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並不得書寫、畫記、作答。

國立清華大學 112學年度學士後醫學系單招試題

系所班組別：學士後醫學系
自然科學組

科目代碼：0101

考試科目：英文

—作答注意事項—

1. 請核對答案卡上之准考證號、科目名稱是否正確。
2. 作答中如有發現試題印刷不清，得舉手請監試人員處理，但不得要求解釋題意。
3. 答案卡限用 2B 鉛筆畫記；如畫記不清（含未依範例畫記）致光學閱讀機無法辨識答案者，其後果一律由考生自行負責。
4. 其他應考規則、違規處理及扣分方式，請自行詳閱簡章附錄上「國立清華大學試場規則及違規處理辦法」，無法因本試題封面作答注意事項中未列明而稱未知悉。

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*請在【答案卡】作答

I. Vocabulary: 20 points (Please choose the best answer to complete each sentence.)

【單選題】每題 2 分，共 10 題，答錯 1 題倒扣 0.5 分，倒扣至本大題零分為止；若未作答，不給分亦不扣分。

1. Addressing the needs of health-care workers in the forefront of COVID-19 management is a high _____.
(A) result (B) priority (C) rendezvous (D) career (E) pessimism
2. Violins, cameras, school desks, computer mouses, can openers — these are just a few items that demonstrate how routinely _____ left-handers are in this world.
(A) disadvantaged (B) impeached (C) bombarded (D) psyched
(E) brainwashed
3. However, there is a sense that these changes will last. This _____ is drawn from the belief that President Samia has now fully consolidated her grip on the ruling party.
(A) profanity (B) proliferation (C) utopia (D) deflation (E) optimism
4. If you want to _____ the possibility of a cockroach infestation, clean your kitchen regularly.
(A) obscure (B) obsequious (C) obsess (D) obtain (E) obviate
5. Johnny cursed and _____ against the injustices of the system.
(A) railed (B) ratified (C) rated (D) razed (E) reached
6. A continuation of chronic lateness may lead us to _____ your employment.
(A) tantalize (B) terminate (C) thwart (D) tolerate (E) transfer
7. His _____ for detail leads him to examine the report multiple times for possible inconsistencies.
(A) penance (B) penchant (C) penury (D) pertinence (E) prescience
8. Dutch photographer Martijn van Oers had been _____ with the art of photography since he was a young boy. In particular, he felt drawn to old photographs.
(A) nauseated (B) infatuated (C) disgusted (D) exuberant (E) high-handed

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9. Although some hip hop audiences have historically been more accepting of rappers of all backgrounds, in the more commercial, mainstream world, racial authenticity is still an _____ part of audience expectations.

(A) insignificant (B) incongruous (C) undaunted (D) officious (E) entrenched

10. To revive the housing sector, a raft of reforms in housing mortgage finance were implemented, _____ in the creation of a secondary mortgage market through the founding in 1938 of the Federal National Mortgage Association. These institutional reforms were later to play a vital role in financing the suburbanization of the United States after World War II.

(A) culminating (B) coping (C) relapsing (D) deteriorating (E) receding

II. Grammar: 20 points (Please choose ONE underlined part that contains ungrammatical use of English for each sentence.)

【單選題】每題 2 分，共 10 題，答錯 1 題倒扣 0.5 分，倒扣至本大題零分為止；若未作答，不給分亦不扣分。

11. The relative contribution of stress to greying of hair is not known.

(A) (B)

Hair colour have been determined by cells called melanocytes, which are derived

(C) (D) (E)

from melanocyte stem cells (MeSCs) located in a part of the hair follicle called the bulge.

12. Around 200 other girls had also made their way to the Sayed ul Shuhada school, far

(A)

fewer than usual, as pupils and their families debated whether or not lessons would

(B) (C)

actually start and whether it would be safe for them to attend.

(D) (E)

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13. Perhaps most notable were her efforts to bring about an end to violence in the

(A)

(B)

Balkans, and she was crucial in push Clinton to intervene in Kosovo in 1999 to

(C)

prevent a genocide against ethnic Muslims by former Serbian leader Slobodan

(D)

Milosevic. She was haunted by the earlier failure of the Clinton administration to end

(E)

the genocide in Bosnia.

14. Russia and Ukraine have agreed with the need for humanitarian corridors to

(A)

deliver aid and help civilians exit besieged Ukrainian cities, in the first apparent

(B)

sign of progress in talks between the warring sides. The tentative agreement, reached

(C)

in Belarus, came as Russian forces continued to surround and attack Ukrainian cities,

(D)

including the capital, Kyiv, and the second-biggest city of Kharkiv.

(E)

15. The proclivity humans have towards plants is certainly not unique to the

(A)

(B)

millennial generation: Houseplants is a concept that is believed to have

(C)

originated in ancient Greece and Rome as early as 500 BC. After all, the first

(D)

imagined paradise was the Garden of Eden.

(E)

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16. In 1913, Ralph Ellison was born in Oklahoma City to Ida Millsap and Lewis
(A)
Ellison, the latter of whom sadly died when Ellison was just three. In 1936, despite
(B) (C)
not having completed his music studies at Tuskegee University in Alabama and
(D)
fully intended to return, Ellison headed for New York City to find work.
(E)
17. Watching television is part of the everyday life of the viewers. It is not,
(A)
as is sometimes suggested, a separate activity undertaken in perfect quiet in
(B) (C) (D)
comfortable surrounding.
(E)
18. When food is imported from countries with particular policies opposed by people
(A) (B)
in your country, you will be lobbied not to buy goods such as wine or apples from
those countries, as did the case with the boycott of South African produce during the
(C) (D) (E)
apartheid era.
19. Paradoxically, the more successful and long-lived Ukraine's resistance is, the
(A) (B) (C) (D)
more the danger to Nato.
(E)
20. Was there to be a serious accident at one of Switzerland's nuclear reactors, many
(A) (B) (C)
of the radiation victims would be residents of other countries
(D) (E)

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- III. Reading Comprehension and Reasoning Skills: 60 points (Section III consists of five passages on a variety of topics. Each passage is followed by 6 questions. Please read the passages closely and answer the questions based on what is stated or implied.)

【單選題】共五篇閱讀選文，每篇文章六題，每題 2 分，共 30 題，答錯 1 題倒扣 0.5 分，倒扣至本大題零分為止；若未作答，不給分亦不扣分。

Reading 1

Putin leans here on a strange theory advanced by the 20th-century historian and ethnographer Lev Gumilev. The son of two of Russia's most famous poets, Nikolai Gumilev and Anna Akhmatova, Gumilev maintains that every people possesses a distinct life force: a "bio-cosmic" inner energy or passionate substance that he calls passionarnost. Putin may have known Gumilev in St Petersburg at the start of the 1990s. At any rate, he has embraced his ideas and never misses an opportunity to refer to them. In February last year, he said: "I believe in passionarnost. In nature as in society, there is development, climax and decline. Russia has not yet attained its highest point. We are on the way". According to him, Russia carries the power and potential of a young people. "We possess an infinite genetic code", he has said.

In addition to Gumilev, Putin relies on another thinker – a minor figure in the history of Russian thought. Last October, he spoke of regularly consulting a collection of political essays titled "Our Tasks", the major work of Ivan Ilyin, who died in 1954. In one of the president's preferred essays, "What does the world seek from the dismemberment of Russia?", Ilyin denounces the country's "imperialist neighbours", these "western peoples who neither understand nor accept Russian originality". In the future, he suggests, these countries will inevitably attempt to seize territories such as the Baltic countries, the Caucasus, central Asia and, especially, Ukraine. The method, according to Ilyin, will be the hypocritical promotion of values such as "freedom" in order to transform Russia into "a gigantic Balkans". The final object is to "dismember Russia, to subject her to western control, to dismantle her and in the end make her disappear".

It is necessary, then, to understand that what is actually happening in Ukraine is the result of a vision of Russia that is deeply embedded in the mind of Putin. In 2008, he punished Georgia for its desire to leave the orbit of the old imperial power. In 2014, he annexed Crimea and prevented Ukraine from joining Nato by

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starting the Donbas conflict. But that is not enough for him. He wants a confrontation with – and a victory over – a west that he holds responsible for the fall of the Soviet Union, for the weakness of Russia in the 1990s, and for the autonomous tendencies of the old Soviet republics.

21. Based on the passage, it is most likely Putin would agree with which of the following statements about Gumilev's theory on passionarost?
- (A) It suggests that the Russian people is yet to reach its full potentiality.
 - (B) It means that the West can do whatever they want with Russia.
 - (C) It depicts a new political map of peaceful unions.
 - (D) It is detrimental to the Russian economy.
 - (E) It is an aesthetic expression of love and peace.
22. What does "the dismemberment of Russia" mean?
- (A) Russia regains its former glory by reuniting with countries like Belarus or Georgia.
 - (B) Russia forms trade unions with its neighboring countries based on principles of equal partnerships.
 - (C) Russia is no longer a member of the United Nations.
 - (D) Russia fills the minds of its people with disinformation.
 - (E) Russia is divided into smaller countries.
23. Based on the passage, which of the following statements best describes Ivan Ilyin's *Our Tasks*?
- (A) It is a far cry from the political situations in Russia at the time.
 - (B) It promotes the political agenda of Russia against the West.
 - (C) It helps solve the environmental issues.
 - (D) It talks about the philosophical tradition since Plato.
 - (E) It deals with Russia's uneasy relationship with China.
24. According to Ilyin, what would an imperialist neighbor attempt to do with Russia?
- (A) Try to come up with a trade agreement
 - (B) Attempt to claim a shared cultural heritage with Russia
 - (C) Attempt to destroy Russia
 - (D) Try the stick and carrot method with Russia
 - (E) Recognize Russia as a legitimate trade partner

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25. For Ilyin, the West can be hypocritical. What can be an example of this?
- (A) They are using freedom as a pretext for their own political gains.
 - (B) They are trying hard to maintain world peace.
 - (C) They recognize their own vulnerabilities.
 - (D) They admit there is still much room for improvement for democracy.
 - (E) They face cyberattacks every day.
26. According to the author, why did Putin punish Georgia?
- (A) It was part of Putin's plan to realize Russia's full potential.
 - (B) It was a dispute that Putin did not expect.
 - (C) By so doing, Putin offered an olive branch to the European Union.
 - (D) Russia was in need of a trade partner.
 - (E) Putin wanted a chance to showcase the latest development in medical services.

Reading 2

China's post-Cold War leaders, having compulsively studied the Soviet example, sought to avoid repeating it by transforming Marxism into consumer capitalism without at the same time allowing democracy. They thereby flipped what they saw as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's greatest error: permitting democracy without ensuring prosperity. This latest "rectification of names" - the ancient Chinese procedure of conforming names to shifting realities - seemed until recently to have succeeded. The Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's post-Mao pro-market reforms solidified support for the regime and made China a model for much of the rest of the world. Xi, on taking power, was widely expected to continue along that path.

But he hasn't. Instead, Xi is cutting off access to the outside world, defying international legal norms, and encouraging "Wolf Warrior" diplomacy, none of which seems calculated to win or retain allies. At home, he is enforcing orthodoxy, whitewashing history, and oppressing minorities in ways defunct Russian and Chinese emperors might have applauded. Most significant, he has sought to secure these reversals by abolishing his own term limits.

Hence our second unknown: Why is Xi undoing the reforms, while abandoning the diplomatic subtlety, that allowed China's rise in the first place? Perhaps he fears the risks of his own retirement, even though these mount with each rival he imprisons or purges. Perhaps he has realized that innovation requires but may also inspire spontaneity within his country. Perhaps he worries that increasingly hostile international rivals won't allow him unlimited time to achieve his aims. Perhaps he sees the prevailing concept of world order itself as at odds with a mandate from Heaven, Marx, or Mao.

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Or it could be that Xi envisions a world order with authoritarianism at its core and with China at its center. Technology, he may expect, will make human consciousness as transparent as satellites made the earth's surface during the Cold War. China, he may assume, will never alienate its foreign friends. Expectations within China, he may suppose, will never find reasons not to rise. And Xi, as he ages, will gain in the wisdom, energy, and attentiveness to detail that only he, as supreme leader, can trust himself to provide.

But if Xi really believes all of this, then he's already losing sight of the gaps between promises and performance that have long been Catch-22s for authoritarian regimes. For if, like Gorbachev's predecessors did, you ignore such fissures, they'll only worsen. But if, like Gorbachev himself, you acknowledge them, you'll undermine the claim to infallibility on which legitimacy in an autocracy must rest. That is why graceful exits by authoritarians have been so rare.

27. What did China's post-Cold War leaders learn from the Soviet political history?
- (A) They learned to compulsively digest knowledge of democracy.
 - (B) They appreciated the beauty of Western democracy.
 - (C) They pledged to the code of honor.
 - (D) They allowed the development of capitalism within the confine of authoritarian regimes.
 - (E) They aimed to build an open society.
28. What would be an example of practicing the ancient Chinese procedure of "Rectification of names" in the context of this article?
- (A) Allowing consumer markets while keeping a tight grip on political reforms
 - (B) Fearless in the face of military struggles
 - (C) Bombarded by fake news when the world turned their backs on China
 - (D) Losing control of their economic expansions
 - (E) Refusing the good will of the world during the economic crisis in 2008
29. What did Xi do that defied expectations?
- (A) Followed Deng's path of pro-market reforms
 - (B) Exercised "Wolf Warrior" diplomacy
 - (C) Encouraged the political reforms on civil rights
 - (D) Loosened controls on media
 - (E) Joined the existing world order

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30. Based on the passage, which of the following statements does NOT agree with the author's observation of the Xi administration?
- (A) Under the Xi administration, Chinese diplomats adopt a confrontational and combative style of diplomacy.
 - (B) The Xi administration abandons Deng Xiaoping's post-Mao pro-market reforms.
 - (C) Under the Xi administration, China has alienated its foreign friends.
 - (D) The reforms undertaken by the Xi administration allows the rise of China in the first place.
 - (E) Xi has sought to secure his reversals of Deng Xiaoping's reforms by lifting his own term limit.
31. What does "Catch-22s" in the last paragraph mean?
- (A) Rare chances to showcase Chinese superiority
 - (B) Hidden disadvantages
 - (C) Conundrums
 - (D) Blessings
 - (E) A think tank
32. According to the author, which of the following is likely to be what Xi expects to achieve by undoing Deng Xiaoping's reforms?
- (A) Ensuring the future of cosmopolitanism
 - (B) Improving the political capability of the United Nations
 - (C) Promoting multiculturalism
 - (D) Creating a world of authoritarian states with heavy Chinese influence
 - (E) Realizing the American dream

Reading 3:

We live in a superficial, media-driven culture that often seems uncomfortable with true depths of feeling. Indeed, it seems as if our culture has become increasingly intolerant of that acute sorrow, that intense mental anguish and deep remorse which may be defined as grief. We want to medicate such sorrow away. We want to divide it into recognizable stages so that grief can be labeled, tamed, and put behind us. But poets have always celebrated grief as one of the deepest human emotions. To grieve is to lament, to let sorrow inhabit one's very being.

Robert Frost liked to distinguish between grievances (complaints) and griefs (sorrows). He even suggested that grievances, which are propagandistic, should be restricted to prose, "leaving poetry free to go its way in tears." Implicit in poetry is the notion that we are deepened by heartbreaks, that we are not so much diminished as enlarged by grief, by our refusal to vanish---to let others vanish---without leaving a

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verbal record. Poetry is a stubborn art. The poet is one who will not be reconciled, who is determined to leave trace in words, to transform oceanic depths of feeling into the faithful nuances of art.

I was initiated into the poetry of grief---of raw, heroic, aboriginal grief---on a windy autumnal morning in late October 1968. I was eighteen years old. I knew I had found what I was unknowingly seeking on the day my freshman humanities teacher---a petite woman with an immense vocabulary, the only person I'd ever met who spoke in perfectly formed sentences---stood up in class and started talking about Achilles's desperate response to the death of his friend Patroclus. I felt something obscure opening inside me, I recognized some unknown, some unassuaged rage of feeling, a frenzied internal sobbing, a delirium of grief. I looked out the window and saw the mad leaves swirling and falling everywhere. I was transported.

Here is the passage in Richmond Lattimore's translation. It is from Book 18 of *The Iliad*. Nestor's son Antilochus has just given Achilles the message that his closest friend, his trusted ally and brother-in-arms, had been killed wearing Achilles's own armor. Now enemies were fighting over Patroclus's naked body:

He spoke, and the black cloud of sorrow closed on Achilles. In both hands he caught up the grimy dust, and poured it over his head and face, and fouled his handsome countenance, and the black ashes were scattered over his immortal tunic. And he himself, mightily in his might, in the dust lay at length, and took and tore at his hair with his hands, and defiled it.

My teacher must have gone on to talk about Achilles's feelings of guilt and shame, his deep sense of responsibility over his friend's death. This is a pivotal incident in *The Iliad* because it triggers Achilles's reentry into battle and therefore assures the destruction of Troy. It's the only way to account for his uncharacteristically savage revenge on Hector. But I couldn't follow closely what she was saying because some part of my mind was stuck on the primal image of Achilles smearing his face with dirt and tearing out his hair. I recognized the image from somewhere...

33. Which of the following is true according to the author of this passage?

- (A) Robert Frost suggests that poetry is essentially propagandistic.
- (B) We should divide grief into recognizable stages so that we can label, tame and put it behind us.
- (C) It is useless to let sorrow inhabit one's very being.
- (D) Our culture which has become increasingly intolerant of grief is superficial.
- (E) Robert Frost's distinction between grievances and griefs is pointless.

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34. Which in the following is most likely the reason why the author declares that poetry is a stubborn art in the passage?
- (A) Poetry powerfully puts grief behind
 - (B) Poetry strives to retain vestiges of that which no longer exists or is about to disappear
 - (C) Poetry refuses the feelings of grief
 - (D) Poetry persists in dividing grief into recognizable stages
 - (E) Poetry insists on relieving our pain
35. Based upon the passage, which of the following statements does NOT agree with the author's opinion of a media-driven culture?
- (A) A media-driven culture is skin-deep
 - (B) In a media-driven culture, grief is something people want to put behind them
 - (C) A media-driven culture often leads to an intolerant society
 - (D) A media-driven culture often seems uncomfortable with true depths of feeling
 - (E) A media-driven culture would not celebrate grief as one of the deepest human emotions.
36. Which of the following is the most likely reason why the author, in the third paragraph, relates his experience of studying poetry on a windy autumnal morning in late October, 1968?
- (A) To pay homage to his freshman humanities teacher
 - (B) To demonstrate how one could be deepened and enlarged by poetry of grief
 - (C) To leave a verbal record of his youth
 - (D) To tell the story of Achilles
 - (E) To challenge Robert Frost's idea of poetry
37. In the quote from Book 18 of the *Iliad*,
- (A) Achilles was distraught over the message delivered by Nestor
 - (B) Achilles was grieving for the death of Antilochus
 - (C) Patroclus spoke to Achilles
 - (D) Achilles was seen tugging at his own hair
 - (E) The black ashes were scattered over Antilochus's immortal tunic
38. In the second paragraph, the author quotes Robert Frost in order to
- (A) make a clear distinction between prose and poetry
 - (B) clarify the meaning of grievances
 - (C) advocate the importance of propaganda
 - (D) denounce prose
 - (E) bolster the idea that grief is celebrated in poetry

Reading 4:

States have a long history. In the ancient world clearly defined political institutions exerted control over city-states. In *The Peloponnesian Wars*, for example, Thucydides describes the conflicts that took place between the ancient Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta. However, these types of ancient structures differ from the modern state. They were generally confined to the city and had no clearly defined territory, and lacked the highly institutionalized bureaucracies of the modern state. Indeed, the citizen-territory-state nexus of the modern state system, defined by both its internal authority *vis-à-vis* the population and its external authority, defined by states' mutual recognition, is a creation of the seventeenth century and emerged within a European context.

Medieval Europe was characterized by feudalism, which in its most basic form can be understood as the granting of land in return for military service. The land-owning nobility would provide land and property rights to people in exchange for allegiance and security. In this context, different monarchs or aristocrats would control different areas of land and society. Within the Holy Roman Empire, religion played an important role in maintaining these structures. Each prince or nobleman would have the right to determine the religion of his own domain, defining its own religious denomination, and often basing its alliances with other territories mainly upon commonality of this denomination.

Over time, the rise of powerful monarchies with central bureaucracies gave a number of countries the characteristics of the modern state. The monarchies of England, France, the Netherlands, and Spain, for example, grew powerful enough to raise armies and to exercise internal authority through the nobility that they controlled. In 1555, the Peace of Augsburg allowed the monarchies in different areas to define themselves as Catholic, Lutheran, or Calvinist. This laid the groundwork for the subsequent Peace of Westphalia in 1648, which is commonly regarded as heralding the birth of the modern sovereign state. The Peace of Westphalia initiated a new order in Europe based on the concept of national sovereignty. For the first time, it created clearly defined internal political boundaries within Europe and brought about the mutual recognition of different monarchies' right to define their own religious and political choices within their territory, superseding the feudal society of the Middle Ages.

Gradually, the idea of the nation-state evolved. In a European context, centralized states began to develop the bureaucratic mechanisms for identifying their

populations, raising taxation, raising armies through conscription, and holding the monopoly of violence on their territories. Ideologically, nationalism began to emerge as a means to legitimate the modern nation-state. The emergence of inventions such as the flag and the printing press raised awareness of the nation-state, enabling people to develop a sense of shared identity and allegiance. With the rise of nationalism, new states were created through the process of unification that took place in states such as Germany and Italy.

39. Here are three statements concerning the Ancient Greek city-states:

- I. There were precise delineations of the areas of land controlled by the city-states.
- II. Compared to the modern state system, the city-states possessed highly institutionalized bureaucracies.
- III. The record of the conflicts between Athens and Sparta in *The Peloponnesian Wars* indicated that the city-states were controlled by well-established political institutions.

Based on the passage we read,

- (A) Both I and III are true
- (B) Both II and III are true
- (C) Only I is true
- (D) Only II is true
- (E) Only III is true

40. Which of the following titles could best indicate the content of this passage?

- (A) The Origin of the City-State
- (B) From Feudalism to Nationalism
- (C) The Ideology of the Modern State
- (D) Sovereignty in Historical Perspective
- (E) The Development of Bureaucracy

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41. Which of the following is INCORRECT based on the information given in the passage?

- (A) In the feudal society of the Middle Ages, land is bestowed in exchange for military service.
- (B) The external authority of the modern state is defined by states' mutual recognition.
- (C) The Peace of Westphalia is generally considered as a hinderance to the formation of the modern sovereign state.
- (D) The modern state system is characterized by a citizen-territory-state nexus
- (E) The clearly defined internal political boundaries within Europe was created by the Peace of Westphalia

42. In which century was the modern state system inaugurated?

- (A) The fifteenth century
- (B) The sixteenth century
- (C) The seventeenth century
- (D) The eighteenth century
- (E) The nineteenth century

43. Which of the following has NOTHING to do with nationalism?

- (A) The conflicts that took place between Athens and Sparta in the ancient world.
- (B) The facilitation of the flag as a means to build a sense of shared identity and allegiance.
- (C) The new state which was created in Germany through the process of unification.
- (D) The ideological legitimation of the modern nation-state.
- (E) The printing press which raised awareness of the nation-state.

44. In the last paragraph, the author writes, "In a European context, centralized states began to develop the bureaucratic mechanisms for identifying their populations, raising taxation, raising armies through conscription, and holding the monopoly of violence on their territories." Here, "holding the monopoly of violence on their territories" means the centralized states

- (A) severely prohibit violence on their territories
- (B) allow no one else to exercise violence on their territories besides themselves
- (C) possess minimal control of violence on their territories
- (D) exercise limited control of violence on their territories for economic profits
- (E) completely put violence on hold on their territories

Reading 5

Many of us can still remember when the news used to be a pleasant distraction from everyday life, the desk-bound office procrastinator's preferred form of escapism. It is remarkable how rapidly things have changed. More and more, the news is not a source of escapism, but the thing one yearns to escape. This feeling represents a new and acute phase of a long-term historical shift: we used to live in a world in which information was scarce, but now information is essentially limitless, and what is scarce is the supply of attention.

As advances in technology made it easier to distribute news – and more news providers began to compete for readers – a subtle inversion began: the reader's attention, not information, became the truly valuable commodity. In an attentional arms race, every news provider – and ultimately, every news story – competes against all others to worm its way into consumers' minds. Beginning in the 19th century, entrepreneurs such as Benjamin Day, the founding publisher of the New York Sun, hit upon a revolutionary business model: sell a paper for less than it cost to produce, pack it with lurid stories, then make your money selling space to advertisers, who were effectively buying access to readers' attention. This naturally encouraged exaggeration and fabrication. And as news comes to dominate public consciousness, extreme, lurid and even false stories come to dominate the news. After all, the commercial imperatives don't even necessarily require a story to be true, so long as it is maximally compelling: fake news is not an aberration from, but rather the logical conclusion to, a media economy "optimised for engagement."

It's worth stepping back to notice how strange it is, considering the underlying purpose of news, to spend this much of our time thinking about it. If our interest in news has evolutionary origins, that's because there are obvious survival advantages in staying aware of local and immediate threats to one's own life and tribe. One major achievement of civilisation is that we've expanded our capacity for caring to include news that doesn't affect us personally, but where we might be able to make a difference, whether by voting or volunteering or donating. But the modern attention economy exploits both these urges, not to help us stay abreast of threats, or improve the lives of others, but to generate profits for the attention merchants. So it pummels us ceaselessly with incidents, regardless of whether it truly matters, and with human suffering, regardless of whether it's in our power to relieve it. The belief that we're morally obliged to stay plugged in – that this level of time commitment and emotional

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investment is the only way to stay informed about the state of the world – begins to look more and more like an alibi for our addiction to our devices.

45. According to the author, which of the following is true:
- (A) The ability to access limitless information is a blessing in disguise.
 - (B) News today serves the role as a haven from our daily troubles.
 - (C) We let news take over reality in the name of staying informed.
 - (D) The appearance of fake news is an unexpected result of the rise of commercialized mass media.
 - (E) Our addiction to digital devices can be traced to the evolutionary origin of our interest in news.
46. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the phrase “to worm its way into” in the second paragraph?
- (A) to bombard
 - (B) to change into
 - (C) to be tricked into
 - (D) to add ease into
 - (E) to get into
47. Why did the author mention Benjamin Day, the founding publisher of the New York Sun, in the second paragraph?
- (A) To exemplify a successful business model in mass media.
 - (B) To illustrate how advertisers compete to draw consumers’ attention.
 - (C) To provide a historical account of the fierce competition amongst media moguls in the 19th century.
 - (D) To explain how commercial incentives give rise to false news.
 - (E) To pinpoint strategies new media companies use to sell space to advertisers.
48. What does “it” refer to in the sentence “So it pummels us ceaselessly with incidents” in the last paragraph?
- (A) The attention economy.
 - (B) The urge to make a difference.
 - (C) The need to stay informed.
 - (D) Our addiction to digital devices
 - (E) Fake news.

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49. According to the author, which of the following best indicates “the underlying purpose of news,” in consideration of the evolutionary origins of our interest in news?
- (A) The news provided a pleasant distraction from everyday life.
 - (B) The news generated profits for the attention merchants.
 - (C) The news came to dominate public consciousness.
 - (D) The news helped us stay abreast of threats.
 - (E) The fake news is the logical conclusion to a media economy “optimized for engagement.”
50. Based on the passage, it is most likely the author would agree with which of the following statements?
- (A) The reader’s attention, which has become scarce, needs to be stimulated again.
 - (B) Engagement with current affairs is a key to good citizenship.
 - (C) We are morally obliged to stay plugged in, committing time to the limitless information about human suffering.
 - (D) A media economy “optimized for engagement” encourages exaggeration and fabrication.
 - (E) Benjamin Day’s business model successfully makes the news a pleasant distraction from everyday life.