

請依序在答案紙上作答，不必抄題，但須標示題號。考後試題與答案紙一併繳回。

I. Reading Comprehension: Choose the best answer to each question based on the following passage. (6%)

The life span of the people of Taiwan has increased considerably over the past few decades, thanks to progress in medicine and elevated living standards. The lengthening of the people's life expectancy, coupled with the successful implementation of birth control policies, has resulted in the aging of the local population and an increase in the proportion of old people in the population.

This is making it urgent and important for the government to adopt a better policy to enhance the welfare of the elderly. At present, the welfare measures for the senior members of the population barely meet the rapid growth of the aged.

Traditionally, care of the elderly was the responsibility of their children or neighbors. Nowadays, however, our society has undergone some basic changes, one of which has been the gradual replacement of the extended family by the nuclear family. More and more young people, when they grow up and marry, move away from their parents and leave them to live by themselves. As a consequence, a growing number of old people live alone although they do have children.

Old people who are healthy and well-off are usually better able to cope with the problems of living alone. But those of them who are in poor health or are weakened by age mostly find solitude hard to bear.

It is the duty of the government, as well as sons and daughters, to take good care of the elderly and make life easy and comfortable for them. The government should draw up a forward-looking and comprehensive plan to offer the help the old need and deserve.

One of the measures needed toward this purpose is the establishment of more old people's homes to provide care for homeless old people. Another is to provide more welfare services in addition to existing ones for the elderly.

Everybody gets old in time. When the old people of a country are well taken care of, the approach of old age does not evoke fear. A sound welfare policy for the elderly is beneficial to the entire population as well as its senior members.

1. Which of the following factors does *not* contribute to the aging of the Taiwanese population? (A) improved living standards (B) government's birth control policies (C) the advancement in medical science (D) better social welfare for the elderly (E) increased life expectancy

2. Which of the following statements is inaccurate? (A) Nowadays, the number of the elderly living alone in Taiwan is growing. (B) In Taiwan, the nuclear family is gradually taking the place of the extended family. (C) The elderly who enjoy sound health tend to cope with solitude better than those who are infirm. (D) More and more young people prefer to leave their parents in old people's homes. (E) There is plenty of room for improvement in the government's welfare policy for the senior citizens.
3. Which of the titles below best expresses the ideas of this passage? (A) Improve the Lot of the Elderly (B) Government Policies Regarding the Elderly (C) When You Are Old (D) Fear of Aging and Old Age (E) How Social Changes Affect the Elderly

II. Multiple-Choice Cloze. (14%)

One conventional belief about television is that it impairs a child's ability to think and to interpret the world. But Daniel Anderson's research and reviews of the scientific literature 1 this assumption. While watching TV, children do not merely absorb words and images. 2, they muse upon the meaning of what they see, its plausibility, and its implications for the future—whether they've 3 to a news report of a natural disaster or an action show. Because television relies on such cinematic techniques as montage and crosscutting, children learn early how to draw inferences about the passage of time, character psychology, and implied events. 4 preschoolers comprehend more than just the information supplied on the tube.

Another contention about television is that it displaces reading as a form of entertainment. But according to Anderson, the amount of time spent 5 television is not related to reading ability. For one thing, TV doesn't take the place of reading for most children; it takes the place of similar sorts of 6, such as going to the movies, reading comic books, listening to the radio, and playing sports. Variables such as socio-economic status and parents' educational background exert a 7 stronger influence on a child's reading. "Far and away," Anderson says, "the best predictor of reading ability, and of how much a child reads, is how much a parent reads."

1. (A) attest to (B) discredit (C) confirm (D) conform to (E) identify with
2. (A) Consequently (B) Accordingly (C) Instead (D) In addition (E) Namely

3. (A) turned in (B) handed in (C) moved in (D) given in (E) tuned in
4. (A) Even (B) Although (C) Even though (D) Every (E) Only
5. (A) to watch (B) in watching (C) watched (D) watching (E) watch
6. (A) creation (B) circulation (C) recreation (D) motivation (E) registration
7. (A) more (B) less (C) many (D) far (E) better

III. Translation: Translate the following English passage into Chinese and Chinese passage into English. (10%)

1. On the eve of the implementation of the Gender Equality in Employment Law, eight ruling Democratic Progressive Party lawmakers pledged at a joint news conference to pool their wisdom and resources to push for further protection of women's rights.
2. 花季期間的週末將實施交通管制，因此公園管理處鼓勵遊客使用大眾運輸系統。

IV. Essay Writing. (20%)

The sweeping public enthusiasm about Computerized Lotto has led some people to believe that Taiwan is a money-oriented society. Do you agree with these people? What, in your opinion, accounts for the recent craze for the lottery? What may a lottery ticket signify to a person? Write a short essay discussing this phenomenon related to the lottery.