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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 title for each. (2) Summarize each article in no more than 200 words.

Use your own words to express the main idea 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:

The "Chinese model," as enthusiasts sometimes describe Beijing's autocratic system for dictating policy, can look eerily successful — until you consider catastrophic events such as the recent coronavirus outbreak.

China's response to the epidemic that began in Wuhan nearly two months ago shows some advantages of its police-state approach, and some severe disadvantages: Chinese authorities can commandeer resources to build a hospital in 10 days. But by stifling bad news and even arresting vigilant doctors, they create deep distrust at home and abroad, risking their ability to be effective.

Chinese people simply don't believe their government. They know that government health data is suspect, just like China's official economic numbers. And just as all success is attached to President Xi Jinping, so is every failure. China may be racing into the future, but its bungled response to the coronavirus outbreak is a reminder of how suddenly it can stumble.

A dramatic example of how China's police-state tactics backfired is the case of Dr. Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital. In late December, Li noticed cases of a virus that resembled SARS. He posted a warning to other doctors on Dec. 30, advising them to wear protective clothing. On Jan. 1, the Wuhan Public Security Bureau, the local equivalent of the FBI, summoned Li to sign a statement that he had made "false comments" that "severely disturbed the social order."

Xinhua News Agency joined the public shaming of Li and other doctors who had posted warnings. "The police call on all netizens not to fabricate rumors, not spread rumors, not believe rumors," the story said, but instead to "jointly build a harmonious, clear and bright cyberspace."

Three weeks after Li had tried to sound the alarm, China declared the virus outbreak a national emergency. The Supreme People's Court later denounced the arrests of Li and others and said: "Rumors end when there is openness."

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But China can't have this openness when authorities work so diligently to control negative information — about disease or anything else. The New York Times gathered some chilling examples: Hong Kong journalists who went to a Wuhan hospital in mid-January were detained and told to delete their footage. A Hong Kong television reporter who had covered the SARS epidemic posted an article about the new virus, but it was quickly deleted. A military doctor who helped expose the seriousness of SARS was later pilloried for harming the interests of the nation.

Xu Zhiyuan, a Chinese journalist who decried Beijing's actions in suppressing the SARS outbreak, wrote later about the costs of such censorship. The Times article quoted his social media post: "The system is successful in that it destroyed the people with integrity, the institutions with credibility and a society capable of narrating its own stories."

The financial cost of suppressing information and letting coronavirus spread in its early weeks could run to hundreds of billions of dollars. Goldman Sachs estimated in a forecast for clients Tuesday that a severe outbreak could reduce China's gross domestic product growth in 2020 by more than a full percentage point. Already, Chinese financial markets have taken a huge hit.

China's command economy, managed by a one-party dictatorship, has achieved miracles in recent decades. In comparison, an open and contentious democracy like the United States can sometimes seem like a losing proposition. But we're now witnessing a striking reminder of the need for open sources of information and public officials who aren't cowed by political pressure.

Xi thundered on Monday that Chinese officials who "lack boldness" in responding to coronavirus will be punished. Perhaps he will dictate that patients who don't get well quickly will be jailed, too.

(Condensed from an article by David Ignatius. The Washington Post. Feb. 5, 2020)

Article 2:

I grew up in Colorado as the only person of Asian descent in most of the environments I lived in, and so learned to assimilate into American culture while rejecting, sometimes violently, my parents and their culture. And so I looked on with anxiety — and some measure of fear — as the South Korean film "Parasite" won four Academy Awards, including the biggest prize of all, best picture.

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The victory of "Parasite" is a stunning moment that may not also be a watershed moment. It's certainly cause for celebration that an organization with notoriously questionable taste seems to have gotten it right this year, and it's unquestionably huge for the South Korean film industry. But despite the initial euphoric reaction from many Asian-Americans, the "Parasite" victory has nothing to do with Asian-American representation.

This is merely Hollywood recognizing, very belatedly, South Korea's amazing film industry — which has been making superlative films for decades.

The lingering aftershocks of the honors for "Parasite" will satisfy some of the hopes and stoke some of the fears of both sides of the social divide. The left's belief that Mr. Bong's film is a remarkable of-the-moment statement about how fed up the 99 percent are with the greedy 1 percent is valid. And the right's belief that the film's awards were a craven effort by the academy's voters to counter last year's loathsome win for "Green Book" (and atone for this year's repeat of a near-#OscarsSoWhite repeat) probably holds some kernel of truth as well. But I'm hesitant to give too much credit to the academy for its sudden interest in "inclusion."

Caught in the middle are Asian-Americans. For many of us, our great hope for representation at the Oscars wasn't "Parasite," it was Lulu Wang's "The Farewell," about a young Asian-American woman who at a time of personal crisis is confronted with the widening cultural gulf between herself and her parents and grandmother. Alas, "The Farewell," despite finding popular success and recognition at the Golden Globes and the Film Independent Spirit Awards, garnered no Oscar nominations. I find its exclusion a better indicator of how not just Asian-Americans but also female directors are still seen in Hollywood.

As a child, I was frequently asked if I knew Bruce Lee. For my classmates, there were two Asian people: me and Bruce Lee. The belief that there is only one Asian culture and not dozens, some with entrenched dislikes and prejudices against one another, has been one major source of misunderstanding between the East and the West.

There is a quiet, yearning part of me that wants to just celebrate all of those faces that look like mine. But the nervous, weather-beaten part of me worries that Hollywood will simply start strip-mining Korean product and luring Korean talent to the United States to humiliate them as sidekicks in action cop franchises. Hollywood did this with Hong Kong's cinema in the 1990s. The biggest star on the planet, Jackie Chan, was never able to be much more than Chris Tucker's straight man in a series of "Rush Hour" films that featured a running joke that Mr. Chan's character was Japanese. Given China's difficult history with Japan — reports vary among historians, but it's widely accepted that at least 14 million Chinese people died during the second Sino-Japanese War — that's a pretty loaded jab.

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It's important to remember the provincialism of the Oscars, which Mr. Bong himself acknowledged last fall in an interview with Vulture. The Academy Awards, he said, are "not an international film festival." Instead, "they're very local."

(Condensed from an article by Walter Chaw. *The New York Times*. Feb. 10, 2020)

II. Cloze Test (40%)

Instructions: Supply the missing word or string of words in the body of the essay, as well as an introduction paragraph, which in the original essay contained four sentences.

Make sure that they make sense, are grammatically correct, relevant, and conform to proper collocation. The introduction is worth ten points.

Items #(10) and #(14) are worth 2 points each. The rest of the items are 3 points each.

Coronavirus Forces Foreign Students in China to Choose: Stay or Go

As Americans and others flee Chinese universities, the crisis is severing ties

HONG KONG — Word came from home via hurried emails and instant messages to campuses across the country: Leave China now.

Dexter Lensing listened. China had just been stricken by a new coronavirus that so far has killed more than 1,300 people and ground much of the country to a virtual halt. The Ph.D. student was one of nearly half a million foreigners studying at universities in China who was forced to choose whether to stay or leave.

For decades, students like him have bridged language, politics and culture to help (1) between China and the rest of the world. Mr. Lensing in particular was drawn to China by its opaque political system, in which decisions (2) and people in power can rise and fall with the eddies of Beijing's palace intrigue.

Now Mr. Lensing is one of likely thousands of others who are wondering when or whether they will have an opportunity to study in China again.

"I don't know if I've ever been so disappointed in my life," said Mr. Lensing, 33, who is now in Belmont, N.C., with his sister. In his final academic year at Georgia State University, he worries he will not have a chance to return. His most valuable possessions, he said, remain in a dormitory in the northern Chinese city of Harbin.

The coronavirus, which has killed more than 1,300 people in China, has temporarily severed many of the ties between the country and the global community. For many Chinese students abroad, that means worrying about family at home and, in some cases, enduring unwanted attention from classmates.

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For many foreign students studying in China, the outbreak has frozen or even ended their opportunities to study a vast and complicated country. The (3) comes at a fraught time for China's relations with the world, as it seeks to build itself up as a counterweight to American global influence.

The impact could be particularly significant when it comes to the United States. (4) the young American students who traveled to China in the 1980s when China began to open up went on to become journalists, business leaders and politicians who helped connect the two countries.

But student exchanges were already falling, and educational partnerships have been under pressure by free speech and geopolitical issues. The number of American students studying in China totaled about 11,600 as of 2018, (5) 2 percent compared with the year before.

"It's a metaphor for the decoupling that is going on in the high technology, trade and investment realm, although for totally different reasons," said Orville Schell, the director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at the Asia Society. "All of those trends represent a wrenching of the fabric that was weaving a more cosmopolitan side of China."

Not all students have fled. Some were stuck, like a group of Nigerian students and teachers at the universities in Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. The government of Pakistan has told about 800 other students to stay in Wuhan for fear that their country's health care system cannot handle their return.

Some, like Kathy Song, chose to stay. Ms. Song, a China studies and social sciences double major at New York University Shanghai, has taken up residence with (6), who live in Beijing.

Ms. Song, 19, who speaks Mandarin and practiced during summer holidays in China visiting relatives, chose to study in China because she believes that, as an American born Chinese, (7) misconceptions on both sides.

"China is the world's biggest developing country," she said, "and I believe its relationship with the U.S. is going to be one of the most important for this century."

With much of the city closed, Ms. Song is spending a lot of her time indoors. Inspired by her uncle, she has taken up calligraphy. She is also learning the differences in parenting styles between her uncle and her parents back in New York.

"My uncle cares a lot about the studies," she said, adding, "He's way more intense than my parents."

Others who chose to stay are discovering (8). Esma Dallakyan, a masters student from Armenia studying at Beijing's Tsinghua University, spends most of her time studying in her dorm room. Campus life is increasingly isolating.

"All the streets are empty and you can't find anyone to talk to," she said, "It's a little bit lonely."

As a student of public health and a former Armenian health official, she has been getting a different kind education. "Now, as I see the efforts of the government in real time, I feel like it's an internship," said Ms. Dallakyan, 26.

Those who left China have little to do but wait.

"I live far away and it's not easy to buy tickets and plan when to go back to China," said Diego Rocha, 31, who is in his second year of an M.B.A. at Tsinghua-MIT.

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Mr. Rocha, who is now home in São Paulo, Brazil, said that if graduation in the spring is delayed he will have a harder time getting a visa to stay and find a job in China. During the final semester, business students are partnered with a local company, something that is now up in the air.

For foreign students (9) where information is heavily controlled, many like Mr. Rocha and Ryan Trombly, 19, were caught off guard by the sudden panic, adding to their sense of rootlessness.

"It's funny because it really came out of the blue for a lot of us," said Ms. Trombly, a sophomore at Duke Kunshan University, a new academic partnership between Duke and Wuhan University in China.

Just a week before authorities began to shut down entire cities to try to (10) the outbreak, Ms. Trombly was on a study tour through Nanjing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. "There were a few foreign articles but no domestic attention on the virus, and so we were traveling without masks," she said.

By the time she left the country on Jan. 24 for a long-planned visit to see her parents in Phoenix over China's weeklong Lunar New Year holiday, her local train station — usually brimming with people — was the quietest she had ever seen it.

Ms. Trombly plans to eventually (11) to complete two more years of study. For now she is taking online classes.

"I know China is on the rise and very important for what I want to do in the future in international relations," she said.

Some students were savvy about China's history with outbreaks. Government officials initially hid the outbreak of SARS 17 years ago, worsening the spread and raising questions about Beijing's transparency on matters of global safety.

Kerrie Wong, 33, is in her second year of her M.B.A. at Tsinghua with Mr. Rocha. Like him, she stayed in China after the first year of study, even though it is not mandatory.

But on Jan. 1, when there were just a few reports of people falling ill, her mother called from Boston.

"She was telling me that (12)," Ms. Wong said. She and her parents had lived in Hong Kong during the SARS crisis, which killed nearly 300 people in the semiautonomous Chinese city. She flew out of Beijing on Jan. 7.

She will need to return to China to give her oral defense which was originally scheduled for April or May. Still, she (13).

"The worst fear is that, as a foreigner, when the news is not as (14) as western news, there is always going to be an information lag," she said.

"I'd rather be safe than sorry." END

Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/12/world/asia/china-coronavirus-students.html (The New York Times)

※ 注意:1.考生須在「彌封答案卷」上作答。

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。