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最新考研英语

160

篇

在线课堂
*e*讲*e*练

2003年硕士研究生入学考试专用

阅读理解

总主编 王迈迈
主 编 夏少芳



精选原文体裁多样
试题分析独具特色
参考译文恰到好处
详细解答无微不至

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前言

2003 年考研大战的鼓角已经吹响!

旧战场的痕迹历历在目——参战人员之众,竞争程度之烈,前所未有。昨天的硝烟还未散去,今天的勇士又将前行。

对于备战新一轮考研的广大考生而言,要想打赢自己的这场战争,就必须从现在起,争取每一个日日夜夜,把握每一个分分秒秒,洞察全局,运筹帷幄,决不贻误任何战机。

摸一摸家底,估一估实力,专业课——经过几年的练兵演习,自觉不逊于人,但也很难超越竞争对手一截。唯有公共课——英语,只要从现在抓紧操练,就能扩大自己的优势,使之成为打赢这场考研战争的决定性筹码。

从 2003 年开始,考研对英语的要求,有了重大而深刻的变化。试卷增加了听力,因此,考生必须具备听、读、译、写的良好技能。为了给各位参战的考生助一臂之力,我们精心编写了这套考研丛书。本套丛书的每套考题在题型、容量、难易度方面都力求与考研真题一致;每一道考题都有参考答案,每一道难题都有详尽的解答,所有的听力都配有高质量的磁带,所有的录音均有录音文字材料,所有的作文都附有范文,以供同学们参考借鉴。

我们真诚地希望这套丛书能为同学们走向成功,带来好运。

王迈迈

2002 年 3 月

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Part One 阅读理解

Passage 1

Wholly aside from aesthetic and moral considerations, fashion is an economic absurdity, and there is little to be said in its favor. Nevertheless, we can appreciate the wisdom in Cino Lombroso's belief that the enormous stress which women lay on everything pertaining to clothes and the art of personal adornment is connected with the tendency to crystallize sentiment into an object. Woman symbolizes every important event in her life by a special dress; and a jewel or a beautiful gown means to a woman what an official decoration means to a man.

"The temptation of dress is the last step in the ceremony to which the novice has to submit before entering the cloister. The memory of the gown which she too might have worn was the strongest temptation that assailed St. Catherine before she took her solemn vows a gown, embroidered with gold and stars, like those her sisters had worn, which her grandchildren would have gazed at with eyes filled with wonder and admiration. . . ."

"If a woman's clothes cost the family and society a little time, money, and activity, they allow woman, independent of lies and calumnies, to triumph and come to the fore outside of man's world and competition. They allow woman to satisfy her desire to be the first in the most varied fields by giving her the illusion that she is first, and at the same time enabling her rival to have the same illusion. Clothes absorb some of woman's activity which might otherwise be diverted to more or less worthwhile ends; they give woman real satisfaction, a satisfaction complete in itself, and independent of others, and they constitute a safety valve which saves society from much greater and more dangerous evils than those which they cause."

The aptness of these observations lies in the emphasis on clothes which are really beautiful and distinctive. But fashion is not primarily concerned with beauty; and fashion connotes conformity, not the individuality so cherished by our society and so artfully suggested by the copywriters. Many people who rigorously follow fashions believe they are following their own inclinations, they are unaware of the primitive, tribal compulsion; and this is true of fashions in manners, morals, and



literature, as well as in clothes.

1. The article says that fashion is an absurdity in terms of _____.
A. economy
B. morals
C. social mores
D. aesthetics
2. Gina Lombroso believes that, with regard to clothes and the art of personal adornment, women _____.
A. are individualistic
B. are absurd
C. tend to crystallize sentiment into an object
D. are not sentimental
3. According to the article, woman's absorption in clothes _____.
A. constitutes a great danger to society
B. indirectly discourages participation in more worthwhile projects
C. is a source of constant dissatisfaction to a woman
D. saves society from more dangerous evils than those it causes
4. The author of this article believes that fashion _____.
A. promotes conformity
B. promotes individuality
C. is concerned only with the clothes that are beautiful
D. is primarily concerned with beauty
5. What does the article imply?
A. Women who follow fashions are not really following their own inclinations.
B. Fashion emphasizes clothes that are beautiful and distinctive.
C. Fashion is not primarily connected with beauty, but connotes conformity.
D. Women have innate inclinations for beauty.

Passage 2

Through human history, weather has altered the march of events and caused some mighty cataclysms. Since Columbus did not know where he was going or where he had arrived when he got there, the winds truly deserve nearly as much credit as he for the discovery of America. Ugly westerlies helped turn the 1588 Spanish Armada away from England in a limping panic. Napoleon was done in twice by weather; once by the snow and cold that forced his fearful retreat from Moscow, later by the rain that bedevilled him at Waterloo and caused Victor Hugo to write: "A few drops of water . . . an unseasonable cloud crossing the sky, suf-



ficed for the overthrow of a world. " In 1944 the Allied invasion of Normandy was made possible by a narrow interval of reasonably good weather between the bad. It was so narrow, in fact, that Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower later expressed gratitude to "the gods of war".

Every year brings fresh reminders of the weather's power over human life and events in the form of horrifying tornadoes, hurricanes and floods. These leave behind forgettable statistics and unforgettable images of devastated towns and battered humanity that can only humble people in the face of such wrath. Farmers often suffer the most, from the drought and plagues of biblical times to the hailstorms or quick freezes that even today can wipe out whole crops in minutes. Icy assaults serve as reminders of the inescapable vulnerability of life and social wellbeing to the whims of the weather. And history is packed with reminders of far worse. The weather, for example, provoked a major social dislocation in the United States in the 1930's when it turned much of the Southwest into the Dust Bowl.

No wonder, then, that man's great dream has been some day to control the weather. The first step toward control, of course, is knowledge, and scientists have been hard at work for years trying to keep track of the weather. The United States and other nations have created an international apparatus that maintains some 100, 000 stations to check the weather round the clock in every sector of the globe and, with satellites, in a good deal of the more than 16 billion cubic kilometres of the atmosphere. With computers on tap and electronic eyes in the sky, modern man has thus come far in dealing with the weather, alternately his nemesis and benefactor. Yet man's predicament today is not too far removed from that of his remote ancestors. For all the advances of scientific forecasting, in spite of the thousands of daily bulletins and advisories that get flashed about, the weather is still ultimately capricious and unpredictable. Man's dream of controlling it is still just that—a dream.

1. The writer is of the opinion that Columbus _____.

- A. did not discover America
- B. stole the credit for the discovery of America from someone else
- C. does not deserve to be known as the man who discovered America
- D. was not aware he had discovered America

2. What is the topic of the first paragraph?

- A. The development of history up to modern times.
- B. The part weather played in the progress of events in history.
- C. The way fate influenced the outcome of events in history.
- D. Success in all past undertakings depended on the weather.



3. In the second paragraph weather is seen as _____.
A. a capricious and an unpredictable force
B. man's benefactor
C. man's chief enemy
D. a powerful destroyer of human life and property
4. How did the weather cause great upheaval in America a few decades ago?
A. It devastated towns in the form of tornadoes, hurricanes and floods.
B. It destroyed crops in the form of hailstorms and quick freezes.
C. It turned cold so suddenly that it caught millions of people unprepared.
D. It created a large area of arid land from which people had to move out.
5. We can conclude from the passage that _____.
A. man is very much at the mercy of weather
B. man is doomed to be destroyed by weather
C. man cannot forecast weather
D. man cannot keep track of weather

Passage 3

The United States Constitution makes no provision for the nomination of candidates for the presidency. As the framers of the Constitution set up the system, the electors would, out of their own knowledge, select the "wisest and best" as President. But the rise of political parties altered that system drastically — and with the change came the need for nominations.

The first method that the parties developed to nominate presidential candidates was the congressional caucus, a small group of members of Congress. That method was regularly used in the elections of 1800 to 1824. But its closed character led to its downfall in the mid-1820's. For the election of 1832, both major parties turned to the national convention as their nominating device. It has continued to serve them ever since.

With the convention process, the final selection of the President is, for all practical purposes, narrowed to one of two persons: the Republican or the Democratic party nominee. Yet there is almost no legal control of that vital process.

The Constitution is silent on the subject of presidential nominations. There is, as well, almost no statutory law on the matter. The only provisions in federal law have to do with the financing of conventions. And in each state there is only a small body of laws that deal with issues related to the convention, such as the



choosing of delegates and the manner in which they may cast their votes. In short, the convention is very largely a creation and a responsibility of the political parties themselves.

In both the Republican and Democratic parties, the national committee is charged with making the plans and arrangements for the national convention. As much as a year before it is held, the committee meets (usually in Washington, D. C.) to set the time and place for the convention. July has been the favored month; but each party has met in convention as early as mid-June and also as late as the latter part of August. Where the convention is held as a matter of prime importance, there must be an adequate convention hall, sufficient hotel accommodations, plentiful entertainment outlets, and efficient transportation facilities.

1. Which of the following motivated a change in the original method of selecting a President of the United States?

- A. The framers of the Constitution.
- B. The rise of the congressional caucus.
- C. The emergence of the party system.
- D. The establishment of national conventions.

2. When was the congressional caucus used?

- A. In the early 1800's.
- B. During the election of 1832.
- C. Throughout the nineteenth century.
- D. In several recent elections.

3. What can be inferred about why the congressional caucus system was terminated?

- A. It was too expensive.
- B. It took too much time.
- C. It did not conform to the Constitution.
- D. It did not include enough citizens.

4. According to the passage, the only aspect of political conventions addressed by federal law involves _____.

- A. organization
- B. choosing delegates
- C. voting procedures
- D. funding

5. The passage refers to all of the following as necessary in the city where the convention is held EXCEPT _____.

- A. an acceptable meeting place
- B. politically aware citizens
- C. an easy way of traveling around the city



D. sufficient amusement opportunities

Passage 4

The economic expansion prompted by the Second World War triggered a spectacular population boom in the West. Of course, the region was no stranger to population booms. Throughout much of its history, western settlement had been characterized by spurts, rather than by a pattern of gradual and steady population growth, beginning with the gold and silver rushes of the 1850s and 1860s.

The decade after the First World War – the 1920s – witnessed another major surge of people pouring into the West, particularly into urban areas. But the economic depression of the 1930s brought this expansion to a halt; some of the more sparsely settled parts of the region actually lost population as migrants sought work in more heavily industrialized areas. By 1941, when the United States entered the Second World War and began to mobilize, new job opportunities were created in the western part of the nation.

If the expansion of industries, such as shipbuilding and aircraft manufacturing, was most striking on the Pacific coast, it also affected interior cities like Denver, Phoenix, and Salt Lake City. Equally dramatic were the effects of the establishment of aluminum plants in Oregon and Washington and the burgeoning steel industry in Utah and California. The flow of people into these areas provided an enormous impetus to the expansion of the service industries — banks, health care services, and schools. Although strained to the limit by the influx of newcomers, western communities welcomed the vast reservoir of new job opportunities. At the same time, the unprecedented expansion of government installations in the West, such as military bases, created thousands of new civilian openings. As land had served as a magnet for western migrants in the late nineteenth century, so wartime mobilization set in motion another major expansion of population. Indeed, it could be said that the entire western United States became a giant boomtown during the Second World War. This was especially true of California. Of the more than eight million people who moved into the West in the decade after 1940, almost one-half went to the Pacific coast. In fact, between 1940 and 1950, California's population surged by more than three million people.

1. What is the main point of the passage?

A. California dominated the economic growth of the West during the Second World War.



- B. Industrial growth during the 1940's attracted large numbers of people to the West.
- C. The military drew people away from civilian jobs during the 1940's.
- D. The West experienced gradual and steady economic growth from 1900 to 1940.
2. Why does the author mention "the gold and silver rushes of the 1850's and 1860's" in the first paragraph?
- A. As causes of gradual population growth.
- B. As contrasts to later patterns of population growth.
- C. As illustrations of a market economy.
- D. As examples of western population booms.
3. Which of the following statements about the shipbuilding industry is suggested by the passage?
- A. It came into being during the First World War.
- B. Many new shipbuilding yards were established on the Pacific coast during the 1940's.
- C. Denver was considered to be a poor location for shipbuilding factories.
- D. Shipbuilding was the dominant industry in Oregon and Washington.
4. According to the passage, what was one result of the building of new military bases in the West in the 1940's?
- A. Military bases in other parts of the United States were closed.
- B. Many settlers were forced off their land.
- C. Many civilian jobs were created.
- D. The cost of living rose sharply in California and other western states.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the principal cause of California's population surge between 1940 and 1950 was _____.
- A. the increased availability of land
- B. people's desire to live in a warm, coastal climate
- C. the industrial mobilization necessitated by the Second World War
- D. overcrowding in urban areas in other regions of the United States

Passage 5

The word *laser* was coined as an acronym for *Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation*. Ordinary light, from the Sun or a light bulb, is emitted spontaneously, when atoms or molecules get rid of excess energy by them-



selves, without any outside intervention. Stimulated emission is different because it occurs when an atom or molecule holding onto excess energy has been stimulated to emit it as light.

Albert Einstein was the first to suggest the existence of stimulated emission in a paper published in 1917. However, for many years physicists thought that atoms and molecules always were much more likely to emit light spontaneously and that stimulated emission thus always would be much weaker. It was not until after the Second World War that physicists began trying to make stimulated emission dominate. They sought ways by which one atom or molecule could stimulate many others to emit light, amplifying it to much higher powers.

The first to succeed was Charles H. Townes, then at Columbia University in New York. Instead of working with light, however, he worked with microwaves, which have a much longer wavelength, and built a device he called a "maser," for *Microwave Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation*. Although he thought of the key idea in 1951, the first maser was not completed until a couple of years later. Before long, many other physicists were building masers and trying to discover how to produce stimulated emission at even shorter wavelengths.

The key concepts emerged about 1957. Townes and Arthur Schawlow, then at Bell Telephone Laboratories, wrote a long paper outlining the conditions needed to amplify stimulated emission of visible light waves. At about the same time, similar ideas crystallized in the mind of Gordon Gould, then a 37-year-old graduate student at Columbia, who wrote them down in a series of notebooks. Townes and Schawlow published their ideas in a scientific journal, *Physical Review Letters*, but Gould filed a patent application. Three decades later, people still argue about who deserves the credit for the concept of the laser.

1. Which of the following statements best describes a laser?

- A. A device for stimulating atoms and molecules to emit light.
- B. An atom in a high-energy state.
- C. A technique for destroying atoms or molecules.
- D. An instrument for measuring light waves.

2. Why was Townes' early work with stimulated emission done with microwaves?

- A. He was not concerned with light amplification.
- B. It was easier to work with longer wavelengths.
- C. His partner Schawlow had already begun work on the laser.
- D. The laser had already been developed.

3. In his research at Columbia University, Charles Townes worked with all of the following EXCEPT



- A. stimulated emission B. microwaves
C. light amplification D. a maser
4. In approximately what year was the first maser built?
- A. 1917 B. 1951
C. 1953 D. 1957
5. Why do people still argue about who deserves the credit for the concept of the laser?
- A. The researchers' notebooks were lost.
B. Several people were developing the idea at the same time.
C. No one claimed credit for the development until recently.
D. The work is still incomplete.

Passage 6

Archaeology has long been an accepted tool for studying prehistoric cultures. Relatively recently the same techniques have been systematically applied to studies of the more immediate past. This has been called "historical archaeology," a term that is used in the United States to refer to any archaeological investigation into North American sites that postdate the arrival of Europeans.

Back in the 1930s and 1940s, when building restoration was popular, historical archaeology was primarily a tool of architectural reconstruction. The role of archaeologists was to find the foundations of historic buildings and then take a back seat to architects.

The mania for reconstruction had largely subsided by the 1950s and 1960s. Most people entering historical archaeology during this period came out of university anthropology departments, where they had studied prehistoric cultures. They were, by training, social scientists, not historians, and their work tended to reflect this bias. The questions they framed and the techniques they used were designed to help them understand, as scientists, how people behaved. But because they were treading on historical ground for which there was often extensive written documentation, and because their own knowledge of these periods was usually limited, their contributions to American history remained circumscribed. Their reports, highly technical and sometimes poorly written, went unread.

More recently, professional archaeologists have taken over. These researchers have sought to demonstrate that their work can be a valuable tool not only of science but also of history, providing fresh insights into the daily lives of ordinary



people whose existences might not otherwise be so well documented. This newer emphasis on archaeology as social history has shown great promise, and indeed work done in this area has lead to a reinterpretation of the United States past.

In Kingston, New York, for example, evidence has been uncovered that indicates that English goods were being smuggled into that city at a time when the Dutch supposedly controlled trading in the area. And in Sacramento an excavation at the site of a fashionable nineteenth-century hotel revealed that garbage had been stashed in the building's basement despite sanitation laws to the contrary.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- A. Why historical archaeology was first developed.
- B. How the methods and purpose of historical archaeology have changed.
- C. The contributions architects make to historical archaeology.
- D. The attitude of professional archaeologists toward historical archaeology.

2. According to the first paragraph, what is a relatively new focus in archaeology?

- A. Investigating the recent past.
- B. Studying prehistoric cultures.
- C. Excavating ancient sites in what is now the United States.
- D. Comparing findings made in North America and in Europe.

3. According to the passage, when had historical archaeologists been trained as anthropologists?

- A. Prior to the 1930's.
- B. During the 1930's and 1940's.
- C. During the 1950's and 1960's.
- D. After the 1960's.

4. In the third paragraph, the author implies that the techniques of history and the techniques of social science are _____.

- A. quite different from each other
- B. equally useful in studying prehistoric cultures
- C. usually taught to students of archaeology
- D. both based on similar principles

5. The author mentions an excavation at the site of a hotel in Sacramento in order to give an example of _____.

- A. a building reconstruction project
- B. the work of the earliest historical archaeologists
- C. a finding that conflicts with written records
- D. the kind of information that historians routinely examine