

國立成功大學

114學年度碩士班招生考試試題

編 號： 2

系 所： 全校系所

科 目： 英文(A)

日 期： 0210

節 次： 第 4 節

注 意： 1.不可使用計算機
2.請於答案卷(卡)作答，於
試題上作答，不予計分。

※ 考生請注意：本試題不可使用計算機。請於答案卷(卡)作答，於本試題紙上作答者，不予計分。

- I. 閱讀測驗 A (20 分，每題 2 分)。請按照下列段落內容題目，所有題目均為單選題。[本大題請於答案卡作答]

Inflation's impact on incomes and poverty

(Excerpted and adapted from High cost of living: Impact on households by Brigid Francis-Devine, 2024)

Incomes

High inflation meant real median household incomes (adjusted for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation) fell slightly in 2022/23. Real median income before housing costs was £621 a week in 2022/23, a real fall of £3 a week since 2021/22 and £10 a week since 2019/20. Median income for households with the lowest 10% of incomes fell by £9 from 2021/22 to £237 a week in 2022/23.

In March 2024, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasted that real household disposable incomes per head will increase by 0.1% in 2024 and then by 1.7% in 2025. Based on these forecasts, real post-tax income per person will return to its pre-pandemic level (Q4 2019) in Q4 2025. The OBR is an independent fiscal watchdog that analyses public finances and fiscal policy.

In August 2024, the Resolution Foundation, a living standards think tank, estimated that non-pensioner incomes after housing costs continued to fall in 2023/24 (by 1% compared with 2022/23). The Resolution Foundation expected median incomes to grow by around 3% between 2023/24 and 2024/25 and then slow again from 2025/26 onwards. Growth among the households with the lowest incomes is set to be weakest: real incomes after housing costs are projected to fall for the bottom fifth of households every year until 2029/30. This will be partly due to rising housing costs.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a poverty research organization, estimated in December 2024 that, for households with the bottom 40% of incomes, household income after housing costs fell in October 2021 and has stayed the same since. This is due to a combination of higher prices, increasing rents, high interest rates, slow real earnings growth, and uprated benefits.

Poverty

Material deprivation – the proportion of working-age adults who cannot afford basic items – increased between 2019/20 and 2022/23, from 19.6% to 20.9%. The percentage of adults reporting they could not afford to heat their home increased from 4% to 11% during this period.

Relative and absolute poverty rates stayed relatively similar between 2020/21 and 2022/23. Someone is in relative poverty if they live in a household with less than 60% of median household income in that year. Someone is in absolute poverty if they live in a household with less than 60% of median household income in 2010/11, adjusted for inflation.

In August 2024, the Resolution Foundation estimated that if the policies in place at the time of the 2024 general election continued, relative poverty after housing costs would rise by 1.5 million people by 2029/30, including 400,000 children. This would mean an increase in the relative poverty rate for the whole population from 21% to 23% and an increase in the child poverty rate from 30% to 32% between 2022/23 and 2029/30. The percentage of people in absolute poverty would stay about the same, at 18%.

1. What was the real median income before housing costs a week in 2019/20?
 - A) £618
 - B) £611
 - C) £631
 - D) £624
2. How is median income made “real” median income as inferable from the passage?
 - A) By removing false information
 - B) By removing inflation rates
 - C) By removing households with the lowest 10% of incomes
 - D) By including households with the lowest 10% of incomes
3. By when is real post-tax income per head expected to return to its pre-pandemic level?
 - A) Q4 2024
 - B) Q4 2025
 - C) Q2 2025
 - D) Q3 2025
4. Which organization estimated that non-pensioner incomes after housing costs fell in 2023/24?
 - A) Office for Budget Responsibility
 - B) Resolution Foundation
 - C) Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 - D) National Statistics Office
5. What factor is contributing to the forecasted negative income growth for the bottom fifth of households?
 - A) Increased wages
 - B) Rising housing costs
 - C) Tax reductions
 - D) Increased benefits
6. What is material deprivation according to the passage?
 - A) The proportion of materials allotted to basic needs
 - B) The materials that have been deprived of their needs
 - C) The percentage of adults who cannot afford essential items
 - D) The deprivation of materials to entertain oneself
7. What percentage of adults reported being unable to heat their home in 2022/23?
 - A) 4%
 - B) 11%
 - C) 20%
 - D) 25%
8. What does relative poverty measure?
 - A) Households with income below 50% of median income
 - B) Households with income below 60% of median income that year
 - C) Households with income below 60% of 2010/11 median income
 - D) Households unable to meet basic needs

9. What is the increment in material deprivation rates between 2019/20 and 2022/23?

A) 19.6%

B) 20.9%

C) 21.5%

D) 1.3%

10. What does the OBR primarily focus on?

A) Poverty research

B) Living standards

C) Fiscal policy and public finances

D) Monetary policy

II. 閱讀測驗 B (40 分。11-15 題每題 2 分，16-25 題每題 3 分)。請按照下列段落內容題目，所有題目均為單選題。[本大題請於答案卡作答]

(Excerpted and adapted from Torsa Ghosal (2019), Shapes of Cognition in Typographical Fictions)

“Our writing tools are also working on our thoughts,” wrote Friedrich Nietzsche after turning to the typewriter due to his near-sightedness. Unsatisfied with the machine, Nietzsche soon enlisted human aid to replace it. However, Martin Stingelin and Friedrich Kittler argue that Nietzsche’s brief encounter with the typewriter transformed his writing as well as his philosophy of writing. Their reflections on Nietzsche’s relationship with the typewriter in the light of late-twentieth-century media ecology drive home the idea that writing machines direct paradigms of thought. Kittler maintains that the interaction of computers—the contemporary mass medium of inscription—with our cognitive and sensory faculties cannot be explained from an anthropocentric point of view; rather it is imperative to consider how the technological media define “humans”. Indeed, the mid-twentieth-century information sciences and cybernetics, the bases for Kittler’s “information-theoretical materialism,” also spawned the first generation of cognitive science, in which technological media—computers in particular—served as analogical models for defining and understanding the human mind. The central claim of the first generation of cognitive scientists, who were strongly committed to developing artificial intelligence, was that the mind (or brain) is a computational device.

According to the computational model of cognition, the human mind “converts” lower-order sensory perceptions to higher-order abstract, arbitrary, and a-modal (AAA) representations in order to “process” them. Thinking, then, entails the manipulation of symbols (the AAA representations) following sets of rules and formal properties. The hypothesis about symbolic representations derives from the fact that though digital computers take multimodal inputs and produce multimodal outputs, the various semiotic modes (written language, numbers, sound, pictures), notwithstanding their differences and specificities, are all encoded as binary states during computation. Thought is conflated with abstract information processing in this way based on the assumption that when a computer program manages to simulate some functions of the brain, it is not performing a computational interpretation of mental processes but functioning as the “mind” itself. This supposition underlay Alan Turing’s Turing Test as well as much of the early AI research. When explaining biological cognition in terms of mechanical intelligence and arguing that the brain computes sensorimotor stimuli as symbolic representations, strong computationalist positions suggest that embodiment and grounding in the physical environment are redundant for making sense of experiences or making meaning from language.

11. **Identify the correctly punctuated sentence:**
- A) Nietzsche's reflections on technology, and media influence were ground-breaking.
 - B) Nietzsche's reflections on technology and media influence were ground-breaking.
 - C) Nietzsche's reflections, on technology, and media influence, were ground-breaking.
 - D) Nietzsche's reflections on technology; and media influence were ground-breaking.
12. **What does the pronoun "it" in the sentence "Unsatisfied with the machine, Nietzsche soon enlisted human aid to replace it" refer to?**
- A) His philosophy
 - B) The typewriter
 - C) His near-sightedness
 - D) Human aid
13. **What does "this way" in the sentence "Thought is conflated with abstract information processing in this way" refer to?**
- A) The process of encoding sensory perceptions as symbols
 - B) The use of AAA representations in computation
 - C) The mind's symbolic manipulation despite multimodal inputs
 - D) The computational model of cognition
14. **Which of the following is the subject for the verb "served" in "served as analogical models for defining and understanding the human mind"?**
- A) Kittler's "information-theoretical materialism,"
 - B) The first generation of cognitive science
 - C) Technological media
 - D) The mid-twentieth-century information sciences and cybernetics
15. **What does the pronoun "them" in the sentence "[T]he human mind "converts" lower-order sensory perceptions to higher-order abstract, arbitrary, and a-modal (AAA) representations in order to "process" them.**
- A) Sensory perceptions
 - B) Abstract, arbitrary, and a-modal representations
 - C) AAA representations
 - D) Human minds
16. **What inspired Nietzsche to use a typewriter?**
- A) His experiments with early AI models
 - B) His dislike for traditional writing tools
 - C) His visual impairment
 - D) His philosophical theories on media ecology
17. **What claim do Kittler and Stingelin make about Nietzsche's writing?**
- A) It was influenced by his interaction with a new writing tool.
 - B) It deteriorated due to his near-sightedness.

- C) It remained unchanged despite technological advances.
D) It focused exclusively on media ecology.
18. **What does the passage suggest about the relationship between writing tools and thought?**
A) Tools like typewriters have no significant influence on cognition.
B) Writing tools shape paradigms of thought.
C) Writing tools are outdated compared to contemporary media.
D) Thought shapes the evolution of writing tools, not vice versa.
19. **What is the main argument of the computational model of cognition?**
A) Thoughts are processed through sensory perceptions alone.
B) Thinking involves symbolic manipulation based on formal rules.
C) The brain functions independently of external stimuli.
D) Computers cannot simulate mental processes.
20. **Why is the Turing Test mentioned in the passage?**
A) It validates symbolic representation theories.
B) It demonstrates the limits of human cognition.
C) It supports the idea that computers function as minds.
D) It debunks the concept of computational intelligence.
21. **How far could a definitive computationalist theory go according to the passage? It could go as far as to**
A) Overly emphasize physical environments.
B) Downplay the role of symbolic representations.
C) Dismiss the importance of physical embodiment.
D) Rely too much on anthropocentric explanations.
22. **Which technological development influenced early cognitive science?**
A) The invention of typewriters
B) The growth of media ecology
C) Advances in information sciences and cybernetics
D) The development of AAA representations
23. **What is implied about sensory perceptions in computational cognition?**
A) They are irrelevant for cognitive processing.
B) They can be processed only after being transformed into abstract symbols.
C) They function independently of symbolic representation.
D) They are unaffected by technological models.
24. **How do early AI researchers view the brain?**
A) As a purely sensory organ
B) As a computational mechanism
C) As a symbolic representation of cognition
D) As an analogical tool for technology
25. **When does thinking occur according to computation models?**
A) It occurs during perception.
B) It occurs during production.

- C) It occurs during input processing.
- D) It occurs during symbol interaction.

III. 克漏字測驗(20分，每題2分)。請按照下列段落內容標示題號於相對應題目作答。所有題目均為單選題。[本大題請於答案卡作答]

(Excerpted and adapted from High cost of living: Impact on households by Brigid Francis-Devine, 2024)

In recent years, low-income households have experienced higher inflation rates and had less 26 to cope with unexpected costs because of 27 prices.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) data shows that households with the lowest incomes experienced a higher-than-average inflation rate in 2023, while the highest-income households experienced 28-than-average inflation. As discussed below, this 29 is due to low-income households being more 30 by high food and energy prices, which rose particularly quickly between 2021 and 2024.

Low-income households spend a larger-than-average proportion of their overall spending on energy and food, and were 31 more affected by increases in those prices. The chart below shows what proportion of household spending in each income decile goes on food and energy. Households in the lowest-income 32 (the 10% of people with the lowest incomes) spent 13.4% of their overall spending on food and non-alcoholic drink in 2022/23. This compared with 8.0% of households with incomes in the 33 decile. This does not include spending in restaurants or in pubs and bars.

As well as spending a higher proportion on food, low-income households are more likely to already be choosing the 34-cost food items, so do not have the option to 35 to cheaper food when prices rise. Households in the lowest-income decile spent 9.7% of their overall spending on electricity and gas in 2022/23, compared with 4.7% for households in the highest-income decile.

- 26. A) capacity
- B) resilience
- C) flexibility
- D) durability
- 27. A) rising
- B) exaggerated
- C) bargain
- D) affordable
- 28. A) higher
- B) slower
- C) steadier
- D) lower
- 29. A) policy
- B) inconvenience

- C) disparity
D) research
30. A) impacted
B) improved
C) sustained
D) relieved
31. A) therefore
B) however
C) nonetheless
D) still
32. A) hundredth
B) percentage
C) decade
D) decile
33. A) bottom
B) top
C) quarter
D) equal
34. A) lowest
B) relatively low
C) relatively high
D) highest
35. A) increase
B) allocate
C) switch
D) reduce

IV. 摘要寫作(20%): 下列信函(詳見下頁)為 1975 年美國參議員 Adlai E. Stevenson 寫給美國住宅與城市發展部(縮寫為 HUD)部長 Carla A. Hills 的一封法規修正要求函。請(a)以英文(b)在一個段落以內、(c)以不超過 100 個英文字摘要該信函主要內容。除專用語外，抄襲該函用字比例超過一半以上，本題不予計分，其餘按比例酌予扣分。[本大題請於答案卷作答]

U.S. Senate
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C.

May 24, 1975

Hon. Carla A. Hills
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Hills,

I'm writing to request correction of a serious deficiency and apparent illegality in HUD's implementation of section 518(b) of the National Housing Act. Section 518(b) provides for the correction of serious defects in existing homes insured under sections 203 and 221 of the National Housing Act.

As you know, when section 518 was amended last year to expand its coverage, it was also amended to limit its geographic scope to homes located in an "older declining urban area" in order to concentrate resources where the need is greatest. Yet HUD has arbitrarily defined an older declining urban area as a census tract within an SMSE [**Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area**] or a neighborhood within a community with a population of 25,000 or more "which is comprised predominantly (50% or more) of dwellings built prior to 1940." Such a test, based as it is solely on the age of the housing stock, without any foundation in the law, is contrary to legislative history and public policy, and has the effect of excluding home owners who were intended to be covered by the law.

While the phrase "older declining urban area" is not defined for purposes of section 518, its origin is an identical phrase in section 223 (e) of the National Housing Act. Section 223 (e) was enacted in 1968 in order to provide mortgage insurance for reasonably viable but marginal areas in the inner city in order to prevent and arrest the process of decay. But under HUD's own regulations, the availability of mortgage under section 223 (e) is not governed by whether 50% or more of the housing in the area was built prior to 1940. Indeed such a rigid and arbitrary standard would have been contrary to the purpose of the law and would have seriously impaired the program. Instead, section 223 (e) is intended to be used flexibly in order [to] make mortgage insurance available in areas which might not otherwise satisfy eligibility standards regardless the age composition of the housing stock.

It is, accordingly, manifestly improper to apply a different standard for purposes of section 518(b). I, therefore, strongly urge a revision of applicable HUD regulations and a concerted effort on HUD's part to fulfill the purposes of the law.

Sincerely,

Adlai E. Stevenson