

# Philosophy and Thoughts

## Vocabulary and collocation

- 1 Replace the underlined parts with the correct form of the expressions in the box. You may need to make other changes.

bring about	man of letters	in one's company (in company with)
tied in knots	cross-fertilize	get the better of
counter-example	in contrast	

- John was upset worrying about his wife during her operation.
- With the new visitor housing facility, the institute can get the world's leading scientists together and these people can influence each other with ideas.
- Literature is a lonely art, but writers are accompanied by the heroes on their bookshelves.
- The characters on television are not real. They are thought up in an office building and given life on a piece of paper. By comparison, you are surrounded every day by real people living real lives.
- Throughout his life, Lowell was a professional writer and reviewer, who stood at the center of the literary world.
- Socrates says that invisible things cannot be destroyed. But the harmony offers an exception, because harmony is invisible but can be destroyed.
- A collective voice for change gave rise to one of the most influential laws of the land — Clean Air Act.
- With all that had happened that day, he allowed his emotions to defeat himself.

- 2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in each group.

- 1 **immoral**      **immortal**

- We want there to be souls so that we can be \_\_\_\_\_.
- The implications of some of the ideas in this article may seem \_\_\_\_\_, contrary to our ideals, or offensive.

2 **disconcerting**      **discerning**

- A Patients feel supported and protected in the controlled setting of the hospital, and leaving it can be \_\_\_\_\_.
- B A free-thinker who keeps his mind truly free and open in a wise and \_\_\_\_\_ manner is surely on the path to enlightenment.

3 **undermine**      **underline**

- A In fact, the huge inheritance does not do him any good, but tends to \_\_\_\_\_ his vigor and passion for life.
- B Renaissance thinkers \_\_\_\_\_ the value of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally preferred critical thinking and evidence over established doctrine or faith.

4 **descendant**      **descent**

- A When the birds arrive atop a rock, and any threats have passed, they jump to the ground using their wings to slow the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B Confucianism has traditionally given women a lower status than men in its strict hierarchy, so female \_\_\_\_\_ were not counted in Confucian family tree in the past.

5 **virtual**      **visual**

- A This year's visitors to the exhibition may struggle to find much that fits the conventional definition of \_\_\_\_\_ art.
- B A \_\_\_\_\_ assistant that can communicate in a human-like way has been developed at Cardiff University.

6 **cooperate**      **corporate**

- A The two countries agreed to \_\_\_\_\_ more closely as they investigate cybercrimes and to create a high-level working group to fight these attacks.
- B The selection of the new CEO probably does not indicate a dramatic shift in \_\_\_\_\_ strategy.

**3 Complete the following sentences with suitable expressions from the collocation box below. Change the form when necessary. Sometimes more than one collocation is possible.**

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**Verbs or expressions which often go before:**

war                      win lose fight launch  
rule                     lay down write comply with break

**Adjectives which often go before:**

question              sharp straight-forward awkward tough  
circumstance        humble tough normal ideal  
reform                 sweeping social political radical significant

**Nouns which often go after:**

formulate            creed policy plan strategy theory  
fulfill                ambition mission obligation promise expectation  
undergo              hardship poverty surgery test

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- 1 Aristotle \_\_\_\_\_ his logical \_\_\_\_\_ which revolves around one notion: deduction.
- 2 His success shows that there are so many other kids out there struggling with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 The history states that the French emperor Napoleon studied Sunzi's military writings and used it effectively in \_\_\_\_\_ against the rest of Europe.
- 4 The biggest challenge to protecting the world's oceans, he said, is not \_\_\_\_\_ or declaring new areas off limits to commercial activity, but enforcement.
- 5 I began to ask myself some \_\_\_\_\_ that I should have answered long before I'd written the opening word of the fiction.
- 6 It is said that Confucius \_\_\_\_\_ when he was young because his father died when he was only three years old.
- 7 Sima Qian eventually \_\_\_\_\_ of completing *The Grand Scribe's Records*, his monumental work, which defined the quality and style of historical writings from then onwards.
- 8 The final vote on the bill paving the way for \_\_\_\_\_ of local councils has been postponed.

#### 4 Choose the best word to complete each sentence.

- 1 Two days before this uprising was to take place, the plot was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A retreated      B deleted      C relayed      D revealed
- 2 He didn't seem to have been \_\_\_\_\_ humiliating, but he should have paid attention to his manners.  
A extremely      B deliberately      C awkwardly      D genuinely
- 3 Al-Qaida chose to \_\_\_\_\_ murder these people, claimed credit for the attack, and even stated their determination to kill on a massive scale.  
A restlessly      B dramatically      C virtually      D ruthlessly
- 4 The approach offers the potential to treat rare \_\_\_\_\_ diseases passed down among family members and open new doors in curing cancer.  
A hereditary      B intrigued      C tragic      D intolerable
- 5 There is no doubt that \_\_\_\_\_ may push an individual into the performance of an action which his reason condemns.  
A inspiration      B disposition      C impulsion      D initiation
- 6 Local rail services \_\_\_\_\_ on Sunday after being suspended overnight.  
A restrained      B refreshed      C resumed      D repelled
- 7 When he celebrated his 80th birthday, stories appeared about the \_\_\_\_\_ party and the fine food and wine that were served.  
A extravagant      B extensive      C excessive      D eccentric
- 8 Yale said in a statement that it had never rescinded (撤销) an honorary degree, without \_\_\_\_\_ on its reason.  
A illustrating      B elaborating      C explaining      D accounting



## 5 Complete the passage with the correct form of the words in the box.

accurate	far-reaching	claim	emphasize	utmost
subsequent	regardless	enlightening	ideally	restore

Confucius lived and worked during what is known as the Chinese Spring and Autumn Period. He developed a social and political philosophy that is often considered to be the foundation of 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese thought.

Confucius gathered a group of disciples. There are 2) \_\_\_\_\_ that he had as many as 3,000, though more 3) \_\_\_\_\_ accounts put that number at 72. 4) \_\_\_\_\_ of their classes, Confucius was open to teaching them all. His method was never to teach in a preacher-like manner, but rather in a motivational one. His teachings, as did his own learning, 5) \_\_\_\_\_ morality, government, speech and language, and the arts. Of the various subjects, it was morality that was considered of 6) \_\_\_\_\_ importance above all else. A moral education, 7) \_\_\_\_\_, provides one with the building blocks for self-cultivation, harmony and ethical action, which can maintain and 8) \_\_\_\_\_ value and meaning for society.

While Confucius claimed to be a mere transmitter, scholars agree that he in fact did much more than transmitting. His teachings were evolutionary, radical and 9) \_\_\_\_\_. His legacy has had long lasting and 10) \_\_\_\_\_ impact on both the oriental and Western traditions. He was under-recognized in his time yet his legend, and more importantly his teachings, lived on.

## Structure and grammar

### 1 Study the expressions and complete the tasks.

**Task 1** The expressions in the box are used to introduce examples. Complete the following sentences with the proper expressions.

for example	take ... as an example	including	such as
especially	a good case in point	to give an example	an example of

- 1 At the political level, Laozi condemns aggressive measures \_\_\_\_\_ war, cruel punishment, and heavy taxation.
- 2 They did not neglect the Confucian classics but drew inspiration from other schools of thought, \_\_\_\_\_ from the *Yi Jing*, the *Laozi*, and the *Zhuangzi*.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ the direct correlation between the physical and the moral is evidenced in the saying, "There cannot be two kings for the people just as there cannot be two suns in the heavens."

- 4 Confucius travelled in many states, \_\_\_\_\_, Wei, Song, Chen, Cai, and Chu, purportedly (据称) looking for a ruler who might employ him.
- 5 Confucius and his followers also inspired considerable criticism from other thinkers. The anecdote quoted earlier from the *Mozi* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Mencius also attacked a variety of opponents of Confucius, \_\_\_\_\_ the Mohists, the followers of Yang Zhu, and military strategists.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_, Zhu Xi, the neo-Confucian (新儒家) scholar in the Song Dynasty wrote that *The Analects of Confucius* 《论语》 is the records by Confucius' first- and second-generation disciples.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ the Chinese concept of harmony (和), \_\_\_\_\_. There is not only a story telling the truth of "harmony being the most precious," but also the Chinese history of "all neighboring countries coexist peacefully."

**Task 2** Read the following sentences which contain expressions used to introduce examples. If the sentence is correct, put a check (✓) in the space provided. If the sentence is incorrect, fix it.

### Tips

*For example, for instance, e.g., and such as* have essentially the same meaning, but they are not used in the same way. Each phrase can be used within a sentence when it is followed by a list of items as examples. The abbreviation *e.g.* is used mostly in technical journals. It cites items as examples of something directly mentioned before. There are commas both before and after *for example, for instance* or *e.g.*, while there is only one comma before *such as*. For example,

- Everything in the world of physical manifestation, the so-called outer world, can be known only because it has a corresponding opposite, *for example / for instance / e.g.*, birth and death.
- Everything in the world of physical manifestation, the so-called outer world, can be known only because it has a corresponding opposite, *such as* birth and death.

The phrase *such as* can be used in the middle of a sentence without any commas if the words after it are necessary and essential to the meaning of the sentence. For example,

- Memorable mottoes from the *Laozi* such as "governing a large country is like cooking a small fish" have found their way into Western political rhetoric.

Usually only *for example* and *for instance* can begin a new sentence when the phrase is followed by a complete idea or sentence (not a list of items). For example,

- *For example / For instance*, polemics (辩论学) among different schools of thought were far more pronounced during the Warring States Period than in the earlier Spring and Autumn Period.

- 9 Mohist political theory probably strongly influenced later Warring States political thinkers, such as, the Confucian Xunzi and his two most famous students.
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10 In order to be a kind father or filial son, for example, we must give our children or parents preferential treatment over others.

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11 The Mohists regard models as similar to tools used to guide and check the performance of skilled tasks. For instance, sawing a square corner or drawing a straight line.

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12 It's extremely expensive to live in New York. For example, I need to pay over 1,000 dollars for a one-bedroom apartment.

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13 Foods, such as, pizza and hamburgers are not really junk food; they contain abundant protein and vitamins.

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14 There are many classical schools of thought in ancient China e.g. Confucianism represented by Confucius and Mencius, Daoism by Laozi and Zhuangzi, Mohism by Mozi, Legalism by Han Feizi, and numerous others.

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## 2 Read the examples and complete the tasks.

**Task 1** Read the examples and rewrite the sentences using the parenthesis.

### Examples:

(a1) He saw himself as one of those horseflies that have a nasty bite. It is a gadfly.

(b1) He declared life is only worth living if you think about what you are doing.

### You can rewrite them like these:

(a2) He saw himself as one of those horseflies that have a nasty bite — a gadfly.

(b2) Life, he declared, is only worth living if you think about what you are doing.

### Tips

Both *a gadfly* in (a2) and *he declared* in (b2) are parentheses. A parenthesis is additional information added into a sentence as an explanation or an afterthought. A parenthesis can be separated from the rest of the sentence by commas, dashes, or brackets. Another example,

- One of the central elements of Mohist thought is reverence for and obedience to Heaven (Tian, *literally the sky*) and the ghosts worshiped in the traditional folk religion.

When a parenthesis is completely removed, the sentence is still grammatically correct.

**Note:** It is your choice which style of parentheses you use. It is normal to use commas, but they can be easily confused with other commas in the sentence. Brackets will make your parenthesis easily identifiable, but brackets can look a little informal. To make your parenthesis really stand out, you can use dashes, but they can look a little stark (刻板的).

1 Founded by Mo Di, Mohism is a Chinese philosophy that evolved at the same time as Confucianism in the Warring States Period. Mo Di is usually known as Mozi.

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2 The *Huainanzi* claims that Mozi was an apostate (叛教者) *Ru*, but the *Mozi* itself provides no particular reason for this point. The *Huainanzi* is a Han Dynasty text and *Ru* refers to Confucian.

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3 *Ren* is a Chinese word for being humane. Fatalism is not *ren*, because by teaching that our lot (命运) in life is predestined and human effort is useless it interferes with the pursuit of economic wealth, a large population, and social order. Economic wealth, a large population, and social order are three primary goods that the humane person desires for society.

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4 Their ethical and political doctrines are the aspects of their philosophy they themselves see as central. Aside from these doctrines, the Mohists' explicit theories and implicit assumptions about language, knowledge, reasoning, and moral psychology are of great philosophical interest.

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5 The concept that stands at the center of the classical discourse is *Dao*. *Dao* is a notion that refers to norms, patterns, and methods of acting, specifically of ordering the state and conducting one's personal life.

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6 Laozi asserted that *Dao* is the source of heaven and earth and everything.

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**Task 2** Read the examples and rewrite the sentences using the verbless clause.

**Examples:**

(a1) Because he was snub-nosed, podgy, shabby, and a bit strange, Socrates did not fit in.

(b1) Although he was physically ugly and often unwashed, he had great charisma and a brilliant mind.

**You can rewrite them like these:**

(a2) *Snub-nosed, podgy, shabby, and a bit strange*, Socrates did not fit in.

(b2) *Although physically ugly and often unwashed*, he had great charisma and a brilliant mind.

**Tips**

In sentences (a2) and (b2), *Snub-nosed, podgy, shabby, and a bit strange* and *Although physically ugly and often unwashed* are verbless clauses. A verbless clause does not have an overt subject and predicator. Usually the missing verb is *be* and the subject is identical with the subject of the main clause. Verbless clauses can be introduced by a subordinator, most commonly *when / until* for adverbial clauses of time, *if / unless* for conditionals and *though / however* for clauses of concession. Another example,

- *When young*, I was without rank and in humble circumstances.

A verbless clause can take the initial or end position, without changing the meaning of the sentence. For example,

- A military commander would begin a conversation *totally confident that he knew what "courage" meant*.

7 According to Zhuangzi, all things, whether they are large or small, beautiful or ugly, are equally important and ever in a constant flux.

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8 Although he was a legendary figure, Laozi is usually dated to around the sixth century BC and reckoned a contemporary of Confucius.

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9 Since it was reflective of the virtues of a gentleman, the jade were made into accessories for wearing as well as utensils for daily use.

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10 When you are in Rome, you do as the Romans do.

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11 He is too nervous to move; he stood at the doorway, shaking slightly.

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**3 Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English. The missing part in each sentence involves a grammatical structure you have learned in the *Workbook for iEnglish 1*.**

- 1 Socrates \_\_\_\_\_ (通过使用一个巧妙的反例) has shown that Euthydemus' general comment \_\_\_\_\_ (欺骗是不道德的) doesn't apply in every situation.
- 2 Socrates loved to reveal the limits of \_\_\_\_\_ (人们真正了解的内容), and to question the assumptions on which they built their lives.
- 3 A conversation that ended in \_\_\_\_\_ (每个人都意识到他们知之甚少) was for him a success.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (苏格拉底之所以那么睿智) was that he kept asking questions and he was always willing to debate his ideas.
- 5 A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (未经检验的) existence is all right for cattle, but not for human beings.
- 6 He talked to others about \_\_\_\_\_ (使这个世界更适合居住的方式).
- 7 There was very little law and order \_\_\_\_\_ (除了每个人能够实施的) by his own right arm, his armed followers, or his powers of intrigue.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (无论谁在战争中获胜), they lost.
- 9 Both in France and in England the fact \_\_\_\_\_ (在孔子学说的冲击下, 中国早已几乎废除了贵族世袭制度), was used as a weapon in the attack on hereditary privilege.

## Reading

**1 Read the text "The man who asked questions" and decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write T for true and F for false in the space provided.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 From Paragraph 1 we can learn that Socrates was the first one who made question-asking a mode of philosophy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 By asking him a series of questions, Socrates intended to show that Euthydemus was deceitful and thus immoral.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Socrates realized that the oracle was right in saying "no one is wiser than Socrates," because he knew something about everything while other people only knew what they did.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Socrates believed that an unexamined life is not worth living for human beings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 We can infer from the text that when Socrates said he knew nothing and wanted to listen to others, conversations often ended up with his getting the upper hand.

## 2 Read the text “The greatest sage in China” and choose the best answer to the questions.

- 1 According to Confucius himself, he was born with a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ family background.  
A noble                      B royal                      C humble                      D unknown
- 2 One great political contribution that Confucius made was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A restoring the hereditary aristocracy                      B destroying the hereditary aristocracy  
C formulating revolutionary political rules                      D helping to abolish ruthless political rules
- 3 How did the rulers of his time treat Confucius?  
A They treated him unjustly for the principles he held.  
B They gave some of his disciples high posts as a compromise.  
C They appointed him to a post with a title to show their respect.  
D All of them were willing to give him the real power to run the state.
- 4 What can be best said about the essence of Confucius’ way of ruling a state?  
A Having sympathy for the common people.  
B Setting up a centralized government.  
C Maintaining law and order of society.  
D Promoting the common welfare.
- 5 According to the last paragraph, what is true about Confucius’ influence outside China?  
A His ideas converted some European Christian missionaries to Confucianism.  
B Literary figures in Europe used his ideas to promote their arguments.  
C It was his philosophy that started the Enlightenment in European countries.  
D His philosophy made a direct contribution to the development of democracy in America.

## 3 Read the passage and choose the best answer to the questions.

Some recent events have prompted me to revisit this uncomfortable topic — why do we grieve when someone dies?

Most religions tell us that the departed, if they were good in life, end up in a better place. So grieving doesn’t make sense. If the departed were bad, we wouldn’t grieve any way.

Even if you are not religious, and do not believe in an eternal soul, death cannot be a bad thing for the dead, for they feel nothing, because they do not exist.

One reason for grieving may be that you will miss the departed, and that is painful. Let’s examine this possible reason with the help of a thought experiment. Let’s say you have a close friend who is going on a space mission to the nearest star. He will not return in the next hundred years, and there is no chance at all that you will be able to see him again. To all intents and purposes, your friend is as good as dead to you. Let’s say 30 seconds after lift-off, something goes terribly wrong and the spaceship explodes and your friend dies. To you, is it the same as the friend continuing his space mission? If your missing him was the only reason, it should be. I think it is pretty obvious that death is worse than a permanent farewell. Why? What is the extra badness that death adds to the equation?

That brings us to the next common reason for the badness of death. Your friend dying in a spaceship explosion is worse than him leaving forever because he will be missing out on all the great things he could have done if he were alive. If somebody dies at the age of 70, it is bad because he could have lived for another 20 years; he is missing out on 20 years of life. If he dies at the age of 50, it is worse because he is missing out on 40 years. Continuing that logic, not being born at all should be really really bad. But we don't feel any grief for the trillions of potential lives that never got started. I think there is a logical inconsistency in this "missing-out-on-life" reason for the badness of death. It cannot be the real reason.

Another possible reason is that we know that the departed may have gone through a lot of pain and fear. But there was something beyond that concern. Now I think I know what it is. When someone dies, a bit of you dies with him. If that person was a large part of your life, it is a large bit of you that dies, for all the memories you created in him, all the projections of your soul in his consciousness, are also gone with him. Your grief is not for the departed, but because what is departed is really a bit of yourself.

This is probably what Hemingway meant in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, in the epigraph (引言) of the book where he quoted John Donne: "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

- 1 What is said about our logically supposed response to someone's death?
  - A It should depend on our closeness with the dead.
  - B It should mainly involve heartbreaking sadness.
  - C It should relate little to the sorrow at the dead.
  - D It should evoke our thought about our own death.
- 2 The author employs the thought experiment to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A propose a new thesis statement
  - B invalidate prevailing thoughts
  - C introduce a research method
  - D justify traditional perspectives
- 3 The thought experiment in Paragraph 4 indicates that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A a near friend is far better than distant relatives
  - B friendship dies when communication diminishes
  - C an everlasting farewell cannot be compared with death at all
  - D grief over the dead does not merely derive from our missing them
- 4 What does the author think of the "missing-out-on-life" logic?
  - A Unreasonable.
  - B Unprejudiced.
  - C Unlawful.
  - D Unprecedented.
- 5 The epigraph of Hemingway's book is quoted to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A present an individual's helplessness when facing death
  - B emphasize the importance of living in a large community
  - C reveal the real reason why people grieve over the deceased
  - D demonstrate the connection between the alive and the dead

**4 Read the passage and judge whether the statements reflect the views of the author. Write YES if the statement reflects the author's view, NO if the statement contradicts the author's view, and NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage.**

Positive thinking or optimism is an art of looking at things with a bright prospective, discovering light in darkness, seeing beauty in ugliness. Everything that exists in nature has two sides, two opposite directions and those who always look at the one which supports life, nature and creativity are known as optimistic or positive thinkers.

Whenever someone finds themselves in a difficult situation, a positive thinker or optimist will start looking for solution, without worrying about the problem, its size and the consequence that can be faced if it is not solved. On the other hand a negative thinker or pessimist will look and think about the problem, will even try to find some guaranteed solution (which are hardly available) and will start worrying.

Our mind is always able to draw a positive or negative picture of everything that it comes across as both positive as well as negative thoughts coexist in our mind. The moment we gain confidence our thoughts and action show the sign of positivism and the moment we lose confidence or control or feel depressed, our mind gets filled with negative thoughts.

We can improve the way we visualize things and the way we think and tag things. This is not an automated process which can be initiated by watching some videos or listening to some audios or by simply reading an e-book or undergoing some course in personality development and positive thinking. I don't think that such activities will help everyone or even most of us who really need to change our perspective and thoughts. Such commercial products do help to learn and understand the philosophy behind our thoughts, how positive and negative thinking affect our lives, benefits of positive thoughts in our life, etc. They will also help those who have already completed their homework, i.e. they are already on the path and have already spent some time in intro-inspection and understanding their strengths and weaknesses and how they have affected their lives.

Improving thoughts and drawing a positive conclusion in every circumstance is only possible if we are willing to work on it, and are keen to improve our self for the welfare of our family, society and nature. Learning something from a selfish motive isn't positive thinking and isn't the right way of trying to develop positive thinking. It's just like trying to misuse our natural powers. Doing good things, thinking of the welfare of our family, neighbor, society, and nature are positive approaches. Look at the Sun which is the only source of power, light, life, and everything on this planet. It provides energy to every part of this planet without any prejudice. This is a natural approach and therefore positive approach and when we develop the intelligence to understand all these things, we automatically start developing positive thinking.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 A positive thinker will worry about the potential problem in a difficult situation before looking for solution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Our positivism or negativism largely depends on whether we have confidence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Personality development course can help us improve our vision and thoughts in an unconscious way.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Certain commercial products like videos and books may promote our understanding of the philosophy behind our thoughts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 It is the willingness to contribute to the well-being of others that can cultivate positive thinking.

## 5 Read the passage and then finish the tasks.

[A] The touchstone of the value of philosophy as a world-view and methodology is the degree to which it is interconnected with life. This interconnection may be both direct and indirect, through the whole system of culture, through science, art, morality, religion, law, and politics. As a special form of social consciousness, constantly interacting with all its other forms, philosophy is their general theoretical substantiation and interpretation.

[B] Can philosophy develop by itself, without the support of science? Can science “work” without philosophy? Some people think that the sciences can stand apart from philosophy, and that the scientist should actually avoid philosophizing, the latter often being understood as groundless and generally vague theorizing. If the term philosophy is given such a poor interpretation, then of course anyone would agree with the warning “Physics, beware of metaphysics!” But no such warning applies to philosophy in the higher sense of the term. The specific sciences cannot and should not break their connections with true philosophy.

[C] Science and philosophy have always learned from each other. Philosophy tirelessly draws from scientific discoveries fresh strength, material for broad generalizations, while to the sciences it imparts the world-view and methodological impulses of its universal principles. Many general guiding ideas that lie at the foundation of modern science were first enunciated by the perceptive force of philosophical thought. One example is the idea of the atomic structure of things voiced by Democritus. Certain conjectures about natural selection were made in ancient times by the philosopher Lucretius and later by the French thinker Diderot. Hypothetically he anticipated what became a scientific fact two centuries later. We may also recall the Cartesian reflex and the philosopher’s proposition on the conservation of motion in the universe. On the general philosophical plane Spinoza gave grounds for the universal principle of determinism. The idea of the existence of molecules as complex particles consisting of atoms was developed in the works of the French philosopher Pierre Gassendi and also Russia’s Mikhail Lomonosov. Philosophy nurtured the hypothesis of the cellular structure of animal and vegetable organisms and formulated the idea



of the development and universal connection of phenomena and the principle of the material unity of the world. Lenin formulated one of the fundamental ideas of contemporary natural science — the principle of the inexhaustibility of matter — upon which scientists rely as a firm methodological foundation.

- [D] Besides influencing the development of the specialized fields of knowledge, philosophy itself has been substantially enriched by progress in the concrete sciences. Every major scientific discovery is at the same time a step forward in the development of the philosophical world-view and methodology. Philosophical statements are based on sets of facts studied by the sciences and also on the system of propositions, principles, concepts, and laws discovered through the generalization of these facts. The achievements of the specialized sciences are summed up in philosophical statements. Euclidean geometry, the mechanics of Galileo and Newton, which have influenced men's minds for centuries, were great achievements of human reason which played a significant role in forming world-views and methodology. And what an intellectual revolution was produced by Copernicus' heliocentric system, which changed the whole conception of the structure of the universe, or by Darwin's theory of evolution, which had a profound impact on biological science in general and our whole conception of man's place in nature. Mendeleev's brilliant system of chemical elements deepened our understanding of the structure of matter. Einstein's theory of relativity changed our notion of the relationship between matter, motion, space, and time. Quantum mechanics revealed hitherto unknown world of micro particles of matter. The theory of higher nervous activity evolved by Sechenov and Pavlov deepened our understanding of the material foundations of mental activity, of consciousness. Cybernetics revealed new horizons for an understanding of the phenomena of information interactions, the principles of control in living systems, in technological devices and in society, and also the principles of feedback, the man-machine system, and so on. And what philosophically significant pictures have been presented to us by genetics, which deepened our understanding of the relationship between the biological and the social in man, a relationship that has revealed the subtle mechanisms of heredity!
- [E] If we trace the whole history of natural and social science, we cannot fail to notice that scientists in their specific researches, in constructing hypotheses and theories have constantly applied, sometimes unconsciously, world-views and methodological principles, categories and logical systems evolved by philosophers and absorbed by scientists in the process of their training and self-education. All scientists who think in terms of theory constantly speak of this with a deep feeling of gratitude both in their works and at regional and international conferences and congresses. So the connection between philosophy and science is mutual and characterized by their ever deepening interaction.
- [F] Some people think that science has reached such a level of theoretical thought that it no longer needs philosophy. But any scientist, particularly the theoretician, knows in

his heart that his creative activity is closely linked with philosophy and that without serious knowledge of philosophical culture the results of that activity cannot become theoretically effective. All the outstanding theoreticians have themselves been guided by philosophical thought and tried to inspire their pupils with its beneficent influence in order to make them specialists capable of comprehensively and critically analyzing all the principles and systems known to science, discovering their internal contradictions and overcoming them by means of new concepts. Real scientists, and by this we usually mean scientists with a powerful theoretical grasp, have never turned their backs on philosophy. Truly scientific thought is philosophical to the core, just as truly philosophical thought is profoundly scientific, rooted in the sum total of scientific achievements. Philosophical training gives the scientist a breadth and penetration, a wider scope in posing and resolving problems. Sometimes these qualities are brilliantly expressed, as in the work of Marx, particularly in his *Capital*, or in Einstein's wide-ranging natural scientific conceptions.

[G] For several centuries people hopefully observed the development of technology on the assumption that taming the forces of nature would bring them happiness and plenty, and that this would be enough to allow human life to be arranged on rational principles. Mankind has achieved a great deal, but we have also made "a great deal of mess." For how long and on what scale can we go on accumulating the waste products among which modern man has to live? Here we need a clear and philosophical view of history. Why, because of what contradictions, do the forces created and activated by human brains and hands turn against man himself and his mind? Why is the world so constructed that more of its gifted minds are bent on destruction instead of creation? Is this not a profound social and philosophical problem? The advent of the atomic age was marked by horrifying annihilation and mass murder. For how long will the menacing shadow of the atomic bomb hang over all human joys and hopes? These and other great questions of our time cannot be answered by the supreme science of physics, by mathematics, cybernetics, chemistry, biology, or by natural science as a whole, great though their discoveries have been. These questions, which exercise the minds of all mankind and relate to life today and in the future, must be answered by scientific philosophy.

### Task 1

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage above? Write TRUE if the statement agrees with the information, FALSE if the statement contradicts the information and NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Philosophy is the verification and explanation of social consciousness except for itself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 The theory of natural selection was first perceived by natural scientists and then proposed by philosophers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 The development of the philosophical thoughts largely relies on new scientific discoveries.

## Task 2

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage to complete each blank of the sentences below.

- 4 The philosophical significance of genetics lies in its revelation of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The close relationship between philosophy and science is featured by their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Although some may deny the value of philosophy to science, scientists firmly believe that their \_\_\_\_\_ and philosophy are closely related.

## Task 3

Which paragraph contains the following information?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7 Scientists' showing their acknowledgements to philosophers in academic settings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8 Examples of philosophy's positive influence on science.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9 A series of questions scientific philosophy has to answer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Examples of contribution of concrete sciences to the development of philosophy.

# Translation

## 1 Translate the sentences into Chinese.

- 1 Socrates loved to reveal the limits of what people genuinely understood, and to question the assumptions on which they built their lives.

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- 2 The kind of wisdom that it values is based on argument, reasoning and asking questions, not on believing things simply because someone important has told you they are true.

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- 3 In Confucius' opinion a ruler's success should be measured by his ability, not to amass wealth and power for himself, but to bring about the welfare and happiness of his people.

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- 4 The doctrine was changed and elaborated until Confucius himself would scarcely have recognized it, yet two principles remained: the insistence that those who govern should be chosen not for their birth but for their virtue and ability, and that the true end of government is the welfare and happiness of the people.

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## 2 Translate the sentences into English.

1 孔子思想体系的核心是“礼”（propriety）和“仁”（benevolence）。儒家的政治伦理学说建立在二者的基础上。

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2 《论语》（*The Analects of Confucius*）是孔子及其弟子的言行录，据说是在孔子死后 70 多年的战国初期，根据其弟子保存下来的孔子师生问答记录整理而成的。

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3 也许苏格拉底对西方思想最重要的贡献是他辩证的质疑方法，这种方法被称为“苏格拉底方法”，他主要把这种方法用于考察关键的道德概念（诸如善和正义）。

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4 “哲学”（philosophy）一词源于距今 2,500 年前古希腊人创造的 *philosophia*，其字面意思是“爱智慧”。哲学研究诸如现实、存在、知识、价值、理性、心灵以及语言等概念普遍而基本的性质。

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## 3 Translate the paragraph into Chinese.

Together with Plato and Socrates (Plato's teacher), Aristotle is one of the most important founding figures in Western philosophy. He was the first to create a comprehensive system of Western philosophy, encompassing morality and aesthetics, logic and science, politics and metaphysics (形而上学). He wrote on many subjects, including physics, poetry, theater, music, rhetoric, politics, ethics, biology, and zoology. His combined works constitute a virtual encyclopedia of Greek knowledge. He was regarded as one of the greatest intellectual figures of Western history.

## 4 Translate the paragraph into English.

孔子于公元前 551 年生于春秋时期的鲁国，也就是现在的山东曲阜。孔夫子（Confucius）是西方学者称呼孔子的方式，是一个拉丁语名字。孔子及其弟子的学说形成了举世闻名的儒家思想，涉及良好的行为准则、人生智慧和恰当的社会交往。儒家思想影响了中国人的生活态度，制定了生活标准及社会价值观，奠定了中国政治理论和体制的基础。但是那时的统治者却对他的主张充耳不闻，因此他下定决心将毕生精力投入教育。

