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博士研究生入学考试辅导用书

考博英语

全国名校真题精解

博士研究生入学考试辅导用书 编审委员会 编著

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英语考试是考生参加博士研究生入学考试道路上比较大的障碍和挑战。为了帮助报考博士研究生的考生了解各高等院校考博英语的命题特点和出题动态,我们参照一些名校博士研究生入学英语考试大纲,认真研究了 100 多所高等院校 400 多份历年考博英语真题,精心挑选了部分试题和相关资料,对北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学等近 20 所重点高等院校近年博士研究生入学考试英语试题作了详细的解析。本书详解其解题思路,全面分析其命题动向,剖析解题技法,从而帮助考生提高应试能力和信心。

本书适合参加博士研究生入学考试的广大考生使用,也可以作为参加硕士研究生入学考试考生的自学辅导用书。

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第 10 版前言

我国自 1981 年建立学位制度以来,全国博士研究生招生人数增长速度较快,2014 年全国博士研究生招生人数已达到了 71 020 人,今后国内博士研究生招收人数还将略有增加。从整体上看,由于博士研究生招生形势的不断发展,各院校博士研究生入学考试的难度也越来越大,对考生的外语要求也越来越高,特别是听说能力。攻读博士学位的学生,一方面应该具备坚实的专业理论基础和较强的科研能力,另一方面还应该具备较高的外语水平。从国家的角度来讲,我国走上了国际化的道路,改革开放的程度已经往纵深方向发展,我国与国外院校在经济、文化、科学、教育、管理和军事等领域的合作也日益紧密——这就对我国人才的知识水平提出了更高的要求。国际化人才首先要具备良好的外语水平,包括听、说、读、写、译的综合能力。作为我国高等教育最高层次的博士研究生教育,要求博士生具有较高的外语水平,也就理所当然了。

英语考试是考生参加博士研究生入学考试道路上比较大的障碍和挑战。许多考生并非由于专业课,而是因为英语成绩未达到所报考院校最低录取分数线,而与自己理想的院校失之交臂。虽然目前我国博士研究生英语入学考试没有统一的考试大纲(这主要是因为国内没有对博士研究生入学英语考试采取统考形式),但是各个院校命题特点大同小异,一些院校的试题类型、内容难易程度都非常相似,所以研究一些院校的近年考试试题就非常有必要。

目前国内大多数院校博士研究生入学英语考试发展趋势的主要特点是:主观测试题分值增加,博士研究生入学英语考试由水平测试趋向于水平测试和能力测试并重。虽然这种变化趋势并不适用于所有院校,但也反映了大多数院校博士研究生入学英语考试的发展趋势,具体可以总结出以下几点:

一、试题难度稳定,录取分数线波动不大

根据统计,全国博士研究生入学英语考试录取分数线总的来说呈上升趋势,这主要是由于报考人数逐年增多和考生整体水平提高。近年来,各院校博士研究生入学英语考试实际录取分数线大体在 50~60 分之间波动,也有个别院校少数专业破格录取分数线在 50 分以下。

通过对比全国大多数院校的历年考博英语试题可以看出,从试题难度方面来说,难度较大的应当数中国科学院研究生院、中国社会科学院研究生院和北京大学的试题,其他院校试题难度基本低于这三所院校。

二、重点题型突出,对主观题的考查是今后的方向和重点

博士研究生入学英语考试目前出现过的题型有十几种,例如:听力、词汇、语法、完形填空、改错、英语解释、阅读理解、英译汉、汉译英、写作、摘要(summary)等。但实际考试中多数院校每次只考六七种题型。对于多数院校来说,听力、词汇和语法、阅读理解、翻译和写作是四种常见题型。

听力在国内博士研究生入学英语考试中占 15~20 分;词汇和语法占 10~35 分,而词汇和语法分值各半;阅读理解占 10~50 分;翻译占 10~15 分;写作占 10~15 分。

从全国重点院校的博士研究生入学考试英语试卷来看,向主观题型发展是今后的趋势。

例如,西安交通大学考博英语试卷中全是主观题型,仅考翻译(汉译英与英译汉)和写作;北京大学考博英语试卷中有篇章改错,还曾采用没有阅读客观题、只有主观问答和阅读理解后写总结的考题形式。因此要想取得好成绩,考生应重视主观题型的训练。

三、引进听写题型,听力难度有所增加

听力难度增大,是因为听写在听力考试中逐渐被采用和推广。听写与其他听力选择题的区别是,如果听不懂就写不出答案,而其他听力选择题则有可能猜对。

四、用大题拉开分数差距,阅读、翻译和写作是考试的重中之重

翻译和写作都属于非标准化的题型,即主观测试题,这也说明了博士研究生入学英语考试侧重能力测试。有的院校还增加了英语口语。

通过对国内重点院校近年考题进行分析可知,翻译(汉译英和英译汉)和写作平均占总分的30分左右,最高的为财政部财政科学研究所的70分,最低的为北京大学的15分。

五、个别院校特别突出某一题型的重要性,重点考查考生某一方面的能力

国内个别院校考试题型中特别重视某一方面的测试。例如,北京师范大学的题型比较特殊,翻译和写作占55分,阅读占30分,听力占15分;财政部财政科学研究所的英语测试中翻译和写作就占了70分,并且听力没有和笔试合计,这说明了该研究所对阅读和写作要求较高;天津大学博士研究生入学英语测试中没有阅读理解,用其他考试题型代替阅读理解。因此,复习的时候要有针对性地强化训练。

为了帮助报考博士研究生的考生了解各高等院校考博英语的命题特点和出题动态,我们参照一些名校博士研究生入学英语考试大纲,在第9版的基础上,认真修订了本书,增加了几所重点院校的最新试题与解析,更正了本书前几个版本中的错误和疏漏之处,使本书更加臻于完善,更加符合考生的需要。“观千剑而后识器”,我们相信,只要考生认真阅读本书,深入理解并熟悉各种题型和熟练运用各种解题技巧,就一定能够在考博英语中脱颖而出。

在收集各高校考博英语试题的过程中,我们得到了清华大学、北京大学、中国人民大学、中国科学院研究生院、中国科技大学、北京理工大学、南京大学、武汉大学、厦门大学等高等院校的大力支持,在此表示由衷的感谢。

实践证明,一本好的复习资料,能够帮助考生达到事半功倍的效果。本书为考生提供了全国名校的考博英语真题精解,详析解题思路,分析命题动向,剖析解题技巧,帮助考生增强应试能力和信心,获取理想成绩。

由于时间仓促,本书纰漏之处在所难免,诚望广大读者批评指正。读者可将意见或建议发至信箱:sinotests@sina.com。谢谢!

参加本书编写的有李雪、陈冬冬、连庆玲、陈杨庆、黄艳外,还有刘爽、李铁红、汪华、刘仕文、陈明慧、孟楠、成芬、涂振旗、张永艳、赵娜、王宇、董亮、姜宝静、王欢、黎兴刚、高鹏、王德军、范宏博、唐淑华、王春华、刘岩、王芳、陈欢、曹银菊、王艳平、黄春丽、孙璇、张艳霜、张一平、沈二婵、吴经林、范秋杏、李建霞、张秀娟、耿淑玉、王印有、刘东和、王英、王迎秋、刘颖、孙源龙、朱振华、佟琳。另外,国外的朋友Michael Anderson对本丛书的审订工作付出了很多艰辛的劳动,在此一并表示感谢。

目 录

第 10 版前言

清华大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	1
清华大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	14
清华大学 2007 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	24
清华大学 2007 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	34
清华大学 2006 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	42
清华大学 2006 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	51
北京大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	59
北京大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	70
北京大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	79
北京大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	90
北京大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	98
北京大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试题参考答案与解析	109
北京大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	117
北京大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	127
北京大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	134
北京大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	143
北京大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	150
北京大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	158
中国矿业大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	164
中国矿业大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	175
中国矿业大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	182
中国矿业大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	190
中国矿业大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	196
中国矿业大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题答案及解析	206
中国矿业大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	214
中国矿业大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	222
中国矿业大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	229
中国矿业大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	240
中国矿业大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	251
中国矿业大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	264
中国人民大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语样题	274
中国人民大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语样题参考答案与解析	285
中国人民大学 2007 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	293
中国人民大学 2007 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	307
中国科学院 2014 年 3 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题	317
中国科学院 2014 年 3 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	330
中国科学院 2013 年 10 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题	339
中国科学院 2013 年 10 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	352
中国科学院 2013 年 3 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题	361

中国科学院 2013 年 3 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	374
中国科学院 2012 年 3 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题	384
中国科学院 2012 年 3 月博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	397
中国科学院 2011 年春季博士研究生入学考试英语试题	406
中国科学院 2011 年春季博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	419
中国科学院 2010 年春季博士研究生入学考试英语试题	428
中国科学院 2010 年春季博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	441
中国科学院 2009 年春季博士研究生入学考试英语试题	451
中国科学院 2009 年春季博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	464
武汉大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	475
武汉大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	483
武汉大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	488
武汉大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	497
武汉大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	503
武汉大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	510
武汉大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	514
武汉大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	521
武汉大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	526
武汉大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	535
南京大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	540
南京大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	549
南京大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	556
南京大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案及解析	565
南京大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	573
南京大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	584
南京大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	592
南京大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	602
北京理工大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	609
北京理工大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	618
北京理工大学 2007 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	622
北京理工大学 2007 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	629
北京理工大学 2006 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	634
北京理工大学 2006 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	643
北京航空航天大学 2014 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	649
北京航空航天大学 2014 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案及解析	659
北京航空航天大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	667
北京航空航天大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	678
北京航空航天大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	686
北京航空航天大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	697
北京航空航天大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	705
北京航空航天大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	714
北京航空航天大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	722
北京航空航天大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	732

中国社会科学院 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	741
中国社会科学院 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	755
中国社会科学院 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	765
中国社会科学院 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	779
中国社会科学院 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	788
中国社会科学院 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	803
中国社会科学院 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	812
中国社会科学院 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	826
厦门大学 2014 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	836
厦门大学 2014 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	845
厦门大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	854
厦门大学 2013 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	864
厦门大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	872
厦门大学 2012 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	883
厦门大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	891
厦门大学 2011 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	901
厦门大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	908
厦门大学 2010 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	919
厦门大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题	926
厦门大学 2009 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题参考答案与解析	937

清华大学 2008 年博士研究生入学考试英语试题

Part I Vocabulary (20%)

Directions: There are four incomplete sentences in this part. For each sentence there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best one that completes the sentence, and then mark the corresponding letter on the **ANSWER SHEET** with single line through the center.

1. The European Union countries were once worried that they would not have _____.
A. sufficient B. efficient C. potential D. proficient
2. We'd like to _____ a table for five for dinner this evening.
A. reserve B. prosperity C. sustain D. retain
3. Britain has the highest _____ of road traffic in the world — over 60 cars for every mile of road.
A. popularity B. prosperity C. intensity D. density
4. I would never have _____ a court of law if I hadn't been so desperate.
A. sought for B. accounted for C. turned up D. resorted to
5. The energy _____ by the chain reaction is transformed into heat.
A. transferred B. released C. conveyed D. delivered
6. It is required that during the process great care has to be taken to protect the _____ silk from damage.
A. sensitive B. sensible C. tender D. delicate
7. To our _____, Geoffrey's illness proved not to be as serious as we had feared.
A. relief B. view C. anxiety D. judgment
8. The government will take some action to _____ the two big quarreling companies.
A. jigsaw B. jot C. impulse D. reconcile
9. As automation became popular in most factories, labor was made _____.
A. destined B. redundant C. diverse D. discontent
10. They have _____ her unreasonable request for her annual salary.
A. destined B. chordeed C. repelled D. commenced
11. When you prepare for your speech, be sure to cite _____ qualified sources of information and examples.
A. unbiased B. manipulated C. distorted D. conveyed
12. It is apparent that winning the scholarship is _____ of one's intelligence in the field of physics.
A. parallelism B. alliteration C. testimony D. rhythm

13. In court he repeated his _____ that he was not guilty in front of the jury.
A. impressions B. alliterations C. clauses D. assertions
14. Shopping malls have some advantage in suffering from shorter periods of _____ business.
A. stale B. slack C. ferrous D. abundant
15. According to the Geneva _____ no prisoners of war shall be subject to abuse.
A. Customs B. Congresses C. Conventions D. Routines
16. Before the general election many senior citizens signed the _____ against the spreading of nuclear arms.
A. contract B. petition C. supplication D. potential
17. Scientists believe that there is not enough oxygen in the Moon's atmosphere to _____ plant life.
A. adapt B. personalize C. sustain D. describe
18. I can't remember exactly what triggered the explosion but it was pretty _____.
A. estimating B. devastating C. reprocessing D. preferring
19. The industry has pumped _____ amounts of money into political campaigns, making it less and less likely that politicians will deal with the issue sensibly.
A. potential B. substantial C. massive D. traditional
20. I was entrusted to _____ to a newspaper article making predictions for the New Year.
A. contribute B. detract C. convert D. entail
21. After 1989 the external _____ vanished, but the danger to American civilization remained.
A. disruption B. menace C. liability D. emergence
22. The government is trying to help these enterprises out of the _____ by various means.
A. flight B. plight C. delight D. twilight
23. An archaeologist has to pay much attention to _____ details of an unearthed object.
A. miserable B. punched C. minute D. moist
24. The girl _____ her tablemate's arm to see if she was fast asleep at class.
A. pinched B. punched C. pitched D. preached
25. Most of the local people involved in the affair have been _____ and dismissed.
A. smuggled B. prosecuted C. saluted D. preached
26. I can respect someone who is _____ for their actions, but I cannot respect someone who is always pointing the finger.
A. millennium B. dominant C. accountable D. commercial
27. All the products made in China are sold and distributed in _____ with the U.S. Export Administration Regulations and also local country rules.
A. compliance B. prosperity C. merchandise D. intersection
28. One of the main reasons is that the university's _____ attracts students and faculty staff all over the world.
A. fraud B. respondent C. misconduct D. prestige
29. Even though the investigation has been going on for two months, the police have _____ no

further details about the accident.

A. comprised B. formulated C. released D. incorporated

30. They want to stimulate economic growth in the region by offering _____ to foreign investors.

A. incentives B. abundances C. warriors D. outnumber

31. Why be _____ about that old coat? There's no point in keeping it just because you were wearing it when you first met me.

A. sensitive B. sensible C. sentimental D. sensational

32. _____ and hard work are the cornerstones of this company.

A. Mutilation B. Innovation C. Empire D. Strength

33. The protests were part of their _____ against the proposed building development in the area.

A. commission B. commitment C. convention D. campaign

34. Some people seem to _____ on the pressure of working under a deadline.

A. render B. evolve C. prevail D. thrive

35. These changes have not been sufficient to _____ the losses.

A. stem B. stimulate C. cause D. compensate

36. Psychologists believe that children are easily influenced by their _____.

A. conditions B. combinations C. peers D. granaries

37. Several _____ for global warming have been suggested by climate researchers.

A. systems B. sentences C. fallacies D. hypotheses

38. These natural resources will be _____ sooner or later if the present rate of exploitation goes on.

A. depleted B. deployed C. inclined D. mingled

39. The military operations _____ yesterday were targeted at the military installations.

A. propelled B. commenced C. plagued D. modulated

40. Artificial intelligence deals partly with the _____ between the computer and the human brain.

A. profile B. mighty C. analogy D. leakage

Part II Reading Comprehension (40%) (请将答案划在答题卡上)

Directions: In this part of the test, there are five short passages. Read each passage carefully, and then do the questions that follow. Choose the best answer from the four choices given and mark the corresponding letter with a single bar across the square brackets on your machine scoring ANSWER SHEET.

Passage One

There are over 6,000 different computer and online games in the world now. A segment of them are considered to be both educational and harmlessly entertaining. One such game teaches geography and another trains pilots. Others train the player in logical thinking and literature, which is

more important in this technology-driven era.

But the dark side of the computer games has become more and more obvious. "A segment of games features anti-social themes of violence, sex and crude language," says David Walsh, president of the National Institute on Media and Family. "Unfortunately. It's a segment that seems particularly popular with kids aged from eight to fifteen."

One study showed that almost 90 percent of the computer and online games young people preferred contained violence. The investigators said, "There are not just games anymore. These are learning machines. We're teaching kids in the most incredible manner what it's like to pull the trigger. What they are not learning are the real-life consequences."

They also said, "The new and more sophisticated games are even worse, because they have better graphics and allow the player to participate in even more realistic violent acts." In the game Carmageddon, for example, the player will have driven over and killed up to 33,000 people by the time all levels are compelled. A description of the outcome of the game says: "Your victims not only squish under your tires and splatter blood on the windshield, they also get on their knees and beg for mercy, or commit suicide. If you like, you can also dismember them."

Is all this simulated violence harmful? Approximately 3,000 different studies have been conducted on this subject. Many have suggested that there is a connection between violence in games and increased aggressiveness in the players.

Some specialists downplay the influence of the games, saying that other factors must be taken into consideration, such as the possibility that kids who already have violent tendencies are choosing such games. But could it be that violent games still play a contributing role? It seems unrealistic to insist that people are not influenced by what they see. If that were true, why would the commercial world spend billions of dollars annually for television advertising?

41. Which of the following computer games are NOT mentioned as educational and harmlessly entertaining?
- A. Those that teach how to fly an airplane.
 - B. Those that teach the features of the earth.
 - C. Those that help people use computer language.
 - D. Those that teach computer technology.
42. According to the investigators, _____.
- A. the new and more sophisticated games allow the players to take parting real violent acts
 - B. the new and more sophisticated games teach the players how to kill other people
 - C. most computer and online games make the players forget the real life results
 - D. most computer and online games may cultivate young people with bad manners
43. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
- A. more and more young people enjoy cruel computer games
 - B. it is hard to find evidence of a link between violence and computer games
 - C. there are now more incidents of violence because of computer games
 - D. simulated violence in computer games is different from real violence

44. The author uses “television advertising” as an example to show that _____.
A. the commercial world is contributing to the increased violence in real life
B. computer and online games are not the only cause of increased violence in real life
C. there is little link between computer games and increased violence in real life
D. other factors must be considered as possible causes of violence in real life

Passage Two

The collapse of the Earth’s magnetic field—which guards the planet and guides many of its creatures—appears to have started about 150 years ago, the New York Times reported last week.

The field’s strength has decreased by 10 or 15 per cent so far and this has increased the debate over whether it signals a reversal of the planet’s lines of magnetic force.

During a reversal, the main field weakens, almost vanishes, and reappears with opposite polarity (极). The transition would take thousands of years. Once completed, compass needles that had pointed north would point south. A reversal could cause problems for both that rely on the magnetic field for navigation would find migration confusing. But experts links between past field reversals and species extinctions.

Although a total transition may be hundreds or thousands of years away, the rapid decline in magnetic strength is already affecting satellites. Last month, the European Space Agency approved the world’s largest effort at tracking the field’s shifts. A group of new satellites called Swarm is to monitor the collapsing field with far greater precision. “We want to get some idea of how this would evolve in the near future, just like people trying to predict the weather,” said Gauthier Hulot, a French geophysicist working on the satellite plan. “I’m personally quite convinced we should be able to work out the first predictions by the end of the mission.”

No matter what the new findings, the public has no reason to panic. Even if a transition is coming on its way, it might take 2,000 years to mature. The last one took place 780,000 years ago, when early humans were learning how to make stone tools. Deep inside the Earth flow hot currents of melted iron. This mechanical energy creates electromagnetism. This process is known as the geophysical generator. In a car’s generator, the same principle turns mechanical energy into electricity.

No one knows precisely why the field periodically reverses. But scientists say the responsibility probably lies with changes in the disorderly flows of melted iron, which they see as similar to the gases that make up the clouds of Jupiter.

45. According to the passage, the Earth’s magnetic field has _____.
A. misguided many a man and animals
B. begun to change to it’s opposite direction
C. caused the changes on the polarities
D. been weakening it’s strength for a long time
46. During the transition of the Earth’s magnetic field _____.

- A. compass will become useless
 - B. man and animals will be confused in directions
 - C. the magnetic strength of the Earth will disappear
 - D. the magnetic strength of the Earth will be stronger
47. The author says "... the public has no reason to panic" because _____.
A. the transition is still thousands of years from now
B. the transition can be precisely predicted by scientists
C. the process of the transition will take a very long time to finish
D. the new transition will come 780,000 years later
48. The cause of the transition of the Earth's magnetic field comes from _____.
A. the movement deep inside the Earth
B. the periodically reverses of the Earth
C. the force coming from outer space
D. the mechanical movement of the Earth

Passage Three

The terrorist attacks in London Thursday served as a jarring reminder that in today's world, you never know what you might see when you pickup the newspaper or turn on the TV. Disturbing images of terror can trigger a visceral response no matter how close or far away from home the event happened.

Throughout history, every military conflict has involved psychological warfare in one way or another as the enemy sought to break the morale of their opponent. But thanks to advances in technology, the popularity of the Internet, and proliferation of news coverage, the rules of engagement in this type of mental battle have changed.

Whether it's a massive attack or a single horrific act, the effects of psychological warfare aren't limited to the physical damage inflicted. Instead, the goal of these attacks is to instill a sense of fear that is much greater than the actual threat itself.

Therefore, the impact of psychological terror depends largely on how the acts are publicized and interpreted. But that also means there are ways to defend yourself and your loved ones by putting these fears into perspective and protecting your children from horrific images.

What is psychological terror? "The use of terrorism as a tactic is predicated upon inducing a climate of fear that is incommensurate with the actual threat," says Middle Eastern historian Richard Bulliet of Columbia University. "Every time you have an act of violence. Publicizing that violence becomes an important part of the act itself."

"There are various ways to have your impact. You can have your impact by the magnitude of what you do, by the symbolic character of target, or the horrific quality of what you do to a single person," Bulliet tells WebMD. "The point is that it isn't what you do, but it's how it's covered that determines the effect." For example, Bulliet says the Iranian hostage crisis, which began in 1979

and lasted for 444 days, was actually one of the most harmless things that happened in the Middle East in the last 25 years. All of the U.S. hostages were eventually released unharmed, but the event a psychological scar for many Americans who watched helplessly as each evening's newscast counted the days the hostages were being held captive.

Bulliet says terrorists frequently exploit images of a group of masked individuals exerting total power over their captives to send the message that the act is a collective demonstration of the group's power rather than an individual criminal act. "You don't have the notion that a certain person has taken a hostage. 'It's an image of group power, and the force becomes generalized rather than personalized,'" says Bulliet. "The randomness and the ubiquity of the threat give the impression of vastly greater capacities."

Psychiatrist Ansar Haroun, who served in the U.S. Army Reserves in the first Gulf War and more recently in Afghanistan, says that terrorist groups often resort to psychological warfare because it's the only tactic they have available to them. "They don't have M-16s, and we have M-16s, they don't have the mighty military power that we have, and they only have access to things like kidnapping," says Haroun, who is also a clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego.

"In psychological warfare, even one beheading can have the psychological impact that might be associated with killing 1,000 of the enemy," Haroun tells WebMD. "You haven't really harmed the enemy very much by killing one person on the other side, but in terms of inspiring fear, anxiety, terror, and making us all feel bad, you've achieved a lot of demoralization."

49. Which of the following statement is NOT among the reasons that change the rules of psychological warfare?
 - A. Break the morale of their opponent.
 - B. Advances in technology.
 - C. The popularity of the Internet.
 - D. Prosperity of media.
50. According to Richard Bulliet, why does "publicizing that violence become an important part of the act itself"?
 - A. Because psychological terrorism is a tactic.
 - B. Because terrorism depends on a climate of fear rather than on the actual threat.
 - C. Because the use of terrorism is to inspire fear that is inappropriate to the actual threat.
 - D. Because publicizing the violence can make more people know the actual threat.
51. The Iranian hostage crisis shows that _____.
 - A. the impact of psychological terror relies largely on how the acts are publicized
 - B. there are various ways to have the impact of psychological terror
 - C. the American media is effective
 - D. the ways determines the effect
52. The randomness and the ubiquity of the terrorist acts bring to the public the impression that _____.

- A. the terrorists are exerting total power over their captives
- B. the threat is a collective demonstration of the group's power
- C. the terrorists are powerful and pervasive
- D. the force becomes generalized rather than personalized

Passage Four

In a year marked by uncertainty and upheaval, officials at New Orleans universities that draw applicants nationwide are not following the usual rules of thumb when it comes to colleges admissions. The only sure bet, the say, is that this fall's entering classes—the first since Katrina—will be smaller than usual.

In typical years, most college admissions officials can predict fairly accurately by this point in the admissions cycle how many high school seniors will commit to enrolling in their institutions. Many of the most selective schools require students—who increasingly are applying to multiple institutions—to make their choices by May 1. Loyola University, whose trustees will vote May 19 on whether to drop several degree programs and eliminate 17 faculty positions, received fewer applications—about 2,900 to date, compared with 3,500 in recent years. The school hopes to enroll 700 freshman, down from 850 in the past few years. Historically black Dillard University, which is operating out of a hotel and was forced to cancel its annual March open house, also saw drops, as did Xavier University, a historically black Catholic institution that fell behind its recruitment schedule. Dillard won't release numbers, but spokeswoman Maureen Larkins says applications were down and enrollments are expected to be lower than in the past. Xavier admissions dean Winston Brown says its applicant pool fell by about half of last year's record 1,014; he hopes to enroll 500 freshman.

In contrast, Tulane University, which is the most selective of the four and developed an aggressive recruitment schedule after the hurricane, enjoyed an 11% increase in applications this year, to a record 20,715. Even so, officials predict that fewer admitted students will enroll and are projecting a smaller-than-usual freshman class—1,400, compared with a more typical 1,600. Tulane officials announced in December that they would eliminate some departments and faculty positions.

Like Tulane, other schools are taking extra steps this year to woo admitted students, often by enlisting help from alumni around the country and reaching out to students with more e-mail, phone calls or web-based interactions such as blogs. In addition, Loyola is relaxing deadlines, sweetening the pot with larger scholarships and freezing tuition at last year's level. Dillard, too, is freezing tuition. It's also hosting town meetings in target cities and regions nationwide, and moved its academic calendar back from August to mid-September "to avert the majority of the hurricane season." Larkins says, Xavier extended its application deadline and stepped up its one-on-one contact with accepted students. And Tulane, among other things, has doubled the number of on-campus programs for accepted students and hosted a community service weekend program.

While the schools expect applicants to be apprehensive, the admissions officials also see

encouraging sins of purposefulness among applicants. “A lot of students who are choosing to come to this city are saying, ‘I want to be a part of the action,’” says Stieffl, noting that Loyola’s transfer applications were up 30%. And while applications to Xavier are down, Brown is betting that students who do apply are serious, “The ones who are applying, we feel, are more likely to come,” he says.

53. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
 A. many of the students require smaller classes than usual in the institutions
 B. most college admissions officials cannot predict how many students will commit to enrolling in their institutions by May 1 this year
 C. many of the students are increasingly applying to multiple institutions to make their choices by May 1 this year
 D. in typical years, most colleges require students to apply and commit to their institutions
54. The following statements are all false other than _____.
 A. Tulane University also saw drops in applications this year
 B. Xavier University, as a historically black Catholic institution, fell behind the recruitment schedule of Dillard University
 C. Xavier admissions dean Winston Brown says the total number that he hopes to enroll is about 1,500 freshman
 D. Loyola University will vote on whether to eliminate 17 faculty positions due to receiving fewer applications of students
55. In order to attract applicants, Loyola University and Dillard University are _____.
 A. reducing the tuition respectively B. hosting meetings
 C. increasing the scholarships respectively D. extending the application deadline
56. The passage mainly concentrates on the subject of _____.
 A. the drops of the applicants of the universities
 B. the dilemma of the admission officials
 C. the usual rules of college admissions
 D. the effects of the hurricanes

Passage Five

The difference between avian flu and human flu that should be commanding our rapt attention today is that avian influenza, specifically the H5N1 strain known as bird flu, threatens to become the young people’s plague. And it is a growing contender to cause a devastating worldwide pandemic in the next few years.

We are too used to thinking of flu as an annual annoyance that kills only the frail and elderly. But that just isn’t the case for H5N1. With a mortality rate of over 50 percent, this bird flu has killed over 110 people, striking the young and able-bodied the hardest. Its victims cluster predominantly among 5-to-30-year-olds, a pattern that has held up in the 34 known to have died from bird flu so far this year.