

系所別: 藝術學研究所甲、乙組 科目: _____

英文

寫出中文摘要

1. The crested serpent eagle (大冠鷲) makes a fine companion to a birdlover driving on mountain roads in rainy weather. Perched quietly on a tree branch, the bird may lower its head and look for traces of food below. Or, it may groom its feathers. Most of the time, it will do nothing at all, moving only slightly. This bird is a truly languid creature. Although the crested serpent eagle is a large bird of prey, it's not fierce or threatening like its cousins. Its personality is really quite timid. Even the smallest Japanese lesser sparrow hawk or Chinese sparrow hawk will bully it with impunity. (15%)
2. The last century of Han rule saw a dismal succession of ineffectual emperors and a national bureaucracy paralyzed by factionalism and resentful of what it perceived as the inappropriate rise in the power of palace eunuchs. This bleak period in China's political history, which has been well documented elsewhere, witnessed protracted struggles among the three mutually antagonistic political groups: the scholar-officials; the eunuchs; and the great clans, who pretended to support the imperial structure by providing the emperors with their consorts but whose real goal was complete autonomy. (15%)
3. The world would be a better place if politicians, civil servants and others concerned with public policy listened more to sociologists and less to economists. President George W. Bush has a Council of Economic Advisers. But why not an equally prominent council of social advisers? Why do governments so often treat economics as though it is the only social science of any significance? The problem with traditional economics is that it arose out of a need to understand behavior within a particular social context: the capitalist setting established by private property and contractual exchange. As such it is a pretty useful tool. But the gauges that economists use to measure the "efficiency" of outcomes within that framework are not particularly useful for deciding when and where the framework itself is appropriate. Yet economists are frequently called on to make such decisions. They assert, for instance, that market forces should be unleashed in healthcare, education and broadcasting, without stopping to ponder the special characteristics of these services. The advantage of sociology over economics is its greater breadth of vision. It is the science of all social forms or institutions, rather than merely those that support the market. As such it is in a position to decide the circumstances in which the market will promote the common good, and to work out the kind of restraints that should be imposed. This is a task that policymakers would be unwise to entrust to economists: it would be as foolish as asking bats whether echolocation is the best way of finding one's way in the dark. (20%)
4. E-mail's intoxicating qualities are now well known: It's convenient, efficient, simple, and informal, a way to stay connected to more people, a democratizing force in the workplace and less intrusive than the telephone. But as e-mail proliferates, its more pernicious effects are increasingly evident. Much as it facilitates the conduct of business, e-mail is threatening to overrun people's lives. It's no longer uncommon for executives—even those at middle levels—to receive 100 to 150 e-mails a day—a veritable torrent that floods "24-7," to use the macho shorthand of e-business. At a subtler level, e-mail celebrates transaction more than engagement, bite-size information rather than considered

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- reflection, connection without commitment. In the name of better and speedier communication, e-mail can be rude, clipped, superficial, and depressingly desiccated. A boon when it comes to making lunch dates and answering yes-or-no questions, it is also an insistent source of distraction from more demanding work. E-mail has proved fiercely addictive—cocaine for compulsive achievers. (15%)
5. When a television news show distorts the truth by altering or manufacturing facts (through re-creations), a television viewer is defenseless even if a re-creation is properly labeled. Viewers are still vulnerable to misinformation since they will not know (at least in the case of docudramas) what parts are fiction and what parts are not. But the problems of verisimilitude posed by re-creations pale to insignificance when compared to the problems viewers face when encountering a straight (no-monkey-business) show. All news shows, in a sense, are re-creations in that what we hear and see on them are attempts to represent actual events, and are not the events themselves. Perhaps, to avoid ambiguity, we might call all news shows “re-presentations” instead of “re-creations.” These representations come to us in two forms: language and pictures. The question then arises: what do viewers have to know about language and pictures in order to be properly armed to defend themselves against the seductions of eloquence (to use Bertrand Russell’s apt phrase)? (15%)
6. In the early twentieth century, the anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski made the argument that the most universal characteristic of family life in all cultures and all time periods was the “principle of legitimacy.” He had noted that the rules for sexual behavior varied widely across cultures but that control over reproduction was a common feature of every social order. Every society made the distinction between those children (legitimate) born to parents who had been culturally and legally sanctioned to reproduce from those children (illegitimate) whose parents were not accorded this sanction. The function of the principle of legitimacy, according to Malinowski, was to ensure that a child born into a society had both an identifiable mother and father. The father might, in fact, not be biologically related to the child, but his recognized sociological status as father was the affiliation that gave the child a set of kin and a social placement in that social order. (20%)

