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大学英语考试能力

◎ 康志峰 主编

突破

阅读

(六级)

高等教育出版社

大学英语考试能力突破 ——阅读(六级)

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内 容 提 要

本书遵照大学英语六级考试的改革方向,详细介绍了英语阅读技巧并提供了丰富的阅读材料(含有全真考阅读材料和模拟考阅读材料),侧重阅读训练。本书以体现较强英语应用能力为宗旨,还编写了大量供考生练习的预测试题,突出体现其实用性、前瞻性以及综合性。本书可作为广大参加大学英语六级考试人员的辅导用书,也可作为托福、雅思考生的阅读教辅材料。

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前 言

全国大学英语四、六级考试已有十几年之久,这一考试在我国大学外语界已经深入人心,并对大学英语教学带来了巨大影响。目前,为了适应我国进一步改革开放的需要,切实贯彻十六大提出的“四新”原则,教育部高教司将启动并实施“大学英语教学改革工程”。其中,对于大学四、六级考试也将相应进行改革。《大学英语考试能力突破——阅读(六级)》这一颇具改革新思路的考试辅导用书,正是在这样的改革背景下编写而成的。

本书按照大学英语四、六级考试改革的方向,详细介绍了阅读技巧,提供了丰富的阅读材料(含有全真阅读材料和模拟阅读材料),侧重阅读训练,以体现英语应用能力的培养。

本书的特点是:

- 一、前瞻性:在改革的新形势下,预见改革方向;
- 二、实用性:适合高校学生和同等程度自学者使用,突出对考生的能力培养,颇为实用;
- 三、综合性:既有阅读技能讲解,又有真题解析,也配有模拟训练,可谓“理论与实践相结合”。

本书分为四大部分:

第一部分:阅读能力突破方法谈(Views on Improving Reading Ability)——从应用语言学(Applied Linguistics)的角度,阐述阅读理论,并通过实例讲解阅读技能,阅读理解题目的设题思路以及解答阅读理解题的技巧;

第二部分:历年阅读真题精析(Analyses of Original Reading Tests)——精讲历年六级阅读真题,阐述各个试题所用的各种不同的解题方法和设题思路;

第三部分:阅读预测试题(Model Reading Tests)——通过大量的模拟测试,提高学生的阅读理解能力;

第四部分:阅读预测试题参考答案(Keys to Model Reading Tests)——给出该部分试题的参考答案,供读者在模拟训练之后参考。

本书在编写过程中得到了李蕾老师和扈育梅老师的大力帮助,同时吴建秋、黄艳芳、陈鸣、张琼、张琴、丁越、谈莉莉、普菊等老师也给本书的编写以大力支持,在此一并表示诚挚的谢意。

由于时间仓促,谬误之处在所难免,敬请广大读者批评指正。

康志峰

2003年11月于复旦大学



目 录

第一部分 阅读能力突破方法谈 (Views on Improving Reading Ability)	1
第二部分 历年阅读真题精析 (Analyses of Original Reading Tests)	10
2003 年 1 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	10
试题参考答案	16
试题精析	16
2002 年 6 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	19
试题参考答案	25
试题精析	25
2002 年 1 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	28
试题参考答案	34
试题精析	34
2001 年 6 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	37
试题参考答案	43
试题精析	43
2001 年 1 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	46
试题参考答案	52
试题精析	52
2000 年 6 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	55
试题参考答案	61
试题精析	61
2000 年 1 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	64
试题参考答案	69
试题精析	69
1999 年 6 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	72
试题参考答案	78



试题精析	78
1999 年 1 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	81
试题参考答案	87
试题精析	87
1998 年 6 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	90
试题参考答案	96
试题精析	96
1998 年 1 月大学英语六级考试阅读试题	99
试题参考答案	105
试题精析	105
第三部分 阅读预测试题 (Model Reading Tests)	108
第四部分 阅读预测试题参考答案 (Keys to Model Reading Tests)	215



第一部分 阅读能力突破方法谈

Part One Views on Improving Reading Ability

英文与中文有着不同的语境(context),处于不同的文化背景(cultural background)之中,所以组织语篇(discourse)的逻辑思维也迥然不同。中文语篇(Chinese discourse)提出论点,发挥主题,重启承转合,表现形式是螺旋式发展;英文语篇(English discourse)开门见山,主题明晰,摒弃庞杂陈词,易于捕捉篇章信息。纵然英汉组织语篇的逻辑思维不同,但其段落构成颇为相似。通过语篇分析(Discourse Analysis)和对例题研究,笔者发现各类英文语篇的设题思路基本相同,涉猎的题目包括细节题、主旨题、推论题、归纳题、词语辨析题等。

一、细 节 题

这是阅读理解题中经常出现的类型。这类题主要是针对事实和例证设题,可能涉及概念理解、是非判断和数字计算等。解答这类试题的办法多用寻读法(scanning),根据题目所问的内容查找相关的细节。

例一:

As environmentalists convene in Rio de 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 (灵长目动物) 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.

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

【评析】细节题。该题问:地球科学家已经对气候认识到什么。根据篇章第2句话,... to piece together an illuminating picture of the powerful geological and astronomical forces that have combined to



change ... over a time period, 可以看到地球的气候在强有力的地质和天文的作用下经历周期性的变化。篇章并没有讲述地球正在经历根本性的变化,也没有说地球气候在 10 000 年里一直在变暖,气候最终由热变冷更不符合事实。所以正确答案为 D 项。

例二:

How might the emic and etic approaches be reflected in the study of family processes? In the emic approach, the researchers might choose to focus only on middle-class White families, without regard for whether the information obtained in the study can be generalized or is appropriate for ethnic minority groups. In a subsequent study the researchers may decide to adopt an etic approach by studying not only middle-class White families but also lower-income White families, Black American families, Spanish American families, and Asian American families. In studying ethnic minority families, the researchers would likely discover that the extended family is more frequently a support system in ethnic minority family than in White American families. If so, the emic approach would reveal a different pattern of family interaction than would the etic approach, documenting that research with middle-class White families cannot always be generalized to all ethnic groups.

Which of the following is true of the ethnic minority families in the U. S. according to the passage?

- A) Their cultural patterns are usually more adaptable.
- B) Their cultural concepts are difficult to comprehend.
- C) They don't interact with each other so much as White families.
- D) They have closer family ties than White families.

【评析】细节题。该题问:关于美国少数民族家庭的事实哪一个是正确的。根据第 4 句中 In studying ethnic minority families, ... the extended family is more frequently a support system in ethnic minority families than in White American families, 可见美国少数民族家庭比白人家庭有更紧密的家庭联系,因为数代同堂的大家庭是社会重视家庭联系和家庭价值观的重要标志,所以 D 项正确。

二、主 旨 题

按照命题者的设题思路,主旨题用来测试考生对篇章语义的整体理解。该类型的题目多以以下几种形式出现:

- 1) What's the best title for the passage? /The best title of this passage is _____.
- 2) What does this passage focus on?
- 3) The passage illustrates _____.
- 4) The main idea/topic/subject of the passage is that _____.
- 5) The topic of this passage is _____.
- 6) The key point of the passage is that _____.
- 7) The article was written to explain _____.
- 8) What is the subject of this selection?
- 9) Which of the following best states the theme of the passage?



10) This passage mainly discusses/talks about _____.

11) What can we learn from the passage?

解答主旨题的方法有二:其一是找主题句(topic sentence),其二是找关键词(key words)。

解答该题的方法是略读法(skimming),找到主题句即可解决。主题句往往位于段首或段尾,个别情况也有主题句位于段中或暗示的主题思想。

例一:

A nine-year-old schoolgirl single-handedly cooks up a science-fair experiment that ends up debunking (揭穿……的真相) a widely practiced medical treatment. Emily Rosa's target was a practice known as therapeutic(治疗的) touch (TT for short), whose advocates manipulate patients' "energy field" to make them feel better and even, say some, to cure them of various ills. Yet Emily's test shows that these energy fields can't be detected, even by trained TT practitioners(行医者). Obviously mindful of the publicity value of the situation, Journal editor George Lundberg appeared on TV to declare, "Age doesn't matter. It's good science that matters, and this is good science."

Emily's mother Linda Rosa, a registered nurse, has been campaigning against TT for nearly a decade. Linda first thought about TT in the late 1980s, when she learned it was on the approved list for continuing nursing education in Colorado. Its 100,000 trained practitioners (48,000 in the U. S.) don't even touch their patients. Instead, they waved their hands a few inches from the patient's body, pushing energy fields around until they're in "balance." TT advocates say these manipulations can help heal wounds, relieve pain and reduce fever. The claims are taken seriously enough that TT therapists are frequently hired by leading hospitals, at up to \$70 an hour, to smooth patients' energy, sometimes during surgery.

Yet Rosa could not find any evidence that it works. To provide such proof, TT therapists would have to sit down for independent testing — something they haven't been eager to do, even though James Randi has offered more than one million dollars to anyone who can demonstrate the existence of a human energy field. (He's had one taker so far. She failed.) A skeptic might conclude that TT practitioners are afraid to lay their beliefs on the line. But who could turn down an innocent fourth-grader? Says Emily: "I think they didn't take me very seriously because I'm a kid."

The experiment was straightforward: 21 TT therapists stuck their hands, palms up, through a screen. Emily held her own hand over one of theirs — left or right — and the practitioners had to say which hand it was. When the results were recorded, they'd done no better than they would have by simply guessing. If there was an energy field, they couldn't feel it.

What can we learn from the passage?

- A) Some widely accepted beliefs can be deceiving.
- B) Solid evidence weighs more than pure theories.
- C) Little children can be as clever as trained TT practitioners.
- D) The principle of TT is too profound to understand.



【评析】主旨题。该题问:从篇章我们可以了解到什么,或者说,篇章是关于什么的。根据篇章主题句:第1自然段第1句话,要揭露 TT 的骗术,可知 A 项“有些广为接受的信念也可能是骗人的”为正确答案。

例二:

There are some earth phenomena you can count on, but the magnetic field, some say, is not one of them. It fluctuates in strength, drifts from its axis, and every few 100,000 years undergoes a dramatic polarity reversal — a period when north pole becomes south pole and south pole becomes north pole. But how is the field generated, and why is it so unstable?

Groundbreaking research by two French geophysicists promises to shed some light on the mystery. Using 80 metres of deep sea sediment(沉淀物) core, they have obtained measurements of magnetic-field intensity that span 11 polarity reversals and four million years. The analysis reveals that intensity appears to fluctuate with a clear, well-defined rhythm. Although the strength of the magnetic field varies irregularly during the short term, there seems to be an inevitable long-term decline preceding each polarity reversal. When the poles flip — a process that takes several hundred thousand years — the magnetic field rapidly regains its strength and the cycle is repeated.

The results have caused a stir among geophysicists. The magnetic field is thought to originate from molten(熔化的) iron in the outer core, 3,000 kilometers beneath the earth's surface. By studying mineral grains found in material ranging from rocks to clay articles, previous researchers have already been able to identify reversals dating back 170 million years, including the most recent switch 730,000 years ago. How and why they occur, however, has been widely debated. Several theories link polarity flips to external disasters such as meteor(陨星) impacts. But Peter Olson, a geophysicist at the John Hopkins University in Baltimore, says this is unlikely if the French researchers are right. In fact, Olson says intensity that predictably declines from one reversal to the next contradicts 90 percent of the models currently under study. If the results prove to be valid, geophysicists will have a new theory to guide them in their quest to understand the earth's inner physics. It certainly points the direction for future research.

Which of the following titles is most appropriate to the passage?

- A) Polarity Reversal: A Fantastic Phenomenon of Nature.
- B) Measurement of the Earth's Magnetic-field Intensity.
- C) Formation of the Two Poles of the Earth.
- D) A New Approach to the Study of Geophysics.

【评析】主旨题。该题问:下列哪项是该篇章的最合适标题。按照找篇章主题句的方法,可知该文主题句在第1自然段,语篇围绕 polarity reversal 而展开。在4个选项中,只有A能概括全文的内容,所以A项正确。

三、推 论 题

该题型要求考生在理解全文的基础上,根据文章中所含的条件、线索、制约因素和判断标准等有

关具体的细节内容和信息,遵循正确、恰当的逻辑关系和推理方法,对某一现象或某一观点、结论做出符合情理的推论,从而得出一个符合原文、属于较深层次的新结论。

推理判断题的常见题型有:

From the passage it can be inferred that _____.

The author suggests that _____.

The author implies that _____.

The purpose of this passage is that _____.

It can be concluded from the passage that _____.

例一:

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 our way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, is 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.

Overconsumption by the world's fortunate 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 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 overconsumption — 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 onto 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 does having more cease to add noticeably to human satisfaction?

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

【评析】推论题。该题可通过语篇分析,排除异项来推论出正确答案。A)人类的精神需要,应该与物质富裕相匹配,该论断貌似正确,但篇章中无此论述;B)满足人们的物质需要永无止境,这一说法过于绝对;C)是否应该鼓励高消费仍然是个问题,在篇章中无明确说法,而且作者否定高消费。根据最后1个自然段,作者提出问题:究竟地球可以支持什么样的消费水平?什么时候富裕不再被人们视为满足呢?所以D项“如何把消费保持在一个合理的水平仍然是一个问题”是正确的。

例二:

Our culture has caused most Americans to assume not only that our language is universal but that the gestures we use are understood by everyone. We do not realize that waving good-bye is the way to summon a person from the Philippines to one's side, or that in Italy and some Latin-American countries, curling the finger to oneself is a sign of farewell.

Those private citizens who sent packages to our troops occupying Germany after World War II and marked them GIFT to escape duty payments did not bother to find out that "Gift" means poison in German. Moreover, we like to think of ourselves as friendly, yet we prefer to be at least 3 feet or an arm's length away from others. Latins and Middle Easterners like to come closer and touch, which makes Americans uncomfortable.

Our linguistic(语言上的)and cultural blindness and the casualness with which we take notice of the developed tastes, gestures, customs and languages of other countries, are losing us friends, business and respect in the world.

Even here in the United States, we make few concessions to the needs of foreign visitors. There are no information signs in four languages on our public buildings or monuments; we do not have multilingual(多语的)guided tours. Very few restaurant menus have translations, and multilingual waiters, bank clerks and policemen are rare. Our transportation systems have maps in English only and often we ourselves have difficulty understanding them.

When we go abroad, we tend to cluster in hotels and restaurants where English is spoken. The attitudes and information we pick up are conditioned by those natives — usually the richer — who speak English. Our business dealings, as well as the nation's diplomacy, are conducted through interpreters.

For many years, America and Americans could get by with cultural blindness and linguistic ignorance. After all, America was the most powerful country of the free world, the distributor of needed funds and goods.

But all that is past. American dollars no longer buy all good things, and we are slowly beginning to realize that our proper role in the world is changing. A 1979 Harris poll reported that 55 percent of Americans want this country to play a more significant role in world affairs; we want to have a hand in the important decisions of the next century, even though it may not always be the upper hand.

It can be inferred that Americans being approached too closely by Middle Easterners would most probably _____.



- A) stand still
C) step forward

- B) jump aside
D) draw back

【评析】推论题。该题问:美国人如果被中东人靠得太近,最有可能有何反应。根据第2自然段最后一句话,拉美人和中东人喜欢靠得比较近,互相依偎,这会使美国人感到不舒服。由此,推断出美国人不喜欢与他人近距离接触。所以,D项“往后退”正确。

四、归 纳 题

该题型要求读者根据篇章中所陈述的某些事实或现象归纳出所要求的某一事实或现象。即所设题目中的事实或现象符合于原文中作者所陈述的事实或现象。

例一:

In the world of entertainment, TV talk shows have undoubtedly flooded every inch of space on daytime television. And anyone who watches them regularly knows that each one varies in style and format. But no two shows are more profoundly opposite in content, while at the same time standing out above the rest, than the Jerry Springer and the Oprah Winfrey shows.

Jerry Springer could easily be considered the king of “trash talk(废话)”. The topics on his show are as shocking as shocking can be. For example, the show takes the ever-common talk show themes of love, sex, cheating, guilt, hate, conflict and morality to a different level. Clearly, the Jerry Springer show is a display and exploitation of society's moral catastrophes(灾难), yet people are willing to eat up the intriguing predicaments(困境) of other people's lives.

Compared with other TV talk shows, both the Jerry Springer and the Oprah Winfrey are _____.

- A) more family-oriented
B) more profound
C) relatively formal
D) unusually popular

【评析】归纳题。该题问:与其他访谈节目比较起来,Jerry Springer 和 Oprah Winfrey 的共同特点是什么。根据篇章的第1自然段,各种 talk show 泛滥如潮,但是有两个 talk show 在内容上完全相反,同时与其他的 talk show 相比,受到观众不同寻常的欢迎。D项正是对第1自然段的归纳概括。因此,可以归纳出:与其他访谈节目比较起来,Jerry Springer 和 Oprah Winfrey 节目受到观众不同寻常的欢迎。

例二:

As the New York experience shows, recycling involves more than simply separating valuable materials from the rest of the rubbish. A discard remains a discard until somebody figures out how to give it a second life — and until economic arrangements exist to give that second life value. Without adequate markets to absorb materials collected for recycling, throwaways actually depress prices for used materials.



The key problem in dealing with returned plastic beverage containers is _____.

- A) how to reduce their recycling costs
- B) to sell them at a profitable price
- C) how to turn them into useful things
- D) to lower prices for used materials

【评析】归纳题。根据该短文的第2句话可归纳出,废弃物的回收利用首先在于找到一条再利用的途径(亦即第二次生命),其次还要有经济效益。由此可归纳出C项正确。

五、词语理解题

该类型是阅读理解部分中常见的题型,其设题思路:一是熟词僻义,即单词是大纲中的词汇,但它在文中的真正含义已不再是考生所熟悉的意思;二是生词生义,即词汇显然不在大纲要求的范围内。

虽然所考词汇为生词,然而根据其上下文逻辑关系和语义内容照样能作出正确判断。在所考词汇的语境中该词汇可能:一是指代上句所提到的事物;二是前后出现 and 或 or;三是其后有对该词的解释、说明及定义。

这类试题除单词理解之外还有短语理解以及单句理解等。

例一:

The violence within a society is controlled through institutions of law. The more developed a legal system becomes, the more society takes responsibility for the discovery, control, and punishment of violent acts. In most tribal societies, the only means to deal with an act of violence is revenge. Each family group may have the responsibility for personally carrying out judgment and punishment upon the person who committed the offense. But in legal systems, the responsibility for revenge becomes depersonalized and diffused. The society assumes the responsibility for protecting individuals from violence. In cases where they cannot be protected, the society is responsible for imposing punishment. In a state-controlled legal system, individuals are removed from the cycle of revenge motivated by acts of violence, and the state assumes responsibility for their protection.

The other side of a state legal apparatus is a state military apparatus. While the one protects the individual from violence, the other sacrifices the individual to violence in the interests of the state. In war the state affirms its supreme power over the individuals within its own borders. War is not simply a trial by combat to settle disputes between states; it is the moment when the state makes its most powerful demands upon its people for their commitment, allegiance, and supreme sacrifice. Times of war test a community's deepest religious and ethical commitments.

What does the author mean by saying "... in legal systems, the responsibility for revenge becomes depersonalized and diffused (Lines 5 ~ 6)?

- A) Legal systems greatly reduce the possibilities of physical violence.
- B) Offenses against individuals are no longer judged on a personal basis.
- C) Victims of violence find it more difficult to take revenge.



D) Punishment is not carried out directly by the individuals involved.

【评析】词语理解题。该句出现在篇章的第1自然段中,可通过篇章语境中出现的 society 和 individual 两个对立的概念来确定,或通过对 depersonalized(非个人化)和 diffused(使分散)两个词意的理解来推断:在法律制度下,对暴力的惩罚(复仇)不直接由个人来进行,而是由社会来完成。所以 D 项正确。

例二:

Imitating the brain's neural network is a huge step in the right direction, says computer scientist and biophysicist Michael Conrad, but it still misses an important aspect of natural intelligence. "People tend to treat the brain as if it were made up of color-coded transistors," he explains. "But it's not simply a clever network of switches. There are lots of important things going on inside the brain cells themselves." Specifically, Conrad believes that many of the brain's capabilities stem from the pattern-recognition proficiency of the individual molecules that make up each brain cell. The best way to build an artificially intelligent device, he claims, would be to build it around the same sort of molecular skills.

Right now, the notion that conventional computers and software are fundamentally incapable of matching the processes that take place in the brain remains controversial. But if it proves true, then the efforts of Conrad and his fellow AI rebels could turn out to be the only game in town.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to the phrase "the only game in town" (Line 3, Para. 2)?

- A) The only approach to building an artificially intelligent computer.
- B) The only way for them to win a prize in artificial intelligence research.
- C) The only area worths studying in computer science.
- D) The only game they would like to play in town.

【评析】短语辨析题。该题问:与 the only game in town 意义最相近的选项是哪一个。根据篇章陈述可知,篇章最后一句话的意思是:“如果这一观念(传统的计算机和软件的运行不能与人脑思维相比)被证明是对的,那么,Conrad 和他同伴的努力将成为这一领域中惟一的方向。”由此可确定 A 项正确。



第二部分 历年阅读真题精析

Part Two Analyses of Original Reading Tests

2003 年 1 月大学英语六级考试 阅读试题

Reading Comprehension

7.12

Directions: There are 4 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 centre.

10

Passage One

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 to have one," said Donald Morrison, professor of marketing and management science. "But in the last five years or so, when some one says, 'Should I attempt to get an MBA,' the answer a lot more is: It depends."

The Harvard Business Review printed 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 people, 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 for 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 principal of the Towers Perrin management consulting firm.

1. According to Para. 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 value 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 the 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

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 also allowed Kalkaska's educators and the state's largest teachers' union, the Michigan Education Association, to make a political point. Their aim was to spur passage of legislation Michigan lawmakers are debating to