

2016 English Writing Contest

General Senior High School Students

一、主題句寫作(writing topic sentences): 50%

請根據每題所給之段落寫出可以涵蓋或引導整段涵意之主題句。共 5 題，每題 10 分。(Read the given paragraph in each question and write a topic sentence that can cover the overall idea of the paragraph. There are 5 questions in this part, 10 points for each question.)

例題(Example):

_____. Paintings of Egyptians dating back over 4,000 years show both men and women painting their nails and wearing makeup. On the other side of the globe, the ancient Maya of Central America considered crossed eyes beautiful, and hung little balls between children's eyes to develop this look. In 18th-century France, wealthy noblemen wore large wigs of long, white hair to make themselves attractive. In cultures throughout the world, people have gone to extreme lengths to achieve the goal of beauty.

在答案紙上寫：The search for beauty spans centuries and continents.

1. Completing a perfect cup of fresh coffee requires a specific process instead of simple beans just being infused with hot water. First, different coffee beans are often mixed together in order to produce different flavors. Then, the beans are often mixed together in order to produce different flavors. Then, the beans are roasted (烤) and put into special bags. The coffee will remain fresh only when it is kept away from the outside air. Finally, after it has been ground (磨成粉狀), the coffee can be combined with water. Most coffee masters agree that coffee taste best only when it is made with 90°C hot water. Once all of the above steps have been completed, you will then be able to enjoy your cup of hot coffee.
2. To understand the overall idea of an entire paragraph, one must be able to differ the motives and uses of each different paragraph. The descriptive paragraph describes (描寫) something and shows the reader what a thing or a person is like. The narrative paragraph tells a story. The expository paragraph explains something or provides instruction. It could also describe a process and move the reader step by step through a method. The persuasive paragraph tries to get the reader to accept a particular point of view (某種論點) or understand the writer's position.
3. The question why dogs are constantly sniffing everything with enormous curiosity is answered by their sense of smell is over a hundred times ^{more powerful than a human} ✓. Their powerful sense of smell can pick up scents (氣溫) that we don't even know exist, and a large portion of a dog's brain is dedicated to (致力於) interpreting (理解) what those scents mean. Dogs constantly sniff (嗅): the air, the ground, food, furniture, other dogs, and humans, and it's all because they are trying to make sense of the world around them.
4. For an area to fall in the desert category, it must meet certain requirements of dryness instead of a certain temperature. More specifically, it must receive an average of less than ten inches of precipitation (降水) —which can be rain, sleet (雨夾雪), hail (冰雹), or snow—on the ground every year.

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Antarctica (南極洲), the coldest place on earth, has an average temperature that usually falls below the freezing point. And because cold air holds less moisture (濕氣) than warm air, the air in Antarctica does not hold much moisture at all. This is evident in the low precipitation statistics recorded for Antarctica. For example, the central part of Antarctica receives an average of less than 2 inches of snow every year. The coastline of Antarctica receives a little bit more—between seven and eight inches a year. Because Antarctica gets so little precipitation every year, it is considered a desert.

5. P-books are now widely being replaced by e-books because of the abundant and almost flawless advantages an e-book can provide. The average e-reader can store thousands of digital books, providing a veritable (真實的) library at your fingertips (唾手可得的). What is more, being the size and weight of a thin hardback (精裝書), the e-reader itself is relatively petite (小的). It is easy to hold and can fit in a pocketbook or briefcase easily. This makes handling ponderous behemoths (笨重的巨著) such as *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Les Misérables* a breeze (輕而易舉的). Perhaps the only drawback (缺點) to the space-saving (節省空間的) aspect of an e-reader is that it requires you to find new things to put on your shelves.

二、引導式段落寫作(guided paragraph writing): 50%

請根據所給情境與資料完成約 150-180 字的段落寫作。50 分。(Please complete an about 150-180-word paragraph based on the given situation and information. 50 points.)

You are John (for a boy) or Alice (for a girl).

There are times when you did something wrong, and/or hurt another person's feelings. Now you want to write him/her a letter of apology to say that you are sorry and to ask for forgiveness. In your letter of apology, you need to: 1) show your apology or regret in a direct and sincere way; 2) explain your actions and the reasons behind them; 3) state the thing(s) you can do to make up to this person for his or her loss; 4) ask for forgiveness at the conclusion of the letter. You may follow the format below:

December __, 2016
Dear __,
<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/>
Yours truly,
<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/>

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December 3, 2016

Dear Bonny,

This is Alice writing an apology, but please do not throw away this letter yet, as I must belate my most sincere words of regret to a fellow, important friend of mine, you. Last weekend when we met at the park, I brought my special blanket that has been in my possession since I was born. I wished to share with my best friend my most treasured item. I am so sorry to have tried to snatch away the blanket once I saw you holding and stroking it with such a happy face because of my jealousy and selfishness. The rip that was made on the edge of the blanket when I suddenly pulled it out of your grasp was entirely my fault. I regret putting the blame on you immensely. I was being incompetent, childish and unconsiderate. In addition, after all this hurt I made you endure, you still came to my rescue after my encounter with some troublesome neighborhood boys tried to take away my blanket just for the fun and amusement of it. What is more, I even yelled at you after your friendly gesture to me. I was so filled with shame and anger at myself that I let out all of my emotions at you, which I cannot apologize enough about. I wish to invite you to a tea party, just like the one you did for me when we were in fifth grade. That time you did it for me when my loved pet bunny passed away, to cheer me up. I have inquired my grandmother what I can do to make it up to you. Although my cooking is horrible, and cannot be compared with yours, I sincerely wish you will choose to come to this tea party which I will be making the preparations for all by myself. I also have prepared another blanket, also made by my grandmother, for you. On it I have sewn all the wonderful memories we have made throughout the years, each which I would not give up for even my blanket. I hope my attempts and words will reach you, for I cannot ask for your forgiveness enough. You are the most influential, loving, caring person in my

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life. Please give me a chance to make it up to you, my best friend that I will never let go of anymore.

Yours truly,

Alice

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例題(Example):

_____. Paintings of Egyptians dating back over 4,000 years show both men and women painting their nails and wearing makeup. On the other side of the globe, the ancient Maya of Central America considered crossed eyes beautiful, and hung little balls between children's eyes to develop this look. In 18th-century France, wealthy noblemen wore large wigs of long, white hair to make themselves attractive. In cultures throughout the world, people have gone to extreme lengths to achieve the goal of beauty.

在答案紙上寫：The search for beauty spans centuries and continents.

- 10 51. Gifts vary from situations to situations and chocolate is one of the most frequently given gifts. 10
A popular Valentine's Day (情人節) gift is a box of chocolate candies with a card and flowers. Chocolate is sometimes given for Christmas and birthdays. Chocolate eggs are sometimes given at Easter (復活節) .
- 10 52. It is easy for you to discover that spiders are making their own webs all the time 10
That's because webs help spiders. Webs help spiders do three things. Webs help spiders hold eggs. Webs help spiders hide. And webs help spiders catch food.
- 10 53. Flea is an incredible creature and its ability of jumping can be far beyond your imagination 10
A flea can jump seven inches, or 150 times its own length, either vertically (垂直地) or horizontally (水平地) . An equivalent (等同的) jump for a person would be 555 feet, the height of the Washington Monument. Fleas can jump 30,000 times in a row without stopping, and they are able to accelerate (加速) through the air at an incredibly high rate—a rate which is over ten times what humans can withstand (承受) in an airplane.
- 10 54. Hot air balloon is becoming more popular, therefore it is time for us to be aware of how it functions 10
The basket is where passengers ride. The basket is usually made of wicker (柳條) . This ensures that it will be comfortable and add little extra weight. The burner (燃燒器) is positioned above the passenger's heads and produces a huge flame (火焰) to heat the air inside the envelope. The envelope is the colorful fabric balloon that holds the hot air. When the air inside the envelope is heated, the balloon rises.
- 10 55. Camping is a great activity, especially for Ryan and his family who enjoy camping a lot 10
They set up a tent and sleeping bags. Ryan's mom started to make a fire in the fire pit. Ryan and his sister, Lily, searched for sticks. The sticks had to be long with a point at the end. The family was going to roast marshmallows (棉花糖) !

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請根據所給情境與資料完成約 150-180 字的段落寫作。50 分。(Please complete a paragraph of about 150 to 180 words based on the given situation and information. 50 points.)

You are John (for a boy) or Alice (for a girl).

There are times when you receive help from another person and wish to say you are thankful. Now you want to write him/her a thank-you letter. In your letter, you need to: 1) express your thanks at the beginning of the letter; 2) describe what you want to thank him/her for; 3) express thanks again and include your best wishes at the end of the letter. You may follow the format below:

December ____, 2016
Dear _____,

Yours truly,

Dear Dad,

I am appreciate about what you have contributed to me. If there were not you, I would be helpless. If there were not you, my life would absolutely be a struggle.

Every morning, no matter how busy you are, you always insist to pick me up to school. I told you that I can ride my bike and not spend your time. You turned my suggestion down directly. I know what you are considering. You worried about my being late to school, worried about my safety, even worried about whether I might get too exhausted or not.

Thanks for your consideration, I lived a comfortable life these years. But dad, I am eighteen now. After I get my driver's licence, I wish I can go out myself. Furthermore, I am in

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hope of taking you out. Let me be your driver so I can pay you back at least in this case. You have already taken me to numerous places. It is time for me to serve you. If you still have yourself stubborn and disagree with my suggestion, I will be upset because I have no other ideas that I can pay you back. Besides, I will leave from you one day, I have to be independent. This is the best way which I can think of that can stop your worries. Therefore, follow my opinion this time and let me repay.

Time flies and I am already eighteen now. Dad, you have done a perfect job in taking good care of me. It is time for me to do something for you. Please take my suggestion, I won't make you feel regretful. I will watch my steps when I am behind the wheel. I will be punctual so you don't have to worry. I will live independently and safely.

Sincerely yours,

John

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