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① 精选28篇文章，与真题同源，涵盖考研英语阅读所有话题。	② 摆脱传统阅读书的“神话”式说辞，句句实话，不忽悠。	③ 每篇文章，每道试题，都紧扣大纲，严格遵循至简原则，保证你一读秒懂。	④ 四栏，双色，最高效，目标就是轻松、快速拿下考研阅读。

主　编○李旭
副主编○祝美

练习册

精读28篇

考研英语

/ 题源外刊精选精讲精析 /

中国政法大学出版社

精读第一篇

Of all the potential actions in Donald Trump's forthcoming presidency, none will have more long-lasting effects than those on climate change. Trump has said he would block the Clean Power Plan, which would reduce utilities' greenhouse gas emissions and is at the heart of the U.S. commitment to the Paris climate agreement.

Not only would this agenda be disastrous for climate, it would actually undermine Trump's ability to achieve his own primary goals. First, climate change is not like other issues that can be postponed from one year to the next. The U.S. and world are already behind; speed is of the essence, because climate change and its impacts are coming sooner and with greater ferocity than anticipated: 2016 was the hottest year on record by a large margin, and 2015 and 2014 set the previous records.

Warming is also causing sea level to rise at faster rates. The costs of these increasingly common events are reaching into the billions of dollars. Most frightening are the likely tipping points in the climate system—thresholds beyond which unstoppable feedbacks kick in. We don't know exactly where such points of no return are until we've passed them. Every year that we delay action, we increase the risk of crossing dangerous thresholds, and we commit our generation and our children's to more devastating outcomes.

Second, because emissions anywhere result in climate change everywhere, we are part of a community of nations that must work together to tackle this global problem. The Paris Agreement has rules, which we agreed to, including that once in effect, no country can withdraw from the agreement for at least four years. If our new president were to pull out, our country would be an international outlaw, with consequences for our status among nations. We would also be relinquishing the leadership that prompts other nations to reach for more ambitious emissions reductions.

Finally—and perhaps this is where all Americans can find common ground—the clean energy revolution is well under way. The rest of the world is no longer debating climate change; it is moving on with a rapid transition to carbon-free energy. Do we want to be left behind in the great economic revolution of the 21st century? Or do we want to compete in the clean energy race, improving our international competitiveness and making our nation even greater?

If the U.S. is to accomplish what Trump says he wants for our nation—economic growth, job creation, improved infrastructure and international respect—then we need to lead the world in clean energy research, development and deployment. In doing so, we would also be keeping our air and water clean, making our businesses more efficient, improving our health and protecting our children's future.

1. According to Paragraph 1, American's president
   [A] approves the actions of environment protection.
   [B] carries out Clean Power Plan.
   [C] cares little about gas emissions.
   [D] takes Paris climate agreement into account.
2. It is indicated in Paragraphs 2 and 3 that
   [A] it called for urgent actions to control climate change.
   [B] the climate change means the temperature becomes unstable.
   [C] Trump's decisions would help to develop the country.
   [D] we know the consequences of the climate change.
3. What promoted the author to support clean energy revolution?
   [A] Twenty first century is undergoing a great economic revolution.
   [B] Using of clean energy has little to do with the national strength.
   [C] Only through leading the world in clean energy research can the U.S. develop.
   [D] It's a tendency that the whole world develops toward carbon-free energy.

4. The author's attitude to what Trump would do is
[A] supportive. [B] critical.
[C] uncertain. [D] tolerant.

5. What would be the best title for the text?
[A] Helpful Agenda by Trump
[B] The Significance of Cutting Greenhouse Gases
[C] The Horrifying Climate Change
[D] Prominent Prospect of the Environment Protection

精读第二篇

For Andrea Huggard-Caine, being sent to Italy as part of a team that was handling a Citibank acquisition in the 1980s was life-changing. "It broadens your vision," says Ms. Huggard-Caine, who was born in Argentina and brought up in Brazil, where she was educated at an American school. "Until I actually lived abroad, I did not have it all figured out from a multicultural perspective," says Ms. Huggard-Caine, who now has her own consulting business.

In a corporate setting, an overseas posting can be a way for women to achieve a breakthrough in their careers. More than 80 per cent of the women that Stacie Berdan, an author and consultant, interviewed for her book *Get Ahead by Going Abroad* said their international posting had helped them secure more senior positions. In a globalized economy, international experience benefits everyone's career. However, Ms. Berdan says that for women trying to stand out in a male-dominated business world, overseas experience is particularly helpful.

However, while overseas postings provide benefits, they also come with particular challenges for women. These range from the practical, such as navigating unfamiliar childcare and school systems, to the question of the "trailing spouse" or working in cultures where male suspicion of women in business persists. Similarly, executives in some countries can be reluctant to accept women as business leaders.

For some women, the first hurdle may be winning the overseas posting in the first place. "The vast majority of the world is open to women, yet companies are unsure and see it as high risk," says Ms. Berdan. "A lot of it has to do with the fact that HR departments are not global and make assumptions."

This may help explain why the proportion of women expats working in business remains small. While the 2016 Global Mobility Trends Survey—from BGRS, the global relocation services firm—recorded the highest proportion of female expats in the survey's 21-year history, they still made up just 25 per cent of the total. Nevertheless, demand from women for overseas postings is rising. In a recent survey by PwC, the professional services firm, more than 70 per cent of millennial women—born between 1980 and 1995—said they wanted to work outside their home country.

In competitive labor markets, therefore, companies that want to attract the best employees need to be ready to support and encourage their female executives to work abroad. Ms. Berdan argues that HR departments have a key role in this: they can both challenge any resistance towards women seeking overseas positions and encourage those who have not yet considered the advantages of an overseas posting.

All expats have to excel at what they do—"and that's gender neutral," she says. The further question for employers is "about making sure opportunities are open to everybody".

1. The example of Andrea Huggard-Caine is mentioned to
[A] show her distinguished family background.
[B] demonstrate her keen sense of insight into a multicultural environment.
[C] stress the tremendous strength of Citibank.
[D] reveal the significance of her experience of living abroad.

2. The word "trailing" in Paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to
[A] cooperative. [B] troublesome.
[C] affectionate. [D] frustrating.

3.We may infer from the 4-5 paragraph that

[A] HR department share most of the blame for hindering female employees working abroad.

[B] the proportion of women expats is increasing dramatically recently.

[C] the younger the female employees are, the more they desire the opportunity of working aboard.

[D] there were more female expats than the male expats in 2016.

4. According to the author, the key point for recruiting a capable employee is

[A] creating a favorable environment for women working abroad.

[B] sending most female employees abroad.

[C] paying more attention to HR Department.

[D] selecting more female than male to work overseas.

5. Ms. Berdan's attitude toward female working overseas is

[A] disapproval. [B] indifferent.

[C] appreciation. [D] tolerance.

精读第三篇

It is not typhoons or earthquakes that insurers should fear most, but geeks alert to their businesses' inefficiencies. Daniel Schreiber and Shai Wininger, tech entrepreneurs with no insurance background, spotted that the industry is huge (worth $4.6trn in global premium income a year, reckons SwissRe, a reinsurer), distrusted, antiquated and hopelessly unreformed. In September they started Lemonade, a New York-based insurer for homeowners and renters. Some describe it as a peer-to-peer insurer. Most agree that its app makes insurance a lot easier. This appeals to the digital generation: of 2,000 policies sold in its first 100 days, over 80% were to first-time buyers.

Insurance, the founders reasoned, suffers from misaligned incentives. Every dollar paid out comes from insurers' pockets, encouraging poor behavior. Normally upright people have few qualms about defrauding their insurer, pushing up premiums. Lemonade's solution is to take 20% of premiums as a fee and to reward under-claiming customers by giving a share of unused income to a chosen charity.

This brings good publicity. But just as important is how different Lemonade looks behind the scenes. Instead of underwriters it uses algorithms; and instead of expensive brokers and salespeople it uses chat bots. It even uses AI and machine-learning to handle claims, a job typically seen as needing a human touch.

Late last year a customer called Brandon claimed for a stolen coat. He answered a few questions on the app and recorded a report on his iPhone. Three seconds later his claim was paid—a world record, says Lemonade. In those three seconds "A.I. Jim", the firm's claims bot, reviewed the claim, cross-checked it with the policy, ran 18 anti-fraud algorithms, approved it, sent payment instructions to the bank and informed Brandon. The real-life Jim (Hageman), Lemonade's chief claims officer, was driving home for Christmas at the time.

Lemonade's bots are still learning and pass more complex claims to humans. It is hoped that one day they will handle 90% of claims. In an industry with expense ratios as high as 30% this could offer huge savings. But there are limits to the claims that bots can be let loose on. And insurance dinosaurs have one advantage: data. For bots to get really clever they need lots. If Lemonade's customer numbers remain small, they will not learn fast enough to stay ahead of the big boys using the same technology.

But insurance moves slowly. Miguel Ortiz from BCG, a consultancy, says that the big bet for Lemonade is that "it can stay ahead of a sleepy industry by doing standard insurance processes better than everyone else." Already, the shake-up it promises has added some fizz and zest.

1.What do we learn from the first paragraph about Lemonade?

[A] It is built to increase the efficiency of insurance.

[B] It shares the same characteristics of other peer companies.
[C] It never concerns about typhoons and earthquakes.
[D] Nearly 80% of its customers are unfamiliar to insurance.

2. In Paragraphs 2 and 3, the text shows
[A] Lemonade takes 80% of premiums as charity fund.
[B] Lemonade hopes to lower the chance of defrauding.
[C] there are less employees in Lemonade than others.
[D] all of the claims of Lemonade are processed by machines.

3. The example of Branden is to show
[A] how efficient the machine process is.
[B] Lemonade's AI takes place of human totally.
[C] Jim processes claims on his way home.
[D] anything can be insured even a coat.

4. The word "dinosaur" (Para. 5) most probably means
[A] a union of chatting bots. [B] large old fashioned corporation.
[C] security commission of insurance. [D] newly-created companies using high techniques.

5. The author's opinion to Lemonade's future is
[A] sarcastic. [B] inquisitive.
[C] ambiguous. [D] optimistic.

精读第四篇

How clean is the European Union? To its critics, Brussels is a cesspit of waste and fraud. To its supporters, it is often a check on rapacious governments at home. There is no shortage of scandals.

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) opens hundreds of cases every year, but does not say how many relate to corruption within the EU. The Court of Auditors worries about the "error rate" in the EU's accounts, which stood at an enormous 4.8% of total spending in 2012. Still, the court is the first to note that irregularities are not a measure of waste or fraud, but of improperly allocated funds. And given that 80% of the money is spent by member governments, corruption is more likely at national level. The European Commission reckons some €120 billion is lost to corruption every year across the EU.

Yet corruption, like tax evasion, has become politically charged, not least because the worst of the euro zone's turmoil hit Greece, widely perceived as its most corrupt member. The doctrine that a country's fiscal policy is of concern to its neighbors is expanding into the notion that its adherence to the rule of law is also the EU's business. That is a big change for a club that has generally treated all members as honorable.

In February, the commission published its first detailed report on corruption in each of the 28 EU members. It was a cautious document, offering much praise and couching criticism in terms of recommendations for improvement. There were no embarrassing comparative data or rankings. And there was a glaring gap: the report said nothing about corruption within EU institutions. The so-called "29th chapter" was mysteriously shelved. The EU may have a modest budget of just 1% of GDP, but it still spends more than most countries—roughly as much as Sweden.

Commission officials claim they could not pass judgment on themselves; better to wait for the EU to join the anti-corruption convention of the Council of Europe, a separate pan-European body. Yet the commission could have used internal watchdogs. Rumor has it that OLAF wrote a draft that was later buried. And on April 24th Transparency International (TI), an anti-corruption lobby group, published its own version of the 29th chapter. It too was written carefully, in the spirit of collaboration rather than confrontation. It concludes that "despite improvements to the overall framework, corruption risks persist at the EU level". Even so, the European Parliament refused to co-operate. Parliamentary officials privately mutter that TI acted in a "high-handed" manner, demanding wholesale access to officials and documents. Coming from a self-righteous assembly that proclaims itself a champion of transparency, such obduracy is worrying.

The commission's own polls find that trust in the EU is declining, with large majorities believing that corruption is wide spread. Such disillusion will feed Euro-skepticism in May's European election. But if the EU fears that disclosure of shady practices may strengthen anti-EU parties, attempts to hide them can only make things worse. Precisely because the EU is more remote than national politics, it should hold itself to the highest standards.

1. According to the first two paragraphs, European Union
   [A] has hundreds of cases of corruption within it.
   [B] has a huge amount of spending in 2012 wrongly assigned.
   [C] has nearly 80% of money waste or fraud.
   [D] often supervises corruption within its members.
2. The commission's first report on corruption
   [A] has much criticisms than praises in it.
   [B] reveals the budget of EU is too high.
   [C] reflects the underlying corruption within EU.
   [D] modestly gives some suggestions rather than critical opinions.
3. Which of the statement is right about TI's 29th Chapter version?
   [A] It makes more courageous statement than OLAF's.
   [B] TI got it by having the authority of accessing to any documents.
   [C] It implies the corruption of EU exists.
   [D] It uncovers the stubbornness of the Parliament.
4. We can infer from the last paragraph that
   [A] EU should expose its current situation of corruption.
   [B] anti-EU radicals will disturb European election.
   [C] most people have high evaluation of EU.
   [D] EU has long been employing highest-level criteria.
5. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?
   [A] EU's Contemptuousness to the Revealing of Corruption
   [B] Severe Internal Contradictions Within EU
   [C] EU's Confusing Financial Future
   [D] EU's Inexplicable Fear of Exposing Corruption

精读第五篇

"Pleasure is often a visitant; but pain clings cruelly," wrote John Keats. Nowadays pain can often be shrugged off: opioids, a class of drugs that includes morphine and other derivatives of the opium poppy, can dramatically ease the agony of broken bones, third-degree burns or terminal cancer. But the mismanagement of these drugs has caused a pain crisis. It has two faces: one in America and a few other rich countries; the other in the developing world.

In America for decades doctors prescribed too many opioids for chronic pain in the mistaken belief that the risks were manageable. Millions of patients became hooked. Nearly 20,000 Americans died from opioid overdoses in 2014. A belated crackdown is now forcing prescription-opioid addicts to endure withdrawal symptoms, buy their fix on the black market or turn to heroin.

In the developing world, by contrast, even horrifying pain is often untreated. More than 7m people die yearly of cancer, HIV, accidents or war wounds with little or no pain relief. Four fifths of humanity live in countries where opioids are hard to obtain; they use less than a tenth of the world's morphine, the opioid most widely used for trauma and terminal pain.

American policy has been especially misguided. By keeping cocaine and heroin illegal, drug warriors have empowered criminal gangs that torture and kill. Even as American fee-for-service doctors overprescribed opioids at home, America spread its harsh approach to illegal drugs worldwide. Poor countries, scared of getting on Uncle Sam's wrong side for not trying hard enough to control narcotics, have written laws even more restrictive than those recommended by the UN. One passed in India in 1985 saw legitimate morphine use plunge by 97% in seven years. In Armenia morphine is only available to cancer patients, who must rush from ministry to ministry filling in forms to receive a few days' supply.

Opioids should be more widely available. That entails risks. One is addiction: doctors need training to minimize it. Long-term use is perilous; use by the terminally ill is not. Another risk—that the drugs will leak onto the black market—is real. Many American buyers of street opioids were first hooked by their doctors; other countries can avoid that mistake. They can also avoid the mix of fee-for-service provision and direct-to consumer drug advertising that aggravated America's lax prescribing. And they should copy Britain's centralized system for prescription records, which stops patients from doctor hopping their way to addiction.

Above all, the global bodies that monitor narcotics should recognize that easing suffering is as important as preventing addiction. Forcing people in great pain to jump through hoops to get relief should be recognized as an infraction of international rules. The UN has, belatedly, started to talk of unrelieved pain as a problem. As the cause of needless suffering, it should be trying harder to bring solace.

1.The citing of John Keats is used to state
[A] the severe health condition of the poet. [B] the poor medical conditions of ancient times.
[C] the threat of pain crisis. [D] the fierce management competition.

2. It is suggested in Paragraph 2 that American doctors
[A] lack the training of reasonable dose of opioids.
[B] do not know the consequence of overdose.
[C] suggest some patients to turn to black market.
[D] are responsible for all drug abuses.

3. Huge number of patients in developing countries suffer from pain in that
[A] opioids supply is insufficient for the war-wounded and HIV patients.
[B] the usage of opioids is less than a tenth of global quantity.
[C] these governments control the access to opioids in fear of offending the US.
[D] the recommended dose of opioids is lower than the actual demand.

4. According to Paragraph 5, the author suggests that
[A] the provision of fee-for-service should be popularized.
[B] the street opioids should be cleaned up.
[C] the terminal patient should be given due attention.
[D] the risk of widely using of opioids should be under control.

5. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that
[A] legal penalty is a major solution to patients protection.
[B] treatment of pain should be paid more attention.
[C] UN's attention is essential to solve pain crisis.
[D] US should strengthen the supervision of narcotics.

精读第六篇

In January, Liberia's education minister announced it had outsourced the country's failing primary-education system to a privately run American educational company called Bridge International Academies. The $11 million, one-year pilot program launched a fevered debate about whether outsiders should design a national curriculum and what responsibility a government has to educate its own populace.

But lost amid the outrage was a more important question, at least for Liberian students: Could Bridge's digital learning program achieve what an impoverished Education Ministry could not?

Instead of replacing or retraining Liberia's poorly performing teachers—a typical though costly and time-consuming response—Bridge's solution was to furnish them with a tablet-based, highly structured and standardized teaching script designed to give students the best education possible under the circumstances.

While the proportion of children finishing primary school in sub-Saharan Africa has improved in recent years, the quality of their schooling has not. Schools are often underfunded and badly equipped. Teachers perform poorly, if they show up at all. Only 59% of the population is literate, compared with a global average of 84%. That matters for all of us. By 2050, half the world's youth—nearly 1 billion—will be in Africa.

As the annual World Economic Forum on Africa convened in Kigali this May, many attendees looked to the potential of online education as a way to close the continent's education gap. Even advocates of online learning recognize its limitations—studies show that people tend to learn best where teaching is interactive. But Africa's education challenge is simply too great. "We don't have a choice," says Temitope Ola, head of the Swiss Institute of Technology's MOOCs for Africa program. Digital platforms can reduce the time it takes to train teachers—a good way to get as many people a basic level of education as quickly as possible. "If you can transform someone who is not a teacher into someone who can get the job done, it's still better than having nothing at all."

Zipline co-founder Will Hetzler attended Harvard University, one of the many U.S. universities now offering online access to its lectures for a global student body. But Hetzler says that the most valuable part of his Harvard education wasn't the lectures but the interaction with peers and professors outside of class.

So while fixing education in Africa starts with putting digital content in the hands of schoolchildren and their teachers, the effort can't stop there. It has to ensure that those students are learning from each other, whether they are sitting in the same classroom with an engaged teacher, or linked into a virtual crossroads of interaction and ideas. If Africa wants to create a generation that will move the continent forward, it will have to invest in technology and teachers.

1. Which statement about Bridge's digital learning program is reasonable?
   [A] It is proved to be a failed system.
   [B] It means to train the poorly-performed teachers.
   [C] It hasn't been proved to be effective.
   [D] It turned to be a long and expensive program.
2. It can be inferred from Paragraph 3 that
   [A] the teaching quality of Africa has made huge progress recent years.
   [B] the African teachers lack confidence for teaching performance.
   [C] the number of well-educated youth of Africa has risen rapidly recently.
   [D] the current teaching situation of Africa should arouse the attention of the world.
3. The promotion of online learning system in Africa is mainly for
   [A] the huge gap between Africa and other countries.
   [B] the flawless system of online learning.
   [C] the professional teacher training of the system.
   [D] the plenty interaction provided by the system.
4. It can be concluded from the last two paragraphs that
   [A] Harvard University has the most advanced online study system.
   [B] the interaction with students and teachers in learning counts a lot.
   [C] teachers play a less important role in African teaching.
   [D] the improvement of African education comes with tremendous cost.
5. What is the author's attitude towards online education in Africa?
   [A] Supportive. [B] Skeptical.
   [C] Neutral. [D] Biased.

精读第七篇

For the first time in 40 years, junior doctors in the National Health Service have voted to go on strike for several days next month. The government is proposing a new contract to hit its declared target of a fully staffed seven-day service, including in the evenings and at weekends. It insists that three-quarters of doctors will be better off as a result. But the British Medical Association, the doctors' trade union, has broken off talks, claiming that some juniors will lose pay under the new contract.

The NHS, created by a Labour government in 1948, is always problematic for the Conservatives. That may explain why the health secretary, Jeremy Hunt, tries so hard to keep out of the news.

Yet the impending junior doctors' strike shows how hard it is to depoliticize health, because underlying it is one big issue: money. Since it is almost entirely taxpayer-financed, the NHS budget must be set by the government. The Tory manifesto promised to maintain health spending in real terms, ring-fencing it from public-spending cuts. Despite this, the service is in the middle of the longest and tightest squeeze in its history.

That is in part because demand for health care increases inexorably every year. An ageing population, new technology and drugs, and a rise in obesity and alcohol consumption all play a part. But a bigger factor is that, after a decade of hefty budget increases, health-care providers have had to tighten their belts in the past five years.

What makes matters worse still are sharp cuts in local-authority social care. These mean that more elderly patients are being kept in hospital beds for longer. The NHS is already channelling some cash to local authorities to avert this. Hospital care is far more expensive than social care, so this transfer of NHS money makes sense. Thanks largely to this parsimonious funding, the NHS is rated by most economists as highly efficient. Yet the OECD's latest "Health at a Glance 2015" report finds that its record on patient care is not that impressive. All this adds up to a powerful argument for more spending.

Yet this invites two hard questions. The first is: how much spending is enough? The scope for more health spending, especially on higher pay, is almost infinite. The second question is where to get the money from. Some suggests deferring the government's budget-surplus target or raising taxes, especially "sin taxes" such as those on tobacco or alcohol.

It has often been said that the only subject health ministers ever discuss with the medical profession is money. As he prepares for the junior doctors' walkout and for another tough public-spending round, Mr. Hunt seems destined to find that to be truer than ever.

1. According to the first two paragraphs, the government
   [A] takes the NHS as an opponent.
   [B] has raised a seemingly well-meaning article.
   [C] set up the NHS in 1948.
   [D] damaged the junior doctors' interests intentionally.
2. The most possible reason for the NHS' current situation is
   [A] inexperience of the junior doctors. [B] the boycott from the government.
   [C] lack of money and rise of demand. [D] aging problem in the British.
3. Mentioning OECD's report's finding, the author is making the point that
   [A] more money should be paid for the NHS.
   [B] hospital care weighs the same as the social care.
   [C] social care has been long overweighed.
   [D] NHS is not as efficient as the economists thought.
4. According to Paragraphs 5 and 6, we can infer that the author
   [A] sees the ranges of health spending should be standardized.
   [B] expects the government can pay less attention to its budget.

[C] admires the high salary of social health doctors.

[D] believes the tobacco and alcohol is the chief culprit of health.

5. We can infer from the passage that Mr. Hunt is

[A] reluctant to pay any money on the NHS.

[B] fed up with the confliction between government and NHS.

[C] optimistic to put down the junior doctor's strike.

[D] bound to solve the realistic question of money.

精读第八篇

"If you had to choose a moment in time to be born, any time in human history," what time would you choose? "You'd choose today," answered former President Barack Obama. "We are fortunate to be living in the most peaceful, most prosperous, most progressive era in human history," he opined.

If these facts are true—then why the doom and gloom heaped on us by politicians and pundits on both sides of the political aisle? First, news media outlets are far more likely to report bad news than good, simply because that is what they have been tasked to do. Another day in Turkey without a coup goes unreported, but just try and take over a country without the world's media covering it. Second, as psychologist Roy F. Baumeister explained it, "Bad Is Stronger Than Good." Reviewing a wide range of evidence across many domains of life, he found that "bad emotions, bad parents, and bad feedback have more impact than good ones, and bad information is processed more thoroughly than good. Bad impressions and bad stereotypes are quicker to form and more resistant to disconfirmation than good ones." Why?

One answer is in the psychology of loss aversion, in which, losses hurt twice as much as gains feel good. To get someone to take a gamble, the potential payoff must be about twice the potential loss. Why? Because of the endowment effect, which is the tendency to value what we own more than what we do not own. Loss aversion and the endowment effect are reinforced by the status quo bias, or the tendency to opt for whatever it is we are accustomed to. For example, we tend to prefer existing personal, social, economic and political arrangements over proposed alternatives.

Why is our psychology wired this way? Evolution. According to Harvard University psychologist Steven Pinker, in our evolutionary past there was an asymmetry of payoffs in which the fitness cost of overreacting to a threat was less than the fitness cost of underreacting. The world was more dangerous in our evolutionary past, so it paid to be risk-averse and highly sensitive to threats, and if things were good, then the status quo was worth maintaining.

All of which helps to explain much political pessimism, such as what we are bombarded with every election. Sociologist Christian Smith reviews the many narratives politicians and pundits construct to reinforce the moral foundations that most concern each side. It boils down to a simple template of "once upon a time things were bad, and now they're good thanks to our party" or "once upon a time things were good, but now they're bad thanks to the other party." Sound familiar? In 2008 Obama campaigned on "change we need" after eight years of a Republican presidency. In 2016 Donald Trump campaigned on making America "great again" after eight years of a Democratic presidency.

1. The citation of Obama's statement is to

[A] appraise the achievement in Obama's tenure.

[B] raise a question to discuss its facticity.

[C] lead to a discussion about the bleakness of report.

[D] imply the politicians and pundits' pessimism.

2. Psychologist Roy F. Baumeister most possibly agree that

[A] the spread of negative news is explainable.

[B] negative news are designed to steal the spotlight.

[C] bad emotions cast positive effect on one's life.
[D] impression is more developing than the first sight.

3. The endowment effect is
[A] the element of resulting "Bad Is Stronger Than Good".
[B] the reason why the hurts resulted from losing are more than the good feeling resulted from gaining.
[C] the preference of substitution and updating.
[D] the desire of obtaining more things.

4. The word "asymmetry" in Paragraph 4 most probably means
[A] equality. [B] equilibrium.
[C] imbalance. [D] coordination.

5. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?
[A] The Evolution of Human Mind [B] The Ridicule of American Election
[C] The Asymmetry of Potential Payoff [D] The Psychology of Political Pessimism

精读第九篇

Decades ago travelling by air in America was a glamorous affair. Today it signals delays, discomfort, extra charges and the threat of violence. A video of a passenger being forcibly dragged from a United Airlines flight on April 9th, after too few people volunteered to give up their seats, has sparked an outpouring of complaints about flying in America. America's airlines really do compare badly with foreign ones. European carriers are the best point of reference.

Air fares are higher per seat mile in America than in Europe. The global price of jet fuel has fallen by half since 2014. That triggered a fare war between European carriers, but in America ticket prices have hardly budged. Airlines in North America posted a profit of $22.40 per passenger last year; in Europe the figure was $7.84. Standards of service are also worse. Only one operator based in America can be found in the world's 30 best carriers compared with nine from Europe.

This happy combination of low fares and reasonable service has a simple explanation: competition. American policymakers have presided over a wave of mergers in the past few years. The biggest four carriers in America between them now control 80% of the market, compared with just 48% a decade ago. In Europe, where the top four carriers have around 45% of the market, policymakers have got three things right.

First, European regulators have tried harder to preserve competition between existing carriers. The EU has been willing to block mergers and to prevent airlines from building monopoly positions at airports. Not so in America: at 40 of its 100 biggest hubs, a single carrier now accounts for more than half of capacity. That pushes up prices. The merger of American and US Airways in 2013 increased America's market share at Philadelphia's airport to 77%. Fares rose from 4% below the national average in 2013 to 11% above after the merger.

Second, Europe has made it easier for foreigners to boost competition by entering new markets. There are no ownership limits at all between European countries; and the EU lets airlines with a non-EU owner that has a stake of up to 49% fly anywhere within the bloc. America caps foreign ownership at 25%.

Third, Europe has also encouraged competition between different airports and their main operators. Breaking up the ownership of London's biggest three airports has saved passengers £420m in fares since 2009. In contrast, most American cities have only one airport, many of them publicly owned.

Some of Europe's advantages are hard to replicate. Distances between big cities are shorter, making road and rail transport serious rivals. Yet that is all the more reason for America to promote competition in the sky. America's regulators should loosen the cap on foreign ownership, take away slots from incumbents and promote the use of secondary airports to give new entrants a leg-up. If that doesn't yield dividends, regulators should consider breaking up the big airlines. Allowing competition to wither was a huge mistake. It should be rectified.

1. What does the author intend to illustrate with America's airlines and European's?
[A] A type of personal prejudice. [B] A type of conspicuous bias.
[C] A kind of regional discrimination. [D] A kind of service differences.
2. According to the first three paragraphs, the assessment of carriers is based on its
[A] punctuality and comfort. [B] price and service.
[C] extra charges and profit. [D] profit and price.
3. What does the European carriers most probably do to boost competition?
[A] Part the nationally owned airline companies.
[B] Put up barrier for foreign competitors.
[C] Set no limits on the number of share of stock of foreign holders.
[D] Ignore the importance of land transportation.
4. According to the author, what should America's regulators do about the problem?
[A] Take legislative measures to encourage competitions.
[B] Offer aids to the main carriers.
[C] Promote merge of leading enterprises actively.
[D] Raise public awareness towards monopoly.
5. The suggestions in the last paragraph shows the author's
[A] contempt to America's mistakes.
[B] admiration for European advantages.
[C] prospect for America's improvement.
[D] appreciation of American regulators.

精读第十篇

To help shield their products from ransomware like the recent worldwide WannaCry attack, most big software-makers pay "bug bounties" to those who report vulnerabilities in their products that need to be patched. Payouts of up to $20,000 are common. Google's bounties reach $200,000, says Billy Rios, a former member of that firm's award panel. This may sound like good money for finding a programming oversight, but it is actually "ridiculously low" according to Chaouki Bekrar, boss of Zerodium, a firm in Washington, DC, that is a dealer in "exploits", as programs which take advantage of vulnerabilities are known.

Last September Zerodium's payment rates for exploits that hack iPhones tripled, from $500,000 to $1.5m. Yuriy Gurkin, the boss of Gleg, an exploit-broker in Moscow, tells a similar story. Mundane exploits for web browsers, which might, a few years ago, have fetched $5,000 or so, are now, he says, worth "several dozen thousand". Unsurprisingly, Zerodium and Gleg are not alone in the market. Philippe Langlois, head of P1 Security, a Parisian firm, reckons there are more than 200 exploit brokers in the world.

Such brokers buy exploits from freelance hackers, who make a profitable hobby out of searching for vulnerabilities. They then sell them to those who can use them. Some, Zerodium and Gleg among them, are perfectly respectable, and choosy about whom they deal with (Zerodium says it declines more sales than it makes). Government agencies in America and Western Europe, in particular, are eager customers. Others are less scrupulous. For example, e-mails posted to WikiLeaks in 2015 show that Hacking Team, a Milanese broker, sold exploits to Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, none of which has a sparkling record of democracy and freedom.

Exploits are also sold in shadowy online markets, where customers are often out-and-out criminals. At some point, no doubt, WannaCry changed hands this way. Nor is that lack of doubt rhetorical, for monitoring activity in the nether parts of the web can, and in this case did, offer omens of trouble to come.

Just as someone will sell you an exploit, so someone else will sell you a warning. One such is CYR3CON, in Phoenix, Arizona. This firm produces reports of possible threats, based on the results of its software sifting automatically through the online writings, in 15 languages, of hackers involved in the field.

On April 15th, a month before WannaCry began freezing data on Windows-based computers, CYR3CON's software picked up chatter about exploits designed for just that task. Eleven days later, it highlighted exchanges about one such exploit that had been installed but not yet activated on more than 62,000 computers. Many were in medical facilities that had previously paid up "without unnecessary conversations". Forewarned, those who had been using CYR3CON's services could take precautions. Others were not so fortunate.

1. What can we learn from the first paragraph about Google's bounties?
   [A] It is much lower than the average level. [B] It is used for protecting from virus.
   [C] It is paid to the blackmailer. [D] It has been much overestimated.
2. It is stated in Paragraphs 2 and 3 that the exploit-broker
   [A] had different levels of reputation.
   [B] experienced a comparatively well-off early history.
   [C] enjoyed cooperating with the governments of western countries.
   [D] found the bugs all by themselves.
3. The deals of exploits
   [A] can be traced and utilized in anti-virus.
   [B] prevent the transmission of the virus.
   [C] create a criminous atmosphere online.
   [D] are processed in black online market.
4. The case of CYR3CON shows that it
   [A] was well received around the world. [B] frustrated with wide rival transmission.
   [C] gained fame by the WannaCry. [D] provides protection for its subscribers.
5. An appropriate title for the text is most likely to be
   [A] WannaCry, the frightening virus. [B] CYR3CON, the foresight anti-virus.
   [C] The exploits of bug hunters. [D] The unknown deals of the exploits.

精读第十一篇

Human intelligence, even in its most basic forms, is expressed in our language, and is also partly dependent on our linguistic capacity. This raises an important question about animal intelligence. Although we don't expect a chimpanzee to write an epic or a dolphin to develop a scientific theory, it has frequently been asked whether these or other animals are close in intelligence to young children. If so, we must wonder whether animals can acquire a language.

In the last half century, much effort has been put trying answer that question by teaching animals, primarily apes, a basic language. There have been some limited successes, with animals using signs to obtain things in which they were interested, for instance. But no animal has yet acquired the linguistic capability that children have already in their third year of life.

"Why?" This is a question children start asking by the age of three at the latest. No animal has yet asked anything. The fact that animals don't ask "why?" shows they don't aspire to knowledge and are incapable of justification. "No!" Children start saying no before they are two years old. No animal has yet said no. The inability of animals to use negation shows they lack basic logical abilities.

Another essential characteristic of our language is its normativity—namely, the fact that there are right and wrong uses of a word or phrase. We understand, for instance, that we used a certain word wrongly, or that we don't yet know how to use it. Animals' use of language does not have this aspect. Understanding the idea of a mistake or of normativity depends on the ability to understand that something is not right, and since animals cannot understand negation they cannot understand normativity.

And the distinctions don't stop there. To ascribe a mistake to another is to ascribe him a belief which is not true. Accordingly, the inability to understand negation makes animals incapable of understanding that someone has a false belief.

Some emotions also depend on the understanding of negation, possibility, and other logical concepts. Ethics involves normative concepts, of what is right, just or fair to do, and of their contraries. And since animals do not understand such concepts, they are incapable of anything like human moral behaviour or related feelings.

Animals can suffer, enjoy, be angry, surprised or afraid. Some are also sad when they lose their young. These and similar feelings bring us to love them, pity them and try to prevent them from suffering. But their resemblance to humans stops there. Human beings, as Aristotle observed and Descartes reiterated, are animals with a language. And language here is also logos, that is, logic or rationality. And experience teaches us that these are absent from the rest of the animal kingdom.

1. What can we learn from Paragraph 1 about animal intelligence?
   [A] It may depend on the usage of human language.
   [B] Its level nearly approaches to children intelligence's.
   [C] It is doubtful whether the animal can learn to speak.
   [D] It can be expected that a chimpanzee to get a language.
2. It is stated in Paragraphs 2 and 3 that
   [A] experiments reflect the animal lack the abilities of justification and logic.
   [B] the efforts of teaching animals to speak are in vain.
   [C] using signs is the limit of animal's ability.
   [D] "why" and "no" are indexes of animal's intelligence level.
3. The normativity of human language is related to the
   [A] sense of ethics. [B] ability of understanding.
   [C] ability of logics. [D] ability of discriminability.
4. The author quotes the statement from Aristotle and Descartes to show that
   [A] animals have potential to acquire a language.
   [B] the feelings of animals are almost identical to human's.
   [C] language is the fundamental difference between human and animals.
   [D] language represents logic and rationality.
5. The author's attitude toward animal acquiring language is
   [A] optimistic. [B] negative.
   [C] ambiguous. [D] neutral.

精读第十二篇

In an old factory building in lower Manhattan a fintech startup is seeking answers to a question that has tormented teachers and students for decades: what is the value of a given course, teacher or institution? Climb Credit, with just two dozen employees, provides student loans. The programs it finances bring returns far higher than can be expected from even highly rated universities.

Climb does not claim to nurture billionaires, nor to care much about any of the intangible benefits of education. Rather, it focuses on sharp, quantifiable increases in earnings. The average size of its loans is $10,000 and it normally finances programs of less than a year. Some students have scant formal education; others advanced degrees. The rate of return they get is calculated as the uplift in earnings after the course of study, minus its cost.

Climb's results so far are hardly conclusive. It has released only the number of loan applications: just 10,000 since its founding in 2014. Many institutions it works with do not offer the four-year and two-year courses eligible for federal funding, which account for 19m students. Instead, its market for now is among the 5m studying in more focused programs.

Climb tracks every loan it makes, along with data such as subject area, teacher, institution, job offers and salaries. Its interest rates average 9% a year, roughly double the government rate, and can be as high as 15%. It shuns some fields, such as acting or modelling, altogether, if there is no evidence that a course delivers a return. So far, the firm's approach has worked: its default rates are in the low single digits.

Climb's credit offering covers 70 institutions; another 150 are being vetted. As many as 3,000 may eventually qualify. Climb's attraction is obvious: an expanded student base. But many will balk at the tough provisions Climb imposes. Students must be given a drop-out period, when they can leave without any loan obligation. A review of data on conventional student loans suggested that those most likely to default had begun classes, taken on debt and then quit the course before they had acquired any new skills. If a student does default, the school is usually responsible for more than 20% of the unpaid debt. That gives it an incentive to pick students carefully and train them well.

In conventional student loans, interest and principal accumulate silently. On graduation, the monthly repayment bill comes as a shock. Climb students start making tiny payments as soon as they take out a loan (refunded if they drop out fast). Climb hopes to make its success-rate data public, to help both students and lenders. It already makes good use of its network of education providers: it has hired three former students from institutions within it.

1. According to Paragraphs 1 and 2, the Climb Credit
   [A] prefers to some students from formal universities.
   [B] pays more attention to the talent training.
   [C] values the short-term uplift in earning.
   [D] gains the profit from the increase of earning.
2. The Climb Credit's loans
   [A] performs out of the expectation.
   [B] has higher interest rate than the government's.
   [C] can hardly be expanded.
   [D] has many defaulters.
3. The closest meaning of "balk at" in Paragraph 5 is
   [A] shun. [B] prefer to.
   [C] loathe. [D] hesitate on.
4. Compared with the traditional students loans, the Climb Credit
   [A] provides students with much lower interest.
   [B] focuses more on the data protection.
   [C] owns a more expanded students number.
   [D] can be paid by instalments sooner.
5. The author's attitude towards the loan is one of
   [A] support. [B] subjectivity.
   [C] negativity. [D] skepticism.

精读第十三篇

In June 1956 a TWA Constellation collided with a United Air Lines DC-7 over the Grand

Canyon in Arizona, killing all 128 people on both aircraft. At the time it was the worst ever airline disaster. Struggling with outdated technology and a post-war boom in air travel, overworked air-traffic controllers failed to spot that the planes were on a collision course.

That crash led to the creation of a new body, which became the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in charge of running and modernizing the world's biggest air-transport system. With that system again struggling to keep pace with demand, Donald Trump thinks it is time to privatize America's air-traffic control service. In June the president outlined a plan to turn air-traffic control into a separate non-profit entity financed by user fees, instead of the present patchwork of taxes and grants. Shorn of its air-traffic responsibility, the FAA would become a safety body.

America's air-traffic system is vast, consisting of 14,000 controllers working in 476 airport-control towers that handle take-offs and landings, as well as in 21 "en route" centers looking after flights along the nation's airways. It has a good safety record, but elderly technology limits the number of flights that can be handled. This leads to delays and frustrated flyers. With passenger numbers set to grow from 800m a year to almost 1bn by 2026, the problem will only get worse.

Mr. Trump believes that, no longer mired in a federal bureaucracy, the air-traffic service will become more efficient and better able to invest in technology. Replacing old radar-based methods with accurate satellite navigation and better digital communications is a particular priority. Aircraft using satellite navigation can be safely spaced more closely together, which permits many more planes to be in the air at the same time. Digital systems also provide data links to control centers and to other planes by regularly broadcasting an aircraft's identification sign, its position and course. This would allow "free routing", which means pilots can fly directly to a destination, rather than follow established airways, which often zigzag around.

The president's proposal might even speed a move towards "virtual" control towers in low-rise buildings, which can replace towers physically located at airports. The virtual versions are fed live video from airfield cameras. Proponents argue that they are both safer and around 30% cheaper to operate. Virtual towers can look after more than one airport.

Mr. Trump, though, may struggle to get the proposal through Congress. A similar plan got stuck last year, despite being backed by most airlines and the air-traffic controllers' union. At least the president can dodge the queues: Air Force One flights get special clearance.

1. According to the first paragraph, the crash in 1956 was caused by
   [A] the increase of flight number. [B] the overloaded passengers.
   [C] the malpractice of the controllers. [D] the over-advanced technology.
2. Which of the following is shown to be incorrect, according to Paragraph 2?
   [A] Air traffic control is now financed by taxes and grants.
   [B] FAA was set to improve the force of supervision.
   [C] Donald Trump wants to privatize FAA.
   [D] FAA are supposed not to be charge of air-traffic responsibility.
3. The delays and upset passengers are due to
   [A] huge number of air controllers. [B] the outdated technology.
   [C] "en route" centers' poor safety records. [D] sudden increase of passenger numbers.
4. Donald Trump is optimistic about his proposal lies in
   [A] replacing the outdated radar-based method.
   [B] the flight will be safer and more efficient.
   [C] casting off the chains of federal government.
   [D] the flight route can be straight rather than zigzag.
5. The author's attitude toward the proposal is
   [A] optimistic. [B] indifferent.
   [C] neutral. [D] pessimistic.

精读第十四篇

Peer review underpins the entire academic enterprise. It is the main method of quality control employed by journals. By offering drafts of a paper to anonymous experts, poor arguments or dodgy science can be scrubbed up or weeded out.

That is the theory. In reality, things are murkier. Anonymity makes peer review unglamorous, thankless work. That matters, for these days scientists are under relentless pressure from universities and funding bodies to publish a steady stream of papers. Anything that distracts from that goal—including reviewing the research of others—could mean forfeiting grants or career advancement. Perhaps unsurprisingly, studies suggest many reviewers do a poor job of spotting shortcomings in the papers they are critiquing.

One solution is to make peer review more desirable and less of a duty. That is the idea behind Publons, a firm which allows scientists to track and showcase their peer-reviewing contributions. Their reviews will even be given their own "DOI" numbers, unique identifiers currently used for keeping track of papers.

The hope is that once scientists can quantify their reviewing work and boast about it on their CVs, universities and funding bodies will take it into account when handing out promotions or cash. Making scientists keener to review papers could also speed up publishing. At the moment, much of a journal editor's time is spent tracking down potential peer reviewers, then badgering them to contribute. By making reviewing more attractive, hopes researchers might start volunteering instead.

The firm hopes to shake up the system in other ways. Reviewers can choose how much information to reveal, and in what context. So a review of a colleague's paper might appear anonymously in the journal concerned. But reviewers' names could be reattached when it is time for performance appraisals, giving their bosses proof of the extra work. And while traditional peer review is done before publication, Publons also allows reviewers to assess a paper after it has been published.

Another goal is to fight fraud. In April Springer, a big American publishing firm, retracted 107 papers from *Tumor Biology* after discovering that the authors had tricked the journal's editors into soliciting reviews from fake e-mail addresses, which invariably offered glowing reviews. Publons hopes that linking researchers' citation records with their records as reviewers will make it easier for journal editors to select reliable reviewers and harder for duplicitous authors to deceive them.

As Andre Geim, a physicist who won a Nobel Prize in 2010 said, peer reviewers are "unsung heroes of science" who do their work "out of a sense of responsibility". That is admirable. But as any student of the Higher School of Economics could tell you, self-interest can be an even stronger motive.

1. According to the first paragraph, peer review is
   [A] the general business of publishing. [B] undergone by famous specialists.
   [C] set as a guarantee of paper quality. [D] the main part of academic activities.
2. Which of the following directly leads to the poor performance in the peer review?
   [A] Quality advancement of papers. [B] Lack of certain rewards.
   [C] Pressure from the universities. [D] Excessive papers to publish.
3. Publons' ideal solution is feasible for
   [A] the peer reviewers get benefits by the real-name system.
   [B] saving time of persuading the experts to do peer reviews.
   [C] the high-tech set in the "DOI" numbers on the reviews.
   [D] being given the self-choice right to peer reviewers.
4. According to Paragraph 6, fighting fraud can be done by
   [A] displaying the reviews content and their citation records.