

■ 2000年考研辅导教材

阅读理解

编写 考研命题研究组
主编 刘玉萍 (清华大学外语系)
总策划 胡东华



■ 科学技术文献出版社

英语专项训练

硕士研究生入学考试



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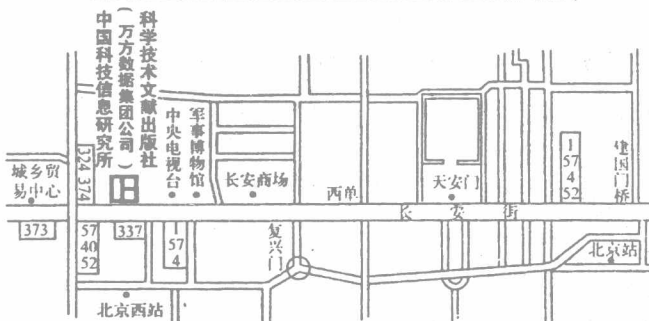
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Unit 1

Passage One

Nature doesn't negotiate. This axiom is worth remembering as we enter the second year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, declared by the UN. Among the non-negotiable events to be expected during the decade are earthquakes. As an engineer in California observed in the aftermath of the state's 1989 quake: "Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do."

Nobody wants to spend extra money preparing for something that may never happen and earthquake engineering has long been neglected. Now that attitude is changing, most obviously on the West Coast, which has more money than other earthquake zones to experiment with new designs and materials. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians. The earthquake of October 17 1989 in San Francisco reached a magnitude of 7.1 on the Richter scale and killed 62 people; the 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25,000.

Earthquake engineers may not have needed to be reminded that building design can make all the difference between life and death, but the Californian quake has increased public interest in earthquake-resistant designs. These range from the mundane, such as reinforcing masonry walls with steel beams to strengthen them, to the exotic, such as supporting an entire building on rubber so that the structure "floats" in isolation.

To understand how engineers are preparing for earthquakes, one needs to know a little about how buildings behave when shaken. Place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge. The jellies will shake too, but some more than others. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude—the two frequencies are said to be "in resonance".

1. From the comparison between San Francisco and Armenia, what can you get?
 - A. Nobody wants to spend extra money to prepare for something that may never happen.
 - B. Earthquake engineering has long been neglected.
 - ☒ C. West Coast spends more money in experimenting with new designs and materials.
 - D. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians.
2. Why some jellies shake more than others?
 - A. Engineers place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge.
 - B. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time.
 - C. Each jelly shakes in a style decided predominantly by its height and consistency.
 - ☒ D. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude.
3. Which of the following statements is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Building design can make all the difference between life and death, so people should pay more attention to it.
 - B. Nature doesn't negotiate.
 - C. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency.
 - D. The 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25000.
4. How do buildings behave when quaked?
 - ☒ A. Each building will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, and some more than others.
 - B. Each building will shake rhythmically the same with others.
 - C. Each building will break down immediately.
 - D. Buildings will be in resonance with the earthquake.

Attachment: Glossary

negotiate	<i>v.</i>	谈判; 讲条件; 通过谈判达成(或解决)
axiom	<i>n.</i>	公理; 原则; 格言
to neglect	<i>v.</i>	忽略; 疏忽; 不顾
magnitude	<i>n.</i>	大小; 数量; 值; 等级; 震级

Richter	<i>n.</i>	里氏震级
Armenia		亚美尼亚
earthquake-resistant	<i>adj.</i>	抗震的
mundane	<i>adj.</i>	世界的;世俗的;平凡的
reinforce	<i>v.</i>	加强;增援;补充,增加数量;修补;加固
masonry	<i>n.</i>	石工(工程),水泥砖石结构
beam	<i>n.</i>	梁;桁条
exotic	<i>adj.</i>	外来的;异国情调的
rubber	<i>n.</i>	橡胶;合成橡胶
jelly	<i>n.</i>	果(子)冻;肉冻
rhythmically	<i>adv.</i>	有节奏地;有韵律地
predominantly	<i>adv.</i>	占优势地;主要地,突出地
consistency	<i>n.</i>	粘稠度
frequency	<i>n.</i>	频率
oscillate	<i>v.</i>	摆动;上下波动;振荡;振动
amplitude	<i>n.</i>	幅度;振幅
resonance	<i>n.</i>	共振,谐振;共鸣

Passage Two

One could well imagine a dictionary entry that reads, "Honda, *n.* automobile, cf. affordable, reliable, friendly." Or in the words of the prospective car buyers portrayed in its U. S. television commercials, "I'll take it." Buyers all over the world did, pushing sales of Honda cars and Honda motorcycles into the millions.

Behind those definitions, though, there was a flesh-and-blood Honda, a self-made giant of Japanese industry who hated boardrooms and preferred getting grease on his hands as he tinkered alongside his engineers with the little cars that would zoom across the Pacific and conquer America. When Soichiro Honda, 84, died last week of liver failure, the company he founded in 1948 was ranked fourth in Japan and poised to displace Chrysler as the third largest producer of passenger cars in the U. S.

Honda was fated to build cars. The son of a village black-smith, he was no more than six when, breathless and mesmerized, he ran through the streets of his native town, near Hamamatsu, chasing a Ford Model T. By 18 he had built his

first auto, powered by a discarded American airplane engine. The aftermath of the war provided him with priceless opportunities, especially after U.S. occupation forces purged the upper echelons of Japanese industry and government, opening the doors for outsiders, Honda decided to manufacture affordable motorcycles that would allow the Japanese to move cheaply from farms to cities to buy, sell or work.

Honda refused to obey the Ministry of International Trade and Industry when it ordered him to stick to motorcycles. Japan, it said, did not need more than a few car manufacturers. Honda ignored them. He also helped establish the company policy of setting up factories in the U. S. then Japanese competitors such as Toyota saw no wisdom in building abroad.

5. According to the second paragraph, which one of the following best describes Mr. Honda?

- A. Mr. Honda was an imaginary hero in Japanese Mythology.
- B. Mr. Honda was a diligent person who always seated himself in his office reading a great number of reports.
- C. Mr. Honda was a severe person who always wear clean suit and white gloves
- D. Mr. Honda loved to fiddle with the little cars in the workshop accompanied by engineers.

6. The company Honda founded was all set to ____

- A. become the third largest car producer in U.S.
- B. remove Chrysler from its present position.
- C. put Chrysler out of business.
- D. push sales in the United States.

false

7. Honda was fated to build cars, because ____

- A. he was the son of a village black-smith.
- B. Honda decided to manufacture affordable motorcycles that would allow the Japanese to move cheaply from farms to cities to buy, sell or work. ✓
- C. Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan said that Japan did not need more than a few car manufacturers.
- D. he ran chasing a Ford Model T when he was 6, and by 18 he had built his first auto. By grasping opportunities he began to manufacture motorcycles.

8. Which of the following factors contributes to make Honda a giant automaker?

- A. Education, noble origin and inheritance.

- B. Tenacity, determination and timing.
 C. Luck, cunning and cruelty.
 D. Poverty, inferiority and pitiabity.

Attachment: Glossary

cf.		• 【拉】(= confer)参看, 试比较
<u>prospective</u>	<i>adj.</i>	预期的; 未来的
portray	<i>v.</i>	描绘; 描写, 描述
motorcycle	<i>n.</i>	摩托车
<u>flesh-and-blood</u>	<i>adj.</i>	实际存在的; 现实的
<u>self-made</u>	<i>adj.</i>	靠自己奋斗成功的, 白手起家的
<u>boardroom</u>	<i>n.</i>	会议室
grease	<i>n.</i>	油脂; 油腻状物; 润滑油
tinker	<i>v.</i>	做白铁匠; 很不熟练地修补
tinker with		很不熟练地修补; 笨手笨脚地做; 胡乱摆弄
alongside	<i>prep.</i>	在……旁边; 和……在一起
zoom	<i>v.</i>	嗡嗡(或隆隆)地疾行
✓poise	<i>v.</i>	使平衡; 使做好准备; 使振作
displace	<i>v.</i>	移动……的位置; 取代(某人)的位置; 替代
be poised to		做好准备去……
passenger car		小客车
blacksmith	<i>n.</i>	铁匠
breathless	<i>adj.</i>	气喘吁吁的; 呼吸急促的
to <u>mesmerize</u>	<i>v.</i>	迷惑; 迷住
<u>aftermath</u>	<i>n.</i>	后果; 结果; (事件等)结束后的一个时期
priceless	<i>adj.</i>	无价的, 无法估价的
purge	<i>v.</i>	使净化; 清洗; 清除
<u>echelon</u>	<i>n.</i>	(军)梯队; 领导系统中的等级, 阶层

Passage Three

The number of women directors appointed to corporate boards in the United States has increased dramatically, but the ratio of female to male directors re-

mains low. Although pressure to recruit women directors, unlike that to employ women in the general work force, does not derive from legislation, it is nevertheless real.

Although small companies were the first to have women directors, large corporations currently have a higher percentage of women on their boards. When the chairs of these large corporations began recruiting women to serve on boards, they initially sought women who were chief executive officers (CEO's) of large corporations. However, such women CEO's are still rare. In addition, the ideal of six CEO's (female or male) serving on the board of each of the largest corporations is realizable only if every CEO serves on six boards. This raises the specter of director over-commitment and the resultant dilution of contribution. Consequently, the chairs sought women in business who had the equivalent of CEO experience. However, since it is only recently that large numbers of women have begun to rise in management, the chairs began to recruit women of high achievement outside the business world. Many such women are well known for their contributions in government, education, and the nonprofit sector. The fact that the women from these sectors who were appointed were often acquaintances of the boards' chairs seems quite reasonable: chairs have always considered it important for directors to interact comfortably in the boardroom.

Although many successful women from outside the business world are unknown to corporate leaders, these women are particularly qualified to serve on boards because of the changing nature of corporations. Today a company's ability to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment can influence that company's growth and survival. Women are uniquely positioned to be responsive to some of these concerns. Although conditions have changed, it should be remembered that most directors of both sexes are over fifty years old. Women of that generation were often encouraged to direct their attention toward efforts to improve the community. This fact is reflected in the career development of most of the outstandingly successful women of the generation now in their fifties, who currently serve on corporate boards: 25 percent are in education and 22 percent are in government, law, and the nonprofit sector.

One organization of women directors is helping business become more responsive to the changing needs of society by raising the level of corporate awareness about social issues, such as problems with the economy, government regula-

tion, the aging population, and the environment. This organization also serves as a resource center of information on accomplished women who are potential candidates for corporate boards.

9. Which one of the following statements is wrong according to the first paragraph?

A. The number of women directors appointed to corporate boards in the United States has increased.

☒ B. It is compulsory for companies to recruit women directors in by the law of the United states.

C. The ratio of female to male directors remains low in the United States

D. Companies are under social pressure to recruit women directors.

10. Which of the following is NOT the reason that the chairs began seeking women who had the equivalent of CEO experience?

A. Large corporations preferred women who were chief executive officers (CEO's) of other large corporations.

☒ B. Small companies were the first to have women directors.

C. Women CEO's are still rare.

D. Recruiting women CEO's raises the specter of director over-commitment and the resultant dilution of contribution.

11. The chairs began to recruit women of high achievement outside the business world because _____.

☒ A. women are good at dealing with anything unrelated to business.

B. nobody is suitable to the job in business world.

☒ C. it is only recently that large numbers of women have begun to rise in management.

D. many women are well known for their contributions in other fields.

12. Why are some successful women particularly qualified to serve on boards?

☒ A. Because women are uniquely positioned to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment.

B. Because most directors of both sexes are over fifty years old.

C. Because the recruitment of them raises the ratio of female to male directors.

D. A company's ability to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment can not influence that company's growth and survival.

Attachment: Glossary

corporate	<i>corporate</i> adj.	社团的, 合伙的, 公司的
dramatically	adv.	戏剧地; 引人注目地; 突然地
ratio	<i>ratio</i> n.	比率
recruit	<i>recruit</i> n.	新兵, 新手, 新会员; 补给品
legislation	n.	立法, 法律
nevertheless	adj.	然而, 虽然如此
percentage	n.	百分比, 比率; 部分, 可能性
recruit	v.	恢复, 补充; 招募
executive	<i>CE</i> n.	执行者;
	adj.	执行的, 善于执行的
✓ specter	n.	幽灵, 征兆
commitment	n.	委托, 承担义务
dilution	n.	冲淡, 稀释
contribution	n.	捐助, 贡献
consequently	adv.	所以
equivalent	adj.	相等的, 相当的, 同意义的
nonprofit	adj.	非赢利的, 无利可图的
acquaintance	n.	认识, 相识者
interact	n.	相互影响, 交互作用
responsive	adj.	回答的, 应答的, 易感应的
community	n.	社区, 公众, 共同体
environment	n.	环境
survival	<i>survival</i> n.	生存, 幸存者
accomplished	<i>accomplish</i> adj.	完成的, 实现的; 有造诣的, 擅社交的
candidate	<i>candidate</i> n.	候选人

Passage Four

The term feature is generally applied to a long-list of materials, which are not considered straight news, ranging from comic to columns. It is also used to apply to a story that is based wholly on human interest—the story that falls somewhere between straight news and pure fiction. At its heart are facts representing solid reporting techniques, just as in a straight news story. But the stories differ

in style. The news story is timely and written in a straight-forward, concise, unemotional style. The feature, on the other hand, may not be particularly timely and it is marked by a blending of imaginative and creative use of the language that can touch a reader's curiosity, amazement, skepticism or humor.

No standard form or style is used for feature articles. They follow no set rules for leads or the body or the end of the story, as news stories generally do. Some conform to the straight news style with a 5 W's summary lead but use of the novelty lead is more common. They may be narrative, descriptive or expository. They tell stories, paint pictures, explain conditions—but is making them interesting from beginning to end.

Since most human interest stories are designed to touch a certain response in the reader, they must rely heavily on the human background of the event, not just the plain unvarnished facts. The thoughts, emotions, ambitions—the varied psychological and social data of humanity—are all part of the human background so essential to this type of story. They help personalize the news, dramatize the person, place or thing and create an emotional response in the reader.

13. According to the author, which of the following statements is true?

- _____ vanish (və'nɪʃ) 消失, 消失, 消失, 消失
- A. The feature is timely and written in a straight-forward, concise, unemotional style. vanish 消失
- B. The news story is marked by a blending of imaginative and creative use of the language that can touch a reader's curiosity, amazement, skepticism or humor.
- C. Feature articles follow no set rules for leads or the body or the end of the story, as news stories generally do.
- D. Feature articles may not be narrative, descriptive or expository.

14. Which of the following statements is not true?

- ☒ A. The thoughts, emotions, ambitions are not part of the human background so essential to this type of story.
- B. Feature articles are human interest stories.
- C. Feature is also used to apply to the story that falls somewhere between straight news and pure fiction.
- D. Feature articles range from comic to columns.

15. The word "column" (paragraph 1) means _____

A. a pillar.

B. a vertical-arrangement on a page.

C. a long, narrow row of troops, ships, etc.

D/a regular article in a newspaper or magazine.

16. The main topic of the article is _____

A. how to write feature articles.

B. a particular type of news story. *feature*

C/the differences between straight news stories and feature articles.

D. the purpose of writing features.

Attachment: Glossary

feature	<i>n.</i>	特写
straight news	<i>n.</i>	纯新闻
concise	<i>adj.</i>	简明的, 简洁的
blending	<i>adj.</i>	混合的, 交融的
skepticism	<i>n.</i>	怀疑 <i>skeptical</i>
conform to		符合, 遵循
novelty	<i>n.</i>	<u>新奇</u> , 新颖
unfurnished	<i>adj.</i>	不加修饰的

Passage Five

In the atmosphere, carbon dioxide acts rather like a one-way mirror—the glass in the roof of a greenhouse which allows the sun's rays to enter but prevents the heat from escaping.

According to a weather expert's prediction, the atmosphere will be 3 °C warmer in the year 2050 than it is today, if man continues to burn fuels at the present rate. If this warming up took place, the ice caps in the poles would begin to melt, thus raising sea level several meters and severely flooding coastal cities. Also, the increase in atmospheric temperature would lead to great changes in the climate of the northern hemisphere, possibly resulting in an alteration of the earth's chief food-growing zones.

In the past, concern about a man-made warming of the earth has concentrated on the Arctic because the Antarctic is much colder and has a much thicker ice sheet. But the weather experts are now paying more attention to West