

备战 2014 年考研

新东方决胜考研系列

考研英语

阅读理解 提高冲刺72篇

新东方研发中心 ◆ 编著

- 精选72篇真题同源文章，助力考生最后冲刺
- 18个单元，每一单元题材搭配、题型设置等都体现近年命题趋势
- 解析精炼到位，词汇突破、句式分析、全文翻译，全面解读阅读文章

新东方决胜考研系列

考研英语

阅读理解 提高冲刺72篇

新东方研发中心 ◆ 编著



北航

C1635097

群言出版社
Qunyan Press

H319.4
2652

008880810

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

考研英语阅读理解提高冲刺72篇 / 新东方研发中心
编著. —北京: 群言出版社, 2013. 4

ISBN 978-7-80256-314-8

I. ①考… II. ①新… III. ①英语—阅读教学—研究
生—入学考试—习题集 IV. ①H319. 4-44

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2012) 第032848号

出版人 范 芳
责任编辑 孙 岩
封面设计 赵文康
出版发行 群言出版社 (Qunyan Press)
地 址 北京东城区东厂胡同北巷1号
邮政编码 100006
网 站 www.qypublish.com
电子信箱 bj62605588@163.com qunyancbs@126.com
总 编 办 010-65265404 65138815
编 辑 部 010-62418641 65276609 65262436
发 行 部 010-62605019 62263345 65220236
经 销 全国新华书店
读者服务 010-65220236 65265404 65263345
法律顾问 北京市国联律师事务所
印 刷 北京鑫海达印刷有限公司
版 次 2013 年 4 月第 1 版
印 次 2013 年 4 月第 1 次印刷
开 本 787×1092 1/16
印 张 25.75
字 数 566千
书 号 ISBN 978-7-80256-314-8
定 价 35.80元

☞ [版权所有, 侵权必究]

如有缺页、倒页、脱页等印装质量问题, 请拨打服务热线: 010-62605166。

本书编委会

策 划 郭 威 贾云龙

主 编 余春辉 陈 明

编 者 (按姓氏笔画为序)

王 萌 丛晓芳 孙 丽

任胜雷 任 晴 朱 媛

李小艾 陈 明 杨 琪

余春辉 房 甜 姜翔宇

赵伟瑜 高林显 彭 珍

序 PREFACE

考研是人生进步的重要台阶之一，对于那些渴望在学术氛围中进一步深造的人来说，考研似乎是人生的必经之路。考研绝不是一件容易的事情，它需要你付出艰苦卓绝的努力。官方数据显示，目前仅有不到三分之一的考生能够被录取，而名校和热门专业的录取比例会更低。所以，考研无疑是对人的意志和忍耐力的一种磨炼。

生命的奇迹是无限的，但前提是保持持续的努力。我们或许不知道能走多远，但重要的是我们在走。考研就是渴望、向往和激情的体现，这种渴望、向往和激情可以把我们引入新的世界，为我们带来新的风景。目标是不断延伸的，困难也是肯定的。不是困难的大小使我们的生活不同，而是我们对待困难的态度使各自的生活不同。当一个人用勇气来面对生活中的困难时，他的未来一定是光明的，因为他战胜了内心的恐惧，因此也就可以战胜外在的困难。当他用绝望或者放弃的心理面对困难的时候，那他只能原地踏步，甚至连眼前拥有的东西都会失去，因为他已经失去了自信。总而言之，一个奋斗的生命，一个不断有勇气去挑战自己生命现状的人，将会是一个生活得更加有意义的人。

新东方自成立以来，每年都有数以万计的学员通过新东方的培训实现了自己读研的理想，这也是新东方存在的价值和意义之一。我非常喜欢下面埃艾米莉·狄金森(Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886)的这首诗，因为它的内涵与新东方的精神产生了深深的共鸣：

If I can stop one heart from breaking,

I shall not live in vain;

If I can ease one life the aching,

Or cool one pain,

Or help one fainting robin

Unto his nest again,

I shall not live in vain.

如果我能使一颗心免于破碎，

我将不会虚度此生；

如果我减轻一个人的痛苦，

或平息一个人的悲伤，

或帮助一只昏迷的知更鸟

回到它的巢居，

我将不会虚度此生。

为了帮助考生顺利通过考试，新东方策划并编写了这套“决胜考研”系列图书。这套书是新东方集体智慧的结晶，也是新东方多年教学经验的总结，在图书编写过程中，多位一线名师毫无保留地分享了自己的教学经验和心得体会；同时这也是一次全新的尝试，新东方率先引入了多项语料库技术和自然语言处理技术，对内容进行了定性分析和定量分析，从全新的视角对真题背后的规律进行了挖掘，进一步保证了内容的科学性和权威性；另外，新东方还提供了和图书内容配套的在线答疑服务，力求更加及时地为读者排忧解难。

我们由衷地希望能够通过我们的努力最大限度上减轻考生的负担，节约考生的时间，帮助考生达到事半功倍的复习效果。若能如此，对于每个参与图书编写的人来说，都将是一件值得欣慰的事情。

我最后要说的是，考研并不是人生的唯一选择，我的很多朋友并没有显赫的学历，甚至没有上过大学，但是他们同样拥有精彩的人生和幸福的生活。所以，是否选择考研，需要根据个人的实际情况以及理想和追求来确定，不可以盲从。但是，一旦你选择考研，就要毫不犹豫地付出，因为机会是有限的。最后无论成功与否，考研的日子都将是一段值得骄傲的回忆，因为它见证了你的勇气和魄力。

感谢各位考生对新东方的信赖，愿各位考生都能取得理想的成绩！



新东方教育科技集团董事长兼总裁

目录CONTENTS

Unit 1

- Text 1 儿童托管的职业化推高了托管费用 1
- Text 2 罗夏心理测试的漏洞与科学之处 2
- Text 3 免收跨行手续费的新式自动取款机 3
- Text 4 造成智商差异的首要原因 5

Unit 2

- Text 1 北极海冰快速融化的原因及应对措施 23
- Text 2 沃尔玛的独裁管理使女性员工与晋升无缘 24
- Text 3 运动可以强健大脑 26
- Text 4 富人应该多交税 27

Unit 3

- Text 1 谷歌利用网络大巴开拓印度市场 46
- Text 2 基因变异培育耐盐碱水稻 47
- Text 3 海水淡化技术在美国加州的应用 48
- Text 4 乔布斯的设计理念 50

Unit 4

- Text 1 流动劳动力带来的收益大于损失 68
- Text 2 做好慈善事业需要理智 69
- Text 3 进入律师行业障碍重重 71
- Text 4 自动化对受过高等教育的劳动者的冲击 72

Unit 5

- Text 1 美国学生读写水平下降 90
- Text 2 理解边缘型人格障碍 91
- Text 3 小城曼西失业率上升, 制造行业就业艰难 93
- Text 4 职场中的性别不平等状况并未改善 94

Unit 6

- Text 1 如何最有效的控制环境污染 113
- Text 2 出版物电子化前路坎坷 114
- Text 3 体育锻炼有助于青少年烟民戒烟 115
- Text 4 实用主义者并非好人 117

Unit 7

Text 1	亚洲人结婚率下降	136
Text 2	美国付费电视的未来	137
Text 3	西方国家严重的失业问题	139
Text 4	老年人戒烟为时不晚	140

Unit 8

Text 1	拯救欧元需要欧盟各国通力合作	158
Text 2	独立电影踏上复兴之路	159
Text 3	奥巴马税收算法的问题	160
Text 4	发展中国家的绿色增长	162

Unit 9

Text 1	生双胞胎的母亲更健康	182
Text 2	与以往不同的科技泡沫	183
Text 3	暴力影片的影响对理财的启示	184
Text 4	神创论对进化论以及科学教学的冲击	186

Unit 10

Text 1	影响性别比例平均值的原因	205
Text 2	共和党对穷人税务负担的态度	206
Text 3	企业鼓励首席执行官避税	208
Text 4	公司利益威胁孩子们的幸福	209

Unit 11

Text 1	消除消费品中有害化学物质的使用	227
Text 2	能自嘲者多乐观	228
Text 3	谷歌收购摩托罗拉移动的影响	229
Text 4	如何摆脱收费不合理的银行	231

Unit 12

Text 1	如何降低大学费用	250
Text 2	孩子们的书包太重了	251
Text 3	教师的言论自由	252
Text 4	利用网络摄像头识别客户情绪	254

CONTENTS

Unit 13

Text 1	天然气能源的利与弊	272
Text 2	全球食物浪费现象	273
Text 3	民众对限制师生通过社交媒体交流褒贬不一	274
Text 4	私人豢养野生动物未受管制	276

Unit 14

Text 1	新奇而及时的经济指标:巨无霸指数	294
Text 2	单一文化在美国并不存在	295
Text 3	《阻止网络盗版法案》支持与反对阵营之争	296
Text 4	碳捕获与封存技术在英国的实施遇阻	298

Unit 15

Text 1	全球化和信息技术革命对中产阶级的影响	316
Text 2	延缓衰老的新发现	317
Text 3	美国高铁建设陷入困境	318
Text 4	导致欧美房价差异的原因	320

Unit 16

Text 1	父母的关注可以提高孩子的学习成绩	338
Text 2	环境污染可导致生物进化	339
Text 3	黑人女性的婚姻问题	340
Text 4	快乐在很大程度上是可以遗传的	342

Unit 17

Text 1	美国经济开始复苏	360
Text 2	运用“司法鉴定标记”技术打击盗窃	361
Text 3	日本廉价航空公司面临的挑战	362
Text 4	一种新的杀虫方法	364

Unit 18

Text 1	人类体毛能防止爬虫叮咬	383
Text 2	汽车交易网站 TrueCar 面临的挑战	384
Text 3	承担更多社会责任的新型公司	385
Text 4	英国应扩大高等教育办学规模	387

UNIT 1

Text 1

Gone are the days when a mother's place was in the home: in Britain women with children are now as likely to be in paid work as their unburdened sisters. Many put their little darlings in day care long before they start school. Mindful that a poor start can spoil a person's chances of success later in life, the state has intervened ever more closely in how babies and toddlers are looked after. Inspectors call not only at nurseries but also at homes where youngsters are minded; three-year-olds follow the national curriculum. Child care has increasingly become a profession.

For years after the government first began in 2001 to twist the arms of anyone who looked after an unrelated child to register with the schools, the numbers so doing fell. Kind but clueless neighbours stopped looking after little ones, who were instead herded into formal nurseries or handed over to one of the ever-fewer registered child-minders. The decline in the number of people taking in children now appears to have halted. According to data released by the Office for Standards in Education on October 27th, the number of registered child-minders reached its lowest point in September 2010 and has since recovered slightly.

The new lot are certainly better qualified. In 2010 fully 82% of nursery workers held diplomas notionally equivalent to A-levels, the university-entrance exams taken mostly by 18-year-olds, up from 56% seven years earlier, says Anand Shukla of the Daycare Trust, a charity. Nurseries staffed by university graduates tend to be rated highest by inspectors, increasing their appeal to the pickiest parents. As a result, more graduates are being recruited.

But professionalization has also pushed up the price of child care, defying even the economic depression. A survey by the Daycare Trust finds that a full-time nursery place in England for a child aged under two, who must be intensively supervised, costs £194 (\$310) per week, on average. Prices in London and the south-east are far higher. Parents in Britain spend more on child care than anywhere else in the world, according to the OECD. Some 68% of a typical second earner's net income is spent on freeing her to work, compared with an OECD average of 52%.

The price of child care is not only eye-watering, but has also become a barrier to work. Soon after it took power the coalition government pledged to ensure that people are better off in work than on benefits, but a recent survey by Save the Children, a charity, found that the high cost of day care prevented a quarter of low-paid workers from returning to their jobs once they had started a family. The government pays for free part-time nursery places for three- and four-year-olds, and contributes towards day-care costs for younger children from poor areas. Alas, extending such a subsidy during stressful economic times would appear to be anything but child's play.

1. Which of the following is true according to the first paragraph?

- [A] Nursery education plays a leading role in one's personal growth.
- [B] Pregnant women have to work to lighten families' economic burden.
- [C] Children in nursery have to take uniform national courses.
- [D] The supervision of the state makes child care professional.

2. It can be learned from Paragraphs 2 and 3 that _____.
 [A] the registered child-minders are required to take the university-entrance exams
 [B] the number of registered child-minders have been declining since 2001
 [C] anyone who looks after children at home must register with the schools
 [D] the growing recognition encourages more graduates to work as child-minders
3. The high price of child care _____.
 [A] prevents mothers from getting employed
 [B] may further depress the national economy
 [C] makes many families live on benefits
 [D] is far more than parents can afford
4. What is the author's attitude towards the professionalization of child care?
 [A] Objective. [B] Skeptical. [C] Supportive. [D] Biased.
5. Which of the following would be the subject of the text?
 [A] The professionalization of child care has pushed up its price.
 [B] The high cost of child nursing makes many mothers give up their jobs.
 [C] The employment of more graduates makes nurseries more popular.
 [D] Parents in Britain pay most for child nursing throughout the world.

Text 2

It sounds like magic. But the Rorschach test, in which elements of someone's personality can be deduced by his description of what he sees in a series of inkblots, has been used for 90 years, and is still going strong. It involved a psychologist or psychiatrist asking someone to look at ten inkblot images. In each case, the interlocutor inquires of the viewer, "What might this be?", notes the response and attempts to draw conclusions.

The question has always been how reliable the connection is between the response to the blots and the alleged diagnosis. Over the years, many experiments have been done to test the link. Now Gregory Meyer of the University of Toledo and his colleagues have reviewed the data. Their results form the basis of a new manual on the topic.

Dr. Meyer's study is a review of 1,292 papers that report experimental attempts to link Rorschach responses with personality traits that have been established by other means. His main conclusion is that some of the ways the test has been used are indeed useless. He proposes, for example, axing the alleged connection between reporting mirrored images in a blot and the viewer's level of egocentricity. He would also get rid of the idea that if a viewer focuses on the details of an image rather than the broader picture, then he is likely to have an obsessive personality. A third traditional interpretation that does not pass muster, in Dr. Meyer's view, is the suggestion that when a viewer sees things in a blot that the examiner thinks do not resemble the blot, that indicates impaired perception, which can lead to a diagnosis of severe mental disorder.

Some Rorschach diagnoses do seem to stand up, though. People who report seeing representations of passivity or helplessness in the blots are thought to have a dependent personality, meaning they rely on others to satisfy their needs. Some of the studies Dr. Meyer looked at did indeed find that people who

produce such responses are more likely to request guidance in a classroom, ask an experimenter for help when solving puzzles, or hold on to a guide when they are blindfolded. And responses in which a viewer combines several elements in an inkblot to show how they are interrelated do seem to be correlated with intellect; such responses are found most often in people who also score highly on an unrelated psychological assessment, the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale.

Dr. Meyer disposes, too, of one constant criticism of the Rorschach test—that it is culture-dependent. Studies in numerous countries come to broadly the same conclusions. A qualified thumbs-up, then, for inkblots. Perhaps the biggest threat to the test is that no one uses fountain pens any more, and so inkblots themselves have more or less become things of the past.

6. According to Paragraph 1, Rorschach test _____.
 - [A] is a kind of magic used in psychological researches
 - [B] connects one's characteristics with his response to certain inkblot images
 - [C] is a method for treating patients suffering from mental illness
 - [D] requires the viewers to response and draw conclusions of the study
7. According to Paragraph 2, the researchers' attitude towards the Rorschach test is _____.
 - [A] biased
 - [B] negative
 - [C] skeptical
 - [D] critical
8. On which of the following would Dr Meyer most probably agree?
 - [A] The viewer's response to inkblots reflects whether he is self-centered.
 - [B] If a viewer focuses on the broader picture, he isn't an obsessive.
 - [C] A viewer's wrong perception of the blots may result from mental illness.
 - [D] Some diagnoses by the Rorschach test cannot bear closer analysis.
9. Dr. Meyer believes that viewers who see passivity in the blots _____.
 - [A] tend to be more independent in real life
 - [B] are often diagnosed of mental disorder
 - [C] are more likely to ask for outside assistance
 - [D] often score low in the intelligence tests
10. Which of the following best summarizes the text?
 - [A] Many experiments have been done to justify the Rorschach test.
 - [B] The inkblot test is effective except for some traditional claims.
 - [C] The Rorschach test can help to diagnose one's personality.
 - [D] An old psychological test is in danger of extinction.

Text 3

From e-mail to broadcast TV programming, search engines to roadside billboards, consumers are accustomed to being inundated with advertisements at every turn. Typically, the tradeoff for being subjected to ads is that consumers get some sort of free or subsidized service. Could this business model also work for ATM transactions, thereby eliminating annoying \$3 fees for consumers?

According to a recent survey conducted by Ally Bank, 77% of Americans feel that it's not OK for banks to charge ATM fees. More than half (56%) of those surveyed said that the proper fee for an ATM

transaction is \$0. It's your money you're accessing, after all, the thinking goes. But, as we all know, banks do charge fees of \$2 or \$3 at a time to non-customers accessing their cash, and these fees add up in a big way, totaling \$7.1 billion in 2010 alone.

Everyone can avoid these fees by using only affiliated ATMs, but, quite obviously, plenty of consumers find it necessary from time to time to use another bank's machine—even if doing so incurs a fee. But what if there was an ATM that anyone could use that never charged fees? There is one such ATM, actually, and there could be more to come. A company called Free ATMs NYC operates an ATM at a music venue in Brooklyn. All users are welcomed to make withdrawals, entirely fee-free. The sacrifice is that while the transaction is occurring, a 15-inch video screen above the ATM shows an advertisement. When the transaction is complete, the customer gets a receipt, along with a little more advertising/marketing in the form of a coupon good for a discount to a local business, perhaps a nearby restaurant.

Even with the ads, the transaction's done in roughly the same time it takes to get money from any other ATM. The one notable side note is that while the Free ATMs NYC machine doesn't add on any fees, many banks charge their customers for using non-affiliated machines, and there's nothing the fee-free ATMs can do about that. You, the customer, could switch to a bank that doesn't charge such fees—and by some indication, millions of consumers are doing just that.

Free ATMs NYC is the brainchild of a 25-year-old entrepreneur named Clinton Townsend. The company's home page says that it is aggressively “rolling out a portfolio of Free ATMs throughout New York City,” but so far, there's just the one fee-free machine in Brooklyn—and only one throughout all of the U.S. for that matter. Will the idea catch on, with no-fee ATMs popping up left and right? The concept would surely be popular with consumers. As mentioned earlier, most people think that the proper fee for an ATM transaction is no fee at all, and that's what Free ATMs NYC delivers.

11. The word “tradeoff” (Line 2, Para.1) is closest in meaning to _____.
[A] outcome [B] principle [C] compromise [D] return
12. The author quotes the results of the survey conducted by Ally Bank to show that _____.
[A] the concept of free ATM is feasible
[B] it is better to use only affiliated ATMs
[C] it is appropriate to charge ATM fees
[D] banks have made a profit from ATM fees
13. Which of the following is true of the transaction on the fee-free ATM?
[A] People can use the ATM to deposit cash for free.
[B] Video commercials are presented on the ATM screen.
[C] Gifts are distributed when the transaction is finished.
[D] Users are subjected to ads in exchange for the free service.
14. It can be inferred from Paragraph 4 that _____.
[A] the ads time is as long as it takes to go to another ATM
[B] you may still be charged when using Free ATMs NYC machine
[C] the Free ATMs NYC machine is affiliated to many banks
[D] customers can avoid the ATM fee by making transactions in a bank

15. According to the last paragraph, Free ATMs NYC _____.

- [A] is an affiliated corporation of a big one
- [B] has a long way to go to fulfill its ambition
- [C] is thinking over the location of the ATMs
- [D] is annoyed by cross-bank ATM fees as well

Text 4

Being smart is the most expensive thing we do. Not in terms of money, but in a currency that is vital to all living things: energy. One study found that newborn humans spend close to 90 percent of their calories on building and running their brains. (Even as adults, our brains consume as much as a quarter of our energy.) If, during childhood, when the brain is being built, some unexpected energy cost comes along, the brain will suffer. Infectious disease is a factor that may rob large amounts of energy away from a developing brain. A great deal of research has shown that average IQ varies around the world, both across nations and within them.

Higher IQ predicts a wide range of important factors, including better grades in school, a higher level of education, better health, better job performance, higher wages, and reduced risk of obesity. So having a better understanding of variations in intelligence might yield a greater understanding of these other issues as well.

In a study in 2010, it was found that, among all the factors that affect intelligence, infectious disease works as the best predictor of the bunch. A recent study by Christopher Hassall and Thomas Sherratt repeated the study using more sophisticated statistical methods, and concluded that infectious disease may be the only really important predictor of average national IQ.

Support for this hypothesis comes not only from cross-national studies, but from studies of individuals. There have been many studies, for example, showing that children infected with intestinal worms have lower IQ later in life. Another study by Atheendar Venkataramani found that regions in Mexico that were the target of malaria eradication programs had higher average IQ than those that were not. In practical terms, however, this means that human intelligence is mutable. If differences in IQ across the world are largely due to exposure to infectious disease during childhood, then reducing exposure to disease should increase IQ.

Despite the strength of the findings, the study was not without its limitations. The researchers did their best to control for the effects of education. But what they really needed was to repeat their analysis across regions within a single nation, preferably one with standardized, compulsory education. The nation they chose was the United States. Average IQ varies in the states. Again, infectious disease was an excellent predictor of average state IQ. The states with the five lowest average IQ all have higher levels of infectious disease than the states with the five highest average IQ, and the relationship was good across all of the states in between.

So far, the evidence suggests that infectious disease is a primary cause of the global variation in human intelligence. Since this is a developmental cause, rather than a genetic one, it's good news for anyone who is interested in reducing global inequality associated with IQ. It will allow people interested in using this information to raise the IQ of people around the world to target their efforts most effectively and efficiently.

16. We can learn from the first paragraph that _____.
 [A] energy is the most important factor that affects intelligence
 [B] newborn babies spend more calories than adults in running their brains
 [C] extra energy cost may cause intellectual damage to children
 [D] there are IQ variations among and within nations
17. Higher average IQ in one place may _____.
 [A] explain why people there can get a better understanding
 [B] indicate the possibility of having an infectious disease
 [C] show the history of less infectious diseases there
 [D] show that people there are slimmer than those with lower IQ
18. The word "mutable" (Line 5, Para. 4) is closest in meaning to _____.
 [A] changeable [B] exchangeable [C] acceptable [D] susceptible
19. Which of the following is true according to Paragraphs 4 and 5?
 [A] Children with higher IQ may have suffered from intestinal worms.
 [B] Malaria affects most Mexicans' physical health.
 [C] Average IQ variation in the U.S. is not so obvious.
 [D] Education is also a factor that affects intelligence.
20. The finding of the researches is beneficial in that _____.
 [A] it gives people the hope of eliminating social inequality
 [B] it enables people to raise the IQ levels of mankind in a better way
 [C] it helps to improve people's intelligence genetically
 [D] it reduces the possibility of people's suffering from diseases

答案及解析

答案速查表

Text 1	1. D	2. D	3. B	4. A	5. A	Text 2	6. B	7. C	8. D	9. C	10. B
Text 3	11. D	12. A	13. D	14. B	15. B	Text 4	16. D	17. C	18. A	19. D	20. B

Text 1

主题	儿童托管的职业化推高了托管费用	题材	社会生活
来源	<i>The Economist</i>	难度 / 词数	★★ / 485
题目	<i>Child-Care Costs: Precious Little Burdens</i> (2011.11) 《昂贵的幼儿托管费》		



文章大意

本文围绕英国儿童保育的职业化展开探讨。政府对儿童保育的监管使其逐步走向职业化,从而提高了保育员的素质,也减少了从业人员的数量,但另一方面,这也推高了托管费用,增加了家庭和国家的经济负担。



试题透析

1. 由第一段可知,下列哪种说法正确?

[A] 幼儿教育对个人成长起主要作用。

[B] 为缓解家庭经济压力,孕妇不得不外出工作。

[C] 托儿所的孩子不得不学习全国统一课程。

[D] 国家的监管使儿童保育职业化。

[试题类型] 具体信息题。

[解题思路] 根据题干关键词 the first paragraph 可定位至第一段。该段第三句提到,政府考虑到早期教育失当可能会使孩子们在以后生活中失去成功的机会,因此对幼儿的托管问题格外关注(the state has intervened ever more closely in how babies and toddlers are looked after)。接着第四、五句具体解释政府的干预措施及其结果,视察人员检查托儿所和照看孩子的家庭,要求三岁的孩子学习全国统一课程,这些措施使儿童保育逐渐成为一种职业(child care has increasingly become a profession),由此可知,是国家的监管使儿童保育变得职业化,故选项 [D] 正确。

[干扰排除] 第三句提到,政府担心幼儿教育失当可能会影响他们未来的成就,但早期幼儿教育只会影响未来发展,而非对个人成长起主要作用(a leading role),故排除选项 [A]。第一句只提到,在英国,有孩子的妇女如今可以与没有子女的妇女一样外出工作,但没有提到怀孕的妇女(pregnant women)是否为了减轻家庭经济负担而外出工作,故排除选项 [B]。第四句提到,要学习全国统一课程的是三岁的孩子,而不是托儿所里所有的孩子,故排除选项 [C]。

2. 从第二、三段可推知_____。

[A] 登记在案的儿童托管员需要参加大学入学考试

[B] 儿童托管员的数量自 2001 年以来一直在下降

[C] 任何在家照看孩子的人必须到学校登记

[D] 社会的逐渐认可使更多毕业生从事儿童托管工作

[试题类型] 具体信息题。

[解题思路] 根据题干关键词 Paragraphs 2 and 3 可定位至第二和第三段。第三段第三、四句指出,雇用大学生的托儿所被检察员评为最高级 (be rated highest by inspectors), 也增加了它们对最挑剔的儿童家长的吸引力 (increasing their appeal to the pickiest parents), 因此, 越来越多的大学毕业生被聘为托管员 (more graduates are being recruited)。由此可知, 大学生托管员获得了越来越多的认可, 这促使更多的大学生毕业后成为托管员, 故选项 [D] 正确。

[干扰排除] 第三段第二句提到, 共有 82% 的托管员所持的文凭相当于 A-level 证书的文凭, 而 A-level 主要是 18 岁的学生进入大学的入学考试, 即多数托管员所持的证书相当于大学入学要求获得的 A-level 证书, 而不是说所有的托管员都要参加大学入学考试, 故排除选项 [A]。第二段第一句提到, 自从 2001 年政府强制儿童托管员去学校登记以后, 托管员人数越来越少。但本段最后一句又指出, 登记在案的托管员数目在 2010 年 9 月跌到谷底以后稍有增加, 即 2010 年 9 月以后托管员人数有所增加, 所以并不是自 2001 年至今一直在下滑, 故排除选项 [B]。第二段第一句指出, 2001 年政府强制所有为别人看护孩子的人 (anyone who looked after an unrelated child) 去学校登记, 而不是所有在家照看孩子的人都要去登记, 故排除选项 [C]。

3. 高额儿童托管费用 _____。

[A] 使母亲无法找到工作

[B] 可能会加剧国家的经济萧条

[C] 使许多家庭靠救济金为生

[D] 远不是父母所能支付的

[试题类型] 推理引申题。

[解题思路] 根据题干关键词 the high price of child care 定位至第五段。该段首句指出, 儿童托管费高得令人咂舌 (eye-watering), 第三句提出了政府的对策: 为三至四岁的儿童提供免费的非全日托管, 并资助贫困地区儿童接受日托。作者在最后一句感叹, 经济萧条时期还要加大这类资助可不是儿戏 (extending such a subsidy during stressful economic times...anything but child's play)。由此可知, 高昂的托管费迫使政府采取的资助措施加重了政府负担, 也可能会进一步加剧经济萧条, 故选项 [B] 正确。

[干扰排除] 第五段首句指出, 高昂的托管费阻碍了很多入外出工作, 接着第二句也提到, 有四分之一的低收入职工在有孩子后无法返回工作岗位, 即高昂的托管费迫使他们放弃了工作, 而不是找不到工作, 故排除选项 [A]。第五段第二句提到, 联合政府掌权后不久就宣布, 要确保有工作的人要比靠救济金过活的人生活得更好, 而高昂的托管费却使许多人放弃了工作, 但文中没有提到, 高昂的托管费使许多家庭依赖救济金生活, 故排除选项 [C]。该段第一、二句指出, 过高的托管费阻碍了许多人外出工作, 并且有四分之一的低收入职工有孩子后便不再工作, 第三句又提到, 政府要资助贫困地区的儿童接受托管, 由此可见, 托管费只是使贫穷家庭无力承担, 而不是所有家庭都支付不起, 故排除选项 [D]。

4. 对于儿童托管的职业化, 作者持什么样的态度?

[A] 客观的。

[B] 怀疑的。

[C] 支持的。

[D] 有偏见的。

[试题类型] 观点态度题。

[解题思路] 本题考查作者对儿童托管职业化的态度, 需纵观全文。作者开篇指出, 政府出于关心儿童成长的目的, 对儿童托管采取了干预措施, 从而使儿童托管逐渐职业化。接着作者在第二和第三段说明了这一趋势的积极影响: 使托管人员的数量减少, 但素质更高, 因此得到了儿童家长的认可和欢迎。第四段开始, 作者转换角度, 说明了儿童托管职业化的消极影响: 使托管费用高涨, 许多低收入职工因为支付不起高昂的托管费而放弃了自己的工作, 而国家对儿童托管的资助又会加重国家的经济负担。由此可见, 作者从托管职业化带来的正负两个方面的影响进行阐述, 因此作者的态度是客观的 (objective), 故选项 [A] 正确。