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大学英语

四级阅读

过关必练500题



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赵建昆 主编 曲根 王菲 副主编

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前言

大学英语四六级考试(College English Test Band 4/6),于1986年第一次试验举行起,至今已走过29个年头。此间,伴随中国教育改革和国人英语学习热度的升级,四六级考试也经历了数次变化,并逐渐成为全国最具影响力的大学英语能力测试(Language Proficiency Test)。2006年6月17日的四级考试,更是创下全国超过1000万人的单次参考人数纪录,使其当之无愧地成为全球参与人数最多的语言能力测试。

四六级考试巨大的影响力和公信力缘何而来?我认为主要来自以下几点:

第一,在29年里的数次改革中,四六级的考试信度和效度不断与时俱进。1999年,增加口语考试;2005年,采取标准分制;2006年,扩大听力分值;2013年,取消完型填空,提升翻译比重。以上改革使得四六级考试的形式和内容不断靠近国际流行语言能力测试(例如托福和雅思)并同时保持中国特色(例如汉译英题目比重的增加),成为一个不断创新并日臻科学的测试。

第二,20多年来,四六级考试极大地推动了中国大学生英语能力和素质的提高。全国考生在听、读、写、译、完型等各科目上的平均成绩一直都在上升。对比2013年12月试卷和上世纪90年代的试卷,测试难度已无法同日而语。另外,四六级考试的数次改革,对中国大学英语教学和大学生英语学习方式产生了巨大的反溅作用(Washback Effects,指测试对学习者的反作用)。例如,很多大学生,都开始从过去的“哑巴”英语,到目前普遍重视听力和口语等交流性语言技能的学习。

第三,四六级已经被用人单位广泛认可,成为超越地域、学校和专业的英语能力甚至学习能力标准。我曾经和一位著名国企的HR经理交流,问,你们工作中使用英语的几率不高,为何依然需要应聘者获得四六级成绩呢?他说,是否可以通过四六级,实际反映了应聘者在大学期间的综合学习能力和学习态度。举个例子,如果这名应聘者说,曾经多次尝试考级均以失败告终,我们一定会怀疑其学习能力和规划自控能力。

在2013年12月的新版四六级考试中,听写改为全面考查词汇短语,阅读增加段落信息匹配题,完型被扩展至15%的翻译所取代。建昆老师大学英语四六级考试辅导系列完全按照该改革思路设计内容,为四六级考生提供了针对性极强的辅导参考。辅导系列图书于2013年9月一经推出,即刻占据当当网外语类图书销售冠军位置,而最让读者们感到物超所值的是,书籍内容神奇命中2013年12月四六级原题。其中,四六级翻译重点涉及中国文化“中秋节”“茶叶”“丝绸之路”等考题内容均成为命中内容。另外,四级写作关于科技影响生活的漫画主题以及六级写作关于话语解释型文章的训练,均直接或间接帮助考生顺利答题并提升分数。而在2014年6月四六级考试中,本系列图书的单科品种,如听力和写作,均再次直接或间接命中考题。

应广大考生的要求,针对新一轮四六级考试,我们推出了本系列书籍的新版。经过修订和完善,我们相信,又会有无数考生因为此书而笑傲考场,轻松提分。如果在看书的同时,再听听建昆老师和考神团队的网络直播课程,你的过级几率必然更大。

通过所有考试的法宝有两个:正确的方法和长久的坚持。大学英语四六级考试辅导系列书籍,帮你解决前一半的问题,而后一半,就需要小伙伴们自己努力了。我特别想对一些屡战屡败且屡败屡战的“困难户”们说一句,多次低水平备考(或裸考)导致的失败会折损我们的学习信心和动力。明确计划、按部就班、努力坚持,你一定会迎来笑傲考场的那一刻。

建昆老师将利用新浪微博(@建昆老师)及公共微信(建昆老师)时刻和考生读者保持互动交流。

最后送大家三句我一直鼓励同学们的话,我一直很受用,相信你们也会。

没有失败,只有放弃。

只要提高,永远不晚。

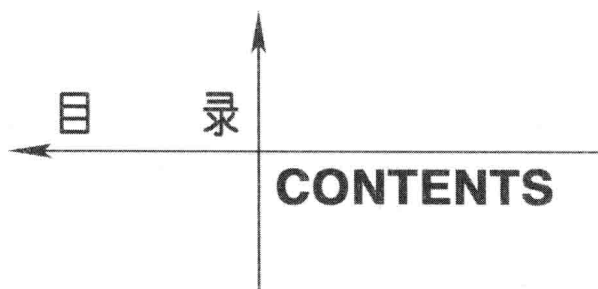
只要改变,就有空间。

祝福各位四六级考生过级成功,学习进步!

建昆老师

于北京

2014年8月



第一部分 仔细阅读题精讲精练	1
第一章 阅读理解基础篇	2
Passage 1	2
Passage 2	5
Passage 3	8
Passage 4	11
Passage 5	14
Passage 6	17
Passage 7	19
Passage 8	22
Passage 9	26
Passage 10	29
Passage 11	32
Passage 12	35
Passage 13	38
Passage 14	41
Passage 15	44
Passage 16	47
Passage 17	50
Passage 18	54
Passage 19	57
Passage 20	61
Passage 21	64
Passage 22	67
Passage 23	70
Passage 24	73
Passage 25	76
第二章 阅读理解提高篇	80
Passage 26	80
Passage 27	83

Passage 28	87
Passage 29	90
Passage 30	93
Passage 31	96
Passage 32	100
第三章 报刊文章选读	104
Passage 33	104
Passage 34	106
Passage 35	108
Passage 36	110
Passage 37	113
Passage 38	115
Passage 39	117
Passage 40	119
第四章 综合练习	122
Passage 41	122
Passage 42	125
Passage 43	128
Passage 44	131
Passage 45	135
Passage 46	138
第二部分 匹配题精讲精练	142
Passage 1	143
Passage 2	147
Passage 3	151
Passage 4	155
Passage 5	159
Passage 6	162
Passage 7	166
第三部分 选词填空题精讲精练	170
Passage 1	171
Passage 2	172
Passage 3	173
Passage 4	175
Passage 5	176
Passage 6	178
第四部分 综合练习题	180
练习 1	181
练习 2	191

仔细阅读题精讲精练

第一部分



第一章 阅读理解基础篇

Passage 1

The State of Marriage Today

Is there something seriously wrong with marriage today? During the past 50 years the rate of divorce in the United States has exploded; almost 50% of the marriages end in divorce now, and the evidence suggests it is going to get worse. If this trend continues, it will lead to the breakup of the family, according to a spokesperson for the National Family Association. Some futurists predict that in 100 years, the average American will marry at least four times, and extramarital affairs will be even more common than they are now.

But what are the reasons for this, and is the picture really so gloomy? The answer to the first question is really quite simple: marriage is no longer the necessity it once was. The institution of marriage has been based for years partly on economic need. Women used to be economically dependent on their husbands as they usually didn't have jobs outside the home. But with the rising number of women in well-paying jobs, this is no longer the case, so they don't feel that they need to stay in a failing marriage.

In answer to the second question, the outlook may not be as pessimistic as it seems. While the rate of divorce has risen, the rate of couples marrying has never actually fallen very much, so marriage is still quite popular. In addition to this, many couples now cohabit and don't bother to marry. These couples are effectively married, but they do not appear in either the marriage or divorce statistics. In fact, more than 50% of first marriages survive. The statistics are deceptive because there is a higher number of divorces in second and third marriages than in first marriages.

So is marriage really an outdated institution? The fact that most people still get married indicates that it isn't. And it is also true that married couples have a healthier life than single people: they suffer less from stress and its consequences, such as heart problems, and married men generally consider themselves more contented than their single counterparts. Perhaps the key is to find out what makes a successful marriage and apply it to all of our relationships!

1. Which is true about the problem of marriage in the United States today?

- A. Divorce leads to the breakup of the family.

- B. Half of the married couples get divorced.
 C. American people marry more than four times.
 D. More and more people are getting divorced.
2. What does “this is no longer the case” in paragraph 2 mean?
 A. It is not necessary to get married any more.
 B. Women do not need a husband any longer.
 C. Women are not economically dependant any more.
 D. Many wives do well-paying jobs outside home now.
3. Why may the outlook of marriage not be as gloomy as it appears?
 A. Many people still like to get married.
 B. The rate of divorce has actually decreased.
 C. Over 50% of the marriages continue to exist.
 D. The statistics of divorce is not quite true.
4. How do people usually feel in their marriage life?
 A. They are much healthier.
 B. They feel no longer single.
 C. They are more satisfied.
 D. They suffer a lot less.
5. Which of the following about marriage is NOT mentioned in the passage?
 A. There will be more relationships outside marriage.
 B. Many people try to get married again after divorce.
 C. Marriage has long been partly an economical need.
 D. It is a fact that most people choose to get married.

词汇注释

divorce [di'vɔ:s] *n.* 离婚

evidence ['evidəns] *n.* 证据, 迹象

futurist [fju:tʃə'rist] *n.* 未来主义者

explode [iks'pləud] *v.* 激增, 迅速扩大

predict [pri'dikt] *v.* 预言, 预料, 预报

extramarital [ˌekstrə'mæritəl] *adj.* 婚外的

gloomy ['glu:mi] *adj.* 阴暗的; 令人沮丧的

institution [ˌɪnstɪ'tju:ʃən] *n.* 制度, 习俗

outlook ['autluk] *n.* 展望, 前景

pessimistic [ˌpesɪ'mistik] *adj.* 悲观的

cohabit [kəu'hæbit] *v.* 同居

effectively [i'fektivli] *adv.* 实际上

statistics [stə'tistiks] *n.* 统计, 统计资料

deceptive [di'septiv] *adj.* 迷惑的, 骗人的

outdated [ˌaʊt'deɪtɪd] *adj.* 旧式的, 过时的

indicate ['ɪndikeɪt] *v.* 表明, 暗示

consequence ['kɒnsɪkwəns] *n.* 结果, 后果

contented [kən'tentɪd] *adj.* 满足的, 满意的

counterpart ['kauntəpɑ:t] *n.* 对应的人(或物)

题目解析

1. D 从第一段里可以了解到选项 A 与 C 都是预计将来会发生的,而不是如今的情况。B 选项与第一段第二句“almost 50% of the marriages end in divorce”不符。第一段第二句里的“the rate of divorce in the United States has exploded”“the evidence suggests it is going to get worse”话语正好说明了 D 选项的情况。
2. C 第二段第四句、第五句说得很清楚,妇女们如今在外工作,在经济上不再依赖她们的丈夫,因此觉得无须维持行将失败的婚姻。
3. A 从第三段里可以了解到离婚率并没有下降而是上升了,因此 B 选项不对。而 C 选项与第三段里“In fact, more than 50% of first marriages survive”所说不符,该选项没有提到是第一次婚姻。同样, D 选项在文中也没有说到,文中第三段的最后一句只是说统计数据具有欺骗性,而没有说数据失实。
4. C 文中第四段第三句的后半句说得很清楚,结了婚的人比单身的人更满足。A、D 选项提到的是实际情况而不是婚后人们的感受,因此不对。文中并没有提到选项 B 所说的情况。
5. B A 选项在第一段最后一句里提到了, C 选项和 D 选项分别在第二段、第四段里提到了,而 B 选项却没有哪一段具体提到。

参考译文

当代婚姻

如今的婚姻出现什么严重问题了吗?在过去 50 年中,美国的离婚率暴涨:现在几乎 50% 的婚姻以离婚告终,证据显示,情况还将持续恶化。据美国国家家庭联合会的发言人称,如果这种趋势持续下去,将导致家庭的破裂。一些未来学家预测,100 年后的美国人将平均至少结四次婚,而婚外恋甚至将比现在更为普遍。

那问题的原因是什么呢?现状真的如此糟糕吗?第一个问题的答案十分简单:婚姻早已不像过去那样非有不可了。从好些年前开始,经济需求已经只是婚姻的部分基础。过去,由于女性除了家庭以外没有任何工作,她们常常在经济上依赖丈夫。现在,随着高薪女性的增多,情况也已经改变。因此,她们觉得没有必要被一段失败的婚姻捆住手脚。

回答第二个问题,前景似乎不像它看起来那么令人悲观。尽管离婚率升高,但实际结婚率并没有下降,所以说结婚还是挺流行的。除此之外,现在许多恋人同居但并不急着领证。这些人事实上已经结婚,但他们却是统计结婚与离婚率的盲区。超过 50% 的第一次婚姻实际上是成功的。之前数据的欺骗性在于二度与三度婚姻的离婚率要高于首次婚姻。

婚姻真的过时了吗?大多数人仍会结婚,这一事实证明不是这样的。而且事实上婚后夫妻比单身过着更健康的生活:他们压力较小,因压力产生的诸如心脏问题也相应减少。而且,婚后男性总体上较之单身更为满意。也许,关键在于找出成功婚姻背后的秘诀并把它运用到我们所有人与人的关系中去。



Passage 2

Excessive Demands on Young People

Being able to multitask is hailed by most people as a welcome skill, but not according to a recent study which claims that young people between the ages of eight and eighteen of the so-called Generation M are spending a considerable amount of their time in fruitless efforts as they multitask. It argues that, in fact, these young people are frittering away as much as half of their time again as they would if they performed the very same tasks one after the other.

Some young people are juggling an ever larger number of electronic devices as they study. At the same time that they are working, young adults are also surfing on the Internet, or sending out e-mails to their friends, and/or answering the telephone and listening to music on their iPods or on another computer. As some new devices comes along it too added to the list rather than replacing one of the existing devices.

Other research has indicated that this multitasking is even affecting the way families themselves function as young people are too wrapped up in their own isolated worlds to interact with the other people around them. They can no longer greet family members when they enter the house nor can they eat at the family table.

All this electronic wizardry is supposedly also seriously affecting young people's performance at university and in the workplace. When asked about their perception of the impact of modern gadgets on their performance of tasks, the overwhelming majority of young people gave a favourable response.

The response from the academic and business worlds was not quite as positive. The former feels that multitasking with electronic gadgets by children affects later development of study skills, resulting in a decline in the quality of writing, for example, because of the lack of concentration on task completion. They feel that many undergraduates now urgently need remedial help with study skills. Similarly, employers feel that young people entering the work force need to be taught all over again, as they have become deskilled.

While all this may be true, it must be borne in mind that more and more is expected of young people nowadays; in fact, too much. Praise rather than criticism is due in respect of the way today's youth are able to cope despite what the older generation throw at them.

1. According to a recent study, what is probably true about the multitasking Generation M?

A. They are highly commended for being so effective and efficient.

- B. They waste more time than they should save contrary to common assumptions.
C. They should prioritize and focus on the most important tasks on hand.
D. They need to improve their organizational skills so as to complete all their tasks.
2. With the advent of new gadgets, what will happen to Generation M's present e-devices?
A. They make way for the latest and greatest and are retired by the young people.
B. They are put away temporarily but stay in rotation for their owners to choose from.
C. They become part of the ever increasing collection of novelties.
D. They are either sold or traded so that their owners can update their toys and hobbies.
3. How will multitasking affect Generation M adversely?
A. It makes them feel lonely and pitiful.
B. It makes them aloof and elusive to family and friends.
C. It makes them selfish and possessive.
D. It makes them impolite and ungrateful.
4. What is the biggest problem for multitask undergraduates in universities?
A. They should adjust their academic attitudes seriously.
B. They should seek psychological professionals for assistance.
C. They should take some crash courses to catch up with their classmates.
D. They should try harder to focus on one task before moving on to the next.
5. In dealing with today's youth, what approach should parents take?
A. Be supportive and understanding.
B. Be realistic and lower their expectations
C. Be encouraging and let their children stick to their old habits.
D. Be patient and hope everything will work out just fine eventually.

词汇注释

excessive [ik'sesiv] *adj.* 过多的, 额外

multitasking ['mʌlti,tɑ:skiŋ] *vi.* 同时进行多个任务

hail [heil] *vt.* 赞扬

claim [kleim] *vt.* 声称, 主张

considerable [kən'sidərəbl] *adj.* 相当大的, 相当多的

fritter [fritə] *vt.* 消耗, 浪费

juggle ['dʒʌgl] *vt.* 耍弄, 玩耍

electronic [ilek'trɒnik] *adj.* 电子(学)的

surf [sə:f] *vi.* (网上)冲浪, 漫游, 浏览

indicate ['indikeit] *vt.* 表明, 指出

affect [ə'fekt] *vt.* 影响

isolated ['aisəleitid] *adj.* 孤立的, 与世隔绝的

题目解析

1. B 从第一段第一句话中的“a considerable amount of their time”“fruitless efforts”以及该段最后一句话中的“frittering away as much as...”可以进行同义词替换，waste 就是 fruitless 和 fritter 的同义词。
2. C 从第二段的最后一句话中的“added to the list rather than replacing”可以判断出，这些年轻人的电子设备是越来越多，而不是 A 被取而代之、B 被轮流使用、D 被出售或交换以便买更新的产品。
3. B B 是文字游戏，原文中“isolated worlds”应该理解为孤立的世界，即独自“alone”，而不是孤独“lonely”。答案 C 说他们变得自私和占有欲强，想买更多电子产品，显然不对。答案 D 说他们变得不懂礼貌和不知感恩，均是对第三段最后一句话中的“no longer greet”和“nor can they eat at the family table”的字面理解。答案 B 是两个近义，重点在性格变化上，变得“若即若离，难以捉摸”。
4. D 答案 A 认为是态度问题，把客观问题主观化。答案 B 是误导选项，试图用“remedial help”误导大家联想到 remedy 一词，故引出 psychological professional 的曲解。答案 C 把第五段第一句中的“later development”和“decline in the quality of...”表象化，认为应该抓紧赶上同学(catch up)。答案 D 才是正确答案，问题症结在于 multitasking 难以让人集中注意力，造成浪费时间、影响表现等后果，这些前文均已提过。
5. A 答案 A 把 praise 替换成了相对隐性的近义词。答案 B 只针对最后一段的第一句话，断章取义。答案 C 前半部分 encouraging 还算接近正确答案，后半部分则成了鼓励“将错就错”。答案 D 认为应采取“听之任之，顺其自然”的态度。

参考译文

对年轻人的过高期望

许多人对能同时兼顾几样工作的本领赞誉有加。然而最近研究却发现，八岁到十八岁、被称为“多媒体时代”的年轻人在同时进行多种任务的过程中常常事倍功半、了无成果。研究认为，同时进行多种任务与依次完成各个任务所花时间相同，这些年轻人浪费了一半时间。

有些年轻人在学习时还同时使用着很多电子产品。在学习的同时，他们还在上网、给朋友发邮件、打电话、听 iPod 或者另一台电脑上的歌。随着新产品的出现，他们的电子设备的数量还会不断增加。

另一项调查还显示：封闭在自身孤立世界里的年轻人，他们与周围人越发疏于交流，这种“兼顾”甚至影响了正常的家庭生活——年轻人到家后不再向家人问好，吃饭时也不同家人坐在一起。

人们认为在电子产品中的如鱼得水还严重影响了年轻人在学业和工作上的表现。但当被问及现代科技产品对于他们工作表现的影响，绝大多数都认为是正面的。

然而不论学校还是公司都对此没有好感。前者认为同时使用多种电子设备会影响

儿童日后学习能力的发展,比如由缺乏完成任务的集中力而导致的写作水平下降。他们认为许多本科生都需要恶补学习技能这一课。与此相似,雇主也认为作为职场新人的年轻一代因为能力欠缺需要重新培训。

即使以上都是现实情况,也必须承认今天的年轻人被寄予越来越高的期望,实际上是太高了。他们能够应对老一辈对他们的任何要求,对此我们更应该赞许而非批评。

Passage 3

Spoilt for Choice

Choice, we are given to believe, is a right. In daily life, people have come to expect endless situations about which they are required to make decisions one way or another. In the main, these are just irksome moments at work which demand some extra energy or brainpower, or during lunch breaks like choosing which type of coffee to order or indeed which coffee shop to go to. But sometimes selecting one option as opposed to another can have serious or lifelong repercussions. More complex decision-making is then either avoided, postponed, or put into the hands of the army of professionals, lifestyle coaches, lawyers, advisors, and the like, waiting to lighten the emotional burden for a fee. But for a good many people in the world, in rich and poor countries, choice is a luxury, not a right. And for those who think they are exercising their rights to make choices, the whole system is merely an illusion, created by companies and advertisers wanting to sell their wares.

The main impact of endless choice in people's lives is anxiety. Buying something as basic as a coffee pot is not exactly simple. Easy access to a wide range of consumer goods induces a sense of powerlessness, even paralysis, in many people, ending in the shopper giving up and walking away, or just buying an unsuitable item that is not really wanted in order to solve the problem and reduce the unease. Recent surveys in the United Kingdom have shown that a sizeable proportion of electrical goods bought per household are not really needed. The advertisers and the shareholders of the manufacturers are, nonetheless, satisfied.

It is not just their availability that is the problem, but the speed with which new versions of products come on the market. Advances in design and production mean that new items are almost ready by the time that goods hit the shelves. Products also need to have a short lifespan so that the public can be persuaded to replace them within a short time. The classic example is computers which are almost obsolete once they are bought. At first, there were only one or two available from a limited number of manufacturers, but now there are many companies all with not only their own products but different versions of the same machine. This makes selection a problem. Gone are the days when

one could just walk with ease into a shop and buy one thing; no choice, no anxiety.

The plethora of choice is not limited to consumer items. With the greater mobility of people around the world, people have more choice about where they want to live and work—a fairly recent phenomenon. In the past, nations migrated across huge swathes of the earth in search of food, adventure, and more hospitable environments. Whole nations crossed continents and changed the face of history, so the mobility of people is nothing new. The creation of nation states and borders effectively slowed this process down. But what is different now is the speed at which migration is happening.

1. What is the difference between the decision to shop in a certain supermarket and the decision to drop out of college according to the first paragraph?
 - A. The former is a right while the latter is not.
 - B. The latter has more impact on life.
 - C. The former may happen for many times in life.
 - D. The latter requires a fee.
2. When people can not easily decide what to buy, what is the least possible choice?
 - A. Give up.
 - B. Walk away.
 - C. Buy an unsuitable item.
 - D. Seek advice.
3. Why do products have short lifespan nowadays?
 - A. They are more often replaced with better ones.
 - B. They have worse quality.
 - C. They have too many versions.
 - D. Computer technology advances too fast.
4. How does migration differ from the past?
 - A. People now migrate across the whole earth.
 - B. People now migrate for better life.
 - C. People now have more choice about where to migrate.
 - D. People now migrate for better environment.
5. Which is the best summary of the writer's attitude towards choice in a commercial society?
 - A. More choice, more anxiety.
 - B. Better more choice than no choice.
 - C. Better no choice than more choice.
 - D. All choice is not easy.

词汇注释

spoil [spɔɪl] *vt.* 使某人扫兴

irksome ['ɜːksəm] *adj.* 令人心烦的

brainpower ['breɪn,paʊə(r)] *n.* 智能
option ['ɒpʃən] *n.* 选择
repercussion [ˌrɪ:pə'kʌʃən] *n.* (常指意料之外的)影响,后果
complex ['kɒmpleks] *adj.* 复杂的
postpone [pəʊst'pəʊn] *vt./vi.* 延迟,延缓
professional [prə'feʃənl] *n.* 专业人士
adj. 内行的
coach [kəʊtʃ] *n.* 教练员,指导
luxury ['lʌkʃəri] *n.* 难得的享受
illusion [ɪ'lju:ʒən] *n.* 幻觉,想象
ware [wɛə] *n.* 商品,货物
impact ['ɪmpækt] *n.* 影响
anxiety [æŋg'zaɪəti] *n.* 焦虑,不安
consumer [kən'sju:mə] *n.* 消费者
induce [ɪn'dju:s] *vt.* 引起,导致
paralysis [pə'ræləsɪs] *n.* 麻痹
unsuitable [ˌʌn'sju:təbl] *adj.* 不恰当的,不适宜的
unease [ˌʌn'i:z, 'ʌni:z] *n.* 焦虑,不安
sizeable ['saɪzəbl] *adj.* 相当大的,颇大的

proportion [prə'pɔ:ʃən] *n.* 部分,比例
shareholder ['ʃeəhəʊldə] *n.* 股东
manufacturer [mænju'fæktʃərə] *n.* 制造商,厂家
nonetheless [ˌnʌnðə'les] *adv.* 然而,不过
availability [ə'veɪlə'bɪləti] *n.* 可获得性,可使用性
version ['vɜ:ʃən] *n.* 版本
obsolete [ˈɒbsəli:t, ˈɒbsə'li:t] *adj.* 过时的,被淘汰的
plethora ['pleθərə] *n.* 过多,过剩
phenomenon [fɪ'nɒmɪnən] *n.* 现象
migrate ['maɪgreɪt] *vi.* 迁徙
swathe [sweɪð, swɒð] *n.* 大片土地
hospitable [hɒ'spɪtəbl] *adj.* 有利的,适宜的
skip [skip] *v.* 跳过
obese [əu'bi:s] *adj.* 肥胖的
metabolic [metə'bɒlɪk] *adj.* 新陈代谢的
psychiatric [ˌsaɪki'ætrɪk] *adj.* 精神病的
abnormal [æb'nɔ:məl] *adj.* 异常的

题目解析

1. B 根据文章第一句话,这两种选择都是权利,所以 A 不对,选项 C 本身没错但文中丝毫未提及,选项 D 有可能发生,但不是绝对的。选项 B 符合 But sometimes selecting one option as opposed to another can have serious or lifelong repercussions 的意思。
2. D 第二段第三句提到了 A、B、C 三个选项,只有 D 没提到,这正是本题答案。
3. A 第三段都是在讲商家为了销售更多的商品,不断推出新产品,老百姓不知不觉中更换地更勤了,所以一个商品的使用寿命就更短了。
4. C 其他三个选项都不是新的特点,最后一段第三句话都有涉及。
5. A 整篇文章都是在论述现代商品社会人们虽然选择更多了,但焦虑感也多了。其他三个选项文中都有提及,但不能代表作者整体的态度。

参考译文

多不胜数

通常我们认为选择是一种权利。在日常生活中,人们已经习惯了在数不胜数的情