

Block 1

2007-03-31

Svarshäfte nr.

Högskoleprovet

DELPROV 1

ELFf

Delprovet innehåller 20 uppgifter.

Anvisningar

Detta prov innehåller ett antal engelskspråkiga texter av olika längd. Till varje text hör en eller flera uppgifter, var och en med fyra svarsförslag. Endast ett är rätt, nämligen det som passar **bäst** i det givna sammanhanget.

Observera att du ska lösa uppgifterna med ledning av den information som ges i respektive text.

Alla svar ska föras in i svarshäftet. Det ska ske **inom** provtiden.

Markera tydligt.

Om du inte kan lösa en uppgift, försök då att bedöma vilket svarsförslag som verkar mest rimligt.

Du får inget poängavdrag om du svarar fel.

På nästa sida börjar provet som innehåller **20 uppgifter**.

Provtiden är 35 minuter.

BÖRJA INTE MED PROVET FÖRRÄN PROVLEDAREN SÄGER TILL.

Tillstånd har inhämtats att publicera det upphovsrättsligt skyddade material som ingår i detta prov.

“Hitch Hiker”

Douglas Adams, who died in 2001, always claimed that he was unprepared for the global success of his most famous project, “The Hitch Hiker’s Guide To The Galaxy”. “It was like being helicoptered to the top of Mount Everest,” he said.

Starting off as a radio series, his picaresque account of mild-mannered suburbanite Arthur Dent’s travels through space with his friend Ford Perfect—Virgil to Dent’s Dante, according to one reading—became an industry, spawning hit television and stage shows, as well as four books that sold more than 14m copies worldwide. “Hitch Hiker” was a repository of all knowledge about life, the universe and everything. The phrase “hitchhiker’s guide to ...” entered the language.

“Hitch Hiker’s” success became a burden for Adams, and he struggled against writer’s block for the rest of his career. But he relished the time and money it gave him to cultivate his hobbies and obsessions.

He had a huge collection of electric guitars, and would invite rock stars to play at parties in his house; he once performed at Earl’s Court in London with his mates, Pink Floyd. His interest in ecology led him to work to protect endangered species. His love of technology saw him founding a dot.com company that took the idea of the “Guide” full circle by launching a service offering real information on life, the universe and everything—via your mobile phone.

Adams was born in Cambridge; he joked that he was “DNA”—his middle name was Noel—in the city nine months before Francis Crick and James Watson discovered its double-helix structure. He was a “twitchy and somewhat strange child”, and his teachers initially thought him educationally subnormal. By the time he went to preparatory school in Essex, however, he had been identified as extremely bright.

Adams cited the Beatles and Monty Python as key cultural influences, describing as “epiphanous” the moment when he discovered that being funny could be a way in which intelligent people expressed themselves. He thus went to read English at St John’s College, Cambridge, with the intention of being a writer-performer like the Pythons. “I wanted to be John Cleese,” he said. “It took me some time to realise that the job was taken.”

After that Adams concentrated on writing, and his career began with Python member Graham Chapman, working on a television series, although it never got beyond the pilot. Adams split with Chapman and took a series of bizarre jobs—such as a chicken-shed cleaner and bodyguard to the ruling family of Qatar—to make ends meet.

Then one Christmas he went to visit his mother and stayed for a year in a state of depression. Despite his subsequent success, this lack of confidence continued. “I just don’t believe I can do it,” he said. “I briefly did therapy, but realised it is like a farmer complaining about the weather.”

Even when “Hitch Hiker” was aired, there was little indication that it would prove a life-changing event, and Adams took a job as a BBC producer to ensure he had a wage. Six months later he resigned to write the second radio series, the novel, the television series, and some episodes of Dr Who. It was a workload all the more remarkable for someone with a legendary reputation for not writing.

His editor, Sue Freestone, has said how touched she was by the profound way Adams’s work connected with people. For example, to be safe in “Hitch Hiker”, all one had to do was carry a towel. Freestone heard of a woman dying in a hospice, who felt that she too would be fine if she had her towel with her. It embarrassed Adams, but for the woman it was a symbol of safety when embarking on an unknown journey.

NICHOLAS WROE, GUARDIAN WEEKLY

Questions

1. How did Douglas Adams feel about “The Hitch Hiker’s Guide To The Galaxy”, according to the first two paragraphs?

- A Once it appeared on the radio, he had no doubts about its overall appeal
- B He remained sceptical about its long-term media potential
- C Despite its success, the commercial side of the project used to worry him
- D He was quite surprised at the enormous impact it made

2. What is said about the basic way “Hitch Hiker” affected Adams?

- A The fame it brought him strengthened his confidence as a writer
- B Its effects on his personal life were both positive and negative
- C It gave him an exaggerated sense of his own importance
- D The project enabled him to expand his previous business interests

3. What are we told about Adams’s childhood?

- A It took some time before his intellectual capacity was recognised
- B His obsession with rock music tended to affect his school performance
- C It was immediately apparent that he was an exceptionally gifted child
- D His school experiences gave him little academic encouragement

4. What is implied about Adams’s early career?

- A Inspiration from the Pythons led to his first success as a TV comedian
- B His studies at Cambridge finally got him a job as a script writer
- C The insight that his most useful talent lay in writing came to him gradually
- D He co-authored a popular TV series with a member of Monty Python

5. How, according to the text, can “Hitch Hiker” best be characterised?

- A As brilliant entertainment but involving too much of an ego trip
- B As a cleverly designed media industry without deeper human interest
- C As first-class comedy with overly obvious educational aspirations
- D As an eccentric multimedia performance relevant to ordinary people’s lives

Style and Appearance

A review of *The Substance of Style* by Virginia Postrel

According to Virginia Postrel, our new era of “look and feel” is an inevitable sequel to last century’s hyperpracticality. A confluence of economic and cultural factors— from the profligate spending of baby boomers to the shrinking of technology to the mainstreaming of gay culture—has conspired to make valuing appearances both affordable and necessary. Yet the underlying factor, Postrel argues, is biological. Our desire for aesthetic pleasure, Postrel writes, is rooted in “fundamental, biologically based human wants.”

Postrel’s book is not the first one to argue that the academic left’s denunciation of consumer culture as market driven has no basis in human behavior. But it’s the first to use our recent outbreak of aesthetic consciousness as direct evidence. Unfortunately, Postrel is not a subtle arguer. Her sweeping celebration of our increasingly appearance-obsessed world refuses to distinguish the good from the bad and the ugly.

Postrel’s main argument is that surfaces are neither frivolous nor inherently dangerous but rather reactions “as valid a part of our nature as the capacity to speak or reason.” Moreover, aesthetics has enormous positive effects, from helping us reinvent ourselves to helping us relax. Given the battering that beauty has received in recent years, a defense of this sort is more than a bit refreshing. But Postrel goes on to argue that the corporate world never uses surfaces to manipulate or deceive (“exposure, not manipulation, creates demand”) and that people no longer do anything just to gain status or heed trends.

If only. Postrel seems to think that conceding a market role in consumer behavior would undermine her biological argument. It wouldn’t. Madison Avenue best manipulates what’s deeply ingrained. Take the recent explosion in anti-aging potions and procedures. Biology—the male desire for fertile-looking females—is certainly one explanation. So is advancing technology. But so is an industry that has well learned how to exploit biology and feed on

insecurities. Postrel will have none of this pesky cynicism. She sees only a world getting more and more attractive.

In the end, Postrel undermines her main argument when she shears aesthetics of objective value. If you like something, she contends, then it has aesthetic value: notions like “good design” are elitist and *so* last century. Yet if elements of aesthetic attraction are rooted in human biology, how can judgment be entirely subjective? If “psychologists have found patterns of symmetry and proportion, consistency and surprise, that cross cultures and ages,” why wouldn’t those patterns translate into basic aesthetic principles? Postrel seems to think that accepting even a few universal principles would not only bring back a single standard of beauty (it wouldn’t), but also preclude individual choice, a strange idea to come from a former editor of *Reason*, a libertarian magazine.

In her final chapter, Postrel hits the thoughtful tone that is sorely missing from the rest of the book. “The more our bodies become subject to design—to willful aesthetic control rather than random chance—the more responsibility we face not only for who we are and how we act but for how we appear.” That prospect can be scary. “What if standards keep rising? Are we doomed to spend all our time and energy in an impossible quest for beauty?” She thinks not—because most of us won’t make that cost/benefit calculation.

Achieving a healthy balance between substance and style, as Postrel recommends, requires more reflective guidance than this book provides. But it does go a long way toward moving beauty out of the welter of political theory and into the realm of cultural reality. While fashions (political and otherwise) may change, the essential elements of beauty, for better or worse, aren’t going anywhere.

KAREN LEHRMAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

Questions

6. What is implied in the first two paragraphs?

- A It is hardly true that people today are more aware of looks than before
- B Human biology seems to have little to do with aesthetic enjoyment
- C Interest in outward beauty can be seen as a typical feature of the present age
- D The aesthetic aspects of life were equally important in the 20th century

7. How does Postrel view the main trend discussed in her book?

- A She is critical of its more vulgar expressions
- B She gives her whole-hearted support to it
- C She fails to see it as part of human nature
- D She is careful to stress its commercial origins

8. Which of the following statements reflects the reviewer's attitude to Postrel's ideas?

- A Postrel's reasoning is too one-sided to be acceptable
- B Postrel convincingly shows the cynicism of the beauty industry
- C Postrel's biological argument is disproved by human experience
- D Postrel tends to exaggerate the influence of market forces

9. Why, basically, does the reviewer object to Postrel's rejection of universal aesthetic principles?

- A If there are no universal principles at work, the existence of culturally shared aesthetic values is easy to explain
- B If aesthetic judgments are exclusively individual, then they can be explained only in biological terms
- C If universal aesthetic principles are found to exist, this does not mean that they are biologically based
- D If aesthetic values are grounded in biology, then aesthetic judgments are likely to be at least partly universal

10. How does Postrel feel about the possibility of ever-increasing "willful aesthetic control"?

- A She has little doubt that it would be a great benefit for the majority of people
- B She is pessimistic about ordinary people's ability to improve their appearance
- C She sees the problem but thinks people in general will not be affected by it
- D She does not agree that it might put more pressure on people to look good

11. What is the reviewer's general impression of Postrel's book?

- A Despite serious shortcomings, some of its ideas are a step in the right direction
- B Its superficial discussion is in agreement with its focus on appearance
- C Due to its dogmatic attitude, it is unlikely to attract much attention
- D Its positive view of everyday beauty makes it enjoyable reading

AND HERE ARE SOME SHORTER TEXTS:

In the Caribbean

Jamaica markets itself as a free-and-easy place, but when it comes to sexual mores it can be startlingly prudish. The same is true of most other Caribbean countries, and it shows up particularly in their laws relating to homosexuals. Most English-speaking islands threaten their gay male citizens with imprisonment. The laws are rarely enforced, but they matter. Police may ignore crimes if the victim is gay, and therefore a “criminal” too.

Homeopathy

“Critics of homeopathy say that because its mechanism of action can’t be explained, it can’t possibly work,” says Michael Carlston, a physician who has combined mainstream medicine and homeopathy for 30 years. “But that’s hypocritical. Aspirin was used for 90 years before its efficacy was explained—and no doctors shunned it.”

Middlebrow Novels

It isn’t breaking the Official Secrets Act to say that the word “middlebrow” has been flung at Margaret Drabble’s writing in the past, and very sticky and corrosive it has been. So it is interesting to see that whereas the middlebrow novel of a few years ago might have been full of “psychology”, with family traumas, pop-psychoanalysis, and all kinds of post-Freudian how’s-yer-father, today’s middlebrow novel has evolved to embrace popular Darwinism and genetics—from psychobabble to genobabble.

Question

12. What is said here?

- A The Caribbean laws against homosexuality are applied consistently
- B Few Caribbean people are prejudiced against gays anymore
- C Homosexuals are officially outlawed in many Caribbean islands
- D Being gay has long been considered a private matter in the Caribbean

Question

13. What is implied by Michael Carlston?

- A In the early days aspirin also seemed ineffective to the medical profession
- B Homeopathy tends to be judged by stricter standards than conventional medical treatments
- C Mainstream medicine and homeopathy function basically the same way
- D The case of aspirin indicates that homeopathy is becoming increasingly acceptable to doctors

Question

14. What can the overall tone of this text best be characterized as?

- A Emotional
- B Informative
- C Sarcastic
- D Sympathetic

Weather

At the start of the 21st century, all that remains of earlier weather-modification visions are a few scattered cloud-seeding programs, whose modest successes, while real, have proved less than earth-shaking. In fact, yesterday's sunny hopes that we could somehow change the weather for the better have given way to the gloomy knowledge that we are only making things worse. It is now clear that what the world's cleverest scientists could not achieve by design, ordinary people are on the verge of accomplishing by accident. Human beings not only have the ability to alter weather patterns on local, regional and global scales, but they are already doing it—in ways that are potentially catastrophic.

International Children

Today some 350,000 children attend international schools across the globe. Whether their parents are missionaries or managing directors, almost all expat kids have a moment when they realize that their adopted home means at least as much to them as their country of origin. There can be a deep fissure between the country on someone's passport and the place he or she considers home.

Question

15. What can be concluded here?

- A No progress whatsoever has been made in weather modification
- B The best ideas about improving the weather have been developed by non-specialists
- C Modern life styles are having serious effects on weather conditions
- D There is still ground for optimism about efficient weather-modification programs

Question

16. What is implied in this text?

- A Children growing up in a foreign country get too little support from their parents
- B Going to school abroad is psychologically stressful for insecure children
- C International adoptions may mean a split identity for some children
- D Children living abroad may feel uneasy about returning to their native country

In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Look at the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet.

WHO's to Blame

Children have been dying and resources wasted because for decades the World Health Organization (WHO) has accepted information about vaccination coverage that's often been unreliable and sometimes wildly wrong.

Occasionally vaccinations are recorded more than once, says Anthony Burton of the vaccines division of the WHO in Geneva. "If your 17_____ are over-reported, you may not be paying attention to a problem area and kids who normally would have got vaccinated will get a disease and die," Burton says.

Burton and his colleagues at WHO and UNICEF analysed vaccination data for the past 20 years. "We discovered that 25 per cent of data were simply missing and 19 per cent were 'outliers'," Burton says. Outliers have "something funny about them", 18_____ unusual jumps or inconsistencies.

For example, they found that 106 per cent of children in Bangladesh were given the third dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (DTP₃) in one year. In Sierra Leone, take-up supposedly jumped from 28 per cent to 68 per cent between 1997 and 1998, despite a civil war. And the problem isn't 19_____ developing countries. Curiously, the review found that there was no data from Norway.

What's more, independent experts say this has been going on since the 1970s. "Everybody knows about it," says Pierre Claquin, an independent epidemiologist working in Bangladesh. "Too often in the past, health workers were threatened by punishment if they didn't meet 20_____."

The WHO and UNICEF are now preparing revised estimates after re-analysing and comparing the data with independent surveys. "As of now, we are reserving the right to disagree with the country submitting the data," Burton says.

SANJAY KUMAR, NEW SCIENTIST

Alternatives

17.

- A resources
- B staff
- C data
- D objectives

18.

- A in spite of
- B such as
- C in contrast to
- D hidden by

19.

- A absent from
- B focused on
- C irrelevant for
- D limited to

20.

- A targets
- B results
- C errors
- D reports