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新东方口译考试培训班指定辅导用书

上海市英语高级口译岗位资格证书考试



# 高级口译 全真模拟试题

Advanced Interpretation  
Simulation Tests

主编◎汪海涛 邱政政



群言出版社  
Qunyan Press



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## 序

上海市英语口译岗位资格证书考试经过十几年的辉煌发展，目前已经成为中国影响力最大、考生最多的口译考试。“世博”、“奥运”、“国际化都市”、“世界 500 强”等概念使得外语热燃遍长三角，由此催生的大量商务会议、博览会以及国际商务谈判对口译人才产生了强烈的需求。

随着国民英语水平节节攀升，越来越多的外语学习者把目标指向国内高难度的外语考试——中、高级口译，通过学习和挑战，把自己的外语水平带到更高境界，为自己在职场上赢得绝对优势。500 强企业录取人才时，除了面试和技能测试外，对中、高级口译证书格外重视。众多的学子在经历了中、高考和四六级的洗礼后，都跃跃欲试高含金量的口译考试。2007 年，考生人数已经突破十万，考点覆盖到外企云集的长江南北十大城市，而考生也从大学生、白领阶层延伸到中小学生乃至六七十岁的老人。

中、高级口译考试是国内含金量最高的素质英语考试之一，试题难度大，题量多，通过率控制严格，其证书也就有了很高的可信度。在每份口译试卷中，主客观考题科学分布，仅翻译内容就细分为听译、笔译和口译，语言又覆盖到汉译英和英译汉，难度从句子翻译升级到段落翻译，内容上跨越了科技、经贸、旅游、城市发展、时事新闻、历史文化等多个领域。阅读部分则精选了各类财经刊物的最新时文，改动变化不多，考查学生对地道英文的理解和判断能力，同时拓展了他们的逻辑思维和视野。因为一次性通过口译考试意味着巨大挑战，学生在复习口译教材和参加培训的基础上就需要大量的模拟训练。

上海新东方学校在新东方集团首开口译培训项目，在口译教学领域拥有数十名资深翻译和口译专家，通过多年高质量的口译培训，在业界打造了卓越的教学口碑。2003~2007 年，通过多次“上海口译风采大赛”吸引各路精英参与，让“口若悬河，译统天下”的理念广为传播，同时精妙阐释了口译在职场的威力。

经过多年的教学研究，上海新东方学校口译研究中心开发了“口译”系列丛书，力求帮助众多的考生顺利过关。我们在数百场考前高校大型巡讲的过程中，发现考生非常需要真题以外的模考题，而模考题在备考的冲刺阶段具有重要作用。同时，由于此类图书在市场上极为紧缺，上海新东方组织口译研究中心的骨干专家们开始逐步编写，专家组前期花了大量时间进行题型细分、考试趋势分析、资料收集筛选、难度评估讨论，才正式进行题目编写。题目都是在大量储备的试题库中精选改造而成的，争取每一套试题都能反映最新考试趋势，在仿真度上与真题接轨。凭借雄厚的教学和教研实力，新东方口译专家们一起打造的“中、高级口译全真模拟试题”系列终于和广大考生见面了。

由于口译考试除了教材的知识点以外，没有完整的考试大纲知识汇编，考题内容广泛，包罗

万象，因而模拟题学习是必经之路，考生需要大大扩充练习量，以提高应试技能，这也意味着这两本模考试题会发挥巨大的助考作用。考生可以根据模拟题适当安排进度，磨练答题的节奏、质量和熟练度，在考前做到胸有成竹。

当然，学习口译不仅仅是为了考试。读者除了把这两本全真模拟试题用作应试训练外，还可以把其中的内容作为重要的英语学习资料，积累词汇和重要知识点，分析长难句，增加新闻听说机会，苦练听、说、读、写、译技能，奠定坚实基础，实现职场飞跃。

感谢长期以来对上海口译教学和教研大力支持的新东方创始人俞敏洪老师，感谢上海市口译岗位资格证书考试办公室领导们多年来的指导与帮助，感谢为本套丛书作出突出贡献的上海新东方口译研究中心的专家们，感谢新东方大愚文化，是大家一起做出了这两本精美、实用和高效的图书。

汪海涛  
于上海新东方学校

## 前言

近年，随着就业形势的日益严峻，英语中、高级口译岗位资格证书考试已经在全国的中学、大学校园和白领职场成“燎原之势”。口译证书为何如此受宠？上海市外语口译岗位资格证书考试办公室主任殷勤认为，中、高级口译证书的高含金量和低通过率是其成为大学生、中学生和职场人士首选的重要原因，而我们上海新东方学校口译研究中心早在五年前提出的“一纸证书+真才实学”的教学宗旨，也恰恰体现了中、高级口译考试的本质。

秉承“口译成就梦想”的教学理念，口译项目已经成为上海新东方学校最具活力和人气的培训项目，其招生人数连续五年在申城乃至全国位居第一，考试通过率也连续十次在全国名列前茅，上海新东方已经成为驰名全国的中、高级口译培训基地。

从2003年项目启动至今的五年间，上海新东方培养出9名高级口译最高分得主和10名中级口译最高分得主，年纪最小的中级口译证书获得者12岁的金琪、年纪最小的高级口译证书获得者16岁的周逸群，以及全国高级口译最高分得主傅蓉(257.5分)均在新东方参加过口译培训。

同时，令人欣喜的是：2005年、2006年、2007年的三位上海市高考状元也都不约而同地来到上海新东方接受口译培训。2007年，上海新东方的口译项目更是独家荣获了上海市教育博览会“口译金牌项目”的称号，这标志着口译进入了新东方时代！

当然，“模得好，才能考得好！”，毕竟口译水平最终要通过考试来检验，而应对考试最有利的武器除了深入研究历年考题，还要通过大量的全真模拟来达到事半功倍的效果。因而每年十多万的口译考生需要一系列高质量的模拟试题来进行针对性的训练。

上海新东方口译研究中心在广大口译考生的强烈渴望和要求下，果断决策，集合“中心”70多位口译专家、学者、笔试阅卷人及口译考官，参与编著了《中级口译全真模拟试题》和《高级口译全真模拟试题》这两本试卷。书中各包括10套全真模拟试题，并配有权威的参考答案和精准的听力原文供考生模考后进行比对和分析，以达到迅速提升考试成绩的目的，为广大口译考生的备考提供了最为强大的助力。

为保证这两本试卷的权威性与专业性，新东方口译研究中心下设的听力课题组、阅读课题组和翻译课题组在进行了五年权威口译模考的基础上，严格遵循中、高级口译最新走势、紧扣考试大纲及出题思路，分别从800多篇最新英美时文，60万字精选听力语料和400篇权威笔译段落中甄选考试素材，可谓精益求精，相信一定会使广大口译考生在实战考试中“如虎添翼”。

考生们如有任何关于备考的问题，可以登陆新东方口译名师博客群 <http://blog.hjenglish.com/qiuzhengzheng> 与广大老师互动交流。最后衷心祝愿大家考试成功！

邱政政  
于上海新东方学校

## 新东方口译顶尖学员心声摘录

**2007 全国高级口译最高分得主，上海新东方高级口译班(GY097)傅蓉同学（北京国际关系学院）：**

衷心感谢上海新东方高口老师们的悉心辅导，没有他们的帮助与鼓励，我也不可能取得如此好的成绩。预祝所有准备参加高口考试的同学们都能取得满意的成绩！

**中级口译证书年龄最小的获得者，12 岁的金琪同学(上外附中初一预备班)，她在 2007 年 9 月以 204 分通过高级口译笔试。**

上海新东方综合能力部为所有的口译爱好者提供了最大、最亮的展示平台。在这里，没有谁是失败者；在这里，希望长存，成功仅一步之遥！

**高级口译证书年龄最小的获得者，16 岁的周逸群同学(上外附中高二)：**

我从上海新东方正规、有效的口译培训中学到了很多东西。这不仅帮助我提高了英语综合能力，培养了良好的听说语感，对提高词汇量和阅读也很有帮助，还让我了解了西方文化各个层面的许多知识。在随后的中级口译和高级口译考试中，我发挥正常，双双过关！（备注：周逸群同学已于 2006 年被保送到清华大学）

**上海市 2007 年高考状元胡文琦(上海中学)：**

口译，是上海近几年越来越热的一门证书考试，含金量非常高。我也不例外，充分利用暑期，力求英语能力更上一层楼。早就听说新东方蜚声海内外，但苦于一直没有机会报读。高考成绩出来后，我便第一时间报读了新东方的中级口译暑期强化班。

**2007 第三届上海口译风采大赛冠军毕竞邨(上海交大)：**

学习高口时我选择了上海新东方，除了口碑之外，一方面也是冲着新东方“绝望中寻找希望”的精神。事实证明，这个选择是相当正确的。也正是通过在新东方的那段口译经历，我重新树立起了自信。我热爱新东方的氛围，更希望有朝一日能够加入新东方大家庭！

**上海国际银行金融学院最年轻的市场总监林晓东：**

在新东方学口译的成果真是大大的出乎意料，新东方听说速成班和高级口译班上的四位著名的口译专家，为我的英语学习带来了一种全新的理念和态度，还包涵着对西方文化的深入理解和探讨！

**上海电视台“第一财经”编辑王明月：**

在口译老师的帮助下，我逐渐感到口译似乎不再那么可怕了，规律也仿佛尽在掌握。贴心的新东方老师还根据我们的实际水平量身定制每日，甚至是每小时的考前系统复习计划，这般如有神助，自然得心应手。在最专业和权威的指导下，我顺利地拿到了中级和高级口译证书。

**中国翻译家协会最年轻的会员之一： Henry Liang**

没有在上海新东方高级口译课堂上的强化训练和新东方口译老师的精神鼓励，就没有我的现在，没有我的一切成就。成为新东方的口译老师是我的梦想。

# 目 录

## 上海市英语高级口译资格证书第一阶段考试

○ 全真模拟试题一 .....	1
○ 全真模拟试题二 .....	17
○ 全真模拟试题三 .....	33
○ 全真模拟试题四 .....	49
○ 全真模拟试题五 .....	65
○ 全真模拟试题六 .....	82
○ 全真模拟试题七 .....	98
○ 全真模拟试题八 .....	114
○ 全真模拟试题九 .....	130
○ 全真模拟试题十 .....	146
○ 全真模拟试题一听力原文及参考答案 .....	161
○ 全真模拟试题二听力原文及参考答案 .....	173
○ 全真模拟试题三听力原文及参考答案 .....	185
○ 全真模拟试题四听力原文及参考答案 .....	197
○ 全真模拟试题五听力原文及参考答案 .....	208
○ 全真模拟试题六听力原文及参考答案 .....	220
○ 全真模拟试题七听力原文及参考答案 .....	232
○ 全真模拟试题八听力原文及参考答案 .....	244
○ 全真模拟试题九听力原文及参考答案 .....	256
○ 全真模拟试题十听力原文及参考答案 .....	269



# 上海市英语高级口译资格证书第一阶段考试 全真模拟试题一 (I)

## SECTION 1: LISTENING TEST (30 minutes)

### Part A: Spot Dictation

**Directions:** In this part of the test, you will hear a passage and read the same passage with blanks in it. Fill in each of the blanks with the word or words you have heard on the tape. Write your answer in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**. Remember you will hear the passage **ONLY ONCE**.

This is what Africa has in abundance, space, almost 12 million square miles of desert, savanna, coastline, and people, 700 million in sub-Saharan Africa, 11% of the planets population, more than half of them children, and almost all of them poor. This too is what Africa has in abundance, poverty. Sub-Saharan Africa is \_\_\_\_\_ (1), almost half the people here live on less than 65 cents a day, not enough money, not enough food. One in three Africans is undernourished, malnutrition is a \_\_\_\_\_ (2) here, one in five children die before reaching the age of five. So many lives are short, \_\_\_\_\_ (3) is just over 45 years, often less for women, who die bearing children, die of AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa has just \_\_\_\_\_ (4), but close to 70% of all people living with HIV, more than 29 million people. 58% of them, women. More than 16 million Africans \_\_\_\_\_ (5), that's the population of Hong Kong, Denmark and Ireland combined. 12 million children have \_\_\_\_\_ (6), many of them like these in Uganda HIV positive. HIV, AIDS is only one disease plaguing Africa. Malaria kills almost \_\_\_\_\_ (7). Measles kills more than a thousand children every day. That's one child nearly every minute. Measles can \_\_\_\_\_ (8), but in sub-Saharan Africa only about a half of all children are immunized during the first year of life. \_\_\_\_\_ (9) in Nigeria let polio, which was nearly eradicated in the world, takes route again, spread to 17 previously polio-free countries. There is no vaccine \_\_\_\_\_ (10); the best prevention is clean water, which more than 300 million Africans don't have. Water of any kind \_\_\_\_\_ (11), or so distant, that the working years of many lives are spent hauling water. Work for most is hard. \_\_\_\_\_ (12), labour as farmers, grow what they can, where they can, and get it to market however they can. Across sub-Saharan Africa economic growth is low, slow, and \_\_\_\_\_ (13). Corruption is another kind of plague here. And so is war. One in every five Africans lives in a society \_\_\_\_\_ (14), armed conflict has ruptured nearly half of all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the past 5 years. Most horribly in Liberia, Congo, Darfur, and Sudan. Uncounted millions have \_\_\_\_\_ (15). Without stability and good government progress is limited, so is the willingness of donors to give and investors to invest to bring \_\_\_\_\_ (16) into the modern world. To improve education, 41% of Africans cannot read or write, as many as half of all African children \_\_\_\_\_ (17). Even

those who complete high school are ill-equipped to be part of a 21st-century work force, or the technological age. Less than one percent of the African population has a computer; only one in forty owns a telephone. Yet Africa \_\_\_\_\_ (18) beneath the surface, literally in minerals, gold, cobalt, copper, diamonds and in oil. Sub-Saharan African countries will earn more than 200 billion dollars in oil revenues \_\_\_\_\_ (19). And Africa has incalculable wealth in its people, who are among the most perseverant and resilient on Earth, who want and have \_\_\_\_\_ (20), and in a growing number of African countries free elections.

## Part B: Listening Comprehension

**Directions:** *In this part of the test there will be some short talks and conversations. After each one, you will be asked some questions. The talks, conversations and questions will be spoken **ONLY ONCE**. Now listen carefully and choose the right answer to each question you have heard and write the letter of the answer you have chosen in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**.*

**Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following conversation.**

1. (A) St. John's College. (B) Clare Bridge beside the Clare College.  
(C) The rebuilt buildings of Trinity College. (D) The chapel of King's College.
2. (A) Only fellows are admitted to the Chamber.  
(B) Only fellows are allowed to visit the Chancellor.  
(C) Only fellows are permanently attached to the college.  
(D) Only fellows are permitted to walk on the grass.
3. (A) A professor of Trinity College. (B) A lecturer of Clare College.  
(C) The Director of the Board. (D) The treasurer of a college.
4. (A) St. John's College. (B) Clare College.  
(C) Trinity College. (D) King's College.
5. (A) St. John's College. (B) Clare College.  
(C) Trinity College. (D) King's College.

**Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following news.**

6. (A) 74.59%. (B) 25.41%.  
(C) 21.78%. (D) 30.98%.
7. (A) To be hastily scheduled for early next week in Germany.  
(B) To reach some conclusion during the G8 summit in Heilingendamm, Germany.  
(C) To increase aid to Africa.  
(D) To divide over commitments on climate change and on whether to reiterate earlier promises made to America.
8. (A) Kiambu district is about 22km west of the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.  
(B) Residents have been living in fear for the past twelve months.  
(C) Members of an outlawed sect, Mungiki, are trying to maintain local security.  
(D) There are many security officers in the village.
9. (A) At least twenty-two. (B) Ten.  
(C) Twenty-five. (D) Two.

10. (A) The Surf: A Hub for Small Coastal Towns  
(B) The Season: Running from the October School Holidays  
(C) Australia: Cutting Energy Consumption  
(D) The Club: Saving 750 US Dollars a Year

**Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following interview.**

11. (A) Not after ten past or half past nine. (B) At nine o'clock sharp.  
(C) Flextime. (D) Not before ten o'clock.
12. (A) At most fifteen minutes. (B) At least twenty minutes.  
(C) Thirty minutes or so. (D) Forty minutes or more.
13. (A) People may relax all the time when they have once got a job.  
(B) People may sit idle when their boss is not there.  
(C) Many of the big companies in the US now have flextime.  
(D) People may start or end work earlier or later as they wish to.
14. (A) Flextime is common in the US although in parts of Europe this is not the case.  
(B) People are not paid for what they do but for their time.  
(C) It is difficult for people to get a job contract in the US and Europe.  
(D) Employees are expected to work their flextime before the coffee break and after the lunch hour.
15. (A) The difference in office life between the US and Europe.  
(B) The democratic aspect of American office life.  
(C) The problems people are faced with in American offices.  
(D) Office routines in the US.

**Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following talk.**

16. (A) Both parents working and raising two or three children.  
(B) A working father, a housewife mother and a couple of children.  
(C) Married couples who decide not to have any children.  
(D) Adult children living with only one of their parents.
17. (A) High divorce rate in the culture and the new trend of DINK in the country.  
(B) Rapid economic growth in the past decades despite of the "women's problems".  
(C) The sustained high unemployment rate in this country despite of the economic development.  
(D) Previous full-time homemakers now working outside their homes.
18. (A) 44.5%. (B) 45.5%.  
(C) 54.5%. (D) 55.5%.
19. (A) By allowing the transferred employee to work on flextime so as to take care of the family.  
(B) By providing extra allowance and perks for the employee's family.  
(C) By helping the employee's spouse to find a new job.  
(D) By setting up affordable or even free day-care centers in the company.
20. (A) Only some large companies implement the new policies listed in the talk.  
(B) The situation of modern working parents has been greatly improved owing to the adoption of these policies.  
(C) These policies are very expensive to implement even in large American companies.  
(D) Some of these policies make it even more difficult for the employees to work and take care of the family unexpectedly.

## SECTION 2: READING TEST (30 minutes)

**Directions:** *In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by several questions about it. You are to choose **ONE** best answer, (A), (B), (C) or (D), to each question. Answer all the questions following each passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage and write the letter of the answer you have chosen in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**.*

### Questions 1-5

Quipus are the mysterious bundles of colored and knotted threads that served as the Inca empire's means of recording information. The code of the quipus has long since been forgotten, and the only major advance in understanding them was the insight, made in 1923, that the knots were used to represent numbers. The quantity and positioning of the knots, at least in certain quipus, is agreed to represent a decimal system.

A new and possibly significant advance in deciphering the quipu system may now have been gained by two Harvard researchers, Gary Urton and Carrie J. Brezine. They believe they may have decoded the first word—a place name—to be found in a quipu (pronounced KWEE-poo), and have also identified what some of the many numbers in the quipu records may be referring to.

Though a single word would be just the first step in a very long road, it would open the possibility of discovering a whole new level of meaning in the quipus. It could also resolve a longstanding controversy by establishing that quipus included a writing system and were not just personal mnemonic devices understood only by the person who made them, as some scholars have maintained.

That in turn would help explain the “Inca paradox,” that among states of large size and administrative complexity the Inca empire stands out as the only one that apparently did not invent writing. The paradox would be resolved if indeed the quipu encodes a writing system as well as numbers.

The Harvard researchers also have ideas about the nature of the item being so carefully tallied in the quipus under study: units of labor, like an ancient time log. The Inca empire, which lasted from about 1450 to 1532, depended on tribute levied in the form of a labor tax. Because of the importance of the tax for building the imperial roads and other public works, both the requisition and delivery of the labor days owed in tax were likely to have been carefully recorded by the Inca bureaucrats. Quipus were used both by high officials to issue instructions and by lower officials to report what they had done. It is easy to imagine a diligent accountant wanting to compare the outgoing quipu, or a copy of it, with the incoming response quipu.

Since the quipu could represent instructions sent to the ruler of Puruchuco from the provincial governor, or accounting records sent from Puruchuco to the governor, it would have been useful for the records to carry a tag identifying the place they referred to. As it happens, all the quipu in the two top summarizing layers carry an initial set of knots designating three ones, as if 1-1-1 designated the place name for Puruchuco. The lowest level quipus do not carry this ZIP code, perhaps because they never left Puruchuco and so didn't need one. If this interpretation is accepted by other scholars, it would be the first meaning beyond the number system to be identified in quipus, Dr. Urton said.

Galen Brokaw, a quipu expert at the State University of New York at Buffalo, said it was plausible to suggest the numbers being tallied in many quipu referred to the labor tax. Dr. Urton's identification of 1-1-1 as a place name would, if confirmed, be “a substantive contribution to understanding how quipu worked,” Dr. Brokaw said. The proposal is fascinating, he said, but hard to verify because the provenance of most quipu is unknown.

Only 700 or so quipus have been preserved, since the Spanish destroyed them as a matter of policy. About two-thirds are clearly numerical records, with knots placed in a series of levels, each corresponding to a power of 10. But scholars have been baffled by the nature of the remaining third, which embody some different meaning.

Those who believe the nonnumerical quipus were just personal mnemonic devices cite a 17th-century Jesuit chronicler who reported that each quipu maker could understand only his own quipu, not those of others. But the chronicler may have been misinformed, Dr. Urton wrote in his book *Signs of the Inka Khipu*, because his report was made 70 years after the Spanish authorities in Lima had condemned quipu as idolatrous in a decree of 1583 and had ordered them burned.

Dr. Urton believes that the Puruchuco hierarchy of quipus would have been made by different people and hence show information passing between them via quipu. This would be a significant finding, if true, since it points to the quipu encoding generally understood signs, not a personal set of signs.

1. According to the passage, what is NOT the significance of the latest decoding of the quipu system by two Harvard researchers?
  - (A) It casts light on the understanding of the whole quipu system.
  - (B) It helps to settle a long-standing debate over the nature of the quipu system.
  - (C) It is likely to prove that the Inca Empire did create its own writing system.
  - (D) It shows that the "Inca paradox" only concerns the cultural development of the ancient Empire.
2. Based on the latest discovery by Harvard researchers, quipus might be all the following EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) an approach to exchange information between individuals
  - (B) a system of numbers
  - (C) accounting records of labor tax
  - (D) a form of instructions or reports by bureaucrats
3. Galen Brokaw holds that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) Gary Urton and Carrie J. Brezine has interpreted the quipu system convincingly
  - (B) the latest advance in decoding quipus does not reveal all the functions of quipus
  - (C) the greatest obstacle to fully understanding quipus is their complexity
  - (D) Urton's identification of 1-1-1 as a place name is still debatable
4. All of the following are true EXCEPT that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) researchers still have divergent views about the nature of quipus
  - (B) Spanish invaders once devastated the civilization of the Inca Empire
  - (C) some Christians did researches on quipus about 400 years ago
  - (D) the Puruchuco quipus unfold the hierarchy in the ancient Inca society
5. The most suitable title for this passage is probably \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) Recent Advance in the Quipus Research
  - (B) Quipus, a Long Lost Numeric System
  - (C) The Ancient Inca Empire and the Mysterious Quipus
  - (D) Verification of "Inca Paradox"

### Questions 6-10

Even as pharmaceutical companies poured a record amount of money into drug development in 2005, the industry's research drought grew worse. According to newly released statistics from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), it approved only 20 new drugs, down from 36 in 2004. Only once in last 10 years has the number of newly approved drugs been lower than last year's figure.

The dry spell in 2005 came even as spending on research by the industry reached a new high, passing \$38 billion. And in a rarity, several major companies failed to win approval for a new drug invented in their own labs, including Pfizer, Eli Lilly and Johnson & Johnson.

The decline in drug development came as scientists in and outside the companies were making great strides in genomics and other sorts of basic research into the way diseases develop, opening many potential new targets for treatment. Yet such progress in the laboratory has not translated so far into many new drugs on the market.

Some analysts say that the drug industry is in a cyclical trough, and that the number of new drugs—not just new applications for drugs already on the market—will start rising within a few years as research investments begin to pay off. But the FDA and the companies seem to agree that the process for testing and developing new drugs needs improvement.

“Our concern is that the development process itself is not keeping up at a fast enough pace to match the progress on the discovery end,” said Dr. Scott Gottlieb, the agency’s deputy commissioner for medical and scientific affairs.

The FDA is looking for ways to speed the approval of new treatments—like approving drugs based on “surrogate endpoints,” whether, for example, a cancer drug causes tumors to shrink instead of whether it prolongs the life of patients. It was on such a basis that the FDA last month approved Nexavar, a Bayer drug for treating kidney cancer.

But like finding new treatments, diagnosing the problem of drug development is easier than figuring out a solution. Even as the FDA looks for ways to speed the testing of new treatments, members of Congress and some consumer groups are calling for even more testing before drugs are approved.

The low output from research last year was even worse than the top-line figures might indicate. In 2004, important cancer treatments including Avastin, by Genentech, and Tarceva, through a partnership of Genentech and OSI Pharmaceuticals, were among the therapies that regulators allowed onto the market. The drugs that were approved were mostly for rare diseases like chronic iron overload, a condition for which the Novartis medicine Exjade received clearance.

In the meantime, the agency delayed approval of prominent new treatments like Pargluva, a diabetes drug from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck, and Exubera, a form of inhaled insulin from Pfizer.

The paucity of new products is a big reason that the stock prices of large drug makers have tended to fare poorly in recent years. Shares of Pfizer, the industry leader, for example, reached a peak of \$49 in July 2000 and have trended downward since, closing yesterday at \$24.44.

The drought in new drugs has led some industry executives to complain that the FDA is denying approval to good new treatments because of the criticism the agency has faced from lawmakers over Vioxx. Merck stopped selling its arthritis painkiller Vioxx in 2004 after a clinical trial showed that it increased the risks of heart attacks and strokes in patients taking it for 18 months or longer. Some other studies found heart attack risks as early as 2000, and the FDA has been criticized for not forcing Merck to withdraw the drug earlier or to warn doctors prominently of such risks.

Researching and developing a drug is a long and arduous process. Genentech’s work leading to Avastin, for example, began in 1989—15 years before the drug’s approval. Scientists first identify the cellular process of disease within the body. They may search for proteins that cancerous tumors release in order to spread, or receptors on the surface of a cell that become the targets of viruses.

The drug company then searches for chemical compounds or proteins that are able to interact with the

targets the scientists have found—without damaging cells in other parts of the body. If a treatment appears to have therapeutic effects in test-tube and animal trials, the companies then move on to Phase I human testing, when a handful of healthy volunteers are given the therapy to make sure that it is safe enough for wider testing. In Phase II testing, the drug is tried on a few dozen to a few hundred patients for safety and effectiveness.

Finally, in Phase III development, the drug is tested in large-scale trials with as many as several thousand patients to demonstrate its effectiveness and to search for rarer side effects.

If the treatment is shown to be unsafe or ineffective at any stage, it fails development and is put aside.

According to a report in December from Merrill Lynch, the number of potential new drugs in Phase I and II testing has nearly doubled in the last decade, to 1,971 in 2004 from 1,010 in 1995. But that has not translated into success in Phase III development; the number of drugs in Phase III has been flat at fewer than 400.

“R&D statistics over the past decade have been disappointing,” Merrill’s analysts wrote in their report. Still, the analysts predicted that companies would continue to increase research spending and expand their pipelines of early-stage drugs.

6. According to the author, the possible reasons for the dry spell of pharmaceutical companies lie in all the following EXCEPT (that) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) the paucity of investment companies made in research
  - (B) the drug industry had trended downward and currently reached its low point
  - (C) the development process did not match the pace of the related researches
  - (D) FDA postponed the approval of prominent new medications in 2004
7. What do we know about “surrogate endpoints”, based on the 6th paragraph?
  - (A) It is a principle favored by pharmaceutical companies.
  - (B) It is a criterion FDA adopted to accelerate the approval of new medicines.
  - (C) It championed the goal to lengthen cancer patients’ life rather than the effect on cancer.
  - (D) It was a time-honored practice of FDA to carry out approval for treatments.
8. The word “fare” in paragraph 10 most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) pay off
  - (B) fork over
  - (C) perform
  - (D) plunge
9. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?
  - (A) Some analysts held different opinions from FDA and pharmaceutical companies as to the research drought.
  - (B) Among the three phases of medicine development, the first one accounted most.
  - (C) In 2004, the drugs that were approved by FDA were mainly for infrequent diseases.
  - (D) Only 1/5 drugs or less entered Phase III development in 2004 according to Merrill Lynch.
10. Which of the following best summarizes the main idea of the passage?
  - (A) The dry spell of the pharmaceutical industry in 2005.
  - (B) The problem of drug development: easier to diagnose, hard to find out a solution.
  - (C) Researching and developing a therapy is a time-consuming toil.
  - (D) The aftermath of the drought in new medication last year.

### Questions 11-15

The word for *The Da Vinci Code* is a rare invertible palindrome. Rotated 180 degrees on a horizontal axis so that it is upside down, it denotes the maternal essence that is sometimes linked to the sport of soccer. Read right side up, it concisely conveys the kind of extreme enthusiasm with which this riddle-filled, code-breaking, exhilaratingly brainy thriller can be recommended.

That word is wow.

The author is Dan Brown (a name you will want to remember). In this gleefully erudite suspense novel, Mr. Brown takes the format he has been developing through three earlier novels and fine-tunes it to blockbuster perfection. Not since the advent of *Harry Potter* has an author so flagrantly delighted in leading readers on a breathless chase and coaxing them through hoops.

Consider the new book's prologue, set in the *Grand Gallery of the Louvre*. (This is the kind of book that notices that this one gallery's length is three times that of the *Washington Monument*.) It embroils a Caravaggio, an albino monk and a curator in a fight to the death. That's a scene leaving little doubt that the author knows how to pique interest, as the curator, Jacques Sauniere, fights for his life.

Desperately seizing the painting in order to activate the museum's alarm system, Sauniere succeeds in buying some time. And he uses these stolen moments, which are his last, to take off his clothes, draw a circle and arrange himself like the figure in Leonardo's most famous drawing, "The Vitruvian Man." And to leave behind an anagram and Fibonacci's famous numerical series as clues.

Whatever this is about, it is enough to summon Langdon, who by now, he blushes to recall, has been described in an adoring magazine article as *Harrison Ford in Harris Tweed*. Langdon's latest manuscript, which "proposed some very unconventional interpretations of established religious iconography which would certainly be controversial," is definitely germane.

Also soon on the scene is the cryptologist Sophie Neveu, a chip off the author's earlier prototypes: "Unlike the cookie-cutter blondes that adorned Harvard dorm room walls, this woman was healthy with an unembellished beauty and genuineness that radiated a striking personal confidence." Even if he had not contrived this entire story as a hunt for the Lost Sacred Feminine essence, women in particular would love Mr. Brown.

The book moves at a breakneck pace, with the author seeming thoroughly to enjoy his contrivances. Virtually every chapter ends with a cliffhanger: not easy, considering the amount of plain old talking that gets done. And Sophie and Langdon are sent on the run, the better to churn up a thriller atmosphere. To their credit, they evade their pursuers as ingeniously as they do most everything else.

When being followed via a global positioning system, for instance, it is smart to send the sensor flying out a 40-foot window and lead pursuers to think you have done the same. Somehow the book manages to reconcile such derring-do with remarks like, "And did you know that if you divide the number of female bees by the number of male bees in any beehive in the world, you always get the same number?"

*The Da Vinci Code* is breezy enough even to make fun of its characters' own cleverness. At one point Langdon is asked by his host whether he has hidden a sought-after treasure carefully enough. "Actually," Langdon says, unable to hide his grin, "that depends on how often you dust under your couch."

11. Why does the writer use the word "wow" to describe the novel *The Da Vinci Code*?

- (A) Because the word reads the same backwards.
- (B) Because it is also linked to the sport of football.
- (C) Because the novel is imbued with perplexing enigmas and smartly wrought.
- (D) Because the novel is a bestseller.

12. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true?

- (A) Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code*, has published so far four novels.
- (B) *The Da Vinci Code* begins with a mysterious murder case in the Gallery of Luvre.
- (C) In his earlier novels, Dan Brown has created characters like Sophie Neveu.
- (D) *The Da Vinci Code* wins the popularity among women because Dan Brown is a fervent feminist.



13. It can be inferred from the passage that *Harry Potter* is all the following EXCEPT that \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) it is also a bestseller around the world (B) it attracts readers with heart-throbbing suspense  
(C) it is characterized by hoax and unreliable plots (D) it has achieved immense popularity with readers
14. The major factor that contributes to the success of *The Da Vinci Code* is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) the engrossing prologue  
(B) the depiction of the female protagonist Sophie Neveu  
(C) the breakneck pace and a cliffhanger at the end of almost every chapter  
(D) the colorful description of the cleverness of the characters
15. The writer's attitude towards *The Da Vinci Code* is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) critical (B) indifferent  
(C) affirmative (D) sarcastic

### Questions 16-20

There may be nothing more American than the home-mortgage deduction which came into being in 1913—two years before the New York Yankees wore pinstripes. This deduction has helped make the American Dream affordable and has contributed to a run-up in the homeownership rate to 69% from 44% during World War II. In recent years, the mortgage deduction hasn't just helped folks get into a house, it has given them the most valuable tool for managing their finances since the piggy bank: tax-deductible home-equity loans and lines of credit. Just try to find a rate on a credit card or construction loan that, after adjusting for taxes, comes to around 4%, as it does with home-equity borrowing. People have been tapping into this low-cost source of funds for college tuition, vacations and other spending that bailed us out of the last recession.

Now they want to take it away. A presidential panel last week suggested eliminating the interest deduction on all types of home-equity borrowing and replacing it with a 15% tax credit for a principal residence. Is this lunacy? From the homeowner's perspective, it sure seems like it.

Lawmakers have toyed with curbing the mortgage deduction for 30 years, both for utilitarian reasons (to boost tax revenue) and philosophical ones (to make the tax code less favorable to the wealthy). Yet each time the idea has surfaced it has been swatted away amid public outrage and the battle cries of every real estate lobbyist not sunning at his second home on Fiji. This time the outrage may be even more shrill, given the fears of a real estate bubble about to burst. "We are raising the loudest possible alarms," said Tom Stevens, president of the National Association of Realtor, which along with the Mortgage Bankers Association and other industry players concludes that losing the deduction would drive home prices as much as 15% lower, sap consumer confidence and imperil the economy. "You could not pick a worse time to bring this up," says Edward Yingling, president of the American Bankers Association. "The housing market is already testy."

Indeed, mortgage rates rose last week to 6.31% for the average 30-year, fixed-rate deal—the highest level in 16 months. With higher borrowing costs, mortgage applications have been falling and home prices have been leveling off in many markets. Taking away the mortgage deduction would further boost the cost of buying even proponents of scrapping the deduction concede that home prices would take a hit, though they say the brunt would be taken at the high end of the market-homes at \$1 million and up.

Yet from a broader economic perspective, dropping mortgage interest deductions has a certain appeal. For starters, it's only one part of a program that would reform the tax code without changing the burden on the average American. It would raise some taxes only as much as it cuts others. The real target is the alternative minimum tax (AMT), designed years ago to prevent millionaires from avoiding tax, but now increasingly encroaching upon the middle class. Next year the AMT will raise the burden of 21 million taxpayers earning as