



## 2003 年 12 月英语二级口译综合能力试题

试题部分:

### Test for Interpreters of Level 2 English Language Skills Transcripts for the Recorded Passages

**Part I** *Listen to the short passages and then decide whether the corresponding statements below are true or false. After hearing a short passage, blacken the circle of “True” on the answer sheet below if you think the statement is true, or blacken the circle for “False” if it is false. There are ten questions in this part of the test, two points for each question.*

1. In a series of radio broadcasts, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the actor-turned-candidate-for-governor, staked out some middle ground on social issues, taking positions that might alienate his conservative fellow Republicans but match the views of a majority of Californians.
2. Early onset of depression in children and teens is increasingly common. Depressed adolescents are at high risk for school failure, social isolation, promiscuity, “self-medication,” and even suicide—the third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds.
3. Chilean sea bass is a snow-white, flaky delicacy in restaurants in the United States, Japan and Europe. Environmentalists have warned that over-fishing and poaching could cause it to vanish from the coasts of Antarctica.
4. In western Sweden, a five-year-old girl was abducted and stabbed to death last week by an inmate from a psychiatric institute who was able to come and go at will in part because the cost of looking after such patients in this cradle-to-grave welfare state is becoming too high.
5. While women make up half the 325 million people in the Middle East and North Africa, and in some countries as many as 63 percent of university students, they comprise only 32 percent of the labor force, according to a World Bank report released on the eve of its annual meeting with the International Monetary Fund.
6. The United States on Tuesday vetoed a UN Security Council resolution, backed by Islamic and nonaligned nations, demanding that Israel back off its threat to deport the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Eleven Council members voted in favor of the measure, while Britain, Germany



and Bulgaria abstained.

7. Toyota Motor, having topped Daimler-Chrysler's American unit in sales for the first time last month, may be poised to dethrone Ford Motor as the world's second-biggest automaker within two years. It has gained market share since the 1970s, in part by improving the quality of the vehicles it makes. That is reflected in higher customer satisfaction ratings and fewer defects.
8. In Jerusalem, where responding to terror attacks has become a grim medical specialty, Dr. David Applebaum was known as the "first man on the scene". He spent years dashing to the bomb sites to treat the wounded, and was an innovator in emergency medical services that are called into action all too often in the city.
9. The Chinese currency, the yuan, is not a free-floating currency like the Japanese yen but is pegged to the US dollar. Its value is therefore essentially unchanged. Beijing is not expected to change this system in the near term, in part because officials there fear that a move now towards free-floating currency could destabilize the country's economy and financial system.
10. Ben Glisan Jr., a former treasurer of Enron, has pleaded guilty to a federal charge that he committed securities and wire fraud, making him the highest-ranking former Enron executive to admit wrongdoing in the accounting scandal that drove the energy company into bankruptcy.

**Part II** *Listen to the following short passages and then choose one of the answers that best fits the meaning of each passage by blackening the corresponding circle. There are ten passages in this part of the test, with one question each, which carries two points.*

11. As China's vast interior gets richer, Grenda Lee, Coca-Cola's Shanghai-based director of external affairs, finds herself dreaming about tapping the country's rural market. Chinese peasants account for roughly 70 percent of China's 1.3 billion people, but on average each drinks only three Coke products a year. That compares with some 60 drinks consumed annually in Shanghai and Beijing, 150 in Hong Kong and 420 in the United States. With so many customers at stake, potential profits take on epic scale.
12. With "fractional ownership," the participants actually own a percentage of a jet plane, super-yacht, Old Master painting or a second home, not just the right to use it for a specified amount of time. They enjoy all the benefits of ownership without paying an astronomical price for something they use only occasionally. And, they are able to afford a bigger, better yacht, helicopter or home than they could have bought outright.



13. The evolution of technology is showing no signs of maturing whatsoever. If you look at nanomaterials or photonics, carbon nanotubes, all the things that are going on in new types of energy, environmentally better materials—there’s no shortage of new technology coming. It is nowhere near maturity. Certainly, there’s consolidation among business models and competitors, but it doesn’t have the telltale signs of a mature industry where there’s no innovation.
14. Parkinson’s disease can cause a weird variety of different symptoms in different people. The two most common are uncontrollable shaking on the one hand, or rigidity on the other. Balance problems are also frequent. The stranger symptoms can include difficulty going through doorways and deciding what to eat for dinner.
15. The global steel industry is in a mess. Overcapacity and weak demand have hurt producers. In 2002, 847 million tons of steel was produced, but consumption was only 765 million tons. Steel makers have responded by consolidating. Last year in Europe, for example, Arcelor, the world’s biggest producer, was formed from a three-way merger of Spain’s Aceralia, France’s Usinor and Arbed, a Luxemburg-based company.
16. In any movie theater any summer, you can practically hear the atrophying of brain cells. Summer pictures don’t insult the audience’s intelligence so much as they ignore it, playing instead to the mass-market inner child. But with most big films serving as a form of pop-cultural potty training, there’s a grand void to be filled for viewers who have not sent their brains to summer camp—who want the occasional film to speak to their inner grownup.
17. Political tourism first took off in the 1980s, when activists, angry at the United States for propping up Central American dictators, began flocking to countries like Nicaragua and Honduras to see the result themselves. Groups such as the London-based Nicaragua Solidarity Network were only too happy to accommodate them. After returning home, activist tourists tended to take like-minded compatriots back to the region to express solidarity with a movement, act as international observers or simply educate foreigners on the consequences of cold-war policies.
18. Human cloning involves creating an embryo out of a cell taken from a fully developed human being. “Reproductive” cloning means growing an embryo into a second, genetically identical human being. “Therapeutic” cloning, by contrast, means using an embryo as a source of stem cells for the person who supplied the originally cell. The theory is that stem cells with DNA



identical to yours would be more likely to develop successfully into replacement parts for you. Brain cells for people with Parkinson's are the most promising example, but ultimately even severed limbs might grow back this way.

19. The disappointing ministerial conference that concluded in Cancun, Mexico in September will have many ramifications, but sadly the most significant of them will be its impact on poor countries. A more open and equitable trading system would provide them with an important tool in alleviating poverty and raising their levels of economic development.

20. It takes only a trip on the busy but rutted highway that leads north from here to understand how a huge swath of the Amazon jungle could have been razed over the course of just a year. Where the jungle once offered shelter to jaguars, parrots and deer, the land is now increasingly being cleared for soybeans, Brazil's hottest cash crop.

**Part III Listen to the following longer passages and then choose the best answer to each of the questions by blackening the corresponding circle. You may need to scribble a few notes in order to answer the questions satisfactorily. There are 20 questions in this part of the test, two points for each question.**

### Passage One

In early September, Trinidad's state-owned sugar company made all of its 9,200 employees redundant. Though most are Indo-Trinidadians and supporters of the island's truculent opposition party, there were no protests. The workers got redundancy pay totaling 115 million dollars, the offer of retraining, and the chance to continue growing cane as independent farmers in plots on the company's 31,000 hectares of farmland.

Trinidad, booming on oil and gas, has plenty of new jobs. Jamaica's stagnant economy is another story. The government privatized its sugar factories in 1994, but agreed to take them back four years later. Hit by floods and droughts, this year's sugar crop was a disaster. A shutdown might be greeted with riots by the 7,000 sugar workers and 8,000 cane farmers of the country. Barbados, prosperous and stable, has a different problem. Its neat cane fields are far more attractive to tourists than the eroded scrubland of Antigua, which stopped growing sugar 30 years ago.

21. What is the most appropriate title for the passage?



22. Which of the following statements is not true of Trinidadian workers who were made jobless in early September?
23. What happened to Jamaica's sugar factories in the 1990s?
24. What is happening to Barbados's sugar industry?
25. Which of the following statements best summarizes the main idea of the passage?

### Passage Two

China and India have roughly the same population, but when it comes to mobile phones, there is no comparison between the two. In India, seven years after the launch of mobile-phone services, there are only 10 million users. In China, half that number signs up as new subscribers every month.

Geography and culture explain some of the differences. The concentration of economic activity in China's eastern coastal region gave its mobile operators big economies of scale, allowing lower prices. In China, telephones quickly came to be regarded as fashion items, something that has only recently happened to India.

But the main difference is regulation. India chose a licensing policy that divided the country into 22 regions, each with two licenses to operate mobile networks. Bidding in multiple regions was restricted. This aimed to promote competition, but led to a fragmented market with a baffling array of operators, none of which has economies of scale. Limited spectrum also hurt service quality.

26. Which is the most appropriate title for the passage?
27. According to the writer of this article, how many people sign up as new mobile phone subscribers in China every month?
28. Why are the prices of mobile telephone services lower in China's eastern coastal region?
29. Why are mobile phones popular in China, according to the speaker?
30. How does the speaker feel about the regulation of mobile services in India?

### Passage Three

Dyslexia is a term used to describe a marked difficulty in learning to read despite normal



intelligence and vision. The problem is universal, but research suggests it doesn't affect every culture or language group equally. On China's mainland and in Japan, for example, dyslexia rates are estimated at less than 5 percent compared to 10 percent to 20 percent in the U.S. There are intriguing theories as to why, and Japan has produced some important clues.

Japanese children first learn to read and write in parallel phonetic alphabets, hiragana and katakana, each containing 46 characters relating to 46 different sounds. After conquering them, the student embarks on learning Chinese characters. According to Uno, who works for Japan's National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, just 1 percent of Japanese students have dyslexic problems in reading the phonetic alphabets, while 2 percent encounter problems with Chinese characters. The numbers jump a bit when it comes to writing—2 percent for hiragana, 3.8 percent for katakana and 5 percent for ideograms—but they're still low by American standards.

31. The passage is about
32. Which of the following statements is true of dyslexia?
33. Which of the following countries is most affected with dyslexia according to the passage?
34. Which of the following is not true of the Japanese language?
35. What can be inferred from the passage?

#### Passage Four

Stocks can be divided into two categories: those for trading and those for investing. Within trading stocks, you make money by figuring out whether other traders will keep buying or start selling the stock and positioning yourself accordingly for a few weeks or even days. By contrast, with investing stocks you aim to buy into a company at an attractive price, given the worth of its assets and likely future profits, regardless of when the value will be recognized by the market. This way, you can steer clear of overpaying for fashionable dogs.

There's nothing revolutionary about this strategy, of course. It's just a question of calmly mixing and matching some old, and apparently somewhat contradictory, stock market wisdom and applying it to a hot market. About 70 years ago, British economist John Maynard Keynes said investors should view the market as a beauty contest, and they should mainly buy trading stocks that other people would find attractive. Benjamin Graham, the father of modern securities analysis, bristled at that idea. He lamented that stock buyers, though almost always called investors, are often actually speculators. Instead, he preached that they should make a hard-nosed assessment of



the inherent value of companies and search out investing stocks.

36. What is the most appropriate title for this passage?
37. Which of the following statements is true of John Maynard Keynes?
38. How did Benjamin Graham view stock investment?
39. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?
40. The speaker presents the passage by the following logic:

**Part IV** *Listen to the following passage about new technology and its impact on the changes in universities. Write a short summary of around 150-200 words of what you have heard. This part of the test carries 20 points.*

Our society is now being reshaped by rapid advances in information technologies—computers, telecommunications networks, and other digital systems—that have vastly increased our capacity to know, achieve, and collaborate. These technologies allow us to transmit information quickly and widely, linking distant places and diverse areas of endeavor in productive new ways, and to create communities that just a decade ago were unimaginable.

Of course, our society has been through other periods of dramatic change before, driven by such innovations as the steam engine, railroad, telephone, and automobile. But never before have we experienced technologies that are evolving so rapidly (increasing in power by a hundredfold every decade), altering the constraints of space and time, and reshaping the way we communicate, learn and think.

The rapid evolution of digital technologies is creating not only new opportunities for our society, but also challenges to it as well, and institutions of every stripe are grappling to respond by adapting their strategies and activities. Corporations and governments are reorganizing to enhance productivity, improve quality, and control costs. Entire industries have been restructured to better align themselves with the realities of the digital age. It is no great exaggeration to say that information technology is fundamentally changing the relationship between people and knowledge.

Yet ironically, at the most knowledge-based entities of all—our colleges and universities—the pace of transformation has been relatively modest in key areas. Although research has in many ways been transformed by information technology, and it is increasingly used for student



and faculty communications, other higher-education functions have remained more or less unchanged. Teaching, for example, largely continues to follow a classroom-centered, seat-based paradigm.

Nevertheless, some major technology-aided teaching experiments are beginning to emerge, and several factors suggest that digital technologies may eventually drive significant changes throughout academia. Because these technologies are expanding by orders of magnitude our ability to create, transfer, and apply information, they will have a profound impact on how universities define and fulfill their missions. In particular, the ability of information technology to facilitate new forms of human interaction may allow the transformation of universities toward a greater focus on learning.

Already, higher education has experienced significant technology-based change, particularly in research, even though it presently lags other sectors in some respects. And we expect that the new technology will eventually also have a profound impact on one of the university's primary activities – teaching – by freeing the classroom from its physical and temporal bounds and by providing students with access to original source materials. The situations that students will encounter as citizens and professionals can increasingly be simulated and modeled for teaching and learning, and new learning communities driven by information technology will allow universities to better teach students how to be critical analyzers and consumers of information.

答题纸:

## Test for Interpreters of Level 2

### English Language Skills

### Answer Sheet

**Part I** *Listen to the short passages and then decide whether the corresponding statements below are true or false. After hearing a short passage, blacken the circle of “True” on the answer sheet below if you think the statement is true, or blacken the circle for “False” if it is false. There are ten questions in this part of the test, two points for each question.*

1. The movie actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is running for governor of California, belongs to the conservative Democratic Party.  
 True  
 False



2. School failure and social isolation can lead to early onset of depression in children and teens, and the trend is becoming increasingly common.
  - True
  - False
  
3. According to the statement, Cheliean sea bass, a species of fish available along the coasts of the South Pole, might have already become extinct due to illegal hunting.
  - True
  - False
  
4. It can be inferred from the statement that the Swedish social welfare system, which provides life-long care of its citizens, is no longer feasible and satisfactory.
  - True
  - False
  
5. Out of the 325 million laborers in the Middle East and North Africa, 63 percent are women and 32 percent university students.
  - True
  - False
  
6. According to the statement, the UN Security Council resolution concerning Israel and Yasser Arafat was presented by the United States and approved by 11 Council members including Britain, Germany and Bulgaria.
  - True
  - False
  
7. Toyota Motor now ranks as the world's second largest automobile manufacturers owing to its improved quality and enlarged market share.
  - True
  - False
  
8. It is reasonable to assume that demand for sophisticated emergency medical treatment is higher in Jerusalem, where terrorist bomb attacks were frequent incidents.
  - True
  - False
  
9. As a free-floating currency, Japanese yen often fluctuates with the US dollar, and destabilizes the country's economy and financial system.
  - True
  - False
  
10. Ben Glisan Jr. is the highest-ranking executive of the Enron company found to be guilty for the accounting scandal.



- True
- False

**Part II** *Listen to the following short passages and then choose one of the answers that best fits the meaning of each passage by blackening the corresponding circle. There are ten passages in this part of the test, with one question each, which carries two points.*

11. The annual consumption of Coco-Cola per capita in the regional markets mentioned in the passage ranks in the following order.
- a. Rural China, Beijing, the United States, Hong Kong.
  - b. Beijing, the United States, Rural China, Hong Kong.
  - c. The United States, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Rural China.
  - d. Shanghai, Rural China, the United States, Hong Kong.
12. Which of the following statements is not true of “fractional ownership”?
- a. “Fractional ownership” allows people share the use of highly expensive commodities.
  - b. Thanks to “fractional ownership,” people can afford luxuries like a super yacht.
  - c. “Fractional ownership” is identical to “time sharing”.
  - d. “Fractional ownership” means part of the property right to the buyer.
13. What is the point the speaker is trying to make about technology development?
- a. A mature technology requires less innovation.
  - b. Technical evolution is close to maturation in certain fields.
  - c. New types of energy are expected to mature in the near future.
  - d. Nanomaterials or photonics and carbon nanotubes are environmentally friendly.
14. Which of the following statements is true of the Parkinson’s disease?
- a. Parkinson’s always shows the same symptoms on different people.
  - b. People inflicted with Parkinson’s often have a shaking hand or a stiff hand.
  - c. The symptoms of Parkinson’s vary among different patients.
  - d. Victims of Parkinson’s find it difficult to recall what they have eaten for dinner.
15. Which of the following is true of world steel production?
- a. The steel industry still has a bright prospect on a global scene.
  - b. Steel consumption in the world registered a drastic cut.
  - c. Steel makers are drastically cutting down their production.
  - d. Better promotion is needed for improving sales of steel products.
16. What does the speaker feel about summer pictures?
- a. Summer films might cause mental damage to the audience.
  - b. Summer films need to give due respect to the audience’s intelligence.



- c. Summer films should cater to both children and grownups.
  - d. Summer films should not target at the mass-market.
17. Which of the following makes the most appropriate title for the passage?
- a. Cold-War Policies and the Tourism Industry.
  - b. The Characteristics of Political Tourism.
  - c. The Rise of Political Tourism.
  - d. The Latest Developments of Political Tourism.
18. Which of the following statement is not true of therapeutic cloning?
- a. “Therapeutic” cloning is used mainly for research purposes and therefore should be allowed to continue.
  - b. “Therapeutic” cloning is used for medical purposes and not for reproducing full human beings.
  - c. “Therapeutic” cloning is used for replacing the diseased parts of human organs.
  - d. Brain cell can be used in the future to cure the Parkinson’s disease.
19. Which of the following statement is closest in meaning to the passage you have just heard?
- a. The WTO ministerial conference held at Cancun is disappointing because the poor countries could not participate in the event.
  - b. The Cancun ministerial meeting was intended to create a more open and equitable trading system.
  - c. The main objective of the Cancun conference was to help the poorest countries in the world to develop their economy.
  - d. Opening up the market in poor countries would have a negative impact on their national economic development.
20. What has happened to the Amazon jungle?
- a. Highways have been constructed through the jungle to help ease the traffic in the cities.
  - b. Jaguars, parrots and deer that once inhabited the jungle have left because the place was getting too hot for them.
  - c. The land has been cleared for growing soybeans because it is the most popular Brazilian food.
  - d. Fast economic development has brought devastating changes to the natural environment in Brazil.

**Part III** *Listen to the following longer passages and then choose the best answer to each of the questions by blackening the corresponding circle. You may need to scribble a few notes in order to answer the questions satisfactorily. There are 20 questions in this part of the test, two points for each question.*



### Passage One

21. What is the most appropriate title for the passage?
- The Future of Sugar Industry in Central America
  - Unemployment in Latin America
  - Reforms in Sugar Industry in North America.
  - The Impact of the Declining Sugar Industry
22. Which of the following statements is not true of Trinidadian workers who were made jobless in early September?
- They held protests against the government on the street.
  - They became independent cane farmers.
  - They were compensated with a total of 115 million dollars.
  - They were given the chance of retraining for new job careers.
23. What happened to Jamaica's sugar factories in the 1990s?
- They witnessed unsuccessful reforms.
  - They went bankrupt due to crop failure.
  - They suffered from inefficient production.
  - They failed due to a shortage of labor supply.
24. What is happening to Barbados's sugar industry?
- It is prosperous and stable.
  - It has vast expanses of deserted cane fields.
  - It uses cane fields as tourist attractions.
  - It stopped growing sugar 30 years ago.
25. Which of the following statements best summarizes the main idea of the passage?
- The sugar industry varies in prosperity among producing countries in Latin America.
  - World sugar producers all suffer from short supply of canes.
  - The world sugar industry is undergoing fatal depression.
  - Major sugar producers have adopted different strategies to combat the sluggish economy.

### Passage Two

26. Which is the most appropriate title for the passage?
- A Comparative Study of the Telecom Industry in China and India
  - Differences on Use of Mobile Phones in China and India
  - Geographical and Cultural Differences between China and India
  - Different Regulations on Mobile Phones in China and India



27. According to the writer of this article, how many people sign up as new mobile phone subscribers in China every month?
- 10 million.
  - 7 million.
  - 5 million.
  - 22 million
28. Why are the prices of mobile telephone services lower in China's eastern coastal region?
- The average disposable income is lower in the region.
  - The GDP is higher in the region.
  - The costs of operators are lower due to a greater number of users of mobile phone services in the region.
  - The operators compete with each other in order to win over subscribers.
29. Why are mobile phones popular in China, according to the speaker?
- They are considered as fashionable items.
  - They keep people closer to each other.
  - They are more convenient to users than fixed phones.
  - They are considered time-saving devices.
30. How does the speaker feel about the regulation of mobile services in India?
- It has produced desired effects.
  - It has more advantages than disadvantages.
  - It helps promote competition..
  - It has created a negative impact in the market.

### Passage Three

31. The passage is about
- dyslexia and intelligence
  - dyslexia and culture
  - dyslexia and vision
  - dyslexia and personality
32. Which of the following statements is true of dyslexia?
- It is a worldwide problem.
  - It is a regional problem.
  - It is a social problem.
  - It is a biological problem.
33. Which of the following countries is most affected with dyslexia according to the passage?
- China
  - Japan



- c. U.S.A
  - d. U.K.
34. Which of the following is not true of the Japanese language?
- a. It is divided into two types of phonetic alphabets.
  - b. It contains more katakana than hiragana.
  - c. Hiragana and katakana have the same number of sounds and characters.
  - d. It includes Chinese characters.
35. What can be inferred from the passage?
- a. There is no obvious reason for the unbalanced distribution of dyslexia in the world.
  - b. The existing theories about dyslexia are solid and conclusive.
  - c. There are underlying reasons for the differences with dyslexic problems with different peoples.
  - d. The relatively lower number of its people suffering from dyslexia in Japan may be attributed to its reading and writing system.

#### Passage Four

36. What is the most appropriate title for this passage?
- a. Two Types of Stocks
  - b. A New Strategy of Investment
  - c. Distinctions between Trading and Investment
  - d. Conflicting Perspectives on Stock Investment
37. Which of the following statements is true of John Maynard Keynes?
- a. He liked to attend beauty contests.
  - b. He would keep on buying and selling hot stocks.
  - c. He often bought in stocks of lesser companies.
  - d. He preferred investing stocks to trading stocks.
38. How did Benjamin Graham view stock investment?
- a. He believed that both trading stocks and investing stocks are risky.
  - b. He regarded investing stocks equally risky as trading stocks.
  - c. He insisted that trading stocks were less valuable than investing stocks.
  - d. He compared hot stocks to fashionable dogs.
39. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?
- a. An investor of trading stocks only cares about the fixed assets of companies.
  - b. A buyer of investing stocks is always concerned about the performance of companies.
  - c. Most people keep their investing stocks for a longer period of time.
  - d. All people buy trading stocks and investing stock at the same time.



40. The speaker presents the passage by the following logic:
- Induction
  - Deduction
  - Cause and Effect
  - Comparison and Contrast

**Part IV** *Listen to the following passage about new technology and its impact on the changes in universities. Write a short summary of around 150-200 words of what you have heard. This part of the test carries 20 points.*

答案部分:

## Test for Interpreters of Level 2

### English Language Skills

### Keys

**Part I** (20 points, 2 points X 10)

1. False      2. False      3. False      4. True      5. False  
6. False      7. False      8. True      9. False      10. False

**Part II** (20 points, 2 points X 10)

11. c    12. c    13. a    14. c    15. b  
16. b    17. c    18. a    19. b    20. d

**Part III** (40 points, 2 points X 20)

Passage One

21. d      22. a    23. a    24. c    25. d

Passage Two

26. b      27. c    28. c    29. a    30. d



## Passage Three

31. b            32. a        33. c        34. b            35. d

## Passage Four

36. d            37. b            38. a        39. c            40. d

**Part IV**        (20 points)

下划线部分为主要点，斜体部分为次要点

Our society is now being reshaped by rapid advances in information technologies—computers, telecommunications networks, and other digital systems—that have vastly increased our capacity to know, achieve, and collaborate. *These technologies allow us to transmit information quickly and widely, linking distant places and diverse areas of endeavor in productive new ways, and to create communities that just a decade ago were unimaginable.*

Of course, *our society has been through other periods of dramatic change before, driven by such innovations as the steam engine, railroad, telephone, and automobile. But never before have we experienced technologies that are evolving so rapidly (increasing in power by a hundredfold every decade), altering the constraints of space and time, and reshaping the way we communicate, learn and think.*

The rapid evolution of digital technologies is creating not only new opportunities for our society, but also challenges to it as well, and institutions of every stripe are grappling to respond by adapting their strategies and activities. *Corporations and governments are reorganizing to enhance productivity, improve quality, and control costs. Entire industries have been restructured to better align themselves with the realities of the digital age. It is no great exaggeration to say that information technology is fundamentally changing the relationship between people and knowledge.*

Yet ironically, at the most knowledge-based entities of all—our colleges and universities—the pace of transformation has been relatively modest in key areas. Although research has in many ways been transformed by information technology, and it is increasingly used for student and faculty communications, *other higher-education functions have remained more or less unchanged.* Teaching, for example, largely continues to follow a classroom-centered, seat-based paradigm.

Nevertheless, some major technology-aided teaching experiments are beginning to emerge, and several factors suggest that digital technologies may eventually drive significant change throughout academia. Because *these technologies are expanding by orders of magnitude our ability to create, transfer, and apply information,* they will have a profound impact on how universities define and fulfill their missions. In particular, *the ability of information technology to*



*facilitate new forms of human interaction may allow the transformation of universities toward a greater focus on learning.*

Already, higher education has experienced significant technology-based change, particularly in research, even though it presently lags other sectors in some respects. *And we expect that the new technology will eventually also have a profound impact on one of the university's primary activities—teaching—by freeing the classroom from its physical and temporal bounds and by providing students with access to original source materials. The situations that students will encounter as citizens and professionals can increasingly be simulated and modeled for teaching and learning, and new learning communities driven by information technology will allow universities to better teach students how to be critical analyzers and consumers of information.*