

H31.4
G95a(2)

280

考研英语阅读 200 篇

张锦芯 主审
郭庆民 主编

中国人民大学出版社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

考研英语阅读 200 篇/张锦芯主审. 2 版
北京: 中国人民大学出版社, 2002
(2003 年人大版考研专项突破系列)

ISBN 7-300-03841-7/H·296

I. 考…

II. 张…

III. 英语-阅读教学-研究生-入学考试-自学参考资料

IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2002) 第 012253 号

凡人大版考研图书, 封面均有人大社标印纹, 否则均为盗版,
欢迎举报。有关购书奖励办法见 WWW.easyky.com

考研英语阅读 200 篇

张锦芯 主审

郭庆民 主编

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: 43

2001 年 7 月第 1 版

2002 年 3 月第 2 版 2002 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

字数: 1 103 000

定价: 46.00 元

(图书出现印装问题, 本社负责调换)



前 言

在考研试题中, 阅读理解部分分值最大, 是考研能否取胜的关键。在常年讲习辅导的过程中我们发现, 缺乏阅读文章的技能、解题思路不正确、知识面有限、词汇量不足, 是考生面临的主要问题。

而另一方面, 这两年的考题从体裁、题材、难度、命题角度等方面呈现出如下特点: 1) 文章的题材比较新颖, 涉及新领域和新学科, 包括经济、文化、科技、人文科学等方面的社会热点问题; 2) 文章体裁主要是报刊评论, 考生由于不熟悉这种体裁的英文文章, 以致难以准确地把握回答问题所需要的文章信息; 3) 考题着重考查学生把握文章重要信息的能力, 而不是细枝末节, 因此, 学会正确的阅读方法, 通过把握重要句子和段落、抓住文章的重要信息显得尤其重要; 4) 不少问题考查学生对包含文章重要信息的难句、复杂句的理解, 据此, 考生应该在做模拟试题的过程中, 培养自己破解难句、复杂句的能力, 习惯英文的表达方式; 5) 文章涉及的词汇较难, 有些甚至超纲, 这要求考生积极扩展词汇量, 记忆常见词根、词缀, 学会从词的原义推断其引申义, 从上下文中判断词汇的意思。

应新大纲的要求, 并针对多数学生在应试中存在的典型问题, 我们编写了此书。此书的主要内容包括: 1) 详细分析历年考题中阅读理解部分的特点, 在总结历年考题的基础上, 用实例讲解和练习阅读理解应试技能, 指导考生把握答题所需要的文章重要信息; 2) 训练考生阅读不同题材和体裁的文章所需要的技能; 3) 培养考生阅读重点语句的能力, 教会考生在上下文中猜测词义的方法; 4) 剖析解题思路, 增强考生的解题能力; 5) 通过阅读不同题材的文章, 扩大考生的知识面。

2003 年版根据大纲和考试形势的需要, 新增文章 68 篇, 在体裁上包括了摘要、广告、说明书、通知、各种书信、个人简历、简介等应用文; 在题材上包括了经济、文化、政治、科技等社会热点问题, 如: 9·11 恐怖袭击以后的经济和政治动向, 基因组的研究对生命科学的意义, 网络经济和信息产业的发展, 等等。在准备考研的过程中, 考生一定要积极吸收知识, 尤其是新知识, 要把扩大知识面当成一个很重要的任务来完成。

第一、第三和第五部分的 268 篇文章在题材和体裁的选择上都做了精心的设计, 涵盖广阔的知识面, 涉及各种体裁和考研常见的题型, 并同时注意了题材、体裁和题型的侧重点。268 篇文章都配有题解, 对第 101 篇~第 200 篇文章的难句进行了注解和翻译, 考生也可以从中学习一些翻译技能。第七、第八部分是应试技能讲解和训练, 希望考生在做完 1 篇~100 篇模拟试题后直接阅读这两部分, 以便掌握正确的方法, 使后面的练习更有目的性。

本书由中国人民大学外语系张锦芯教授审阅, 主编是中国人民大学外语系郭庆民副教授, 参加编写的有郭庆民、吴万千和王业民副教授, 张浩、夏岚和焦妹同志承担了部分资料的收集和整理工作。

相信通过阅读此书，考生应试阅读理解部分的能力一定会得到切实提高。

由于作者水平有限，本书错误在所难免，欢迎广大考生和英语界同仁提出宝贵意见。

编者

2002 年 3 月

目 录

第一部分	模拟阅读试题文章 1 篇~100 篇	(1)
第二部分	模拟阅读试题文章 1 篇~100 篇题解	(150)
第三部分	模拟阅读试题文章 101 篇~200 篇及注解	(209)
第四部分	模拟阅读试题文章 101 篇~200 篇题解	(391)
第五部分	模拟阅读试题文章 201 篇~268 篇	(446)
第六部分	模拟阅读试题文章 201 篇~268 篇题解	(545)
第七部分	阅读技能指导	(584)
一	给考生的建议	(584)
二	文章的阅读	(584)
第一节	什么是正确的阅读方法	(584)
第二节	把握文章的重要信息	(591)
(一)	主旨句	(591)
(二)	主题句	(596)
(三)	承上启下句	(599)
(四)	被反复陈述的观点	(602)
(五)	转折句	(607)
(六)	其他类型的重要句子	(615)
第三节	文章类型	(621)
(一)	议论文与说明文	(621)
(二)	应用文	(638)
(三)	书评	(641)
(四)	新闻评论	(643)
第四节	阅读中注意运用已有的知识	(647)
第五节	对文章中的举例和引用的理解	(649)
三	猜测词义	(651)
第八部分	解题思路训练	(654)

第一部分 模拟阅读试题文章 1 篇~100 篇

Passage 1

Scientists had until very recently believed that there were around 100 000 human genes, available to make each and every one of us in our splendid diversity. Now, the two rival teams decoding the book of life, have each found that instead there are only somewhere between 30 000 and 40 000 genes. So that grand panjandrum, the human, may not manage to boast twice as many genes as that microscopic nowhere — worm, with its 18 000 genes, the nematode. Even the fruit fly, considered so negligible that even the most extreme of animal rights activists don't kick up a fuss about its extensive use in genetic experimentation, has 16 000 genes. Not for the first time it has to be admitted that it's a funny old world, and that we humans are the beings who make it such.

Without understanding in the least what the scientific implications of this discovery might be, anybody with the smallest curiosity about people — and that's pretty much all of us — can see that it is pretty significant. The most obvious conclusion to be drawn from the limited number of genes available to programme a human is that biological determination goes so far and no further. Human complexity, on this information, can be best explained in the manner it looks to be best explained before scientific evidence becomes involved at all. In other words, in the nature versus nurture debate, the answer, thankfully, is “both”.

Why is this so important? Because it should mean that we can accept one another's differences more easily, and help each other when appropriate. Nurture does have a huge part to play in human destiny. Love can transform humans. Trust can make a difference. Second chances are worth trying. Life, to a far greater extent than science thought up until now, is what we make it. One day we may know exactly what we can alter and what we cannot. Knowing that there is a great deal that we can alter or improve, as well as a great deal that we must accept and value for its own sake, makes the human journey progressive rather than deterministic, complex and open, rather than simple and unchangeable.

For no one can suggest that 30 000 genes doesn't give the human race much room for manoeuvre. Look how many tunes, after all, we're able to squeeze out of eight notes. But it surely must give the lie to the rather sinister belief that has been gaining credence in the West that there is a hard-wired, no-prisoners-taken, gene for absolutely everything, and that whole sections of the population can be labelled as “stupid” or “lazy” or “criminal” or somehow or other sub-human. Instead, like the eight notes which can only make music (albeit in astounding diversity), the 30 000 genes can only make people. The rest is up to us.

1. From the first sentence of the passage we learn that scientists used to think _____.

- [A] some human beings were superior to others because they had more genes
[B] life was much more complicated than it appeared to be
[C] a society should be composed of a rich diversity of ethnic groups
[D] enough genes were what made humans diverse beings
2. It is now found by two research groups that _____.
[A] the genetic makeup of the human is simpler than it was supposed to
[B] human beings are no better than the most negligible worms in intelligence
[C] human beings are the funniest animals in this world
[D] humans have left a great part of their genes unused in their activities
3. One of the implications from this new discovery about human genes is that _____.
[A] human beings are in no way superior to other beings
[B] human beings are a product of both inheritance and environment
[C] the destiny of human beings are largely determined by their genetic constitution
[D] nature has programmed a human before he is born into the world
4. The analogy to musical notes is used to make the point that _____.
[A] a limited number of genes can also make human beings diverse
[B] some music pieces are bound to be pleasanter to hear than others
[C] the limited number of genes does support some of the racist views about humans
[D] inheritance has no role to play in making humans what they are
5. The most feasible conclusion we can draw from the new discovery is that _____.
[A] life is what we make it
[B] there is no mystery about life
[C] human beings are no different from one another
[D] the environment plays a lesser part in human destiny

Passage 2

The US economy, which makes up one quarter of world economic output, is slowing sharply, and bringing down growth throughout the rest of the world. And the terrorist attacks are likely to make the problem worse, although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says it is too early to assess the full economic consequences. Kenneth Rogoff, the IMF's chief economist, said that a US recession was now more likely. "Whether it will be a bit above zero or below zero ... a trough in US growth is very likely," Mr Rogoff said. However, he added that "I think there is every cause for a v-shaped rebound next year." Later, he withdrew his initial statement that a US recession was a "done deal", saying no one could tell if growth would turn negative.

The IMF's world economic forecast was due to be published at the Fund's annual meeting, but that meeting was cancelled amid security concerns in Washington. However, the new forecast makes it clear that the US is at the centre of the world economic slowdown. It says it is too early to quantify the indirect impact of the terrorist attacks, but it says that it is

likely to delay any recovery for some time. However, the IMF said that the prompt response of the US authorities may have prevented a deeper downturn, with further tax cuts and interest rate cuts in the pipeline.

The IMF was already projecting that the US economy would slow to a growth rate of 1.3% this year, compared to 4.1% in 2000, before recovering to 2.2% in 2002. The IMF makes it clear that the initial slowdown in the US was due to a sharp drop in business investment, with a collapse of software and computer hardware purchases and a rundown of business inventories. It points out that consumer spending had remained “relatively robust” while construction had actually expanded. It is this element that is now threatened, with confidence and consumer spending at risk. And, the IMF warns, the stock market falls could hurt the willingness of consumers to spend.

But the IMF says that the measures already taken, including the extra \$40bn in economic aid and the 0.5% rate cut last week, “should support activity in the period ahead, allowing demand to recover modestly by the end of the year”. However, “confidence has been further shaken by the terrorist attack, increasing risks that the pace of recovery may be slowed”.

The IMF warns that there are other dangers to the US economy, including a huge current account deficit and a large overhang of consumer debt. The hope is that the slowdown will be gradual and orderly, allowing the currency and the stock market to adjust gradually downwards. The global imbalances in the US, including the over-valued dollar, have affected the rest of the world, and a rapid collapse of its value could hurt Japanese exporters and fuel inflation in Europe. But the biggest effect of the US slowdown is likely to be on its neighbours in North America, and its Asian exporters.

1. From what he said in the first paragraph, we can see Mr. Rogoff's attitude towards the present economic situation is one of _____.
[A] dismayed reservation [B] reserved optimism
[C] unreserved pessimism [D] painful regret
2. According to the IMF, the terrorist attacks in the US may have the result of _____.
[A] plunging the world economy into an abyss
[B] initiating the world economic slowdown
[C] preventing a sharp economic downturn
[D] slowing down the expected economic recovery
3. The IMF forecast implies that _____.
[A] it is naive to expect a full economic recovery within the next few years
[B] the US economy plays a central role in bringing up the world economy
[C] the traditional v-shaped economic cycle theory is no longer valid
[D] the indirect impact of the terrorist attacks in the US is immense
4. The US economy might have suffered a deeper downturn _____.
[A] had the government not taken effective economic measures
[B] if the terrorist attacks had never taken place

- [C] with a collapse of software and computer hardware purchases
[D] if the construction had not actually expanded
5. It can be inferred from Paragraphs 3 and 4 that the US economic recovery is in a large part dependent on _____.
[A] consumer confidence
[B] interest rates cuts
[C] financial aid from the IMF
[D] increase in software and hardware purchases

Passage 3

As the great low ebb of high tech sweeps through the world of online commerce, two kinds of sites are weathering the storm. The first group is often referred to as “clicks and mortar” — online extensions of stores like Walmart or Sears. They take an existing, traditional business and extend it into the online arena. The second group provides a unique service made possible by the Internet’s special characteristics. Job sites and online auctioneer e-Bay are both good examples of the new breed of business that the Internet continues to foster.

Cafepress.com is one of the latter group. It’s a website that provides users with online stores where they can sell shirts, mugs, and mousepads customized with their own logos and/or slogans. By itself, this is a fairly useful service, and an example of how the Internet has changed the art of marketing and customer service.

Cafepress.com, however, is rather remarkable for another reason. Customers don’t need to print large lots of items. They don’t need to worry about shipping the goods to their customers. And they don’t need to talk to another human being to get their store “built” in the first place. The site lets you upload an image and choose what sort of item you’d like it to appear on. You can then choose how much to mark the item up — the difference between the item’s base cost and your mark-up price is your profit.

Base prices are high, but understandable when you consider what Cafepress.com does for the initial investment. An 11-ounce mug starts at \$10.99. For that, Cafepress.com prints the mug on a piece-by-piece basis, provides the ordering software, handles the money, packs it, and ships it for you. The mug’s purchaser pays shipping and handling costs; the store owner’s effort is limited to uploading the original image for the mug, setting the cost, and writing a brief description of the item.

It seems to be catching on. “More and more companies come to us, who want to do some kind of merchandising, who want to offer a range of products to their users, but don’t want the hassles associated with it,” says Maheesh Jain, Cafepress.com’s co-founder and vice-president. “That’s where we come in — we’re one of the few companies that offer this kind of full-service solution.”

But the most exciting aspect of Cafepress.com is not its ability to help major corpora-

tions outsource and customize their merchandising efforts. What's remarkable about the system is how simple it is to open a store. An average individual with an idea that could sell 50 T-shirts or mugs can't justify a traditional merchandising effort. But with CafePress.com, users can easily bring ideas to fruition with very little time and no financial risk. Moreover, the quality of the merchandise is good; I've ordered a mug and a shirt from CafePress.com, and both were shipped relatively promptly, and arrived exactly as promised.

CafePress.com is an idea that's easy to get excited about. It's a small — but tangible — example of how the Internet can change the way we live.

1. The expression "weathering the storm" in the first sentence means _____.
 - [A] surviving a crisis
 - [B] coming into being
 - [C] struggling in the storm
 - [D] being dominated by a stormy high tech wave
2. The first kind of site differs from the second kind of site in that _____.
 - [A] the first kind sells commodities while the second offers service
 - [B] the first kind extends items sold beyond the traditional categories
 - [C] the second kind is rising while the first kind is declining in the world of online commerce
 - [D] the second kind offers untraditional jobs to people experienced in auctioning
3. Which of the following about CafePress.com is NOT true?
 - [A] Its customers are those who want to sell things rather than buy things.
 - [B] It, along with similar sites, has changed the traditional way of marketing.
 - [C] It keeps its profit to a minimum in order to attract online customers.
 - [D] Its users don't have to transact the items to be sold face-to-face with their customers.
4. What kind of customers need CafePress.com most according to its vice-president?
 - [A] Those who sell a great variety of items.
 - [B] Those who sell unconventional commodities.
 - [C] Those who want to avoid the trouble of negotiating with clients.
 - [D] Those who have problem keeping their commodities moving.
5. What is the most outstanding about CafePress.com according to the author?
 - [A] The help it offers major companies in marketing their commodities.
 - [B] The conveniences it gives to companies in selling their commodities.
 - [C] The high quality of the merchandise it offers to customers.
 - [D] The speed and security it offers users to put their ideas into practice.

Passage 4

Laurie A. Bernier

14010 Manderson, Plaza # 301, Omaha NE 68164

Fax: (402) 493-8391 ~ Home Phone (402) 493-8391

Email: lbernier@tcon1.com

OBJECTIVE

To obtain a position that uses my skills, experience and education in marketing, public relations, communications, and advertising.

QUALIFICATIONS

Solid academic training in communications combined with practical experience in the US, Europe and Latin America.

Broad communications experience primarily in industry but also including chamber of commerce, government, and education.

Able to communicate effectively in English, French, and Spanish.

EDUCATION

Master of Art, Communications, Southwest Missouri State University, August 1996.

BS Communications, Southwest Missouri State University, May 1994.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Service Analyst, Latin America, Bilingual, First Data Corporation, Omaha, NE, December 1997 to present.

Consult with Client Banks in Latin America.

Assist clients with daily operations, providing options and advice to meet their credit card transaction processing needs.

Assist management on projects and ongoing issues by working in conjunction with all parties responsible.

Evaluate and control liability exposure, bringing in upper management and other functions when appropriate.

Export Agent/Account Representative, Fritz companies, Inc., Springfield, MO, August 1996 to December 1997.

Managed nationwide global accounts.

Performed all functions in processing air and ocean export transactions for assigned clients.

Performed shipment tracking, customer billing preparation, vendor payment prepara-

tion, as well as customs clearance preparation.

Prepared international documents and wrote letters of credit.

Economic Development Department Assistant, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Springfield, MO, May 1996 to August 1996.

Created and designed the commercial web page for the Chamber.

Developed and designed a commercial survey assessing the attitudes and concerns of the business community towards exporting.

Assist the executive management with various tasks associated with events related with Chamber business.

Public Relations Assistant, Archibald Cowan Ringer Communications, Inc., Springfield, MO, May 1995 to August 1995.

Designed and implemented a telephone survey of business managers as part of a market research project conducted by the firm: research facts and data, tabulated the data and wrote telephone survey according to research data obtained.

Communications Consultant, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, May 1994 to May 1996.

Responsible for leading a team that designed and implemented a comprehensive communications audit for the Southwest Missouri State University Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, using both qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Designed and developed a marketing and communication plan for the Springfield Ballet, and presented the final marketing plan to the marketing director.

Lecturer, Communications Department, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, May 1994 to May 1996.

Taught courses in Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication. Developed lecture materials and presented lectures.

Designed and administered tests and assigned grades.

COMPUTER SKILLS

HTML and Web Publishing, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Win95

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

1. Which of the following positions is most appropriate to the applicant?
[A] A sales representative. [B] A communications engineer.
[C] An advertisement designer. [D] A public relation manager.
2. Viewed in light of the experiences, most of the time the applicant's responsibility is related to _____.
[A] communications [B] marketing
[C] advertising [D] employee training
3. Fritz Companies, Inc. is most likely to be a _____ organization.

- [A] financial [B] trading
[C] consulting [D] processing
4. Where did the applicant first get the practical experience in marketing?
[A] Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.
[B] Archibald Cowan Ringer Communications, Inc.
[C] Southwest Missouri State University.
[D] First Data corporation.
5. "References" are _____.
[A] the books used in preparation for this resume
[B] the heads of the organizations the applicant worked for
[C] the people or documents testifying the listed experiences
[D] the personal information about the applicant

Passage 5

Imagine a classroom where the instructors speak a foreign language and the students can't take notes, turn to a textbook, or ask any questions. Yet at the end of the final exam, one participant may face life in jail or even death. That's the task handed to American jurors, briefly thrown together to decide accused criminals' fate.

In "A Trial by Jury", Princeton history professor D. Graham Burnett offers a rare glimpse inside jury deliberations at a New York murder trial where he served as foreman last year. According to the prosecutor, the case seems clear-cut: a sexual encounter between two men went awry. The defendant stabbed his victim 26 times, but claims he acted in self-defense, killing a man who was attempting to rape him. Burnett opens with a graphic description of the crime. He then introduces the characters and walks readers through the 10-day trial. You hear the testimony of witnesses dressed in drag and find yourself put off by a growling prosecutor and the judge's indifference. Most of the drama, though, comes during four days and three nights of deliberations. Once retreated in the jury room, confusion reigns. Most jurors don't understand the charges or the meaning of self-defense. Uninterested jurors seem more concerned about missing appointments. On the third day, one juror runs to a bathroom in tears after exchanging curses. By the final day, nearly everyone cries.

Though he's no more familiar with the law than the other jurors, who include a vacuum-cleaner repairman and a software developer, it's fitting that Burnett is a teacher. For us, he serves as a patient instructor, illustrating with his experience just what a remarkable and sometimes remarkably strange duty serving on a jury can be.

For many citizens, jury duty is their first exposure to our justice system. Jurors discover first hand the gap between law and justice. They face two flawed versions of the same event, offered by witnesses they may not believe. As Burnett observes, "We expect much of this room, and we think about it less often than we probably should." We assume jurors will take their job seriously. We expect them to digest complicated definitions that leave lawyers confused.

But as Burnett quickly discovers, jurors receive little help. The judge offers them no guidance about how to conduct themselves and races through his delivery of the murder charges. Only within the past decade have we finally abandoned the misconception that jurors naturally reach the right decision without any assistance. Led by Arizona, states have instituted jury reforms as simple as letting jurors take notes or obtain written copies of their instructions. It's not clear whether these changes improve the quality of justice, but the reforms certainly ensure that jurors leave their tour of duty with better feelings about the experience. Unfortunately, such reforms hadn't come yet to New York at the time of this trial. Nonetheless, Burnett and his fellow jurors grope toward their own solution, ultimately reaching what he describes as an "avowedly imperfect" result.

1. The focal point of "A Trial by Jury" seems to be on _____.
 - [A] the presentation of a series of measures aimed to reform the jury system
 - [B] the description of the writer's experience on a typical jury
 - [C] the reporting of a special lawsuit and the comment on it
 - [D] the introduction to the American jury system and its weaknesses
2. The point the author intends to make by employing the analogy in the first paragraph is that _____.
 - [A] students should never be taken by surprise
 - [B] jurors are not qualified for reaching a verdict
 - [C] jurors often make mistakes in their decision
 - [D] the jury system can not do justice to the accused
3. The description of what happened inside the jury room seems to suggest that _____.
 - [A] better-educated people should be selected as jurors
 - [B] jurors should keep their heads cool and try not to be sentimental
 - [C] there is much room for reaching an arbitrary and flawed verdict
 - [D] the judge should have given the jurors clear instruction about what to do
4. The average people used to take it for granted that _____.
 - [A] no jury could make a perfect decision
 - [B] jurors were worse in legal knowledge than lawyers
 - [C] jurors believed in neither of the stories told by the two parties in lawsuit
 - [D] jurors had enough qualities to be trusted with a fair verdict
5. The objective of the jury reforms is to _____.
 - [A] improve the quality of justice
 - [B] give jurors reassuring feelings about the experience in court
 - [C] help jurors to reach an avowedly perfect verdict
 - [D] enable jurors to abandon some misconceptions about law and justice

Passage 6

AUCC is the national organization that represents 92 Canadian public and private not-

for-profit universities and university colleges. We provide a forum for discussion and a framework for action at the federal level, facilitating the development of public policy on higher education. We also encourage cooperation among universities and among partners with whom we share interests. We are a non-governmental, not-for-profit body, funded through membership fees and revenues from publications and contract management services.

AUCC has united Canada's universities since 1911. Our membership ranges from small, undergraduate liberal arts institutions to large, multi-campus universities offering a broad selection of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. Each member institution is represented by its executive head. The association's business is conducted by a 13-member board of directors. Committees and working groups composed of university heads and other members of the community are appointed to study and advise on major policy issues in higher education. The activities of AUCC are coordinated by our Secretariat, located in Ottawa.

AUCC provides a variety of services to members. We focus our work in three principal spheres of activity:

Public policy and advocacy — The Voice of Canada's Universities

We influence public policy by sharing expertise, information and the perspective of our members with senior government, industry and community leaders. We keep the interests of universities high on the public agenda and promote university education and research, ensuring that higher education is seen as vital to Canada's prosperity. Our priorities are: improved funding for university research; enhanced funding of university budgets; and increased internationalization of university campuses. We also have a growing interest in the area of intellectual property.

Communications and information — Sharing Resources

AUCC provides members with opportunities to share knowledge and to work together. Through our conferences, research and analysis, publications, databases and information-sharing networks, our members receive critical information on trends in education, including areas such as enrolment, tuition and funding levels, graduate employment and internationalization.

On behalf of members, we facilitate cooperation and communication with government and the private sector. We encourage and enrich the learning environment through international cooperation. For example, together with Scotiabank, we have developed a series of annual awards to salute excellence in internationalization among universities.

Partnerships and contract management — Forging Partnerships That Work

Beyond membership fees, revenues from AUCC contract management services and publications are our principal funding source. We work with the corporate sector to advance the interests of our members through scholarship programs and other initiatives.

We act as a single point of contact for government departments, domestic and foreign agencies and others seeking contract management services involving a number of universities in

Canada. We facilitate the establishment and management of scholarships on behalf of corporations, and government. We work closely with the Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Centre and other federal government agencies and departments to manage international development projects. We help our members establish contacts with foreign universities and facilitate international experience for Canadian academics and students, assisting the development of a global profile for our member institutions.

1. The chief objective of AUCC is to make joint effort to _____.
 - [A] promote the development of public policy on higher education
 - [B] facilitate the academic exchange between member universities
 - [C] promote the cooperation between private and public universities and colleges
 - [D] facilitate the collaboration between non-governmental and governmental bodies
2. The representative members of the organization are mostly the _____.
 - [A] presidents of the member universities and colleges
 - [B] sponsors of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs
 - [C] governmental officials responsible for major policies on higher education
 - [D] governmental officials and executive heads of the member institutions
3. Which of the following is not on the top agenda of AUCC?
 - [A] Helping member institutions in international exchange activities.
 - [B] Raising funds to add to the revenues of the member institutions.
 - [C] Advising governmental leaders on the formulation of public policy.
 - [D] Ensuring Canadian universities contribute to the country's prosperity.
4. The awards set up in collaboration with Scotiabank aim to _____.
 - [A] pay tribute to those who have made the greatest contribution to AUCC
 - [B] encourage member institutions in their international collaboration
 - [C] salute those who have done excellent work in international communication
 - [D] enrich the learning environment for students from home and abroad
5. In the last paragraph, the writer makes it clear that AUCC _____.
 - [A] will be able to dispense with membership fee soon
 - [B] will take a pragmatic approach in its work
 - [C] will greatly broaden the contacts of its members
 - [D] will put international cooperation over anything else

Passage 7

One positive consequence of our current national crisis may be at least a temporary dent in Hollywood's culture of violence. Fearful of offending audiences in the wake of the terrorist attack, some moviemakers have postponed the release of films with terrorist themes. Television writers are shelving or delaying scripts with warlike and terrorist scenarios. It is probably good thinking. My local video store tells me nobody is checking out "disaster" movies.

Says the manager, "Currently, people want comedy. They want an escape from stories about violence and terrorism." Similarly, in the music business there's a run on patriotic and inspirational tapes and CDs.

According to *The New York Times*, the self-scrutiny among these czars of mass-entertainment taste is unprecedented in scale, sweeping aside hundreds of millions of dollars in projects that no longer seem appropriate. A reasonable concern is that this might be a short-term phenomenon. Once life returns to something more normal, will Hollywood return to its bad old ways? *The Times* offers a glimmer of hope. The industry's titans, it suggests, are grappling with much more difficult, long-range questions of what the public will want once the initial shock from the terrorist attacks wears off. Many in the industry admit they do not know where the boundaries of taste and consumer tolerance now lie.

This is an opportunity for some of us to suggest to Hollywood where that boundary of consumer tolerance is. Especially those of us who have not yet convinced Hollywood to cease its descent into ever-lower levels of desensitization of our young.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Parents Television Council, which monitors the quality of TV programming, says in its latest report that today's TV shows are more laced than ever with vulgarities, sexual immorality, crudities, violence, and foul language. The traditional family hour between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., when the networks used to offer programs for the entire family, has disappeared. The problem looks like it will get worse.

That certainly looked to be the case before the Sept. 11 assault. One pre-attack New York Times story reported that TV producers were crusading for scripts that include every crude word imaginable. The struggles between network censors and producers, according to the report, were "growing more intense". Producers like Aaron Sorkin of "The West Wing" planned to keep pushing hard. He was quoted as saying, "There's absolutely no reason why we can't use the language of adulthood in programs that are about adults."

My guess is that a lot of adults don't use the language Mr. Sorkin wants to use, and don't enjoy having their children hear it. At this moment of crisis in our nation's history, thought has become more contemplative, prayerful, and spiritual. It may be the time to tell the entertainment industry that we want not a temporary pause in the flow of tastelessness, but a long-term cleanup.

1. Some filmmakers hesitate to release new films with violent content because _____.
 - [A] they want to show themselves to be patriots
 - [B] they are afraid such films may anger audiences
 - [C] films with violence in them are no longer popular
 - [D] there is a general shift of attention from tragedy to comedy
2. The "self-scrutiny" (in the second paragraph) refers to filmmakers' attempt to _____.
 - [A] produce appropriate films with no violent content for the audiences
 - [B] prevent themselves from slipping into their old bad ways
 - [C] understand to what extent their films have contributed to the national crisis
 - [D] find out where the boundaries of taste and consumer tolerance lie