultimately, the challenge of overtourism in Japan is not merely logistical but conceptual. It raises questions about who tourism is for, who bears its costs, and how cultural heritage should be protected without being (38)___ into a consumable spectacle. Whether current measures represent a genuine shift toward sustainable tourism or merely a temporary (39)___ remains an open question.

35.

- (A) resolved
- (B) exacerbated
- (C) neutralized
- (D) postponed

36.

- (A) insulated
- (B) constrained
- (C) suspended
- (D) aligned

見背面

題號： 8
科目：英文(A)
節次： 3

國立臺灣大學 115 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

題號： 8
共 9 頁之第 8 頁

37.
(A) privileging
(B) obscuring
(C) redistributing
(D) compensating

38.
(A) diluted
(B) instrumentalized
(C) commemorated
(D) standardized

39.
(A) anomaly
(B) concession
(C) recalibration
(D) solution

Part IV. Contextual Analysis

Replace the target word or phrase with one of the four options. The correct answer must maintain the original meaning without altering the sentence's logical or grammatical structure.

40. As a widely used social media platform faces mounting criticism over data breaches and algorithmic bias, the controversy has **raised the stakes** for a company already under intense regulatory and public scrutiny.
(A) intensified media scrutiny
(B) increased the seriousness and potential consequences
(C) accelerated the pace of product development
(D) exposed long-standing organizational weaknesses
41. Given the volatile nature of the market, the CEO decided to **hedge her bets** by diversifying the company's investment portfolio across multiple sectors.
(A) take a significant financial risk
(B) reduce the risk of a loss by following several courses of action
(C) withdraw all capital from the current market
(D) focus exclusively on the highest-performing asset
42. The legal team warned that the new regulations might **stifle** innovation within the tech industry by imposing excessive administrative hurdles.
(A) encourage and support growth
(B) provide a framework for development
(C) suppress or prevent
(D) monitor the progress of a project
43. Critics argued that the politician's speech was merely **rhetoric**, designed to appease the crowd without offering any concrete policy solutions.
(A) language designed to have a persuasive effect but often lacking sincerity
(B) a detailed and actionable legislative plan
(C) an aggressive and confrontational style of debate
(D) a humble apology for past mistakes

接次頁

44. Although the initial results were promising, the researchers remained cautious, knowing that the small sample size was a **caveat** to their conclusions.
- (A) a strong piece of supporting evidence
 - (B) a warning of potential limitations
 - (C) a final summary of the study's impact
 - (D) an unexpected breakthrough in the data
45. Following months of whistleblower testimony and forensic audits, independent investigations have **lent credence** to allegations that the data were deliberately manipulated, prompting calls for regulatory scrutiny.
- (A) intensified media coverage of
 - (B) provided support or legitimacy to
 - (C) postponed official verification of
 - (D) weakened competing explanations for
46. Following weeks of intense media scrutiny and public criticism over the handling of the controversy, party members quickly **closed ranks**, presenting a unified front in an effort to contain political fallout.
- (A) dispersed publicly to avoid further scrutiny
 - (B) restructured leadership roles within the organization
 - (C) delayed internal decision-making to reduce conflict
 - (D) unified defensively to protect the group from external criticism
47. Through detailed testimony that challenged earlier assumptions and introduced new evidence, the witness helped **reshape the narrative** surrounding the crisis, shifting public perception of who bore responsibility.
- (A) reinforce existing interpretations without alteration
 - (B) change how the story is understood and interpreted
 - (C) bring the issue to a definitive conclusion
 - (D) divert attention away from the central facts
48. As new digital platforms and technologies are introduced at an unprecedented speed, innovation has continued to **outpace regulation**, leaving lawmakers struggling to update legal frameworks quickly enough to keep up.
- (A) be slowed down by existing legal frameworks
 - (B) conform closely to established rules
 - (C) develop faster than regulatory systems can adapt
 - (D) eliminate the need for formal oversight
49. After facing widespread backlash from both the public and opposition lawmakers, officials attempted to **walk back their earlier remarks**, clarifying their position and softening the language used in the original statement.
- (A) retract or soften previous statements
 - (B) defend earlier remarks more aggressively
 - (C) postpone further discussion indefinitely
 - (D) shift attention to an unrelated issue
50. Following a series of legal challenges and conflicting interpretations of constitutional law, the proposed legislation now appears to be **on shaky ground**, raising doubts about whether it can withstand judicial review.
- (A) bolstered by some legal interpretations
 - (B) formally enacted but awaiting clarification through judicial precedent
 - (C) legally uncertain and vulnerable to constitutional challenge
 - (D) structurally sound but politically controversial