Do not write your name anywhere on the test!

American Studies Center, Warsaw University
ENTRANCE EXAM 2014, B

PART 1 – Knowledge about the USA (50 points)

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 NOT an American film director?
   a) Steven Spielberg
   b) Alfred Hitchcock
   c) John Ford
   d) Spike Lee

2) The USA bought from Spain in the 19th century the territory of:
   a) Alaska
   b) Cuba
   c) California
   d) Florida

3) Which of the cities listed below was the first capital of the USA?
   a) New York
   b) Philadelphia
   c) Boston
   d) Washington

4) The American President who called on the Soviet Union’s Premier to tear down the Berlin Wall was
   a) John Kennedy
   b) Richard Nixon
   c) Ronald Reagan
   d) George H. W. Bush

5) Before becoming President, Bill Clinton was governor of
   a) Texas
   b) Florida
   c) Arkansas
   d) Ohio

6) The Oscars are awarded for achievement in film, while the Emmys are awarded for achievement in
   a) Theater
   b) Fiction
   c) Advertising
   d) Television

7) 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

8) Which of the following Presidents was not assassinated?
   a) Abraham Lincoln
   b) James A. Garfield
   c) William Henry Harrison
   d) William McKinley

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

10) The 13th Amendment to the Constitution
    a) Abolished slavery
    b) Made the former slaves citizens of the US
    c) Gave the former slaves the right to vote
    d) All of the above

11) Franklin Roosevelt’s program to address the problems of the Great Depression was called
    a) The Great Society
    b) The Square Deal
    c) The Fair Deal
    d) The New Deal

12) The President that called for America to send a man to the moon by the end of the 1960s was
    a) John Kennedy
    b) Lyndon Johnson
    c) Dwight Eisenhower
    d) Richard Nixon

13) The scandal that ended Richard Nixon’s Presidency was known as
    a) Whitewatergate
    b) Troopergate
    c) The Iran-Contra Affair
    d) Watergate

14) The Equal Rights Amendment proposed to end discrimination on the basis of
    a) Sex
    b) Sexual orientation
    c) Race
    d) National origin

15) Rachel Carson was
    a) a scientist who promoted the use of DDT to control crop destroying pests
    b) a medical doctor who saw the benefits of DDT in controlling disease
    c) a marine biologist who exposed the dangers of DDT starting the modern environmental movement
    d) none of the above
16) “The day which will live in infamy,” according to Franklin D. Roosevelt, was
   a) 7 December 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
   b) 29 October 1929, when the stock market crashed
   c) 9 September 2001, when terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center
   d) 5 December 1933, when Prohibition was repealed

17) The peoples who became known as Native Americans
   a) migrated across a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska
   b) were Polynesians who sailed across the Pacific
   c) evolved from proto-humans present before the continents separated
   d) all of the above

18) The main source of labor on southern plantations during the 17th century was
   a) wives and children
   b) white indentured servants
   c) black slaves
   d) Native Americans

19) The main source of labor on southern plantations during the 19th century was
   a) wives and children
   b) white indentured servants
   c) black slaves
   d) Native Americans

20) Which of the following did not become a part of the United States as a consequence of a war?
   a) Alaska
   b) California
   c) Kentucky
   d) Ohio

21) Which of the following Presidents was impeached and removed from office?
   a) Richard Nixon
   b) Bill Clinton
   c) Andrew Johnson
   d) Actually, no President has been removed from office by impeachment.

22) Woodrow Wilson’s 14 Points called for
   a) the creation of the United Nations
   b) the independence of India
   c) the creation of an independent Polish state
   d) the occupation of Germany by four different countries

23) Prohibition refers to
   a) the 1960s campaign against marijuana
   b) the 1980s campaign against cocaine
   c) the 1950s campaign against cigarettes
   d) the 1920s campaign against alcohol

24) The Nisei were
   a) American citizens of Japanese descent
   b) committed no acts of treason during World War II
   c) interred in camps as a symbolic act of retribution against Japanese aggression
   d) all of the above
25) Martin Luther King delivered
   a) the "I have a dream" speech
   b) the "day of infamy" speech
   c) the "axis of evil" speech
   d) the "give me freedom" speech

26) The book often credited with starting the feminist movement of the 1960s was
   a) *The Home: Its Work and Influence* by Charlotte Gilman
   b) *Sex and the Single Girl* by Helen Gurley Brown
   c) *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir
   d) *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan

27) An overriding principle of the George Washington administration in terms of relations
    between the United States and foreign countries was
   a) Forming alliances
   b) Repayment of war debt
   c) Maintaining neutrality
   d) Territorial expansion

28) President Thomas Jefferson arranged the largest territorial expansion in United States
    history, known as the
   a) Alaska Purchase (1867)
   b) Gadsden Purchase (1853)
   c) Annexation of Texas (1845)
   d) Louisiana Purchase (1803)

29) An early policy of the United States, still in effect today, that forbids European countries
    from creating new colonies in the Western Hemisphere or from reoccupying abandoned
    colonies there is known as the
   a) Atlantic Charter (1941)
   b) Balfour Declaration (1917)
   c) Monroe Doctrine (1823)
   d) Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

30) Across the first half of the 19th century the United States expanded its territory from the
    Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans by acquisitions ranging from conquest to purchase, known
    as
   a) Monroe Doctrine
   b) Manifest Destiny
   c) Seward's Folly
   d) Truman Doctrine

31) A naval and air attack on territory of the United States by the Empire of Japan that began
    on 07 December 1941 and launched an American involvement in World War II occurred
    at
   a) Sydney, Australia
   b) San Francisco, California
   c) Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
   d) Anchorage, Alaska

32) An effort by the United States to defeat Fidel Castro in Cuba by an amphibious invasion
    that failed in 1961 is known as the
   a) Sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor
   b) Bay of Pigs fiasco
c) Iran Contra scandal
d) D-Day operation (also "Overlord")

33) The international organization responsible for safeguarding territorial integrity of member states in the North Atlantic region that grew from 12 nations in 1949 to 28 nations in 2014 is
a) League of Nations
b) NATO
c) UN
d) Organization of American States

34) In the 1960s a conflict involved the United States in Southeast Asia from which American forces withdrew in the administration of President Gerald R. Ford. That conflict was located in and known as
a) Korea
b) Vietnam
c) Taiwan
d) Philippines

35) President William J. ("Bill") Clinton confessed his greatest mistake was in failing to interrupt genocide occurring in
a) Balkans, the former Yugoslavia
b) Rwanda, Somalia, the "Horn" of Africa
c) Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon)
d) South Africa under "Apartheid"

36) Alice Walker and Toni Morrison are
a) African American women politicians
b) African American women writers
c) African American women journalists
d) Popular African American actresses and entertainers

37) Which of the following is NOT a novel written by an American writer
a) Invisible Man
b) Middlemarch
c) Portnoy's Complaint
d) Catcher in the Rye

38) In 1848 the United States annexed almost half of territory of:
 a) Canada
 b) Mexico
 c) Puerto Rico
 d) San Domingo

39) The network of people helping fugitive slaves to reach Canadian frontier was called:
a) Bleeding Kansas
b) Dixie Land
c) Underground Railroad
d) Invisible Empire

40) Supporters of the Southern cause during the Civil War were called:
a) Abolitionists
b) Free Soilers
c) Prohibitionists
d) Secessionists
41) The prevailing attitude towards European conflicts after World War I in the USA was that of:
   a) independentism
   b) internationalism
   c) isolationism
   d) interventionism

42) The famous movie star who supported the American involvement in the Vietnam War was:
   a) John Wayne
   b) Clint Eastwood
   c) Jane Fonda
   d) Claude Van Damme

43) Which of the following is an important American political drama television series starring Kevin Spacey:
   a) House of Cards
   b) House of Games
   c) Game of Thrones
   d) Endgame

44) Which of the following is NOT a 20th century American painter
   a) Mart Rothko
   b) Jackson Pollock
   c) Norman Rockwell
   d) Leonard Bernstein

45) Django Unchained, the much discussed 2012 film dealing with slavery was directed by
   a) Steve McQueen
   b) Quentin Tarantino
   c) Steven Spielberg
   d) Oliver Stone

46) Which of the following is the leading figure in the visual arts movement known as pop art?
   a) Andy Warhol
   b) Kara Walker
   c) David Lachapelle
   d) Georgia O'Keefe

47) Which of the following figures matches the following description: writer and filmmaker, professor, literary icon, and political activist, author of the famous essays such as “Notes on Camp” and “Against Interpretation”
   a) Saul Bellow
   b) Philip Roth
   c) Susan Sontag
   d) Betty Friedan

48) Rebel without a Cause starring James Dean premiered in
   a) 1945
   b) 1955
   c) 1965
   d) 1975

49) “Stonewall” is a word associated with
a) the gay rights movement  
b) the women’s movement  
c) the Black Power Movement  
d) the New Right

50) Which of the following is NOT a film directed by Woody Allen  
   a) Zelig  
   b) Sleeper  
   c) Crimes and Misdemeanors  
   d) The Graduate
Part 2 – ASC ACADEMIC COMPETENCE TEST (50 points)

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.

TEXT 1 (questions 1-4)

Define the words as they are used in the text:

The film explicitly connects experimental video’s temporal dissonance to queer sexual dissidence; it links the malleability of filmic time to the sexually experimental body.

1) Explicitly
   a) powerfully
   b) openly
   c) presently
   d) none of the above

2) Dissonance
   a) discordance, lack of harmony
   b) political resistance
   c) different sound
   d) difficulty

3) Dissidence
   a) lack of harmony
   b) different location
   c) residue
   d) dissent, difference from the majority

4) Malleability
   a) bad shape
   b) capacity to be shaped
   c) shortness
   d) length

TEXT 2 (questions 5-8)

Define the words as they are used in the text:

Spicer was a notoriously difficult person, and his biography describes various moments when he eschewed conviviality, acted out in public, and was generally difficult.

5) Notoriously:
   a) always
   b) dangerously
   c) hilariously
   d) widely and unfavorably known as

6) To eschew
a) to avoid
b) to chew over
c) to embrace
d) to preach

7) Conviviality
   a) hatred
   b) friendliness
   c) happiness
   d) laziness

8) To act out in public
   a) to pretend to be someone else in public
   b) to perform in public
   c) to misbehave in public
   d) to engage in public political activism

TEXT 3 (questions 9-10)

Read the sentence below:

The anti-sociality of a hard-drinking gay poet or punk icon with an active death wish habit is certainly nothing like the fantasy of antirelationality that is put forth in a few contemporary schools of academic inquiry, including, but not limited to, certain strands of psychoanalytically oriented gay studies that wish to convince us that any socially oriented cultural analysis is nothing more than delusional disavowal.

9) From the sentence above, we may infer that the writer espouses:
   a) socially oriented criticism
   b) psychoanalytic criticism
   c) antirelationality
   d) Christian Fundamentalism

10) If you were to place this quote within a larger academic field, would it belong to:
    a) Critical Race Studies
    b) Marxism
    c) LGBT or Queer studies
    d) Feminism

TEXT 4 (questions 11-20)

On the Phenomenon of Bullshit Jobs by David Graeber.

In the year 1930, John Maynard Keynes predicted that, by century’s end, technology would have advanced sufficiently that countries like Great Britain or the United States would have achieved a 15-hour work week. There’s every reason to believe he was right. In technological terms, we are quite capable of this. And yet it didn’t happen. Instead, technology has been marshaled, if anything, to figure out ways to make us all work more. In order to achieve this, jobs have had to be created that are, effectively, pointless. Huge
swathes of people, in Europe and North America in particular, spend their entire working lives performing tasks they secretly believe do not really need to be performed. The moral and spiritual damage that comes from this situation is profound. It is a scar across our collective soul. Yet virtually no one talks about it.

Why did Keynes’ promised utopia – still being eagerly awaited in the ‘60s – never materialize? The standard line today is that he didn’t figure in the massive increase in consumerism. Given the choice between less hours and more toys and pleasures, we’ve collectively chosen the latter. This presents a nice morality tale, but even a moment’s reflection shows it can’t really be true. Yes, we have witnessed the creation of an endless variety of new jobs and industries since the ‘20s, but very few have anything to do with the production and distribution of sushi, iPhones, or fancy sneakers.

So what are these new jobs, precisely? […] Over the course of the last century, the number of workers employed as domestic servants, in industry, and in the farm sector has collapsed dramatically. At the same time, “professional, managerial, clerical, sales, and service workers” tripled, growing “from one-quarter to three-quarters of total employment.” In other words, productive jobs have, just as predicted, been largely automated away (even if you count industrial workers globally, including the toiling masses in India and China, such workers are still not nearly so large a percentage of the world population as they used to be)

But rather than allowing a massive reduction of working hours to free the world’s population to pursue their own projects, pleasures, visions, and ideas, we have seen the ballooning not even so much of the “service” sector as of the administrative sector, up to and including the creation of whole new industries like financial services or telemarketing, or the unprecedented expansion of sectors like corporate law, academic and health administration, human resources, and public relations. And these numbers do not even reflect on all those people whose job is to provide administrative, technical, or security support for these industries, or for that matter the whole host of ancillary industries (dog-washers, all-night pizza deliverymen) that only exist because everyone else is spending so much of their time working in all the other ones.

11) The author of this piece argues that
   a) People work long hours but this is necessary from a macroeconomic perspective
   b) People work much longer hours than necessary from a macroeconomic perspective
   c) People ought to work longer hours because otherwise they are demoralized
   d) People work as much or as little as they want, it is a matter of choice

12) The sentence “It is a scar across our collective soul” (end of first paragraph) could be paraphrased as follows:
   a) The collective soul is scared (i.e., terrified, frightened)
   b) It is a major problem of spiritual dimensions
   c) It is a minor problem, like an itch or scratch
   d) We are all in this together and we have reasons to be afraid.

13) What is the meaning of “the latter” in the following sentence: “Given the choice between less hours and more toys and pleasures, we’ve collectively chosen the latter” (second paragraph)?
   a) Neither of the things mentioned here.
   b) Upward mobility.
14) In the second paragraph it is argued that the massive increase in consumerism is
   a) the best explanation for what happened to work in modern culture
   b) a common but insufficient explanation for what happened to work in modern culture
   c) a wonderful development that drives the economy
   d) a source of anxiety, boredom and needless suffering

15) Academic and health administration, human resources, and public relations are cited as examples of
   a) creative jobs where people pursue their own projects, visions, and ideas
   b) jobs which are often useless
   c) jobs that are boring but useful
   d) jobs with great potential which are outnumbering jobs in the industry

16) The word “ancillary” used in the end of the final paragraph means:
   a) providing something additional to a main part or function
   b) owned or controlled by another company
   c) extremely good and deserving to be admired and copied
   d) harmful and wasteful, possibly immoral

17) Which of the following reactions would be typical and appropriate when someone sneezes in your presence:
   a) Good Health
   b) Here is to you
   c) Bless you
   d) God bless America

18) Which of the following would be an appropriate response to the statement: “Do you mind if I open the window?” in a stuffy train compartment:
   a) Yes, thank you.
   b) Not at all, please go ahead.
   c) I do not mind.
   d) Please open the window, no problem.

19) There is a popular proverb that says “Beggars can't be choosers.” It means that:
   a) If you're asking for a favor from someone, you have to take whatever they give you.
   b) Begging is harmful and should not be chosen
   c) If someone asks you for help you should do it in case you are in need some day
   d) If someone asks you for money you should ignore the request, because you might need money yourself some day.

20) Which of the following four list words is NOT a list of synonyms:
   a) companionable, convivial, clubbable, gregarious
   b) attractive, winning, fetching, gorgeous
   c) gaiety, celebration, pastime, entertaining
   d) composure, coolness, equanimity, calmness

Text 5

Read the passage and then answer questions 21–32:
In retrospect, it might be recognized as a troubling harbinger that, ten years ago, no consensus could be reached in this country on what to call the decade upon which we were about to embark. The ohs? The double-ohs! The zeros? The zips? The nadas? The naughties? As the reassuringly comprehensible nineties were drawing to a close, all these were suggested as possible designations for the coming era. When Madison Avenue and the collective editorial boards of the nation’s newspapers failed to come up with a killer appellation in advance, there was at least confidence that by decade’s end, a majority-pleasing solution to the problem of decennial nomenclature would have presented itself.

As we near the end, however, we still don’t have a good collective name for the first decade of the twenty-first century—at least, not one beyond “the first decade of the twenty-first century,” which is gratifyingly lacking in cuteness but may be too wordy for practicality, particularly given contemporary constraints (Call it that on Twitter, and you’ve used up a third of your character allotment.) Arguably, a grudging agreement has been reached on calling the decade “the aughts,” but that unfortunate term is rooted in a linguistic error. The use of “aught” to mean “nothing,” “zero,” or “cipher” is a nineteenth-century corruption of the word “naught,” which actually does mean nothing, and which, as in the phrase “all for naught,” is still in current usage. Meanwhile, the adoption of “the aughts” as the decade’s name only accelerates the almost complete obsolescence of the actual English word “aught,” a concise and poetic near-synonym for “anything” that has for centuries well served writers.

[The New Yorker, January 4, 2010]

21) Retrospect here means looking back at:
   a) the past
   b) other nations less successful that the US
   c) the country’s embarkation on modernization
   d) America’s prospects

22) Harbinger means:
   a) caution
   b) confusion
   c) difficulty
   d) omen

23) Madison Avenue is a/an _____________ for advertising:
   a) metaphor
   b) anathema
   c) metonymy
   d) mimesis

24) Decennial:
   a) devalued
   b) commemorative
   c) consisting of ten years
   d) paying tribute

25) The adjective “killer” means:
   a) severe, almost deadly
   b) arrogant and patronizing
   c) impossible to withstand
   d) impressively effective

26) A “majority-pleasing solution” refers to:
a) a presidential candidate that would satisfy the majority of Americans after two bad presidents
b) a name that the majority of Americans would be satisfied with
c) a satisfactory settlement between newspapers which found themselves in debt
d) a breaking up of the corrupt establishment in control of New York’s public contracts

27) When s/he speaks of the “reassuringly comprehensible nineties,” the author seems to forget about:
a) the 9/11
b) Oklahoma City bomb
c) Hurricane Katrina
d) the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact

28) Appellation here means:
a) a term
b) a request
c) a sentence
d) a court warrant

29) Gratifyingly here means
a) Self-indulgently
b) Pleasingly
c) Thankfully
d) Gratefully

30) Allotment in “character allotment” here means
a) Trait
b) Attunement
c) Limit
d) Integrity

31) Obsolescence here means the condition of
a) no longer being in use
b) being thorough
c) no longer being effective
d) being atrophied

32) One word below is NOT synonymous with cipher
a) nil
b) celeb
c) digit
d) code

TEXT 6

Read the passage and then answer questions 33–42:

Two sets of numbers tell a contradictory story about the euro zone. Economic data point to improvements by the month, even by the day: growth is picking up and the borrowing costs of even the most indebted countries keep falling. The crisis is over, say some Eurocrats. By contrast, polls ahead of the month’s European elections point to political upheaval. Voters are exasperated with their governments and with Europe; anti-establishment groups are on the rise and may come top in some places. Europe may be about to test de Tocqueville’s contention that the most propitious time for revolution is not when conditions are worsening,
but when they start to improve. “Evils which are patiently endured when they seem inevitable become intolerable once the idea of escape from them is suggested,” he wrote. Having witnessed the evils of falling living standards and mass unemployment, and with a general sense that citizens have had to pay to save banks (all worsened by leaders’ mismanagement of the crisis), there are signs that escape is at hand.

33) The two sets of numbers include:
   a) current levels of unemployment
   b) macroeconomic results for the euro zone
   c) votes cast in the European elections for anti-establishment groups
   d) the amounts of money spent to save banks

34) “contention” means
   a) axiom
   b) syllogism
   c) thesis
   d) rule of thumb

35) “to endure” is
   a) to outlast
   b) to overcome
   c) to sustain
   d) to withstand

36) “exasperated” means:
   a) impatient
   b) troubled
   c) concerned
   d) cautious

37) “propitious” means:
   a) difficult
   b) unlikely
   c) favorable
   d) belated

38) Which of these four words appearing in the article is NOT used as a synonym for the others:
   a) upheaval
   b) crisis
   c) revolution
   d) escape

39) To say that “the borrowing costs of even the most indebted countries keep falling” means:
   a) Inflation in the most indebted countries is on the rise.
   b) Unemployment rates in the most indebted countries are finally declining.
   c) The most indebted countries pay a lower interest rate on their debt than in the past.
   d) Other countries pay a higher interest rate on their debt than the most indebted countries do.

40) De Tocqueville’s contention about the conditions of political upheaval is based on the following opposition:
a) Democracy versus sovereignty
b) Necessity versus possibility
c) Evil versus good
d) Revolution versus evolution

41) Arrange these lines to form a limerick (punctuation has been removed):

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>And not just salacious</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>The latter’s more likely than not</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>A limerick waits to be caught</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>In every and each random thought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) D-B-C-A-E
b) B-E-A-C-D
c) E-D-C-A-B
d) E-B-A-C-D

42) Arrange the sentences into a paragraph:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The Obama Administration takes Russian complaints at face value and pretends that the Russians are simply misguided about what missile-defense systems do.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A shield is inherently defensive, they say, and cannot be confused with a sword.</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>As if the Russians, who have their own missile defenses, do not know this.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Russia likes to say that missile-defense systems are threatening to Russia—and, in a way, they are right.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) B-E-A-C-D
b) A-B-C-E-D
c) C-A-D-A-B
d) E-C-A-B-D

TEXT 7 (questions 43-46)

Fill in the blanks with the words marked with letters in the sentence below (use the letter preceding the word, e.g. “a” for “transcends”)

Whether fat, thin, or something else, style neither (a)transcends nor (b)subsumes culture but pries it open a bit, rearranges or reconstitutes its elements, providing (c)glimpses of an otherwise-being that is unrealizable as street activism or as (d)blueprint for the future.

43) The sailors caught the first ______ of land.
44) The general field of physics ______ the field of mechanics.
45) Some people believe that human consciousness ______ the human body and is independent of all earthly matter.
46) The Civil Rights Movement provided ______ for the future generations of non-violent protestors.
TEXT 8 (questions 47-50)

Define the words as they are used in the text:

The book follows its texts’ hunch that hermeneutics, the property of art as well as criticism, indirectly feeds the making of new social forms across space and time.

47) Hunch
   a) intuitive belief
   b) instruction
   c) lead
   d) warning

48) Hermeneutics:
   a) study of the nature of being
   b) theory of interpretation
   c) study of the nature and scope of knowledge
   d) theory of relativity

49) Property
   a) attribute or quality
   b) real estate
   c) proper behavior
   d) none of the above

50) Feeds
   a) provides physical nourishment
   b) directs
   c) contributes to
   d) claims