

大学英语阅读指南

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前 言

我们知道,大学英语阅读在大学英语各种考试中都占有很大的比例。可以这样说,阅读部分分数的高低几乎决定学生考试的成败。为了使广大同学能更好地掌握大学英语阅读,顺利地通过大学英语四、六级考试,并在较短的时间内正确、全面、高效地把握全真命题原则、题型特征和应试策略,我们为广大考生及英语学习者编写了这本《大学英语阅读指南》。几位编者都是教学第一线的教师,多年从事大学英语教学工作,对大学英语四、六级考试进行了细心的研究,积累了指导考试的丰富经验。我们曾经多次参加四、六级考试的评卷工作,通过对历届考试真题的题型,考点以及出题方式的仔细研究,凭借着我们对大学英语教学内容、教学大纲的理解和掌握,凭借着我们对考试命题规律的分析与预测,针对学生在考试中出现的各种问题,以严谨的态度精心编写了这本书。本书在编写过程中充分贯彻了《教学大纲》的精神,加强解析的针对性,做到了有的放矢。全书语言简洁精辟,在讲解过程中注重解题思路和答题技巧,使读者能够在练习的同时掌握一定的技巧,真正做到举一反三、触类旁通。

本书的突出特点是:

经验集成,考生易于接受——本书的编者系多年从事大学英语教学的老师,曾多次参加四、六级考试的阅卷工作,因此对考试有更精确的把握。

解析精辟,直击考试要点——本书中的试题解析抓住考试要点并结合命题规律,以点带面、触类旁通,使考生知己知彼,轻松掌握考点和应试技巧。

试题设计精心,信度与效度高——本书囊括了近百套考试模拟题及部分真题,便于考生熟悉历年四、六级考试命题思路,做到有的放矢,花费时间少,收效大。

本书是大学英语四、六级考试辅导书,书中全面反应了大学英语四、六级考试的最新动态。

本书在编写过程中加强了审校工作,但由于编者水平有限经验不足,书中难免有疏漏之处,还望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2005年5月

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第一部分

Reading comprehension 1

(2002 年 12 月大学英语六级考试真题)

Directions: *There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the center.*

Passage One

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage:

Bill Gates, the billionaire Microsoft chairman without a single earned university degree, is by his success raising new doubts about the worth of the business world's favorite academic title: the MBA (Master of Business Administration).

The MBA, a 20th century product, always has borne the mark of lowly commerce and greed (贪婪), on the tree-lined campuses ruled by purer disciplines such as philosophy and literature. But even with the recession apparently cutting into the hiring of business school graduates, about 79,000 people are expected to receive MBAs in 1993. This is nearly 16 times the number of business graduates in 1960, a testimony to the widespread assumption that the MBA is vital for young men and women who want to run companies some day.

"If you are going into the corporate world it is still a disadvantage not to have one," said Donald Morrison, professor of marketing and management science. "But in the last five years or so, when someone says, 'should I attempt to get an MBA,' the answer a lot more is: it depends."

The success of Bill Gates and other non-MBAs, such as the late Sam Walton of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has helped inspire self-conscious debates on business school campuses over the worth of a business degree and whether management skill can be taught. The Harvard Business Review primed a lively, fictional exchange of letters to dramatize complaints about business degree holders. The article called MBA hires "extremely disappointing" and said "MBAs want to move up too fast, they don't understand politics and they aren't able to function as part of a team until their third year. But by then, they're out looking for other jobs." The problem, most participants in the debate acknowledge, is that the MBA has acquired an aura (光环) of future riches and power far beyond its actual importance and usefulness.

Enrollment in business schools exploded in the 1970s and 1980s and created the assumption that no one who pursued a business career could do without one. The growth was fueled by a backlash (反冲) against the anti-business values of the 1960s and by the women's movement.

Business people who have hired or worked with MBAs say those with the degrees often

know how to analyze systems but are not so skillful at motivating people. "They don't get a lot of grounding in the people side of the business," said James Shaffer, vice-president and principle of the Towers Perrin management consulting firm.

1. According to Paragraph 2, what is the general attitude towards business on campuses dominated by purer disciplines?
A) Scornful. B) Appreciative. C) Envious. D) Realistic.
2. It seems that the controversy over the values of MBA degrees has been fueled mainly by _____.
A) the complaints from various employers
B) the success of many non-MBAs
C) the criticism from the scientists of purer disciplines
D) the poor performance of MBAs at work
3. What is the major weakness of MBA holders according to The Harvard Business Review?
A) They are usually self-centered.
B) They are aggressive and greedy.
C) They keep complaining about their jobs.
D) They are not good at dealing with people.
4. From this passage we know that most MBAs _____.
A) can climb the corporate ladder fairly quickly
B) quit their jobs once they are familiar with their workmates
C) receive salaries that do not match their professional training
D) cherish unrealistic expectations about their future
5. What is the passage mainly about?
A) Why there is an increased enrollment in MBA programs.
B) The necessity of reforming MBA programs in business schools.
C) Doubts about the worth of holding an MBA degree.
D) A debate held recently on university campuses.

Passage Two

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage:

When school officials in Kalkaska, Michigan, closed classes last week, the media flocked to the story, portraying the town's 2,305 students as victims of stingy (吝啬的) taxpayers. There is some truth to that; the property-tax rate here is one-third lower than the state average. But shutting their schools was also followed by Kalkaska's educators and the state's largest teacher's union, the Michigan Education Association, to make a political point, also followed shutting their schools. Their aim was to spur passage of legislation Michigan lawmakers are debating to increase the state's share of school funding.

It was no coincidence that Kalkaska shut its schools two weeks after rescinded a 28 per cent property-tax increase. The school board argued that without the increase it lacked the \$1.5 million needed to keep the schools open.

But the school system had not done all it could to keep the schools open. Officials declined to borrow against next year's state aid, they refused to trim extracurricular activities

and they did not consider seeking a smaller, perhaps more acceptable—tax increase. In fact, closing early is costing Kalkaska a significant amount, including 4,600,000 in unemployment payments to teachers and staff and \$ 250,000 in lost state aid. In February, the school system promised teachers and staff two months of retirement payments in case schools closed early, a deal that will cost the district \$ 275,000 or more.

Other signs suggested school authorities were at least as eager to make a political statement as to keep the schools open. The Michigan Education Association hired a public relations firm to stage a rally marking the school closings, which attracted 14 local and national television stations and networks. The president of the National Education Association, the MEA's parent organization, flew from Washington D. C, for the event. And to union tutored school officials in the art of television interviews. School supervisor Doyle Disbrow acknowledged the district could have kept the schools open by cutting programs but denied the moves were politically motivated.

Michigan lawmakers have reacted angrily to the closings. The State Senate has already voted to put the system into receivership (破产管理) and reopen the schools immediately; the Michigan House Plans to consider the bill this week.

6. We learn from the passage that schools in Kalkaska, Michigan, are funded _____.
 - A) by both the local and state governments
 - B) exclusively by the local government
 - C) mainly by the state government
 - D) by the National Education Association .
7. One of the purposes for which school officials closed classes was _____.
 - A) to avoid paying retirement benefits to teachers and staff
 - B) to draw the attention of local taxpayers to political issues
 - C) to make the financial difficulties of their teachers and staff known to the public
 - D) to pressure Michigan lawmakers into increasing state funds for local schools
8. The author seems to disapprove of _____.
 - A) the Michigan lawmakers' endless debating
 - B) the shutting of schools in Kalkaska
 - C) the involvement of the mass-media
 - D) delaying the passage of the school funding legislation
9. We learn from the passage that school authorities in Kalkaska are more concerned about _____.
 - A) a raise in the property-tax rate in Michigan
 - B) reopening the schools there immediately
 - C) the attitude of the MEA's parent organization
 - D) making a political issue of the closing of the schools
10. According to the passage, the closing of the schools developed into a crisis because of _____.
 - A) the complexity of the problem
 - B) the political motives on the part of the educators
 - C) the weak response of the state officials

D) the strong protest on the part of the students' parents

Passage Three

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage:

German Chancellor (首相) Otto Von Bismarck may be most famous for his military and diplomatic talents, but his legacy(遗产) includes many of today's social insurance programs. During the middle of the 19th century, Germany, along with other European nations, experienced an unprecedented rash of workplace deaths and accidents as a result of growing industrialization. Motivated in part by Christian compassion (怜悯) for the helpless as well as a practically political impulse to undercut the support of the socialist labor movement, Chancellor Bismarck created the world's first workers' compensation law in 1884.

By 1908, the United States was the only industrial nation in the world that lacked workers' compensation insurance. America's injured workers could sue for damages in a court of law, but they still faced a number of tough legal barriers. For example, employees had to prove that their injuries directly resulted from employers' negligence and that they themselves were ignorant about potential hazards in the workplace. The first state workers' compensation law in the country passed in 1911, and the program soon spread throughout the nation.

After World War II, benefit payments to American workers did not keep up with the cost of living. In fact, real benefit levels were lower in the 1970s than they were in the 1940s, and in most states the maximum benefit was below the poverty level for a family of four. In 1970, President Richard Nixon set up a national commission to study the problems of workers' compensation. Two years later, the commission issued 19 key recommendations, including one that called for increasing compensation benefit levels to 100 percent of the states' average weekly wages.

In fact, the average compensation benefit in America has climbed from 55 percent of the states' average weekly wages in 1972 to 1997 percent today. But as most studies show, every 10 percent increase in compensation benefits results in a 5 percent increase in the number of workers who file for claims. And with so much more money floating in the workers' compensation system, it's not surprising that doctors and lawyers have helped themselves to a large slice of the growing pie.

11. The world's first workers' compensation law was introduced by Bismarck _____.
 - A) to make industrial production safer
 - B) to speed up the pace of industrialization
 - C) outcome of religious and political considerations
 - D) for fear of losing the support of the socialist labor movement
12. We learn from the passage that the process of industrialization Europe _____.
 - A) was accompanied by an increased number of workshop accidents
 - B) resulted in the development of popular social insurance programs
 - C) required workers to be aware of the potential dangers at the workplace
 - D) met growing resistance from laborers working at machines
13. One of the problems the American injured workers faced in getting compensation in the

early 19th century was that _____.

- A) they had to have the courage to sue for damages in a court of law
 - B) different state in the U. S. had totally different compensation programs
 - C) America's average compensation benefit was much lower than the cost of living
 - D) they had to produce evidence that their employers were responsible for the accident
14. After 1972 workers' compensation insurance in the U. S. became more favorable to workers so that _____.
- A) the poverty level for a family of four went up drastically
 - B) there were fewer legal barriers when they filed for claims
 - C) the number of workers suing for damages increased
 - D) more money was allocated to their compensation system
15. The author ends the passage with the implication that _____.
- A) compensation benefits in America are soaring to new heights
 - B) the workers are not the only ones to benefit from the compensation system
 - C) people from all walks of life can benefit from the compensation system
 - D) money floating in the compensation system is a huge drain on the U. S. economy

Passage Four

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage:

Early in the age of affluence (富裕) that followed World War II, an American retailing analyst named Victor Lebow proclaimed, "Our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption as our way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, in consumption. We need things consumed, burned up, worn out, replaced and discarded at an ever increasing rate."

Americans have responded to Lebow's call, and much of the world has followed. Consumption has become a central pillar of life in industrial lands and is even embedded in social values. Opinion surveys in the world's two largest economies—Japan and the United States—show consumerist definitions of success becoming ever more prevalent.

Over-consumption by the World's fortune is an environmental problem unmatched in severity by anything but perhaps population growth. Their surging exploitation of resources threatens to exhaust or unalterably spoil forests, soils, water, air and climate.

Ironically, high consumption may be a mixed blessing in human terms, too. The time-honored values of integrity of character, good work, friendship, family and community have often been sacrificed in the rush to riches. Thus many people in the industrial lands have a sense that their world of plenty is somehow hollow—that, misled by a consumerist culture, they have been fruitlessly attempting to satisfy what are essentially social, psychological and spiritual needs with material things.

Of course, the opposite of over-consumption—poverty, is no solution to either environmental or human problems. It is infinitely worse for people and bad for the natural world too. Dispossessed (被剥夺得一无所有的) peasants slash and burn their way into the rain

forests of Latin America, and hungry nomads (游牧民族) turn their herds out into fragile African grassland, reducing it to desert.

If environmental destruction results when people have either too little or too much, we are left to wonder how much is enough. What level of consumption can the earth support? When can we cease to add more consumption noticeably to human satisfaction?

16. The emergence of the affluent society after World War II _____.
A) gave birth to a new generation of upper class consumers
B) gave rise to the dominance of the new egoism
C) led to the reform of the retailing system
D) resulted in the worship of consumerism
17. Apart from enormous productivity, another important impetus to high consumption is _____.
A) the conversion of the sale of goods into rituals
B) the people's desire for a rise in their living standards
C) the imbalance that has existed between production and consumption
D) the concept that one's success is measured by how much they consume
18. Why does the author say high consumption is a mixed blessing?
A) Because poverty still exists in an affluent society.
B) Because moral values are sacrificed in pursuit of material satisfaction.
C) Because over-consumption won't last long due to unrestricted population growth.
D) Because traditional rituals are often neglected in the process of modernization.
19. According to the passage, consumerist culture _____.
A) can not thrive on a fragile economy
B) will not aggravate environmental problems
C) can not satisfy human spiritual needs
D) will not alleviate poverty in wealthy countries
20. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
A) human spiritual needs should match material affluence
B) there is never an end to satisfying people's material needs
C) whether high consumption should be encouraged is still an issue
D) how to keep consumption at a reasonable level remains a problem

答案与解析

Passage One

20 世纪以来,越来越多的人把 MBA 学位(工商管理硕士)作为进入商业社会,获得企业成功的敲门砖,而作者以比尔·盖茨等商业巨子为例,引用《哈佛商业回顾》杂志的文章,阐述了自己与众不同的观点,并对 MBA 的实际价值提出了质疑。

1. A)。态度题。[问题]根据文章第二段可知,人们对在纯学术领导的校园里出现的商业气息的总体态度如何? 选项 A)意为:轻蔑的;选项 B)意为:欣赏的;选项 C)意为:嫉妒的;选项 D)意为:现实的。

[解析]解题的关键是要正确理解原文:绿树成荫的校园本来是由哲学、文学这样的纯学术

领导的,而 MBA,这个 20 世纪的产物,却在上面标上了庸俗商业和贪婪的记号。可见,众人对 MBA 的态度是十分轻蔑的。由此可知答案为选项 A)。

2. B)。细节题。[问题]激起有关 MBA 学位价值的争议的主要原因似乎是什么? 选项 A)意为:来自不同雇主的抱怨;选项 B)意为:许多非工商管理硕士的成功;选项 C)意为:来自纯理论学科学者的批评选项 D)意为:工商管理硕士在工作中糟糕的表现。

[解析]从文章第五段中得知:比尔·盖茨和其他非工商管理硕士,如沃尔玛公司的山姆·沃尔顿的成功,有助于激发在工商管理学院的校园内,对 MBA 的价值和管理艺术是否能教授等问题的争论。可见,非工商管理硕士的人在企业上的成功,进一步推进了人们对 MBA 价值的争论。由此可知答案为选项 B)。

3. D)。细节题。[问题]根据《哈佛商业回顾》的文章,MBA 的主要弱点是什么? 选项 A)意为:他们常以自我为中心;选项 B)意为:他们好攻击并且贪婪;选项 C)意为:他们总是抱怨自己的工作;选项 D)意为:他们不善于与人相处。

[解析]文章第七段提到“工商管理硕士太想尽快得到提升,他们不懂政治,不懂与人怎样相处,不能作为一个集体的成员来工作”;第十段又说“在企业中的人的因素这方面,他们没有得到很多的训练”。可见他们的主要弱点是不知道如何与人相处。由此可知答案为选项 D)。

4. D)。细节题。[问题]根据文意我们知道大多数工商管理硕士怎么样? 选项 A 意为:能够在公司迅速爬升;选项 B)意为:一旦与同事相熟识就会辞去工作;选项 C)意为:获得与他们职业训练不相称的薪水;选项 D)意为:怀有对未来不切实际的期待。

[解析]文章第八段提到“MBA 被罩上了未来财富和权力的光环,而这与它实际的价值和作用远远不符”。可见,大多数工商管理硕士对未来的期待不切实际。由此可知答案为选项 D)。

5. C)。主旨题。[问题]文章的主要内容是什么? 选项 A 意为:工商管理硕士课程入学人数增加的原因;选项 B)意为:商学院工商管理硕士课程改革的必要性;选项 C)意为:对工商管理硕士学位价值的怀疑;选项 D)意为:近来大学校园中的争论。

[解析]在解答此类问题时,主要是看文章的主题句,每段的主题句和总结处,从而把握文章大意。本文的第一段就是全文的主题句:比尔盖茨没有大学学位,他的成功使人们对商业社会最受欢迎的学位头衔 MBA 提出了置疑。由此可知答案为选项 C)。

Passage Two

内容大意:本文讲述的是美国密歇根州卡尔卡斯卡城的事情。学校声称经费不足而集体停课,造成大量学生失学。透过现象看本质,原来停课背后有其政治目的:MEA(密歇根教育协会)想借此举动,促使该城提高个人财产税率,以及要求密歇根州对增加教育经费进行立法。为了政治目的而让学生们无学可上,这种做法引起作者的不满。

6. C)。细节题。[问题]我们从来中得知密歇根州卡尔卡斯卡城的学校受何人资助? 选项 A)意为:由州政府和当地政府资助;选项 B)意为:完全由当地政府资助;选项 C)意为:主要由州政府资助;选项 D)意为:由国家教育协会资助。

[解析]从第一段可知,该城学校停课的其中一个目的是促使密歇根州政府增加教育经费,可见学校主要是由州政府资助的。由此可知答案为选项 C)。

7. D)。细节题。[问题]校方官员停课的目的之一是什么? 选项 A)意为:避免为教师和职员提供退休福利;选项 B)意为:引起当地纳税人对政治争端的注意;选项 C)意为:使其教师和职员的经济困难为公众所知;选项 D)意为:向密歇根州政府施压,为当地学校增加经费。

[解析]此题答案可以在第一段的最后一句中找到:他们的目标是促使密歇根州政府对增加教育经费立法。由此可知答案为选项D)。

8. B)。细节题。[问题]作者看起来不赞成什么? 选项A)意为:密歇根州的立法者无休止的辩论;选项B)意为:卡尔卡斯卡城学校的关闭;选项C)意为:传媒的卷入;选项D)意为:推迟学校基金立法的通过。

[解析]文章第三段的首句说到“但是校方没有尽力使学校坚持运转。他们婉拒了州政府的资助,并拒绝削减课外活动支出,在税率提高幅度上也不做出任何让步”。不难看出,作者对当地校方不慎重的关校行为十分不满。由此可知答案为选项B)。

9. D)。细节题。[问题]我们从文中得知卡尔卡斯卡城的校方更关注什么? 选项A)意为:密歇根州财产税税率的增加;选项B)意为:立即重开那里的学校;选项C)意为:MEA 家长组织的态度;选项D)意为:制造关闭学校的政治争端。

[解析]文章第三段谈到当地校方没有尽力使学校运转,而是急于关校;而第四段的一句话很尖锐地指出:其他迹象也表明,当地校方不去克服困难开放学校,而是更关心用停课来做出政治声明,由此可知答案为选项D)。

10. B)。细节题。[问题]根据文章,学校的关闭发展为一场危机,原因是什么? 选项A)意为:问题的复杂性;选项B)意为:教育者的政治动机;选项C)意为:州政府官员的软弱反应;选项D)意为:学生家长的强烈抗议。

[解析]本题可以使用排除法。通读全文,可以看出,导致停课危机的原因不是问题太复杂(问题只有:一个校方缺乏资金使学校运转),也不是州政府反应软弱(最后一段可见州政府强硬的态度),也没有提到学生家长的强烈抗议。真正的原因是教育者的政治动机在作怪! 由此可知答案为选项B)。

Passage Three

本文从德国前首相俾斯麦倡导社会保险计划入手,主要讲述了美国职工赔偿保险的发展历史,是一篇纪实性的文章。

11. C)。细节题。[问题]俾斯麦倡导的世界第一部赔偿法是出于什么目的? 选项A)意为:为使工业生产更安全;选项B)意为:为了加速工业化进程;选项C)意为:考虑宗教和政治因素的结果;选项D)意为:害怕失去社会工运力量的支持。

[解析]文章的第一段最后一句话很清楚地表明了他的目的:一方面作为基督徒对无助者的怜悯,另一方面则从政治上考虑,即减少社会劳动党对无助者的支持。由此可知答案为选项C)。

12. A)。细节题。[问题]从文中我们得知欧洲工业化的进程如何? 选项A)意为:伴随着工伤数目的增加;选项B)意为:导致大众社会保险计划的发展;选项C)意为:要求工人们明白工厂中潜在的危险;选项D)意为:遇到从事机器生产的劳工们的抵制。

[解析]文章第一段第二句话提到:在19世纪中叶,德国和其他欧洲国家一样,随着工业产量的增长,工作中的伤亡事故前所未有地增多起来。解题难点是对rash一词的理解,它的原意是“出疹”,这里的意思是“大量出现”。由此可知答案为选项A)。

13. D)。细节题。[问题]19世纪初美国工伤雇员为获赔偿所面临的问题之一是什么? 选项A)意为:他们要有在法庭上诉讼赔偿的勇气;选项B)意为:美国不同的州有完全不同的赔偿项目;选项C)意为:美国的平均赔偿额大大低于生活消费;选项D)意为:他们不得不提供其雇主对事故负有责任的证据。

[解析]在文章第二段可以找到答案:工伤雇员可以通过法律诉讼来获得赔偿,但是他们能够证明他们的工伤是由雇主的疏忽造成的,而且自己对潜在的危险全然不知。也就是说,他们要证明他们的受伤应该由雇主负责。由此可知答案为选项D)。

14. C)。细节题。[问题]1972年后工人赔偿保险在美国工人中更受欢迎的结果是什么?选项A)意为:四口之家的贫困水平急剧增加;选项B)意为:索赔的法律障碍减少;选项C)意为:工人损害赔偿诉讼增加;选项D)意为:赔偿体系分得更多资金。

[解析]文章最后一段提到:从1972年至今,平均赔偿获益从平均周薪的55%提高到97%,同时,赔偿获益每增加10个百分点,申请人数就增加5%。由此可知答案为选项C)。

15. B)。推断题。[问题]作者在文章结尾暗示了什么?选项A)意为:美国的赔偿保险达到新的高度;选项B)意为:工人不是惟一从赔偿体系中获益的人;选项C)意为:各行各业的人都能从赔偿体系中获益;选项D)意为:赔偿体系中的资金是美国经济中的巨大浪费。

[解析]作者在文章结尾时暗示了什么?这样的题目,就是要考我们对句子的理解。文章最后一句话的意思是由于职工赔偿保险体系涉及到如此巨额的资金,那么医生和律师在这块不断增大的馅饼中捞到自己的一块,也就不足为奇了。可见从赔偿保险中获益的不仅仅是职工。由此可知答案为选项B)。

Passage Four

本文主要谈到美国过度消费的危害,是一篇评论性的文章。

16. D)。细节题。[问题]二战后富裕社会出现的结果是什么?选项A)意为:产生了新一代的上层消费者;选项B)意为:使新的自我主义占了上风;选项C)意为:导致零售体系的改革;选项D)意为:导致人们对消费主义的崇拜。

[解析]文章第一段引用了一位零售业分析家的话,大意是:我们强大的生产力,要求大家把消费作为自己的生活方式,把购买商品看作宗教仪式,在消费中寻求精神的满足和自我的完善。可见,二战后的社会富足导致人们对消费主义的崇拜。由此可知答案为选项D)。

17. D)。细节题。[问题]除了强大的生产力,导致高消费的另一个重要因素是什么?选项A)意为:商品销售向仪式的转化;选项B)意为:人们对提高生活水平的渴望;选项C)意为:生产和消费之间的不平衡;选项D)意为:成功由消费水平度量的观念。

[解析]文章第三段讲到,消费观念已经植入社会的价值观当中,成功的消费主义的定义已经深入人心。由此可知答案为选项D)。

18. B)。细节题。[问题]作者为什么把高消费说成是好坏掺半的事情?选项A)意为:因为在富裕社会里仍热存在贫困;选项B)意为:因为人们在追求特质满足中会牺牲道德价值;选项C)意为:因为无限制的人口增长使过度消费不能持久;选项D)意为:因为在现代化过程中传统仪式常被忽略。

[解析]文章第四段指出过度消费对于环境的破坏,而第五段指出即使对人类自身,高消费也是好坏掺半的事情,因为在为高消费而匆忙致富中,诚实、勤劳等品质,友谊、家庭和社会等关系,都被牺牲了。由此可知答案为选项B)。

19. C)。细节题。[问题]根据文章,作者对消费主义文化持什么观点?选项A)意为:不能使脆弱的经济出现繁荣;选项B)意为:不会使环境问题恶化;选项C)意为:不能满足人类的精神需求;选项D)意为:不会缓解富裕国家的贫困问题。

[解析]文章第六段对消费主义文化作了批判:在工业社会中,许多人感到富足的世界有点空虚,也就是说,人们被消费主义文化观误导,用物质东西去满足社会的、心理的和精神的需

求,这种追求是毫无结果的。由此可知答案为选项 C)。

20. D)。推断题。[问题]从文章我们可推知什么? 选项 A)意为:人类的精神需求应随着物质丰富的变化而变化;选项 B)意为:满足人类的物质需求没有止境;选项 C)意为:是否应鼓励高消费是个颇有争议的问题;选项 D)意为:如何保持合理的消费水平仍是一个问题。

[解析] 本题答案就在文章的最后一段,作者对高消费提出批评,那么,既然人们消费太少和太多都会对环境造成破坏,那么,多少才是合理的消费水平? 我们生活的地球环境可以支持什么水平的消费? 什么时候人们才不在更多的消费中得到满足? 作者以这三个问题结束全文,显然对如何将消费保持在合理水平还没有答案。由此可知答案为选项 D)。

Reading comprehension 2

(2002 年 6 月大学英语六级考试真题)

Directions: There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or Unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the center.

Passage One

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage:

When global warming finally came, it stuck with a vengeance (异乎寻常地). In some regions temperatures rose several degrees in less than a century. Sea levels shot up nearly 400 feet, flooding coastal settlements and forcing people to migrate inland. Deserts spread throughout the world as vegetation shifted drastically in North America, Europe and Asia. After driving many of the animals around them to near extinction, people were forced to abandon their old way of life for a radically new survival strategy that resulted in widespread starvation and disease. The adaptation was farming: the global-warming crisis that gave rise to it happened more than 10,000 years ago.

As environmentalists convene in mode Janeiro this week to ponder the global climate of the future, earth scientists are in the midst of a revolution in understanding how climate has changed in the past—and how those changes have transformed human existence. Researchers have begun to piece together an illuminating picture of the powerful geological and astronomical forces that have combined to change the planet's environment from hot to cold, wet to dry and back again over a time period stretching back hundreds of millions of years.

Most important, scientists are beginning to realize that the climatic changes have had a major impact on the evolution of the human species. New research now suggests that climate shifts have played a key role in nearly every significant turning point in human evolution: from the dawn of Primates (灵长类动物) some 65 million years ago to human ancestors rising up to walk on two legs, from the huge expansion of the human brain to the rise of agriculture. Indeed, the human history has not been merely touched by global climate change, some scientists argue, it has in some instances been driven by it.

The new research has profound implications for the environmental summit in Rio. Among other things, the findings demonstrate that dramatic climate change is nothing new for planet Earth. The benign (宜人的) global environment that has existed over the past 10,000 years—during which agriculture, writing, cities and most other features of civilization appeared—is a mere bright spot in a much larger pattern of widely varying climate over the ages. In fact the pattern of climate change in the past reveals that Earth's climate will almost certainly go through dramatic changes in the future—even without the influence of human activity

1. Farming emerged as a survival strategy because man had been obliged ____.

- A) to give up his former way of life
 - B) to leave the coastal areas
 - C) to follow the ever-shifting vegetation
 - D) to abandon his original settlement
2. Earth scientists have come to understand that climate _____.
A) is going through a fundamental change
B) has been getting warmer for 10,000 years
C) will eventually change from hot to cold
D) has gone through periodical changes
3. Scientists believe that human evolution _____.
A) has seldom been accompanied by climatic changes
B) has exerted little influence on climatic changes
C) has largely been effected by climatic changes
D) has had a major impact on climatic changes
4. Evidence of past climatic changes indicates that _____.
A) human activities have accelerated changes of Earth's environment
B) Earth's environment will remain mild despite human interference
C) Earth's climate is bound to change significantly in the future
D) Earth's climate is unlikely to undergo substantial changes in the future
5. The message the author wishes to convey in the passage is that _____.
A) human civilization remains glorious though it is affected by climatic changes
B) mankind is virtually helpless in the face of the dramatic changes of climate
C) man has to limit his activities to slow down the global warming process
D) human civilization will continue to develop in spite of the changes of nature

Passage Two

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage:

No woman can be too rich or too thin. This saying often attributed to the late Duchess (公爵夫人) of Windsor embodies much of the odd spirit of our times. Being thin is deemed as such virtue.

The problem with such a view is that some people actually attempt to live by it. I myself have fantasies of slipping into narrow designer clothes. Consequently, I have been on a diet for the better—or worse—part of my life. Being rich wouldn't be bad either, but that won't happen unless an unknown relative dies suddenly in some distant land, leaving me millions of dollars.

Where did we go off the track? When did eating butter become a sin, and a little bit of extra flesh unappealing, if not repellent? All religions have certain days when people refrain from eating, and excessive eating is one of Christianity's seven deadly sins. However until quite recently, most People had a problem getting enough to eat. In some religious groups, Wealth was a symbol of probable salvation and nigh morals, and fatness a sign of wealth and well-being.