

Commentary & WORLD REPORT U.S. News Science Volume

Great Reading
Materials!
The Latest!

主编 北京外国语大学
江涛 肖敏



考研英语阅读题源 III 科学、评论杂志、美国新闻与 世界报道分册

第I辑、
第II辑，
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占近几年考研英语阅读真题的55%以上

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又到一年考研时，考研英语一直是同学们苦练的项目。相信很多同学都知道，突破考研英语，除了背单词、做真题以外，扩大阅读量也是个很好的方法。和所有的英语考试一样，考研英语中阅读题的分值最大。而通过阅读英语文章来学习，除了可以提高阅读能力外，还可以更高效地记忆单词、培养语感、提高写作能力，进而从整体上提高你的英语水平。

扩大阅读量十分重要，而对阅读材料的选择也不容忽视。如果对历年考研真题阅读理解文章的来源进行整理，你会发现，其来源选择是有规律可循的。阅读文章大多节选自国外著名的期刊杂志，除了我们先前出版过的*The Economist*《经济学家》、*The New York Times*《纽约时报》、*Newsweek*《新闻周刊》、*TIME*《时代周刊》之外，我们发现近六年的考研英语阅读题源逐渐向其他的报刊杂志延伸，如*McKinsey Quarterly*《麦肯锡季刊》、*Scientific American*《科学美国人》、*Commentary Magazine*《评论杂志》、*Science*《科学》、*U.S. News & World Report*《美国新闻与世界报道》、*Business Week*《商业周刊》等。这些报刊杂志中的文章（一般对原文进行了节选或者修改）频繁出现于近几年的考研英语试卷中，而且所占比例超过55%。

报刊杂志 \ 年份	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
<i>Mckinsey Quarterly</i>	Part A Text 3	Part B	Part A Text 3			
<i>Commentary Magazine</i>	Part A Text 1	Part A Text 1				
<i>Scientific American</i>			Part A Text 2	Part A Text 3	Part A Text 2	
<i>Business Week</i>	Part A Text 2	Part A Text 2				
<i>U.S News & World Report</i>				Part A		
<i>Science</i>						Part A

掌握这一规律对于复习考研英语阅读至关重要。与其将大把时间浪费在其他英语阅读上，何不直接从考研英语阅读的题源中进行发掘呢？从难度、篇幅或是文章的风格、选材来讲，还有什么英语阅读材料比英语考题的题源更接近英语考题本身呢？

我们的《考研英语阅读题源》I自2008年初出版以来，得到了诸多好评，随即在全国掀起了一股考研英语题源热。紧接着我们又精心打造了《考研英语阅读题源》II，为考研学子的英语阅读复习进一步缩小了范围。现在，基于名师对考研英语趋势的高度把握以及预测的高度准确性，我们特此推出《考研英语阅读题源》III，其中包括：《考研英语阅读题源 III *McKinsey Quarterly*》、《考研英语阅读题源 III *Science, Commentary Magazine, U.S. News & World Report*》、《考研英语阅读题源 III *Scientific American*》和《考研英语阅读题源 III *Business Week*》，以帮助同学们更好地把握考研英语阅读的方向。

第三套《考研英语阅读题源》在选文上做到了去粗取精，紧跟考研英语阅读命题的趋势，主要着眼于近几年的 *McKinsey Quarterly*《麦肯锡季刊》、*Scientific American*《科学美国人》、*Commentary Magazine*《评论杂志》、*Science*《科学》、*U.S. News & World Report*《美国新闻与世界报道》、*Business Week*《商业周刊》这几本国外优秀杂志，从中精选出符合考研英语阅读题型的文章，并收录了近年来从这几本报刊中节选后的考研

英语阅读真题。这套书根据考研英语阅读真题的题材类型，从各个层面选择文章，分为社会类、文教类、经济类、科技类和健康类五大类，如果某类正好有近几年出现过的考研英语阅读真题原文，我们便把真题原文放在这一类的最前面，以让考研考生熟悉这类报刊或杂志的背景、题材、文字风格，做到知己知彼，百战百胜。

每篇题源文章都由以下三个板块组成：

题源文选：原汁原味、内容详实的英语报刊文摘。风格、内容、难易程度方面均与考研英语阅读真题相近。为了在保证文章原汁原味的基础上更好地体现考研英语阅读的特色，编者特别节选了结构和内容相对完整、篇幅与考研阅读文章相当的部分作为重点段落（即铺底部分），便于考生有重点地阅读。

词汇注解：该部分列出了文章中需考生掌握的重点单词和超纲单词。重点单词部分列出了文中出现的考研大纲中所包含的词汇，后面附有音标、文中释义及大纲全义，在原文中以粗体加色标出，帮助考生在阅读的同时更全面地掌握重点单词，并通过对单词的理解更好地进行阅读。超纲单词部分则列出了文中出现的不属于大纲考查范围的生词，在原文中以斜体加色标出，帮助考生扩展词汇量，排除阅读中的障碍。

重点段落译文：针对原文中的重点段落，提供精准的译文，为考生理解文章提供借鉴。

这本分册的文章主要选自2009年、2010年和2011年的 *Commentary Magazine* 《评论杂志》、*Science* 《科学》和 *U.S. News & World Report* 《美国新闻与世界报道》。

最后衷心希望这套《考研英语阅读题源》III能助考研考生一臂之力。
谨祝考研成功！

编者

2012年1月



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Social Class



社会类

Passage One

题源
文选

From Commentary
By James K. Glassman
September, 2009

The Hazard of Moral Hazard

When someone insures you against the consequences of a nasty event, **oddl**y enough, he raises the incentives for you to behave in a way that will cause the event. So if your diamond ring is **insured** for \$50,000, you are more likely to leave it out of the safe. Economists call this phenomenon “moral **hazard**”, and if you look around, you will see it everywhere. “With automobile collision insurance, for example, one is more likely to venture forth on an icy night,” writes Harvard economist Richard Zeckhauser. “Federal deposit insurance made S&Ls more willing to take on risky loans. Federally subsidized flood insurance encourages citizens to build homes on flood plains.”

In 1963 the Nobel Prize winner Kenneth Arrow, who happens to be the uncle of President Obama’s top economic adviser, Larry Summers, wrote a paper for the *American Economic Review* titled *Uncertainty and the Economics of Medical Care*. Arrow argued *strenuously* for vastly increasing health insurance, even if the government had to supply some of it, but he also recognized the dangers of moral hazard that health insurance causes. The ideal case for insurance, Arrow wrote, is “that the event against which insurance is taken be out of the control of the individual who is insured”—like, say, insurance against damage from a *meteor* crashing into your house. In health care, people who are insured (especially if the

premiums are being paid by their employers) have greater incentives to risk their health by, for example, smoking than they would if they had to pay the bill for their lung-cancer treatment themselves. Insurers struggle to *mitigate* moral hazard by making people pay part of the cost of their care or, in the case of smoking by raising premiums on smokers or denying coverage to skydivers.

The most dangerous kind of moral hazard is produced not from **explicit** insurance policies (on which, after all, the insurer can raise premiums) but from implicit ones. If your teenager thinks you will bail him out of jail or fix it with the judge if he gets **arrested**, then he will be more apt to drive drunk. More broadly, in the jargon of Alcoholics Anonymous, your behavior would be called “enabling”. By rescuing an alcoholic from the consequences of his actions, you are encouraging him to drink because he figures you will rescue him the next time.

Over the past three decades, the world has been awash in just this kind of moral hazard, as governments have become more adept at economic rescue and as practitioners of the art have won praise for seeming to pull the world back from the abyss.

Consider the three government officials—Summers, then deputy secretary of the Treasury; Robert Rubin, his boss at Treasury; and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve—who stared out from the February 15, 1999, cover of *Time*, which called them, with no irony, “The Committee to Save the World”. With help from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the three, we were told, had averted global disasters, from the vaporizing of the Thai baht, the default of Russian bonds, and the near collapse of Long-Term Capital Management (a huge Greenwich, Connecticut, hedge fund cofounded by two Nobel economists).

A few years later, the Fed chairman would appear to save the world once more by dramatically cutting U.S. interest rates after 9/11, in the process reinforcing what Wall Street called the Greenspan “put”. Ever since the 1987 stock-market crash, in bad times—the start of the Gulf War of

1990-91, the Mexican credit crisis of 1994, the Asian and Russian blights of the late 1990s, and the popping of the tech bubble in 2000—the Fed has pumped liquidity (that is, available money) into the financial system, saving investors from greater horrors by keeping stock prices buoyant.

As a result, investors began to believe that if they bought stocks, the Fed was offering them an implicit put option, which protected the price of their shares through thick and thin. “There has been a sense that participants in the market may think there is this cushion if things get ugly,” said Michael Prell, a former research director at the Fed, in an article in the *Financial Times* headlined “Greenspan Put May Be Encouraging Complacency”. The date was December 8, 2000.

Eight years later, the global economy faced a crisis caused by lenders who flamboyantly disregarded the creditworthiness of borrowers. In response, government rescuers instituted policies that made the efforts of *TIME*'s Committee to Save the World seem quaint. In the committee's heyday, the Asians got \$40 billion in help, the Russians \$23 billion, and the Greenwich hedge-fund guys \$4 billion. But in 2008 and 2009, just two programs in one country—America's Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) and its stimulus package—together total more than \$1.5 trillion.

Meanwhile, the Fed cut short-term interest rates to zero, and the White House and Congress decided to save the country's largest insurance company (American International Group, or AIG), its largest and second-largest automakers (General Motors and Chrysler), its two largest providers of mortgage-financing (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac), and various gigantic commercial and investment banks and finance companies. The creeping dread is that previous rescue policies had induced the moral hazard that made the 2008-09 crisis not only inevitable but also far worse in scale than the economic disruptions that had come before—and that the 2008-09 rescue will induce a disaster worse still.

The financial historian Charles Kindleberger, in his classic *Manias, Panics, and Crashes*, had it right more than 30 years ago when he described

“the moral hazard that the more interventionist the authorities are with respect to the current crisis, the more intense the next bubble will be, because many of the market participants will believe that their possible losses will be limited by government measures.”

How much moral hazard is *sloshing* around the world? That can't be measured, but Peter L. Bernstein, one of the great historians of economic risk, wrote in June: “The moral hazard imposed on the system in recent months is truly *mind-boggling* in scale and scope. Across the globe the banks and insurers whose errors of judgment created the bubbles have been bailed out without hesitation.”

The best way to *dampen* moral hazard, however, is for politicians and regulators to resist the urge to act, act, act. They do have to maintain confidence in financial markets, but that confidence is being undermined by repeated economic crises that are caused, in large part, by the expectations raised by the *interventions* themselves. Never have expectations been raised so high. “Bad as the increased debt and *subversion* of the Fed may be,” Bernstein wrote, “their impact on our economic well-being pales in comparison with what could happen if the *bailouts* lessen our aversion to risk.”

At the very least, policymakers need to take moral hazard—in all its permutations—into their calculations. They did so in the past. Bernstein refers to the “hue and cry” that used to arise when “governments took steps to cushion the adverse consequences of bubbles for particular companies or sectors of the economy.” Today alarms are being raised about cost. But about the impact on behavior there is barely a peep. In fact, there is blithe indifference to the future effects of today's policies and a kind of smug congratulatory air redolent of that 1999 *TIME* magazine cover celebrating the Committee to Save the World. “The fire is out now,” said President Obama in July, reverting to his economic metaphor. Perhaps. But the embers are still glowing, waiting for the next gust of wind—or dose of kerosene—to ignite them.

词汇注解

重点单词

oddy /'ɒdli/	[文中释义]	<i>adv.</i> 古怪地
	[大纲全义]	<i>adv.</i> 奇妙地; 古怪地
insure /in'ʃuə(r)/	[文中释义]	<i>v.</i> 给……保险
	[大纲全义]	<i>v.</i> 给……保险; 保证, 确保
hazard /'hæzəd/	[文中释义]	<i>n.</i> 公害, 风险
	[大纲全义]	<i>n.</i> 危险, 公害 <i>v.</i> 尝试着做; 冒……风险
vastly /'væstli/	[文中释义]	<i>adv.</i> 巨大地
	[大纲全义]	<i>adv.</i> 巨大地; 广阔地
explicit /ik'splisit/	[文中释义]	<i>adj.</i> 明确的
	[大纲全义]	<i>adj.</i> 详述的, 明确的; 毫不隐瞒的, 露骨的
arrest /ə'rest/	[文中释义]	<i>v.</i> 逮捕
	[大纲全义]	<i>v.</i> 逮捕, 拘留; 阻止; 吸引 <i>n.</i> 逮捕
impose /im'pəuz/	[文中释义]	<i>v.</i> (on)强加于
	[大纲全义]	<i>v.</i> (on)强加于; 征(税等), 处以(罚款等)
intervention /,intə'venfən/	[文中释义]	<i>n.</i> 干预
	[大纲全义]	<i>n.</i> 介入, 干涉, 干预

超纲单词

strenuously	<i>adv.</i> 费力地
meteor	<i>n.</i> 流星
premium	<i>n.</i> 保险费
mitigate	<i>v.</i> 减轻; 缓和