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考研英语

阅读理解

160 篇

主 编 北京大学英语系 李博
编 写 双博士考研英语课题组
总策划 胡 东 华

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硕士研究生入学考试 英语阅读理解 160 篇

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来自北京大学研究生会的感谢信

双博士:

您好!

首先感谢您对北京大学“十佳教师”评选活动的热情支持和无私帮助!师恩难忘,北京大学“十佳教师”评选活动是北京大学研究生会的品牌活动之一,是北京大学所有在校研究生和本科生对恩师情谊的最朴素表达。双博士作为大学教学辅导及考研领域全国最大的图书品牌之一,不忘北大莘莘学子和传道授业的老师,其行为将永久的被北大师生感怀和铭记。

作为考研漫漫征途上的过来人,双博士曾陪伴我们度过考研岁月的无数个日日夜夜,曾带给我们无数个明示和启发,当然也带给我们今天的成功。

特致此信,向双博士表达我们内心长久以来的感激之情,并祝愿双博士事业蒸蒸日上。

北京大学研究生会

二零零二年十二月

郑州某大学学生的来信

双博士:

您好!

.....

我曾购买了“双博士”的《大学英语精读课文辅导》(3)、(4)册,我认为质量很好,因为我在准备2001年6月份的全国四级考试前没买太多的辅导资料,仅是每天背《辅导》上的知识点,另外又做(看)了双博士的模拟题、真题解析及词汇,而我却考出了94.5分的骄人成绩,真应感谢双博士为我们带来了如此上乘的资料。我信赖双博士,也相信考研中借助双博士的力量,会取得更好的成绩。所以我在您寄来的书目中挑了一下,如果可以的话,我想得到代号为“RB12”的《考研应试教程(英语分册)》,或者是代号为“B18A”的《研究生入学考试英语词汇·考点·记忆法·用法详解》。两本书中的任何一本,我都相信会给我带来好运!

另外,.....

李 XX

2001年11月22日

天津某高校学生的来信

双博士:

你们好!

.....

我们都知道,英语学习中,口语是非常重要的,而《英美流行口语》正是我们所需要的,是一场及时雨。五一、五四前后,我校将举办一次口语演讲比赛,我们将把这几本书作为奖品赠送给口语出色的同学,相信他们会很意外,也会很高兴的。双博士为我们着想,我们也希望能以微小之力量,给她的工作以支持和回报。其实,我想,只要我们真正为爱好英语的同学做了事,使他们从中受了益,英语有了提高,就是对“双博士”最好的回报了,对不对?

还有,我校对购买“双博士”图书比较困难,到书店买,常被抢购一空,由老师订购又“姗姗来迟”,所以,我想与你们联系,能否帮同学们统一订购?如可以,请将你们的订购时间、办法等以传真方式告诉我。

.....

英语俱乐部部长:于 XX

2002年4月24日

前言

本书为 2004 年新版,是在去年版本基础上结合 03 年考研英语高分者实战宝典,并汲取往年考生对该书的反馈意见,由资历深厚、经验丰富之专家教授精心修订完成,以期帮助广大考生提高阅读水平,获取高分。同时,与众不同的是,本书有三分之一的内容是由北京大学和清华大学的外籍教授编写。

而且,本书去年版本也有许多文章题材与 2003 年考研试题阅读理解部分极为相似。另外,《2003 年考研应试教程》(英语分册)的作文题(460 页/自测模拟题 32)押中 2003 年全国硕士研究生入学考试作文真题。双博士系列《2003 年考研考前 20 天命题预测试卷》(177 页/模拟试题八)也押中了 2003 年考研试题阅读理解部分 Text 4。

本书的最大特点为:

1. 选材精当,贴近真题。
2. 解析详尽,每篇文章配有生词表和答案详细解析。
3. 紧扣大纲,篇幅、设题方式与考研真题完全一致。

本书共分三部分:

- 第一部分:备考篇。选用难度相当的文章,命制较为直接的题目,培养信心和语感。
- 第二部分:实战篇。题目难度与考题相当,题材相近,辅助考生达到最佳训练效果。
- 第三部分:冲刺篇。命题及文章难度略高于考试要求,帮助考生做好考前最后冲刺。

本书属于“双博士”精品系列丛书中的黄金品牌。

凡购买双博士品牌考研丛书累计 60 元者,在临考前一个月可获赠英语及政治密押(内部资料)试卷各一套!(详见书中夹页)












本书作者在 2003 年 12 月份开始进行考研网上免费押题讲座,届时敬请垂询:<http://www.bbdd.cc>。此义举将为考生最后的拼搏指点迷津。该讲座已成功举办两年,受益群体多达二十万之众。

本套丛书均采用 60 克专用黄色胶版纸印制,双色排版,印装精美,内容精致,防伪标数码防伪,故称之为“双博士”精品系列。

双博士全体同仁非常感谢考生对双博士品牌的厚爱,并衷心希望广大考生对双博士图书质量的改进提出具体意见,可以发电子邮件进行交流(shuangboshi@sina.com),来函必复。针对考生意见采用情况,适当给予双博士图书奖励。

“双博士”网站留言选登

自从 2002 年 11 月~12 月双博士网站举办考研及四、六级讲座以来,每天都有大量读者留言,交流考试心得和对双博士丛书的观感。现将部分留言选登如下:

	<p>作者: 考研人 来自: 湖北 2003-2-16, 23:31:04</p> <p>留言内容: 今天上网把你们的考研网上押题讲座和你们上传的真题对比来看,押中的题还真不少来! 希望双博士在 2004 年考研政治理论方面继续给广大考生押题!!</p>
	<p>作者: 奋斗 来自: 福建 2003-2-16, 23:40:00</p> <p>留言内容: 是的,我认为政治理论做的最好的部分是形势与政策部分,其中有关 16 大的考题共 8 分全部押中了;毛概部分押中了中国共产党的最低纲领和最高纲领部分;当代部分即最后的两个选作题,都能从押题的相关部分找到答案,这对我特别有用,因为我是一名理科生,对当代部分的内容不熟悉。谢谢双博士!!!</p>
	<p>作者: mmer 来自: 四川 2003-2-9, 17:16:50</p> <p>留言内容: 双博士教辅真的很不错,我和身边的同学用了都说好! 谢谢胡东华老师和编书老师,谢谢你们!</p>
	<p>作者: 格格 来自: 北京 2003-2-18, 9:03:44</p> <p>留言内容: 谢谢上帝我的四级终于过了,谢谢小虫和双博士。</p>
	<p>作者: 红蜻蜓 来自: 湖北 2003-2-1, 18:40:21</p> <p>留言内容: 今天看了大家的留言和回复获益匪浅。这个网站办的挺好。</p>
	<p>作者: 杨康 来自: 安徽 2002-11-28, 18:32:47</p> <p>留言内容: 双博士教育网的同志们,你们出版的书很好。尤其是英语辅导书。你们能给我指导如何做好考研的准备吗? 谢谢你们的关心。</p>
	<p>作者: MATTHEW 来自: 四川 2002-12-2, 12:01:37</p> <p>留言内容: 双博士考研单词记忆法非常棒,这次政治押题讲座上传的内容很不错。还有我想问一下胡老师是否是个基督徒!?</p>
	<p>作者: 谢军华 来自: 湖北 2002-12-6, 19:06:05</p> <p>留言内容: 谢谢主编为我们提供这么方便的讲座!! 在这讲究金钱的世界,你们能全心为我们着想! 太难得了。</p>
	<p>作者: 杨杨 来自: 北京 2002-12-4, 9:39:01</p> <p>留言内容: 你们出的时政形势政策分析这本书及 9 月以后的补充资料很及时也很全面。谢谢!</p>
	<p>作者: 吴光华 来自: 黑龙江 2002-12-3, 18:07:19</p> <p>留言内容: 你们的東西对我帮助很大,你们的书也挺出色,希望你们能够再接再厉,办得更好,谢谢!</p>
	<p>作者: kaoyan 来自: 北京 2002-11-30, 10:53:31</p> <p>留言内容: 以前用你们的大学英语资料考四六级感觉很好,最近买了一套考研数学最后冲刺题,也还不错,希望你们多多努力,做好这个网站! 很感谢你们!!</p>

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第一部分 备考篇

备考篇 1

Since 1975 advocates of humane treatment of animals have broadened their goals to oppose the use of animals for fur, leather, wool and food. They have mounted protests against all forms of hunting and the trapping of animals in the wild. And they have joined environmentalists in urging protection of natural habitats from commercial or residential development. The occasion for these added emphases was the publication in 1975 of "Animal liberation: A New Ethics for Our Treatment of Animals" by Peter singer, formerly a professor of philosophy at Oxford University in England. This book gave a new impetus to the animal rights movement.

The post — 1975 animal rights activists are far more vocal than their predecessors, and the organizations to which they belong are generally more radical. Many new organizations are formed. The tactics of the activists are designed to catch the attention of the public. Since the mid—1980s there have been frequent news reports about animal rights organizations picketing stores that sell furs, harassing hunters in the wild, or breaking into laboratories to free animals. Some of the more extreme organizations advocate the use of assault, armed terrorism, and death threats to make their point.

Aside from making isolated attacks on people who wear fur coats or trying to prevent hunters from killing animals, most of the organizations have directed their tactics at institutions. The results of the protests and other tactics have been mixed. Companies are reducing reliance on animal testing. Medical research has been somewhat curtailed by legal restrictions and the reluctance of younger workers to use animals in research. New tests have been developed to replace the use of animals. Some well—known designers have stopped using fur.

While the general public tends to agree that animals should be treated humanely, most people are unlikely to give up eating meat or wearing goods made from leather and wool. Giving up genuine fur has become less of a problem, since fibers used to make fake fur such as the Japanese invention Kanecaron can look almost identical to real fur.

Some of the strongest opposition to the animal rights movement has come from hunters and their organizations. But animal rights activists have succeeded in marshaling public opinion to press for state restrictions on hunting in several parts of the nation.

1. 1975 was an important year in the history of animal right movement because
 - A. many people began to call for humane treatment of animals that year.
 - B. a new book was published that broadened the animal rights movement.
 - C. the environmentalists began to show interest in animal protection.
 - D. the trapping of animals began to go wild all through the world.
2. Some organizations advocate the use of extreme means in order to
 - A. wipe out cruel people.
 - B. stop using animals in the laboratory.
 - C. attack hunters in the wild.
 - D. catch full public attention.
3. When the author says that "the results of the protests and other tactics have been mixed" (the third paragraph), he means the protest and other tactics
 - A. have produced desired effects.

- B. have almost amounted to nothing.
C. have some influence on the public.
D. have proved to be too radical.
4. It can be inferred from this passage that.
A. genuine furs can not be replaced because they have excellent appearance.
B. most people are likely to become vegetarian so that they could save animals.
C. number of animals used for medical research had been reduced over the years.
D. animal rights organization had been a major threat to public security.
5. It seems that the author of this article
A. is strongly opposed to the animal rights movement.
B. is in favour of the animal rights movement.
C. supports the use of violence in animal protection.
D. hates the use of fake fur for clothes.



picket 围困

curtail 缩减

marshal 引导

参考答案及详解

1. (B) 该题为细节题, 题干问“为什么 1975 年是动物权利运动历史上具有重要意义的一年”。文章第一段的后两句指出, 之所以人们自 1975 年以来越来越强调保护动物, 原因之一是 1975 年彼得·辛格出版了《动物解放——对待动物的新的道德观》一书, 这本书为动物权利运动注入了新的动力(a new impetus), 因此本题的答案为 B“新书的出版推进了动物权利运动”。选项 A“许多人这年开始呼吁人道地对待动物”, C“环境保护主义者开始对动物保护感兴趣”, D“围捕动物开始狂热起来”均不符合题意。
2. (D) 该题为细节题, 题干问: “一些组织提倡使用极端的手段的目的是什么”。文章第二段指出自 1975 年以来动物权利保护者的组织变得激进, 他们的目的是为了引起公众的注意, 自八十年代中期以来, 经常有新闻报道他们的极端行为, 例如用栅栏围住皮草店(picketing stores), 攻击狩猎者, 或冲进实验室解救动物等, 因此答案应选 D“引起公众的充分关注”。选项 A“消灭残忍的人”, 在文中没有提到, B“停止在实验室使用动物”是他们的手段所取得的效果, 而非目的, C“在野外攻击狩猎者”是他们采用的手段之一。
3. (C) 该题为细节推断题, 题干问“怎样理解这些抗议活动和其他的战术的效果, 喜忧参半”这句话。从第三段的后几句话可以看出, 这些活动确实对公众的行为产生了一定的影响, 使他们不能再随意地对待动物, 比如有的公司减少了动物试验; 由于立法的限制和年轻的工人不愿在研究中使用动物, 医学研究受到了一些影响; 一些著名的服装设计师不再使用动物皮毛做材料等, 因而答案应选 C。“对公众产生了一些影响”。选项 A“已产生了预想的效果”, B“没有任何成效”和 D“证明过于偏激”均不符合作者的意思。
4. (C) 该题为细节题, 提干问: “我们从文中能得到什么结论?”四个选项的相关事实文中都有涉及。其中真正的毛皮被认为比较容易被替换, 因为人造材料有几乎一样的外观。人们的饮食习惯则不是那么容易被改变的。用于实验的动物由于动物保护主义的影响数量上已经有所减少。动物保护主义并不是社会安全的主要威胁, 他们只是有些过激的观点, 还不足以造成社会的混乱。
5. (B) 该题为推断题, 题干问“本文作者持什么态度”。尽管在文中作者并未表述自己的立场, 而是用客观的态度在描述事情的进展, 但文章的最后一段讲“猎人和他们的组织强烈反对动物权利运动, 但是动物权利活动家们已成功地引导了公众的观念, 使他们一起呼吁政府对国内某些地区的狩猎活动采取限制”, 由此可见, 作者对这一活动抱的是肯定的态度, 因而应选 B“支持动物权利运动”。选项 A“强烈反对动物权利运动”, C“支持在保护动物时使用武力”, D“讨厌使用假皮毛做衣服”均不符合题意。

备考篇 2

The most impressive of Upper Palaeolithic artworks are the cave paintings of Spain and southern France, where walls were covered with the forms of animals, some small, some as large as 20 feet in length. These were painted with mineral oxide pigments, the main colors being black, red, and yellow. At Lascaux Cave, large bulls were painted, outlined in black, but there were also filled-in, shaded figures with more subtle colors such as lavender and mauve. Blue and green do not appear, although it is possible that the artists used such colors of organic origin which have since disintegrated. The colors which remain are still fresh and clear.

The pigments seem to have sometimes been used solid as pastels, sometimes mixed with water or grease. They were mostly applied directly with the fingers, or in some instances, applied with some kind of brush. In some cases, it looks as though the paint may have been blown through a bone tube, for some of the animals have vague, fuzzy outlines, reminiscent of Chinese wash drawings. Hollow bones filled with ocher have been found in the caves. Shoulder blades of large animals have also been found, stained with color, as well as naturally hollowed stones containing pigments. These were probably mortars in which mineral oxides were crushed and ground.

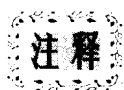
The animals are not depicted in settings or landscape; plants are seldom shown. Earlier observers were struck by the seeming absence of composition. For example, a later animal figure is sometimes superimposed over an earlier one. But there is some degree of composition, as in some of the groupings at Lascaux.

The animals are drawn with skill, showing good anatomical observation. There is no doubt about which animals were meant to be shown. However, the drawings are not always complete. Legs and belly lines were sometimes left out. Sometimes natural features of the rock were utilized in the painting, so that an outward bulge of rock, for example, was turned into a horse's flank.

Human figures are seldom shown in the cave art. When they appear, they are sometimes stick figures, lacking the close observation and accuracy of the animal drawings. When men are depicted, they often wear animal masks or have animal heads.

Some of the large animal figures, such as the bulls of Lascaux, 13 and 16 feet long, must have involved a lot of work and perhaps the cooperation of several men. Some figures on the ceilings of caves suggest that scaffolding was erected. So these must have been serious projects involving some group planning and cooperation.

1. All of the following colors are included in the cave paintings in Spain and France, except _____.
A. yellow B. blue C. lavender D. black
2. Most of the times the pigments were applied with _____.
A. fingers B. bone tubes C. brushes D. sticks
3. "Ocher" is most probably a kind of _____.
A. paint B. stone C. bone D. tool
4. Which of the following statements is true about early cave animal paintings?
A. The animals are usually depicted in nature settings.
B. The animals are usually depicted with human forms.
C. The animal drawings show good anatomical observation.
D. The animal drawings were always complete.
5. When human figures are shown in the cave art, they
A. are always stick figures.
B. often wear animal masks.
C. are depicted with the same accurate observations.
D. seem to involve group collaboration.



Palaeolithic 旧石器时代的

oxide 氧化合物

pigment 颜料

lavender 淡紫色的

mauve 紫红色 紫红色的

organic 有机的

disintegrate 分解; 碎裂

pastel 彩色蜡笔

fuzzy 有绒毛的, 模糊的, 失真的

reminiscent of 让人想起……

hollow 挖空, 弄凹

mortar 白, 研钵, 灰泥

anatomical 解剖的

leave out 省去, 遗漏, 不考虑

bulge 凸出部分

flank 腰窝, 侧面, 军队侧翼, 侧腹, 胁, 腰窝肉

scaffolding 脚手架

参考答案及详解

1. (B) blue 文章第一段介绍, 岩画的色彩主要包括黑色, 红色, 和黄色。These were painted with mineral oxide pigments, the main colors being black, red, and yellow. 在 Lascaux Cave, 岩画中牛的线条是黑色的, 也有一些更细微的颜色, 例如淡紫色和紫红色。作者接下去介绍说, 岩画中的颜色不包括绿色和蓝色, 也许在作画的时候用过有机物质中的蓝色和绿色, 但是因为年深日久已经褪色。(Blue and green do not appear, although it is possible that the artists used such colors of organic origin which have since disintegrated. The colors which remain are still fresh and clear.)

2. (A) fingers 作者在第二段开头介绍, 岩画中的颜料主要是用手指头涂抹上去的, 也有用刷子/画笔涂的。(The pigments ... were mostly applied directly with the fingers, or in some instances, applied with some kind of brush.)

3. (A) paint 答案主要在文章第二段中。作者讨论岩画的涂色工具时介绍, 上色主要依靠手指和刷子, 但是, In some cases, it looks as though the paint may have been blown through a bone tube, for some of the animals have vague, fuzzy outlines, reminiscent of Chinese wash drawings. Hollow bones filled with ocher have been found in the caves. 有时候看上去颜料好像是用空心的骨头棒子中间装上颜料“吹”到画面上去的。因为有些动物的图形边缘线条十分模糊, 有点象中国国画。岩洞中也找到了一些空心的骨头, 中间装有 ocher。Ocher 这个词本身的意思是黄土, 赭土。但是根据上下文的逻辑, 作者既然用考古学的发现来验证自己的理论, 想必发现的空心骨头中间装的是颜料一类的东西。

4. (C) The animal drawings show good anatomical observation.

文章第四段开头介绍, The animals are drawn with skill, showing good anatomical observation. 绘画中的动物形象显示, 作画的人有丰富的动物解剖学知识。A The animals are usually depicted in nature settings. (图画中的动物都以自然为背景) 和文章内容 The animals are not depicted in settings or landscape; plants are seldom shown 相矛盾; B The animals are usually depicted with human forms. (图画中动物一般都和人在一起), 也不符合原文意思。D The animal drawings were always complete 是错误的, 因为原文说的是, However, the drawings are not always complete. Legs and belly lines were sometimes left out. (岩画并不一定是完整的, 有时候动物缺少腿和肚子)。

5. (B) often wear animal masks

文章在倒数第二段中介绍, 人的形象很少出现在岩画中。即使出现, 也带着动物的面具, 或者干脆被表现为兽头人身。(When men are depicted, they often wear animal masks or have animal heads.)

备考篇 3

More and more Japanese students are opting to earn graduate degrees. Most are hoping to get ahead in a tight job market. But others just dawdle in academia, taking courses while working at part-time jobs. For various reasons, they're not ready to face the outside world. The number of Ph. D. aspirants in Japan in the year 2000 was 62,488—more than double the number in 1991. Master's candidates have jumped dramatically, too. The surge came after the Ministry of Education's Council of Universities recommended, in the early 1990s, that Japan boost its graduate-school population. At that time, the number of graduate students in Japan per 1,000 people was 0.8, compared with 7.1 in the United States. The council said Japan needed more graduate students if the country hoped to stay economically competitive. The council also said that Japan graduates too many generalists. What's needed are more specialists. These days Japanese companies are less willing to spend money training new hires; they now demand expertise.

Getting it may not be easy. Education experts say that too many Japanese students, both undergraduate and graduate, are unfocused. Raised in postwar affluence, most tend to drift through college after passing grueling entrance exams. "Many come here because there is nothing else to do," says a professor at a national university near Osaka, "Graduate school is the place to do research and study, but youngsters also come to do jibun sagashi finding oneself. This has been going on for the last three to four years." Adds a university professor in Osaka, "Students come and tell me that they're interested in, say, social science. So I ask them what kind of social problems they are interested in. Dead silence. No answer. They don't know what they want to do—and certainly aren't suited to become corporate warriors."

Not all students are adrift. Takeshi Nishino, a master's candidate in public economics at Osaka's Kansai University, had a job offer from a trading company before graduation. But he turned it down because he had other plans. He wants to become a tax accountant to bring some financial savvy to small and medium-size companies. "I thought it was a better idea for me to go to graduate school," Nishino says, "Getting a master's degree makes it easier to become an accountant." Japan needs more graduate-school go-getters like him if it hopes to raise its competitive profile.

- In this passage the author talks about _____.
 A. Japan's young people aspiring for a higher degree
 B. Japan's persistent demand for specialists
 C. profiles of Japanese graduate students
 D. the college life of the Japanese youth
- The word "dawdle" (paragraph 1, line 2) most probably means _____.
 A. dwindle B. doodle C. dribble D. idle
- According to the passage, the increasing aspiration for a graduate degree is directly the result of _____.
 A. young people's concern over social problems
 B. the recommendation of the Ministry of Education's Council of Universities
 C. Japanese companies reluctance to hire fresh college graduates
 D. the excess of Japan's educational resources
- Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the second paragraph?
 A. The college entrance exams in Japan are intensely competitive.
 B. Japanese college students grew up in the times of economic prosperity
 C. In Japan, social science is a very popular subject on the graduate level.
 D. Many Japanese college students do not have clear career objectives.

5. In the last paragraph, Takeshi Nishino is presented as an example of _____
- A. an unfocused college student
 - B. a student who established a successful career
 - C. a student who knows what he wants
 - D. a student under the pressure of the tight economy



opt 选择

dawdle 游手好闲地混日子

academia 学术界

aspirant 怀抱大志者,野心家

boost 推进,支援

generalist 多面手(样样通,样样稀松的人)

expertise 专门技术

affluence 财富,富有

grueling 严酷的,严格的

warrior 武士

adrift 漂流的,无目的地飘荡的

turn...down 拒绝

accountant 会计

go-getter (俚语)野心家,积极能干的人

profile 侧面,描绘,轮廓

参考答案及详解

1. (A) Japan's young people aspiring for a higher degree

文章讲的主要是日本大学生的考研热潮。

2. (D) idle 文章开头说, More and more Japanese students are opting to earn graduate degrees. Most are hoping to get ahead in a tight job market. But others just dawdle in academia, taking courses while working at part-time jobs. 越来越多的日本大学生准备到研究生院深造。大多数人是为了在竞争激烈的经济中取得优势,但是其他的人则在研究生院里游手好闲地混日子,一边上学,一边打工。作者用 dawdle 和 hoping to get ahead 作为对照,显然 dawdle 是无所事事,游手好闲之意。

3. (B) the recommendation of the Ministry of Education's Council of Universities

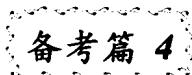
作者在第一段中间介绍说, The surge came after the Ministry of Education's Council of Universities recommended, in the early 1990s, that Japan boost its graduate-school population. 上研的热潮是从日本的教育部委员倡导日本增加研究生数量开始的。

4. (D) Many Japanese college students do not have clear career objectives.

文章第二段说的是,教育领域的专家认为,日本的大学生和研究生兴趣过于庞杂, (Education experts say that too many Japanese students, both undergraduate and graduate, are unfocused.) 日本现在的年轻人是战后在辉煌经济的蜜罐里泡大的,他们经过残酷的高考上了大学,就不再刻苦读书,对自己的未来也没有明确的目标和打算。

5. (C) a student who knows what he wants

作者在最后一段举 Takeshi Nishino 的例子说明,不是所有的大学生都是在混日子的。他和大多数的大学生不同,有明确的目标,他的理想是将来做一个中小公司的税务律师。



To a large degree, the measure of our peace of mind is determined by how much we are able to live in the present moment. Irrespective of what happened yesterday or last year, and what may or may not happen tomorrow, the present moment is where you are — always!