Do not write your name anywhere on the test!

American Studies Center, Warsaw University

ENTRANCE EXAM 2012

PART I – KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE USA (50 pts)

All are multiple choice questions, with only one correct answer. Mark only one answer, then, for each of the questions on the answer sheet, NOT on the test booklet. Random guessing might be counterproductive: correct answer: 1; no answer: 0; incorrect answer: -1/4.

1. People who were advocating freeing of slaves before the Civil War were called:
   a. emancipators
   b. abolitionists
   c. affirmativists
   d. anti-discriminators

2. Which of these broadcasting companies is NOT a so-called major network?
   a. NBC
   b. CBS
   c. ABC
   d. ATN

3. Before the two Bush presidents, we had another father/son pair in the White House:
   a. Andrew and Waldo Jackson
   b. Benjamin and William Harrison
   c. John and John Adams
   d. Andrew and Lyndon Johnson

4. You can often see this symbol displayed outside of homes where families of soldiers fighting in wars live:
   a. red, white and blue flower
   b. a small American flag flying upside down
   c. a ribbon saying “Johnny come home”
   d. a yellow ribbon

5. The US acquired the land that became the states of California, Arizona and New Mexico as a result of which of the following?
   a. The Spanish American War
   b. The Versailles Treaty
   c. The Mexican War
   d. The War of 1812
6. The Pilgrim Fathers is a name of:
   a. a rock band, popular in the 1960s
   b. first settlers in Massachusetts
   c. men who renewed their religious beliefs and are now campaigning against abortion
   d. the authors of the “separation of church and state” doctrine

7. An island near San Francisco which used to be a federal penitentiary is called:
   a. Sing Sing
   b. Alcatraz
   c. Nantucket
   d. Staten Island

8. People who come to the US across the Rio Grande River without a proper visa are known as
   a. illegal aliens
   b. undocumented aliens
   c. extended visitors
   d. “nondocumentados”

9. Mohammad Ali, one of the most famous American heavy weight boxing champions, was born as:
   a. Malcolm Little
   b. Cassius Clay
   c. James Brown
   d. Khalid Mohammed

10. When we say that a phenomenon is as “American as Apple Pie” we mean:
    a. something very tasty
    b. a favorite food of the Founding Fathers
    c. a phenomenon well entrenched in the American culture
    d. a custom which developed in America rather than being brought by immigrants

11. The final game of the football season is known as:
    a. Top Game
    b. Final Showdown
    c. Super Sunday
    d. Super Bowl

12. Which of these religious minorities is famous for their reluctance to use modern electric machines?
    a. Southern Baptists
    b. the Amish
    c. the Mormons
    d. Quakers
13. What is the name of the American national anthem?
   a. God Bless America
   b. America the Beautiful
   c. Sweet Land of Liberty
   d. Star-Spangled Banner

14. The cemetery in Washington D.C. where American war and political heroes are often buried is called:
   a. American Hall of Fame
   b. Arlington Cemetery
   c. the Pantheon
   d. the South Park

15. Which of these gentlemen was a famous American dancer and actor?
   a. Clifford “the Grill” Bates
   b. Gene Hackman
   c. Fred Astaire
   d. Ginger Rogers

16. The first American who set foot on the Moon was:
   a. Neil Armstrong
   b. Chuck Yeager
   c. John Glenn
   d. Charles Lindbergh

17. Who said these words: “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country”?
   a. Robert Kennedy
   b. John Kennedy
   c. Martin Luther King
   d. George Washington

18. The need to adopt drastic anti-crisis measures and the need to continue international commitments have produced a sky-high budget deficit today reaching around:
   a. 300 billion
   b. 500 billion
   c. 1 trillion
   d. 1.5 trillion

19. What is the nickname of New York City?
   a. Manhattan Transfer
   b. Tower of Power
c. the Big Apple
d. the Great City

20. The great economic crisis in the 1930s was known as the:

a. Great Depression
b. New Deal
c. Black Era
d. Grand Crisis

21. Tea Party a new conservative social movement takes its name after events during Revolutionary War which took place in:

a. Philadelphia
b. New York
c. Chicago
d. Boston

22. United States Congress is located in Washington D.C. in the place called:

a. the Mall
b. Castro
c. Capitol Hill
d. Monticello

23. If you want to watch a spacecraft being launched, you should travel to:

a. Cape Cod
b. Houston
c. Camp David
d. Cape Canaveral

24. One of these actors was NOT famous for starring in Western movies:

a. John Wayne
b. Clint Eastwood
d. James Dean
d. Gary Cooper

25. Which of these writers of detective stories created a character of private investigator Philip Marlowe:

a. Raymond Chandler
b. Robert Ludlum
c. Tom Clancy
d. Stephen King

26. Who is the director of such films about famous Americans as Nixon, JFK, and W?
27. The movement whose aim in the 1960s was to end racial and minority discrimination in the USA was called:

a. Anti-Establishment movement
b. Civil Rights Movement
c. Affirmative Action Movement
d. Minority Power Movement

28. A “typical/average” American woman is referred to as

a. Betty Roe
b. Rosie the Riveter
c. Jane Doe
d. Betty Boop

29. The Sioux in the battle of Little Bighorn, avenging the slaughter of their compatriots at Wounded Knee, were led by:

a. Geronimo
b. Winnetou
c. Sitting Bull
d. Buffalo Bill

30. The American poet who lived in the nineteenth century and authored over 1,775 poems preoccupied with love, death, and immortality--only seven of which were published during her lifetime--was:

a. Willa Cather
b. Harriet Beecher Stowe
c. Emily Dickinson
d. Toni Morrison

31. If you want to visit Snow White, Tinker Bell, or Goofy in Florida you should go to:

a. Disneyland
b. Disney World
c. Walt Disney Fun Park
d. Disney Memorial

32. Dow Jones is:

a. a famous NBA player
b. the US stock exchange index
c. a kind of a beverage
d. the measurement of social inequalities

33. This island was a place of entry to the US for over 12 million of immigrants between 1892-1943:

a. Liberty Island
b. Staten Island
c. Ellis Island
d. Federal Island

34. Annual awards for outstanding TV program are called:

a. Academy Awards
b. Emmys
c. Grammys
d. Silver Screens

35. A Nobel Prize laureate for literature (1949), who wrote such masterpieces as *Absalom, Absalom!, The Sound and the Fury*, and *Light in August*, was:

a. Francis Scott Fitzgerald
b. John Steinbeck
c. Theodore Dreiser
d. William Faulkner

36. Which one of these European officers did NOT serve with the Americans during the War of Independence?

a. Tadeusz Kościuszko
b. Joseph M. de Lafayette
c. Friedrich Wilhelm Steuben
d. James Wolfe

37. The largest wave of European immigration to the United States in the first half of nineteenth century came from:

a. Austria
b. Ireland
c. Italy
d. Poland

38. The Ku Klux Klan was organized after the Civil War to:

a. expel Afro-Americans from the USA
b. help the emigration of former Confederates from the USA
c. deprive the freedmen in the South of their political rights
d. restore slavery in the South
39. James Baldwin was
   a. a conservative politician
   b. an African American writer
   c. an avant-garde film director
   d. an abstract expressionist painter

40. Camp is an aesthetic sensibility related to
   a. simplicity
   b. kitsch
   c. traditionalism
   d. jazz

41. In the recent film version of F.S. Fitzgerald’s ‘The Great Gatsby’, Gatsby is played by Leonardo DiCaprio. Who played this part in the 1974 adaptation?
   a. Paul Newman
   b. Robert Redford
   c. James Dean
   d. Marlon Brando

42. Josephine Baker was a:
   a. dancer, singer and actress
   b. poet and literary critic
   c. fictional character in a novel later made into a film
   d. film director

43. Which of the following American writers was roughly the contemporary of Charles Dickens?
   a. Jack London
   b. Thomas Pynchon
   c. Nathaniel Hawthorne
   d. Washington Irving

44. The first permanent English settlement in North America was
   a. Carolina
   b. Jamestown
   c. St. Augustine
   d. Boston

45. Before becoming President, Ronald Reagan was governor of
   a. Texas
b. Florida
c. California
d. Ohio

46. The Protestant denomination with the most members in the US is
   a. the Mormons
   b. the Southern Baptists
   c. the Missouri Synod Lutherans
   d. the Puritans

47. Which of the following Presidents was not assassinated?
   a. Abraham Lincoln
   b. James A. Garfield
   c. Woodrow Wilson
   d. William McKinley

48. Which big businessman of the late nineteenth century was famous for using his wealth to build libraries?
   a. Collis Huntington
   b. Russell Conwell
   c. John Rockefeller
   d. Andrew Carnegie

49. “The British Invasion” refers to
   a. the tours of The Beatles and The Rolling Stones in the US in the 1960s
   b. the British army sacking Washington DC during the War of 1812
   c. Americans’ fondness for Marmite
   d. David Beckham playing for the LA Galaxy

50. “A government of the people, by the people and for the people” is a line from
   a. the American Constitution
   b. the Declaration of Independence
   c. the Gettysburg Address
   d. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech
PART II – ACADEMIC COMPETENCE (50 pts)

All are multiple choice questions, with only one correct answer. Mark only one answer, then, for each of the questions on the answer sheet, NOT on the test booklet. Random guessing might be counterproductive: correct answer: 1; no answer: 0; incorrect answer: -1/4.

1. Which of the following is an oxymoron?
   a) working vacation
   b) murky path
   c) blue moon
   d) disabling condition

2. “Better murder an infant in its cradle than nurse an unacted desire” is a poetic line by William Blake. It can be read in two ways, literally and metaphorically. While the literal reading focuses on murdering an infant, the metaphorical reading suggests that one should:
   a) resist the temptation to act on a desire
   b) act on a desire only if no one gets hurt as a result of one’s action
   c) act on a desire even if this means hurting others
   d) act on a desire rather than let it become overwhelming

3. Read the following sentence in which the word “moribund” is used and choose an antonym for this word: “Under Ottoman rule, Egypt became a somewhat neglected corner of a large and increasingly moribund empire.” An antonym for “moribund” is:
   a) sprawling
   b) vigorous
   c) homogeneous
   d) relaxed

4. Which of the following comments does not pertain to this line by William Shakespeare: “Thou art more lovely and more beautiful”?
   a) The line implies that a comparison is being made.
   b) The line is probably taken from a love poem.
   c) The line’s meter is iambic.
d) The line praises art for art’s sake.

5. A thriller is a cinematic genre whose name implies:
   a) excitation
   b) fear
   c) special effects
   d) murder

6. The word “theory” is derived from the Greek θεωρία (theōria), which means:
   a) thinking about something
   b) looking at something
   c) speaking about something
   d) listening to something

7. The metaphor of the melting pot, put forth by the playwright Israel Zangwill in 1908 to describe multiethnic American society, is ironically transcribed by Arthur Miller in the title of his 1953 play, which is synonymous to Zangwill’s title. Miller’s play is called:
   a) Beyond the Pale
   b) The Holy Grail
   c) Super Bowl
   d) The Crucible

8. Which term is unrelated to the limerick?
   a) ribaldry
   b) quirkiness
   c) presentism
   d) bathos

9. Which term is unrelated to speaking?
   a) echolalia
b) logorrhea

c) grandiloquence

d) perambulation

10. Which term does not name a kind of security?
a) aneurysm
b) bond
c) certificate of deposit
d) derivative

11. Which term is a synonym for social ladder?
a) hegemony
b) stratification
c) advancement
d) propagation

12. Foreclosure means:
a) that lender and borrower have agreed on a cash settlement
b) that the borrower has postponed repayment until after the recession
c) that the lender is repossessing collateral to recuperate the loan
d) that the lender has become bankrupt

13. Secularization is best defined as a historical process where:
a) many priests decide to leave priesthood
b) religion is altered by science
b) religion slowly regains political significance
c) religion slowly loses its social and cultural significance

14. To metamorphose is to:
15. What word is missing in the following sentence?

Sixty percent of Californians said it is “extremely important” that their family not be burdened by tough decisions about their care, [.....] 56 percent have not communicated their end-of-life wishes to the loved one they would want to make decisions on their behalf.

a) therefore
b) unlike
c) but
d) because

16. What is the correct order of lines in this stanza taken from an Emily Dickinson poem?

(A) For frigid hour of mind
(B) Is easier to find
(C) A shady friend for torrid days
(D) Than one of higher temperature

a) DBCA
b) ABCD
c) CBDA
d) ACBD

17. What word is missing in the following proverb?

“Birds of a feather ....... together”

a) flock
b) fly
c) sing
d) gather

18. Which of the following sentences is grammatically **incorrect**?

a) We enjoyed our holiday in spite of the rain.
b) Despite the pain in his leg he completed the marathon.
c) Despite of the awful weather, we managed to get there on time.

d) Although I have all the necessary qualifications, they didn’t offer me the job.

19. The following text is a stanza from a pop song appropriately named after its primary rhetorical effect.

   It's like rain on your wedding day
   It's a free ride when you've already paid
   It's the good advice that you just didn't take
   Who would've thought, it figures.

What do you think is the name of the song?

a) “Regretful”
b) “Ironic”
c) “Sarcastic”
d) “Metaphoric”

20. “Imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre with deliberate exaggeration for comic effect” is the definition of

a) postmodernism
b) parody
c) pastiche
d) intertextuality

READING COMPREHENSION

Please read each of the texts carefully before answering the questions. Words and phrases referred to in the questions have been emphasized for the sake of clarity.

TEXT 1 (questions 21 - 31)

The author of the following excerpt aims to set the record straight by debunking seven pervasive myths about Private First Class Bradley Manning, Wikileaks’ source inside the US military:

So to kick off my blog coverage of the court-martial for The Nation, here’s a quick debunking trip through the thickets of folklore that have sprung up around this case.
First, it is routinely asserted or implied that Manning declassified the field reports and diplomatic cables because he is a nut job, or because he is gay, or because he is a gay nut job. In fact, Manning’s motive was expressly political: “I want people to see the truth ... regardless of who they are ... because without information, you cannot make informed decisions as a public.” People can disagree about the consequences of Manning’s leak, but his motive for declassifying the documents is plainly stated, and it has nothing to do with his mental health or sexuality. As former infantry soldier Ethan McCord (seen through the helicopter gunsight camera in the leaked Collateral Murder video rescuing wounded children from a shot-up van) wrote, to fixate on Manning’s sexuality “erases Manning’s political agency” (…)

The foundational ur-myth behind all of the above, its Genesis 1:1 is that knowledge puts us at risk and that cluelessness will bring us security. It cannot be emphasized enough that the American military and humanitarian debacle in Iraq could never have been possible without extreme levels of government secrecy, distortion and even some lies.

21. To set the record straight means:
   a) to clarify
   b) to win or to be the best
   c) to go for the prize
   d) to muddle

22. In which of the sentences below is the word “pervasive” used incorrectly?
   a) The pervasive opinion is that kids should not spend too much time playing computer games.
   b) The pervasive smell of urine made the place quite repulsive.
   c) Television has a pervasive influence on our culture.
   d) If you want to convince us, you have to be more pervasive.

23. Which of the verbs below is not a synonym of “to debunk”?
   a) to disprove
   b) to confirm
   c) to refute
   d) to shoot down

24. What is the difference between “to assert” and “to imply”:
   a) One is direct, the other indirect
   b) One is true, the other false
   c) One is probable, the other improbable
   d) One is positive, the other negative

25. “A nut job” is someone who is:
   a) violent
   b) crazy
26. The author’s use of the phrase “a nut job” is an example of
a) colloquialism  
  b) exaggeration  
  c) analogy  
  d) allegory  

27. Which of the verbs below best matches this definition:  
“to become known despite efforts at concealment”:
 a) to assert  
  b) to imply  
  c) to fixate  
  d) to leak  

28. The title Collateral Murder refers to “collateral damage”, a phrase often used in reference to:
 a) civilian casualties of a military operation  
  b) losses on both sides in a war  
  c) bank loans become substandard during war  
  d) losses incurred by corporations because of war  

29. The phrase “erases Manning’s political agency” means:
 a) denies that Manning is a spy [“political spy” is too close to answer b]  
  b) denies that Manning had a political plan and purpose  
  c) denies Manning the right of ownership of an agency  
  d) denies that Manning did anything wrong  

30. The word “cluelessness” is an example of an:
a) oxymoron
b) overstatement
c) informal use of language
d) innuendo

31. “it cannot be emphasized enough” is a way to introduce an idea as:
a) unimportant and too often discussed
b) important but too often overlooked
c) complex and often misunderstood
d) in need of our discretion and secrecy

32. The word “debacle” could be replaced by:
a) effort
b) failure
c) victory
d) march

TEXT 2 (questions 33 - 41)

F. Scott Fitzgerald proclaimed his distaste for Jews with his clichéd portrait of gangster Meyer Wolfsheim in his Jazz Age opus The Great Gatsby. The crucial but peripheral character is never described in detail, save for an upfront declaration that he is “a small, flat-nosed Jew” with “tiny eyes” and “two fine growths of hair” luxuriating in his deeply enchanting nostrils (which apparently either intrigued or repelled Fitzgerald since he mentions it several times). Indeed, for Fitzgerald, the Jew’s most salient and significant feature is his protean nose, at once “expressive” and “tragic” and which possesses the artful ability to “flash ... indignantly.”

Fitzgerald’s 1925 novel has long been criticized for its portrayal of Wolfsheim as more Jewish caricature than character. In the book AntiSemitism: A Historical Encyclopedia of Prejudice and Persecution, Richard Levy notes that Fitzgerald’s Wolfsheim memorably and “pointedly connected Jewishness and crookedness” (this one, not of the nose variety). In 1947, Milton Hindus, an assistant humanities professor at the University of Chicago, published an article about “Gatsby” in Commentary that declared, “The novel reads very much like an anti-Semitic document.” Hindus argued that although on the whole he considers “Gatsby” to be an “excellent” novel, he found the story and the characters “general and representative rather than particular and confined.” “The Jew who appears in The Great Gatsby,” he wrote, “is easily its most obnoxious character.”

(from: Danielle Berrin, “The Great Gatsby’s Jew”)
33. What era does “Jazz Age” refer to?
   a) the first half of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century
   b) the 1920s
   c) the 1940s
   d) 1920-1940

34. “Opus” means:
   a) a novel
   b) a text that was adapted into a movie
   c) a great work
   d) a novel from the early 20\textsuperscript{th} century

35. What does it mean that Meyer Wolfsheim is a “crucial but peripheral character”?
   a) that he is part of the American cultural crucible, but still peripheral because of his ethnicity
   b) that he is important for the plot, but peripheral because of his ethnicity
   c) that he is very important for the plot, but appears on very few pages in the novel
   d) that he is very important for the plot, but lives on the periphery of the city

36. “Save for” can be paraphrased as:
   a) Despite
   b) Except for
   c) As exemplified by
   d) In spite of

37. The word “protean” as used here means:
   a) variable in meaning
   b) healthy, strong
   c) wounded and thus tragic
   d) bigger than most

38. “Repelled” means:
   a) fascinated, excited
   b) deterred, disgusted
   c) confused, perplexed
d) demused, saddened

39. The author says the novel can be viewed as an “anti-Semitic document” because:
   a) There is only one character, Meyer Wolfsheim, that can be identified as Jewish.
   b) Meyer Wolfsheim is presented in a clichéd manner.
   c) Meyer Wolfsheim is never described in detail.
   d) Fitzgerald advocates anti-Semitic legal regulations.

40. “Easily” as used in the last sentence means
    a) without doubt
    b) slowly
    c) ironically
    d) sadly

41. “Obnoxious” means:
    a) Ethnic
    b) Abhorrent
    c) Cartoonish
    d) Monotonous

TEXT 3 (questions 42-45)

The following is a passage by Stuart Hall on articulation theory:

[In articulation, it is] the form of the connection that can make a unity of two different elements, under certain conditions. It is a linkage which is not necessary, determined, absolute and essential for all time. You have to ask under what circumstances can a connection be forged or made? The so-called ‘unity’ of a discourse is really the articulation of different, distinct elements which can be rearticulated in different ways because they have no necessary ‘belongingness.’ The ‘unity’ which matters is a linkage between the articulated discourse and the social forces with which it can, under certain historical conditions, but need not necessarily, be connected.
(From an interview with Stuart Hall)

42. Which term is closest to the concept of articulation as discussed by Hall?
   a) hyphenation
   b) hyperbolization
   c) dissemination
d) fabulation

43. Articulation theory is opposed to another type of social theory, which is deterministic in so far as it claims that forms of cultural expression are entirely consistent with one’s social status. Knowing this, choose the correct name for the theory which articulation theory directly opposes:

a) social movement theory
b) homology theory
c) actor-network theory
d) social choice theory

44. The verb “to forge”, which is synonymous with “to make”, connotes the craft of:

a) the tanner
b) the winemaker
c) the blacksmith
d) the locksmith

45. Where “social forces” are mentioned in the passage above, the argument is that:

a) articulated discourse is disconnected from social forces
b) articulated discourse is determined by social forces
c) articulated discourse may be connected to social forces or not
d) social forces are directly articulated in discourse

TEXT 4 (questions 46-50)

Statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.

(FROM: Mark Twain, “Chronicle of Young Satan”)

46. Which of the following statements is true:

a) The speaker claims that politicians are liars and ordinary people are happy to believe them
b) The speaker is a pacifist who is arguing against the cruelty of war
c) The excerpt argues that war is inevitable and must be accepted despite its cruelty
d) The argument is that war is sometimes necessary but should not be justified by means of lies.

47. Which word does not fit in with the others?
   a) Lies
   b) Falsities
   c) Deception
   d) Refutations

48. Statesmen are:
   a) Highly-decorated Generals
   b) Ordinary citizens
   c) Prize-winning Writers
   d) Accomplished and respected politicians

49. “By and by” can be replaced by:
   a) Quickly
   b) Gradually
   c) Falsely
   d) Finally

50. The opposite of diligent is:
   a) eloquent
   b) lazy
   c) loud
   d) easy