

第一大題：中譯英 (50%) - 請英譯下列框內之短文

十一 —— 鹹蛋糕

南方島嶼燒起爐火的季節實在短暫啊。

堆置於廚房土間的煤炭，減少的速度自二月底趨緩。進入三月天，唯有深夜與清晨吹起的料峭冷風，太陽升起以後便徹底消散了。柳川的岸樹染上新綠，春風吹拂而枝條搖擺，金色的陽光在枝條間穿梭閃耀。

我在本島迎來了春天。

九州的春天是吃初鯉的季節，此際我卻絲毫不生追尋初鯉的熱誠。不，豈止是初鯉，久住腹底的妖怪好像涅槃了，我的食慾連帶得道升天，任憑肚子咕嚕作響，我也想不到什麼非吃不可的餐飯。

早晨在床褥上翻來覆去，每天我都遲至十點左右才甘願起床，吃的不是貓飯，就是生雞蛋拌飯，更多時候是白吐司抹砂糖奶油。

肚腹是火爐，食物是煤炭，飢餓的時候不論滋味，喀擦喀擦地將飯啊吐司的以牙齒磨碎吞到肚底，令人體如同蒸汽火車運轉——我生平首次領會「進食」這件事情，真的只是字面上的行為罷了。

午後開始伏案寫作。

沒有食慾，只好抽菸。幾年前為了應酬習得的，平時毫無菸癮，如今一天能抽掉半包菸。不過，一根菸往往只吸了第一口，餘下的都在指尖燒盡，灰燼觸得稿紙四處破洞。

我在破洞裡寫字。

專有名詞對照:

本島- the Island

柳川- the Yana River

九州- Kyūshū

鯉魚- hatsu-gatsuo / snapjack tuna

文節錄自:《台灣漫遊錄》

第二大題：英文寫作 (50%)

Grit is a widely venerated quality seen as a marker for future success. Angela Duckworth defines “grit” as passion and perseverance towards long-term goals, emphasizing that sustained effort outweighs talent in achieving success. However, most studies on grit have been limited by their use of selective samples with homogeneous socioeconomic backgrounds, such as students from a single school. Please read the following passage and **write a 250- to 300-word summary in your own words** of the new trends of grit research.

A new wave of grit researchers are now looking at grit more holistically, by including more diverse samples and time frames. The emerging results are starting to challenge the idea of grit as the ‘success trait’.

For example, new research from experts at Tel Aviv University and Ariel University, Israel, used representative samples, meaning the sample population isn’t restricted to a range of intelligence, as it was for many past studies. With a broader sample population and analysis of more factors, they found that the effect of grit on success was negligible. Intelligence contributes 48 to 90 times more than grit to educational achievement, and 13 times more to workplace success, whereas conscientiousness contributes twice as much.

Similarly, studies conducted in educational contexts, such as a twin study on reading comprehension, showed that intervening indirectly on grit is not as effective as working directly on the desired skill – in this case, reading comprehension. Another research paper published this year demonstrates that grit does not necessarily translate to academic attainment for students with low-IQ scores or delays in general cognitive ability. This dismantles one of the central promises of the glittering grit paradigm, that it could help level the playing field for

disadvantaged students.

Other researchers have assessed how grit contributes to success across different time frames. Duckworth herself published a follow-up study in 2019, analysing data on more than 10,000 West Point cadets across a full decade. Unsurprisingly, cognitive ability best predicted success in academic and military grades, whereas physical ability was the strongest marker for predicting physical performance. “Grit, in contrast, contributed only modestly to academic, physical and military performance but was the only reliable predictor of completing Beast Barracks, the initial summer training during which attrition from the academy peaks,” she wrote.

The ability for someone to simply grind it out successfully is also very situationally dependent. Contrary to the image of a solitary person with infinite reserves of grit toiling away, recent research shows that work-goal progress is not necessarily directly proportional to grit. The study, which sampled 293 university professors, suggests that success may result from an interaction between personal resources and perceived organisational support – the belief employees have about the extent to which their organisation values their contributions and cares about their wellbeing.

This is particularly important for marginalised populations. “If we have begun to acknowledge – as we have over the last year – that people belonging to minority backgrounds have been systematically excluded from mainstream institutions and debates, then by extension we need to acknowledge how much harder it is for them to be part of these institutions, and how much harder it is for them to keep staying there without robust and consistent organisational support,” says Dr Moizza B Sarwar, a research fellow for ODI Global’s Equity and Social Policy Programme, who analyses inequality in access to public institutions for minorities.

Findings from a recent study that analysed how grit impacted student performance chime with this. The researchers found that grit was not enough for Latino and African American students to overcome other barriers to college success, especially when compared to their white and Asian American peers. The study results suggest that achievement gaps were caused by a missing sense of belonging – feeling like one is ‘meant’ to be in college – or by academic mindset, rather than a lack of grit. African American students in the survey had the highest levels of grit, but the lowest levels of academic performance, potentially due to inadequate interventions improving their sense of belonging or to cultivate an academic mindset. By contrast, Asian-American students often had the highest grades, yet reported the lowest levels of grit.

“The concept [of grit] fails to take into account starting points, specifically for people from low-income backgrounds,” explains Sarwar. “It discounts the different type of grit it took to overcome institutional barriers to gain access to these workplaces in the first place, such as making it all the way in higher education or gaining access to networks that land jobs.”

Essentially, grit is shorthand for privilege, believes Sarwar. “There’s an assumption of having no other battles to fight in one’s daily life than emails sent by one’s boss or a deadline from a client and an assumption that an employee will know exactly how an organisation’s culture works because they somehow come from the same class and educational background as the leading team.”

And ultimately, applauding individual grit can’t be grounds for offloading systemic and structural responsibility. According to Sarwar, the cult following for grit at a time of worsening global income inequalities isn’t a coincidence: “It is a way of trying to drag attention back to the individual rather than the larger economic and social structure the individual is embedded in.”

In the current situation, we all need to be part of a tightly knit social tapestry, with all the belonging, inclusivity and support we can get. Because even the grittiest attitude can’t produce a pearl through sheer determination alone. It needs the environment of the oyster.

Adapted from: Imtiaz, A. (2021, June 5). *Grit: The dark side of deciding to ‘tough it out’*. BBC.
<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20210601-grit-the-dark-side-of-deciding-to-tough-it-out>