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博士研究生入学英语考试命题研究组 / 编著

浓缩全国重点院校考博英语真题精华 ★

详解命题思路和出题动态,强化**解题方法与技巧**★

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# 考博英语全国重点院校 真题详解

博士研究生入学英语考试命题研究组 编著

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#### 考博英语全国重点院校真题详解

博士研究生入学英语考试命题研究组 编著

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# 考博英语全国重点 院校真题详解 **从书总序**

中国加入 WTO 之后,改革开放逐步深化,与国外进行的经济、贸易、科学、教育、管理和军事等领域的合作也更加紧密,从而对我国人才的知识水平提出了更高的要求。社会对博士、硕士研究生等高层次人才的需求越来越大,报考硕士、博士研究生的考生正在逐年增多。从整体上看,由于博士生招生形势的不断发展,各院校博士生入学考试的难度越来越大,对考生的外语水平要求也越来越高,特别是听、说能力。攻读博士学位的学生,一方面应该具备坚实的专业理论基础和扎实的科研能力,另一方面还应该具备较高水平的外语能力。

综合考察最近的图书市场,有关硕士研究生英语考试的辅导资料很多,而直接针对博士研究生入学英语考试的指导用书几近空白。报考博士研究生的考生对如何复习应考常常感到无所适从,他们迫切需要一套高质量的考前辅导资料,以应对考博英语的实际要求,帮助其把握命题规律,在考试中获取高分。

博士研究生入学英语考试主要测试听力、语法、词汇、阅读理解、完形填空、翻译、写作等方面的知识,各个招生院校的试题尽管具体的考查范围有些出入,但是基本上都是在这些题型的范畴内出题。具体考查内容归纳总结如下:

听力理解部分主要测试考生对一般性听力材料的理解与判断能力,要求考生听过一遍后回答所提问题。主要考查考生如下能力: (1) 判断对话场景; (2) 判断人物关系及身份; (3) 理解说话者的意图、观点或态度; (4) 理解话语要点和含义; (5) 获取具体信息; (6) 理解中心思想; (7) 进行有关的判断和推理。

词汇部分主要测试考生是否具备一定的词汇量和根据上下文对词和词组意义进行判断的能力。每题有一个留有空白的英文句子,要求考生从所给的四个选项中选出可填在空白处的最恰当的词或词组。

完形填空部分主要测试考生在语篇层次上的理解能力以及对词汇表达方式和结构掌握 的程度。考生应具有借助词汇、句法及上下文线索对语言进行综合分析和应用的能力,要 求考生就篇章所留空白分别从四个选项中选出最佳答案。

阅读理解部分主要测试考生在规定时间内通过阅读获取相关信息的能力。考生须完成 1800~2000 词的阅读量 (3篇~6篇短文),并作答文后题目。要求考生能:(1)掌握中心思想、主要内容和具体细节;(2)进行相关的判断和推理;(3)准确把握某些词和词组在上下文中的特定含义;(4)领会作者的观点和意图、判断作者的态度。

英译汉部分要求考生将一篇近 400 词的英语短文中有下画线的若干句子翻译成汉语, 主要测试考生是否能从语篇的角度正确理解英语原句的意思,并能用准确、达意的汉语书

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面表达出来。

写作部分要求考生按照命题、所给提纲或背景图、表,写出一篇不少于 200 词的短文。目的是测试考生用英语表达思想或传递信息的能力,以及对英文写作基础知识的实际运用。

为了更好地帮助考生复习,了解各高等院校考试的内容、要求、题型以及难易程度,并通过有效的考前试题训练掌握各种题型的答题方法和技巧,提高得分能力,我们根据多年的教学实践经验,在认真分析了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、中国科学院、中国科技大学、复旦大学、同济大学、南京大学、武汉大学、厦门大学等 50 余所重点高等院校最近几年博士生入学考试英语试题的考点、难点、重点及命题套路之后,倾情奉献了这套《博士研究生入学考试英语辅导用书》系列丛书,包括《考博英语综合辅导教程》、《考博英语全国重点院校真题详解》、《考博英语模拟试卷与精解》、《考博英语词汇分级考点详注》、《考博英语词汇、语法与完形填空高分突破》、《考博英语阅读理解、翻译与写作高分突破》共六本。

这套丛书的特色如下:

#### 一、作者阵容强大、辅导经验丰富、深谙命题动态

这套丛书作者长期从事考博英语命题、阅卷与辅导,对考博英语的考点非常熟悉。他们具有相当丰富的辅导和教学工作经验,深谙命题规律和出题的动态,从而使本丛书具有极高的权威性。这套丛书的出版凝结着参与编写的专家学者多年教学、命题、评卷的经验。

#### 二、鲜明的创新特色,编写体例非常符合考生的需要

这套丛书全面吸收了同类图书的优点,结合作者丰富的辅导经验,博采众长,推陈出新,使丛书结构和内容具有鲜明的创新特色。下面分别加以介绍。

《考博英语综合辅导教程》:参考全国重点院校的最新考试大纲,按照最新精神编写。在编写过程中,特别注意知识的系统性。在每章后都编写了足量的同步强化练习题,并给出答案和解析。考生可通过做这些强化练习题进行自测,巩固复习成果。该书力求把重点、难点与考点讲深、讲透。

《考博英语全国重点院校真题详解》: 历史是一面镜子,了解过去可以预知未来。通过对历年试题的详细解析,考生可以了解命题原则与规律。研习有代表性的院校的真题是复习备考中必不可少的关键环节,也是考生掌握考试动态、赢得高分的最佳捷径。循着命题人的思路,我们就可以把握考试的脉搏,明确考试的重点和难点。

《考博英语模拟试卷与精解》: 许多考生缺乏实际临场经验。该书将精辟阐明解题思路,全面展现题型变化,将浩渺的习题浓缩于有限的模拟题精华中,迅速提高考生快速、准确、灵活的解题能力。为考生全程领航和理性分析,引领考生高效通过考试难关。每套试卷都有标准答案和详细的解析。考生可以利用模拟试卷进行考前模拟实战训练,检验自己的学习成果,及时进行查漏补缺,有针对性地进行复习备考。

《考博英语词汇分级考点详注》:该书包括博士生入学考试基本词汇及其衍生词汇共计万余例。该书最大的亮点就是将词汇复习与考试紧密结合,将全国重点院校的词汇测试试题按照词汇的分类进行了详细深入的分析,让考生能巩固对该词的掌握和运用情况,做到记单词与考试紧密结合,对考试内容融会贯通。

《考博英语词汇、语法与完形填空高分突破》:该书以重点、难点和疑点为依据,在精心研究重点院校真题的基础上,组织编写了同步练习题,相信会对考生有所裨益。该书难易结合,试题与考试真题难易程度相当,它系统、全面地对大纲规定的知识点从多方位、多角度进行考查。通过做同步练习题,考生可以牢固掌握词汇、语法与完形填空的相关内容,融会贯通,举一反三,为最后赢得考试高分打下坚实的基础。

《考博英语阅读理解、翻译与写作高分突破》: 该书在认真研究全国重点院校的阅读理解、翻译与写作部分的相关考点以后,编写了符合考试深度的同步辅导与强化练习题,让 考生能见识、熟悉考查的各种题型,达到熟能生巧的境地。

实践证明,一套好的复习资料,能够帮助考生收到事半功倍的效果。我们以考博英语专家组辅导经验的深厚积累,以在继承中创新、在开拓中前进的精神,凭借阵容强大的专家编写队伍,向广大考生奉献这套辅导书,希望能帮助考生在考试中蟾宫折桂,夺得高分!

在这套丛书的编写过程中,得到了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、中国科学院、中国科技大学、复旦大学、同济大学、南京大学、武汉大学、西安交通大学、厦门大学高等院校给我们提供的大力支持,在此表示由衷的感谢。

参加本书编写的除了主编索玉柱、成芬、刘爽外,还有谭莉、王新会、赵艳萍、吴盈敏、崔杰凯、欧阳少波、张晓燕、张孜、江海波、刘仕文、宋纪新、杨勇、王宁、张磊、崔军胜、赵秀云、程立元、陈金贞、叶充、张杰、管卫勇、孙摇遥、洪潇、李征、罗福生、郭庆、梅涛、陈娜等同志,在此一并表示感谢。

由于时间仓促,错误和纰漏之处诚望广大读者批评指正。

编著者 于北大燕园

# 考博英语全国重点 院校真题详解 ORE前V会RD

目前,我国博士生英语入学考试采取的是各招生院校自行命题、自行组织考试的办法,各个院校的考试重点、命题特点有相当大的不同,也没有统一的考试大纲,这主要是由于国内没有对博士生入学英语考试采取统考形式。从整体上看,各院校博士研究生入学考试的难度越来越大,对考生的外语要求也越来越高,特别是听说能力。攻读博士学位的考生,一方面应该具备坚实的专业理论基础和扎实的科研能力,另一方面还应该具备较强的外语能力。随着我国对外开放在深度和广度上的不断拓展,对国际化人才的需求量也越来越大。国际化人才首先要具备良好的外语水平,包括听、说、读、写、译的综合能力。作为我国高等教育最高层次的博士研究生教育,要求博士生有较高的外语水平,就是理所当然的事情了。

教育部《硕士、博士学位研究生英语教学大纲》提出,博士研究生入学考试的三门课程之一——博士研究生英语入学考试的理论指导标准是:博士研究生入学时,其英语水平原则上应达到或略高于硕士研究生的水平;应具有"熟练的阅读能力"、"较好的写作能力"和"一定的听说能力"。很多考生能用英语进行流利的交流,但在博士研究生入学考试中外语成绩却没能过线,因此博士研究生入学英语考试很大程度上是一种水平测试。考博英语考查的不仅是英语方面的基础知识,而且是对基础知识与实际应用能力进行综合考查。从全国重点院校的博士研究生入学考试英语试卷来看,向主观题型发展是今后的命题趋势。如北京航空航天大学、西安交通大学考博试卷中全是主观题型,仅考汉译英与英译汉和写作;又如北京大学考博试卷中有篇章改错,还曾不设阅读客观题,只设主观问答和阅后写总结,现在增加了英文解释和选择。因此,考生要想取得好成绩,应重视主观题型的备考和相关能力的提高。

英语考试是考生参加博士研究生入学考试道路上最大的障碍和挑战。许多考生并非由于专业课的缘故,而是因为英语考试成绩未达到所报考学校最低录取分数线而与自己理想的学校失之交臂。外语成绩一直是筛选考生入选博士研究生的最重要的尺度之一。

根据统计,全国博士研究生入学英语考试录取分数线总的趋势是不断上升,这主要是由于报考人数的增加和考生整体水平的提高。近年来各院校博士研究生入学英语考试实际录取分数线在 50~60 分之间波动,有的院校少数专业破格录取分数也可能降到 50 分以下。

通过分析全国大多数院校的历年考博英语试题,从试题难度这方面来说,难度最大的 应当是中国科学院、中国社会科学院和北京大学的试题,其他院校测试难度基本低于这三 所院校。从全国重点院校的博士研究生入学考试英语试卷来看,有以下几个特点:

(1) 听力的难度有所增大,这是因为听写在听力考试中逐渐被采用和推广。听写与其

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他听力选择题的区别是当考生听不懂的时候, 所听内容基本不可能猜写出来, 而其他听力 选择题有可能猜对。

(2) 主观题的比重越来越大。翻译和写作都属于非标准化的题型,即主观测试题,这说明了博士生入学英语考试中能力测试的成分很大。尤其是有的院校还加了英语口试。

通过对国内重点院校近年考题进行分析可知,翻译(汉译英和英译汉)和写作平均占总分的30%左右。国内有一些院校在考试题型中特别强调某一方面的测试,如北京师范大学采用的题型结构比较特殊,翻译写作占55分,阅读占30分,听力占15分;财政部财政科研所采用的题型中翻译和写作就占了70分,并且听力成绩没有和笔试成绩合计,这说明了该研究所对阅读和写作要求较高;而天津大学博士研究生入学英语考试中没有阅读理解,而是用其他考试题型代替阅读理解。因此考生在复习的时候,要有针对性地强化训练。对于同时报考两所院校的学生,尤其要注意不同院校的题型差别。

为了帮助报考博士研究生的考生了解各高等院校考博英语命题特点和出题动态,我们参照一些名校博士研究生入学英语考试大纲,认真研究了50多所高校150多份历年考博英语真题,精心挑选部分试题和相关资料作为编写本书的素材。我们选编了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、中国社会科学院、中国科学院、复旦大学、同济大学、北京理工大学、厦门大学等重点高等院校最近几年博士研究生入学考试英语试题,并作了详细的解析。我们相信,只要考生认真阅读本书,熟悉各种题型,掌握并熟练运用各种解题技巧,就一定能够脱颖而出。

在收集各高校考博试题的过程中,我们得到了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、中国社会科学院、中国科学院、财政部财政科研所、复旦大学、同济大学、中国矿业大学、北京理工大学、厦门大学等高等院校的大力支持,在此表示由衷的感谢。

由于时间有限,不当之处在所难免,望广大读者和专家批评指正。

编者

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# 博士研究生入学考试英语试题

P	art	Ι	V	ocabulary	(20	points)
	$\Box\Box\Box$	ППГ		_		

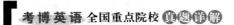
**Directions**: There are forty incomplete sentences in this part. For each sentence there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best one that completes the sentence, and then mark the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET with single line through the center.

	1. The European Un	ion	countries were or	ice v	vorried that they	wou	ld not have
	A. sufficient	В.	efficient	C.	potential	D.	proficient
	2. We'd like to	_ a	table for five for	din	ner this evening.		
	A. preserve	В.	prosperity	C.	sustain	D.	retain
	3. Britain has the hig	ghes	st of road	tra	ffic in the world-	-ov	er 60 cars for every
mile	of road.						
	A. popularity	В.	prosperity	C.	intensity	D.	density
	4. I would never hav	e _	a court of l	aw i	f I hadn't been so	o de	sperate.
	A. sought for	В.	accounted for	C.	turned up	D.	resorted to
	5. The energy	_ b:	y the chain reaction	on is	s transformed into	o he	at.
	A. transferred	В.	released	C.	conveyed	D.	delivered
	6. It is required that	dur	ring the process g	reat	care has to be tal-	ken t	o protect the
silk	from damage.						
	A. sensitive	В.	sensible	C.	tender	D.	delicate
	7. To our, G	eof	frey's illness prov	red :	not to be as serio	us a	s we had feared.
	A. relief	В.	view	C.	anxiety	D.	judgment
	8. The government	will	take some action	to	the two bi	g qu	arreling companies.
	A. jigsaw	В.	jot	C.	impulse	D.	reconcile
	9. As automation be	cam	e popular in mos	t fac	ctories, labor wa	s ma	nde
	A. destined	B.	redundant	C.	diverse	D.	discontent

# 考博英语 全国重点院校 ①②①①

10	O. They have	_ her	unreasonable	reque	est for her annual	sal	ary.
A	. destined	В. с	horded	C.	repelled	D.	commenced
1.	1. When you prepar	re for	your speech,	be su	are to cite	qu	alified sources of in-
format	tion and examples.						
A	. unbiased	B. n	nanipulated	C.	distorted	D.	conveyed
12	2. It is apparent th	at wi	nning the scho	olarsl	nip is of	one'	s intelligence in the
field o	of physics.						
A	. parallelism	В. а	lliteration	C.	testimony	D.	rhythm
13	3. In court he repea	ated h	is that	he w	as not guilty in	fron	t of the jury.
A	. impressions	В. а	lliteration	C.	clauses	D.	testimony
1	4. Shopping malls l	nave s	some advantage	es in	suffering from s	hort	er periods of
busine	ess.						
A	. stale	B. s	lack	C.	ferrous	D.	abundant
1	5. According to the	Gene	eva no	priso	ners of war shall	be s	subject to abuse.
A	. Customs	В. С	Congresses	C.	Conventions	D.	Routines
1	6. Before the gene	ral el	ection many s	enior	citizens signed	the	against the
spread	ling of nuclear arm	ıs.					
A	. contract	В. р	petition	C.	supplication	D.	potential
1	7. Scientists believe	e that	there is not	enou	gh oxygen in the	e M	oon's atmosphere to
	_ plant life.						
A	. adapt	В. р	personalize	C.	sustain	D.	describe
1	8. I can't remember	r exac	etly what trigg	ered	the explosion but	it v	was pretty
A	A. estimating	B. d	levastating	C.	reprocessing	D.	preferring
1	9. The industry has	s pum	iped am	ount	s of money into p	oliti	cal campaigns, mak-
ing it	less and less likely	that	politicians wil	l deal	l with the issue s	ensi	bly.
A	A. potential	B. s	substantial	C.	massive	D.	traditional
2	0. I was entrusted	to	to a news	spape	er article making	pre	dictions for the New
Year.							
A	A. contribute	В. с	detract	C.	convert	D.	entail
2	1. After 1989 the e	extern	al vani	shed	, but the danger	to .	American civilization
remain	ned.						
A	A. disruption	B. r	menace	C.	liability	D.	emergence
2	2. The government	is tr	ying to help t	hese	enterprises out of	of th	ne by various
means	S.						
A	A. flight	В. р	plight	C.	delight	D.	twilight
2	3. An archaeologis	t has	to pay much a	ttent	ion to de	tails	of an unearthed ob-
ject.							
A	A. miserable	В. г	punched	C.	minute	D <b>.</b>	moist
2	4. The girl	her ta	ablemate's arm	to s	ee if she was fast	t asl	eep at class.

	A.	pinched	В.	punched	C.	pitched	D.	preached
						affair have been _		
	A.	smuggled	В.	prosecuted	C.	saluted	D.	preached
								cannot respect some-
one		o is always pointi						
	A.	millennium	В.	dominant	C.	accountable	D.	commercial
								in with the
U. 5	S. E:	xport Administrat	tion	Regulations and	alsc	local country rul	les.	
	A.	compliance	В.	prosperity	C.	merchandise	D.	intersection
	28.	One of the main	reas	sons is that the u	nive	rsity's att	ract	s students and facul-
ty s	taff	all over the worl	d.					
	A.	fraud	В.	respondent	C.	misconduct	D.	prestige
	29.	Even though the	inv	restigation has be	en g	going on for two	mon	ths, the police have
		no further details	abo	out the accident.				
	A.	comprised	В.	formulated	C.	released	D.	incorporated
	30.	They want to st	imu	late economic gro	wtł	n in the region by	off	ering to for-
eigr	inv	vestors.						
	A.	incentives	В.	abundances	C.	warriors	D.	outnumbers
	31.	. Why be	abou	ut that old coat?	Γhe	re's no point in ke	epir	ng it just because you
wer	e w	earing it when yo	u fi	rst met me.				
	A.	sensitive	В.	sensible	C.	sentimental	D.	sensational
	32.	and hard	d wo	ork are the corner	sto	nes of this compar	ny.	
	A.	Mutilation	В.	Innovation	C.	Empire	D.	Strength
	33.	. The protests we	re p	eart of their	_ a	gainst the propos	ed b	ouilding development
in t	he a	area.						
	A.	commission	В.	commitment	C.	convention	D.	campaign
	34.	. Some people see	m t	o on the p	ress	sure of working u	nde	r a deadline.
		render	В.	evolve	C.	prevail	D.	thrive
	35.	. These changes h	ave	not been sufficie	nt t	o the losse	es.	
	A.	stem	В.	stimulate	C.	cause	D.	compensate
	36.	. Psychologists be	eliev	e that children ar	e ea	sily influenced by	the	eir
	A.	conditions	В.	combinations	C.	peers	D.	granaries
	37.	. Several f	or g	global warming ha	ave	been suggested by	v cli	mate researchers.
	A.	systems	В.	sentences	C.	fallacies	D.	hypotheses
	38	. These natural re	esou	rces will be	_ s	ooner or later in t	he p	resent rate of exploi-
tati	on.							
	A.	depleted	В.	deployed	C.	inclined	D.	mingled
	39	. The military op	erat	ions yest	erda	ay were targeted	at 1	the military installa-
tion	ıs.							



A.	propelled	В.	commenced	C.	plagued	D.	modulated		
40.	Artificial intellig	ence	e deals partly	with th	ne	between t	he computer	and	the
human	brain.								
A.	profile	В.	mighty	C.	analogy	D.	leakage		

# ---- Part I Reading Comprehension (40 points)

**Directions:** In this part of the test, there are five short passages. Read each passage carefully, and then answer the questions that follow. Choose the best answer from the four choices given and mark the corresponding letter with a single bar across the square brackets on your machine-scoring ANSWER SHEET.

#### Passage One

There are over 6,000 different computer and online games in the world now. A segment of them are considered to be both educational and harmlessly entertaining. One such game teaches geography and another trains pilots. Others train the player in logical thinking and problem solving. Some games may also help young people to become more computer literate, which is more important in this technology-driven era.

But the dark side of the computer games has become more and more obvious. "A segment of games features anti-social themes of violence, sex and crude language," says David Walsh, president of the National Institute on Media and Family. "Unfortunately, it's a segment that seems particularly popular with kids aged from eight to fifteen."

One study showed that almost 90 percent of the computer and online games young people preferred contained violence. The investigators said, "There are not just games anymore. These are learning machines. We're teaching kids in the most incredible manner what it's like to pull the trigger. What they are not learning are the real-life consequences."

They also said, "The new and more sophisticated games are even worse, because they have better graphics and allow the player to participate in even more realistic violent acts." In the game Carmageddon, for example, the player will have driven over and killed up to 33,000 people by the time all levels are compelled. A description of the outcome of the game says: "Your victims not only squish under your tires and splatter blood on the windshield, they also get on their knees and beg for mercy, or commit suicide. If you like, you can also dismember them."

Is all this simulated violence harmful? Approximately 3,000 different studies have been conducted on this subject. Many have suggested that there is a connection between violence in games and increasing aggressiveness in the players.

Some specialists downplay the influence of the games, saying that other factors must be taken into consideration, such as the possibility that kids who already have violent tendencies are choosing such games. But could it be that violent games still play a contributing role? It seems unrealistic to insist that people are not influenced by what they see. If that were true, why would the commercial world spend billions of dollars annually on television advertising?

- 41. Which of the following computer games are NOT mentioned as educational and harmlessly entertaining?
  - A. Those that teach how to fly an airplane.
  - B. Those that teach the features of the earth.
  - C. Those that help people use computer language.
  - D. Those that teach computer technology.
  - 42. According to the investigators, \_\_\_\_.
  - A. the new and more sophisticated games allow the players to take part in real violent acts
  - B. the new and more sophisticated games teach the players how to kill other people
  - C. most computer and online games make the players forget the real life results
  - D. most computer and online games may cultivate young people with bad manners
  - 43. It can be inferred from the passage that . .
  - A. more and more young people enjoy cruel computer games
  - B. it is hard to find evidence of a link between violence and computer games
  - C. there are now more incidents of violence because of computer games
  - D. simulated violence in computer games is different from real violence
  - 44. The author uses "television advertising" as an example to show that
  - A. the commercial world are contributing to the increased violence in real life
  - B. computer and online games are not the only cause of increased violence in real life
  - C. there is little link between computer games and increased violence in real life
  - D. other factors must be considered as possible causes of violence in real life

## Passage Two

The collapse of the Earth's magnetic field—which guards the planet and guides many of its creatures—appears to have started about 150 years ago, the *New York Times* reported last week.

The field's strength has decreased by 10 or 15 percent so far and this has increased the debate over whether it signals a reversal of the planet's lines of magnetic force.

During a reversal, the main field weakens, almost vanishes, and reappears with opposite polarity (极). The transition would take thousands of years. Once completed, compass needles that had pointed north would point south. A reversal could cause problems for both man and animals. Astronauts and satellites would have difficulties. Birds, fish and

# 考博英语 全国重点院校 ① ② ① ②

animals that rely on the magnetic field for navigation would find migration confusing. But experts links between past field reversals and species extinctions.

Although a total transition may be hundreds or thousands of years away, the rapid decline in magnetic strength is already affecting satellites. Last month, the European Space Agency approved the world's largest effort at tracking the field's shifts. Now a group of satellites called Swarm is to monitor the collapsing field with far greater precision. "We want to get some idea of how this would evolve in the near future, just like people trying to predict the weather," said Gauthier Hulot, a French geophysicist working on the satellite plan. "I'm personally quite convinced we should be able to work out the first predictions by the end of the mission."

No matter what the new findings, the public has no reason to panic. Even if a transition is coming on its way, it might take 2,000 years to mature. The last one took place 780,000 years ago, when early humans were learning how to make stone tools. Deep inside the Earth flow hot currents of melted iron. This mechanical energy creates electromagnetism. This process is known as the geophysical generator. In a car's generator, the same principle turns mechanical energy into electricity.

No one knows precisely why the field periodically reverses. But scientists say the responsibility probably lies with changes in the disorderly flows of melted iron, which they see as similar to the gases that make up the clouds of Jupiter.

45. According to the passage, the Earth's magnetic field has
A. misguided many a man and animals
B. begun to change to its opposite direction
C. caused the changes of the polarities
D. been weakening its strength for a long time
46. During the transition of the Earth's magnetic field,
A. compass will become useless
B. man and animals will be confused in directions
C. the magnetic strength of the Earth will disappear
D. the magnetic strength of the Earth will be stronger
47. The author says "the public has no reason to panic " because
A. the transition is still thousands of years from now
B. the transition can be precisely predicted by scientists
C. the process of the transition will take a very long time to finish
D. the new transition will come 780,000 years later
48. The cause of the transition of the Earth's magnetic field comes from
A. the movement deep inside the Earth
B. the periodical reverses of the Earth
C. the force coming from outer space
D. the mechanical movement of the Earth

#### Passage Three

The terrorist attacks in London Thursday served as a jarring reminder that in today's world, you never know what you might see when you pick up the newspaper or turn on the TV. Disturbing images of terror can trigger a visceral response no matter how close or far away from home the event happened.

Throughout history, every military conflict has involved psychological warfare in one way or another as the enemy sought to break the morale of their opponent. But thanks to advances in technology, the popularity of the Internet, and proliferation of news coverage, the rules of engagement in this type of mental battle have changed.

Whether it's a massive attack or a single horrific act, the effects of psychological warfare aren't limited to the physical damage inflicted. Instead, the goal of these attacks is to instill a sense of fear that is much greater than the actual threat itself.

Therefore, the impact of psychological terror depends largely on how the acts are publicized and interpreted. But that also means there are ways to defend yourself and your loved ones by putting these fears into perspective and protecting your children from horrific images.

What is psychological terror? "The use of terrorism as a tactic is predicated upon inducing a climate of fear that is incommensurate with the actual threat," says Middle Eastern historian Richard Bulliet of Columbia University. "Every time you have an act of violence, publicizing that violence becomes an important part of the act itself."

"There are various ways to have your impact. You can have your impact by the magnitude of what you do, by the symbolic character of target, or the horrific quality of what you do to a single person," Bulliet tells WebMD. "The point is that it isn't what you do, but it's how it's covered that determines the effect." For example, Bulliet says the Iranian hostage crisis, which began in 1979 and lasted for 444 days, was actually one of the most harmless things that happened in the Middle East in the last 25 years. All of the U. S. hostages were eventually released unharmed, but the event became a psychological scar for many Americans who watched helplessly as each evening's newscast counted the days the hostages were being held captive.

Bulliet says terrorists frequently exploit images of a group of masked individuals exerting total power over their captives to send the message that the act is a collective demonstration of the group's power rather than an individual criminal act. "You don't have the notion that a certain person has taken a hostage. It's an image of group power, and the force becomes generalized rather than personalized," says Bulliet. "The randomness and the ubiquity of the threat give the impression of vastly greater capacities."

Psychiatrist Ansar Haroun, who served in the U.S. Army Reserves in the first Gulf War and more recently in Afghanistan, says that terrorist groups often resort to psycho-