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國立清華大學 108 學年度碩士班考試入學試題

系所班組別：計量財務金融學系 乙組

考試科目(代碼)：英文(5101)

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系所班組別：計量財務金融學系碩士班 甲組、乙組

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共 40 題，單選題。每題 2.5 分，答錯不倒扣分。

### Reading comprehension

**Question 1 to 3 are based on the following article.**

How high is too high? (This article was based on a BBC News story)

Many people believe high heels make women look good. So much so, it seems, that the organisers of the Cannes Film Festival reportedly barred women in flat shoes from walking the red carpet. But all this glam comes at a cost: wearing heels over 10cm high can damage your ankles.

A study by Hanseo University in South Korea suggests that continuous wearing exposes women to the risk of strains, and makes them prone to losing their balance. A total of 40 women who wear high heels at least three times a week took part in the study. The strength of their ankles was measured regularly: researchers found that two of the four main muscles became dominant after a period of between one and three years. This created an imbalance in their feet.

High heels are considered by some people to be sexy and feminine, but in fact the fashion started with men's feet. These shoes were a form of riding footwear, and were seen on the feet of 17th Century Persian soldiers. Elizabeth Semmelhack of the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto says: "When the soldier stood up in his stirrups, the heel helped him to secure his stance so that he could shoot his bow and arrow more effectively."

Before becoming a staple of modern women's wardrobes, high heels were used by Louis XIV of France. These shoes were status symbols. Let's face it – nothing screams privilege like uncomfortable, luxurious and impractical clothing. They say the wearer doesn't have to work in fields or walk very far.

1. How high are the heels that can cause injury to feet, according to the study?
  - (A) less than 10cm
  - (B) exactly 10cm
  - (C) 10cm or more
  - (D) Not enough information

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2. Which of these is NOT an effect of wearing high heels?
- (A) losing your balance
  - (B) some muscles becoming stronger than they should be
  - (C) breaking your ankles
  - (D) losing your charm
3. Why did 17th Century Persian soldiers wear high heels when they were riding horses?
- (A) The heels helped them to stay on their horses
  - (B) They made the soldiers look taller
  - (C) The shoes were status symbols that showed the soldiers' position in society
  - (D) They made the soldiers to be sexy

**Question 4 to 13 are based on the following article.**

Nineteenth-century politics in the United States

[Paragraph 1]

The development of the modern presidency in the United States began with Andrew Jackson who swept to power in 1829 at the head of the Democratic Party and served until 1837. During his administration, he immeasurably enlarged the power of the presidency. "The President is the direct representative of the American people," he lectured the Senate when it opposed him. "He was elected by the people, and is responsible to them." With this declaration, Jackson redefined the character of the presidential office and its relationship to the people.

[Paragraph 2]

During Jackson's second term, his opponents had gradually come together to form the Whig party. Whigs and Democrats held different attitudes toward the changes brought about by the market, banks, and commerce. The Democrats tended to view society as a continuing conflict between "the people"—farmers, planters, and workers—and a set of greedy aristocrats. This "paper money aristocracy" of bankers and investors manipulated the banking system for their own profit, Democrats claimed, and sapped the nation's virtue by encouraging speculation and the desire for sudden, unearned wealth. The Democrats wanted the rewards of the market without sacrificing the features of a simple agrarian republic. They wanted the wealth that the market offered

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without the competitive, changing society; the complex dealing; the dominance of urban centers; and the loss of independence that came with it.

[Paragraph 3]

Whigs, on the other hand, were more comfortable with the market. For them, commerce and economic development were agents of civilization. Nor did the Whigs envision any conflict in society between farmers and workers on the one hand and businesspeople and bankers on the other. Economic growth would benefit everyone by raising national income and expanding opportunity. The government's responsibility was to provide a well-regulated economy that guaranteed opportunity for citizens of ability.

[Paragraph 4]

Whigs and Democrats differed not only in their attitudes toward the market but also about how active the central government should be in people's lives. Despite Andrew Jackson's inclination to be a strong President, Democrats as a rule believed in limited government. Government's role in the economy was to promote competition by destroying monopolies' and special privileges. In keeping with this philosophy of limited government, Democrats also rejected the idea that moral beliefs were the proper sphere of government action. Religion and politics, they believed, should be kept clearly separate, and they generally opposed humanitarian legislation.

[Paragraph 5]

The Whigs, in contrast, viewed government power positively. They believed that it should be used to protect individual rights and public liberty, and that it had a special role where individual effort was ineffective. By regulating the economy and competition, the government could ensure equal opportunity. Indeed, for Whigs the concept of government promoting the general welfare went beyond the economy. In particular, Whigs in the northern sections of the United States also believed that government power should be used to foster the moral welfare of the country. They were much more likely to favor social-reform legislation and aid to education.

[Paragraph 6]

In some ways the social makeup of the two parties was similar. To be competitive in winning votes, Whigs and Democrats both had to have significant support among farmers, the largest group in society, and workers. Neither party could win an election

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by appealing exclusively to the rich or the poor. The Whigs, however, enjoyed disproportionate strength among the business and commercial classes. Whigs appealed to planters who needed credit to finance their cotton and rice trade in the world market, to farmers who were eager to sell their surpluses, and to workers who wished to improve themselves. Democrats attracted farmers isolated from the market or uncomfortable with it, workers alienated from the emerging industrial system, and rising entrepreneurs who wanted to break monopolies and open the economy to newcomers like themselves. The Whigs were strongest in the towns, cities, and those rural areas that were fully integrated into the market economy, whereas Democrats dominated areas of semisubsistence farming that were more isolated and languishing economically.

4. In Paragraph 1: During his administration, he immeasurably enlarged the power of the presidency. The word immeasurably in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) Frequently
- (B) Greatly
- (C) Rapidly
- (D) Reportedly

5. According to paragraph 1, the presidency of Andrew Jackson was especially significant for which of the following reasons?

- (A) The President granted a portion of his power to the Senate.
- (B) The President began to address the Senate on a regular basis.
- (C) It was the beginning of the modern presidency in the United States.
- (D) It was the first time that the Senate had been known to oppose the President.

6. In Paragraph 2: The author mentions bankers and investors in the passage as an example of which of the following?

- (A) The Democratic Party's main source of support
- (B) The people that Democrats claimed were unfairly becoming rich
- (C) The people most interested in a return to a simple agrarian republic
- (D) One of the groups in favor of Andrew Jackson's presidency

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7. According to paragraph 3, Whigs believed that commerce and economic development would have which of the following effects on society?

- (A) They would promote the advancement of society as a whole.
- (B) They would cause disagreements between Whigs and Democrats
- (C) They would supply new positions for Whig Party members.
- (D) They would prevent conflict between farmers and workers.

8. According to paragraph 3, which of the following describes the Whig Party's view of the role of government?

- (A) To regulate the continuing conflict between farmers and businesspeople
- (B) To restrict the changes brought about by the market
- (C) To maintain an economy that allowed all capable citizens to benefit
- (D) To reduce the emphasis on economic development

9. In Paragraph 4: "Despite Andrew Jackson's inclination to be a strong President," The word inclination in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) Argument
- (B) Tendency
- (C) Example
- (D) Warning

10. According to paragraph 4, a Democrat would be most likely to support government action in which of the following areas?

- (A) Creating a state religion
- (B) Supporting humanitarian legislation
- (C) Destroying monopolies
- (D) Recommending particular moral beliefs

11. In Paragraph 5: "Indeed, for Whigs the concept of government promoting the general welfare went beyond the economy."

The word concept in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) Power
- (B) Reality
- (C) Difficulty
- (D) Idea

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12. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 5 about variations in political beliefs within the Whig Party?

- (A) They were focused on issues of public liberty.
- (B) They caused some members to leave the Whig party.
- (C) They were unimportant to most Whigs.
- (D) They reflected regional interests.

13. According to paragraph 6, the Democrats were supported by all of the following groups EXCEPT

- (A) workers unhappy with the new industrial system
- (B) planters involved in international trade
- (C) rising entrepreneurs
- (D) individuals seeking to open the economy to newcomers

**Question 14 to 22 are based on the following article.**

Clinical Nutrition

The history of clinical nutrition, or the study of the relationship between health and how the body takes in and utilizes food substances, can be divided into four distinct eras: the first began in the nineteenth century and extended into the early twentieth century when it was recognized for the first time that food contained constituents that were essential for human function and that different foods provided different amounts of these essential agents. Near the end of this era, research studies demonstrated that rapid weight loss was associated with nitrogen imbalance and could only be rectified by providing adequate dietary protein associated with certain foods.

The second era was initiated in the early decades of the twentieth century and might be called "the vitamin period." Vitamins came to be recognized in foods, and deficiency syndromes were described. As vitamins became recognized as essential food constituents necessary for health, it became tempting to suggest that every disease and condition for which there had been no previous effective treatment might be responsive to vitamin therapy. At that point in time, medical schools started to become more interested in having their curricula integrate nutritional concepts into the basic sciences.

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Much of the focus of this education was on the recognition of vitamin deficiency symptoms. Herein lay the beginning of what ultimately turned from ignorance to denial of the value of nutritional therapies in medicine. Reckless claims were made for effects of vitamins that went far beyond what could actually be achieved from the use of them. In the third era of nutritional history in the early 1950's to mid-1960s, vitamin therapy began to fall into disrepute. Concomitant with this, nutrition education in medical schools also became less popular. It was just a decade before this that many drug companies had found their vitamin sales skyrocketing and were quick to supply practicing physicians with generous samples of vitamins and literature extolling the virtue of supplementation for a variety of health-related conditions.

Expectations as to the success of vitamins in disease control were exaggerated. As is known in retrospect, vitamin and mineral therapies are much less effective when applied to health-crisis conditions than when applied to long-term problems of undernutrition that lead to chronic health problems.

14. What does the passage mainly discuss?
- (A) The effects of vitamins on the human body
  - (B) The history of food preferences from the nineteenth century to the present
  - (C) The stages of development of clinical nutrition as a field of study
  - (D) Nutritional practices of the nineteenth century
15. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following discoveries was made during the first era in the history of nutrition?
- (A) Protein was recognized as an essential component of diet.
  - (B) Vitamins were synthesized from foods.
  - (C) Effective techniques of weight loss were determined.
  - (D) Certain foods were found to be harmful to good health.
16. The word "tempting" in line 12 is closest in meaning to
- (A) necessary
  - (B) attractive
  - (C) realistic
  - (D) correct

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17. It can be inferred from the passage that medical schools began to teach concepts of nutrition in order to
- (A) convince medical doctors to participate in research studies on nutrition
  - (B) encourage medical doctors to apply concepts of nutrition in the treatment of disease
  - (C) convince doctors to conduct experimental vitamin therapies on their patients
  - (D) support the creation of artificial vitamins
18. The word "Reckless" in line 18 is closest in meaning to
- (A) recorded
  - (B) irresponsible
  - (C) informative
  - (D) urgent
19. Why did vitamin therapy begin losing favor in the 1950's
- (A) The public lost interest in vitamins.
  - (B) Medical schools stopped teaching nutritional concepts.
  - (C) Nutritional research was of poor quality
  - (D) Claims for the effectiveness of vitamin therapy were seen to be exaggerated.
20. The word "skyrocketing" in line 23 is closest in meaning to
- (A) internationally popular
  - (B) increasing rapidly
  - (C) acceptable
  - (D) surprising
21. The word "extolling" in line 24 is closest in meaning to
- (A) analyzing
  - (B) questioning
  - (C) praising
  - (D) promising
22. The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses
- (A) the fourth era of nutrition history
  - (B) problems associated with undernutrition
  - (C) how drug companies became successful
  - (D) why nutrition education lost its appeal

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**Question 23 to 31 are based on the following article.**

### Rent control

Rent control is the system whereby the local government tells building owners how much they can charge their tenants in rent. In the United States, rent controls date back to at least World War II.

In 1943 the federal government imposed rent controls to help solve the problem of housing shortages during wartime. The federal program ended after the war, but in some locations, including New York City, controls continued. Under New York's controls, a landlord generally cannot raise rents on apartments as long as the tenants continue to renew their leases. In places such as Santa Monica, California, rent controls are more recent. They were spurred by the inflation of the 1970's, which, combined with California's rapid population growth, pushed housing prices, as well as rents, to record levels. In 1979 Santa Monica's municipal government ordered landlords to roll back their rents to the levels charged in 1978. Future rents could only go up by two-thirds as much as any increase in the overall price level.

In any housing market, rental prices perform three functions: (1) promoting the efficient maintenance of existing housing and stimulating the construction of new housing, (2) allocating existing scarce housing among competing claimants, and (3) rationing use of existing housing by potential renters.

One result of rent control is a decrease in the construction of new rental units. Rent controls have artificially depressed the most important long-term determinant of profitability — rents. Consider some examples. In a recent year in Dallas, Texas, with a 16 percent rental vacancy rate but no rent control laws, 11,000 new housing units were built. In the same year, in San Francisco, California, only 2,000 units were built. The major difference San Francisco has only a 1.6 percent vacancy rate but stringent rent control laws. In New York City, except for government-subsidized construction, the only rental units being built are luxury units, which are exempt from controls. In Santa Monica, California, new apartments are not being constructed. New office rental space and commercial developments are, however. They are exempt from rent controls.

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23. What does the passage mainly discuss?
- (A) The construction of apartments in the United States.
  - (B) Causes and effects of rent control
  - (C) The fluctuations of rental prices
  - (D) The shortage of affordable housing in the United States.
24. Which of the following was NOT a reason for the introduction of rent controls in Santa Monica, California?
- (A) rapid population growth
  - (B) inflation
  - (C) economic conditions during wartime
  - (D) record-high housing prices
25. The phrase "roll back" in line 11 is closest in meaning to
- (A) credit
  - (B) measure
  - (C) vary
  - (D) reduce
26. The word "stimulating" in line 15 is closest in meaning to
- (A) experimenting with
  - (B) identifying
  - (C) estimating
  - (D) encouraging
27. It can be inferred that the purpose of rent control is to
- (A) protect tenants
  - (B) promote construction
  - (C) increase vacancy rates
  - (D) decrease sales of rental units
28. The word "depressed" in line 19 is closest in meaning to
- (A) saddened
  - (B) created
  - (C) lowered
  - (D) defeated

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29. The information in the last paragraph supports which of the following statements?
- (A) San Francisco has eliminated its rent control laws.
  - (B) Rent control leads to a reduction in the construction of housing units
  - (C) Luxury apartments are rarely built when there is rent control
  - (D) There is a growing need for government-subsidized housing.
30. According to the passage, which of the following cities does NOT currently have rent controls?
- (A) Santa Monica
  - (B) Dallas
  - (C) San Francisco
  - (D) New York City
31. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT exempt from rent control?
- (A) Luxury apartments
  - (B) Commercial development
  - (C) Moderately priced apartments
  - (D) Office space.

**Question 32 to 40 are based on the following article.**

Psychology

Researchers in the field of psychology have found that one of the best ways to make an important decision, such as choosing a university to attend or a business to invest in, involves the utilization of a decision worksheet. Psychologists who study optimization compare the actual decisions made by people to theoretical ideal decisions to see how similar they are. Proponents of the worksheet procedure believe that it will yield optimal, that is, the best decisions. Although there are several variations on the exact format that worksheets can take, they are all similar in their essential aspects. Worksheets require defining the problem in a clear and concise way and then listing all possible solutions to the problem. Next, the pertinent considerations that will be affected by each decision are listed, and the relative importance of each consideration or consequence is determined. Each consideration is assigned a numerical value to reflect its relative importance. A decision is mathematically calculated by adding these values together. The alternative with the highest number of points emerges as the best

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decision.

Since most important problems are multifaceted, there are several alternatives to choose from, each with unique advantages and disadvantages. One of the benefits of a pencil and paper decision-making procedure is that it permits people to deal with more variables than their minds can generally comprehend and remember. On the average, people can keep about seven ideas in their minds at once. A worksheet can be especially useful when the decision involves a large number of variables with complex relationships. A realistic example for many college students is the question "What will I do after graduation?" A graduate might seek a position that offers specialized training, pursue an advanced degree, or travel abroad for a year.

A decision-making worksheet begins with a succinct statement of the problem that will also help to narrow it. It is important to be clear about the distinction between long-range and immediate goals because long-range goals often involve a different decision than short-range ones.

Focusing on long-range goals, a graduating student might revise the question above to "What will I do after graduation that will lead to successful career?"

32. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- (A) A tool to assist in making complex decisions.
- (B) A comparison of actual decisions and ideal decisions
- (C) Research on how people make decisions
- (D) Differences between long-range and short-range decision making

33. The word "essential" in line 7 is closest in meaning to

- (A) introductory
- (B) changeable
- (C) beneficial
- (D) fundamental

34. The word "pertinent" in line 9 is closest in meaning to

- (A) relevant
- (B) preceding
- (C) insightful
- (D) responsive

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35. Of the following steps, which occurs before the others in making a decision worksheet?
- (A) Listing the consequences of each solution
  - (B) Calculating a numerical summary of each solution
  - (C) Deciding which consequences are most important
  - (D) Writing down all possible solutions
36. According to decision-worksheet theory, an optimal decision is defined as one that
- (A) has the fewest variables to consider
  - (B) uses the most decision worksheets
  - (C) has the most points assigned to it
  - (D) is agreed to by the greatest number of people
37. The author develops the discussion in paragraph 1 by means of
- (A) describing a process
  - (B) classifying types of worksheets
  - (C) providing historical background
  - (D) explaining a theory
38. The author states that "On the average, people can keep about seven ideas in their minds at once (lines 18-19) to explain that
- (A) most decisions involve seven steps
  - (B) human mental capacity has limitations
  - (C) some people have difficulty making minor as well as major decisions
  - (D) people can learn to keep more than seven ideas in their minds with practice
39. The word "succinct" in line 24 is closest in meaning to
- (A) creative
  - (B) satisfactory
  - (C) personal
  - (D) concise
40. The word "revise" in line 28 is closest in meaning to
- (A) ask
  - (B) explain
  - (C) change
  - (D) predict