

靜宜大學 103 學年度碩士班招生考試試題  
學系：英國語文學系 科目：英文

I. Reading comprehension (1-14, two points for each question) 28%

The Rosetta Stone

Things were not going well for Ptolemy V, king of Egypt in the second century B.C. The young king was one of the Ptolemaic pharaohs who were of Greek heritage, descendants of a ruler put in place by Alexander the Great when he conquered Egypt in the fourth century B.C. The reign of Ptolemy V was a time of civil unrest and foreign **incursion**, and the king was unpopular. It was time for public-relations campaign. The priests of the king wrote a short history of the king's family, described his accomplishments, and explained his future plans. This message was written on stone tablets in **demotic** Egyptian for the common people, in Egyptian **hieroglyphs** for the priests, and in Greek for the ruling class. Thus, it was written in two languages but in three scripts. These tablets were posted all over Egypt.

Almost two thousand years later, in 1799, the French army, led by Napoleon Bonaparte, was occupying Egypt. Several years earlier, Napoleon's army had defeated the British army near Cairo and had taken over the country. However, the British fleet had destroyed the French navy and there was no way for the French soldiers to return home. During this "extended vacation" French military engineers strengthened existing defensive position. In the port town of Rosetta, the French were rebuilding an old fort when Captain Pierre-Francois Bouchard discovered an irregularly shaped slab made of dark granite with three types of writings on it in three distinct **bands**. Besides military force, Napoleon had also brought scientists and scholars with him. The Rosetta Stone was turned over to them. They quickly realized the three scripts contained the same message. They translated the Greek quickly but could not understand the other two scripts.

In 1801, the French were forced to surrender. Under the terms of the Treaty of Alexandria, the British claimed the artifacts that the French had found during their occupation. The French tried to smuggle the Rosetta Stone out of Egypt in a small boat but failed. The stone was brought to London and presented to the British Museum.

It was through the Rosetta Stone that scholars learned how to read Egyptian hieroglyphs. The hieroglyphic alphabet had been used by the Egyptians for 3500 years. However, it is far more complex than simple picture writing and contains thousands of symbols. After Egypt was conquered by the Romans, Latin became the dominant language and no one could understand the symbols. Before the Stone was discovered, some **scholars** even believed that hieroglyphs were not really an alphabet at all but were merely decorations.

Copies of the Rosetta Stone were sent to linguists all over Europe, but learning which Greek word represented which hieroglyph proved difficult. It was the brilliant French linguist Champollion who finally unlocked the mystery. After fourteen years of studying the Stone, he **deciphered** the code. In a letter to the French Royal Academy of Inscriptions, he explained the three basic assumptions that led to a translation: (1) The Coptic Egyptian, still spoken by a small group of Egyptians, was the final stage of the ancient Egyptian language. (2) Hieroglyphs served not only as symbols of word and ideas but also as symbols of spoken sounds. (3) Certain hieroglyphs enclosed in ovals were phonetic transcriptions of pharaohs' names. Once these hieroglyphs were understood, it was easier to decipher **the rest**. Armed with Champollion's translation, scholars all over the world took a new interest in Egypt and laid the foundation for our understanding of this ancient civilization.

The Rosetta Stone is still displayed at the British Museum, but the Egyptian government wants it back. In 2003, Dr. Zahi Hawass, a noted archaeologist, formally requested its return, saying, "The British... should volunteer to return the stone because it is the icon of our Egyptian identity."

1. What is the original purpose of the Rosetta Stone?  
(A) To preserve the writing system

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- (B) To record the history of the all-powerful pharaohs of Egypt  
(C) To announce that a new king had been crowned  
(D) To present information the then current ruler of Ptolemy V
2. The word 'incursions' in the passage is closest in meaning to  
(A) influences  
(B) travelers  
(C) invasions  
(D) adventures
3. It can be inferred from paragraph 1 that the author believes that  
(A) demotic Egyptian and the form of Egyptian used by the priest were the same language  
(B) the priests were all members of the ruling class  
(C) demotic Egyptian was a spoken language but did not have a written form  
(D) ancient Greek and demotic Egyptian were different languages but used the same script
4. Why did the author put quotation marks (" ") around the phrase "extended vacation" in paragraph 2 ?  
(A) The French ruler Napoleon used this phrase to refer to the time his army spent in Egypt.  
(B) The French Army was in Egypt because their fleet had been destroyed, not because they were on vacation there.  
(C) The French were in Egypt for a very short time.  
(D) Unlike the soldiers, the scientists and scholars were enjoying their time in Egypt.
5. What was Jean Francois Bouchard's probable occupation?  
(A) Captain of a warship  
(B) Archaeologist  
(C) Military engineer  
(D) Linguist
6. The word 'bands' in the passage is closest in meaning to  
(A) lines  
(B) areas  
(C) symbols  
(D) pieces
7. We can infer from the passage that the 'scholars' mentioned in paragraph 4  
(A) did not think the hieroglyphic alphabet could be translated  
(B) were experts on the decorations used by the ancient Egyptians.  
(C) played an important role in deciphered the Rosetta Stone  
(D) did not believe that Latin was the dominant language in Egypt
8. Which of the following is NOT one of the assumptions that helped Champollion to translate the Rosetta Stone?  
(A) Hieroglyphs represent words, ideas, and sounds  
(B) The three message did not have exactly the same meanings  
(C) Some of the hieroglyphs represent the names of pharaohs  
(D) One form of modern Egyptian was related to the ancient Egyptian language
9. The phrase **the rest** in paragraph 5 refers to  
(A) pharaohs' names  
(B) ovals  
(C) scholars  
(D) hieroglyphs
10. How does the author emphasize the point that is made in paragraph 6?  
(A) By making a comparison  
(B) By asking the reader a question

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- (C) By quoting an expert  
(D) By summarizing the previous paragraph
11. Who discovered the Rosetta Stone?  
(A) Jean Francois Champollion  
(B) Napoleon Bonaparte  
(C) Pierre-Francois Bouchard  
(D) Dr. Zahi Hawass
12. Who deciphered the code on the Rosetta Stone?  
(A) Jean Francois Champollion  
(B) Napoleon Bonaparte  
(C) Pierre-Francois Bouchard  
(D) Dr. Zahi Hawass
13. Where is the Rosetta Stone now?  
(A) In Egypt  
(B) In France  
(C) In the United Kingdom  
(D) In the United States
14. In paragraph 1, "This message was written on stone tablets in demotic Egyptian." We can infer that the message in demotic Egyptian was for  
(A) ordinary people  
(B) the priests  
(C) the ruling class  
(D) the foreigners
- II. Grammar (15-25, two points for each question) 22%
15. \_\_\_ often obtain funds from the sales of stocks.  
(A) For corporations to operate  
(B) The operation of corporations  
(C) Corporations operate by  
(D) To operate, corporations
16. The process of \_\_\_ by hand has changed little since the fifteenth.  
(A) To bind books  
(B) Binding books  
(C) Books are bound  
(D) Bound books
17. \_\_\_ at home requires only three types of chemicals, several pieces of simple equipment, and running water.  
(A) For the development of film  
(B) To develop film  
(C) When film is developed  
(D) In developing film
18. An electromagnet is created \_\_\_ electrical current through a coil or wire.  
(A) by passing  
(B) passes by  
(C) to be passed  
(D) passed
19. A crescent wrench has adjustable jaws for \_\_\_ a nut, bolt, or pipe.  
(A) to grip  
(B) they grip  
(C) gripping

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- (D) gripped
20. Energy can be defined as the ability
- (A) do working
  - (B) to do work
  - (C) doing work
  - (D) work to be done
21. The purpose of cost accounting is \_\_\_ involved in producing and selling a good or service.
- (A) as a determination of its costs
  - (B) the costs determined
  - (C) that determines the cost
  - (D) to determine the costs
22. \_\_\_ was one of the most difficult tasks pioneers faced on their journeys west.
- (A) Crossing rivers
  - (B) While crossing rivers
  - (C) Rivers being crossed
  - (D) By crossing rivers
23. Sand dunes are made of loose sand \_\_\_ up by the action of the wind.
- (A) it builds
  - (B) builds
  - (C) is building
  - (D) built
24. A deep-tissue massage is a type of massage therapy \_\_\_ on one part of the body, such as the lower back.
- (A) its concentration is
  - (B) concentrating
  - (C) why it concentrates
  - (D) to be concentrated
25. The narrow blades of speed skates allow \_\_\_ speeds of up to 30 miles per hour.
- (A) for skaters maintaining
  - (B) skaters to maintain
  - (C) skaters maintain
  - (D) maintenance by skaters

III. Writing (Based on the provided information, write two passages)

Task One

Books can be divided into two types: fiction (novels and stories) and non-fiction (histories, biographies, and self-help books, for example). Which type of books do you prefer to read? Use specific reasons to support your answer.

(at least 200 words) 25%

Task Two:

An English speaker is thinking about studying Chinese. How would you convince him or her that this would be a good decision? Use specific reasons in your response.

(at least 200 words) 25%