# 88 年度英語読解力考査 This is NOT the actual test.

#### PART I

### Text 1

Shamanism is a religious phenomenon characteristic of Siberian and other northeastern Asian peoples. Although its practice is preserved in its purest forms in the Arctic and central Asian regions, shamanism is not limited to those areas. It is met, for example, in Southeast Asia, Oceania, and among North American native tribes.

The shaman is a medicine man, priest, and psychopomp; that is to say, he cures sickness, he directs the religious sacrifices, and he accompanies the souls of the dead to the other world. He is able to do all this because of his power to leave his body at will. In northeastern Asia, a person becomes a shaman, either by inheriting the profession or by being selected by supernatural powers. More rarely a person becomes a shaman by his own decision or upon request of the tribe, although the self-made shamans are regarded as weaker. In North America, the reverse is generally the case. Regardless of how the selection takes place, however, a shaman is recognized as such only after receiving instruction from qualified masters, followed by a series of trials.

In North and Central Asia, as a rule, these trials take place over an indefinite period of time during which the future shaman is sick, and stays in his tent or wanders in the wilderness, behaving in such a strange way that it may be mistaken for madness. During this period of 'illness' the future shaman has dreams and visions in which he is tortured by demons, his body is cut into pieces, and he descends to the underworld or ascends to heaven. In the end, the 'chosen' one becomes a shaman only if he can interpret his illness as a religious experience, and succeed in curing himself. When he has finally been revived, the shaman is thought to have acquired a new mode of being.

He can now 'see' the spirits, and he himself behaves like a spirit; he is able to leave his body and to travel anywhere he chooses.

In his relations with the supernatural worlds, however, the shaman's most important function is healing. Since sickness is thought of as a loss of the soul, the shaman has to find out first whether the soul of the sick man has simply strayed far from the village, or whether it has been stolen by demons and is imprisoned in the other world. In the former case the healing is not too difficult: the shaman captures the soul and reunites it with the body of the sick person. In the latter case he has to descend to the underworld, a complicated and dangerous adventure.

Today, when most medical adventures are taking place in the fields of genetic engineering and bio-technology, shamanism is one of the last remaining examples of a fascinating mix of magic, medicine, and religion.

# Questions for text1

- 31. From the second sentence we can tell that the practice of shamanism \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. probably does not deal with healing outside of the Arctic and central Asian regions
- b. was imported into the Arctic and central Asian regions by outsiders
- c. has somehow changed outside the Arctic and central Asian regions
- d. is purely a religious phenomenon only in the Arctic and central Asian regions
- 32. When the shaman accompanies the souls of the dead to the other world he is acting in his role as \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. medicine man
- b. messenger
- c. priest
- d. psychopomp
- 33. In North America, what is the usual way to become a shaman?
- a. By election.
- b. By self-decision.
- c. Through appointment by qualified masters.
- d. Through inheritance from his father.
- 34. Which of the following is most directly responsible for the shaman's ability to act in all his various roles?
- a. His ability to separate from his physical being.
- b. His capacity for enduring suffering.
- c. His knowledge of physical and spiritual cures.
- d. His untimely death and revival.
- 35. Why does the shaman sometimes have to descend to the underworld to heal a sick person?
- a. Because once a soul is in the underworld it is unwilling to be reunited with its body!
- b. Because the soul has strayed much farther from the village than usual.
- c. Because the soul is being held against its will.
- d. Because traveling to the underworld is always a dangerous trip.

- 36. The discussion of shamanism in this text may best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. a criticism of the pre-modern techniques of shamanism
- b. a defense of shamanism as an alternative to modern medicine
- c. a historical account of the shamanistic movement
- d. an objective description of shamanism in the 20th century
- 37. Which of the following statements best reflects the intended message expressed in the last paragraph?
- a. Shamanism and bio-technology are most closely related in their magical aspects.
- b. Shamanism is an attractive alternative to modern medical practices.
- c. Shamanistic practices led directly to modern medical advances in biotechnology.
- d. Shamanistic adventures are not comparable to the adventures of modern medical doctors.

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# Text 2

"The entrepreneur," said the French economist J. B. Say around 1800, "shifts economic resources out of an area of lower and into an area of higher productivity and greater yield." But Say's definition does not tell us who this 'entrepreneur' is. Furthermore, since Say invented the term almost two hundred years ago, there has been total confusion over the definitions of 'entrepreneur' and 'entrepreneurship.'

In the United States, for instance, the entrepreneur is often defined as one who starts his own, new and small business. Indeed, the courses in 'entrepreneurship' that have become popular of late in American business schools are the direct descendants of the course in starting one's own business that was offered thirty years ago, and in many cases, not very different.

Consider the husband and wife who open another Chinese or Mexican restaurant in the American suburbs. Surely they take a risk. But are they entrepreneurs? All they do is what has been done many times before. They gamble on the increasing popularity of eating out in their area, but create neither a new kind of satisfaction nor a new consumer demand. Seen from this point of view, they are surely not entrepreneurs even though theirs is a new venture.

McDonald's, however, was entrepreneurship. It did not invent anything, to be sure. Its product was what any decent American restaurant had produced years ago. However, McDonald's developed original management concepts and techniques which were designed to streamline the making and selling of hamburgers. They also standardized the 'product,' by designing new processes and tools. Furthermore, by linking employee training with the work to be done, and then setting the standards it expected,

McDonald' both radically upgraded the yield from resources, and created a new market and a new customer. This was entrepreneurship.

# **Questions for text2**

38.	According to the author, Say's explanation of 'entrepreneur'
a.	conflicts with modern methods of management
b.	does not identify the entrepreneur
c.	focuses on economic resources
d.	is out of date
39.	The second paragraph indicates that courses in entrepreneurship in American
	business schools have become popular

- a. over time
- b. recently
- c. later
- d. in the past
- 40. What is the function of the third paragraph?
- a. To show the risks that new businesses face.
- b. To criticize the American small businessman.
- c. To show that not all new and small businessmen are entrepreneurs.
- d. To describe entrepreneurship at the local level.
- 41. In the last paragraph, what does it in "... the standards it expected..." (line 22) refer to?
- a. linking
- b. McDonald's
- c. training
- d. work

- 42. Which of the following statements best describes the contents of the last paragraph?
- a. The history of McDonald's is described in the order in which it occurred .
- b. The invention of a new hamburger which has made McDonald's successful is discussed.
- c. The way McDonald's took an old product and found a better way to market it is described.
- d. The reason the author does not believe McDonald's is a new venture is described.
- 43. Which of the following statements best represents the author's interpretation of Say's definition of an entrepreneur?
- a. One who creates a new kind of satisfaction or new consumer demand.
- b. One who starts his own, new and small business.
- c. One who gambles on eating out in his local area.
- d. One who links employee training with the work to be done.
- 44. In the last paragraph, what is meant by "...upgraded the yield from resources" (line 23)?
- a. "... increased profits through the effective use of materials and people"
- b. "... maximized profits through streamlined sales"
- c. "... increased the availability of natural resources"
- d. "... made the application of modern procedures more efficient"

#### Text 3

Since its completion in 1825, Noah Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language has been a vital part of American culture. By as early as the mid-nineteenth century the name 'Webster' had become synonymous with 'dictionary.' Today, the American child who does not come across a Webster's at some point in his or her education is a rare creature.

In attempting to understand Webster's American Dictionary in its entirety, however, it is important to keep in mind that, while Webster found the making of a dictionary interesting for its own sake, he also believed the study of language was justified on far more significant grounds; for language, he maintained, influenced public opinion and behavior. Take, for example, the word 'equal.' In the United States, the ways in which this word has typically been interpreted, particularly with respect to beliefs about how broadly the concept was to be applied, have led to such practices as the withholding of the vote from women until the current century and the failure to extend even basic civil rights to America's non-whites.

Webster believed that language study would be justified if it could be shown that mere use of words had led nations into error. While women's voting rights were not an issue in Webster's day, one area that did particularly concern him was the ever-growing slave trade industry. A key word, the definition of which he believed could directly affect behavior, was 'free.' Most Americans believed that all men were free to act according to their own will. The belief that this abstract condition was natural and, above all, a basic right was widely held. So, if one wished to buy or sell other human beings, the reasoning went, he would be 'free' to do so. Webster argued that this was absurd; that this

understanding of the word violated a universal truth: "No person is born free." Instead,
Webster rightly held that all individuals, from the time of their birth, were subject to
the commands of their parents, the laws of their country and the higher morality of their Maker.

But what really set Webster apart was his realization that language could be subtly altered, and in so doing, one could affect the lives of millions of people. Although he never explicitly said so, this idea is evident even in Webster's earliest work. It is implicit 30 his attempts to create an 'American tongue' which he hoped would distance Americans from the British, solidify their independence, and further his own utopian dreams. Webster envisioned no less than the purification of society through the purification of language. Thus, through the subtle but powerful force of language, Webster sought in his writing and lexicology to put into practice his belief that language was something 35 that could be used as a means to a greater end.

# Questions for text3

<b>45</b> .	It is	clear	from	the	first	paragraph	that	•
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- a. due to its age, Webster's American Dictionary has become vital to U.S. culture
- b. most American children do not encounter a Webster's at school
- c. use of Webster's dictionaries has increased over time
- d. Webster's American Dictionary is the only dictionary officially approved for use in U.S. classrooms
- 46. The function of the second paragraph is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. to explain why most people cannot appreciate the popularity of Webster's American Dictionary in the modern era
- b. to describe how the word 'equal' is an example of language which is interesting for its own sake
- c. to persuade the reader that recognizing its popularity is not sufficient for a real appreciation of Webster's American Dictionary
- d. to provide the reader with an example of a word that Webster re-interpreted in his American Dictionary
- 47. From the author's discussion of the word 'equal' we can tell that Americans have \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. typically applied the term too broadly
- b. finally developed a common sense of equality
- c. often been selective about whom to consider equal
- d. never really understood what the word means
- 48. Which of the following definitions of 'freedom' would Webster most likely agree with?
- a. Freedom is the absence of all obligations.
- b. Freedom is the pure and natural condition of man.
- c. Freedom is a special gift from God.
- d. Freedom is limited by social and moral standards.

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- 49. We can tell from the third paragraph that the author \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. agrees that all men are free to act according to their own will
- b. is sympathetic to Webster's interpretation of 'free'
- c. is unwilling to indicate his own opinion
- d. believes both points of view are appropriate
- 50. We know what Webster believed about people's ability to alter language because \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. he clearly wrote down his opinion
- b. he expressed his opinions in a speech
- c. he indicated this idea throughout his work
- d. he indicated this idea in his definition of language
- 51. Which of the following statements best represents Webster's opinion of language?
- a. Language is primarily interesting for its own sake.
- b. Language can change people, but language itself should not be controlled.
- c. Not only does language have the power to change people, people can alter language.
- d. People need dictionaries because they tend to be lazy about their use of important words.

# PART II

Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge. Its \_(52)\_ is to find out how the world works, \_(53)\_ what regularities there \_(54)\_, to get through to the connections of things: \_(55)\_ subnuclear particles, \_(56)\_ may be the basis of all matter, to living organisms, the human social community, and \_(57)\_ the universe as a whole. Our intuition \_(58)\_ a perfect guide. Our perceptions \_(59)\_ distorted by training and prejudice or merely \_(60)\_ the limitations of our sense organs which, \_(61)\_, perceive directly only \_(62)\_ fraction of the phenomena of the world. \_(63)\_ so straightforward a question \_(64)\_ whether in the absence of air a pound of lead falls faster \_(65)\_ a gram of feathers was answered incorrectly \_(66)\_ Aristotle \_(67)\_ to everyone else before the time of Galileo. Science is based \_(68)\_ experiment, a willingness to challenge old beliefs, and an openness to see the universe as it \_(69)\_ is. \_(70)\_ science sometimes requires courage -----\_(71)\_ the courage to question the conventional wisdom.

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52. a.	answer	53. a.	deciding	54. a.	found
b.	goal	b.	in fact	b.	happen
c.	laboratory	c.	search	c.	may be
d.	thinking	d.	to seek	d.	were
55. a.	because of	56. a.	although	57. a.	after
b.	before	b.	what	b.	final
c.	from	c.	where	c.	from there to
d.	since	d.	which	d.	therefore
58. a.	is	59. a.	before being	60. a.	because of
b.	is by no means	b.	due to	b.	however
c.	is certainly	c.	may be	c.	may be
d.	is our	d.	should not be	d.	with
61. a.	however	62. a.	a large	63. a.	Although
b.	of course	b.	almost	b.	Besides
c.	on the contrary	c.	a small	c.	Even
d.	therefore	d.	the	d.	Then
64. a.	as	65. a.	by	66. a.	after
b.	if	b.	than	b.	by
c.	that	c.	that	c.	from
d.	to	d.	to	d.	until
67. a.	and almost	68. a.	after	69. a.	almost
b.	of course	b.	from	b.	once
c.	to	c.	on	c.	really
d.	with	d.	to	d.	thought
70. a.	Accordingly	71. a.	at last		
b.	Because	b.	at least		
c.	For example	c.	at most		

d. most important

d. Instead