根据最新大纲编写

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2009年 同等学力申请 硕士学位英语考试 辅导用书 同等学力申请硕士学位英语 考试辅导用书编审委员会

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- 紧扣最新大纲,权威解析最新题型,精解1997~2008年试题 ★
  - 系统解析答题思路,深入剖析命题原则与解题技法 🛊
    - 明示命题趋势与规律, 切实提高综合应试能力 \*



中国人民大学出版社

### 同等学力申请硕士学位 英语考试历年试题精解

同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试辅导用书编审委员会 编著

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#### 同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解

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随着中国国际化进程的日益推进、改革开放逐步深化以及经济发展速度的日益加快,社会对科学技术、文化教育的需求不断向高层次迈进,对博士、硕士研究生等高层次人才的需求也越来越大,报考硕士、博士研究生的考生正在逐年增多。对于许多不能脱产学习的考生来说,参加同等学力人员申请硕士学位考试是获取硕士学位的一个重要途径。同等学力人员申请硕士学位考试对考生的外语水平要求比较高,尤其是听、说、读、写、译的综合应用能力。参加同等学力人员申请硕士学位考试的学生,一方面应该具备坚实的专业理论基础和较强的科研能力,另一方面还应该具备较强的外语应用能力。

国务院学位委员会办公室于 2004 年 11 月再次修订了《同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试大纲》(第四版),对考试项目做了必要的调整,所以考生非常需要有关调整后内容的复习资料,以便更有针对性地复习和准备。综合考察最近的图书市场,有关同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试的辅导资料很多,而根据最新大纲精神编写、完全符合目前考试需要的辅导资料非常缺乏。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,以应对考试的实际要求,在考试中把握命题规律,获取高分。

为了更好地帮助考生复习,了解同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试的内容、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,倾情奉献编写了这套同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试辅导书。本套书包括《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试综合辅导教程》、《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试标准模拟考场》、《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解》、《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解》、《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解》、《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试问汇逆序记忆》,共五本。

#### 本套书的特色如下:

#### 一、作者阵容强大、辅导经验丰富、深谙命题动态

本套书作者长期从事同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试命题、阅卷与辅导工作,对同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试的考点非常熟悉。他们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,从而使本套书具有极高的权威性。本套书的出版凝结着参与编写的专家学者多年的教学、命题、评卷经验。

#### 二、鲜明的创新特色,编写体例非常符合考生的需要

本套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,使图书结构和内容具有鲜明的特色。下面分别介绍:

《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试综合辅导教程》:以最新修订的《同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试大纲》(第四版)为标准,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。

《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试标准模拟考场》:鉴于许多考生缺乏实际临场经验,该书将为考生进行全程领航和理性分析,引领考生高效通过考试难关。每套试卷都有详细的标准答案和解析。考生可以利用各套试卷进行考前模拟实战训练,检验自己的学习成果,及时查漏补缺,有针对性地进行复习备考。

《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试阅读理解 120 篇精解》。该书在选编文章题材、体裁方面尽可能拓展空间,广泛涉猎,包括社会科学、自然科学等各个领域的知识。具体内容涉及科学技术、经济管理、教育文化、社会生活、环境生态、政治历史、医学保健、宗教信仰、新闻艺术等诸多方面,可以让考生系统见证同等学力申请硕士学位英语阅读理解材料,强化英语背景知识,轻松获取阅读理解考试高分。

《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解》:历史是一面镜子,了解过去可以预知未来。研习历年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。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,把握考试的脉搏,明确考试的重点和难点所在。

《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试词汇逆序记忆》: 该书包括同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试基本词汇及其衍生词汇共计 5 500 余例,固定搭配词组和惯用短语 1 000 余个。该书最大的亮点就是推出逆序记忆,打破常规记忆法,大大提高记忆效率。

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良好效果。我们以同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试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夺得高分!

编著者



根据《中华人民共和国学位条例》的规定,具有研究生毕业同等学力的人员,都可以按照《国务院学位委员会关于授予具有研究生毕业同等学力人员硕士、博士学位的规定》的要求与办法,向学位授予单位提出申请。授予同等学力人员硕士学位是国家为同等学力人员开辟的获得学位的渠道。这对于在职人员业务素质的提高和干部队伍建设都能起到积极的作用。申请人通过了学位授予单位及国家组织的全部考试、并通过了学位论文答辩后,经审查达到了硕士学位学术水平者,可以获得硕士学位。

同等学力人员申请硕士学位外国语全国统一考试在我国已实行 10 余年,得到了社会以及广大考生的极大关注。随着参加该类考试人数的不断增长,为了更好地检测考生的英语实际水平,国务院学位委员会办公室于 2004 年 11 月再次修订了《同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试大纲》(第四版)。新考试大纲增加了书面口语交际项目,提高了综合填空的分值,并取消了听力项目,能够更客观地检测在职考生的英语实际水平。

为了更好地帮助考生复习,我们根据多年的教学实践经验,在认真分析了同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试的考点、难点、重点及命题套路之后,倾情奉献了这本《同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解》。

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,掌握考试脉搏。研习历年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。自从实行同等学力考试以来,试卷中出现与往年真题相同或者极其相似试题的情况时有发生,所以对往年真题进行研究是帮助考生复习的最有效手段。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。

本书包括 1997 年以来的考试真题,便于考生了解同等学力考试的全貌和考试动态,进行相应的自测。本书尽可能地为考生提供客观的解析和答案,阅读理解和综合填空给出了全文翻译。"观千剑而后识器",通过对历年试题的分析,考生可以掌握考试命题规律,把握出题动态,寻求合理的学习方法和解题策略,提升综合应试能力。

实践证明,一本好的复习资料,能够帮助考生收到事半功倍的良好效果。强调实用性、针对性和有效性是本书的鲜明特点。希望本书对于参加同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试的考生能够提供切实的帮助,帮助他们在掌握和应用科学的解题方

#### □等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解※

法、强化实践、提高成绩等诸多方面增强应试信心,真正提高自己的英语水平,最后蟾宫折桂,赢得考试高分。

由于时间仓促,错误和纰漏之处在所难免,诚望广大读者批评指正。

编著者

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## 2008年同等学力人员申请硕士学位 英语水平全国统一考试试题



#### Paper One 试卷一

(90 minutes)

Part 1

Dialogue Communication (10 minutes, 10 points)

#### Section A Dialogue Completion

B. Would you like to leave a message?

Directions: In this section, you will read 5 short incomplete dialogues between two speakers, each followed by 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the answer that best suits the situation to complete the dialogue by marking the corresponding letter with a single bar across the square brackets on your machine-scoring ANSWER SHEET.

1.	A:	Bob, would you mind turning down the TV a little? I'm talking on the phone, and		
		I'm having a hard time hearing.		
	B:			
		A. Please forgive me.	B. Oh, sure! I'm sorry about that.	
		C. You should have told me earlier.	D. I'm sorry to hear about it.	
2.	A:	Hi, I'm your neighbor in 405, next doo	r. I'm Sunny Chan.	
	B:			
		A. I moved here about a week ago.		
		B. Hope we could become good neighbor	s.	
		C. Hi! Everyone here seems very friendly	y.	
		D. Jill Kingston. Nice to meet you.		
3.	A:	Could you run me over to the office? I'm	late. My clock must be slow.	
	B:			
		A. Yes, never mind. I would rather give	you a lift.	
		B. All right. But you should buy a new c	lock.	
		C. It's my pleasure. May I help you fix y	our clock, too?	
		D. Yeah. I'll be glad to drop you off on r	ny way to work.	
4.	A:	I'm sorry. He's not in his office.		
	B:			
		A. Are you sure he will be back soon?		

#### · 圖同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解 ※ ※ ·

- C. Can you take a message for me?
- D. Shall I call him sometime later?
- 5. A: Do you mind if I take off my jacket?

B: \_\_\_

- A. Of course not, make yourself at home.
- B. Oh, it's very kind of you to do so.
- C. I will be happy if I can be of any help.
- D. Yes, it's pretty warm in here.

#### Section B Dialogue Comprehension

Directions: In this section, you will read 5 short conversations between a man and a woman. At the end of each conversation there is a question followed by 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best answer to the question from the 4 choices by marking the corresponding letter with a single bar across the square brackets on your machine-scoring ANSWER SHEET.

- 6. Man: Bob and Sue seem never discipline their daughter. She's real nuts.
  - Woman: They are kept in the dark about their daughter's behavior at school.
  - Question: What can we learn about Bob and Sue's daughter?
    - A. She likes to eat nuts.
    - B. She is self-disciplined.
    - C. She behaves badly at school.
    - D. She enjoys leaving her parents in the dark.
- 7. Woman: Now, Richard, would you care to explain how the answers to the test questions appeared on your desk?
  - Man: I can't, Professor Harley. Someone must have left them on my desk.
  - **Question:** What is the man's problem?
    - A. He is suspected of cheating.
    - B. He left the answers on his desk.
    - C. He doesn't know how to explain.
    - D. He didn't know the answers to the questions.
- 8. Woman: Don't forget to drop me a line when you settle down.
  - Man: I won't. I'll keep you posted.
  - Question: What does the man mean?
    - A. He'll write to the woman.
    - B. He'll tell the woman his new address.
    - C. He'll visit the woman once in a while.
    - D. He'll chat with the woman on the phone.
- 9. Man: Betty, how was your trip to the museum with Tom this afternoon?

Woman: Don't ask me.

Question: What does the woman mean?

- A. Something about the museum interested her.
- B. Something was wrong with the trip.
- C. She doesn't know anything about the museum.
- D. She doesn't want to answer the man's question.
- 10. Man: Hey, Mary. I was invited to be a judge for the Miss America Beauty Contest.

Woman: Oh, really? Come on, you're pulling my leg.

Question: What does the woman mean?

A. She has no chance to win.

B. The man is encouraging her.

C. She'll attend the contest.

D. The man is trying to fool her.



Vocabulary (10 minutes, 10 points)

#### Section A

Directions: In this section there are 10 sentences, each with one word or phrase underlined. Choose the one from the 4 choices marked A, B, C and D that best keeps the meaning of the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter with a single bar across the square brackets on your machine-scoring ANSWER SHEET.

11.	The survey does not al	low for the fact that	some students are at	tending part-time.
	A. explain	B. deny	C. consider	D. recognize
12.	British scientists have	found how to diagnos	e the disease, which	causes loss of memory
	and personality change			
	A. control	B. determine	C. prevent	D. treat
13.	Witnesses were alleged	lly tortured or subjec	ted to pressure to <u>fab</u>	oricate evidence against
	him.			
	A. fix up	B. take up	C. pack up	D. make up
14.	So instead we spent th	e whole afternoon ha	inging around in the	gorgeous autumn sun.
	A. golden	B. beautiful	C. warm	D. shining
15.	I couldn't work out wl	ny anyone would inve	ent something so bori	ing.
	A. draw up	B. bring about	C. put forward	D. figure out
16.	You can easily find out	the benefits of flexible	working for both you	and your employer.
	A. loose	B. effective	C. elastic	D. resourceful
17.	The State Department	has issued a regulati	on abolishing the spe	ecial privileges for gov
	ernment officials.			
	A. grants	B. rights	C. advantages	D. interests

18. Will Americans go for AT&T's plan of pushing the wireless services in the U.S.?

#### ────同等学力申请硕士学位英语考试历年试题精解≫─

	A	<b>7</b> 2 1	0.1: 1	<b>.</b>
	A. support	B. adopt	C. hinder	D. attack
19.		und them represents,	in effect, a unique	private exhibition open
	to a lucky few.			
	A. in short	B. in particular	C. in fact	D. in turn
20.	The weekend event w	ill be centred around	d Wye College in As	hford, Kent, but the
	outing to the docks sh	ould be the highlight	•	
	A. climax	B. pleasure	C. expectation	D. surprise
	Section B			
	Directions: In this sec	tion, there are 10 in	ncomplete sentences. I	For each sentence there
are				etes the situation. Then
				ckets on your machine-
	ring ANSWER SHEE		1	3
0001	viig III (S () EII SIIES	•		
21.	Then in June 1967 the	- country di	plomatic relations wi	th Israel after the out-
	break of the Six Day		<b>P.</b> 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6. 6.	
	•	B. broke off	C. cut out	D. cut down
22	•			v much extra to give a
22.	waiter or taxi-driver.	ic cilibarrassing	or deciding nov	much carra to give a
	A. incident	B. event	C dilemma	D. menace
99				
43.	The school arranged i			D. collide with
0.4	A. conform to			
24.	The new airport term			
	A. imitate		C. impose	
25.				oks and manuscripts of
	British and American	-		
	A. intensive		C. extensive	
26.	Inflation will reach its	s highest in a decade a	across most of Asia th	nis year, threatening to
	recent produ	uctivity gains.		3003 300
	A. reverse	B. reserve	C. retrieve	
27.	Those governments v	vill provide big food a	and fuel acc	ording to the Asian De-
	velopment Bank.			
	A. substitutes	B. substances	C. subsequences	D. subsidies
28.	In mild winters app	le buds began to b	oreak soon after Ch	ristmas, leaving them
	to frost dan	nage.		
	A. reluctant	B. tough	C. hostile	D. vulnerable
29.	What is happening is	a survival-of-the-fitte	est struggle affecting	smaller facto-
	ries in relatively low-	tech, labor-intensive	industries.	
	A. primarily	B. rationally	C. primitively	D. respectively

30.	A traditional critic has the advantage of being able t	to standards and values in-
	herited from the past.	

A. turn up

B. turn over

C. turn to

D. turn in



#### **Reading Comprehension** (45 minutes, 25 points)

Directions: There are 5 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by 5 questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best one and mark the corresponding letter with a single bar across the square brackets on your machine-scoring ANSWER SHEET.

#### Passage One

The job was done, and it was time for a last cigarette. Eddie began tapping the pockets of his overalls, looking for the new packet of Marlboro he had bought that morning. It was not there.

It was as he swung around to look in his toolbox for the cigarettes that Eddie saw the lump. Right in the middle of the brand new bright red carpet, there was a lump. A lump the size of a packet of cigarettes.

"I've done it again!" said Eddie angrily. "I've left the cigarettes under the carpet!"

He had done this once before, and taking up and refitting the carpet had taken him two hours. Eddie was determined that he was not going to spend another two hours in this house. He decided to get rid of the lump another way. It would mean wasting a good packet of cigarettes, nearly full, but anything was better than taking up the whole carpet and fitting it again. He turned to his toolbox for a large hammer.

Eddie didn't want to damage the carpet itself, so he took a block of wood and placed it on top of the lump. Then he began to beat the block of wood as hard as he could. He kept beating, hoping Mrs. Vanbrugh wouldn't hear the noise and come to see what he was doing. It would be difficult to explain why he was hammering the middle of her beautiful new carpet... The lump was beginning to flatten out.

After three or four minutes, the job was finally finished. Eddie picked up his tools, and began to walk out to his car. Mrs. Vanbrugh accompanied him. She seemed a little worried about something.

"Young man, while you were working today, you didn't by any chance see any sign of Armand, did you? Armand is my bird. I let him out of his cage, you see, this morning, and he's disappeared. He likes to walk around the house, and he usually just comes back to his cage after an hour or so and gets right in. Only today he didn't come back. He's never done such a thing before, it's most peculiar..."

"No, madam. I haven't seen him anywhere." said Eddie, as he reached to start the car.

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And he saw his packet of Marlboro cigarettes on the panel, where he had left it at lunchtime...

And he remembered the lump in the carpet...

31. What did Eddie want to do when he had finished fitting the carpet?

A. To have a cigarette.

B. To hammer the carpet flat.

C. To put back his tools.

D. To start work in the dining room.

32. Why didn't Eddie take out the thing under the carpet?

A. It was impossible for him to take up the carpet once it was fitted.

B. He didn't need the cigarettes because he had some more in the car.

C. It would take too long to take up the carpet and refit it.

D. He intended to come back and remove the lump the next day.

33. What did Eddie do with the hammer?

A. He drove nails into the lump.

B. He fixed his toolbox.

C. He refitted the carpet.

D. He flattened the lump.

34. Mrs. Vanbrugh worried that

A. her pet was nowhere to be found

B. fitting the carpet would be expensive

C. Eddie would smoke in the house

D. Eddie hadn't done a proper job

35. What was really under the carpet?

A. The packet of cigarettes.

B. Eddie's hammer.

C. A lump of wood.

D. The missing pet.

#### Passage Two

If two scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory are correct, people will still be driving gasoline-powered cars 50 years from now, giving out heat-trapping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere—and yet that carbon dioxide will not contribute to global warming. The scientists, F. Jeffrey Martin and William L. Kubic Jr., are proposing a concept, which they have patriotically named Green Freedom, for removing carbon dioxide from the air and turning it back into gasoline.

The idea is simple. Air would be blown over a liquid solution which would absorb the carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide would then be extracted and subjected to chemical reactions that would turn it into fuel. Although they have not yet built a fuel factory, or even a small prototype, the scientists say it is all based on existing technology. "Everything in the concept has been built, is operating or has a close cousin that is operating." Dr. Martin said. The proposal does not violate any laws of physics, and other scientists have independently suggested similar ideas.

In the efforts to reduce humanity's emissions of carbon dioxide, three solutions have

been offered: hydrogen-powered cars, electric cars and biofuels. Biofuels are gasoline substitutes produced from plants like corn or sugar cane. Plants absorb carbon dioxide as they grow, but growing crops for fuel takes up wide strips of land. Hydrogen-powered cars emit no carbon dioxide, but producing hydrogen requires energy, and if that energy comes from coal-fired power plants, then the problem has not been solved. The problem with electric cars is that they have typically been limited to a range of tens of miles as opposed to the hundreds of miles that can be driven on a tank of gas.

Gasoline, it turns out, is an almost ideal fuel (except that it produces carbon dioxide). If it can be made out of carbon dioxide in the air, the Los Alamos concept may mean there is little reason to switch, after all.

"It's definitely worth pursuing," said Martin I. Hoffert, a professor of physics at New York University. "It has a couple of pieces to it that are interesting." Other scientists also said the proposal looked promising but could not evaluate it fully because the details had not been published.

36.	What is most remarkable about the proposal made by the two scientists?		
	A. It is given a patriotic name.		
	B. No law of physics violated.		
	C. It is based on existing technology.		
	D. Carbon dioxide can be converted into	o fuel.	
37.	What is the biggest problem with hydrogen-powered cars?		
	A. There is no cheap source of hydrogen.		
	B. There might be a safety problem in	hydrogen production.	
	C. They may still be a cause of global	warming.	
	D. They are not suitable for long-distant	nce travel.	
38.	If what is proposed by the two scientis	sts becomes true	_•
	A. air pollution will become a thing of	the past	
	B. there will be no need for gasoline substitutes		
	C. people will be able to use much cheaper energy		
	D. there will be no more biofuel-power	ed vehicles	
39.	Which of the following can best descriposal?	ibe the attitude of Martin	I. Hoffert to the pro-
	A. Indifferent. B. Positive.	C Sugniciona	D. Critical.
10		•	D. CHucai.
40.	The passage is mainly written to		
	A. introduce a new concept	B. compare different	
	C. stress the importance of gasoline	D. discuss solutions	to global warming

#### Passage Three

In her international best-selling Talk to the Hand, author Lynne Truss argues that

common courtesies such as saying "Excuse me" are practically extinct. There are certainly plenty who would agree with her.

Is it really true? We decided to find out by experiments. In dozens of American cities, our reporters performed two experiments: "door tests" (would anyone hold one open for them?) and "document drops" (who would help them retrieve a pile of "accidentally" dropped papers?). Along the way, the reporters encountered all types: men and women of different races, ages, professions, and income levels.

While 90 percent of the people passed the door test, only 55 percent passed the document drop. Are people less likely to help others when doing so takes extra effort or time? Not always, the reporters found. Take the pregnant woman who thought nothing of bending down to help us with our papers. Or the woman named Liz who balanced two coffees, her keys and her wallet on a takeout tray with one hand, while picking up papers off the wet pavement with the other. Her reason for helping? "I was there," she said.

Overall, men were the most willing to help, especially when it came to document drops. In those, men offered aid 63 percent of the time, compared to 47 percent among women. Of course, men weren't entirely democratic about whom they'd help. All of them held the door for the female reporter, and were more than twice as likely to help her pick up fallen papers than they were to help our male reporter.

By far, the most common reason people cited for being willing to go out of their way to help others was their upbringing. "It's the way I was raised," said one young woman who held a door open despite struggling with her umbrella on a rainy day in Brooklyn.

We realize this isn't a rigorous scientific study, but we believe it is a reasonable real-world test of good manners around the globe. And it's comforting to know that in a place where millions of people push one another each day to get ahead, they're able to do it with a smile. Hey, if they can make nice here, they can make nice anywhere.

41.	Which of the following is the best word to describe the experiments?
	A. Scientific. B. Biased. C. Revolutionary. D. Realistic.
42.	The examples of the pregnant woman and Liz are used to show that some people
	·
	A. may take the trouble to help others
	B. won't take the trouble to help others
	C. may help others save time
	D. won't help others save time
43.	According to the experiments
	A. women are more careful
	B. women are more likely to need help

C. men are more ready to help

D. men are more democratic in helping others

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44.	Helping others is a behavior that is largely	influenced by	
	A. social norm	B. family education	
	C. specific situation	D. personal character	
45.	The results of the experiments have shown	that common courtesies	,
	A. are still with us	B. are disappearing	
	C. vary with professions	D. need rigorous study	

#### Passage Four

Within a large concrete room, cut out of a mountain on a freezing-cold island just 1,000 kilometres from the North Pole, could lie the future of humanity.

The room is a vault (地下库) designed to hold around 2 million seeds, representing all known varieties of the world's crops. It is being built to safeguard the world's food supply against nuclear war, climate change, terrorism, rising sea levels, earthquakes and the collapse of electricity supplies. "If the worst came to the worst, this would allow the world to reconstruct agriculture on this planet," says Cary Fowler, director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an independent international organization promoting the project.

The Norwegian (挪威的) government is planning to create the seed bank next year at the request of crop scientists. The \$3 million vault will be built deep inside a sandstone mountain on the Norwegian Arctic island of Spitsbergen. The vault will have metre-thick walls of reinforced concrete and will be protected behind two airlocks and high-security doors.

The vault's seed collection will represent the products of some 10,000 years of plant breeding by the world's farmers. Though most are no longer widely planted, the varieties contain vital genetic properties still regularly used in plant breeding.

To survive, the seeds need freezing temperatures. Operators plan to replace the air inside the vault each winter, when temperatures in Spitsbergen are around  $-18^{\circ}$ C. But even if some disaster meant that the vault was abandoned, the permanently frozen soil would keep the seeds alive. And even accelerated global warming would take many decades to penetrate the mountain vault.

"This will be the world's most secure gene bank," says Fowler. "But its seeds will only be used when all other samples have gone for some reason."

The project comes at a time when there is growing concern about the safety of existing seed banks around the world. Many have been criticized for their poor security, ageing refrigeration (冷藏) systems and vulnerable electricity supplies.

The scheme won UN approval at a meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome in October 2005. A feasibility study said the facility "would essentially be built to last forever".

46.	The Norwegian vault is important in that
	A. the seeds in it represent the rarest varieties of world's crops