历年研究生入学考试 英语统考真题详解

主编 张锦芯

四 中国人民大学出版社

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历年研究生入学考试 英语统考真题详解

主编 张锦芯 编者 张锦芯 白 洁 王 敏 郭庆民 田育英 赵艳萍

中国人民大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

历年研究生入学考试英语统考真题详解/张锦芯主编. 北京:中国人民大学出版社,2001

ISBN 7-300-03768-2/H·292

- 1. 历…
- Ⅱ.张…
- Ⅲ. 英语-研究生-入学考试-自学参考资料
- N. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2001)第 18065 号

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出版发行:中国人民大学出版社

(北京中关村大街 31 号 邮编 100080) 邮购部:62515351 门市部:62514148 总编室:62511242 出版部:62511239 E-mail:rendafx@public3.bta.net.cn

- 经 销:新华书店
- 印 刷:北京市鑫鑫印刷厂

开本:787×1092 毫米 1/16 印张:26.5 1999 年 3 月第 1 版 2001 年 4 月第 3 版 2001 年 4 月第 1 次印刷 字数:604 000

定价:33.00元

(图书出现印装问题,本社负责调换)

前 言

在充分研究历年研究生入学考试英语试题和在考研辅导班讲授有关专题的基础上, 我们对考生准备参加研究生考试时面临的问题和任务进行了切实分析,为了帮助考生更 好地克服存在的一些困难,我们编写了 2002 年考研复习丛书。丛书包括往年已经出版 过但根据 2001 年考题做了重大修改的几本畅销书,也包括根据学生的需要今年新增加 的品种。

近几年的英语试题显示出一些突出特征,其中包括:(1)更强调学生综合运用语言 的能力,如增加了综合填空的数量,提高了写作部分的分值。(2)语法考试起点高、从 表面上看,纯属测试语法的部分仅限于第一部分的 Section A 和综合填空的部分选择项, 但实际上对语法的测试贯穿整个考题,而且涉及相当复杂的句子,无论 Section A、阅 读理解部分还是翻译部分都是如此。很多考生往往孤立地去复习每个部分, 忘记了贯穿 各部分的一个核心问题:牢固掌握基础语言知识,并利用它提高自己破解复杂句的能 力。我们相信,如果真正解决了这个问题,考生的综合应试能力会获得实质性提高。因 此,考生应该牢固掌握并学会应用一些重点语法内容。(3)涉及词汇量较大,几乎每部 分都有超纲词汇或词义。考生应该清楚地认识到,良好的语言知识基础和充足的词汇量 是考试成功的关键。因此,要早动手,在阅读过程中积极扩大词汇量,并提高根据词汇 的原义推测其在上下文中的特定意思的能力。(4) 答题要求一定的技能和不同的方法。 不少考生采用一成不变的方法来答所有的题,思路相当狭窄,这显然是不得要领的,不 同的题应该采用不同的策略来解决。考生有时抱怨出题的角度太"刁",实际上也许恰 恰是因为他们不懂得答题思路。(5)考题涉及一些新知识领域或社会热点问题,如: 2001年考题综合填空部分、阅读理解部分第二、三、四篇文章、翻译部分的选文等。 因为考生对这些新领域或热点问题不了解,再加上语言障碍,读这些文章时充其量只能 读到一知半解的程度,无怪乎考生答题时感到非常没有把握。所以,我们在丛书的选文 上非常重视知识内容的选择,力争涵盖尽量多的知识领域和社会热点问题。

《历年研究生入学考试英语统考真题详解》属这套丛书之一。在书中,我们对 1991年至 2001年的英语试题进行了详细的题解,解题注重揭示命题角度,注意总结归纳一些应试技能、理解文章和题意的方法,旨在帮助学生充分体会历年考题的命题思路,对自己面临的任务和需要解决的问题获得清醒的认识,以提高应试能力。我们认为,本书是考生在开始复习准备考研时就应该阅读的书之一。

丛书的主编是中国人民大学外语系张锦芯教授,参加编写工作的都是多年从事考研辅导的教师,包括张锦芯教授,白洁、王敏、郭庆民、田育英、赵艳萍副教授,他们对历年考题的命题特点和学生存在的问题都有深刻的认识。编写过程中,新华社译审陈金岚同志参加了部分审定工作,郝彩虹、张锦、翟崇生等同志协助编写了其中一部分,陶

灿梅、武敏、汪明等同志承担了部分资料整理和打印等工作。在丛书的设计上,中国人 民大学出版社马胜利同志提出不少宝贵意见。这里一并表示感谢。

限于水平和时间, 疏漏及失误在所难免, 欢迎广大读者、英语界同仁批评指正。



张锦芯

中国人民大学外语系教授,资深考研辅导专家。多年来,张锦芯教授带领的中国人民大学外语系中青年教师编写的考研英语辅导系列教材,融知识性、方法性、实用性和针对性为一体,深受广大考生好评。

策划编辑 马胜利 责任编辑 韩 洁 林 坚 封面设计 明度工作室》张 朋 版式设计 王坤杰

名校考研专业课真题分析**经济学分册** 名校考研专业课真题分析**经济管理分册** 名校考研专业课真题分析**法学分册** 名校考研专业课真题分析**计算机科学与技术分册** 名校考研专业课真题分析**理工分册** 名校考研专业课真题分析**文史哲分册** 名校考研专业课真题分析**就闻传播学分册**

历年考研英语试题精解及模拟试题 历年研究生入学考试英语统考真题详解 最新考研政治理论课真题分析及模拟试卷

2002年考研政治题型分析及模拟题-2002年考研英语模拟题及题型分析

真题分析系列



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National Entrance Test of English for MA/MS Candidates (2001) (NETEM 2001)

Part I Structure and Vocabulary

Section A			
Directions:			
Beneath each of the	he following sentences,	there are four choices m	arked [A], [B], [C]
and [D]. Choose the	one that best complete	s the sentence. Mark you	r answer on ANSWER
		etter in the brackets with	
Example:		-	•
-	e Great Wall three tim	nes 1979.	
[A] from			[D] since
	*	een to the Great Wall th	
Therefore, you should			
, ,	<u> </u>	•	Sample Answer
1 If I were in a movid	e, then it would be abo	out time that I m	
a cry.	e, then it would be abo	out time that I in	y nead in my hands for
_	[B] am hurving	[C] buried	[D] would bury
		aturely, with the British	
	pefore the defenders ac	·	r recapture or the port
			[D]
		[C] announcing	
		oe known it will make i	tself apparent, so one
	d of searching for it.		
[A] would rather	[B] had to	[C] cannot but	[D] had best
4. She felt suitably hu	mble just as she	_ when he had first taken	a good look at her city
self, hair waved an	d golden, nails red an	d pointed.	
[A] had	[R] had had	[C] would have had	[D] has had

5.	There was no sign that Mr Jospin, who k	eeps a firm control on the	party despite
1	from leadership of it, would intervene per	sonally.	
	[A] being resigned	[B] having resigned	
	[C] going to resign	[D] resign	
6. 5	So involved with their computers	that leaders at summer of	computer camps often
j	have to force them to break for sports and	games.	
ĺ	[A] became the children	[B] become the childre	en
([C] had the children become	[D] do the children be	come
7.	The individual TV viewer invariably sense	es that he or she is	an anonymous, sta-
1	tistically insignificant part of a huge and d	liverse audience.	
1	[A] everything except	[B] anything but	
	[C] no less than	[D] nothing more than	L
8. (One difficulty in translation lies in obtaining	ng a concept match.	_ this is meant that a
•	concept in one language is lost or changed	in meaning in translation	•
-	[A] By [B] In	[C] For	[D] With
9. (Conversation becomes weaker in a society	that spends so much tim	ne listening and being
1	alked to it has all but lost the wil	l and the skill to speak fo	r itself.
1	[A] as [B] which	[C] that	[D] what
10.	Church as we use the word refers to all re	eligious institutions,	they Christian. Is-
	lomic, Buddhist, Jewish, and so on.		
	[A] be [B] being	[C] were	[D] are
Sect	ion B		
Dire	ections:		
	Beneath each of the following sentences	, there are four choices	marked [A], (B),
[C]	and [D]. Choose the one that best com	pletes the sentence. Mark	your answer on AN-
SW	ER SHEET 1 by blacking the correspond	ling letter in the brackets	with a pencil. (10
poir	nts)		
Exa	mple:		
The	e lost car of the Lees was found in	the woods off the highw	ay.
	[A] vanished [B] scattered	[C] abandoned	[D] rejected
	The sentence should read, "The lost car	of the Lees was found ab	andoned in the woods
off	the highway." Therefore, you should cho	pose [C].	
	· ·		Sample Answer
			[A] [B] [•] [D]
11.	He is too young to be able to bet		
	[A] discard [B] discern		[D] disregard
12.	It was no that his car was seen n		
	[A] coincidence [B] convention	[C] certainty	[D] complication

13.			ard is to make sure that	all ships follow
	traffic rules in busy		fal evvey	[n] turk u
			[C] faithfully	
14.			rusting and considerate of	f all Indians but seems
	to be the we		f= 7	
	[A] critical about		[B] indignant at	•
•	[C] indifferent to			
15.	The chairman of the	e board on me	the unpleasant job of di	smissing good workers
		ger afford to employ.		i .
	[A] compelled	[B] posed	[C] pressed	[D] tempted
16.	It is naive to expect	that any society can	resolve all the social pro	oblems it is faced with
	[A] for long	[B] in and out	[C] once for all	[D] by nature
17.	Using extremely dif	ferent decorating sche	emes in adjoining rooms	may result in
	and lack of unity in	style.		
	[A] conflict	[B] confrontation	[C] disturbance	[D] disharmony
18.	The Timber rattlesn	ake is now on the end	angered species list, and	is extinct in two east-
	ern states in which	it once	•	
			[C] prospered	[D] flourished
19.			s industry was able to _	
	cline in the iron and			
	[A] overturn	[B] overtake	[C] offset	[D] oppress
20.			nore than just a medium	
			[C] corporation	
21.	When any non-huma	an organ is transplant	ed into a person, the bo	dy immediately recog-
	nizes it as			
			[C] distant	[D] foreign
			neard on a thick 1923 E	
	garage sale.	-		
	[A] trifled with		[B] scraped through	
	[C] stumbled upon		[D] thirsted for	
23.	•	vill translate both wri	tten and spoken language	e so well that the need
		ond language could _		
			[C] deteriorate	[D] depress
24.			dards has all been remove	
	[A] conforming to		[B] consistent with	
	[C] predominant ov	/er	[D] providing for	
25.	-		electronics in doll	ar volume and perhaps

	surpass it in social ir	npact by 2020.			
	[A] contend	[B] contest	[C] rival	[D] strive	
26.	The authors of the U	Jnited States Constitu	tion attempted	to establish an effective na	itional
	government while pr	reserving for	the states and l	berty for individuals.	
	[A] autonomy	[B] dignity	[C] monopoly	[D] stability	
27.	For three-quarters of	f its span on Earth, l	ife evolved almo	ost as microorgan	isms.
	[A] precisely	[B] instantly	[C] initially	[D] exclusivel	y .
28.	The introduction of	gunpowder gradually	made the bow	and arrow, partic	ularly
	in western Europe.				
	[A] obscure	[B] obsolete	[C] optional	[D] overlappin	ng
29.	Whoever formulated	the theory of the ori	gin of the unive	rse, it is just and	needs
	proving.				
	[A] spontaneous	[B] hypothetical	[C] intuitive	[D] empirical	
30.	The future of this co	ompany is: n	nany of its taler	ted employees are flowin	g into
	more profitable net-l	based businesses.			
	[A] at odds	[B] in trouble	[C] in vain	[D] at stake	
		•	a .		
		Part II	Cloze Test		
[B]	, [C] and [D]. Ch	hoose the best one and	l mark your ans	e are four choices marked wer on ANSWER SHEET	
[B]	For each numbered l	hoose the best one and	l mark your ans	wer on ANSWER SHEET	
[B]	For each numbered I , [C] and [D]. Cl kening the correspond	hoose the best one and ding letter in the brad	l mark your ans	wer on ANSWER SHEET ncil. (10 points)	Γ1 by
[B] blac	For each numbered I , [C] and [D]. Cl kening the correspond	to ban payments to	I mark your ansockets with a per	wer on ANSWER SHEET ncil. (10 points)	Γ1 by
[B] blac	For each numbered long, [C] and [D]. Che kening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers	to ban payments to	l mark your ans ckets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in pa	wer on ANSWER SHEET ncil. (10 points) [B] for instanticular [D] such as	Γ1 by
[B] blac with	For each numbered land, [C] and [D]. Che kening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers to be involved in promined.	to ban payments to seeking to buy up inent cases31	I mark your ansockets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in pa 32. [A] tigh	wer on ANSWER SHEET ncil. (10 points) [B] for instan	Γ1 by
[B] blac with	For each numbered land, [C] and [D]. Chekening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers to le involved in promitrial of Rosemary Western and the second se	to ban payments to seeking to buy up inent cases31	I mark your ansockets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in parts 32. [A] tigh [C] focus	wer on ANSWER SHEET acil. (10 points) [B] for instantacticular [D] such as tening [B] intensify [D] fastening	Γ1 by
[B] blac with peop the	For each numbered land, [C] and [D]. Chekening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers to le involved in promitrial of Rosemary Western and the second se	to ban payments to seeking to buy up inent cases 31 est.	I mark your ansockets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in part 32. [A] tigh [C] focus 33. [A] sket	wer on ANSWER SHEET acil. (10 points) [B] for instantacticular [D] such as tening [B] intensify sing [D] fastening	Γ1 by
[B] blac with peop the	For each numbered land, [C] and [D]. Chekening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers to be involved in promitrial of Rosemary Wellin a significant 32	to ban payments to seeking to buy up inent cases31_est. 2_ of legal controls ine, the Lord Chan-	I mark your ansockets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in pa 32. [A] tigh [C] focus 33. [A] sket [C] preli	wer on ANSWER SHEET acil. (10 points) [B] for instantacticular [D] such as tening [B] intensify [D] fastening [B] rough minary [D] draft	Γ1 by
[B] blace with peop the over celled	For each numbered land, [C] and [D]. Chekening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers to le involved in promitrial of Rosemary Western a significant 32 the press, Lord Irvi	to ban payments to seeking to buy up inent cases 31 est. 2 of legal controls ine, the Lord Chan- 33 bill that will	I mark your ansockets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in part 32. [A] tigh [C] focus 33. [A] sket [C] preli 34. [A] illog	wer on ANSWER SHEET acil. (10 points) [B] for instantacticular [D] such as tening [B] intensify [D] fastening [B] rough minary [D] draft	Γ 1 by nce ing
[B] blace with people the over cellcoprop	For each numbered land, [C] and [D]. Chekening the corresponding the government is nesses by newspapers ole involved in promittrial of Rosemary Welling a significant 32 the press, Lord Irvitor will introduce a	to ban payments to seeking to buy up inent cases 31 est. 2 of legal controls ine, the Lord Chan- 33 bill that will is to witnesses 34	I mark your ansockets with a per 31. [A] as to [C] in part 32. [A] tigh [C] focus 33. [A] sket [C] preli 34. [A] illog [C] impri	wer on ANSWER SHEET acil. (10 points) [B] for instant articular [D] such as tening [B] intensify [B] rough [B] rough [D] draft [B] illegal obable [D] improper	Γ 1 by nce ing
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a committee report this year which said that	38. [A] present	[B] offer
self regulation did not 38 sufficient con-	[C] manifest	[D] indicate
trol.	39. [A] Release	[B] Publication
39 of the letter came two days after	[C] Printing	[D] Exposure
Lord Irvine caused a 40 of media protest	40. [A] storm	[B] rage
when he said the 41 of privacy controls	[C] flare	[D] flash
contained in European legislation would be	41. [A] translation	[B] interpretation
left to judges 42 to Parliament.	[C] exhibition	[D] demonstration
The Lord Chancellor said introduction of	42. [A] better than	[B] other than
the Human Rights Bill, which 43 the	[C] rather than	[D] sooner than
European Convention on Human Rights	43. [A] changes	[B] makes
legally 44 in Britain. laid down that ev-	[C] sets	[D] turns
erybody was 45 to privacy and that pub-	44. [A] binding	[B] convincing
lic figures could go to court to protect them-	[C] restraining	[D] sustaining
selves and their families.	45. [A] authorized	[B] credited
"Press freedoms will be in safe hands	[C] entitled	[D] qualified
46 our British judges." he said.	46. [A] with	[B] to
Witness payments became an 47 af-	[C] from	[D] by
ter. West was sentenced to 10 life sentence in	47. [A] impact	[B] incident
1995. Up to 19 witnesses were 48 to	[C] inference	[D] issue
have received payments for telling the stories	48. [A] stated	[B] remarked
to newspapers. Concerns were raised 49	[C] said	[D] told
witnesses might be encouraged exaggerate	49. [A] what	[B] when
their stories in court to 50 guilty ver-	[C] which	[D] that
dicts.	50. [A] assure	[B] confide
	[C] ensure	[D] guarantee

Part III Reading Comprehension

Directions:

Each of the passages below is followed by some questions. For each question there are four answers marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions. Then mark your answer on ANSWER SHEET 1 by blackening the corresponding letter in the brackets with a pencil. (40 points)

Passage 1

Specialisation can be seen as a response to the problem of an increasing accumulation of scientific knowledge. By splitting up the subject matter into smaller units. one man could

continue to handle the information and use it as the basis for further research. But specialisation was only one of a series of related developments in science affecting the process of communication. Another was the growing professionalisation of scientific activity.

No clear-cut distinction can be drawn between professionals and amateurs in science: exceptions can be found to any rule. Nevertheless, the word "amateur" does carry a connotation that the person concerned is not fully integrated into the scientific community and, in particular, may not fully share its values. The growth of specialisation in the nineteenth century, with its consequent requirement of a longer, more complex training, implied greater problems for amateur participation in science. The trend was naturally most obvious in those areas of science based especially on a mathematical or laboratory training, and can be illustrated in terms of the development of geology in the United Kingdom.

A comparison of British geological publications over the last century and a half reveals not simply an increasing emphasis on the primacy of research, but also a changing definition of what constitutes an acceptable research paper. Thus, in the nineteenth century, local geological studies represented worthwhile research in their own right; but, in the twentieth century, local studies have increasingly become acceptable to professionals only if they incorporate, and reflect on, the wider geological picture. Amateurs, on the other hand, have continued to pursue local studies in the old way. The overall result has been to make entrance to professional geological journals harder for amateurs, a result that has been reinforced by the widespread introduction of refereeing, first by national journals in the nineteenth century and then by several local geological journals in the twentieth century. As a logical consequence of this development, separate journals have now appeared aimed mainly towards either professional or amateur readership. A rather similar process of differentiation has led to professional geologists coming together nationally within one or two specific societies, whereas the amateurs have tended either to remain in local societies or to come together nationally in a different way.

Although the process of professionalisation and specialisation was already well under way in British geology during the nineteenth century, its full consequences were thus delayed until the twentieth century. In science generally, however, the nineteenth century must be reckoned as the crucial period for this change in the structure of science.

51.	The growth of specialisation in the 19th century might be more clearly seen in sciences
	such as
	[A] sociology and chemistry
	[B] physics and psychology
	[C] sociology and psychology
	[D] physics and chemistry
52.	We can infer from the passage that
	[A] there is little distinction between specialisation and professionalisation

- [B] amateurs can compete with professionals in some areas of science
- [C] professionals tend to welcome amateurs into the scientific community
- [D] amateurs have national academic societies but no local ones
- 53. The author writes of the development of geology to demonstrate
 - [A] the process of specialisation and professionalisation
 - [B] the hardship of amateurs in scientific study
 - [C] the change of policies in scientific publications
 - [D] the discrimination of professionals against amateurs
- 54. The direct reason for specialisation is _____.
 - [A] the development in communication
 - [B] the growth of professionalisation
 - [C] the expansion of scientific knowledge
 - [D] the splitting up of academic societies

Passage 2

A great deal of attention is being paid today to the so-called digital divide—the division of the world into the info (information) rich and the info poor. And that divide does exist today. My wife and I lectured about this looming danger twenty years ago. What was less visible then, however, were the new, positive forces that work against the digital divide. There are reasons to be optimistic.

There are technological reasons to hope the digital divide will narrow. As the Internet becomes more and more commercialized. it is in the interest of business to universalize access—after all, the more people online, the more potential customers there are. More and more governments, afraid their countries will be left behind, want to spread Internet access. Within the next decade or two, one to two billion people on the planet will be netted together. As a result, I now believe the digital divide will narrow rather than widen in the years ahead. And that is very good news because the Internet may well be the most powerful tool for combating world poverty that we've ever had.

Of course, the use of the Internet isn't the only way to defeat poverty. And the Internet is not the only tool we have. But it has enormous potential.

To take advantage of this tool, some impoverished countries will have to get over their outdated anti-colonial prejudices with respect to foreign investment. Countries that still think foreign investment is an invasion of their sovereignty might well study the history of infrastructure (the basic structural foundations of a society) in the United States. When the United States built its industrial infrastructure, it didn't have the capital to do so. And that is why America's Second Wave infrastructure—including roads. harbors, highways, ports and so on—were built with foreign investment. The English, the Germans, the Dutch and the French were investing in Britain's former colony. They financed them. Immigrant A

mericans bulit them. Guess who owns them now? The Americans. I believe the same thing would be true in places like Brazil or anywhere else for that matter. The more foreign capital you have helping you build your Third Wave infrastructure, which today is an electronic infrastructure, the better off you're going to be. That doesn't mean lying down and becoming fooled, or letting foreign corporations run uncontrolled. But it does mean recognizing how important they can be in building the energy and telecom infrastructures needed to take full advantage of the Internet.

55.	Digital divide is something
	[A] getting worse because of the Internet
	[B] the rich countries are responsible for
	[C] the world must guard against
	[D] considered positive today
56.	Governments attach importance to the Internet because it
	[A] offers economic potentials
	[B] can bring foreign funds
	[C] can soon wipe out world poverty
	[D] connects people all over the world
57.	The writer mentioned the case of the United States to justify the policy of
	[A] providing financial support overseas
	[B] preventing foreign capital's control
	[C] building industrial infrastructure
	[D] accepting foreign investment
58.	It seems that now a country's economy depends much on
	[A] how well-developed it is electronically
	[B] whether it is prejudiced against immigrants
	[C] whether it adopts America's industrial pattern
	[D] how much control it has over foreign corporations

Passage 3

Why do so many Americans distrust what they read in their newspapers? The American Society of Newspaper Editors is trying to answer this painful question. The organization is deep into a long self-analysis known as the journalism credibility project.

Sad to say, this project has turned out to be mostly low-level findings about factual errors and spelling and grammar mistakes, combined with lots of headscratching puzzlement about what in the world those readers really want.

But the sources of distrust go way deeper. Most journalists learn to see the world through a set of standard templates (patterns) into which they plug each day's events In other words, there is a conventional story line in the newsroom culture that provides a back-

bone and a ready-made narrative structure for otherwise confusins news.

There exists a social and cultural disconnect between journalists and their readers which helps explain why the "standard templates" of the newsroom seem alien many readers. In a recent survey, questionnaires were sent to reporters in five middle size cities around the country, plus one large metropolitan area. Then residents in these communities were phoned at random and asked the same questions.

Replies show that compared with other Americans, journalists are more likely to live in upscale neighborhoods, have maids. own Mercedeses, and trade stocks, an they're less likely to go to church, do volunteer work, or put down roots in community.

Reporters tend to be part of a broadly defined social and cultural elite, so their work tends to reflect the conventional values of this elite. The astonishing distrust of the news media isn't rooted in inaccuracy or poor reportorial skills but in the daily clash of world views between reporters and their readers.

This is an explosive situation for any industry, particularly a declining one. Here is a troubled business that keeps hiring employees whose attitudes vastly annoy the customers. Then it sponsors lots of symposiums and a credibility project dedicated to wondering why customers are annoyed and fleeing in large numbers. But it never seems to get around to noticing the cultural and class biases that so many former buyers are complaining about. If it did, it would open up its diversity program, now focused narrowly on race and gender, and look for reporters who differ broadly by outlook, values, education, and class.

- 59. What is the passage mainly about?
 - [A] needs of the readers all over the world
 - [B] causes of the public disappointment about newspapers
 - [C] origins of the declining newspaper industry
 - [D] aims of a journalism credibility project
- 60. The results of the journalism credibility project turned out to be
 - [A] quite trustworthy
 - [B] somewhat contradictory
 - [C] very illuminating
 - [D] rather superficial
- 61. The basic problem of journalists as pointed out by the writer lies in their
 - [A] working attitude
 - [B] conventional lifestyle
 - [C] world outlook
 - [D] educational background
- 62. Despite its efforts, the newspaper industry still cannot satisfy the readers owing to its

[[]A] failure to realize its real problem

- [B] tendency to hire annoying reporters
- [C] likeliness to do inaccurate reporting
- [D] prejudice in matters of race and gender

Passage 4

The wolrd is going through the biggest wave of mergers and acquisitions ever witnessed. The process sweeps from hyperactive America to Europe and reaches the emerging countries with unsurpassed might. Many in these countries are looking at this process and worrying: "Won't the wave of business concentration turn into an uncontrollable anti-competitive force?"

There's no question that the big are getting bigger and more powerful. Multinational corporations accounted for less than 20% of international trade in 1982. Today the figure is more than 25% and growing rapidly. International affiliates account for a fast-growing segment of production in economies that open up and welcome foreign investment. In Argentina, for instance, after the reforms of the early 1990s, multinationals went from 43% to almost 70% of the industrial production of the 200 largest firms. This phenomenon has created serious concerns over the role of smaller economic firms, of national businessmen and over the ultimate stability of the world economy.

I believe that the most important forces behind the massive M&A wave are the same that underlie the globalization process: falling transportation and communication costs, lower trade and investment barriers and enlarged markets that require enlarged operations capable of meeting customers' demands. All these are beneficial, not detrimental, to consumers. As productivity grows, the world's wealth increases.

Examples of benefits or costs of the current concentration wave are scanty. Yet it is hard to imagine that the merger of a few oil firms today could re-create the same threats to competition that were feared nearly a century ago in the U.S., when the Standard Oil trust was broken up. The mergers of telecom companies, such as WorldCom, hardly seem to bring higher prices for consumers or a reduction in the pace of technical progress. On the contrary, the price of communications is coming down fast. In cars, too, concentration is increasing—witness Daimler and Chrysler, Renault and Nissan—but it does not appear that consumers are being hurt.

Yet the fact remains that the merger movement must be watched. A few weeks ago, Alan Greenspan warned against the megamergers in the banking industry. Who is going to supervise, regulate and operate as lender of last resort with the gigantic banks that are being created? Won't multinationals shift production from one place to another when a nation gets too strict about infringements to fair competition? And should one country take upon itself the role of "defending competition" on issues that affect many other nations, as in the U.S. vs. Microsoft case?

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