

考 試 科 目	中英語文能力	系 所 別	會計學系 / 會計組、稅務組	考 試 時 間	2 月 7 日(五) 第 一 節
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一、閱讀測驗與摘要 (30%)

Please summarize the main ideas of the following passages in one short paragraph. Please write the summary in your own words. Please do not simply recycle sentences in the passages.

(以下文字取材自 *Time* 並經些許改編)

Gossip. All humans partake in some form, despite the age-old adage, "If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all." Whether it's workplace chatter, the sharing of family news or group texts between friends, it's unavoidable that everyone who talks, well, talks about other people. In fact, a 1993 observational study found that male participants spent 55% of conversation time and female participants spent 67% conversation time on "the discussion of socially relevant topics."

People tend to think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumors, put-downs or the breathless propagation of a tabloid scoop. But researchers often define it more broadly: as "talking about people who aren't present," says Megan Robbins, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of California, Riverside. "It's something that comes very naturally to us" — an integral part of conversation, information sharing and even community building.

Some scholars view gossip as evidence of cultural learning, offering teachable moments and providing people with examples of what's socially acceptable — and what's not. For example, if there's someone who cheats a lot in a community or social circle and people start to talk about that person in a negative way, says Robbins, the collective criticism should warn others of the consequences of cheating. And as word near-inevitably trickles back to source of said gossip, it can "serve to keep people in check, morally speaking," Robbins adds.

"People are really resistant to thinking about gossip as anything but a bad behavior," says Robbins. And one scholar also notes that there are some types of gossip that should be avoided, such as gossip that is purely harmful and serves no greater purpose — like mean comments about someone's looks.

Gossiping also says something about the relationships people have with each other. "In order to gossip, you need to feel close to people," says Stacy Torres, assistant professor of sociology at the University of California, San Francisco, who has studied gossip in older adults. "There's an intimacy" to sharing experiences and feeling like you're on the same page about others, she points out. Torres' research has found that gossip can stave off loneliness, while other studies have found it can facilitate bonding and closeness and serve as a form of entertainment.

So, keep on talking. And when your conversation turns to gossip, as it inevitably will, remember that some good can come of it — with the right intentions, of course.

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- 一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。
- 二、試題請隨卷繳交。

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二、英翻中 (40%) 請將以下英文段落翻譯成通順且合理的中文

(以下文字截錄自 *The Economist* 並經些許改編)

Even in a world of polarisation, fake news and social media, some beliefs remain universal and central to today's politics. None is more influential than the idea that inequality has risen in the rich world. People read about it in newspapers, hear about it from their politicians and feel it in their daily lives. This belief has caused alarm among business people, many of whom now claim to pursue a higher social purpose, lest they be seen to subscribe to a model of capitalism that seems to have failed.

In many ways the failure is real. Opportunities are restricted. The cost of university education in America has spiralled beyond the reach of many families. Across the rich world, as rents and house prices have soared, it has become harder to afford to live in the successful cities which contain the most jobs. Meanwhile, the rusting away of old industries has concentrated poverty in particular cities and towns, creating highly visible pockets of deprivation. By some measures inequalities in health and life expectancy are getting worse.

Yet precisely because the idea of soaring inequality has become an almost universally held belief, it receives too little scrutiny. That is a mistake. In the rich world, gap in wealth and income could be lower than you think.

The fact that dubious claims are made about inequality does not reduce the urgency of tackling injustice. But it does call for ensuring that the assumptions on which policies are based are accurate.

三、英文寫作 (30%)

Please write two paragraphs about being busy. In the first paragraph, please describe a period of your life in which you were very busy. In the second, please respond to the following questions: do you like to be very busy? why or why not?