



昂立(大学英语)教学系列丛书

大学英语

阅读理解解密

(四级)

高胜长 主编

上海交通大学出版社

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前 言

攻克英语四级,您欠缺什么?您可能会不假思索地答:词汇量!其实,词汇量仅是一种假象。仔细想想,做过的英语试卷几曾满篇生词,令您一筹莫展?应该没有!您所欠缺的其实是一种有效的学习和应试方法。

我们编写此书的目的是想与您分享一种阅读理解教学和自学的全新方法,切实提高您参加同类考试的竞争力。

本书编著者皆为常年在大学英语四、六级教学第一线从事应试辅导的专家。教学中,我们深感学生在阅读方面失分严重。为帮助学员在短期内迅速突破阅读,保住基础分值,我们逐步引入了“出处定位法”。经过两年的教学及考试验证,这一方法的确行之有效:受过该法训练的学员普遍感到阅读不可怕——选项预览、出处定位、干扰项排除及答案确定,都变得有章可循、有法可依。阅读速度大幅提高,且脉络分明,轻重突出,理解透彻。做阅读理解题成为真正的享受。

总体而言,本书具备以下几大特色:

1. 新颖

剖析部分以句子为单位,采用文本框将通篇拆分,句与句之间标明衔接关系或插入简易译文,从而帮助学员吃透全篇文章;问题与选项直接对应出处,并附有详尽解释,浅显、直观。

2. 权威

所有分析及定位均出自资深的应试辅导专家之手,言简意赅、清晰透彻。

3. 醒目

文本框圈定,原句与问题及选项左右对应,一目了然。

4. 真实

全面收录 1995 年至 2003 年 1 月的所有四级阅读理解试题,具有无可比拟的真实性和实战性。

本书为广大备考大学英语四级的学员而编写,同时也适合参加托福考试和各类外语水平考试的人员使用。

解密部分右面文本框内黑体选项为正确答案。

书中错误在所难免,恳请广大专家、学者批评指正。

编 者

2003 年 3 月于上海

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1995 年 1 月大学英语四级阅读理解试题解密

Passage One Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

People tend to be more impressed by evidence that seems to confirm some relationship. Thus many are convinced their dreams are *prophetic* (预言的) because a few have come true; they neglect or fail to notice the many that have not.

Consider also the belief that “the phone always rings when I’m in the shower.” If it does ring while you are in the shower, the event will stand out and be remembered. If it doesn’t ring, that nonevent probably won’t even *register* (留下印象).

People want to see order, pattern and meaning in the world. Consider, for example, the common belief that things like personal misfortunes, plane crashes, and deaths “happen in threes.” Such beliefs stem from the tendency of people to allow the third event to define the time period. If three plane crashes occur in a month, then the period of time that counts as their “happening together” is one month; if three crashes occur in a year, the period of time is stretched. Flexible end points reinforce such beliefs.

We also tend to believe what we want to believe. A majority of people think they are more intelligent, more fair-minded and more skilled behind the wheel of an automobile than the average person. Part of the reason we view ourselves so favorably is that we use criteria that work to our advantage. As economist Thomas Schelling explains, “Everybody ranks himself high in qualities he values: careful drivers give weight to care, skilled drivers give weight to skill, and those who are polite give weight to courtesy,” This way everyone ranks high on his own scale.

Perhaps the most important mental habit we can learn is to be *cautious* (谨慎的) in drawing conclusions. The “evidence” of everyday life is sometimes misleading.

21. In the first paragraph the author states that _____.
 - A) dreams cannot be said to be prophetic even though a few have come true
 - B) dreams are prophetic because some of them did come true
 - C) dreams may come true if clearly remembered
 - D) dreams and reality are closely related
22. By “things like...” “happen in threes” (Line 2, Para.3), the author indicates that people believe _____.
 - A) personal misfortunes tend to happen every now and then
 - B) personal misfortunes, plane crashes, and deaths usually happen together
 - C) misfortunes tend to occur according to certain patterns
 - D) misfortunes will never occur more than three times to a person in his lifetime
23. The word “courtesy” (Line 5, Para.4) probably means _____.
 - A) good manners
 - B) appropriate speech
 - C) friendly relations
 - D) satisfactory service
24. What can be inferred from the passage?
 - A) Happenings that go unnoticed deserve more attention.
 - B) In a series of misfortunes the third one is usually the most serious.
 - C) People tend to make use of evidence that supports their own beliefs.
 - D) Believers of misfortunes happening in threes are cautious in interpreting events.
25. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
 - A) there is some truth even in the wildest dreams
 - B) one should take notice of other people’s merits
 - C) there is no order or pattern in world events
 - D) we should not base our conclusions on accidental evidence

1) People tend to be more impressed by evidence that seems to confirm some relationship.

人们往往对某一证实某种联系的迹象印象深刻。

2) **Thus many are convinced their dreams are prophetic (预言的) because a few have come true; they neglect or fail to notice the many that have not.**

于是, 许多人确信梦可以预言现实, 却没有注意到很多梦并非如此。

3) Consider also the belief that "the phone always rings when I'm in the shower."

比如, 有人相信电话总在洗澡时响。

4) If it does ring while you are in the shower, the event will stand out and be remembered.

假如某次确实响了, 这件事就容易被记住。

5) If it doesn't ring, that nonevent probably won't even register.

当然了, 没发生的事情就难以留下印象。

6) **People want to see order, pattern and meaning in the world.**

人们往往会按某种模式或固有顺序去看世界。

7) **Consider, for example, the common belief that things like personal misfortunes, plane crashes, and deaths "happen in threes."**

举例说明人们看问题的固有模式。

8) Such beliefs stem from the tendency of people to allow the third event to define the time period.

这类想法取决于人们对于不幸发生时间的定位。

21. In the first paragraph the author states that _____. 细节题。

A) **dreams cannot be said to be prophetic even though a few have come true** 对应出处, 是解。有强转折或让步副词的选项优先考虑。

B) dreams are prophetic because some of them did come true 出处所反对的是:, 不能因几个梦成为现实就做此结论! 该项与 A 项是相反项。

C) dreams may come true if clearly remembered 出处没有提及。

D) dreams and reality are closely related 未提。

24. What can be inferred from the passage?

通篇推断题, 需结合选项并在吃透全文的基础上做推断。基本定位是第 15 句话与此处, 两者结合便可推断出。注意第 1 句与第 15 句话中两个 evidence 的前后呼应。

A) **Happenings that go unnoticed deserve more attention.** 因为仅注意了那些成为现实的梦或 "evidence" 才做出了不合理推断, 因此, 正确做法就应是关注没有成为现实的那些。

B) In a series of misfortunes the third one is usually the most serious. 未提及。

C) People tend to make use of evidence that supports their own beliefs. 是事实, 但不是解。

D) Believers of misfortunes happening in threes are cautious in interpreting events. 干扰项。

22. By "things like..." "happen in threes" (Line 2, Para.3), the author indicates that people believe _____.

A) personal misfortunes tend to happen every now and then 没有讲到时不时发生的问题, 该项有所夸大, 不符合出处含义。

B) personal misfortunes, plane crashes, and deaths usually happen together 字面意思, 照抄原文。

C) **misfortunes tend to occur according to certain patterns** 举例是说明人们的错误之所在: 用一种模式去套其他事物。符合出处。

D) misfortunes will never occur more than three times to a person in his lifetime 荒唐, 没提。

9) If three plane crashes occur in a month, then the period of time that counts as their “happening together” is one month; if three crashes occur in a year, the period of time is stretched. Flexible end points reinforce such beliefs.

各种各样的结局强化了此类想法。

10) We also tend to believe what we want to believe. 11) A majority of people think they are more intelligent, more fair-minded and more skilled behind the wheel of an automobile than the average person.

我们倾向于相信我们愿意相信的事。如大部分人都高估了自己的能力及对事物判断的公正性。

12) Part of the reason we view ourselves so favorably is that we use criteria that work to our advantage.

部分原因在于使用了对自己有利的标准。

13) As economist Thomas Schelling explains, “Everybody ranks himself high in qualities he values: careful drivers give weight to care, skilled drivers give weight to skill, and those who are polite give weight to **courtesy**,” This way everyone ranks high on his own scale.

每个人因所从事的工作不同，因此所重视的方面也就不一样。

14) Perhaps the most important mental habit we can learn is to be *cautious* (谨慎的) in drawing conclusions. 15) The “evidence” of everyday life is sometimes misleading.

得出结论：日常生活中的“迹象”有时会误导人。深层含义：我们不能根据偶然事件来对事物的一般规律做结论。

23. The word “courtesy” (Line 5, Para.4) probably means _____. 词汇推断题。根据出处前两个排比所用词汇的“同向”对应关系，即：careful 对 care, skilled 对 skill, 可以推断：polite 对应的是 polite 方面的含义，因此，courtesy 必然是“礼貌”方面的。

A) good manners 指言谈举止方面的礼貌，谦恭，对应出处，是解。

B) appropriate speech 干扰项。

C) friendly relations 干扰项。

D) satisfactory service 干扰项。

25. It can be concluded from the passage that _____. 归纳题。

A) there is some truth even in the wildest dreams 根本就没有讲到“the wildest dreams”的问题，因此也就无从做此结论。

B) one should take notice of other people's merits 没有提到他人之“merits”的问题。

C) there is no order or pattern in world events 第6句讲人们往往会按某一固定模式去套其他事件，这样做肯定存在问题，但没讲压根就没有模式或秩序的问题。该项过于绝对化。

D) we should not base our conclusions on accidental evidence 做结论时要小心，为什么？因为日常生活中所显现的所谓“evidence”（也就是偶然证据，everyday 对应“accidental”）会误导人。据此判断：该项是解。

Passage Two Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage:

It has been thought and said that Africans are born with musical talent. Because music is so important in the lives of many Africans and because so much music is performed in Africa, we are inclined to think that all Africans are musicians. The impression is strengthened when we look at ourselves and find that we have become largely a society of musical *spectators* (旁观). Music is important to us, but most of us can be considered consumers rather than producers of music. We have records, television, concerts, and radio to fulfill many of our musical needs. In most situations where music is performed in our culture it is not difficult to distinguish the audience from the performers, but such is often not the case in Africa. Alban Ayipaga, a Kasena semiprofessional musician from northern Ghana, says that when his *flute* (长笛) and drum *ensemble* (歌舞团) is performing, "Anybody can take part". This is true, but Kasena musicians recognize that not all people are equally capable of taking part in the music. Some can sing along with the drummers, but relatively few can drum and even fewer can play the flute along with the ensemble. It is fairly common in Africa for there to be an ensemble of expert musicians surrounded by others who join in by clapping, singing, or somehow adding to the totality of musical sound. Performances often take place in an open area (that is, not on a stage) and so the lines between the performing nucleus and the additional performers, active spectators, and passive spectators may be difficult to draw from our point of view.

26. The difference between us and Africans, as far as music is concerned, is that _____.
A) most of us are consumers while most of them are producers of music
B) we are musical performers and they are semiprofessional musicians
C) most of us are passive spectators while they are active spectators
D) we are the audience and they are the additional performers
27. The word "such" (Line 7) refers to the fact that _____.
A) music is performed with the participation of the audience
B) music is performed without the participation of the audience
C) people tend to distinguish the audience from the performers
D) people have records, television sets and radio to fulfill their musical needs
28. The author of the passage implies that _____.
A) all Africans are musical and therefore much music is performed in Africa
B) not all Africans are born with musical talent although music is important in their lives
C) most Africans are capable of joining in the music by playing musical instruments
D) most Africans perform as well as professional musicians
29. The word "nucleus" (Line 14) probably refers to _____.
A) musicians famous in Africa
B) musicians at the center of attention
C) musicians acting as the core in a performance
D) active participants in a musical performance
30. The best title for this passage would be _____.
A) The Importance of Music to African People
B) Differences Between African Music and Music of Other Countries
C) The Relationship Between Musicians and Their Audience
D) A Characteristic Feature of African Musical Performances

1) It has been thought and said that Africans are born with musical talent.

主题句。据说：非洲人生来就具有音乐天赋。

2) Because **music is so important in the lives of many Africans** and because so much music is performed in Africa, we are inclined to think that all Africans are musicians.

为什么会有上述看法呢？注意：根据第1句的句型，作者对此看法的态度应是否定的。

3) The impression is strengthened when we look at ourselves and find that we have become largely a society of musical *spectators* (旁观者)。

除了以上原因，我们再看看自己，以上的看法“似乎”更有道理。

4) Music is important to us, **but** most of us can be considered consumers rather than producers of music.

尽管音乐对我们也重要，但我们大多数人只是音乐的消费者而非创造者。

5) We have records, television, concerts, and radio to fulfill many of our musical needs.

我们的音乐需求通过唱片、电视、音乐会等来满足。

6) In most situations where music is performed in our culture it is not difficult to distinguish the audience from the performers, **but such** is often not the case in Africa.

在我们的文化中（不是非洲），大多数情况下很容易把观众与表演者给区分开来，但在非洲却不同。注意这里在对比“我们”与“非洲人”在作为观众与音乐表演者之间的区别，注意“but”。

30. The best title for this passage would be _____. 该题 A 项与此出处有一点相关，但第6句应该更能作为依据，特别是转折词“but”及其所承转的内容。

- A) The Importance of Music to African People 确有提及，但并非中心思想。
- B) Differences Between African Music and Music of Other Countries 未提及。
- C) The Relationship Between Musicians and Their Audience 没有重点突出这一点。
- D) **A Characteristic Feature of African Musical Performances** 非洲音乐活动中的一个显著特点是观众参与，这正是作者刻意突出的地方，是解。

26. The difference between us and Africans, as far as music is concerned, is that _____. 细节推断题。

- A) most of us are consumers while most of them are producers of music 文中压根没有讲。
- B) we are musical performers and they are semiprofessional musicians 颠倒黑白的选项。
- C) **most of us are passive spectators while they are active spectators** 符合第6、7两句意思。
- D) we are the audience and they are the additional performers 两者根本就不是在一起看表演。不能这样放在一起对比。

27. The word “such” (Line 7) refers to the fact that _____. 细节指代推断题，把住上文做推断。上文提到在“我们”的文化里多数情况下很容易把观众与表演者区分开来，也就是表演者只管表演，观众只管看；接着用“but”一转，说在非洲不是“这种情况”(such)，可见，such 的含义是 B 项。

- A) music is performed with the participation of the audience 不合出处，与 B 项是相反项。
- B) **music is performed without the participation of the audience** 符合出处含义。
- C) people tend to distinguish the audience from the performers 与出处意思相反。
- D) people have records, television sets and radio to fulfill their musical needs 不沾边。

7) Alban Ayipaga, a Kasena semiprofessional musician from northern Ghana, says that when his *flute* (长笛) and drum *ensemble* (歌舞团) is performing, **"Anybody can take part"**.

区别在哪? 非洲人的参与性。

8) This is true, **but** Kasena musicians recognize **that not all people are equally capable of taking part in the music.**

“但是”，并非所有非洲人都那么“牛”！

9) Some can sing along with the drummers, **but** relatively few can drum and even fewer can play the flute along with the ensemble.

具体说明上句的立论。

10) It is fairly common in Africa for there to be an *ensemble* of expert musicians surrounded by others who join in by clapping, singing, or somehow adding to the totality of musical sound.

非洲人面对表演者的惯常做法：参与进去。

11) Performances often take place in an open area (that is, not on a stage) and so the lines between the performing **nucleus** and the additional performers, active spectators, and passive spectators may be difficult to draw from our point of view.

为什么非洲观众那么容易参与进去呢？原因之一是演出场地适合这样做。结果呢？哪些是演员，哪些是观众就难以划清界限了。深层结论：不是非洲人天生具有音乐才能，而是其文化及音乐氛围创造了这样一种状况或印象。由此回到了全文主题句的立论：认为非洲人天生具有音乐才赋是“一叶障目”的看法。

28. The author of the passage implies that _____. 细节推断题，从选项入手进行定位。

A) all Africans are musical and therefore much music is performed in Africa 该项前半部分与出处含义相反，而且过于绝对；后半部分不是前半部分的必然结果。结合第2句排除该项。

B) not all Africans are born with musical talent although music is important in their lives 符合此处含义及全文通篇对非洲人“与生俱来的音乐才能”的否定论述。

C) most Africans are capable of joining in the music by playing musical instruments 与事实不符。

D) most Africans perform as well as professional musicians 根据第9句可排除该项。

29. The word "nucleus" (Line 14) probably refers to _____. 词汇题。把住“nucleus”的自身含义是“核心”，再结合出处的“additional”一词，可以断定：nucleus 与 additional performers 是相对的。后者是参与的观众，那前者肯定是专业的表演者。因此，C项是解。

A) musicians famous in Africa

B) musicians at the **center** of attention

C) **musicians acting as the core in a performance**

D) active participants in a musical performance

Passage Three Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage:

Most people would agree that, although our age exceeds all previous ages in knowledge, there has been no corresponding increase in wisdom. But agreement ceases as soon as we attempt to define “wisdom” and consider means of promoting it.

There are several factors that contribute to wisdom. Of these I should put first a sense of proportion: the capacity to take account of all the important factors in a problem and to attach to each its due weight. This has become more difficult than it used to be owing to the extent and complexity of the special knowledge required of various kinds of technicians. Suppose, for example, that you are engaged in research in scientific medicine. The work is difficult and is likely to absorb the whole of your mind. You have no time to consider the effect which your discoveries or inventions may have outside the field of medicine. You succeed (let us say) as modern medicine has succeeded, in enormously lowering the infant death-rate, not only in Europe and America, but also in Asia and Africa. This has the entirely unintended result of making the food supply inadequate and lowering the standard of life in the parts of the world that have the greatest populations. To take an even more dramatic example, which is in everybody's mind at the present time; you study the makeup of the atom from a *disinterested* (无利害关系的) desire for knowledge, and by chance place in the hands of a powerful mad man the means of destroying the human race.

Therefore, with every increase of knowledge and skill, wisdom becomes more necessary, for every such increase *augments* (增强) our capacity for realizing our purposes, and therefore augments our capacity for evil, if our purposes are unwise.

31. Disagreement arises when people try to decide _____.
 - A) how much more wisdom we have now than before
 - B) what wisdom is and how to develop it
 - C) if there is a great increase of wisdom in our age
 - D) whether wisdom can be developed or not
32. According to the author, “wisdom” is the ability to _____.
 - A) carefully consider the bad effects any kind of research work
 - B) give each important problem some careful consideration
 - C) acquire a great deal of complex and special knowledge
 - D) give suitable consideration to all the possible elements in a problem
33. Lowering the infant death-rate may _____.
 - A) prove to be helpful everywhere in the world
 - B) give rise to an increase in population in Europe
 - C) cause food shortages in Asia and Africa
 - D) raise the living standard of the people in Africa
34. The author uses the examples in the passage to illustrate his point that _____.
 - A) it's extremely difficult to consider all the important elements in problem
 - B) success in medical research has its negative effects
 - C) scientists may unknowingly cause destruction to the human race
 - D) it's unwise to be totally absorbed in research in scientific medicine
35. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A) It is unwise to place the results of scientific research in the hands of a powerful mad man.
 - B) The more knowledge one has, the wiser one becomes.
 - C) Any increase of knowledge could lead to disastrous results without the guidance of wisdom.
 - D) Wisdom increases in proportion to one's age.

1) Most people would agree that, **although** our age exceeds all previous ages in knowledge, there has been no corresponding increase in wisdom.

多数人认同这一点：我们的时代在知识方面超越了以前，但在智慧方面却没有相应的增长。

2) **But agreement ceases as soon as we attempt to define "wisdom" and consider means of promoting it.**

但一到了什么是“智慧”及如何提高智力水平的问题上人们的看法就发生了分歧。

3) There are several factors that contribute to wisdom.

开始讲述几个促进智慧的因素。

4) Of these I should put first a sense of proportion: **the capacity to take account of all the important factors in a problem and to attach to each its due weight.**

首先是一种比例感，即：对一个问题的所有重要的因素能统筹兼顾，并给予相应的重视。

5) This has become more difficult than it used to be owing to the extent and complexity of the special knowledge required of various kinds of technicians.

但由于需要广泛的专业知识，要全面地考虑问题越发困难。

6) Suppose, **for example**, that you are engaged in research in scientific medicine.

作者举例来证明自己的观点：假如你参与药物研究。

7) The work is difficult and is likely to absorb the whole of your mind.

要做好工作就需要你全身心投入。

8) You have no time to consider the effect which your discoveries or inventions may have outside the field of medicine.

31. Disagreement arises when people try to decide _____. 细节题 推断题。把住 disagreement 定位出处。

A) how much more wisdom we have now than before 出处既已明确，含义自可推导：不符合出处含义。

B) **what wisdom is and how to develop it** 符合出处含义。注意转折词“**But**”的承转作用。

C) if there is a great increase of wisdom in our age 根据第1句排除该项。

D) whether wisdom can be developed or not 句2没有提出此假设，而是直接设定智慧是可以增长的，问题就是如何提高它。

32. According to the author, “wisdom” is the ability to _____. 细节题，易定位。

A) carefully consider the bad effects any kind of research work 用“any”太绝对，不是解。

B) give each important problem some careful consideration 不是“some”，而是“相应”重视。

C) acquire a great deal of complex and special knowledge 纵观出处，该项没凭证。

D) **give suitable consideration to all the possible elements in a problem** 符合出处：对问题中所有重要因素给予相应的重视。

34. The author uses the examples in the passage to illustrate his point that _____. 特别注意问题中的“example”用了复数，说明不止一个例子。因此，除了此处的例子，还要向下寻找，第11句是另一出处的标记。本题属概括归纳题，需要文中较大的信息量。

A) **it's extremely difficult to consider all the important elements in a problem** 对照两个举例处，该项为实质内容，是解。

B) success in medical research has its negative effects 是事实，但不全面，只讲了医学方面。

C) scientists may unknowingly cause destruction to the human race 实话，但只强调原子研究。

D) it's unwise to be totally absorbed in research in scientific medicine 反动而且片面。

这样,你没有时间去考虑药物研究以外的后果。

9) You succeed (let us say) as modern medicine has succeeded, in enormously **lowering the infant death-rate**, not only in Europe and America, but also in Asia and Africa.

继续延伸:药物的成功发明导致了世界上很多国家婴儿死亡率下降。

10) **This has the entirely unintended result of making the food supply inadequate** and lowering the standard of life in the parts of the world that have the greatest populations.

但始料不及的后果是:部分地区食品供应不足、人民生活水平降低。即:好结果的“副作用”。

11) **To take an even more dramatic example**, which is in everybody's mind at the present time; you study the makeup of the atom from a *disinterested* (无利害关系的) desire for knowledge, and **by chance place in the hands of a powerful mad man the means of destroying the human race.**

再举一个极端的例子,也是关乎众生的例子:原子的研究成果无意中被坏分子所掌握及利用。

12) **Therefore, with every increase of knowledge and skill, wisdom becomes more necessary**, for every such increase *augments* (增强) our capacity for realizing our purposes, and **therefore augments our capacity for evil**, if our purposes are unwise.

可见:知识的增长更需要智慧的引导。

33. Lowering the infant death-rate may _____ 细节题,易定位。

- A) prove to be helpful everywhere in the world 干扰项,与出处唱反调。
- B) give rise to an increase in population in Europe 片面而且不尽合理:没有增加人口(即:使出生率上涨),而是降低了幼儿死亡率;不仅仅是 Europe, 还有其他洲。
- C) **cause food shortages in Asia and Africa** 符合出处,降低婴儿死亡率会使世界上人口多的国家食物供应紧张。
- D) raise the living standard of the people in Africa 与出处唱反调。

35. What is the main idea of the passage? 主旨归纳题,从全文论述思路断定。

- A) It is unwise to place the results of scientific research in the hands of a powerful mad man. 该项太片面,问题涉及的是文章的中心思想,而该项则片面地强调了原子研究方面潜在的危险。
- B) The more knowledge one has, the wiser one becomes. 可能是客观事实,但不是文章论述目的:文章所强调的是人类越有知识就越需要智慧,两者之间是有相当差距的。
- C) **Any increase of knowledge could lead to disastrous results without the guidance of wisdom.** 注意第 12 句中的两个“therefore”,它是一个表示结论性的词,而且所表达的深层含义与该项相一致。
- D) Wisdom increases in proportion to one's age. 有任何依据吗?没有!

Passage Four Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage:

For any given task in Britain there are more men than are needed. Strong unions keep them there in Fleet Street, home of some London's biggest dailies, it is understood that when two unions quarrel over three jobs, the argument is settled by giving each union two. That means 33 per cent overmanning, 33 per cent less productivity than could be obtained.

A reporter who has visited plants throughout Europe has an impression that the pace of work is much slower here. Nobody tries too hard. Tea breaks do matter and are frequent. It is hard to measure intensity of work, but Britons give a distinct impression of going at their tasks in a more leisurely way.

But is all this so terrible? It certainly does not improve the gross national product or output per worker. Those observant visitors, however, have noticed something else about Britain. It is a pleasant place.

Street crowds in Stockholm. Paris and New York move quickly and silently heads down, all in a hurry. London crowds tend to walk at an easy pace (except in the profitable, efficient City, the financial district).

Every stranger is struck by the patient and orderly way in which Britons queue for a bus: if the saleswoman is slow and out of stock she will likely say, "Oh dear, what a pity"; the rubbish collectors stop to *chat* (聊天) and call the housewives "Luv". Crime rises here as in every city but there still remains a gentle tone and temper that is unmatched in Berlin, Milan or Detroit.

In short, what is wrong with Britain may also be what is right. Having reached a tolerable standard, Britons appear to be choosing leisure over goods.

36. What happens when disputes over job opportunities arise among British unions?
A) Thirty three per cent of the workers will be out of work.
B) More people will be employed than necessary.
C) More jobs will be created by the government.
D) The unions will try to increase productivity.
37. What does the reporter who has visited plants throughout Europe think about Britain?
A) Tea breaks do not affect the intensity of work in Britain.
B) Britons do their work in an unhurried sort of way.
C) The pace of work in continental Europe is much slow than in Britain.
D) Britons give the impression of working intensively.
38. "Tea breaks do matter" (Line 2, Para.2) indicates that _____.
A) they are an important aspect of the British way of life
B) they are greatly enjoyed by British workers
C) they can be used by the workers as an excuse to take time off from work
D) they help the workers to be on good terms with each other
39. The word "this" (Line 1, Para.3) refers to the fact that _____.
A) there are more men on any given job than are needed
B) 33 per cent overmanning leads to 33 per cent less productivity
C) it is difficult to measure the intensity of work
D) Britons generally do not want to work too hard
40. By "what is wrong with Britain may also be what is right" (Line 1, Para.6) the author means to say that _____.
A) quarrels between unions will help create jobs
B) a leisurely way of life helps Britons increase productivity
C) the gentle tone and temper of the people in Britain makes it a pleasant place
D) Britons will not sacrifice their leisure to further increase productivity.