

The
Economist

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2013版

主编：ECO中文网

《经济学人》 考研英语阅读理解真题

2002~2012年真题

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中国经济出版社
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2013版

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《经济学人》

考研英语阅读理解真题

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Economist

First published in September 1843
To take part in

“A severe contest between intelligence, which presses forward,
and an unworthy, timid ignorance obstructing our progress.”

《经济学人》最早于1843年9月由詹姆士·威尔逊创办，以独立和全球化的视角著称。

福建 创办的目的是
参与一场推动前进的智慧与阻碍我们进步的胆怯无知之间的较量”。



ECO中文网创建于2006年，是《经济学人》爱好者的家园，凝聚了世界各地的华人力量。



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序

众所周知，历年英语考研阅读、完形题目的原文均是选自西方主流报刊，而且这些选择的报刊也相对集中。有人做过一个简单的统计，从 2001 年到 2009 年考研真题中，前几名分别是《经济学人》（The Economist）8 篇、《新闻周刊》（Newsweek）3 篇、《纽约时报》（NY times）2 篇、《时代周刊》（Time）2 篇。从中可以看出选自《经济学人》（The Economist）的文章几乎是另外三种刊物的总和。而且，对于考研具有导向性作用的北外高翻考题也经常有选自《经济学人》的文章。

从 2009 年到 2012 年最近三年的考研英语中，共有 9 篇文章来自于《经济学人》。与以往不同的是，这三年考研所选取的文章均是很新的杂志文章，时效性非常强。例如 2010 年 1 月 9 日的考研英语试题中的 4 篇《经济学人》文章全部选自 2009 年的杂志原文，甚至有一篇还是 2009 年 12 月 3 日的文章。2011 年与 2012 年的文章则均选自前一年的杂志原文。

诞生于 1843 年的《经济学人》杂志是经济学人集团的旗舰刊物，是一份报道国际商务和经济环境变化的周刊。每周都会针对最新国际事务、商业、金融、科技、文化等方面提供准确报道、深刻分析和评论。目前全球订阅量超过 140 万份。经济学人集团总部设在英国伦敦，是全球领先信息服务、分析提供商，针对世界领域经济、商业环境变化和全球范围重大事件提供独到分析、深入洞察和有远见的预测。原创性的见解、独立的思考判断、客观的分析预测，以及百余年的品牌，保证了经济学人集团在世界风云变幻中始终处于领先地位。

《经济学人》杂志每周一期，每期都有一百篇文章左右，因此想靠预测哪一篇文章将出现在考研英语的试题中是不现实的，也是没有意义的。必须去经常阅读《经济学人》的文章，增强自身英语阅读的实力，才能真正提高英语水平，在考试中得心应手。

本书是 ECO 中文网 (www.ecocn.org) 专门为考研群体制作的一本图书。内容主要是精选《经济学人》杂志的优秀文章，并且模仿考研试题的形式进行解析，对于考研英语复习效果很好。

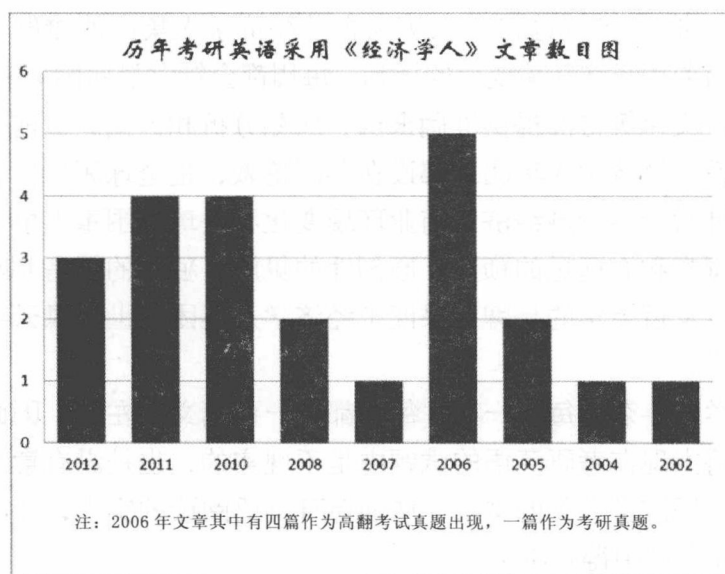
ECO 中文网自 2006 年 6 月成立以来，现已拥有 23 万多名注册会员，翻译《经济学人》杂志文章超过两万篇，现在已经获得经济学人官方翻译授权，并且与其保持良好关系。ECO 中文网曾经被《南方都市报》、《环球时报》、《三联生活周刊》、《南方人物周刊》以及《纽约时报》、《纽约客》等多家国内外知名媒体报道过。在腾讯、新浪都有博客与微博。其中腾讯的博客与微博已经成为名博，腾讯微博访问量超过两百万，腾讯微博听众 30 万多人，新浪微博听众 13 万多人。

考研并不是最终目的，学好英语，学到知识，开拓视野才是最重要的。现在许多外企以及国内金融机构、财经类媒体面试，都会问到是否关注国际最新财经动态，而作为全球报刊杂志的旗舰，《经济学人》文章所提供的观点与视野也非一般刊物可以比拟，阅读这些文章必可获益良多。

ECO 中文网总编辑

施 毅

2012 年 9 月于北京



如何使用本书

考研英语中，阅读理解部分在试卷上所占的比重很大，2012年考研英语大纲中的阅读理解部分所占总分值的60%，“得阅读者，得天下”，要拿到理想的分数，阅读是重点！其实，任何英语考试当中，对于阅读能力的考察是贯穿始终的，不论是英语知识运用，还是写作，其他题型都是对英语阅读能力的分类和变相考察罢了。英语阅读能力的强弱，标志着英语考试能力的强弱。

你手中的这本2013年版《经济学人考研英语阅读理解真题》，最想达到的目的就是要加强各位研友在面对英语考试时的“硬实力”，书中题目全部来自于考研真题，跨9个年度，收录23篇考研真题。在每篇题目后面，都收录了详尽的题目原文翻译，这些译文来自“经济学人中文网”的各位资深翻译，他们中的每一个人对英语都充满热情，他们的翻译不仅准确、贴切，而且能将文章中的幽默感很好地传递出来，除此之外，我们还在通篇的联系中穿插了《经济学人》杂志特有的漫画，并加以点评，让你的考研复习变得不那么枯燥乏味。

建议你在做完一个年度的真题后，不要马上进行到下一年度，仔细研读和推敲刚刚做完的题目，对题目中有疑惑的地方进一步通过网络或字典查找，不留下任何盲点。真题必须精读，原因有二：首先，真题的数量是有限的，不宜用来练习做题的速度，速度可以用模拟题目来练习；其次，真题的难度就是真实考试的难度，只有真正把握住题目的难易程度和考点，才能做到知己知彼，在备考时才能有的放矢。

真题练习的后面是参考答案，在全文翻译就能够解决问题的时候，只给出简要的解析。需要详细解释的题目，如完型填空，给出的答案解析非常详细，这样做的目的是使答案详略得当，简明扼要，减轻你在使用这本书时的阅读负担。

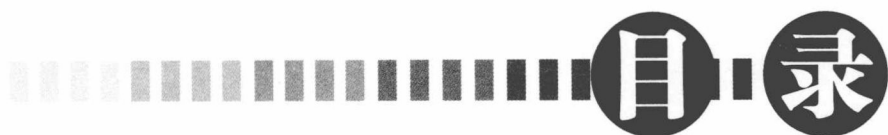
每一篇练习的最后，都有一个“重点词汇”部分，这是我们对书中较为生僻或是有特殊意义和用法的词汇做出一个汇总，其中部分词汇的解释使用的是英语释义，以使你在一个英语的环境中对文章有进一步的理解。

我们力求在通篇的练习中化繁为简，将你的注意力集中在阅读理解真题练习本身，抓住重点，避免如其他考研英语阅读理解练习册中过分繁琐的词汇和语句解释。

您在使用这本练习册时有任何建议和意见，请与我们联系，我们非常愿意听到您的声音。

我们相信，只有经过自己的认真推敲，才能对英语阅读有更加深刻的理解，自身的英语“硬实力”才能得到增强。英语阅读能力的提高，非一日之功，必须经过不懈的努力，但英语学习的进步虽然较慢，却也是步步为营，只要有进步，那么退步也很难，在这里我们与你共勉。

编 者



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2012 年考研英语 · 阅读理解 (一)

Reading Comprehension

In 2010, a federal judge shook America's biotech industry to its core. Companies had won patents for isolated DNA for decades—by 2005 some 20% of human genes were patented. But in March 2010 a judge ruled that genes were unpatentable. Executives seethed. The Biotechnology Industry Organisation (BIO), a trade group, assured members that this was just a “preliminary step” in a longer battle.

On July 29th they were vindicated, at least temporarily. A federal appeals court overturned the prior decision, ruling that Myriad Genetics could indeed hold patents to two genes that help forecast a woman's risk of breast and ovarian cancer. The chief executive of Myriad, a company in Utah, said the ruling was a boon to firms and patients alike.

But as companies continue their foray into personalised medicine, the courts will remain rather busy. The Myriad case itself is probably not over. Critics make three main arguments against gene patents: a gene is a product of nature, so it may not be patented; gene patents stifle innovation rather than reward it; and patents' monopolies restrict access to genetic tests such as Myriad's. A growing number seem to agree. Last year a federal task-force urged reform for patents related to genetic tests. In October the Department of Justice filed a brief in the Myriad case, arguing that an isolated DNA molecule “is no less a product of nature...than are cotton fibres that have been separated from cotton seeds”.

Despite the appeals court's decision, big questions remain unanswered. For example, it is unclear whether the sequencing of a whole genome infringes on the patents of individual genes within it, explains Chris Hansen of the American Civil Liberties Union, a plaintiff. The case may yet reach the Supreme Court.

As the industry advances, however, other suits may have an even greater impact. Companies are unlikely to file many more patents for human DNA molecules—most are already patented or in the public domain. Firms are now studying how genes interact, looking for correlations that might be used to determine the causes of disease or predict a drug's efficacy. Companies are eager to win patents for “connecting the dots”, explains Hans Sauer, a lawyer for the BIO.

Their success may be determined by a suit related to this issue, brought by the Mayo Clinic, which the Supreme Court will hear in its next term. The BIO recently held a convention which included sessions to coach lawyers on the shifting landscape for patents. Each meeting was packed.

1. It can be learned from paragraph 1 that the biotech companies would like
 - A. their executives to be active
 - B. judges to rule out gene patenting
 - C. genes to be patentable
 - D. the BIO to issue a warning
2. Those who are against gene patents believe that
 - A. genetic tests are not reliable
 - B. only man-made products are patentable
 - C. patents on genes depend much on innovation
 - D. courts should restrict access to gene tests
3. According to Hans Sauer, companies are eager to win patents for
 - A. establishing disease correlations
 - B. discovering gene interactions
 - C. drawing pictures of genes
 - D. identifying human DNA
4. By saying “each meeting was packed” (line4, para6) the author means that
 - A. the Supreme Court was authoritative
 - B. the BIO was a powerful organization
 - C. gene patenting was a great concern
 - D. lawyers were keen to attend conventions
5. Generally speaking, the author’s attitude toward gene patenting is
 - A. critical
 - B. supportive
 - C. scornful
 - D. objective

◆ 重点词汇

overturn: To invalidate or reverse (a decision) by legal means.

通过法律手段推翻或扭转某一决定。

boon: A benefit bestowed, especially one bestowed in response to a

request, something useful that brings great benefits or makes your life easier.

no less.....than: 不次于; 和……一样。

seethed: to be extremely angry; to be full of a lot of people or animals that are moving around quickly.

foray: an attempt at doing something new or something that you do not usually do.

efficacy: effectiveness in producing the result that you intended.

◆ 参考答案

1. C. 解析: 从 “In 2010, a federal judge shook America’s biotech industry to its core”, “Executives seethed” 和后文中出现的 “but” 一次可以看出, 美国生物技术公司对基因的专利申请受挫, 可知选项 C 正确, 生物公司想从根本上对基因申请专利。
2. B. 解析: 答案在第三段中, 反对基因获得专利的人士列举了理由, 第一条就是 “a gene is a product of nature, so it may not be patented” 即基因是自然的产物, 所以可知选项 B 正确。
3. A. 解析: “Firms are now studying how genes interact, looking for correlations that might be used to determine the causes of disease or predict a drug’s efficacy”, 公司正在研究基因如何相互作用, 寻找或许能被用来断定疾病原因或预测药物效力的关联, 可知选项 A 正确。
4. D. 解析: 从文章最后一段 “The BIO recently held a convention which included sessions to coach lawyers on the shifting landscape for patents. Each meeting was packed”, “to coach lawyer” 部分会议时段用于就变动中的专利格局对律师进行指导, 每一场会议都人满为患。可知选项 D 正确。
5. D. 解析: 文章通篇并未对支持基因专利获得一方或是反对一方进行特别的袒护, 只是对局势的客观描述, 所以可知选项 D 正确。

◆ 题源全文翻译

Myriad's gene-patent battle

麦利亚德基因专利之战

Gene-uinely unclear

基因真搞不清

Aug 4th 2011, 15:47 by C.H. | NEW YORK

LAST year a federal judge shook America's biotech industry to its core. Companies had won patents for isolated DNA for decades—by 2005 some 20% of human genes were patented. But in March 2010 a judge ruled that genes were unpatentable. Executives seethed. The Biotechnology Industry Organisation (BIO), a trade group, assured members that this was just a “preliminary step” in a longer battle.

去年，一位联邦法官彻底震动了美国的生物技术产业。数十年来，公司一直能获得分离出的 DNA 的专利——到 2005 年时，大约两成的人类基因获得了专利。但在 2010 年 3 月，一位法官却裁定基因不可获得专利。公司管理者躁动不安。行业团体“生物技术产业组织”向其成员保证，这只是更漫长战斗的“第一步”而已。

On July 29th they were vindicated, at least temporarily. A federal appeals court overturned the prior decision, ruling that Myriad Genetics could indeed hold patents to two genes that help forecast a woman's risk of breast and ovarian cancer. The chief executive of Myriad, a company in Utah, said the ruling was a boon to firms and patients alike.

7 月 29 日，他们被证明是正确的（至少暂时如此）。一家联邦上诉法院推翻了先前的裁决，裁定麦利亚德基因公司事实上可以拥有两种基因的专利，这些基因能帮助预测女性罹患乳腺癌和卵巢癌的风险。犹他州麦利亚德公司的总裁表示，对公司和患者而言，这一判决都是福音。

But as companies continue their foray into personalised medicine, the courts will remain rather busy. The Myriad case itself is probably not over. Critics make three main arguments against gene patents: a gene is a product of nature, so it may not be patented; gene patents stifle innovation rather than reward it; and patents' monopolies restrict access to genetic tests such as Myriad's. A growing number seem to agree. Last year a federal task-force urged reform for patents related to genetic tests. In October the Department of Justice filed a brief in the Myriad case, arguing that an isolated DNA molecule “is no less a product of nature...than are cotton fibres that have been separated from cotton seeds”.

但随着各公司继续侵入个性化药物领域，法院仍将门庭若市。麦利亚德案本身可能也尚未画上句号。对于基因专利，批判者提出了三个主要论点：基因是自然的产物，因此它不能获得专利；基因专利会扼杀创新，而非奖励创新；专利垄断会阻碍人们接触诸如麦利亚德这样的基因测试。越来越多的人似乎赞同这种看法。去年，一个联邦工作组督促对与基因测试相关的专利实施改革。10 月，美国司法部针对麦利亚德案提交了一份摘要，认为分离出的 DNA 分子“与从棉桃上剥离出的棉花纤维一样……也是自然产物”。

Despite the appeals court's decision, big questions remain unanswered. For example, it is unclear whether the sequencing of a whole genome infringes on the patents of individual genes within it, explains Chris Hansen of the American Civil Liberties Union, a plaintiff. The case may yet reach the Supreme Court.

尽管上诉法院作出裁决,但重大问题仍然悬而未决。原告之一、美国公民自由联盟的克里斯·汉森解释道:例如,对完整基因组的测序是否侵犯其中个别基因的专利就无明确答案。

As the industry advances, however, other suits may have an even greater impact. Companies are unlikely to file many more patents for human DNA molecules—most are already patented or in the public domain. Firms are now studying how genes interact, looking for correlations that might be used to determine the causes of disease or predict a drug's efficacy. Companies are eager to win patents for “connecting the dots”, explains Hans Sauer, a lawyer for the BIO.

不过,随着这一产业的推进,其他诉讼或许会带来更大的冲击。公司不太可能为人类 DNA 分子申请许多新的专利——大部分人类 DNA 分子已受到专利保护,或进入了公共领域。目前,公司正在研究基因如何相互作用,寻找或许能被用来断定疾病原因或预测药物效力的关联。生物技术产业组织的律师汉斯·索尔解释道:公司正急于赢得“将点连起来”的专利。

Their success may be determined by a suit related to this issue, brought by the Mayo Clinic, which the Supreme Court will hear in its next term. The BIO recently held a convention which included sessions to coach lawyers on the shifting landscape for patents. Each meeting was packed.

它们能否成功,或将取决于与此议题相关的一起诉讼案,这起诉讼是由梅奥诊所发起,最高法院将在下一个开庭期内审理此案。近期,生物技术产业组织召开了一次大会,其中部分会议时段用于就变动中的专利格局对律师进行指导,每一场会议都人满为患。

◆ 考研真题

2012 年考研英语 · 阅读理解 (二)

Reading Comprehension

If the trade unionist Jimmy Hoffa were alive today, he would probably represent civil servant. When Hoffa's Teamsters were in their prime in 1960, only one in ten American government workers belonged to a union; now 36% do. In 2009 the number of unionists in America's public sector passed that of their fellow members in the private sector. In Britain, more than half of public-sector workers but only about 15% of private-sector ones are unionized.

There are three reasons for the public-sector unions' thriving. First, they can shut things down without suffering much in the way of consequences. Second, they are mostly bright and well-educated. A quarter of America's public-sector workers have a university degree. Third, they now dominate left-of-centre politics. Some of their ties go back a long way. Britain's Labor Party, as its name implies, has long been associated with trade unionism. Its current leader, Ed Miliband, owes his position to votes from public-sector unions.

At the state level their influence can be even more fearsome. Mark Baldassare of the Public Policy Institute of California points out that much of the state's budget is patrolled by unions. The teachers' unions keep an eye on schools, the CCPOA on prisons and a variety of labor groups on health care.

In many rich countries average wages in the state sector are higher than in the private one. But the real gains come in benefits and work practices. Politicians have repeatedly "backloaded" public-sector pay deals, keeping the pay increases modest but adding to holidays and especially pensions that are already generous.

Reform has been vigorously opposed, perhaps most egregiously in education, where charter schools, academies and merit pay all faced drawn-out battles. Even though there is plenty of evidence that the quality of the teachers is the most important variable, teachers' unions have fought against getting rid of bad ones and promoting good ones.

As the cost to everyone else has become clearer, politicians have begun to clamp down. In Wisconsin the unions have rallied thousands of supporters against Scott Walker, the hardline Republican governor. But many within the public sector suffer under the current system, too.

John Donahue at Harvard's Kennedy School points out that the norms of culture in Western civil services suit those who want to stay put but is bad for high achievers. The only American public-sector workers who earn well above \$250,000 a year are university sports coaches and the president of the United States. Bankers' fat pay packets have attracted much criticism, but

a public-sector system that does not reward high achievers may be a much bigger problem for America.

1. It can be learned from the first paragraph that
 - A. Teamsters still have a large body of members
 - B. Jimmy Hoffa used to work as a civil servant
 - C. unions have enlarged their public-sector membership
 - D. the government has improved its relationship with unionists
2. Which of the following is true of Paragraph 2?
 - A. Public-sector unions are prudent in taking actions
 - B. Education is required for public-sector union membership
 - C. Labor Party has long been fighting against public-sector unions
 - D. Public-sector unions seldom get in trouble for their actions
3. It can be learned from Paragraph 4 that the income in the state sector is
 - A. illegally secured
 - B. indirectly augmented
 - C. excessively increased
 - D. fairly adjusted
4. The example of the unions in Wisconsin shows that unions
 - A. often run against the current political system
 - B. can change people's political attitudes
 - C. may be a barrier to public-sector reforms
 - D. are dominant in the government
5. John Donahue's attitude towards the public-sector system is one of
 - A. disapproval
 - B. appreciation
 - C. tolerance
 - D. indifference

◆ 重点词汇

reincarnated: born again as a different person, animal, or thing after death.

brethren: the male members of a religious group; used for referring to people who belong to the same community or group.

straddle: to be on both side of something.

clout: the authority to make decisions, or the power to influence events; a hard hit with your hand.

perennially: always existing, or never seeming to change.

brandish: to wave a weapon or other object around in your hand so that other people can see it.

egregiously: extremely bad.

◆ 参考答案

1. C. 解析: 从文章第一段对于工会现状的描述可以看出, 无论在美国还是英国, 公务员加入工会的数量都大大增, 已经超过了私营部门的员工。可知选 C 正确。
2. D. 解析: “First, they can shut things down without suffering much in the way of consequences.” 从文中这段话可以看出, 公务员组成的工会在罢工等集体活动中, 几乎不会承担严重的不良后果。可知选项 D “Public-sector unions seldom get in trouble for their actions.” 为正确选项。
3. B. 解析: “But the real gains come in benefits and work practices. Politicians have repeatedly ‘backloaded’ public-sector pay deals, keeping the pay increases modest but adding to holidays and especially pensions that are already generous.” 可以得知公务员部分的工资福利都是隐性增长的, 即 “indirectly”, 可知选择 B 正确。
4. C. 解析: 政客开始施压后, 并开始进行改革时, 引起工会组织的强烈抗议 “Reform has been vigorously opposed”。在威斯康辛州, 工会召集了成千上万的支持者, 反对强硬派共和党州长斯科特·沃克。
5. A. 解析: 从文章最后一句 “but a public-sector system that does not reward high achievers may be a much bigger problem for America.” 可以看出, John Donahue 对于公共领域忧心忡忡。可知选择 A 正确。

◆ 题源全文翻译

A special report on the future of the state

关于国家未来的特别报道

Enemies of progress