I. Reading Comprehension (30%)

Directions: Choose the best answer to answer each question.

Passage One

While online gaming has become a favorite pastime of millions of people, researchers are examining how gaming can improve work performance. Studies in the medical field show that surgeons who play video games using a joystick, improve their hand-eye coordination, resulting in 37 percent fewer errors during real-life surgery. Other interactive software allows doctors to perform simulated surgery on avatars, providing practice time before operating on actual patients.

In the workplace, companies have developed performance games that run behind-the-scenes on employee’s computers. The games award points for tasks such as being on time for work, attending meetings, and finishing segments of projects. This reward-based type of gaming triggers the release of dopamine in the brain, raising performance levels and production. Other companies have discovered that linking video games with audio instructions raises retention levels of employees. Skills are then acquired more quickly.

IBM has placed Innov8, a business game, at over 1,000 universities. Students participate in real-time business models that provide immediate feedback on the decisions they make. This interactive education tool enhances book learning and lectures by allowing students to apply learned material. Decision-making skills are improved, as students learn by trial and error, and strengthen analytical skills.

1. According to the reading, how do companies improve the memory of their staff?
   (A) Having them repeat tasks again and again.
   (B) Providing plenty of material to study from.
   (C) Combining listening and visual instruction.
   (D) Providing cash rewards for high performers.
2. What benefit does the medical community realize from video games?
   (A) Lower cost of care per patient.
   (B) Less mistakes made in surgery.
   (C) Lower morale of surgical teams.
   (D) Less turnover of employees.

3. How does business gaming differ from traditional college education?
   (A) Results of choices are immediately shown.
   (B) Professors no longer have to lecture.
   (C) Students receive immediate financial reward.
   (D) Books can now be viewed online.

4. According to the passage, how does gaming affect employee performance?
   (A) Gaming causes a chemical reaction.
   (B) Employees have more fun playing games.
   (C) Winners keep their jobs, losers are fired.
   (D) Online games make staff work longer hours.

5. How does student comprehension increase by playing Innov8?
   (A) Avatars simulate impossible situations.
   (B) Fewer errors are made in real meetings.
   (C) Hand-eye coordination speeds up learning.
   (D) Immediate feedback when errors occur.

Passage Two

Columbia has fought a decades-long war with the drug cartels that grow and export cocaine. While there has been sporadic violence in the major cities, the jungles and farmlands have been a constant battleground. The FARC rebels have waged a civil war against the Columbian government, and one method they have employed is planting hundreds of thousands of explosive mines in remote areas of Columbia. The rebels bury these deadly devices in order to defend their camps from army soldiers and to protect their farms from peasants hired to eradicate the illegal crops.

Humans were the first eradicators, but the death and injury count was horrific. Next, the army trained dogs to sniff out mines, and they did a good job, but their weight and aggressiveness would often set off the mines, killing the dogs. Now, Columbian scientists have taught rats to find mines buried as deep as 3 feet. The rats burrow down all the way to the mine, without detonating it. And their ability to smell explosives is keener than dogs—even when the mines have been covered in materials designed to mask the smell of the explosives. And, like dogs, the rats obey commands like “search,” “stop” and “let’s go.”
6. Who has been growing the cocaine crops?
   (A) Farmers and peasants.
   (B) The Columbian Army.
   (C) FARC rebels.
   (D) Government scientists.

7. What is one reason that illegal drug growers use mines?
   (A) To keep their bases safe.
   (B) To protect the local peasants.
   (C) To kill as many rodents as possible.
   (D) To increase the price of cocaine.

8. Based on the passage, what advantage do rats have over dogs?
   (A) They are less expensive to train.
   (B) More of them are available.
   (C) They move quicker than dogs.
   (D) Their sense of smell is superior.

9. In the beginning of the conflict, how were mines located and defused?
   (A) Army soldiers would shoot them.
   (B) Humans had to find and disable them.
   (C) FARC rebels would show where they were.
   (D) Dogs would sniff them out and detonate them.

10. Based on the passage, what is a similarity between rats and dogs?
    (A) Their hair helps camouflage them.
    (B) They weigh about the same amount.
    (C) They’re able to understand verbal cues.
    (D) They’ve been genetically improved in the lab.

II. Translation: (30 %)

Directions: Please translate the Chinese passages into English ones.

1. 澳洲一家拥有众多同志客源的旅館，拒絕可能打擾同志客人之異性戀者進入。一般來說，
   公司行号不能基于种族、年龄或性别因素拒人于门外，但这家旅館的情况例外。 (15%)
2. 咱話說「行行有神、行行有宗」，神與宗，指的是各行各業守護神或祖師爺，台灣民間
   信仰有著「有燒香，有保庇」的心理作用，想要在競爭激烈的各行各業佔有一席之地，
   借助宗教與信仰已成為一種習俗慣例。 (15 %)
There is a saying in English: “You are what you eat.” Food is the center of everyone’s life.

1. What do you think this saying means?
2. Take a moment to analyze our eating habits. Do you consider yourself to be a healthy balanced eater? Why or why not?
3. It is said that food is more than fuel. In every society, for example, a home-cooked meal is the center of family life. What does food suggest?

(B) Recently the toxic starch news has forced people in Taiwan to get more concerned about food safety than ever before. Taiwan is currently debating how administrative departments can reduce the number of scandals over the use of industrial chemicals as food additives. As a consumer, how do you face this recent food crisis? What do you think the government can do to help in the near future? Please answer the questions in a short passage of 150 words.