

大学英语考试 (NETEM) 应试丛书

National Entrance Test Of English For MA/MS Candidates

READING COMPREHENSION



NETEM

NATIONAL ENTRANCE TEST OF ENGLISH FOR MA/MS CANDIDATES — READING COMPREHENSION

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全国硕士研究生入学考试 英语全攻略 (阅读篇)

西北工业大学出版社

全国硕士研究生入学考试 英语全攻略

—— 阅读篇

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【内容简介】 本书从 *Time*, *Economist* 等英文原版杂志中精选了 120 篇具有代表性的文章,其中包括文化、教育、经济、医学、科技、环保、政治、自然灾害、人文研究等领域的热点话题。结合考生的英语学习状况,本书将所选资料精心编排为 4 个部分:第一部分为 30 篇基础训练;第二部分为 30 篇提高训练;第三部分为 15 篇实战练习;第四部分为阅读新题型的专项训练,依据最新考试大纲新增内容提供了 45 篇练习,包括选论据、定标题、排序列三种题型。本书的编写目的在于使考生在基础知识和阅读技巧方面有所突破,在扎实的语言基础上做到有的放矢,全面突破。

本书既可供参加硕士研究生入学考试的考生使用,也可供报考同等学力、托福、大学英语四级、六级考试者以及英语自学者使用,还可供英语教师及广大英语爱好者参考。

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前言

《全国硕士研究生入学考试英语全攻略——阅读篇》是根据《2010年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲》(以下简称“大纲”)的最新要求,针对考研英语阅读中的重点、难点,精心编写的一本高质量阅读题集。本书的编者多年从事考研英语辅导第一线教学的知名教师,具有丰富的教学经验,对命题的思想、考生的误区有着深入的了解。在考研英语的复习中,很多考生朋友进入了过分注重技巧的误区,在这种背景下,我们旨在提醒考生们注意:“理论是不能替代实践的”。据统计,大约70%的考研英语阅读来源于 *Time*, *Economist*, *Newsweek*, *US News and World Report* 这4本英文原版杂志,因此,本书的编写以最大限度地涉及各种题材为宗旨,从这4本杂志中精选了120篇具有代表性的文章,其中包括文化、教育、经济、医学、科技、环保、政治、自然灾害、人文研究等领域的热点话题。为了避免导致大家的阅读疲劳,我们将这些话题穿插编排,并且进行了最有效的组合,相信在使用过程中大家一定会有轻松的感觉,从而使繁重的阅读练习变得轻松。

就阅读部分而言,“大纲”要求考生应能读懂不同类型的文字材料(生词量不超过所读材料总词汇量的3%),包括信函、书报和杂志上的文章,还应能读懂与本人学习或工作有关的文献、技术说明和产品介绍等。根据所读材料,考生应能:理解主旨要义;理解文中的具体信息;理解文中的概念性含义;进行有关的判断、推理和引申;根据上下文推测生词的词义;理解文章的总体结构以及单句之间、段落之间的关系;区分论点和论据。阅读部分包括A、B两部分,考查考生理解书面英语的能力,共25小题,每小题2分,共50分。A节(20题):主要考查考生理解具体信息、掌握文章大意、猜测生词词义并进行推断等能力。要求考生根据所提供的4篇(总长度约为1600词)文章的内容,从每题所给出的4个选项中选出最佳答案。B节(5题):主要考查考生对诸如连贯性、一致性等语段特征以及文章结构的理解。本部分的内容是一篇总长度为500~600词的文章,其中有5段空白,文章后有6~7段文字,要求考生根据文章内容从这6~7段文字中选择能分别放进文章中5个空白处的5段。

在备考的初期阶段,许多考生感到迷茫,不知从何下手,其根本原因在于对复习没有全面的规划,尤其忽略了对“大纲”的研究。我们在深入研究“大纲”对阅读部分要求的基础上,结合考生的英语学习状况,将所选资料精心编排为4个部分:前三部分是关于普通阅读的75篇训练,其中第一部分为30篇基础训练,文章的难度略低于真题,适用于考生熟悉考研阅读的题型,补习疏漏的词汇及语法知识,进行热身阶段的句型结构划分练习;第二部分为30篇提高训练,文章难度与真题相仿,选材覆盖考研阅读的要求,是考生提高阶段磨练解题技能、扩充词汇、迅速提高解题能力的最佳材料;第三部分为15篇实战练习,其文章难度、选材标准完全符合“大纲”要求,是备考后期考生自我检测、查漏补缺的坚实依据。此外,尤其值得一提的是,我们对每篇文章进行了全文的翻译和答案解析,这些内容将起到全面答疑解惑的功效,并且为考生进行翻译练习提供了可靠的依据。第四部分为阅读新题型的专项训练,依据“大纲”新增内容提供了45篇练习,分为选论据、定标题、排序列三种题型,并对每篇练习进行了详解,可帮助

考生透析新题型的出题思路,领悟新题型的破解技巧。

可以毫不夸张地说,在考研英语中“得阅读者得天下”,阅读部分在考研英语考试中有着举足轻重的地位。我们坚信本书一定能帮助考生朋友们在以下5个方面获得充分的储备:①6 000词汇量的积累;②文中信号词的定位;③文章长难句结构的划分;④文章重要次要信息的区分;⑤篇章脉络及文章主旨的把握。这些技能的积累并不只停留在表面认知的基础上,应当是归纳对比性的积累,本书的编排遵循由简而难的原则,从词汇积累到阅读技巧都进行了充分的诠释,帮助考生在学习过程中全面攻克考试中的重点、难点。

本书既可供参加研究生入学考试的考生使用,也可供报考同等学力、托福、大学英语四级、六级考试者以及英语自学者使用,还可供英语教师及广大英语爱好者参考。愿本书能成为广大考生成功之路的一盏明灯,并希望考生在使用此书的过程中,提出宝贵意见和建议,以便我们进一步改进。

吴耀武

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第一部分 基础训练篇

Passage 1

If you intend using humor in your talk to make people smile, you must know how to identify shared experiences and problems. Your humor must be relevant to the audience and should help to show them that you are one of them or that you understand their situation and are in sympathy with their point of view. Depending on whom you are addressing, the problems will be different. If you are talking to a group of managers, you may refer to the disorganized methods of their secretaries; alternatively if you are addressing secretaries, you may want to comment on their disorganized bosses.

Here is an example, which I heard at a nurses' convention, of a story which works well because the audience all shared the same view of doctors. A man arrives in heaven and is being shown around by St. Peter. He sees wonderful accommodations, beautiful gardens, sunny weather, and so on. Everyone is very peaceful, polite and friendly until, waiting in a line for lunch, the new arrival is suddenly pushed aside by a man in a white coat, which rushes to the head of the line, grabs his food and stomps over to a table by himself. "Who is that?" the new arrival asked St. Peter. "Oh, that's God," came the reply, "but sometimes he thinks he's a doctor."

If you are part of the group which you are addressing, you will be in a position know the experiences and problems which are common to all of you and it'll be appropriate for you to make a passing remark about the inedible canteen food or the chairman's notorious bad taste in ties. With other audiences you mustn't attempt to cut in with humor as they will resent an outsider making disparaging remarks about their canteen or their chairman. You will be on safer ground if you stick to scapegoats like the Post Office or the telephone system.

If you feel awkward being humorous, you must practice so that it becomes more natural. Include a few casual and apparently off-the-cuff remarks which you can deliver in a relaxed and unforced manner. Often it's the delivery which causes the audience to smile, so speak slowly and remember that a raised eyebrow or an unbelieving look may help to show that you are making a light-hearted remark.

Look for the humor. It often comes from the unexpected, a twist on a familiar quote "If at first you don't succeed, give up" or a play on words or on a situation. Search for exaggeration and understatements. Look at your talk and pick out a few words or sentences

that you can turn and inject with humor.

1. To make your humor work, you should _____.
 - A. take advantage of different kinds of audience
 - B. make fun of the disorganized people
 - C. address different problems to different people
 - D. show sympathy for your listeners
2. The joke about doctors implies that, in the eyes of nurses, they are _____.
 - A. impolite to new arrivals
 - B. very conscious of their godlike role
 - C. entitled to some privileges
 - D. very busy even during lunch hours
3. It can be inferred from the text that public services _____.
 - A. have benefited many people
 - B. are the focus of public
 - C. are an inappropriate subject for humor
 - D. have often been the laughing stock
4. To achieve the desired result, humorous stories should be delivered _____.
 - A. in well-worded language
 - B. as awkwardly as possible
 - C. in exaggerated statements
 - D. as casually as possible
5. The best title for the text maybe _____.
 - A. Use Humor Effectively
 - B. Various Kinds of Humor
 - C. Add Humor to Speech
 - D. Different Humor Strategies

【答案解析】

1. **C** 文章中提到“Depending on whom you are addressing, the problems will be different.” A 项“利用不同的听众”中的“利用”与文章不符；B 项“取笑那些邋遢的人”仅是一个个案，不能作为普遍原则；D 项“向你的听众表示同情心”也与文章不符。
2. **B** 文中的笑话是嘲笑医生的，而护士对这种嘲笑则普遍表示认同。因此 C 项“他们具有特权”和 D 项“他们在午饭时间也特别忙”是应该排除的；不能因为他对这个特定的新人不礼貌就对所有的新人都不礼貌，故 A 项“对新来者不礼貌”也是不对的；B 项“认为他们自己像上帝”正确地表述了护士对医生的看法。
3. **D** 文中提到“You will be on safer ground if you stick to scapegoats like the Post Office or the telephone system.” 邮局和电话局都是“公共服务行业”，文章说拿它们开玩笑是安全的，因此 D 项是对的。A 项为“对大众有利”；B 项为“是公众的焦点”；C 项为“不合适拿来开玩笑”这些都是不正确的。
4. **D** 第四段指出“Include a few casual and apparently off-the-cuff remarks which you can deliver in a relaxed and unforced manner.” 它暗示了幽默故事的讲述方式应该随意、轻松、不做作，因此 D 项是对的。A 项为“使用好的措辞”；B 项为“尽可能的别扭”；C 项为“夸大叙述”均不符合题意。
5. **A** 文章可分为两个部分，前三段主要谈幽默必须考虑听众，听众不同，幽默的内容也不同。后两段主要谈用什么方式幽默才能达到预期的效果。其他项不正确是因为文章并未谈论 B 项“不同种类的幽默”，

也未谈论 D 项“幽默的策略”, C 项“在谈话中添加幽默”接近文章议题,但不如 A 项准确。

【全文翻译】

如果你想在谈话中使用幽默的语言使人发笑,你就必须知道怎样确定共同的经历和共同的问题。你的幽默必须与听众有关系,应该向他们显示你是他们中的一员,了解他们的情况,与他们的观点一致。听众不同,问题也会不同。如果你与一些经理谈话,你就可以提及他们秘书的工作方法紊乱;相反如果你与一些秘书谈话,你就可以评论他们老板的工作方法紊乱。

有一次,我在一次护士大会上听到一个幽默效果很好的例子,原因是所有的听众都对医生有着相同的看法。一天,一个人到了天堂,由皮特带领着四处参观。他看见舒适的住所、漂亮的花园、晴朗的天气等等一些令人赏心悦目的景象。所有的人都很平和,也很友好,有礼貌。直到人们在排队等着吃午饭的时候,一个穿着白外套的人把新来者推到一旁,奔向队伍的前面,抓起食物,径直地奔向餐桌。新来者问皮特“那人是谁。”皮特回答说,“那个人是上帝,但有时候他认为自己是医生。”

当一群人在一起谈话时,你应该知道你们共同的经历和问题,适时对于餐厅难以下咽的食物或是领导低品位的领带谈谈自己的看法。但是,当其他人因为局外人对他们的餐厅和领导发表一些轻视性的评论感到愤愤不平时,你不要再以幽默的言语打断他的话。如果你拉上邮局或者电话局当替罪羊,你将会是很安全的。

如果你在使用幽默语言时感到很别扭的话,你应该加强训练使你的幽默感变得更加自然。在谈话时以轻松、自然的方式发表一些即兴的、很随意的评论往往都会博得听众一笑。所以说话时放慢讲话速度,记着适时地扬起眉毛或是怀疑的一瞥都能表示你说的是轻松的、令人舒心的。

寻找幽默感,它经常在出其不意的时候出现,对于像“你要是一开始没成功,就放弃”这样熟悉的格言的曲解,或者说调皮话、戏谑某种处境,留意夸张和打折扣的话;考虑一下你的谈话,选出一些词汇和句子,颠倒它们的顺序,融入幽默的成分,这样都能达到意想不到的效果。

Passage 2

Is language, like food, a basic human need without which a child a critical period of life can be starved and damaged? Judging from the drastic experiment of Frederick I in the 13th century, it may be. Hoping to discover what language a child would speak if he heard no mother tongue, he told the nurses to keep silent.

All the infants died before the first year. But clearly there was more than lack of language here. What was missing was good mothering. Without good mothering, in the first year of life especially, the capacity to survive is seriously affected.

Today no such severe lack exists as that ordered by Frederick. Nevertheless, some children are still backward in speaking. Most often the reason for this is that the mother is insensitive to the signals of the infant, whose brain is programmed to learn language rapidly. If these sensitive periods are neglected, the ideal time for acquiring skills passes and they might never be learned so easily again. A bird learns to sing and to fly at the right time, but the process is slow and hard once the critical stage has passed.

Experts suggest that speech stages are reached in a fixed sequence and at a constant age, but there are cases where speech has started late in a child who eventually turns out to be of high IQ. At twelve weeks a baby smiles and makes vowel-like sounds; at twelve months he

can speak simple words and understand simple commands; at eighteen months he has a vocabulary of three to five words. At three he knows about 1,000 words which he can put into sentence, and at four his language differs from that of his parents in style rather than grammar.

Recent evidence suggests that an infant is born with the capacity to speak. What is special about man's brain, compared with that of the monkey, is the complex system which enables a child to connect the sight and feel of, say, a toy-bear with the sound pattern "toy-bear". And even more incredible is the young brain's ability to pick out an order in language from the mixture of sound him, to analyze, to combine and recombine the parts of a language in new ways.

But speech has to be induced, and this depends on interaction between the mother and the child, where the mother recognizes the signals in the child's babbling (咿呀学语), grasping and smiling, and responds to them. Insensitivity of the mother to these signals dulls the interaction because the child gets discouraged and sends out only the obvious signals. Sensitivity to the child's non-verbal signals is essential to the growth and development of language.

1. The purpose of Frederick I's experiment was _____.
 - A. to prove that children are born with the ability to speak
 - B. to discover what language a child would speak without hearing any human speech
 - C. to find out what role careful nursing would play in teaching a child to speak
 - D. to prove that a child could be damaged without learning a language
2. The reason some children are backward in speaking is most probably that _____.
 - A. they are incapable of learning language rapidly
 - B. they are exposed to too much language at once
 - C. their mothers respond inadequately to their attempts to speak
 - D. their mother are not intelligent enough to help them
3. What is exceptionally remarkable about a child is that _____.
 - A. he is born with the capacity to speak
 - B. he has a brain more complex than an animal's
 - C. he can produce his own sentences
 - D. he owes his speech ability to good nursing
4. Which of the following can NOT be inferred from the passage?
 - A. The faculty of speech is inborn in man.
 - B. Encouragement is anything but essential to a child in language learning.
 - C. The child's brain is highly selective.
 - D. Most children learn their language in definite stages.
5. If a child starts to speak later than others, he will _____ in future.
 - A. have a high IQ
 - B. be less intelligent

C. be insensitive to verbal signal

D. not necessarily be backward

【答案解析】

1. B Frederick 实验的目的是“Hoping to discover what language a child would speak if he heard no mother tongue, he told the nurses to keep silent.”这与 B 项“用来发现如果一个孩子不听任何人类的语言,他会说出什么样的话”的意思相符。A 项“小孩天生具有语言能力”;C 项“找出什么样的方法可以有效地教小孩说话”与实验毫不相干;D 项“证明如果不学语言,小孩将被毁掉”是文中第一句话,是本文的中心思想,而非实验目的。
2. C 第三段指出“Most often the reason for this is that the mother is insensitive to the signals of the infant, whose brain is programmed to learn language rapidly.”所以 C 项是正确的。A 项“他们不能很快地学习语言”与原文意义相反;B 项“他们一次学习的语言太多”;D 项“他们的母亲没有足够的能力帮他们”在文中并未提及。
3. C 第五段指出“... And even more incredible is the young brain's ability to pick out an order in language from the mixture of sound him, to analyze, to combine and recombine the parts of a language in new ways.”与 C 项“他们能够创造出自己的语言”的意思极为相近。A 项“天生具有语言能力”;B 项“他们的大脑比动物的大脑复杂”;D 项“会使用自己的语言来要求好的照顾”都是儿童的普通的能力特征,未被文章评论为“极为了不起和难以置信”的特征。
4. B A 项意为“人的说话能力生而有之”,这符合第五段的“... an infant is born with the capacity to speak.”C 项意为“儿童的大脑具有很强的选择性”,这符合第五段的“... the young brain's ability to pick out an order in language from the mixture of sound him.”D 项意为“大部分儿童按一定的阶段习得语言”,这符合第四段的“... speech stages are reached in a fixed sequence and at a constant age.”而 B 项未被提到,故应选 B 项。
5. D 第四段指出“... but there are cases where speech has started late in a child who eventually turns out to be of high IQ.”这与 D 项“不一定会落后”的意思相符。A 项为“具有一个高的智商”;B 项为“不是很聪明”;C 项为“对口头信号不敏感”都是不正确的。

【全文翻译】

语言是否像食物一样,是人们最基本的需要。在生命至关重要的时期,如果没有语言,人们是否会像没有食物一样挨饿并且受到伤害?从 13 世纪弗雷德里克一世的实验看来,答案是肯定的。为了观察小孩在听不到母语的情况下会说什么样的语言,他要求护士保持沉默。

所有的婴儿不到一年就死了。但是很显然,这些婴儿缺少的不只是语言,真正缺少的是母亲细心的照料。没有母亲细心的照料,特别是在第一年,人生活的能力会严重地受到影响。

现在,弗雷德里克一世要求的那样严重的缺失并不存在。然而,一些儿童说话能力仍然落后。造成这个结果的原因常常是母亲对婴儿的信号不敏感,而此时婴儿的大脑是迅速学习语言的时期。如果这个敏感的时期被忽视了,就错过了学习语言的理想阶段,掌握语言再也不可能那么容易了。鸟儿在适当的时期里学习歌唱和飞行,但是一旦过了关键时期,学习这些就会变得很缓慢且艰难。

专家认为,说话的能力是按一个固定的程序在一定的年龄达到的,但是也有些儿童很晚才能说话但是智商却很高。12 周的时候,婴儿学会笑,发出像元音的声音;12 个月的时候,他能够说简单的词语,理解简单的命令;18 个月时,知道 3~5 个词;3 岁的时候,他大概掌握 1 000 个能放到句子里使用的词;4 岁时,他和他父母的语言就在风格而不是语法上不一样了。

最近的证据证明婴儿天生具有学习语言的能力。与猴子相比,人脑的特殊之处在于这个复杂的系统能让一个小孩把看到的和感觉到的联系起来,比如,将一个玩具熊和“玩具熊”发音联系起来。让人难以置信的

是一个年幼的大脑能从混合的声音中找出次序来分析、组合并以新的方式再组合语言。

但是语言是需要诱导的,而这有赖于母亲与孩子的相互交流,通过交流母亲认可孩子咿呀学语、抓物及微笑中发出的信号并给予回应。如果母亲察觉不到这些信号,就会使他们之间的互动变得迟缓。因为孩子丧失信心了,并且将只传送明显的信号。家长对孩子非语言信号的敏感性对孩子的成长和语言能力的提高有着非常重要的作用。

Passage 3

Could the bad old days of economic decline be about to return? Since OPEC agreed to supply-cut in march, the price of crude oil has jumped to almost \$ 26 a barrel, up from than \$ 10 last December. This near tripling of oil prices calls up scary memories of the 1973 oil shock, when prices quadrupled, and 1979-80, when they also almost tripled. Both previous shocks resulted in double-digit inflation and global economic decline. So where are the headlines warning of gloom and doom this time?

The oil price was given another push up this week when Iraq suspended oil exports. Strengthening economic growth, at the same time as winter grips the northern hemisphere could push the price higher still in the short term.

Yet there are good reasons to expect the economic consequences now to be less severe than in the 1970s. In most countries the cost of crude oil now accounts for a smaller share of the price of petrol than it did in the 1970s. In Europe, taxes account for up to four-fifths of the retail price, so even quite big changes in the price of crude have a more muted effect on pump prices than in the past.

Rich economic are also less dependent on oil than they were, and so less sensitive to swings in the oil price. Energy conservation, shifts to other fuels and a decline in the importance of heavy, energy intensive industries have reduced oil consumption. Software, consultancy and mobile telephones use far less oil than steel or car production. For each dollar of GDP (in constant prices) rich economies now use nearly 50% less oil than in 1973. The OECD estimates in its latest *Economic Outlook* that, if oil prices averaged \$ 22 a barrel for a full year, compared with \$ 13 in 1998, this would increase the oil import bill in rich economies by only 0.25%-0.5% of GDP. That is less than one-quarter of the income loss in 1974 or 1980. On the other hand, oil-importing economic — to which heavy industry has shifted — have become more energy-intensive, and so could be more seriously squeezed.

One more reason not to lose sleep over the rise in oil prices is that, unlike the rises in the 1970s, it has not occurred against the background of general commodity-price inflation and global excess demand. A sizable portion of the world is only just emerging from economic decline. *The Economist's* commodity price index is broadly unchanging from a year ago. In 1973 commodity prices jumped by 70%, and in 1979 by almost 30%.

- The main reason for the latest rise of oil price is _____.
A. global inflation B. reduction in supply
C. fast growth in economic D. Iraq's suspension of exports
- It can be inferred from the text that the retail price of petrol will go up dramatically if _____.
A. price of crude rises B. commodity prices rise
C. consumption rises D. oil taxes rise
- The estimates in *Economic Outlook* show that in rich countries _____.
A. heavy industry becomes more energy-intensive
B. income loss mainly results from fluctuating crude oil prices
C. manufacturing industry has been seriously squeezed
D. oil price changes have no significant impact on GDP
- We can draw a conclusion from the text that _____.
A. oil-price shocks are less shocking now
B. inflating seems irrelevant to oil-price shocks
C. energy conservation can keep down the oil prices
D. the price rise of crude leads to the shrinking of heavy industry
- From the text we can see that the writer seems _____.
A. optimistic B. sensitive C. gloomy D. scared

【答案解析】

- B** 文章第一段指出“Since OPEC agreed to supply-cut in march, the price of crude oil has jumped to almost \$26 a barrel, up from than \$10 last December.”所以石油的供应量减少是主要原因,应该选B项“产量减少”。A项为“全球性的通货膨胀”;C项为“经济增长过快”;D项为“伊拉克减少出口”都是不正确的。
- D** 文章第三段指出“... taxes account for up to four-fifths of the retail price.”汽油价格中有4/5是税收。所以只有石油税上涨,油价才会大幅上涨。正确答案是D项。A项为“天然制品价格增长”;B项为“日用品价格增长”;C项为“消费品价格增长”都是不正确的。
- D** 文章第四段指出“... if oil prices averaged \$22 a barrel for a full year, compared with \$13 in 1998, this would increase the oil import bill in rich economies by only 0.25%-0.5% of GDP.”如果石油价格持续保持在22美元一桶的水平,相对于1998年13美元一桶,那么这将使发达国家在石油进口方面的支出增加仅为GDP的0.25%~0.5%。即“油价的波动对GDP没有重大影响”,故选D项。A项为“重工业变得更加需要能源”;B项为“收入下降是由于原油价格的上下波动”;C项为“制造业开始萎缩”都是不对的。
- A** 文章主要在讲有充足的理由相信这次油价暴涨在经济上造成的后果不会比20世纪70年代严重。所以油价的暴涨并不可怕,故选A项。B项为“通货膨胀和油价的波动无关”;C项为“储备能源可以降低油价”;D项为“原油价格的上升导致了重工业的萎缩”都是不正确的。
- A** 文章中作者的语言告诉读者他的态度是相当乐观的,因此,A项为“乐观的”是正确的。B项为“敏感的”;C项为“沮丧的”;D项为“恐惧的”。

【全文翻译】

过去那种严重的经济衰退时期还会重新来到吗?由于3月份石油输出国组织同意减产,原油的价格已由

去年12月的不到10美元一桶上升到大约26美元一桶。油价大概是原来的4倍,这唤起了人们对1972年油价增加3倍和1979—1980年油价大概增加2倍的那种可怕回忆。前面两场油价暴涨导致双位数的油价波动和全球经济衰退。那么还有关于这次经济衰退和厄运的报道吗?

本周伊拉克暂停石油出口导致油价的又一次抬升。经济增长的需求以及北半球冬季的到来在短时间内仍会推动油价的抬升。

然而有充足的理由相信这次的油价暴涨在经济上造成的后果不会比20世纪70年代更严重。比起20世纪70年代,现在许多国家原油成本在汽油价格中所占的比例更小了。在欧洲,税收在汽油零售价的比例可高达4/5,因此,即使原油价格大幅上升,对加油站价格也只会造成轻微的影响。

现在发达国家对石油的依赖也不如从前,因此对油价波动也不会那么敏感了。能源储备、向其他燃料的转移以及巨量能源消耗型工业重要性的减弱都减少了石油的消耗量。软件、计算机咨询公司和手机所消耗的石油远远少于钢和汽车生产。对于每5美元的GDP(价格固定),发达国家所消耗的石油比1973年少了大概50%。国际经济合作与发展组织在最近一期的《经济展望》中估计,相对于1998年13美元一桶,如果今年石油价格持续保持在22美元一桶的水平,那么这将使发达国家在石油进口方面的支出增加仅为GDP的0.25%~0.5%。这相当于1974年或1980年1/4的收入亏损。另一方面,作为重工业的转化对象,需要依赖石油进口发展的经济变得更加需要能源,也就更加紧迫了。

另一个不要因为油价上涨而不安的原因是,这次不同于20世纪70年代,油价上涨并未在商品总价格上和全球需求旺盛这种大环境中发生。世界大部分地区才刚刚出现经济衰退。总体说来,《经济学家》公布的商品价格指数与前一年度并没有太大改变。1973年商品价格上涨了70%,在1979年上升了大概30%。

Passage 4

The Supreme Court's decisions on physician-assisted suicide carry important implications for how medicine seeks to relieve dying patients of pain and suffering.

Although it rules that there is no constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide, the Court in effect supported the medical principle of "double effect", a centuries moral principle holding that an action having two effects — a good one that is intended and a harmful one that is foreseen — is permissible if the actor intends only the good effect.

Doctors have used that principle in recent years to justify using high doses of morphine to control terminally ill patients' pain, even though increasing dosages will eventually kill the patient.

Nancy Dubler, director of Montefiore Center, contends that the principle will shield doctors who "until now have very, very strongly insisted that they could not give patients sufficient medication to control their pain if that might hasten death."

George Annas, chair of the health law department at Boston University, maintains that, as long as a doctor prescribes a drug for a legitimate medical purpose, the doctor has done nothing illegal even if the patient uses the drug to hasten death. "It's like surgery," he says. "We don't call those deaths homicides because the doctors didn't intend to kill their patients, although they risked their death. If you're a physician, you can risk your patient's suicide as long as you don't intend their suicide."

On another level, many in the medical community acknowledge that the assisted-suicide