

本試題是否可以使用計算機：可使用，不可使用（請命題老師勾選）

I. Read the following passage and translate the underlined part into Chinese. There are altogether 13 underlined parts, with their respective scores indicated in brackets (Overall 44%).

Most American universities today still use the traditional grading system of A-B-C-D-F, with A meaning "excellent," B "good," C "satisfactory or average," D "unsatisfactory but passing," and F of course "failing". While some feel that this system has shortcomings (too imprecise, too artificial, too arbitrary), it does represent the possible range of a student's work, and most students and faculty members are comfortable—or at least familiar—with it. So far so good. ¹However, American universities since the mid-1960s have increasingly been afflicted by the problem of grade inflation. (2 scores) This refers to the tendency of many faculty members to over-evaluate the quality of a student's work and consequently to assign her/him a grade higher than the work deserves. ²The reason this practice is called inflation, a term borrowed from economics, is that it resembles paying too high a price for a given item, for example twenty dollars for a loaf of bread. (4 scores) The problem is common among American universities, including even our most prestigious institutions, such as Harvard. As Craig Lambert reports in his article "Desperately Seeking Summa", the grade of A there accounted for about twenty-two percent of all grades in 1966-67, whereas by 1991-92 it had come to account for forty-three percent—almost double.

The trend toward inflated grades began in the mid-1960's probably because that was a time of great unrest on college campuses in the United States. There were widespread student protests against the Vietnam War and civil authority in general, frequently with the enthusiastic support and even participation of the faculty. ³Under these circumstances, grading standards began to shift for the worse. (2 scores)

⁴Faculty members became more and more reluctant to give students a D, let alone an F; the grade of C came to denote a minimal pass, B to represent "satisfactory," and A to mean "better than a B". (4 scores) ⁵Today, students and faculty alike have this new, watered-down system in their heads, although their university's official grading policy may be unchanged from previous times. (4 scores)

Why is this a problem? ⁶After all, a student is unlikely to feel put upon if his/her work is over-valued. (2 scores) However, when a faculty member records that a student has done excellent work (A), when in fact the work might only be pretty good (B) or merely fair (C), that faculty member has committed two faults. First, he/she has told a lie about the student's work, misrepresenting the student's accomplishments. How would we react if the misrepresentation went the other way—if the student had done excellent work, but the faculty member assigned a grade of B or even C? ⁷This

(背面仍有題目,請繼續作答)

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would strike us as dreadful, yet faculty members who assign falsely high grades are showing equally flawed judgment. (2 scores) Inaccurate grading is inaccurate grading, no matter which direction it takes.

The second fault is that the faculty member has broken faith with all those who will be harmed by the deception. Most obvious among these are the students who really do so excellent or good work. ⁸It is grossly unfair to students who earned real A's or B's if their accomplishments are devalued by the lax standards applied to others. (4 scores) ⁹To illustrate with an example from the workplace: would it be fair for two employees to receive the same raise when one had done excellent work and the other only mediocre? (4 scores)

Grade inflation also harms anyone who must evaluate a student's record, such as admissions officers at other universities and at professional schools. For instance, medical and law schools never have enough spaces of all applicants and hence must choose only the best qualified. ¹⁰When admissions officers evaluate the transcript of a student who received inflated grades as an undergraduate, they get a false idea of that student's past performance as well as his/her potential for future success in a rigorous professional curriculum. (4 scores) For a similar reason, potential employers are harmed when they are presented with an inflated academic transcript; ¹¹faced with seemingly equal candidates, they may give a coveted position to a less deserving applicant because they had a false understanding of that person's actual abilities. (4 scores)

¹²And finally, our society at large is harmed because grade inflation undermines the integrity of the universities, which is one of our greatest assets. (4 scores) ¹³If university faculty members cannot be trusted to give an honest evaluation of each student's academic work, public disillusionment will inevitably set in—and rightly so. (4 scores) The solution to the problem, though difficult, is simple: each faculty member should make a conscious decision to assign grades based on the actual quality of a student's work, realizing that not every student will be able to earn the highest, or even the second highest, grade. One of my former students made the point very concisely in an essay that she wrote on grade inflation: "Let's put the excellence back in the A".

II. Answering the following questions based on the previous text in I. Responding to the questions in your own words. Adopting verbatim is not allowed. (Overall 16%)

1. What is grade inflation?
2. According to the passage, what caused this trend?
3. The author gives a number of reasons why grade inflation is a problem. List them.
4. What is the purpose of grades?

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科目：英文（專班）

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5. What solution does the author suggest for this problem?

III. Writing (Overall 40%)

Analyse the effects of a change in your life. For instance, how has living away from home for the first time affected you? How has the decision of taking a particular job affected you? How has a parental or governmental decision affected you? How has your marriage affected you? How has winning a lottery affected you? How has a particular like or dislike you have (such as a passion for a certain interest or hobby) affected you? Compose an essay to reflect the effects with sufficient/insightful analysis.