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編號： 26 系所：外國語文學系在職專班

科目：英文（專班）

標清題號，不要抄題

I. Read the following passage and translate the underlined sentences into Chinese. Write your answers according to the numbers marked behind the sentences. (40%; 10 points for each question)

Most of us already have a seat-of-pants sense of how birthrank affects personality. Firstborns are by reputation the list makers and control freaks. Firstborns are supposedly at home in trades like accounting and architecture—and maybe airline piloting. Frank Sulloway, a science historian at MIT, has spent two decades gathering data on thousands of people involved in historic controversies—from the Copernican revolution to the Protestant Reformation—and running statistical tests to see what sets rebels apart from reactionaries. His new book entitled, “Born to Rebel”, suggests that “the foremost engine of historical change” is not the church, state or economy but family structure. Sulloway starts not by spinning random hypotheses but by thinking about the Darwinian pressures that foster sibling competition throughout the natural world. (1) Parental support is often the key to a youngster’s survival—and siblings are often the primary obstacles. When food is scarce, chicks in a nest may gang up to murder the youngest member of the brood, without a peep of parental protest. Humans harbor similar propensities. Many societies accord firstborns higher status than later-borns, and some still condone killing a newborn in times of scarcity, just to ensure an older child’s survival. (2) Sibling competition may take different forms in the New Jersey suburbs than it does among peasants facing starvation. But firstborns and later-borns still confront very different pressures and opportunities. And by Sulloway’s reckoning, their experiences should foster very different qualities of characters.

How, exactly, should they differ? Firstborns, who grow up knowing they’re “bigger, stronger and smarter than their younger siblings,” should be more assertive and dominant. They should also be more jealous and status-conscious, having their younger trampled turf invaded by newcomers. Their early experience as parents’ lieutenants should make them more conscientious than later-borns. And the favoritism they enjoy should leave them more closely wedded to their parents’ values and standards. Later-borns, since they can’t get their way by force or bluster, should be more sociable and agreeable. And their lesser stake in the established family order should leave them more open to novelty and innovation. (3) People without siblings fell somewhere between firstborns and later-borns on most personality measures, but they were no more open to experience than were firstborns.

So far, so good. But did these psychological tests say anything about how people would behave out in the world? That’s where Sulloway’s historical surveys come into play. To get at the roots of real-life radicalism, he compiled biographical data on 6,566 people who have played public roles in scientific or political controversies over the past five centuries. By having panels of historians rate these players on their resistance or receptivity to the innovations they confronted, he was able to plot their openness to experience in relation to everything from birth order to age, sex, race, temperament, social class, family size and even the tenor of their family relationship. (4)

(背面仍有題目,請繼續作答)

II. What was the research question(s) Frank Sulloway set for his study? What kind of scientific method did he apply to accomplish this study? Briefly answer the questions according to the above reading. (20%)

III. Essay writing. (40%)

The government is planning to construct a nuclear power plant in a national beauty spot in an area where not many people reside. Many environmentalists protest against this plan because the power plant will destroy the nature. They also suggest that we should switch to renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar power. However, the official view is that renewable sources of energy will not be able to provide more than a small portion of our needs, and “the industry needs energy now to develop, so to ensure our economy growth,” said the Minister of Economy. What is your stand in this issue? Write an essay to defend your stand and provide possible solutions to this issue.