

南京航空航天大学

2014 年硕士研究生入学考试初试试题 (A 卷)

科目代码: 620

科目名称: 基础英语

满分: 150 分

注意: 认真阅读答题纸上的注意事项; 所有答案必须写在答题纸上, 写在本试题纸或草稿纸上均无效; 本试题纸须随答题纸一起装入试题袋中交回!

I. Vocabulary (20 points)

A. Choose the word or phrase marked A, B, C, and D to best correspond to the word above. Be sure to write down your choice on the answer sheet. (10 points)

1. **facetiously**

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) jokingly or jocularly | b) playfully or joyfully |
| c) painfully or irksomely | d) indignantly or irately |

2. **pejoratively**

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| a) peripherally | b) phonetically |
| c) disparagingly | d) diabolically |

3. **derelict**

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| a) forbidden | b) forsaken |
| c) forecasted | d) foredoomed |

4. **perspicacious**

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| a) clear-minded | b) clear-headed |
| c) clear-eyed | d) clear-sighted |

5. **obsolescent**

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a) discarded | b) disabused |
| c) distorted | d) discredited |

6. **vivacity**

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| a) animadversion | b) animality |
| c) animation | d) animatism |

7. **exuberance**

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) shortage | b) scarcity |
| c) luxury | d) luxuriance |

8. **anomalous**

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a) normal | b) abnormal |
| c) original | d) aboriginal |

9. ululate

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| a) lament | b) shriek |
| c) screech | d) scream |

10. claustrophobia

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Abnormal enjoyment of being in enclosed spaces | b) Abnormal enjoyment of being in open spaces |
| c) Abnormal fear of being in enclosed spaces | d) Abnormal fear of being in open spaces |

B. Directions: Explain the *italicized* words in the following sentences with simple, everyday words or expressions in English. Be sure to write down your explanation on the answer sheet. (10 points)

1. turn his back on the Eiffel Tower as a protest against the architectural *blasphemy*...
2. The general reaction to the apparent end of the era of cheap fossil fuel, as to other readily foreseeable *curtailments*, has been to delay any sort of reckoning.
3. The thing takes up an entire city block, and somehow they can't see it. It's too *implausible*.
4. The bacteria of decay then die off, for they must have oxygen to survive. The entire *aquatic* cycle collapses.
5. ...a writer, when he has made his first breakthrough, has simply won a crucial *skirmish* in a dangerous, unending, and unpredictable battle.
6. It is between Admass and Englishness, ailing and *impoverished*, in no position to receive vast subsidies of dollars...
7. "It was hot, yet with a sweet *languor* about it" (Theodore Dreiser).
8. The bankers and the admen, the marketing specialists and thousand well-paid *ancillary* service people set the city's brittle tone.
9. Especially was this true of the college *contingent*, whose idealism had led them to enlist early and who dad generally seen a considerable amount of action.
10. to those nations who would make themselves our *adversary*, we offer not a pledge but a request.

II. Cloze (20 points)

A. Fill in each of the following blanks with a suitable word in its proper form and write down the required word on the answer sheet. (10 points)

Packaging is an important form of advertising. A package can sometimes motivate people to buy a 1. For example, a small child might ask for a breakfast food that 2 in a box with a picture of a TV 3. The child is more interested in the 4 than in the breakfast food. Pictures for children to color 5 cut out, games printed on a 6, or small gifts inside a box also 7 many children to buy products — or to ask their parents for them.

Some packages suggest that a buyer will get something for 8. Food products sold in reusable containers 9 examples of this. Although a similar product in a plain 10 might cost less, people often prefer to 11 the product in a reusable glass or dish, 12 they believe the container is free. 13, the cost of the container is added 14 the cost of the product.

The 15 of a package also motivates a buyer. This suggests that the large size has the most product for the least 16. But that is not always true. A buyer has to find out 17 the product is sold and

the price of the basic unit.

The information on the package should provide some answers. But the important thing 18 any buyer to remember is 19 a package is often an advertisement. The words and pictures do not tell the 20 story. Only the product inside can do that.

B. Fill in each blank with a proper word from the following box. Change its form if necessary and write down the required word on the answer sheet. (10 points)

account commuter destination difference dwarf fresh generate grocery high-strung
incomparable indignity inevitable intense manuscript passion quest restlessness solidity
spit whether

There are roughly three New Yorks. There is, first, the New York of the man or woman who was born here, who takes the city for granted and accepts its size and its turbulence as natural and 1. Second, there is the New York of the 2 — the city that is devoured by locusts each day and 3 out each night. Third, there is the New York of the person who was born somewhere else and came to New York in 4 of something. Of these three trembling cities the greatest is the last — the city of final 5, the city that is a goal. It is this third city that 6 for New York's 7 disposition, its poetical department, its dedication to the arts, and its 8 achievements. Commuters give the city its tidal 9; natives give it 10 and continuity; but settlers give it 11.

12 it is a farmer arriving from Italy to set up a small 13 store in a slum, or a young girl arriving from a small town in Mississippi to escape the 14 of being observed by her neighbors, or a boy arriving from the Corn Belt with a 15 in his suitcase and a pain in his heart, it makes no 16; each embraces New York with the 17 excitement of first love, each absorbs New York with the 18 eyes of an adventurer, each 19 heat and light to 20 the Consolidated Edison Company.

III. Error correction (20 points)

Directions: There are twenty mistakes in the following passage. You are required to underline or mark the mistakes and get them corrected. Be sure to write down the correct form on the answer sheet.

Example: "Wordsworth is said to have most fascinating voice!" the

The primary consideration in achieving a balanced diet is either how much 1
or how little we eat, but which we eat. Basically we need carbohydrates, 2
protein,
fat, vitamins and minerals, altogether with regular but not excessive exercise. 3
Carbohydrates are found in foods such like bread, potatoes and sugar. They 4
are excellent energy producers, but if eating to excess may be largely converted 5
to fat and a reduction in the amount of carbohydrates is one of the obvious way 6
to reduce weight, since most of us eat too much of it anyway. 7
Protein found in meat and cheese are used for tissue building and the 8

recommending minimum consumption is 70g a day. Animal fats are also good	9
resources of energy, but are sometimes held to cause increased cholesterol	10
levels in the blood and are therefore best avoided by people suffer from heart	11
disease, vegetable fats are recommended as a substitute.	12
Vitamins are other essential requirement for health. There are about forty	13
known vitamins, but the most generally referred are A, B, C, D and E. Lack of	14
Vitamin A, found in carrots, liver, etc., is alleging to affect the vision and the	15
skin. Vitamin C, found in nearly all fruits, particular oranges and other citrus	16
fruit, has come to be regarded as effectively in the prevention of cold.	17
Among the minerals we need, the most important are calcium, iron and	18
iodine. Milk is one of the richest sources of calcium, which help to build our	
bones and our teeth. Deficiency of iron in the blood produces anaemia and	
children and others suffering from anaemic conditions have generally advised	19
to	
increase their intake of iron, what may be found in liver, lentils, and dates	20
among other foods.	

IV. Paraphrase (30 points)

Directions: Restate the following sentences in another form in English to clarify the meaning. Be sure to write down your restatement on the answer sheet.

1. Conversation is not for making a point.
2. Still, a white skin is always fairly conspicuous.
3. Fads, I submit, are the very negation of reason.
4. The rejection of Victorian gentility was, in any case, inevitable.
5. New York constantly exasperates, at times exhilarates.
6. the faint insistent sweetness of *drooz* may perfume the ways of the city.
7. Against this, at least superficially, Englishness seems a poor shadowy show...
8. her attendance had always been sporadic and her interest in schoolwork negligible.
9. The reassessment, which can be very painful, is also very valuable.
10. Science is committed to the universal.

V. General Knowledge (20 points)

a. Directions: Choose the best to fill in the blank or answer the question.(10 points)

1. The primary medium of language is _____.
 - A. Speech sound
 - B. vocabulary
 - C. discourse
 - D. Grammar

2. *On the Road* is a representative work of_____.

- A. William Carlos Williams
- B. Muriel Spark
- C. Margret Atwood
- D. Jack Kerouac

3. Generative-transformational grammar contains two sets of rules. They are _____.

- A. phrase-structure rules and transformational rules
- B. generative rules and transformational rules
- C. generative rules and phrase-structure rules
- D. syntactic rules and transformational rules

4. *A Rose for Emily*, written by _____, recounts the story of an eccentric spinster in the South of USA.

- A. Katherine Anne Porter
- B. William Faulkner
- C. Zadie Smith
- D. Alice Walker

5. Which of the following is not an alveolar consonant phoneme?

- A. /t/
- B. /s/
- C. /n/
- D. /θ/

6. _____, the 2007 Nobel Prize Winner for Literature, is a Persian-born, Rhodesian (now Zimbabwe) -raised British novelist who died in 2013.

- A. Doris Lessing
- B. Erich Segal
- C. Seamus Heaney
- D. August Wilson

7. Which of the following is not a branch of general linguistics?

- A. Phonology
- B. Psycholinguistics
- C. Syntax
- D. Semantics

8. Who is described by Mark Twain as a boy with "a sound heart and a deformed conscience?"

- A. Tom Sawyer
- B. Huckleberry Finn
- C. Jim
- D. Tony

9. What is the smallest unit in meaning system of a language that can be distinguished from other smaller units?

- A. word
- B. lexicon

- C. lexeme
- D. morphem

10. Who is the author of the work: "The Grapes of Wrath"?

- A. John Steinbeck
- B. Eugene O'Neil
- C. F. Scott Fitzgerald
- D. Theodore Dreiser

b. Directions: Candidates are **FREE** to choose any **FIVE** from the following **TEN** terms and explain them in plain English on the answer sheet. (10 points)

- 1. coherence
- 2. government
- 3. morpheme
- 4. lateralization
- 5. phoneme
- 6. theme
- 7. connotation
- 8. motif
- 9. foreshadow
- 10. plot

VI. Reading Comprehension (40 points)

Directions: Each of the passages below is followed by some questions. For each question there are four answers marked [A], [B], [C] or [D]. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions. Be sure to write down your choice on the answer sheet.

Passage A

A new comparison of DNA from modern canines and ancient fossils suggests that today's pets are descended from now-extinct populations of wolves in Europe. They likely scavenged bones from scrap piles left behind by hunter-gatherers, say researchers in today's issue of the journal *Science*.

And the bolder the animals got, the more food they took, and the more loyal they became to humans, they say, adding this process of domestication likely began as many as 19,000 to 32,000 years ago. "All modern dogs have a very close relationship to ancient dogs or wolves from Europe," says lead author Dr. Olaf Thalmann, from the University of Turku in Finland.

The team analysed the mitochondrial DNA of 18 prehistoric canines — eight dogs and 10 wolves — and compared this to DNA from a comprehensive panel of 49 wolves and 77 dogs, including Basenji and Dingo, three recently published Chinese indigenous dogs and four coyotes.

The ancient samples came from Russia, Ukraine, Central Europe, the United States and Argentina, says Thalmann. Some were more than 30,000 years old. The modern DNA from dogs and wolves spanned the globe, from Israel to China, Sweden to Mexico.

The researchers found that the modern dogs' DNA was most closely related to either ancient European canines or modern European wolves. "The oldest domesticated dog material came from Europe," says co-author Robert Wayne, a professor in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of California, Los Angeles. "It was an inescapable conclusion."

However, other researchers say the matter of who tamed dogs first and where it happened is far from settled. A separate team of researchers published a study in *Science* in 2002, saying that modern dogs came from southern China. "Our data points to origins in China and I am still pretty sure that is the place," says Dr Peter Savolainen, an associate professor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. Savolainen says the study by Thalmann and colleagues lacks samples from important parts of the world — namely the Middle East and China. "If you are looking for the origins of dogs and you only have samples from Europe, then of course it must be Europe," he says. Savolainen says that much like the "Out of Africa" theory that says humans originated in Africa and migrated elsewhere, dog history follows an "Out of south China" scheme. "You see several branches that are unique among dogs in south China and you don't see them anywhere else," he says.

Asked about the criticism from China theorists, Thalmann countered that his team used more complete DNA sequencing and older samples that show Europe was indeed the place where it all began. Still, the matter is far from settled, says Thalmann. More research in the years to come may reveal more on the topic, perhaps through the discovery of more fossils, or a more complete look at the genetic data.

In the meantime, most experts agree that early dogs became a part of human life long before the development of agriculture and farming societies. Little is known about the people who domesticated them, or how they did it.

But Savolainen believes that wolves took the lead when it came to befriending humans, at least initially. "They approached human camps and ate from the scrap heaps and those who dared come closer would get most of the food and they would have an evolutionary advantage," he says.

"So with each generation they would sort of tame themselves to get accustomed to humans. That is everybody's favorite theory, and I think it is a nice theory as well."

As some wolves relied less on killing prey and more on eating scraps, their snouts gradually grew shorter. They likely followed human groups whenever they picked up and moved camps. Then, about 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, the closer friendship truly began. "At some point, people and wolves really started interacting and humans took over the rest of the domestication process," says Savolainen. Thalmann says his team's evidence suggests dogs likely accompanied European explorers to the New World.

1. According to the research of a university in Finland, _____.
 - A.all modern dogs are evolved from ancient canines or wolves from Europe.
 - B.the more DNA of ancient wolves is researched, the more reliable the result is.
 - C.the oldest domesticated dog material came from European continent, especially the Southern Europe.
 - D. ancient dogs likely scavenged bones from scrap piles left behind by hunter-gatherers, and befriended human beings.

2. According to the article, which problem is still not settled?
 - A.How the ancient dogs or wolves were tamed
 - B.Who domesticated dogs first and where it happened
 - C.Why the ancient dogs or wolves were tamed
 - D. When the ancient dogs or wolves were tamed

3. As for Dr Peter Savolainen, Dr Olaf Thalmann's research

- A. is partial but complementary to the previous hypothesis.
- B. is not scientific because the research methodology is problematic
- C. strongly challenges the “Out of south China” scheme of dog history.
- D. is not convincing, even ridiculous since it overlooks samples from China and the Middle East.

4. According to the article, which of the following statements about the domestication process of dogs is TRUE?

- A. It is humans who have initially attempted to approach the wolf and ancient dogs.
- B. The ancient dogs or wolves that tended to approach humans took the sustainable evolution process.
- C. Initially, it is wolves that took the lead when it came to befriending humans because of the lacking in food source.
- D. Those wolves which dared to get closer to human camps have an evolutionary advantage over others which did not.

Passage B

By 2050, for the first time in history, there will be more people in the world over age 65 than under age 14. The Global City Indicators Facility (GCIF) in Toronto has partnered with Philips in the Netherlands to release a new report on Cities and Aging. This policy snapshot outlines strategies for addressing the needs of our aging urban population, and shows how internationally standardized indicators of “age-friendly cities” can be used to **benchmark** and predict scenarios for better-informed decision-making. The report, and GCIF’s ongoing research, will inform and guide city leaders on how to better confront the challenges associated with an aging population.

Globally, people over the age of 65 will increase by 183 percent by 2050. In parts of Africa, the increase is a startling 366 percent. At the same time, urbanization has become a defining phenomenon of the 21st century, and it is projected that 70 percent of the world’s population will live in cities. Given these two critical population shifts, this rapidly aging world signifies rapidly aging cities.

Municipal policy decisions are becoming increasingly vital to the state of the world’s aging population — and their success will have far-reaching effects on the global economy. “Our Cities and Aging Report develops a framework for what we term Age Friendly City Policy, Planning and Design,” said Patricia McCarney, director of the GCIF.

The growing number of people over 65 has vast implications for how we design and plan our cities: consideration must be given to the availability of health services and care facilities, residential and street design must incorporate mobility needs, and thought must go into community access to commercial services and technology. “Urban design models that integrate seniors into walkable, mixed-use areas are the hallmarks of a healthy city,” said Professor McCarney.

But of course municipalities aren’t the only levels of government whose policies play a role in the health and well-being of aging citizens. In many countries, for example, provincial or state governments are responsible for healthcare, while pensions and immigration are administered at the national level. “Policy and funding silos can frustrate real solutions,” said Professor McCarney. “A national strategy that funnels resources into cities to address issues associated with their aging populations is fundamental in moving forward if sustainable prosperity nationally and globally is our goal.”

According to Global Cities Institute Senior Fellow, Dr. Gora Mboup, who leads the Global Urban Observatory at UN Habitat in Nairobi, “The global urban agenda is just coming to terms with this aging phenomenon. The new GCIF-Philips Report is timely and insightful and positions cities and aging as a core component of the global agenda.” As the population ages, the ratio of the retired population to the working-age population will increase — meaning there will be fewer people in the workforce able to support

non-working people such as the elderly and children. With cities now responsible for more than 70 percent of global GDP, failing to account for an increasing number of senior citizens living in cities will have a negative impact on a nation's path to sustainable prosperity.

5. What does the underlined word "benchmark" in Paragraph 1 possibly mean?
- A. foresee
 - B. indicate
 - C. enhance
 - D. evaluate
6. According to the text, what kind of strategy can be adopted to tackle the issue of the aging population in 2050?
- A. Sustainable prosperity nationally and globally should become a national strategy.
 - B. Governments should take some measures to increase the birth rate of babies of the country.
 - C. Urban design models that integrate seniors into walkable, mixed-use areas should be advocated.
 - D. Residential and street design must incorporate mobility needs, but community access to commercial services and technology is more important.
7. According to this article, the increasing number of people over 65 means that _____.
- A. we should take the accessibility of care facilities and health services into consideration.
 - B. the government has to prolong the working time of the old who are expected to retire later.
 - C. the young have many more old people to take care of and their happiness index will decrease.
 - D. the developing speed of our economy will slow down for the lack of efficient labors.
8. According to the text, which of the following statements is TRUE by 2050?
- A. There will be a kind of population explosion in cities.
 - B. More and more young people prefer to live in the countryside.
 - C. Most of the resources will be transferred into cities to satisfy people's needs.
 - D. There will be a kind of re-distribution of population in different continents of the globe.
9. Why is it necessary to build "age-friendly cities"?
- A. The 21st century is one which is characterized as an aging century.
 - B. By mid-21st century, people over the age of 65 will increase to 183 percent.
 - C. The majority of the world population will live in cities as a result of urbanization.
 - D. More and more old people throughout the world, especially in China and Africa, will swarm into and live in cities.

Passage C

In recent months, scientists have described a new layer in the cornea of the human eye and a long-overlooked ligament in the knee.

In our modern age of imaging and other advanced medical technologies, how is it possible that we still don't know everything there is to know about our anatomy?

Despite a long history of fascination with the human body, experts say, holes continue to exist in our knowledge because we are enormously complex creatures. What's more, there's a lot of variation from one person to the next. Reality is a far cry from the clear and colourful pictures in anatomy textbooks.

As medical students begin the reverent work of cadaver dissection, the complexities can be

overwhelming. "When students open up the body for the first time, it's really hard. It's really confusing," says Daniel Schmitt, an evolutionary anthropologist and course director for human gross anatomy at Duke University, North Carolina.

"It's like getting up close to a pointillist painting where you just see dots," he says. "It's like going to a new city, a new country, a new world. They just haven't anticipated what it's going to be like. It's beautiful, but the first reaction of many students is: 'It's too hard. I can't do this.'"

Gradually, Schmitt says, rules and patterns emerge. As doctors become experts, they learn where to look for structures that tend to appear in the same general areas from one person to the next.

But even when surgeons develop intricate knowledge about specific parts of the body, they come to expect the unexpected. There is a muscle in the arm called the palmaris longus, for example, that is absent in about 15 per cent of people. Some people have the muscle in one arm but not the other.

Surgeons routinely have to make decisions on the fly when they find that someone's veins or nerves take unexpected paths. "Human variation is remarkable," Schmitt says. "Everyone is different."

Belgian knee surgeon Steven Claes, of the University of Leuven, has long been confronted on a daily basis by a puzzling problem. After undergoing surgery on torn ACLs, one of the four major ligaments of the knee, many patients are never able to return to their original level of sports performance. In those cases, patients tend to suffer from a kind of unstable buckling of the knee known as rotational laxity.

Convinced that they must be missing something despite years of refining their techniques, Claes and colleagues decided to focus on the outside of the knee, which basic biomechanical thinking would suggest was the source of rotational control. In a paper written by a French surgeon in 1879, the researchers found a brief mention of a fibrous band on outside of the knee joint that undergoes extreme amounts of tension when the knee rotates.

And even though the band had been discussed several times since, no one had published photographs or described it in detail. So Claes and his team undertook a painstaking series of dissections on the knees of 41 cadavers. In 40 of the knees, they reported in the *Journal of Anatomy*, the researchers found a distinct, two-inch long structure they call the anterolateral ligament (ALL).

The new findings suggest that the ALL is likely to be an important target for improving results of ACL surgeries.

One reason that surgeons have likely failed to notice the ALL for so long is that arthroscopic procedures prevent a global and detailed look at the joint, says Claes. But there may also be a tendency for doctors to see only what they're looking for.

"If your teachers tell you, 'This is the anatomy,' and you study it in textbooks and then you go back to the cadaver, you will try to find the structures you have studied," says Claes.

"That's already difficult enough as a student. If you could see a laboratory dissection, you would see the difference between the drawings and the real-life situation. It's just another world. No one goes in to find structures."

As researchers continue to refine their studies of human anatomy, Schmitt says, they are bound to discover even more nuances. Discoveries will come from both dissections like the knee study and from high-tech imaging, which turned up a previously unknown layer of the cornea earlier this year.

The brain and nervous system are perhaps the largest frontiers, as scientists still have a lot to learn about where nerves run and how the brain functions on a micro-level. "That's where we're going to make discoveries in the next 50 years," says Schmitt, "strongly and consistently."

10. It can be inferred from the article that _____.

- A. there are many unknown areas in human nerve system awaiting people's exploration.
- B. it is likely that human beings can completely decode human body in the next 50 years.

- C. compared with the exploration of the outer space, discovering human body is more significant.
- D. human beings will, hopefully, be immune to any muscle diseases as human anatomy is constantly refined.

11. Which of the following titles is the most suitable one for this article?

- A. Human Variation is Remarkable
- B. A Ground-breaking Finding of Human Organs
- C. How Many Human Body Parts Remain Undiscovered?
- D. Good News for the Patient who Suffered from Knee Ache

12. What does the author mean by saying “It’s like getting up close to a pointillist painting where you just see dots”?

- A. The structure of human body is not cognitive.
- B. It is no easy task to figure out the inner structure of human organs.
- C. The variation of human bodies is remarkable and can always offer some surprises.
- D. The inner structure of human body is like a labyrinth, which is beyond people’s imagination.

13. According to the article, which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. It is very common that different people’s veins or nerves take different paths.
- B. Doctors can never have enough intricate knowledge about specific parts of the body.
- C. Surgeons are supposed to be flexible in operations when finding patients’ veins or nerves.
- D. No leaves are completely the same but, all the people in this world have the same muscles.

14. From the article, which of the following statements about the anterolateral ligament is TRUE?

- A. It is Steven Claes who has first discussed and described the anterolateral ligament in a detailed way.
- B. The complexity of the arthroscopic procedures is the one reason that prevents surgeons noticing the existence of the ALL.
- C. The French surgeon in 1879 is the first researcher who has found the existence of the fibrous band which is called ALL.
- D. The anterolateral ligament has been neglected for a very long time, resulting in the failure of some surgeries.

Passage D

Simile, to refresh memories, is a favorite rhetorical device of writers that compares two essentially unlike things that nonetheless have similar characteristics. The quarterback was like a locomotive. *Sui generis*, the Latin phrase meaning unique or one of a kind, is a helpful restraint upon the former. Some things, even if they share certain characteristics, shouldn’t be compared. *Sui generis* is the braking system on a rhetorical locomotive, or at least it should be. That was a metaphor, by the way, and not a very good one.

We in the news business could stand to apply the brakes to our runaway impulse to “similize.” I personally love a good simile, which can inject levity into a column. But lately we’ve seen instances of simile-itis that might have saved readers and viewers some angst, even if writers and pundits were left with less to say. (Let’s go light on the air horns, please.)

In the past several days, we’ve heard news people and others compare Obamacare to Hurricane Katrina and Iraq. Sarah Palin compared our national debt to slavery. Countless times in recent years we’ve seen “Nazi” applied to people with whose policies or politics we disagree, none so frequently as George W. Bush, though President Obama, too, has had a few turns.

All of the above are clearly *sui generis* and should be retired from any future similes unless they are referring to truly like things, not just a single person's impression of the world while musing on current events. Katrina is like Sandy because they were both natural disasters, though significantly more people died in Katrina than in Sandy. Iraq is *sui generis* and nothing like Vietnam, to which it was sometimes compared.

Nazis and the Holocaust shouldn't be compared to anything else. The systematic, state-sponsored extermination of 6 million Jews, as well as others, is sufficiently horrific to stand alone. Pro-lifers who sometimes characterize abortion as a Holocaust are probably not helping the cause of revelation.

Finally, slavery merits its own place in America's memory. To compare it to anything else, especially something as mundane as debt, is wrong on its face. Indentured servitude to China might have been a better choice for Palin, who qualified her remark with, "This isn't racist, but..." Note: Whenever you start a sentence with "This isn't racist, but..." you probably shouldn't finish it.

In Palin's defense, she obviously meant no offense, and the attacks in response have been so vicious that the attacks themselves are beyond comparison. One in particular was so awful that I won't repeat it. Just as Palin didn't deserve such an onslaught, people reading this column in good faith don't deserve to have such wretched thoughts imposed on their psyches.

These recent examples of similes gone awry raise two questions: What is the impulse that drives our need to make such comparisons? And why do we react so viscerally when we do?

The impulse is usually to elucidate, i.e., this is as bad as that. But it is also partly lazy. Do we really have so little imagination that all we can do is summon Katrina every time an administration fails to meet our expectations? Or Hitler to denote our impression of bad? Surely it is a rhetorical crime to turn someone so evil into a cliché.

From a purely political perspective, the impulse may be driven by the desire to remind people of the past transgressions of political foes. Thus, when commentators say Obamacare is like Katrina, the mind flits from Barack Obama to George W. Bush and only the differences, rather than the single similarity of administrative incompetence, register: People died in Katrina and President Obama only wants to help people. Through subliminal jujitsu, the real comparison lands in the community psyche.

Conversely, as Salon political writer Brian Beutler suggested during a recent conversation, even Republicans may see benefits to this comparison in that it neutralizes the ongoing, negative liability of Katrina for the GOP. But then the cycle continues into absurdity. If Obamacare collapses and Republicans present Americans with RyanCare, we likely can expect Democrats to characterize every glitch as the GOP's Katrina II.

To the most important point, comparing a horrific tragedy or atrocity to any other thing else trivializes and diminishes it. By trying to capture, quantify and categorize others' suffering, we trespass on the sacred.

Some things are like nothing else — and should be left to rest in peace.

15. According to the article, which of the following comparisons is reasonable?

- A. Comparing abortion to a Holocaust
- B. Comparing quarterback to a Locomotive
- C. Comparing people holding different views to Nazi
- D. Comparing Obamacare to Hurricane Katrina and Iraq

16. How do you understand the word "Obamacare" in this article?

- A. It is a compound word indicating Obama's particular policy on medical reform.
- B. It is a neutral word describing the similarity between two objects.
- C. It is a derogatory word reflecting Obama's incompetence in tackling thorny issues.
- D. It is a derogatory compound word mixing "Obama" and "massacre", indicating the cruelty of his plan.

17. According to the author, which of the following term does not belong to sui generis?
- A. Nazis
 - B. Holocaust
 - C. Slavery
 - D. Onslaught
18. What is the main argument or the gist of this article?
- A. The difference between a simile and sui generis
 - B. How to use sui generis correctly and appropriately
 - C. There are some comparisons that we should never make
 - D. Obama's achievements and contributions should not be denied.
19. Which of the following statements about "sui generis" is correct?
- A. Sui generis can refresh our impressions and memories.
 - B. Sui generis refers to something particular or special, which does not have a correlative.
 - C. Sui generis is a kind of unsuitable and misleading comparison, which should be banned.
 - D. Simile and sui generis is complementary in terms of deepening people's impression of some phenomenon.
20. According to the text, what is the reason that some people make some comparisons which seem to be inappropriate for the author?
- A. People attempted to offer explanation.
 - B. People have poor imagination.
 - C. People are sluggish.
 - D. People have the desire to remind people of the past transgressions of political foes.