HINA UNIVERSITY OF GEOSCIENCES

PhD Entrance Examination in English

28 March 2015

READ THIS FIRST!

Good morning! You are about to take the English test for people who wish to enter one of the doctoral programs at the China University of Geosciences.

The test is probably different in many ways from any exam you've taken in the past. The focus is on your ability (1) to ***understand and use material written in English*** and (2) to ***communicate effectively in the language.*** Basic grammar, spelling, core vocabulary and logic are all important here. The material and situations are drawn from the world of professional work and the everyday communication of educated adults.

The test has four sections. The answers for parts 1, 2 and 3 (in other words, every part except 4) should be marked on your answer sheet. The answers for part 4 should be written directly on the pages for that part of the exam.

Make sure to **READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS** for each part of the test! You can have as much time as you need to complete the exam – within reason, of course.

The use of dictionaries (printed or electronic) is **ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN.**

Please note that there is no "passing" grade. The results of this exam will enable us to compare your preparation in the ***real*** English of study, research and professional work with that of the other candidates. Just relax and do your best.

Now turn the page to part 1 and begin the test. Good luck!

PART 1. In **section A** (below) you will see 10 incomplete sentences. In **section B** you have 20 choices for finishing these sentences. On your answer sheet, please write the letter of the choice that completes each half-sentence in section A logically and grammatically. The two parts together must make a complete sentence that is grammatically correct and logical. Pay attention to punctuation (, ? : .) as well!

For example, imagine that in section A there is a sentence that says

5 ***Beijing is the***

In section B you see

L ***capital of China.***

You decide that L completes sentence 5 logically and grammatically, so you write L in the space marked 5 on your answer sheet. This shows that you think sentence 5 should be "***Beijing is the capital of China.***" No other choice would allow you to make a more satisfactory sentence.

You may select ***only one answer*** in each case!

+ + + +

C a new factory in Zhejiang to produce high-quality cement.
D than our entire team had to return to the drilling site.
E a reception for the visiting officials from Toronto.
F to introduce us his current research.
G Mountains are a major factor in the climate patterns of western North America.
H then we had to leave again to attend a conference.
I at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People last week.
J you how to prepare for the experiment?
K in research on reducing soil pollution near its production facilities.
L located on the table near the window, please.
M supposed to give myself an injection if the pain recurs.
N to tell us about the project they are funding.
O that he had personally chosen, designed a new kind of gun.
P dominate much of the western US and Canada.
Q who will ever witness the eruption of the volcano.
R all to go to the lecture hall at 8:30 to hear a speech by the university president.
S formally known as topographical engineers, were sent out to map the terrain.
T to everybody why the meeting had been called off?

PART 2. Each question in this part consists of one or more sentences in which four words or phrases are underlined. The four underlined parts are marked A, B, C or D. Decide which one of the four parts is not good English. Then write the letter found under that part in the proper space on your answer sheet.

If the four underlined parts are all good English and there is no error in the sentence, then write E in the space on your answer sheet. **REMEMBER!** You always have **FIVE** possible choices: A, B, C, D or **E (= no error).**

1 When the people at the front desk (A) of the hotel near the oil field (B) heard that my colleague and I were from China, they let us pay (C) a higher price for our rooms than local people (D).

2 At first I did not aware (A) this, but when I found out (B) the next day from another foreign guest at (C) the hotel, a European, I couldn't believe (D) my ears.

3 I tried to control my temper and focus on our business (A), but in the end (B) I decided that I had to

discuss about the matter (C) with the people who had overcharged us. (D)

4 The clerk I spoke with insisted over and over (A) that we had been charged (B) the normal rate for (C) the hotel room, so I asked to speak with his manager. (D)

5 The short, smiling man who introduce himself (A) as the manager denied (B) that we had paid more than other people, though he did admit (C) that we had been put (D) in a "special" room.

6 I reminded him that we had asked for an ordinary room, not (A) a special room, and when I inquired what (B) is unusual about (C) our room, he seemed not to want (D) to answer.

7 Finally he lowered his eyes in a show of respect (A) and said, "That room is (B) reserved for honored guests (C) from rich countries." I was so shocking (D) that I didn't know how to reply.

8 Later on (A), in the bar, our European acquaintance commented that we were indeed considerably better off (B) than the local people – though perhaps not three times as well off, (C) which is what the difference in room prices suggested. (D)

9 This (A) European geologist turned out (B) to be good company (C) and knew a lot about the country we were in, so we benefited talking with (D) him. He gave us several very useful tips.

10 When he came out to the lobby to help us find a taxi as we were about to head for (A) the airport, we thanked him for all the helps he had given us (B) during our stay and invited him to look us up in (C) Shanghai if he ever found himself there. (D)

PART 3. Below are two texts for you to read carefully and completely. (The paragraphs are numbered to help you find items.) Then answer the questions that follow. In each case write the letter of the correct answer on your answer sheet.

You are not allowed to use a dictionary. However, we have provided a short list of difficult words with their definitions to help you read the texts. You are advised to read this vocabulary list **before** you begin the articles. In the second article certain technical terms are translated for you.

VOCABULARY

aboriginal (adj.): long established in a place, since before anyone else
aggrieved (adj.): with something to complain about or be angry about
advent (n.): arrival

TEXT A

1. In recent months many aggrieved parties in France have taken to the barricades to protest reforms intended to make the country's economy more competitive; perhaps the most unlikely of these were the "notaries". This special class of lawyers, who oversee most commercial transactions and maintain official registers of property, were objecting to some modest pruning of the thicket of regulation surrounding their job. In Italy too the government has provoked outrage by attempting to trim the rules of the profession. The row about even minor changes to a highly protected business shows why structural reform is so slow in some of Europe's biggest economies.

2. In America the main job of notaries is to certify documents, mundane work that requires few qualifications. In France and Italy, however, as in much of continental Europe, valuable assets (houses, companies, shares and so on) cannot change hands without a notary's approval. Entry to the profession is by a rigorous exam. The number of notaries is restricted, as is the region in which they can work; some of their fees are fixed too.

3. In France there are also rules about who can own notary firms (notaries, of course) and who else can work in them (not lawyers, accountants or other professionals). Aptly, a firm of notaries can only change hands with the approval of the professional association that all notaries belong to. In Germany, notaries must read all documents aloud in front of the parties concerned before signing them, tying them up with string and sealing them with red wax. (Once home, they apply leeches and read by candlelight.)

4. All these regulations add to costs and shelter notaries from competition, making the profession very lucrative. In 2010 the average self-employed French notary earned €190,812 ($265,309). In Italy, the figure in 2013 was €210,400. The average profit margin of French notaries in 2010 was 35%. These costs are borne, naturally, by those buying and selling assets, particularly housing. The OECD, a club mostly of rich countries, found in 2009 that legal fees added 1% to the bill for buying a home in France and 2% in Italy, compared to just 0.25% in Britain. Between 1981 and 2011, as French property prices surged, fees paid on housing transactions, which account for half of notaries' revenues, rose by 68%. That was despite the increased use of technology, which has helped to drive down notaries' costs.

5. The French reform paves the way for an increase in the number of notaries in certain parts of France. It also makes their fees more transparent. Better yet, notaries will be allowed to open practices with accountants and lawyers in a bid to provide a one-stop-shop for clients, which should help to lower transaction costs. But the law that included these measures was so controversial that the government did not risk putting it to a vote in the National Assembly; instead, it pushed it through by decree.

6. In Italy, successive governments have chipped away at notaries' privileges. Since 2006, for example, it has been possible to buy a used car without recourse to one. In 2012 the government of the day abolished fixed minimum fees. This, plus a slump in transactions, has cut their earnings: in 2008 their average income was €440,800. The current government wants to go further, allowing notaries to practice anywhere in Italy rather

an *asset*: something of value that is owned
a *barricade*: a wall of material placed across a street to make it hard for police or soldiers to advance
to *betray* X: to reveal X
to *certify* X: to guarantee that X is genuine, especially for legal purposes
to *chip away at* X: to reduce X bit by bit
to *coincide with* X: to occur at the same time as X
to *complement* X: to increase the value of X (here as evidence)
a *cycle*: a circle, ring or wheel-like thing
to *dampen* X: to reduce the energy or liveliness of X
a *dispute*: a disagreement, conflict or controversy
to *dominate* X: to be the most powerful, important or prominent thing in X
dramatic: catching one's attention
to *dub*: to call or name
to *enslave* A: to force A to work without pay
to *exceed* X: to be bigger or greater or more numerous than X
the *exclusive preserve* of A: something that only A is allowed to enter or use or do
to *fret about* X: to worry a good deal about X
a *hemisphere*: half of the globe
Homo sapiens: the scientific Latin name for our human species
immunity: protection from attack by a biological agent
interglacial: between ice ages, during periods when the ice has retreated ***(also a n.)***
a *leech*: a small animal that sucks blood, much used by doctors in past centuries
lucrative (adj.): profitable
modest (adj.): small in size or ambition
mundane (adj.): quite ordinary, without special significance
a *nutrient*: a substance that helps plants or animals to grow
the *OECD*: the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
outrage (n.): a feeling of great anger in response to a bad action
a *party*: someone involved in a conflict, a contract or a negotiation
to *pave the wave for* X: to create a situation in which X is more likely to happen or function well
to *pinpoint* X: to mark the exact location of X in space or time
to *pool* X: to combine X
to *prune* X: to cut off unnecessary leaves and branches from X (a plant, shrub or tree)
putative (adj.): thought to exist, or to be true or valid
rigorous (adj.): strict and thorough
a *row*: a quarrel
to *shelter A from* X: to protect A from X
a *slump*: a major fall or reduction (undesirable)
a *spike in* X: a sudden sharp rise in X
to *supplant* X: to replace X
to *surge*: to rise strongly and in large quantity, like a big wave rising
a *thicket*: in a forest, an area of dense plant growth that is hard to move through and good for hiding
a *transaction*: something done between at least two agents
to *trim* X: to remove unnecessary material from X
unwittingly: without knowing, without being aware
to *warrant* X: to provide a good enough reason for X
wax (n.): (1) a solid material produced by bees; (2) what candles are made of
to *wipe X out*: to destroy X completely
woods (n.): a forest or forests
to *wrest X from* Y: to obtain X from Y through hard work or struggle

than in a designated region. It also hopes to abolish the arrangement whereby notaries pool their income to ensure a minimum for everyone—a system that dampens the incentive to compete. More dramatically, it would permit mere lawyers to sign off on certain transactions that are currently the exclusive preserve of notaries, such as the sale of non-residential properties worth less than €100,000 and the registration of particular types of companies.

7. Notaries argue that allowing transactions to take place without their oversight will increase the risk of fraud. The World Bank, after all, considers Italy's system of property registration superior to Britain's or Germany's. It is a terrible place to enforce contracts in court, however, as would be necessary if lawyers took over from notaries. "In a country in which there are so many things to change," says Eliana Morandi, an Italian notary who has also worked in America, "it is irrational to start with the one thing that works."

8. But there are good reasons to fret about high transaction costs. An OECD study published in 2011 found that high legal fees on home purchases acted as a significant disincentive to moving. The report suggested that even small reductions in such costs would encourage greater mobility, which might help the jobless to find work. With unemployment at 10.2% in France and 12.6% in Italy, that sounds like a reform everyone should support.

1 The author of this article, commenting on the recent political activity of French notaries,

A is not surprised that they would join other professional groups supporting economic reforms.

B is not surprised that they would work with other groups to oppose economic reforms.

C is clearly astonished that such people are refusing to support the economic reforms that the author regards as necessary for France.

D seems mildly surprised at first that they would become involved in this sort of public opposition to economic reforms.

2 If we accept the information in the article, then we must conclude that

A American and German notaries have similar roles that distinguish them sharply from French and Italian notaries.

B notaries in all the countries mentioned perform the same jobs and fulfill the same functions.

C notaries in the US have a much more limited range of functions than do notaries in much of western Europe.

D French and Italian notaries are much more up to date than their counterparts elsewhere.

3 The author's attitude towards the traditional rules governing the work of European notaries

A is sceptical but at the same time amused or humorous.

B is sharply critical, even angry.

C is largely approving.

D is impartial; the author does not take sides in these quarrels over reform.

4 The data in the article

A indicate that the average European notary has a modest income, though some earn huge sums.

B show that French and Italian notaries make a lot of money, though less than they did a few years ago.

C are insufficient to show anything very clear about the average income of French or Italian notaries.

D show why notaries contribute so greatly to the growth of European economies.

5 The "one-stop shop" mentioned in paragraph 5

A means a place where clients can obtain all the information they need about the services provided by notaries.

B means the new arrangements in France that require notaries and lawyers to work together.

C refers to the fact that all of the reforms affecting notaries were included in a single comprehensive act of the French National Assembly.

D refers to joint operations by notaries and lawyers permitted under new French laws.

6 The article mentions unemployment figures in France and Italy

A as background information underlining the urgency of efforts to make it cheaper for people without jobs to move to new locations.

B to criticize the selfishness of well-paid lawyers and notaries in those countries.

C to support the claim that lowering the cost of commercial transactions will damage the economies of these two nations.

D to show that progress has been made recently in reducing the number of jobless people.

7 A British reader of this article would be likely to

A favor the immediate introduction of reforms bringing British notary arrangements into conformity with those on the continent.

B feel upset that the legal fees involved in buying a house or flat are so much greater in the UK than in Italy or France.

European countries.

D reject proposals to revise the rules on property sales along American lines.

TEXT B

9. The Earth's atmosphere recorded the huge decline in the population of the Western Hemisphere in the 150 years following the arrival of Columbus from Spain in 1492. Soldiers, officials, settlers and merchants from Eurasia and slaves from Africa unwittingly introduced common diseases such as smallpox 天花, measles 痲疹 and influenza to which the inhabitants of the Americas possessed no immunity. Scholarly estimates of the total number of deaths from disease vary widely, but the number may have exceeded 50 million and certainly wiped out 75% or more of native Americans. This rapid depopulation of the hemisphere allowed forests to grow in former farmlands. By 1610 the growth of all those trees had sucked enough carbon dioxide (CO_2) out of the sky to cause a drop of at least seven parts per million in atmospheric concentrations of the most prominent greenhouse gas and start a little ice age.

10. Based on that dramatic shift, Simon Lewis and Mark Maslin, British ecologists working at University College London, believe 1610 should be considered the starting date of a new geologic epoch currently under discussion among earth scientists: the Anthropocene, or recent age of humanity. Lewis and Maslin dub the decrease in atmospheric carbon dioxide the "Orbis Spike", from the Latin for world, because since 1492 human civilization has progressively globalized. In a paper published this month in *Nature*, they argue that human impacts on the planet have been dramatic enough to warrant formal recognition of the Anthropocene epoch and that the Orbis Spike should serve as the marker of its opening.

11. The Anthropocene is not a new idea. As far back as the 18th century the first scientific attempt to lay out a chronology of Earth's geologic history ended with a human epoch. By the 19th century the idea was commonplace, appearing as the Anthropozoic ("human life rocks") or the "Era of Man" in geology textbooks. But by the middle of the 20th century, the idea of the Holocene (the term means "entirely recent" in Greek and designates the most recent period, dating from 11,700 years ago, when the glaciers 冰河 of the last ice age receded) had come to dominate, recognizing humans as an important element of the current epoch, but not the defining one.

12. That idea is no longer adequate, according to scientists ranging from geologists to climatologists. Human impacts have simply grown too large: some scientists point to the flood of nitrogen (N) released into the world by the invention of the Haber-Bosch process for wresting the vital nutrient from the air to support agriculture; others emphasize the fact that modern people now move more earth and stone than all the world's rivers put together.

13. Researchers have advanced an array of proposals for when this putative new epoch might have begun. Some link it to the start of the mass extinction of large mammals 哺乳动物 such as woolly mammoths and giant kangaroos some 50,000 years ago or the advent of agriculture around 10,000 years ago. Others say the Anthropocene is much more recent,

ned to the beginning of the uptick in atmospheric CO_2 concentrations after the invention of an effective coal-burning steam engine.

14. The most prominent current proposal connects the dawn of the Anthropocene to that of the nuclear age: long-lived radionuclides 放射性同位素 leave a long-lived record in the rock. The boom in human population and consumption of everything from copper to maize 玉米 after 1950 or so, known as the "Great Acceleration", roughly coincides with this nuclear marker. So does the advent of plastics and other remnants of industrial society, dubbed "technofossils" by Jan Zalasiewicz of the University of Leicester, the geologist who heads the group that is pushing for addition of the Anthropocene to the standard geologic time scale. The radionuclides can then serve as what geologists call a Global Stratotype Section and Point, more commonly known as a "golden spike." Perhaps the most famous such golden spike is the thin layer of iridium (Ir) found in rock exposed near El Kef, Tunisia; it pinpoints the asteroid impact that terminated the age of the dinosaurs and ended the Cretaceous Period about 65 million years ago.

15. Lewis and Maslin reject this radionuclide spike because it is not tied to a "world-changing event"—at least not yet—although it is a clear signal in the rock. On the other hand, their Orbis Spike in 1610 reflects both the most recent CO_2 low point and the redistribution of plants and animals around the world associated with the Age of Discovery and the rise of world empires, a true changing of the world. Much like the golden spike that marks the end of the dinosaurs, the proposed Orbis Spike itself would be tied to the low point of atmospheric CO_2 concentrations around 1610, as recorded in ice cores, where tiny trapped bubbles betray past atmospheres. Further geologic evidence will come from the appearance of maize pollen in sediment cores taken in Europe and Asia at that time, among other indicators that will complement the CO_2 record. Therefore, scientists looking at ice cores, mud or even rock will find this epochal shift in the future.

16. The CO_2 drop coincides with what climatologists call the Little Ice Age. That cooling event may have been tied to regenerated forests and other plants growing on some 50 million hectares of land abandoned by humans after the mass death brought on by disease and warfare, Lewis and Maslin suggest. And it wasn't just the death of millions of aboriginal Americans. The enslavement (or death) of many millions of Africans for labor in the new lands may also have added to the climate impact. The population of the regions of western Africa most affected by the New World slave trade did not begin to recover until the end of the 19th century. In other words, from 1600 to 1900 areas of that region may have been regrowing forest, enough to reduce atmospheric CO_2, just like the regrowth of the Amazon and the great North American woods, although this hypothesis remains in some dispute.

17. However delimited, the new designation would mean we are living in a new Anthropocene epoch, part of the Quaternary period, which started more 2.5 million years ago with the advent of the cyclical growth and retreat of massive glaciers. The Quaternary is part of the Cenozoic ("recent life") era that began 66 million years ago and is, in turn, part of the Phanerozoic ("revealed life") eon, which started 541 million years ago and encompasses all of complex life that has ever lived on this planet. In the end, the Anthropocene might supplant the Holocene. "It is designated an epoch, unlike other interglacials , because back in the 18th century geologists thought humans were a very recent species, arriving via divine intervention or evolving on Earth in the Holocene,"

Lewis argues, but scientists now know *Homo sapiens* arose more than 200,000 years ago in the Pleistocene epoch. "Humans are a Pleistocene species, so... calling the Holocene an epoch is a relic of the past." Maslin suggests downgrading the Holocene to a stage within the Pleistocene, like other interglacial spans in the geologic record. But Zalasiewicz disagrees with this bid to get rid of the Holocene. "I don't see the need," he says. "Systematic tracing of a Holocene-Anthropocene boundary globally would be illuminating in all sorts of ways."

8 The scientists cited in this article agree that humans have become a major factor in the history of Earth. As the article highlights, what they disagree on is

A the extent to which humans are altering Earth.

B precisely when human activity became a defining element in Earth's history.

C what to name the period of major human impact.

D when human activity will become the dominant factor in changes in the Earth.

9 European penetration of the New World in the century and a half after 1492 led to

A massive depopulation.

B widespread contagious disease.

C greatly reduced use of land for agriculture.

D all of the above.

10 The decline in atmospheric carbon dioxide that reached its low point in or around 1610 was

A a singular, isolated event that left a discernible mark in geochronology.

B the first of a long chain of events that changed the way humans interact with nature.

C the result (and signal, as reflected in geology) of the first in a significant set of modern changes in how humans use planetary resources.

D the cause of a new ice age on a par with those that preceded the Holocene.

11 The scientific hypothesis that humanity can alter the history of Earth in highly significant ways

A has recently re-emerged and gained support after fading in the 20th century.

B is still supported by only a small number of researchers in the earth sciences today.

C was rejected as absurd by pioneering geologists in the 1700s.

D is weakened by the continuing lack of evidence that can be used to support it, much less confirm it.

The Orbis Spike proposed by Lewis and Maslin would be most reliably located in

A samples of Arctic ice, but not Antarctic ice.

B samples of Arctic and Antarctic ice.

C tree rings from temperate forests.

D alluvial sediments, most obviously from the Mississippi and Amazon basins.

13 Radionuclides can be likened to iridium

A because of the similarity in their basic chemistry.

B as physical indicators of a boundary in Earth's chronology.

C as the cause of vast changes in the earthly environment.

D as key components in the technofossils now proliferating in the geological record.

14 Some scientists think that radionuclides are the key to defining the Anthropocene because

A nuclear explosions did enormous damage to the earthly environment.

B they have a long half-life that means they will continue to be useful for many centuries.

C they provide a temporal marker reliably correlated with a massive historical increase in the human impact on our planet.

D they contributed greatly to the vast increase in the human impact on Earth in the mid-20th century.

15 Professor Zalasiewicz probably favors retaining the distinction between the Holocene and the Anthropocene because tracing its boundary

A will allow geologists to create a more subtle picture of the interglacials that are a crucial feature of the climate on Earth.

B will force geologists to think more deeply about the relation between climate change and planetary history.

C will reduce the support for using less plausible indicators to define geochronological boundaries.

D will reveal some important things about us humans as well as about the climate and history of the planet.

PART 4. The sentences below contain one or more blanks. In each blank you must write **ONE** appropriate word. There may be several appropriate choices, but you must write only *one*. Your choice must be (a) grammatically correct, (b) properly spelled and (c) logical -- it must fit the context. In other words, it must be acceptable **real** English. ***Any answer in good English is correct.***

Put ***one and only one word in each blank.*** If you put more than one word in a blank, your answer is **automatically wrong.** Putting nothing in a blank also counts as an error. [50 points]

++

In my office _____ desk is by the window and there is _____ large bookshelf along the wall. Two years ago an air _____ was installed in the office, so now I can work there comfortably even on summer afternoons. I have a desktop _____ in the office, but lately it hasn't been very reliable; as a _____, I usually bring my laptop with me.

People are often _____ when they see that I have five umbrellas in the room. The truth is that they aren't all mine. Several visitors have _____ umbrellas in the office. I don't know why this _____ happening. Maybe I should put up a _____ by the door reminding them to take their umbrellas when they go.

Is _____ a car really such a good idea? Think of how much fuel it would need, and of the cost of maintenance and insurance. In this neighborhood you'd probably have to pay a fee to _____ it at night. On your salary I really _____ that you can _____ it. As a friend, I would _____ you to wait until your financial situation improves.

A new graduate student _____ our research group yesterday. _____ enough, he has the same name _____ our professor:

_____ of them are named Michael Wilson. Professor Wilson is only 39, and we've always called him "Mike". To _____ confusion, we've decided to call the new member of our research group "Michael", _____ though it does sound a bit formal, especially when we use a nickname to address the professor who _____ our group.

Who _____ you how to how to prepare specimens for analysis? You do it so well! I _____ that I could do it as skillfully as you. Unfortunately I wasn't given very good training _____ lab techniques when I was a student. Although I know you're too _____ to be my teacher, I would appreciate it if you'd _____ out any mistakes I make. I'm always _____ to improve.

My grandfather's heavy Fujian accent _____ his Chinese hard to understand _____ times. I love to talk to him, but I often _____ to understand things he says, so I have to ask him to _____. This doesn't _____ him, but it does me. When my mother is around, she helps when she _____ that I'm having trouble. The problem is that I've never _____ any time in the small town _____ the Fujian coast where my grandfather _____ up. My mother, who also lived there till she was eight, says it's a beautiful place. She and I have discussed the possibility of _____ the town while my grandfather is still healthy _____ to make the trip. He is in _____ late seventies now but he leads a very active life and his mind is as sharp as ever.

A: Are you going to tell your boss today that you're quitting your _____?

B: I can't make up my mind _____ to tell him today or not.

A: I'd tell him today if I _____ you. Why delay?

B: But what if I _____ my mind?

A: I _____ that you'd made a firm decision.

B: Well, yesterday I had a conversation with someone who _____ to work for the company that wants to hire me. _____ to him, there's a lot of dissatisfaction among the employees.

A: Did he say what the _____ of the dissatisfaction was?

B: He mentioned a number of things. I'll stay with my current firm if the alternative is a company with major management problems. They're offering me a higher _____, but is the additional pay enough to make up for a bunch of new headaches?

A: It sounds to me as if you'd _____ talk to some _____ current or past employees before you accept the new firm's offer.

+ + + + + THE END + + + + +