

You must READ the following general instructions before answering any questions.

General Instructions:

1. Answer the following questions in order.
2. Pay attention to specific instructions, if any, for each section.
3. You must follow instructions to get proper credit.

Section I: Short Answers

Instructions: Choose any five items or phrases from the following list and briefly describe in English the meaning of each. Write down the question along with the answer. (6 pts each)

1. the long tail effect
2. computer-mediated communication
3. the first communication revolution
4. the cyberspace
5. loose cannon
6. tax break
7. baby boomers
8. chip on the shoulder
9. tip of the iceberg
10. politically incorrect

Section II: Short Essays

Instructions: Choose any five from the following list and briefly describe in English what you know about the person(s), organization(s), event(s), or place(s). (8 pts each)

1. Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
2. Kobe Bryant
3. Index of Economic Freedom
4. Reporters Without Borders
5. The Huffington Post
6. The Scottish independence referendum
7. Diaoyutai Islands
8. Charlie Hebdo
9. Gabriel Garcia Márquez
10. Lizard Squad

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Section III: Translations

Instruction: Translate the following passage into Chinese. (30 pts)

It was an unprecedented step for what became, in New York City, a common storm: For the first time in its 110-year history, the subway system was shut down because of snow.

Transit workers, caught off guard by the shutdown that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced on Monday, scrambled to grind the network to a halt within hours.

Residents moved quickly to find places to stay, if they were expected at work the next day, or hustle home before service was curtailed and roads were closed.

And on Tuesday, local and state officials were left to defend one of the most consequential decisions elected leaders can make: effectively closing a city, in light of an uncertain forecast.

The weather laid bare the civic and political high-wire act of the modern snowstorm — pocked with doomsayer proclamations and sporadic lapses in communication.

At the episode's heart is the sort of damned-if-you-do decision that has bedeviled politicians for decades: Play it safe with closings, all but guaranteeing sweeping economic losses, or try to ride out the storm?

Briefings and interviews with officials suggest that recent challenges — including Hurricane Sandy, a snowstorm in Buffalo and public spats between top local leaders and forecasters — have left decision-makers even more risk-averse.

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