

國立暨南國際大學外國語文學系

98 學年度大學甄選入學（學校推薦）考試試題

考試科目：英文作文與翻譯

I. English Composition (50%)

What do you do when you feel low? Write an English essay of about 250 words to answer the question. Give your essay a title.

II. English Translation (50%)

A man who is a politician at forty is a statesman at seventy. It is at this age, when he is too old to be clerk or a gardener or a judge, that people think he is ready to govern a country. This is not so strange when you remember that the old are always telling the young that they are wiser, and when the young discover what nonsense this is, they are old too, and so they continue telling the lie themselves. But why writers should be more respected the older they grow has long puzzled me. At one time I thought that the praise they got when they had stopped writing twenty years earlier was because younger men were no longer afraid of their competition and therefore felt it was safe to praise them. And it is well known that to praise someone whose rivalry you do not fear is a good way to attack someone you do fear. But this is to take a low view of human nature and I do not want people to accuse me of cheap cynicism. After careful consideration, I now believe that the real reason people single out writers in their old age for praise is that intelligent people after the age of thirty read nothing at all. As they grow older, the books they read when they were younger are lit with glamour and with every year that passes, they attribute more merit to the authors they read as youths.