

PRATICES OF COLLEGE ENGLISH BAND FOUR

大学英语四级 最新题型分项训练

（2007年新版）

主编 李莉 穆琳

07



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前 言

全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会依据四级考试新题型试点阶段的情况对《大学英语四级考试大纲》进行了修订,并于2006年10月公布了《大学英语四级考试大纲》修订本。修订后的四级考试大纲对四级考试各部分测试内容、题型和所占分值比例进行了概述。四级试卷构成为:1) 听力(占总分35%);2) 阅读理解包括仔细阅读和快速阅读(占总分35%);3) 完型填空(占总分10%);4) 翻译和写作(占总分20%)。各单项的满分分别为:听力249分,阅读249分,完型70分,翻译和写作142分。各单项分相加之和等于总分710。

根据《大学英语四级考试大纲》修订本的要求,本书针对改革后的四级题型中的仔细阅读、快速阅读、完型填空、翻译和写作进行分项训练。虽然改革后的四级考试没有词汇测试,但词汇乃基础之基础,因此仍然把其作为训练的一部分。为便于读者做题,本书对试题给出了注释和部分译文。为使读者进一步了解改革后的四级题型,书后附有2006年12月23日四级真题及答案一套。本书难度循序渐进,既可作为课堂教学辅助教材使用,也适合学生自主学习。

参加编写的有:李莉、穆琳、张艳、李立国、吴媛、张莹。书中如有疏漏之处,望广大读者和同人提出宝贵意见。

编 者

2007年2月

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第一部分 仔细阅读(Reading in Depth)

Section A

Directions: In this section, there are ten passages and each passage has ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Each choice in blank is identified by a letter. **You may not use any of the words in the blank more than once.**

Passage 1

I find 1 reasons to support development of language chips to be planted into human brains. It saves a lot of money and a great deal of efforts in language learning. It enhances 2 across the cultures. It is perhaps the only medicine for our educational system diagnosed as only second to cancer. The cost of language chip development is 3 compared with its potential market value.

A language chip will 4 millions and millions of RMB for the education system 5 from shortage of funding. Do you know that the Chinese government spent about 203 billion Yuan for education in 1998? And that in the same year, 330 million people, or about 27% of our population, are 6 in education. I suppose students will have to learn English from about the 3rd grade or the 5th, while some from the 7 beginning in the kindergarten. And all teachers will have to pass some English tests for promotion. So, it is 8 to say about 25% of the Chinese population has to learn a foreign language. We save about 330 million Yuan, if we just save one Yuan per person per year, and 3.3 billion Yuan if 10 Yuan per person, and 33 billion Yuan if 100 Yuan per person, and 330 billion Yuan if 1,000 Yuan per person. Remember, some language 9 cost you several thousands a month! Many people 10 jobs other than teaching will also have to learn a foreign language. We save much more. So we could support another education system of the same size when this money is saved.

A. safe	B. nothing	C. suffering	D. old	E. very
F. language	G. courses	H. numerous	I. engaged	J. communication
K. communication	L. fact	M. hardly	N. save	O. on

Passage 2

A "good death" is defined 1 by doctors and patients, which means some physicians may be ignoring spiritual issues patients consider important, a new study finds.

2 to a questionnaire about the 44 important attributes in defining a good death, more than 70 percent of 1,426 physicians, care providers, seriously ill patients and recently 3 family members across the country agreed being treated as a "whole person" was essential to a "good death". The definition, 4, of treating the whole person varied widely, with patients placing more importance on spiritual and psychological issues than physicians. Patients 5 said mental awareness, not being a burden and coming to peace with God were critical to them—issues that did not register as much with doctors.

The study is being published in the Nov. 15 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, which 6 on end-of-life care. Concerned that physicians focus only on the medical aspects of care without acknowledging the emotional and spiritual needs of 7 patients and their families, Dr. Karen Steinhauser, a health scientist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and assistant research professor at Duke University Medical Center, in Durham, N. C. 8 the study to reveal what people want when they die. "If we want to help people die better, we have to know 9 better is." Steinhauser said. Besides stressing a sense of psychological awareness while dying, study participants said pain management, preparation 10 death and having a sense of completion were important to them.

A. bereaved	B. conducted	C. to	D. consistently	E. dying
F. differently	G. Responding	H. for	I. lost	J. dead
K. Do	L. however	M. therefore	N. what	O. focuses

Passage 3

After a 1 day's work or a serious all-night session, where do you go to unwind? When you're hanging out with friends, where do you go to have a good time? Regardless of what reason or occasion, if you are out drinking anywhere in Britain, it would be impossible not to come 2 a pub, short for "public house".

A traditional pub is normally a fairly grand building on a street corner and has a spacious inside. "The Kings Head" is a 3 name for such pubs. Usually these older establishments have a royal theme. Other common names for this type of pubs are "The Cottage Arms" and "The Monk and Fishman".

Recently these more 4 names are being replaced by more amusing and trendier ones such as "The Fox and Hound" or "The Slug and Lettuce". Although the names are 5, many pubs still uphold many of their traditional characteristics. For example, most pubs still hang an old sign above their doors. But the signs, instead of the displaying the usual faded pictures of the king or the 6 in their royal attire, now have hipper and more colorful graphics.

One of the real disadvantages of a traditional pub is its early closing time. Last orders, signaled by a bell rung by the barman, are at 10:30 pm. By 11:00 pm, everyone must be 7. With all the pubs closing at this time, it leads to groups of people, usually men, 8 the streets, looking for more beer.

On the other hand, nightclubs and newer bars stay open till 2:00 am and 9 people to continue their night into late hours. Unfortunately clubs and this sort of bars aren't everyone's cup of tea. Therefore, in keeping with the rest of Europe and in an 10 to reduce the large number of people on the

streets at 11:00 pm, Britain will soon keep its pubs and bars open later.

A. advice	B. into	C. across	D. changing	E. allow
F. modern	G. classic	H. crowding	I. attempt	J. ambition
K. hard	L. traditional	M. queen	N. out	O. free

Passage 4

China is on the 1 of entering the global trade forum. Officials said Wednesday that after six days of talks at WTO headquarters, just about every aspect of terms of membership was settled, clearing the 2 for China to join the Geneva-based body soon.

"This meeting has resulted in a major 3 in all the issues regarding China's accession," said Pierre-Louis Girard, the Swiss diplomat chairing the talks. "As a result of this development I think we can with some confidence envisage a wrapping up of this process, which has 4 now for 15 years, in what I hope will be the very near future," he said.

The European Union's chief negotiator, Karl Frankenberg, holding a glass of wine in his hand, 5 that "the process is beginning to look very good".

Chinese chief negotiator Long Yongtu said he would stay in Geneva 6 the next round of talks, scheduled for the week of July 16, to speed things along. Even if there is agreement at the next session, the volume of paperwork means that the China working party is 7 to sign off on the deal before September.

The hope is that China's 8 into the WTO can be officially endorsed at November's ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar, to add gloss to what are 9 likely to be tricky discussions on whether to launch a new 10 of trade talks following the collapse of the Seattle Conference in 1999.

A. unlikely	B. way	C. commented	D. round	E. until
F. likely	G. margin	H. time	I. however	J. otherwise
K. breakthrough	L. verge	M. entry	N. room	O. lasted

Passage 5

Your next click of the mouse just might cost you.

Sites that used to offer 1 music, information and sporting events are now starting to charge, despite history showing that Net consumers have resisted most efforts to 2 them into paying customers.

The slowdown in advertising revenues and the choking off of new capital have experts predicting that the 3 to fees is just the beginning, with many more formerly free offerings changing in the 4 year. The switch to fees "has to happen, says analyst Ric Dube of market research firm Webnoize". When the Web was all about experimental content, free was fine. But now companies have to monetize their investments and become 5. "The list of successful Web subscription operations is limited." Many points to *The Wall Street Journal*, 6 charges \$ 59 a year (\$ 29 for print subscribers) to a re-

ported 535,000 7 customers. Analysts see users willing to pay for music, video, sports and specialized information (like Hollywood trade magazine Variety, which has taken down everything but the barest headlines from its free site, to urge users to pay \$ 59 a year for premium content), as 8 as the continued success of porn. But little else.

Dube sees music as one area that consumers 9 will pay for. They've 10 their allegiance to the category on Napster, he says. "Napster isn't popular because it's free, but because it's convenient."

A. coming	B. that	C. online	D. turned	E. well
F. provide	G. convert	H. clear	I. which	J. free
K. proved	L. profitable	M. benefit	N. clearly	O. move

Passage 6

Laughter is good for the heart because it 1 life while depression increases the risk of an early death, according to two new studies.

A good bout of laughter every day provides 2 cardiovascular benefits as exercise because it stimulates the blood flow, said Michael Miller, 3 headed one research team at the University of Maryland.

On the other hand, depression—or the 4 of laughter—is often linked to unhealthy habits such as smoking and drug 5 and increases the risk of death by 44 percent, said Wein Jiang, who led a study of 1,000 6 patients for the University of North Carolina.

Miller said laughter produced a "magnitude of change ... in the endothelium ... similar to the benefit we might see with aerobic 7, but without the aches, pains and muscle tension associated 8 exercise".

9 laughter should not replace exercise, he said, "We do recommend that you try to laugh on a 10 basis. Thirty minutes of exercise three times a week, and 15 minutes of laughter on a daily basis is probably good for the vascular system."

A. increase	B. activity	C. into	D. prolongs	E. While
F. addiction	G. solid	H. regular	I. How	J. lack
K. who	L. with	M. heart	N. mental	O. similar

Passage 7

Ever since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the country has 1 on developing their sports program. As a result, great achievements have been made in all kinds of 2 events. Sports have played a very active role in promoting the health and longevity of the Chinese people. China did not have any Olympic champion before 1949, but today it has more than 1,200 world 3 and won 52 Olympic gold medals. China now has more than five million young athletes. In addition to the Beijing University of Physical Education, there are 35 sports 4 institutes and 15 sports institutes, as well as

over 120 universities and colleges that have physical education departments. The Chinese Sports Science Association also has 10,000 members. Newspapers, magazines, journals and 5 houses that follow sports in China have greatly developed. There are 12,353 newspapers and magazines, including the English-language magazine China Sports that focus on sports. More than 400 million 6 of books on sports have been published. Most Chinese television and radio stations broadcast news on sports events and sports 7. China has joined 97 international sport federations and 87 Asian sport associations. More than 200 Chinese nationals hold leading positions in international sport organizations. Nineteen Chinese were 8 the "Olympic Medal of Honor" conferred by the International Olympic Committee.

There is very 9 support from national and local levels of government as shown by the financial guarantee provided 10 by the Chinese Central and Beijing Municipal governments guaranteeing the funding of any shortfall, the construction of infrastructure and venues and working capital for the OCOG.

A. strong	B. jointly	C. head	D. study	E. celebrities
F. focused	G. awarded	H. working	I. sporting	J. champions
K. carry	L. copies	M. research	N. weak	O. publishing

Passage 8

Internet use appears to cause a decline in psychological well-being, according to research at Carnegie Mellon University. Even people who spent just a few hours a week on the Internet experienced more 1 and loneliness than those who logged on less frequently, the two-year study showed. And it wasn't that people 2 were already feeling bad spent more time on the Internet, but that using the Net actually appeared to cause the bad 3.

Researchers are puzzling over the results, which were completely contrary to their expectations. They expected that the Net would prove socially healthier than television, 4 the Net allows users to choose their information and to communicate 5 others.

The fact that Internet use reduces time available for family and friends may 6 for the drop in well-being, researchers hypothesized. Faceless, bodiless "virtual" communication may be less psychologically satisfying 7 actual conversation, and the relationships formed through it may be shallower. Another possibility is that exposure to the wider world 8 the Net makes users less satisfied with their lives.

"But it's important to remember this is not about the technology; it's about how it is used," says psychologist Christine Riley of Intel, one of the study's 9. "It really points to the need for considering social factors in terms of 10 you design applications and services for technology."

A. that	B. sponsors	C. since	D. account	E. how
F. than	G. by	H. with	I. care	J. who
K. via	L. depression	M. excitement	N. what	O. feelings

Passage 9

The debate 1 whether plants have feelings is about to reopen, thanks to scientific research in

Italy and Germany. Findings suggest that plants under threat 2 a devilish measure of cunning. They not only communicate the danger to plants nearby, they 3 call in help from other creatures.

Research proved that plants sense and react to the presence of hungry, leaf-eating worms. Their response, as studied, was to 4 an odor. This alerted other plants to the 5 of a predator. But it also served to call in what modern military planners would term air support. Wasps, the natural 6 of worms, were drawn by the odor to the plant where they either devoured the worm or injected it with eggs that later killed it.

The study raised the interesting 7 : at the start of the process described, did the plants actually experience something 8 could be termed fear? A debate over this began in 1966 when a lie detector expert, Cleve Backster, 9 a plant to a polygraph (lie detector). He said the machine 10 changes as soon as he began to think about burning the plant's leaves.

A. connected	B. emit	C. friend	D. question	E. over
F. but	G. result	H. registered	I. follow	J. presence
K. enemies	L. out	M. that	N. which	O. use

Passage 10

All life on our earth depends, in one way or 1, on the sun. Without its light and 2, there would be no life. The sun gives us our food and our clothing material. It even gives us our coal, too.

The sun also makes our day and our night. Light 3 in straight lines. It comes from the sun 45,000,000 miles away.

The sun lights half the earth at a time. It is day on the lighted side. It is night on the dark side of the earth. Almost every part of the earth turns from day 4 night during every 24 hours.

A sunny day in winter is 5 than a sunny day in summer. This is because the summer day is longer, everything has a longer time to warm up and the sun shines more 6 on the earth. In winter, the day is short, there 7 less time for everything to get warm and the sun doesn't shine more directly on the earth.

Land, 8 like the sand, warms 9 more quickly than water but it also loses its heat more quickly. So on a hot sunny summer's day on the 10, you can feel how hot the sand gets. The water is cool to the feet when you go for a paddle.

The sun makes our earth beautiful. It gives us light. It keeps us warm. It makes things grow. We can not live without the sun.

A. up	B. to	C. into	D. beach	E. is
F. coast	G. sends	H. another	I. quick	J. colder
K. travels	L. directly	M. just	N. warmth	O. warmer

Section B

Directions: There are twenty passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or un-

finished 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 **Answer Sheet** with a single line through the center.

Passage 1

Brazil has become one of the developing world's great successes at reducing population growth—but more by accident than design. “While countries such as India have made joint efforts to reduce birth rates, Brazil has had better result without really trying”, says George Martine at Harvard.

Brazil's population growth rate has dropped from 2.99% a year between 1951 and 1960 to 1.93% a year between 1981 and 1990, and Brazilian women now have only 2.7 children on average. Martine says this figure may have fallen still further since 1990, an achievement that makes it the envy of many other Third World countries.

Martine puts it down to, among other things, *soap operas* (通俗电视连续剧) and *installment* (分期付款) plans introduced in the 1970s. Both played an important, although indirect, role in lowering the birth rate. Brazil is one of the world's biggest producers of soap operas. Globo, Brazil's most popular television network, shows three hours of soaps six nights a week, while three others show at least one hour a night. Most soaps are based on wealthy characters living the high life in big cities.

“Although they have never really tried to work in a message towards the problems of reproduction, they describe middle and upper class values—not many children, different attitudes towards sex, women working,” says Martine. “They sent this image to all parts of Brazil and made people conscious of other patterns of behavior and other values, which were put into a very attractive package.”

Meanwhile, the installment plans tried to encourage the poor to become consumers. "This led to an enormous change in consumption patterns and consumption was *incompatible* (不相容的) with unlimited reproduction," says Martine.

1. According to the passage, Brazil has cut back its population growth _____.
A. by educating its citizens
B. by careful family planning
C. by developing TV programs
D. by chance
2. According to the passage, many Third World countries _____.
A. haven't attached much importance to birth control
B. would soon join Brazil in controlling their birth rate
C. haven't yet found an effective measure to control their population
D. neglected the role of TV plays in family planning
3. The phrase "puts it down to" (Line 1, Para.3) is closest in meaning to _____.
A. attributes it to
B. finds it a reason for
C. sums it up as
D. compares it to
4. Soap operas have helped in lowering Brazil's birth rate because _____.
A. they keep people sitting long hours watching TV
B. they have gradually changed people's way of life

- C. people are drawn to their attractive package
 - D. they popularize birth control measures
5. What is Martine's conclusion about Brazil's population growth?
- A. The increase in birth rate will promote consumption.
 - B. The desire for consumption helps to reduce birth rate.
 - C. Consumption patterns and reproduction patterns are contradictory.
 - D. A country's production is limited by its population growth.

Passage 2

Henry Ford, the famous U.S. inventor and car manufacturer, once said, "The business of America is business." By this he meant that the U.S. way of life is based on the values of the business world.

Few would argue with Ford's statement. A brief glimpse at a daily newspaper vividly shows how much people in the United States think about business. For example, nearly every newspaper has a business section, in which the deals and projects, finances and management, stock prices and labor problems of corporations are reported daily. In addition, business news can appear in every other section. Most national news has an important financial aspect to it. Welfare, foreign aid, the federal budget, and the policies of the Federal Reserve Bank are all heavily affected by business. Moreover, business news appears in some of the unlikeliest places. The world of arts and entertainment is often referred to as "the entertainment industry" or "show business".

The positive side of Henry Ford's statement can be seen in the prosperity that business has brought to U.S. life. One of the most important reasons so many people from all over the world come to live in the United States is the dream of a better job. Jobs are produced *in abundance* (大量地) because the U.S. economic system is driven by competition. People believe that this system creates more wealth, more jobs, and a materially better way of life.

The negative side of Henry Ford's statement, however, can be seen when the word business is taken to mean big business. And the term big business—referring to the biggest companies, is seen in opposition to labor. Throughout U.S. history working people have had to fight hard for higher wages, better working conditions, and the right to form unions. Today, many of the old labor disputes are over, but there is still some employee anxiety. Downsizing—the laying off of thousands of workers to keep expenses low and profits high—creates feelings of insecurity for many.

1. The United States is a typical country _____.
 - A. which encourages free trade at homes and abroad
 - B. where people's chief concern is how to make money
 - C. where all businesses are managed scientifically
 - D. which normally works according to the federal budget
2. The influence of business in the U.S. is evidenced by the fact that _____.
 - A. most newspapers are run by big businesses

- B. even public organizations concentrate on working for profits
 - C. Americans of all professions know how to do business
 - D. even arts and entertainment are regarded as business
3. According to the passage, immigrants choose to settle in the U.S., dreaming that _____.
 A. they can start profitable businesses there
 B. they can be more competitive in business
 C. they will make a fortune overnight there
 D. they will find better chances of employment
4. Henry Ford's statements can be taken negatively because _____.
 A. working people are discouraged to fight for their rights
 B. there are many industries controlled by a few big capitalists
 C. there is a conflicting relationship between big corporations and labor
 D. public services are not run by the federal government
5. A company's efforts to keep expenses low and profits high may result in _____.
 A. reduction in the number of employees
 B. improvement of working conditions
 C. fewer disputes between labor and management
 D. a rise in workers' wages

Passage 3

In the 1960s, medical researchers Thomas Holmes and Richard Rahe developed a checklist of stressful events. They appreciated the tricky point that any major change can be stressful. Negative events like "serious illness of a family member" were high on the list, but so were some positive life-changing events, like marriage. When you take the Holmes-Rahe test you must remember that the score does not reflect how you deal with stress—it only shows how much you have to deal with. And we now know that the way you handle these events dramatically affects your chances of staying healthy.

By the early 1970s, hundreds of similar studies had followed Holmes and Rahe. And millions of Americans who work and live under stress worried over the reports. Somehow, the research got boiled down to a memorable message. Women's magazines ran headlines like "Stress causes illness!" If you want to stay physically and mentally healthy, the articles said, avoid stressful events.

But such simplistic advice is impossible to follow. Even if stressful events are dangerous, many—like the death of a loved one—are impossible to avoid. Moreover, any warning to avoid all stressful events is a *prescription* (处方) for staying away from opportunities as well as trouble. Since any change can be stressful, a person who wanted to be completely free of stress would never marry, have a child, take a new job or move.

The notion that all stress makes you sick also ignores a lot of what we know about people. It assumes we're all *vulnerable* (脆弱的) and passive in the face of *adversity* (逆境). But what about human initiative and creativity? Many come through periods of stress with more physical and mental vigor than they

had before. We also know that a long time without change or challenge can lead to boredom, and physical and mental strain.

1. The result of Holmes-Rahe's medical research tells us _____.
 - A. the way you handle major events may cause stress
 - B. what should be done to avoid stress
 - C. what kind of event would cause stress
 - D. how to cope with sudden changes in life
2. The studies on stress in the early 1970s led to _____.
 - A. widespread concern over its harmful effects
 - B. great panic over the mental disorder it could cause
 - C. an intensive research into stress-related illnesses
 - D. popular avoidance of stressful jobs
3. The score of the Holmes-Rahe test shows _____.
 - A. how much pressure you are under
 - B. how positive events can change your life
 - C. how stressful a major event can be
 - D. how you can deal with life-changing events
4. Why is "such simplistic advice" (Line 1, Para. 3) impossible to follow?
 - A. No one can stay on the same job for long.
 - B. No prescription is effective in relieving stress.
 - C. People have to get married someday.
 - D. You could be missing opportunities as well.
5. According to the passage people who have experienced ups and downs may become _____.
 - A. nervous when faced with difficulties
 - B. physically and mentally strained
 - C. more capable of coping with adversity
 - D. indifferent toward what happens to them

Passage 4

In recent years, Israeli consumers have grown more demanding as they've become wealthier and more worldly-wise. Foreign travel is a national passion; this summer alone, one in 10 citizens will go abroad. Exposed to higher standards of service elsewhere, Israelis are returning home expecting the same. American firms have also begun arriving in large numbers. Chains such as KFC, McDonald's and Pizza Hut are setting a new standard of customer service, using strict employee training and constant monitoring to ensure the friendliness of frontline staff. Even the American habit of telling departing customers to "Have a nice day" has caught on all over Israel. "Nobody wakes up in the morning and says, 'Let's be nicer,'" says Itsik Cohen, director of a consulting firm. "Nothing happens without competition."

Privatization, or the threat of it, is a motivation as well. *Monopolies* (垄断者) that until recently have been free to take their customers for granted now fear what Michael Perry, a marketing professor,

calls "the *vengeful* (报复的) consumer". When the government opened up competition with Bezaq, the phone company, its international branch lost 40% of its market share, even while offering competitive rates. Says Perry, "People wanted revenge for all the years of bad service." The electric company, whose monopoly may be short-lived, has suddenly mopped requiring users to wait half a day for a repairman. Now, appointments are scheduled to the half-hour. The graceless El Al Airlines, which is already at *auction* (拍卖), has retrained its employees to emphasize service and is boasting about the results in an ad campaign with the slogan, "You can feel the change in the air." For the first time, praise outnumbers complaints on customer survey sheets.

1. It may be inferred from the passage that _____.
 - A. customer service in Israel is now improving
 - B. wealthy Israeli customers are hard to please
 - C. the tourist industry has brought chain stores to Israel
 - D. Israeli customers prefer foreign products to domestic ones
2. In the author's view, higher service standards are impossible in Israel _____.
 - A. if customer complaints go unnoticed by the management
 - B. unless foreign companies are introduced in greater numbers
 - C. if there's no competition among companies
 - D. without strict routine training of employees
3. If someone in Israel today needs a repairman in case of a power failure, _____.
 - A. they can have it fixed in no time
 - B. it's no longer necessary to make an appointment
 - C. the appointment takes only half a day to make
 - D. they only have to wait half an hour at most
4. The example of El Al Airlines shows that _____.
 - A. vengeful customers are a threat to the monopoly of enterprises
 - B. an ad campaign is a way out for enterprises in financial difficulty
 - C. a good slogan has great potential for improving service
 - D. staff retraining is essential for better service
5. Why did Bezaq's international branch lose 40% of its market share?
 - A. Because the rates it offered were not competitive enough.
 - B. Because customers were dissatisfied with its past service.
 - C. Because the service offered by its competitors was far better.
 - D. Because it no longer received any support from the government.

Passage 5

Some pessimistic experts feel that the automobile is bound to fall into disuse. They see a day in the not-too-distant future when all autos will be abandoned and allowed to rust. Other authorities, however,

think the auto is here to stay. They hold that the car will remain a leading means of urban travel in the foreseeable future.

The motorcar will undoubtedly change significantly over the next 30 years. It should become smaller, safer, and more economical, and should not be powered by the gasoline engine. The car of the future should be far more pollution-free than present types.

Regardless of its power source, the auto in the future will still be the main problem in urban traffic congestion (拥挤). One proposed solution to this problem is the automated highway system.

When the auto enters the highway system, a *retractable* (可伸缩的) arm will drop from the auto and make contact with a rail, which is similar to those powering subway trains electrically. Once attached to the rail, the car will become electrically powered from the system, and control of the vehicle will pass to a central computer. The computer will then monitor all of the car's movements.

The driver will use a telephone to dial instructions about his destination into the system. The computer will calculate the best route, and reserve space for the car all the way to the correct exit from the highway. The driver will then be free to relax and wait for the *buzzer* (蜂鸣器) that will warn him of his coming exit. It is estimated that an automated highway will be able to handle 10,000 vehicles per hour, compared with the 1,500 to 2,000 vehicles that can be carried by a present-day highway.

- One significant improvement in the future car will probably be _____.
A. its power source
B. its driving system
C. its monitoring system
D. its seating capacity
- What is the author's main concern?
A. How to render automobiles pollution-free.
B. How to make smaller and safer automobiles.
C. How to solve the problem of traffic jams.
D. How to develop an automated subway system.
- What provides autos with electric power in an automated highway system?
A. A rail. B. An engine. C. A retractable arm. D. A computer controller.
- In an automated highway system, all the driver needs to do is _____.
A. keep in the right lane
B. wait to arrive at his destination
C. keep in constant touch with the computer center
D. inform the system of his destination by phone
- What is the author's attitude toward the future of autos?
A. Enthusiastic. B. Pessimistic. C. Optimistic. D. Cautious.

Passage 6

We can see how the product life cycle works by looking at the introduction of instant coffee. When it was introduced, most people did not like it as well as “regular” coffee, and it took several years to gain