

2013 年硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

科目代码: 623 考试科目: 基础英语 满分: 150

注意: ①认真阅读答题纸上的注意事项; ②所有答案必须写在答题纸上, 写在本试题纸上均无效; ③本试题纸须随答题纸一起装入试题袋中交回!

PART I: VOCABULARY (每题 1.5 分, 共 30 分)

Directions: In this section, there are altogether 20 sentences. Beneath each sentence there are four choices marked A. B. C. and D. Choose the one that you think best completes the sentence.

- Seven of the ten theories studied _____ individual men
A. developed B. developing C. were developed by D. develop
- Because of the accident, Mother will forbid me _____ in the river unless someone watches me.
A. to go swimming B. out of swimming C. from swimming D. swimming
- _____ he did anything else, Mr. Williams spent a year haunting medical institutions and getting introductions to scientists of high repute.
A. Although B. Since C. Before D. Immediately
- John was cold _____.
A. the most of the night B. most of the night C. the most of night D. most of night
- Some warm-blooded animals _____ do not need to hibernate.
A. like the cat and the dog B. as the cat and the dog
C. like the cat and dog D. as the cat and dog
- The latest studies of _____ shed new light on what is the most elaborate social structure next to that of humans.
A. bees colonies B. bee colonies C. bees' colonies D. bee's colonies
- Water is a liquid compound _____ two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen.
A. composed of B. consisted of C. composed from D. composing of
- These books, _____ in reserve in the library, are required reading for Prof. Smith's course.
A. placing B. which placed C. which are placed D. to place
- I am sure glad to _____.
A. happily receive you B. had you happily C. doing that for you D. have you at the party
- I miss the association with students, faculty and alumni, but I've _____.
A. not regretted to leave B. had no regrets leaving
C. had no regrets about leaving D. had no regrets to leave
- The government has devoted a larger part of its national _____ to agriculture than most other countries.
A. resources B. potential C. budget D. economy
- In western countries, it is the _____ for men to wear suits on formal occasions.
A. conviction B. convention C. confession D. concession
- Bicycles are regarded as an _____ alternative to buses whose fares have

- increased 5 times in the past 3 years.
A. economic B. economical C. economics D. economized
- He says what he thinks, _____ other people's feelings.
A. regardless of B. by virtue of C. in case of D. with regard to
 - _____ groups were sent into Iraq before the war was launched ten months later.
A. Emergence B. Intelligence C. Negligence D. Diligence
 - It is not allowed to _____ the forbidden area.
A. interchange B. adjacent C. approach D. decorate
 - "The more dangers we _____, the harder should we push forward."
A. counter B. encounter C. count D. enforce
 - Einstein was really a great man who is able to _____ everyone's respect.
A. order B. request C. command D. require
 - What you said yesterday is not _____ with what you said just now.
A. constant B. insistent C. persistent D. consistent
 - The toys on the stand were so _____ to the little kid that he refused to go.
A. amusing B. terrifying C. inviting D. fascinated

PART II GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (每题 1 分, 共 20 分):

Directions: There are 20 multiple-choice questions in this section. Choose the best answer to each question.

- American President has the following power EXCEPT _____.
[A] appointing government officials [B] commanding the armed forces
[C] making foreign policies [D] interpreting the Constitution
- The "basics" taught in American elementary schools are _____.
[A] social studies, reading and arithmetic [B] science, reading, writing and arithmetic
[C] reading, writing and arithmetic [D] physical education, reading and writing
- In Britain, ministers are appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of _____.
[A] the Lord Chancellor [B] the Prime Minister
[C] the Speaker [D] the Parliamentary Commissioner
- The most typical English sport, having been in existence since the 16th century, is _____.
[A] rugby [B] cricket
[C] boxing [D] football
- The background of _____, a novel by Dickens, is set in the French Revolution.
[A] *Oliver Twist* [B] *A Tale of Two Cities*
[C] *David Copperfield* [D] *Great Expectation*
- Daniel Defoe is a famous _____.
[A] poet [B] novelist [C] playwright [D] essayist
- Thomas Hardy wrote novels of _____.
[A] character and environment [B] pure romance
[C] "stream of consciousness" [D] psychoanalysis
- Prediction analysis is a way to analyze _____ meaning.
[A] phoneme [B] word [C] phrase [D] sentence
- _____ is not a suprasegmental feature.
[A] Aspiration [S] Intonation [C] Stress [D] Tone

10. "The orphan has no father" is a case of _____ .
 [A] entailment [B] presupposition [C] contradiction [D] tautology
11. The defeat of _____ Armada in the sixteenth century marked the beginning of British naval tradition.
 [A]. French [B]. German [C]. Portugal [D]. Spanish
12. Which of the following holidays is observed everywhere in England, Scotland, Wales and the Northern Ireland ?
 [A] Easter Sunday. [B] Patrick's Day.
 [C] Summer Bank Holiday. [D] Boxing Day.
13. What is the name of the greatest arts performing center in America?
 [A] Roosevelt Center. [B] Lincoln Center.
 [C] Kennedy Center. [D] Washington Center.
14. The Powers of the American Federal Governments and the local governments are regulated separately according to the _____ .
 [A] Constitution [B] Congress [C] executive [D] legislative
15. All of the following are sentimentalists in the field of prose fiction of the 18th century EXCEPT _____ .
 [A] Samuel Richardson [B] Daniel Defoe
 [C] Oliver Goldsmith [D] Laurence Sterne
16. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure* are two representative novels written by _____ .
 [A]. Alfred Tennyson [B]. Robert Browning
 [C]. Thomas Hardy [D]. George Eliot
17. In William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*, he used a technique called _____ , in which the whole story was told through the thoughts of one character.
 [A] stream of consciousness [B] imagism
 [C] symbolism [D] naturalism
18. The term that is a matter of class membership, for example, the meaning of "desk" is included in that of "furniture", is called _____ .
 [A] Synonymy [B] Antonymy
 [C] Hyponymy [D] Inclusion
19. The word decontextualization can be broken down into de-, con-, text, -al, -ize, -ation, each having a meaning of its own and cannot be further divided. These minimal meaningful units are known as _____ .
 [A] morphology [B] morpheme [C] phoneme [D] lexeme
20. What distinguishes "sense" from "referential" is similar to the difference between _____ .
 [A] meaning and reference [B] conception and reference
 [C] connotation and denotation [D] conception and denotation

PART III PROOFREADING & ERROR CORRECTION (每题 2 分, 共 20 分)

Directions: Proofread the given passage which contains TEN errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of ONE error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proofread the passage and correct it in the following way:

For a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the

- blank provided at the end of the line.
- For a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with a " ^ " sign and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank provided at the end of the line.
- For an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with a slash "/" and put the word in the blank provided at the end of the line.
- For a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank provided at the end of the line.
- For a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with a " A " sign and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank provided at the end of the line.
- For an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with a slash "/" and put the word in the blank provided at the end of the line.

EXAMPLE

When ^ art museum wants a new exhibit, (1) an
 it never buys things in finished form and hangs them (2) never
 on the wall. When a natural history museum
 wants an exhibition, it must often build it. (3) exhibit

One of America's most important exports is her modern music.
 American popular music is playing all over the world. It is enjoyed by people of all ages (1) _____
 in all countries. Because the lyrics are English, people not speaking English enjoy it. The (2) _____
 reason for its popularity are its fast pace and rhythmic beat. (3) _____

The music has many origins in the United States. Country music, coming from the (4) _____
 suburban areas in the southern United States, is one source. Country music features simple (5) _____
 themes and melodies describing day-to-day situations and the feelings of country people. Many (6) _____
 people appreciate this music because the emotions expressed by country music songs. (7) _____

A second origin of American popular music is the blues. It depicted mostly sad feelings (8) _____
 reflecting the difficult lives of American blacks. It is usually played and sung by black music- (9) _____
 ans, but it is not popular with all Americans. (10) _____

Rock music is a newer form of music. This music style, featuring fast and repetitious (10) _____
 rhythms, was influenced by the blues and country music. It is first known as rock-and-roll in (9) _____
 the 1950's. Since then there have been many forms of rock music, hard rock, soft rock, punk (8) _____
 rock, disco music and others. Many performers of popular rock music are young musicians. (7) _____

American popular music is marketed to a demanding audience. Now popular songs are (6) _____
 heard on the radio several times a day. Some songs become popular all over the world. People (5) _____
 hear these songs sing in their original English or sometimes translated into other languages. (4) _____

The words may coincide but the enjoyment of the music is universal. (3) _____

PART IV READING COMPREHENSION (每题 2 分, 共 50 分)

Directions: In this section there are several reading passages followed by a total of twenty five multiple-choice questions. Read the passages carefully and then mark

your answers on your answer sheet.

Passage 1

Philosophy is a commitment to explain and understand the universe, an organization and clarification of the totality of human experience. It aspires to understand everything, in its full extension and to its ultimate origins, not in its multiplicity of detail, nor encyclopedically, but in its principles and bases. Naturally, it cannot fulfill that aspiration adequately, just as science cannot attain a perfect knowledge of its various spheres. In philosophical knowledge, in scientific understanding, in the domination of natural forces, in the organization of society, humanity advances step by step; the rapid progress in some periods shouldn't make us forget the extreme slowness in overcoming the scourges of war, hunger, and disease, evils that hurt him so cruelly, it sounds a little naïve when some people blame philosophy because it has not found the solution to these enigmas. Philosophy advances slowly in its comprehension of the universe, with that slowness that is inevitable in man's greatest endeavors; perhaps its course is slower than that demonstrable in others of man's undertakings; because its objective could not be more vast or more ambitious---for the intellect to encompass all of reality, including that of the subject who is struggling to achieve this objective. This is the source of the combination of audacity and humility that ought to characterize the philosopher---the audacity to decide to take on the task, the humility to understand its difficulties and resign himself beforehand to obtaining only those results that his intellectual resources allow him in each case.

1 The title below that best expresses the ideas of this passage is

A. The Difference Between Philosophy and Science. B. Why Philosophers Fail.

C. A Lofty Commitment. D. The Scope of Philosophy.

2. According to the author, philosophy progresses slowly because

A. it is inevitable. B. humanity has not solved its problems.

C. of the details philosophers must learn. D. of the enormity of its task.

3. The author believes that philosophers must be humble in order to realize that

A. they will be limited by their own intelligence.

B. science will achieve more impressive results.

C. they will not be able to control natural forces.

D. war and other disasters are inevitable.

4. "Enigmas" means

A. diseases. B. wars. C. delays. D. riddles.

5. The author's tone in speaking of philosophy is

A. impatient. B. critical. C. humorous. D. admiring.

Passage 2

As you all know, the United States is a country on wheels. Nearly eight million new cars are made each year; four households out of five own at least one car, and more than a quarter have two each. Yet you'll be surprised to learn that some of the car-owners even suffer from malnutrition.

In 1968, a nation-wide survey of malnutrition was made for the first time. It found that 10 million people are suffering in health through inadequate feeding; the causes of their plight were

varied. Unemployment over a long period should be considered as the main factor. And unemployment, strange to say, nine times out of ten results from automation, both in industrial and agricultural areas. For example, in the rural South when a cotton plantation suddenly cuts its force from 100 people to three, the problem to help the displaced arises. So is the case with industrial automation. In fact, probably 2 million jobs are made unnecessary each year in the whole country as a result of the automation process, thus making unemployment a chief social concern. According to government statistics, the number of people unemployed was over 5 percent for the period from 1958 to 1963. In July 1981, it rose to 7.8 percent. As a matter of fact, it has long been known that even during the most prosperous periods there have been people without enough to eat. So I think that's why President Kennedy said in his inauguration speech in 1961, if the government did not help the poor, it could not save the rich.

In 1966, the Social Security Administration calculated that a family of four needed an income of \$3,355 a year to be above the line of poverty. And in 1977, the average poverty line of the country was slightly more than \$6,200 annual income for a non-farm family of four. According to the Social Security Act, families of that size below poverty line are eligible to receive benefits from the special welfare program. The average weekly payment of benefits now is equivalent to 36 percent of the worker's normal wage. And the number of people who receive government benefits is increasing. In 1973, social insurance payments by governments, mainly to old age pensioners and people who had lost their jobs or were off work through illness, amounted to \$86,000 million. Those not fully qualified for insurance payments received \$29,000 million in public aid.

But problems still exist. Many people are not reached by the anti-poverty program, because local authorities and agencies do not want to play their part or do not give the resources to do so. Some poor people will not accept help for various reasons. Of course, there are some more important factors which lie in the structure of the society, but I don't consider it necessary to dig into them here. Yet we will perhaps agree that social welfare programs have solved to some extent the problems of feeding, clothing and housing those below the poverty line. On the whole, it perhaps might be said that American people are living a better life than people in most other countries.

6. The United States is called a country on wheels because _____.

A. about one-fourth Americans own two cars

B. a bit over one out of four households are the owners of two cars

C. nearly 8 million new cars drive in the country every year

D. 80% Americans have at least one car

7. According to a 1968 survey, ten million Americans found themselves in a difficult health situation chiefly due to _____.

A. inadequate feeding B. malnutrition C. unemployment D. automation

8. The author uses "the displaced"(Line 6, Para. 2) to refer to those who are _____.

A. unemployed B. disabled C. sick D. poor

9. The word "eligible"(Line 4, Para.3) is synonymous with "_____".

A. necessary B. urgent C. needed D. worthy

10. Americans are living a better life than those in most of other countries because, to some degree,

_____.

A. many Americans receive benefits from the special welfare program

- B. some poor people can receive help for some reason or other
- C. there is the anti-poverty program in the U.S.
- D. social welfare programs have some measure settled the problems of those below the poverty line.

Passage 3

For four lonely years, Evelyn Jones of Rockford, Illinois, lived friendless and forgotten in one room of a cheap hotel. "I wasn't sick, but I was acting sick," the 78-year-old widow says. "Every day was the same—I would just lie on my bed and maybe cook up some soup." Then, six months ago, she was invited to "The Brighter Side"—Rockford's day care center for the elderly. Every weekday morning since then, she has left her home to meet nine other old people in a church for a rich program of charity work, trips, games, and—most important of all—friendly companionship.

Just a few years ago, there were few choices for the elderly between a normal life in their own homes and being totally confined in nursing homes. Many of them were sent to rest homes long before they needed full-time care. Others like Mrs. Jones, were left to take care of themselves. But in 1971, the White House Conference on Aging called for the development of alternatives to care in nursing homes for old people, and since then, government-supported day-care programs like The Brighter Side have been developed in most big American cities.

"This represents a real alternative to the feared institution and makes old people believe they have not left the world of living," says Alice Brophy, 64, director of New York City's Office for the Aging. "They do well at the centers, and I hate it when people describe us as elderly playpens." New York's 138 centers encourage continuing contact for the aged with the community's life. The centers serve more than 15,000 members, and volunteer workers are always looking for new ones. If someone doesn't show up at the center for several days in a row, a worker at the center calls to make sure all is well. And although participation in the center is free, those who want to can pay for their lunches.

No normal studies have been made of these centers for the elderly, but government officials are enthusiastic. In the future, the Public Health Service will do a study to decide if the programs can receive federal Medicare money. And the old people themselves are very happy with the programs. "There is no way," says Evelyn Jones, smiling at her new companions at the Brighter Side, "that I will ever go back to spending my day with all those loses at the hotel."

11. What is the main idea of the article?
- A. Day care centers may be able to receive federal Medicare money.
 - B. Day care centers can make life better for elderly people.
 - C. Many old people in the United States are lonely.
 - D. Old people have no place in their society.
12. According to Para 2, why did many old people have to go to nursing homes?
- A. They need full-time care. B. They wanted to go there.
 - C. They were sent there. D. They were volunteers there.
13. According to Alice Brophy (in Paragraph 3) ____.
- A. the centers are like elderly playpens. B. the old people do well at the day care centers.
 - C. old people like nursing institutions. D. outside the Brighter side they don't work for the old.
14. "This represents a real alternative to the feared institution." (in Paragraph 3) In the sentence "this" means ____.

- A. most big American cities. B. rest homes.

- C. day care programs. D. the White House Conference on aging.

15. How does the writer of the article seem to feel about day care centers for the elderly?
- A. The writer approves of them. B. The writer disapproves of them.
 - C. The writer thinks nursing homes are better. D. He doesn't say anything about it.

Passage 4

What we know of prenatal development makes all this attempt made by a mother to mold the character of her unborn child by studying poetry, art, or mathematics during pregnancy seem utterly impossible. How could such extremely complex influences pass from the mother to the child? There is no connection between their nervous systems. Even the blood vessels of mother and child do not join directly. An emotional shock to the mother will affect her child, because it changes the activity of her glands and so the chemistry her blood. Any chemical change in the mother's blood will affect the child for better or worse. But we can not see how a looking for mathematics or poetic genius can be dissolved in blood and produce a similar liking or genius in the child.

In our discussion of instincts we saw that there was reason to believe that whatever we inherit must be of some very simple sort rather than any complicated or very definite kind of behavior. It is certain that no one inherits a knowledge of mathematics. It may be, however, that children inherit more or less of a rather general ability that we may call intelligence. If very intelligent children become deeply interested in mathematics, they will probably make a success of that study.

As for musical ability, it may be that what is inherited is an especially sensitive ear, a peculiar structure of the hands or the vocal organs connections between nerves and muscles that make it comparatively easy to learn the movements a musician must execute, and particularly vigorous emotions. If these factors are all organized around music, the child may become a musician. The same factors, in other circumstance might be organized about some other center of interest. The rich emotional equipment might find expression in poetry. The capable fingers might develop skill in surgery. It is not the knowledge of music that is inherited, then nor even the love of it, but a certain bodily structure that makes it comparatively easy to acquire musical knowledge and skill. Whether that ability shall be directed toward music or some other undertaking may be decided entirely by forces in the environment in which a child grows up.

16. Which of the following statements is not true?
- A. Some mothers try to influence their unborn children by studying art and other subjects during their pregnancy.
 - B. It is utterly impossible for us to learn anything about prenatal development.
 - C. The blood vessels of mother and child do not join directly.
 - D. There are no connection between mother's nervous systems and her unborn child's.
17. A mother will affect her unborn baby on the condition that ____.
- A. she is emotionally shocked B. she has a good knowledge of inheritance
 - C. she takes part in all kind of activities D. she sticks to studying
18. According to the passage, a child may inherit ____.
- A. everything from his mother B. a knowledge of mathematics
 - C. a rather general ability that we call intelligence D. her mother's musical ability

19. If a child inherits something from his mother, such as an especially sensitive ear, a peculiar structure of the hands or of the vocal organs, he will ____.
- A. surely become musician B. mostly become a poet
C. possibly become a teacher D. become a musician on the condition that all these factors are organized around music
20. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
A. Role of Inheritance. B. An Unborn Child. C. Function of instincts. D. Inherited Talents

Passage 5

In some countries where racial prejudice is acute, violence has so come to be taken for granted as a means of solving differences, that it is not even questioned. There are countries where the white man imposes his rule by brute force; there are countries where the black man protests by setting fire to cities and by looting and pillaging. Important people on both sides, who would in other respects appear to be reasonable men, get up and calmly argue in favor of violence as if it were a legitimate solution, like any other. What is really frightening, what really fills you with despair, is the realization that when it comes to the crunch, we have made no actual progress at all. We may wear collars and ties instead of war-paint, but our instincts remain basically unchanged. The whole of the recorded history of the human race, that tedious documentation of violence, has taught us absolutely nothing. We have still not learnt that violence never solves a problem but makes it more acute. The sheer horror, the bloodshed, the suffering mean nothing. No solution ever comes to light the morning after when we dismally contemplate the smoking ruins and wonder what hit us.

The truly reasonable men who know where the solutions lie are finding it harder and harder to get a hearing. They are despised, mistrusted and even persecuted by their own kind because they advocate such apparently outrageous things as law enforcement. If half the energy that goes into violent acts were put to good use, if our efforts were directed at cleaning up the slums and ghettos, at improving living-standards and providing education and employment for all, we would have gone a long way to arriving at a solution. Our strength is sapped by having to mop up the mess that violence leaves in its wake. In a well-directed effort, it would not be impossible to fulfill the ideals of a stable social program. The benefits that can be derived from constructive solutions are everywhere apparent in the world around us. Genuine and lasting solutions are always possible, providing we work within the framework of the law.

Before we can even begin to contemplate peaceful co-existence between the races, we must appreciate each other's problems. And to do this, we must learn about them: it is a simple exercise in communication, in exchanging information. "Talk, talk, talk," the advocates of violence say, "all you ever do is talk, and we are none the wiser." It's rather like the story of the famous barrister who painstakingly explained his case to the judge. After listening to a lengthy argument the judge complained that after all this talk, he was none the wiser. "Possible, my lord," the barrister replied, "none the wiser, but surely far better informed." Knowledge is the necessary prerequisite to wisdom: the knowledge that violence creates the evils it pretends to solve.

21. What is the best title for this passage?

- A Advocating Violence.
B Violence Can Do Nothing to Diminish Race Prejudice.

- C Important People on Both Sides See Violence As a Legitimate Solution.
D The Instincts of Human Race Are Thirsty for Violence.

22. Recorded history has taught us
A. violence never solves anything. B. nothing.
C. the bloodshed means nothing. D. everything.
23. It can be inferred that truly reasonable men
A. can't get a hearing. B. are looked down upon.
C. are persecuted. D. Have difficulty in advocating law enforcement.
24. "He was none the wiser" means
A. he was not at all wise in listening. B. He was not at all wiser than nothing before.
C. He gains nothing after listening. D. He makes no sense of the argument.
25. According to the author the best way to solve race prejudice is
A. law enforcement. B. knowledge. C. nonviolence. D. Mopping up the violent mess.

PART V: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (每题 10 分, 共 30 分)

Directions: Read the following passage and then answer the questions given at the end.

Not long ago, friends of mine confessed over dinner that they had put spyware on their 15-year-old son's computer so they could monitor all he did online. At first I was repelled at this invasion of privacy. Now, after doing a fair amount of research, I get it.

Make no mistake: If you put spyware on your computer, you have the ability to log every keystroke your child makes and thus a good portion of his or her private world. That's what spyware is--at least the parental monitoring kind. You don't have to be an expert to put it on your computer. You just download the software from a vendor and you will receive reports--weekly, daily, whatever--showing you everything your child is doing on the machine.

Scary. But a good idea. Most parents won't even consider it.

Maybe it's the word: spyware. It brings up associations of Dick Cheney sitting in a dark room, rubbing his hands together and reading your most private thoughts. But this isn't the government we are talking about--this is your family. It's a mistake to confuse the two. Loving parents are doing the surveillance here, not faceless bureaucrats. And most parents already monitor their children, watching over their home environment, their school.

Today's overprotective parents fight their kids' battles on the playground, berate coaches about playing time and fill out college applications--yet when it comes to chatting with pedophiles or watching beheadings or gambling away their entire life savings, then... then their children deserve independence?

Some will say that you should simply trust your child, that if he is old enough to go on the Internet he is old enough to know the dangers. Trust is one thing, but surrendering parental responsibility to a machine that allows the entire world access to your home borders on negligence.

Some will say that it's better just to use parental blocks that deny access to risky sites. I have found that they don't work. Children know how to get around them. But more than that--and this is where it gets tough--I want to know what's being said in e-mail and instant messages and in chat rooms.

There are two reasons for this. First, we've all read about the young boy unknowingly

conversing with a pedophile or the girl who was cyberbullied to the point where she committed suicide. Would a watchful eye have helped? We rely in the real world on teachers and parents to guard against bullies--do we just dismiss bullying on the Internet and all it entails because we are entering difficult ethical ground?

Second, everything your child types can already be seen by the world--teachers, potential employers, friends, neighbors, future dates. Shouldn't he learn now that the Internet is not a haven of privacy?

One of the most popular arguments against spyware is the claim that you are reading your teenager's every thought, that in today's world, a computer is the little key-locked diary of the past. But posting thoughts on the Internet isn't the same thing as hiding them under your mattress. Maybe you should buy your children one of those little key-locked diaries so that they too can understand the difference.

Am I suggesting eavesdropping on every conversation? No. With new technology comes new responsibility. That works both ways. There is a fine line between being responsibly protective and irresponsibly nosy. You shouldn't monitor to find out if your daughter's friend has a crush on Kevin next door or that Mrs. Peterson gives too much homework or what schoolmate snubbed your son. You are there to start conversations and to be a safety net. To borrow from the national intelligence lexicon--and yes, that's uncomfortable--you're listening for dangerous chatter.

Will your teenagers find other ways of communicating to their friends when they realize you may be watching? Yes. But text messages and cellphones don't offer the anonymity and danger of the Internet. They are usually one-on-one with someone you know. It is not easier for a predator to troll chat rooms and MySpace and Facebook.

Parenting has never been for the faint of heart. One friend of mine, using spyware to monitor his college-bound, straight-A daughter, found out that not only was she using drugs but she was sleeping with her dealer. He wisely took a deep breath before confronting her. Then he decided to come clean, to let her know how he had found out, to speak with her about the dangers inherent in her behavior. He'd had these conversations before, of course, but this time he had context. She listened. There was no anger. Things seem better now.

Our knee-jerk reaction as freedom-loving Americans is to be suspicious of anything that hints at invasion of privacy. That's a good and noble thing. But it's not an absolute, particularly in the face of the new and evolving challenges presented by the Internet. And particularly when it comes to our children.

Do you tell your children that the spyware is on the computer? I side with yes, but it might be enough to show them this article, have a discussion about your concerns and let them know the possibility is there.

1. What are most parents' attitudes towards the usage of spyware? Why or why not?
2. What does the author suggest in the passage?
3. What do you think of the usage of spyware for the parental monitoring? Why?