



2007<sup>年</sup>

曹其军考研英语②

# 英语

## 阅读理解

## Step by Step

主编 曹其军

- 体例新颖独特
- 长句难句剖析
- 短文试题均译
- 解题思路清晰



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# 英语阅读理解

## *Step by Step*

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# IF YOU REMOVE STONE BY STONE, EVEN MOUNTAIN WILL BE LEVELLED

(代前言)

英语能否过关,阅读理解是关键。考研英语试卷中,

Section I Use of English ——10 分(20 小题);

Section II Reading Comprehension

**Part A**——多项选择题,40 分(20 小题),

**Part B**——选择搭配题,10 分(5 小题),

**Part C**——英译汉,10 分(5 小题)。

作为一项综合技能测试,“英语知识运用”首先检验的是阅读能力。它也可以说是阅读理解的一个变体,所以解题的首要步骤是将短文的大意理解清楚,提高阅读理解能力。

那么,如何从根本上提高阅读理解能力呢?首先要扩大词汇量,其次是长难句要过关,最后要泛读各类题材或体裁文章,扩大知识面,同时掌握一定的阅读技巧和解题方法。没有扎实的阅读基本功,而一味地强调应试技巧,或者机械地进行阅读理解模拟训练,阅读理解能力不可能从根本上得到提高。本书针对考生阅读理解基本功上的缺陷,从长难句、篇章理解等各方面入手,切中要害,各个击破,扫清了阅读理解过程中的主要障碍,使考生的阅读理解能力得到实质性提高。

本书有别于其他同类考研英语阅读书之特点:

**1. 编写体例新颖、独特。**首先,本书按考研英语阅读理解 **Part A** 短文内容涉及的题材(科普类、经济类、人文类、教育类及社会类)选材编写;其次,本书按考研英语阅读理解 **Part C** 的要求,从每篇短文中抽出几个长难句给予句架分析;最后本书将 2006 年考研英语试卷中新增的选择搭配题型(包含“七”选“五”题型、排序题型、选标题题型或例证题型这三种备选题型)即阅读理解 **Part B** 单列出来分析讲解。

2. 短文与试题(题干及选项)均配译文。一方面,帮助考生彻底理解短文大意及试题内容;另一方面,增强考生的自信心和做阅读理解题的兴趣。有许多考生在看别的同类书时,就因那些书不配译文而看不懂短文意思导致心灰意冷。

3. 答案解析详尽。本书在解析每道题时,首先点出题型(细节题、推论引申题、词义题、文章主旨题等),然后给出题干的信号词(或句)出自哪一自然段,最后详细说明正确项的正确性(与文章哪句相符)和干扰项错在哪(与文章哪句相背)。这样使考生知其所以然,便于考生掌握各类题型的解题思路及方法与技巧。

本书由曹其军主编。编者有曹其军,章杰,王润,陈泉。在本书出版过程中,国家行政学院出版社的李锦慧作为本书的责任编辑,作了认真细致地编辑工作,在此表示感谢。

本书在编写、编辑和出版过程中,尽管我们抱着对广大考生认真负责的态度——高质量、严要求,但由于时间紧、任务重,加上我们水平有限,难免有许多不足、不尽人意之处。敬请广大读者和专家同行不吝赐教、批评指正。

能在复习备考路上助广大考生一臂之力是我们的心愿。结合实际情况使用本书,相信您的阅读及解题与翻译水平一定能有所突破!

曹其军

2006年2月

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# 第一篇 阅读理解多项选择题型 80 篇

## 编者按

*Knowledge comes from experience alone.* 历年考研英语阅读理解短文内容涉及社会科学(主要包括社会学、人类学、教育、心理学、经济、管理、金融等领域)、自然科学(主要包括普通物理、化学、生物、工程、计算机、医学、农业等领域)和人文科学(主要包括哲学、历史、文学、语言、新闻、艺术等领域);题材大多是涉及高科技和社会热点问题,如:网络应用、基因工程、现代人生活价值观等等;体裁更注重报刊新闻、专题报道和评述型文章;常考题型主要是:主旨大意题、推理判断题、词汇语义题、事实细节题及观点态度题。为此,我们针对考研英语阅读理解短文的特点——短文涉及内容、题材以及体裁,从最新英美时事报刊上分门别类地(科普类、经济类、人文类、教育类、社会类)精选了 80 篇有代表性且极具时代感(热点问题)的短文,并贯穿常考的五种题型进行分类讲解、训练,以帮助考生了解和掌握各类题材、体裁等短文的阅读技巧、命题规律(命题方式、命题考点)以及相应的解题方法与技巧。为了帮助考生真正理解短文意思,准确解答短文后的试题,我们从每篇短文中抽出几个长难句(划线部分)给予句架分析,并将每篇短文及短文后的试题(包括题干和选项)翻译成中文,而且对每道试题均做了非常详尽的解析,真正使考生的阅读理解能力和翻译水平得到实质性的提高。

## Text 1

The evolution of the (social sciences) has reached a crucial point that might be called a phase change in which old, atomistic, and impressionistic ways of doing research are superseded by a far more systematic and united methodology. To bring social sciences to the level of rigor already achieved by some of the physical sciences, a new type of facility will be needed. 1) This will be a trans-disciplinary, Internet-based collaboratory that will provide social and behavioral scientists with the databases, software and hardware tools, and other resources to conduct worldwide research that integrates experimental, survey, geographic, and economic methodologies on a much larger scale than was possible previously. This facility will enable advanced research and professional education in economics, sociology, political science, social geography, and related fields.

In many branches of social sciences, a new emphasis on the rigor of formal laboratory experimentation has driven researchers to develop procedure and software to conduct online interaction experiment using computer terminals attached to local area networks. The opportunity to open these laboratories to the



Internet will reduce the cost per research participant and increase greatly the number of institutions, researchers, students, and research participants who can take part. The scale of social sciences experimentation can increase by an order of magnitude or more, examining a much wider range of phenomena and ensuring great confidence in results through multiple replication of crucial studies.

Technology for administering questionnaires to very large numbers of respondents over the Internet will revolutionize survey research. Data from past questionnaire surveys can be the springboard for new surveys with vastly larger numbers of respondents at lower cost than by traditional methods. Integrated researches can combine modules using both questionnaire and experimental methods. Results can be linked via geographic analysis to other sources of data including census information, economic statistics, and data from other experiments and surveys. Longitudinal studies will conduct time-series comparisons across data sets to chart social and economic trends. 2) Each new study will be designed so that the data automatically and instantly becomes part of the archives, and scientific publications will be linked to the data sets on which they are based so that the network becomes a universal knowledge system.

1. A "phase change" (Para. 1) is one in which A A
  - [A] an old period ends and a new period begins.
  - [B] a gradual invisible transition takes place.
  - [C] fragments are united into a whole.
  - [D] social sciences come to be united with physical sciences.
2. It is implied in the first paragraph that A D
  - [A] there should be no difference in methodology between physical and social sciences.
  - [B] social sciences lag far behind physical science in terms of methodology.
  - [C] social sciences have achieved little due to limited data.
  - [D] the Internet can never advance scientific research unless it is properly used.
3. Why do researchers begin to show interest in online interaction experiment? D
  - [A] To reduce the cost per research participant.
  - [B] To upgrade the level of rigor of research in social sciences.
  - [C] To conduct worldwide research that was unfeasible before.
  - [D] To take full advantage of achievements made by physical sciences.
4. The greatest advantage with the Internet-based collaboratory may lie in A
  - [A] the greater cost reduction and availability of data in research.
  - [B] its promptness in putting research results into practice.
  - [C] its capability to reexamine the validity of traditional research.
  - [D] its potentiality in integrating social sciences into physical sciences.
5. All of the following are defeats with the traditional survey in the form of questionnaires EXCEPT C
  - [A] a restricted range of investigation.
  - [B] greater cost in administering them.
  - [C] lack of precision compared with experiments.
  - [D] difficulty in being confirmed by other kinds of research.

## 难句突破

1. This will be a trans-disciplinary, Internet-based collaboratory that will provide social and behavioral scientists with the databases, software and hardware tools, and other resources to conduct worldwide research that integrates experimental, survey, geographic, and economic methodologies on a much larger scale than was possible previously.

【解析】本句话的主干是“This will be a collaboratory that...”。“this”指的是前面句子中提到的“a new type of facility”；第1个“that”引导的定语从句修饰“collaboratory”，其中的“with the databases...”短语作状语，“to conduct...”短语作目的状语；第2个“that”引导的定语从句修饰“research”，其中的“than”引导的是比较状语从句。“trans-disciplinary”应译成“跨学科的”；“collaboratory”应译成“公共实验室”。

2. Each new study will be designed so that the data automatically and instantly becomes part of the archives, and scientific publications will be linked to the data sets on which they are based so that the network becomes a universal knowledge system.

【解析】本句话是一个并列句，其主干是“Each new study will be designed so that... and scientific publications will be linked...”。两个“so that”引导的都是目的状语从句；“sets on which they are based”是一个省略了引导词的定语从句，修饰“data”，其中的“on which”引导的是宾语从句，“they”指的是“publications”。“universal”应译成“通用的”。

## 试题解析

1. “phase change”(第一段)是一种\_\_\_\_\_的阶段。

[A] 旧时期结束,新时期开始

[B] 渐进的无形转变过程发生

[C] 片断被合并成整体

[D] 社会科学开始与自然科学合并

【A】

【解析】细节题，题干中的“phase change”表明本题是事实细节题。本题考查对第一段的理解。“phase change”是一个物理学领域的术语，指“变相”，而“相”指各组成部分。第一段指出：社会科学的发展已经到达了一个可以被称作“阶段性变化”的关键时期，在这个时期，过时的、原子论的、根据主观印象的研究方法被一种系统、统一得多的研究方法所取代。根据“are superseded by... (被……所取代)”可知，该短语的意思应该是“旧阶段结束，新阶段开始”。A为正确答案。B不准确；C为该短语物理学领域的意思；D属于无中生有。

2. 第一段中暗示：

[A] 自然科学与社会科学的用的方法不应该有差别。

[B] 就方法来说，社会科学远远落后于自然科学。

[C] 由于利用的数据有限，社会科学取得的成就很少。

[D] 互联网永远不可能促进科学研究，除非它得到合理的利用。

【B】

【解析】推论题，题干中的“it is implied”表明本题是推论题。本题考查在理解第一段的基础上进行推理的能力。第一段指出：社会科学的发展已经到达了一个可以被称作“阶段性变化”的关键时期，在这个时期，过时的、原子论的、根据主观印象的研究方法被一种系统、统一得多的研究方法所取代；为了使社会科学的研究达到某些自然科学已经达到的精确程度，我们需要一种新设备。由此可以推知，社会科学的研究方法落后于自然科学。B为正确答案。A属于无中生有；文中说的是社会科学的

研究方法落后,并没有说其数据有限,所以 C 不对;与 D 有关的信息是该段的第 3 句话,文中是说“这将是一个跨学科的、以互联网为基础的‘公共实验室’,这种实验室将……使他们能够将实验、调查、地理学以及经济学的方法比以往以前大得多的规模结合起来,进行全球范围的研究”,这说明 D 不对。

3. 为什么研究人员开始对网络互动式实验感兴趣?

- [A] 为了降低每个研究参与者的研究成本。 [B] 为了提高社会科学研究的精确度。  
[C] 为了进行以前不可能进行的全球范围的研究。 [D] 为了充分利用自然科学取得的成就。

[B]

【解析】 细节题,题干中的“why do researchers begin to...”表明本题是原因细节题。本题考查对第二段的理解。题干中的信号词是“online interaction experiment”,出自文章第二段第 1 句话。第二段指出:在许多社会科学分支领域里,对正规实验室实验方法的精确性的重新重视促使研究人员研究研发步骤和软件,以便利用与局域网络连接的计算机终端进行网络互动式实验;通过一个或多个数量级可以将社会科学的实验规模提高,从而可以研究广泛得多的现象,并通过多次重复关键性研究确保研究结果的可信度。这说明,原因是为了提高精确度。B 为正确答案。与 A 有关的信息是该段的第 2 句话,文中是说“向互联网开放这些实验室将会降低每个研究参与者的研究成本,大幅度增加能够参与研究的机构、研究人员、学者以及其他研究参与者的人数”,这是开放网络互动式实验可能带来的好处,不是研究人员开始对网络互动式实验感兴趣的原因,所以 A 不对;C 和 D 属于无中生有。

4. 以互联网为基础的“公共实验室”的最大优势可能在于

- [A] 更大的成本降低以及研究数据的可用性。 [B] 把研究成果用于实践的即时性。  
[C] 重新检测传统研究的正确性的能力。 [D] 把社会科学与自然科学综合起来的可能性。

[A]

【解析】 细节题,题干中的“the greatest advantage...”表明本题是事实细节题。本题考查对第二、三段的理解。第二段指出:向互联网开放这些实验室将会降低每个研究参与者的研究成本,大幅度增加能够参与研究的机构、研究人员、学者以及其他研究参与者的人数;通过一个或多个数量级可以将社会科学的实验规模提高,从而可以研究广泛得多的现象,并通过多次重复关键性研究确保研究结果的可信度;第三段指出:过去的问卷调查得到的数据可以用作新调查的依据,使得新调查比利用传统方法进行的调查成本更低,被调查的人数也多得多;可以把地域分析和其他来源的数据结合起来得出结论。这说明,最大的优势是降低成本与提高精确度。A 为正确答案。与 B 有关的信息是第三段第 5 句话,文中是说“纵向研究将对各类数据进行历时比较,以便绘制出社会和经济的发展趋势”,并没有说这是以互联网为基础的“公共实验室”的好处,所以 B 不对;C 属于无中生有;与 D 有关的信息是第三段第 3 句话,文中说“综合性研究可以联合使用问卷和实验方法的模式”,这说明 D 不对。

5. 下面各项都是以问卷进行的传统调查的缺陷,除了

- [A] 受限制的调查范围。 [B] 进行调查时的成本更大。  
[C] 与实验相比缺乏精确度。 [D] 面临得到其他研究证实的困难。 [C]

【解析】 细节题,题干中的“... EXCEPT”表明本题是判断正误细节题。本题考查对第三段的理解。题干中的信号词是“questionnaires”,出自文章第三段第 1 句话。第三段指出:过去的问卷调查得到的数据可以用作新调查的依据,使得新调查比利用传统方法进行的调查成本更低,被调查的人数也多得多;综合性研究可以联合使用问卷和实验方法的模式,可以把地域分析和其他来源的数据结合起来得出结论。这说明,A、B 和 D 都是以问卷进行的传统调查的缺陷。只有 C 属于无中生有。

## 全文译文

社会科学的发展已经到达了一个可以被称作“阶段性变化”的关键时期,在这个时期,过时的、原子

论的、根据主观印象的研究方法被一种系统、统一得多的研究方法所取代。为了使社会科学的研究达到某些自然科学已经达到的精确程度,我们需要一种新设备。1) 这将是一个跨学科的、以互联网为基础的“公共实验室”,这种实验室将向社会和行为科学家提供数据库、软硬件设备以及其他资源,使他们能够将实验、调查、地理学以及经济学的方法以比以前大得多的规模结合起来,进行全球范围的研究。这种设施将使得人们在经济学、社会学、心理学、政治科学、社会地理学以及其他相关领域里进行高深的研究和专业教育成为可能。

在许多社会科学分支领域里,对正规实验室实验方法的精确性的重新重视促使研究人员研究研发步骤和软件,以便利用与局域网络连接的计算机终端进行网络互动式实验。向互联网开放这些实验室将会降低每个研究参与者的研究成本,大幅度增加能够参与研究的机构、研究人员、学者以及其他研究参与者的人数。通过一个或多个数量级可以将社会科学的实验规模提高,从而可以研究广泛得多的现象,并通过多次重复关键性研究确保研究结果的可信度。

通过互联网向大量被调查人发放问卷的技术将给调查研究带来革命性变化。过去的问卷调查得到的数据可以用作新调查的依据,使得新调查比利用传统方法进行的调查成本更低,被调查的人数也得多。综合性研究可以联合使用问卷和实验方法的模式。可以把地域分析和其他来源的数据结合起来得出结论,这些数据包括人口统计信息、经济统计数据以及从其他实验和调查所获得的数据。纵向研究将对各类数据进行历时比较,以便绘制出社会和经济的发展趋势。2) 人们设计每项新研究的目的是要使数据自动并且立即成为档案的一部分,科学出版物将与它们引用的数据连接起来,以便这种网络成为一个通用的知识系统。

## Text 2

Maybe it's a sign of a mature mind when some of life's bigger questions—about love, faith, ambition—suddenly seem more manageable than smaller ones, such as: Why did I just open the refrigerator? Where on earth did I put my keys? Where did I write down that phone number?

Our capacity for storing and recalling information does not stream down like sand through an hourglass, as neurologists once believed. On the contrary, new research suggests that, when stimulated in the right way, brains of almost any age can give birth to cells and forge fresh pathways to file away new information. 1) This emerging picture has not only encouraged those who treat and care for the 5% of older adults who have dementia(痴呆症) such as Alzheimer's disease, but also generated a wave of optimism among those studying memory changes in the other 95%, as well as an increasing public fascination with “memory enhancement” dietary supplements, books and brain-improving techniques.

The slight failures of memory that many of us attribute to a failing brain are often due to something entirely different: anxiety, sleep problems, depression, even heart disease. The biological (nuts and bolts) of learning and memory in fact change little over time in healthy people, researchers say. “There's very little cell loss, and structurally all the machinery is there, even very late in life,” said a neuroscientist Greg Cole. 2) It's the cells' speed and ability to send and receive signals that diminish gradually, which is what makes the mind go blank when trying to recall familiar words and names.

For more than a decade, researchers have known that people who have active, intellectually challenging lives are less likely to develop dementia than those who do not. Part of this difference is attributable to intelligence, some doctors believe: The more you start with, the longer it takes to lose it. And new

evidence suggests that the act of using your brain is in itself protective, no matter who you are.

All of the activities, such as reading newspapers, watching TV, playing games, etc. can improve people's scores on standard tests measuring recall of numbers and names, experts say. They also acknowledge, however, that there is a big difference between playing chess with a friend and doing a mental exercise, such as memorizing numbers. One is an organic part of a person's life, the other a purely intellectual exercise, done in isolation. The first is fun; the second, often, is a tiring task.

**1. According to the text, adult persons usually**

[A] stress the settlement of bigger problems.

[B] focus their attention on great issues.

[C] overlook recollection of trivial things.

[D] suffer memory decline related to age.

**2. According to new research, it's distinct that**

[A] our brain cells can be producible.

[B] our memory may be renewable.

[C] most mental illnesses are curable.

[D] brain-mending methods are available.

**3. The phrase "nuts and bolts" (Para. 3) most probably means**

[A] basic structures.

[B] complex tasks.

[C] practical aspects.

[D] working parts.

**4. As asserted by researchers, our inability to memorize words or names mainly**

[A] results from the declining efficiency of brain cells.

[B] results in the brain's liability to radical influence.

[C] consists of different mental disorders.

[D] consists in various emotional problems.

**5. Experts suggest that the best way to avoid memory failures is**

[A] to take more dietary supplements.

[B] to keep mental function alive.

[C] to find an intellectual occupation.

[D] to do more intellectual exercises.

## 难句突破

1. This emerging picture has not only encouraged those who treat and care for the 5% of older adults who have dementia(痴呆症) such as Alzheimer's disease, but also generated a wave of optimism among those studying memory changes in the other 95%, as well as an increasing public fascination with "memory enhancement" dietary supplements, books and brain-improving techniques.

【解析】本句话的主干是“This emerging picture has not only encouraged..., but also generated...”。第1个“who”引导的定语从句修饰“those”，第2个“who”引导的定语从句修饰“adults”；“studying memory changes”短语修饰“those”；“as well as”引导的是并列宾语。“emerging picture”应译成“新发现”；“Alzheimer”应译成“老年性痴呆症”；“generate”应译成“激发”；“dietary supplement”应译成“营养补充食品”；“brain-improving”应译成“益智”。

2. It's the cells' speed and ability to send and receive signals that diminish gradually, which is what makes the mind go blank when trying to recall familiar words and names.

【解析】本句话的主干是“It's the cells' speed and ability that...”。本句话是一个强调句式，强调的是“the cells' speed and ability”，“to send and receive signals”修饰“speed and ability”；“which”引导的非限

定性定语从句修饰前面整个句子,其中的“what”引导的是表语从句,“when”引导的是状语。“signal”应译成“信息”;“diminish”应译成“衰退”;“go blank”应译成“一片空白”。

## 试题解析

### 1. 根据本文,成年人通常

[A] 强调解决更大的问题。

[B] 关注大问题。

[C] 忽视对琐碎事情的回忆。

[D] 遭受与年龄有关的记忆衰退之苦。

[D]

**【解析】** 细节题,题干中的“adult persons”表明本题是事实细节题。本题考查对第一、二段的理解。题干中的信号词是“adult persons”,出自文章第一段第1句话,只是说法不同,文中用的是“a mature mind”。第一段提到了一些人们通常遗忘的琐事,指出:如果人们在生活中面临的一些较大问题……,也许,这是思想成熟的一种表现;第二段指出:我们储存和检索信息的能力并不像沙子漏过沙漏一样倾泻而出。这说明,成年人通常遇到记忆力衰退的问题。D正确。A、B和C都与文意不符。

### 2. 根据新研究,显而易见的是,

[A] 我们的脑部细胞可以制造。

[B] 我们的记忆可以恢复。

[C] 大多数的精神病可以医治。

[D] 脑部修复方法可以找到。

[A]

**【解析】** 细节题,题干中的“according to new research”表明本题是事实细节题。本题考查对第二段的理解。题干中的信号词是“new research”,出自文章第二段第2句话。第二段指出:最近的研究表明,如果用适当的方式刺激大脑,几乎所有年龄阶段的人的大脑都能够产生新的脑细胞,并且建立新的通路,把新信息分类。这说明,新研究显示,大脑细胞可以制造。A为正确答案。与B有关的信息是该段的第3句话,文中是说“也极大地激发了那些正在研究另外95%的老年人记忆力衰退的人们的乐观情绪”,并没有说可以恢复记忆,所以B不对;与C有关的信息是该段的第3句话,文中是说“这一新发现不仅鼓舞了那些在治疗和关怀5%的老年人的人们……”,并没有提到治疗精神病的问题,所以C不对;D属于无中生有。

### 3. 短语“nuts and bolts”(第三段)最可能的意思是

[A] 基本结构。

[B] 复杂的任务。

[C] 实际方面。

[D] 有效部件。

[D]

**【解析】** 词义题,题干中的“most probably means”表明本题是词义题。本题考查对句子的理解。第三段指出:研究人员说,在健康人中,学习和记忆的生物方面的主要器官实际上几乎不会随时间的推移发生什么变化;几乎不会出现脑细胞的损失,整个大脑在结构上都是完好无缺的。这说明,该短语可能指的是“有用的器官”。D为正确答案。A不准确;B和C与文章的意思不符合。

### 4. 正如研究人员所宣称的,我们不能记住话语和名字,主要是

[A] 由于脑部细胞的效力下降。

[B] 由于大脑容易受激进因素的影响。

[C] 由不同的精神错乱构成。

[D] 由于不同的情感问题。

[A]

**【解析】** 细节题,题干中的“inability to memorize words”表明本题是事实细节题。本题考查对第三段的理解。题干中的信号词是“words or names”,出自文章第三段最后一句话。第三段指出:逐渐衰退的是脑细胞传送和接收信息的速度和能力,这才是在人们尽量回忆熟悉的话语和名字时使大脑一片空白的原因为。这说明A正确。B、C和D都是无中生有。

### 5. 专家暗示,避免记忆下降的最佳方法就是

[A] 吃更多的营养补充食品。

[B] 保持脑部功能有活力。

[C] 寻找一个用脑力的职业。

[D] 进行更多的智力训练。

[B]

**【解析】** 推论题,题干中的“experts suggest”表明本题是推论题。本题考查在理解最后一段的基础上



进行推理的能力。最后一段指出：专家说，一切活动都可以提高人们在测试记数字和名字的标准考试中的分数；他们也承认，跟朋友下棋与做智力游戏之间存在很大的差异；前者是一个人生活的有机部分，后者则纯粹是在隔绝状态下进行的智力训练。由此可以推知，专家认为，方法就是保持大脑处于活动状态。B 为正确答案。与 A 有关的信息是第二段的最后一句话，文中是说“唤起了公众对于提高记忆力的营养补充食品、书籍以及各种益智方法的兴趣”，这与专家的观点没有关系；C 属于无中生有；与 D 有关的信息是该段的后面几句话，文中是说“跟朋友下棋与做智力游戏之间存在很大的差异，一个是一个人生活的有机部分，另一个则纯粹是在隔绝状态下进行的智力训练；前者充满乐趣，后者通常枯燥乏味”，这说明进行智力训练没有帮助，所以 D 不对。

## 全文译文

如果人们在生活中面临的一些较大问题——关于爱情、信仰或抱负的问题，突然显得比生活中面临的较小问题更容易应付，也许，这是思想成熟的一种表现，比如“我刚才为什么打开冰箱？我究竟把钥匙放在哪儿了？我把电话号码记在什么地方了？”这些小问题。

我们储存和检索信息的能力并不像沙子漏过沙漏一样倾泻而出，正如神经学家曾经认为的那样。恰恰相反，最近的研究表明，如果用适当的方式刺激大脑，几乎所有年龄阶段的人的大脑都能够产生新的脑细胞，并且建立新的通路，把新信息分类。1) 这一新发现不仅鼓舞了那些在治疗和关怀 5% 的老年人的人们，这些老人患有痴呆症，比如早老性痴呆症，也极大地激发了那些正在研究另外 95% 的老年人记忆力衰退的人们的乐观情绪，还唤起了公众对于“提高记忆力”的营养补充食品、书籍以及各种益智方法的兴趣。

我们许多人把轻微的健忘归因于大脑的衰败，这其实通常是由于完全不同的原因导致的：焦虑、睡眠问题、沮丧，甚至心脏问题。研究人员说，在健康人中，学习和记忆的生物方面的主要器官实际上几乎不会随时间的推移发生什么变化。“几乎不会出现脑细胞的损失，整个大脑在结构上都是完好无缺的，即使到了生命的末期，”神经学家格雷格·科尔说。2) 逐渐衰退的是脑细胞传送和接收信息的速度和能力，这才是在人们尽量回忆熟悉的话语和名字时使大脑一片空白的原因。

十几年来，研究人员了解到，那些过着积极、富有智力挑战生活的人患痴呆症的可能性比那些不是过这种生活的人低。一些医生认为，这种差异部分是由于智力造成的：你用的越多，衰退的时间就越长。并且新的证据显示，用脑行为本身就具有保护性，无论你是谁。

专家说，一切活动都可以提高人们在测试记数字和名字的标准考试中的分数，比如看报纸、看电视、做游戏等等。不过，他们也承认，跟朋友下棋与做智力游戏——比如记忆数字——之间存在很大的差异。一个是一个人生活的有机部分，另一个则纯粹是在隔绝状态下进行的智力训练。前者充满乐趣；后者通常枯燥乏味。

## Text 3

1) Genetic engineering holds great potential payoffs for farmers and consumers by making crops resistant to pests, diseases, and even chemicals used to kill surrounding weeds; but new research raises concerns that altering crops to withstand such threats may pose new risks—from none other than the weeds themselves. This is due to the weeds' ability to acquire genes from the neighboring agricultural crops. Researchers found that when a weed cross-breeds with a farm-cultivated relative and thus acquires new ge-

netic traits—possibly including artificial genes engineered to make the crop hardier—the hybrid weed can pass along those traits to future generations.

“The result may be very hardy, hard-to-kill weeds,” said Allison Snow, a plant ecologist at Ohio State University in Columbus who conducted the experiments over the past six years along with two colleagues. They presented their results last week at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Madison, Wisconsin.

2) The findings suggest that genetic engineering done with the aim of improving crops—growing the new genetic traits such as resistance to herbicides or pests—could ultimately have unintended and harmful consequences for the crops if weeds acquire the same trait and use it to out-compete the crops. “Gene movement from crops to their wild relatives is an ongoing process that can be ultimately harmful to crops,” said Snow.

The results of the experiments challenge a common belief that hybrids gradually die out over several generations, Snow explained. “There has been an assumption that crop genes wouldn’t persist in crop-weed hybrids” because (hybrids are thought to be less successful at reproducing) she said. However, Snow’s research contradicted this assumption: Hybrid wild radishes survived in all six generations that were grown since the study began.

Although the genetic traits the scientists monitored were natural and not genetically engineered, the findings nonetheless suggest that artificial improvements introduced into crops through genetic engineering could spread to weeds and become permanent traits of the weed population.

So strengthened, the weeds may pose a serious risk to the long-term health of agricultural crops. The danger exists in a number of crop plants—including rice, sunflower, sorghum, squash, and carrots—that are closely related to weeds with which they compete. Snow is concerned that the transfer of genes from crops to related weeds could rapidly render many herbicides (chemicals which kill weeds) ineffectual. That situation, she said, would be much like bacterial diseases acquiring resistance to antibiotics.

Because plant hybrids arise in a single generation, however, it could happen much more quickly; “Modern agriculture is heavily dependent on herbicides,” she said, “so people will notice when those don’t work anymore.”

1. The word “this” (Line 4, Para. 1) probably refers to

- [A] threats posed by chemicals used to kill weeds [B] risks of altering crops’ genetic makeups.  
[C] dangers inherent in the nature of weeds. [D] the results of recent research.

2. According to the text, genetic engineering can be used to

- [A] kill weeds through cross-breeding.  
[B] make crops hardier.  
[C] improve the yield and quality of most crops.  
[D] make crops resistant to chemical fertilizers.

3. That genetically modified crops could have harmful effects can be deduced from the fact that

- [A] gene movement between cultivated plants and wild ones is inevitable.  
[B] new research shows that genetically modified plants are likely to develop into weeds.  
[C] cross-breeding is a natural process.

[D] hybrids are generally more successful at breeding than natural plants.

4. The potential for hazardous weeds developing from genetically modified plants is greatest for

[A] crops who rely on herbicides and pesticides for effective harvests.

[B] areas in which cross-breeding is kept to a minimum.

[C] agricultural crops grown for their content.

[D] crops that are closely related to weeds.

5. It is implied that the main impact that gene transfer between crops and weeds could have is

[A] the rapid development of unintended plant hybrids.

[B] the collapse of the agricultural industry.

[C] the development of pest and herbicide-resistant weeds.

[D] the difficulty to determine the given nature of current research.

### 难句突破

1. Genetic engineering holds great potential payoffs for farmers and consumers by making crops resistant to pests, diseases, and even chemicals used to kill surrounding weeds; but new research raises concerns that altering crops to withstand such threats may pose new risks—from none other than the weeds themselves.

【解析】本句话是一个并列句，其主干是“Genetic engineering holds great potential payoffs...; but new research raises concerns that...”。 “by making crops...”短语作状语；“used to kill surrounding weeds”短语作定语，修饰“chemicals”；“that”引导的是“concerns”的同位语从句；破折号里面的内容是在解释带来风险的原因。“hold payoff for”应译成“为……带来好处”；“resistant to”应译成“抵抗……”；“concern”应译成“忧虑”；“withstand”应译成“抵御”；“none other than”应译成“正是……”。

2. The findings suggest that genetic engineering done with the aim of improving crops—growing the new genetic traits such as resistance to herbicides or pests—could ultimately have unintended and harmful consequences for the crops if weeds acquire the same trait and use it to out-compete the crops.

【解析】本句话的主干是“The findings suggest that...”。 “the findings”指的是前面句子提到的发现；“that”引导的是宾语从句；“done with the aim of improving crops”短语作定语，修饰“genetic engineering”；破折号里面的内容是在解释前面的“genetic engineering”；“if”引导的是条件状语从句，其中的“it”指的是“the same trait”。“do with”应译成“用于……”；“unintended”应译成“无意识的”；“out-compete”应译成“对付”。

### 试题解析

1. 单词“this”(第一段第四行)可能指的是

[A] 用来消除杂草的化学药品所造成的危险。

[B] 改变农作物的基因成分的风险。

[C] 杂草特征中的内在危险。

[D] 最近的研究所得到的结果。

【B】

【解析】词义题，题干中的“... refers to”表明本题是词义题。本题考查对句子的理解。题干中的信号词出自文章第一段。第一段指出：新的研究引发了人们的这些忧虑，改变农作物以便它们抵御这样的灾害可能导致新的危险——不是别的，正是杂草本身；这是因为，杂草能够从邻近的农作物那里获得基因。这说明，该单词应该是指改变农作物成分的风险。B为正确答案。与A和C有关的信息是第一段的第1句话，但与该词所指的意思没有关系；与D有关的信息是第一段的最后一句话，文中是