

# 靜宜大學 108 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

學系：犯罪防治碩士學位學程

科目：英文閱讀測驗

## READING COMPREHENSION TEST

20 Questions (5 points each, total 100 points)

### Scottish Independence

The majority of people in Scotland are in favour breaking away from the rest of the UK and becoming independent, according to a poll taken just before the 300th anniversary of the Act of Union, which united Scotland and England.

A pair of Acts of Parliament, passed in 1706 and 1707 that came into effect on May 1, 1707, created Great Britain. The parliaments of both countries were dissolved, and replaced by a new Parliament of Great Britain in Westminster, London.

The poll showed support for independence for Scotland is running at 51%. This is the first time since 1998 that support for separation has passed 50%, and the first time since devolution gave power to the country in 1999. Six months before elections for the Scottish Parliament, these poll results come as good news to the Scottish Nationalist Party, who are hoping to make progress against Labour and further the cause of an independent Scotland.

Many people have become disillusioned with devolution, and believe that the Scottish Parliament has failed to deliver what they had hoped it would; only a tenth have no opinion. In fact, only 39% of those polled want to keep things as they are.

1. Scotland and England
  - a) have always been united.
  - b) want to break up the union.
  - c) have been united for a long time.
  - d) were united by war.
2. Great Britain
  - a) was formed by an Act of Parliament in 1706.
  - b) was formed by two Acts of Parliament in 1707.
  - c) was formed by an Act of Parliament that came into effect on May 1st 1707.
  - d) was formed by Acts of Parliament that came into effect on May 1st 1707.
3. People who want independence for Scotland
  - a) are the vast majority.
  - b) are in the minority.
  - c) are the slight majority.
  - d) have decreased in number since devolution.
4. The majority of people wanted independence for the first time
  - a) before devolution.
  - b) in 1999.
  - c) after devolution.
  - d) before and after independence.

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5. The results of the poll are good news
- a) for Labour.
  - b) for both parties.
  - c) for the Scottish Nationalist Party.
  - d) for devolution.
6. Most people's opinions of devolution
- a) have gone up.
  - b) have gone down.
  - c) are the same.
  - d) make progress against Labour.
7. The number of people who want to keep things as they are
- a) is greater than those that don't know.
  - b) is smaller than those that don't know.
  - c) is increasing.
  - d) is the majority.

## The Hardest Language

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Firstly, in a first language the differences are unimportant as people learn their mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language.

A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese, for example, because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different, so first language can affect learning a second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning writing will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day to day life.

Apparently, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many, but the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 cases (forms of a nouns according to whether it is subject, object, genitive, etc). This does not mean that Hungarian is the hardest language to learn for everyone, but it causes British diplomatic personnel, who are generally used to learning

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languages, the most difficulty. However, Tabassaran, a Caucasian language has 48 cases, so it might cause more difficulty if British diplomats had to learn it.

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity, though native speakers of related languages may find it easier, while struggling with languages that the British find relatively easy.

No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. Learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge, but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another. In the end, it is impossible to say that there is one language that is the most difficult language in the world.

8. The question of how hard a language is to learn is relevant to both first and second language acquisition.

- a) True
- b) False

9. Portuguese is definitely easier than Chinese.

- a) True
- b) False

10. A Japanese speaker may well find the Chinese writing system easier than a speaker of a European language.

- a) True
- b) False

11. The Hungarian alphabet causes problems for British speakers.

- a) True
- b) False

12. Hungarian is the hardest language in the world.

- a) True
- b) False

13. Hungarian has as many cases as Tabassaran.

- a) True
- b) False

14. Many British diplomats learn Tabassaran.

- a) True
- b) False

15. The writer thinks that learning new writing systems is easy.

- a) True
- b) False

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**Robot Birds**

Liverpool city council want to clear the city of fat pigeons. They say that that people are feeding the birds, which makes them fat. The pigeons get bigger because their normal diet would consist of seeds and insects, not high-fat junk food they are eating in the city centre.

The council want people to know that everyone who feeds the pigeons is responsible for the streets being so crowded with these birds. They hope to encourage the birds to move away from the city centre and into parks and open spaces.

Ten robotic birds have been brought into the city centre to scare the pigeons away and visitors are asked not to give the pigeons any food. The mechanical birds - known as 'robops' - will sit on the roofs of buildings. They can be moved around to different locations. They look like a peregrine falcon, which is a bird that kills pigeons. They even make noises and flap their wings to scare the pigeons. They hope that the pigeons will go away before the city becomes the European Capital of Culture in two years.

16. Pigeons get fat because they eat seeds and insects.
- a) Right
  - b) Wrong
  - c) Doesn't say
17. According to the council, everyone is to blame for the numbers of pigeons.
- a) Right
  - b) Wrong
  - c) Doesn't say
18. They want the pigeons to move out of the city centre.
- a) Right
  - b) Wrong
  - c) Doesn't say
19. Visitors shouldn't feed the pigeons.
- a) Right
  - b) Wrong
  - c) Doesn't say
20. The robotic birds can move around the city centre.
- a) Right
  - b) Wrong
  - c) Doesn't say