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全国名校外国语学院二外英语

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考研专业课辅导系列

全国名校外国语学院二外英语 考研真题详解 (第6版)

主编：圣才考研网

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内 容 提 要

本书是详解全国名校外语专业考研科目“二外英语”历年真题的复习资料。它根据众多院校“二外英语”试题的结构和难易程度,从全国14所院校“二外英语”历年试题中挑选了21套近年试题,并提供了详细的参考答案及解析。

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序 言

目前我国硕士研究生入学考试中“二外英语”考试科目没有采取全国统考的方式，没有统一的考试大纲，而是采取各招生院校自行命题、自行组织考试的办法，但是各校的要求、命题特点大同小异，一些学校的试题类型、内容难易程度都非常相似，因此，研究一些学校的考研试题非常有价值。我们参照一些名校二外英语硕士研究生入学考试大纲和要求，认真研究了50多所高校300多份考研科目“二外英语”真题，精心挑选部分试题和相关资料，并进行了详细的解答，以减轻考生寻找试题及整理答案的痛苦，让读者用最少的时间获得最多的重点题、难点题(包括参考答案)，这是本书的目的所在。

本书是根据众多院校“二外英语”试题的结构和难易程度，从全国14所院校“二外英语”历年试题中挑选了21套近年试题，并提供了详细的参考答案及解析。可以说，通过本书，读者可以了解外国语专业硕士研究生入学考试“二外英语”的最高水平和各个院校“二外英语”的出题思路。对于准备参加外国语专业考研科目“二外英语”的考生来说，本书是一本不可多得的辅导资料。

圣才学习网(www.100xuexi.com)是一家为全国各类考试和专业课学习提供网络课程、电子书、题库(免费下载，免费升级)等全方位教育服务的综合性学习型视频学习网站，拥有近100种考试(含418个考试科目)、194种经典教材(含英语、经济、管理、证券、金融等共16大类)，合计近万小时的面授班、网授班课程。

圣才考研网(www.100exam.com)是圣才学习网旗下的考研考博专业网站，提供全国所有高校各个专业的考研辅导班(网授保录班、一对一辅导、网授班)、国内外经典教材名师讲堂、考研多媒体题库(免费下载，免费升级)、考研多媒体电子书、全套资料(历年真题及答案、笔记讲义等)、考研教辅图书等。购书享受大礼包增值服务【100元网授班+20元真题模考+20元圣才学习卡】。

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第1章 全国名校外国语学院 二外英语考研真题分析

“二外英语”是全国各院校日语、法语、德语、俄语等外国语专业(不含英语)研究生入学考试科目,考生第二外语为英语。一般来说,“二外英语”总分为100分,考试时间为3小时。

1.1 二外英语考研真题分析

“二外英语”为全国各大院校自主命题,而非全国统考,没有统一的考试大纲,考生在备考“二外英语”时往往目标不明确,定位不准确,所以对各大院校的二外英语历年真题分析则显得尤为重要。分析各大院校的二外英语试题能够为考生准确定位自己的英语水平提供很好的参照,也使考生对“二外英语”考试有一个全面的了解,更加清晰地了解出题者的思路,从而正确地制定出复习方法和学习步骤,使复习具有针对性,使复习的效果更上一层楼。

1. 考核要求

对于“二外英语”,全国各大院校自主命题,而且各院校的考核要求水平也有差异,所以没有相应的考试大纲来说明其考核要求。通过分析各大院校的二外英语历年试题,可看出二外英语大致相当于大学公共英语四、六级水平,而且,二外英语历年试题中有些是出自四、六级考试的真题,有些是出自英语专业四级考试真题(大致相当于公共英语六级水平),还有些是出自考研英语真题,虽然比重不大,但从此可看出目前高校对考生二外英语的大体要求,下面根据大学英语四、六级考试大纲以及非英语专业本科生《大学英语课程教学要求》,对“二外英语”的考核要求归纳如下:

词汇方面,要求掌握4000基本常用词汇,了解词形、语义、常用的搭配、同义词、反义词等。

语法方面,掌握主谓一致关系、表语从句、宾语从句、定语从句和状语从句等句型、直接引语和间接引语的用法、动词不定式和分词的用法、各种时态、主动语态、被动语态和强调、倒装、平行结构等。

阅读方面,要求考生既能理解个别句子的意义,也能理解上下文的逻辑关系;既理解字面的意思,也能理解隐含的意思;既理解事实和细节,也能理解所读材料的主旨和大意;能就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。选材的原则是:(1)题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化等方面,但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解;(2)体裁多样,可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等;(3)文章语言难度适中,文中无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词,用汉语注明词义。

翻译方面,掌握基本的日常、文化、科技等一般性题材的翻译技能。

写作方面,主要测试考生用英语表达思想或传递信息的能力及对英文写作基础知识的实际运用。写作要求切题,能正确表达思想,内容连贯,思路清晰,语言通顺。

2. 试题类型和出题形式

通过分析全国众多院校“二外英语”的历年真题，其题目类型大致包括词汇、语法、完形填空、改错、阅读理解、翻译和写作等内容，各题目类型的出题形式灵活多样，而考核内容也不尽相同，具体归纳如下：

(1) 词汇题

词汇题的考核内容较为广泛，包括对名词、形容词、动词、冠词等多种词性、各种短语及固定搭配结构的判断和理解，其中包括对同义词、近义词、反义词的辨认与区分等；根据上下文对词和词组意义的判断等。

出题形式主要有以下几种：

①题目为一个留有空白的英文句子，要求考生从所给的四个选项选出最恰当的词或词组。如：

Most people are not yet aware that water is a precious resource that must be _____.

- A. conserved B. enriched C. preserved D. reserved

②要求对单句中划有底横线的词进行替换选择，即从所给出的四个选择项中选出一个最佳替换词。如：

The little boy had had a long day, he was feeling drowsy.

- A. lazy C. exhausted B. sleepy D. sad

(2) 语法题

语法题测试的重点包括时态、语态、语气、非谓语动词形式、强调、倒装、平行结构等。

出题形式主要有以下几种：

①题目为一个留有空白的英文句子，要求考生从时态、句型等语法角度，从所给的四个选项选出可用在句中的最恰当的词、词组或句子。如：

_____ a little earlier this morning! I missed the school bus by only a minute and had to wait in the cold for nearly an hour!

- A. If I had got up B. If only I get up
C. If only I had got up D. If I got up

②要求在句子的空白处填入正确的介词、副词等，使句子完整。如：

Some scientists believe that language has a great impact _____ people's thinking.

(3) 完形填空题

该部分主要考查考生对不同语境中规范的语言要素(包括词汇、短语和句子结构)的掌握程度，以及对语段特征(如衔接与连贯等)的辨识能力。

出题形式主要有以下几种：

①在一篇文章中留出 10~20 个空白，要求考生从每题所给出的四个选项选出最佳答案，使填空后的文章意义通顺、连贯，结构完整。

②在一篇文章中留出 10~20 个空白，并给出一个词汇表格，要求考生从表格中选出符合句意的单词，形式上要注意词的性、数的变化。

③在一篇文章中留出 10~20 个空白，要求考生根据上下文填出合适的词，没有选项或给出所填单词的首写字母。

④在一个句子中留出 1 个空白，要求考生根据上下文写出所给单词的正确形式填入空白

处。如：

Probability is the mathematical study of the _____ of an event's occurrence. (likely)

(4) 改错题

这部分主要考查考生运用语法、词汇、修辞等语言知识识别所给句子的语病并改正的能力。

出题形式主要有以下几种：

①给出的为一个单句，要求考生找出错误，并根据“增添”、“删除”或“改变其中的某一单词或短语”三种方法中的一种改正语误。

②给出的为一个单句，句子中有四处标有下划线，要求考生选出有错误的一项。如：

The TV set was of more inferior quality so that I took it back and asked for a better one.
A B C D

(5) 阅读理解题

阅读理解题出题形式主要有：

①要求考生阅读若干篇短文，每篇短文后有若干个问题。考生应根据文章内容从4个选项中选出一个最佳答案。

②要求考生阅读一篇短文，短文后有若干个问题。考生应根据文章内容作出简要回答。问题多种多样，既可以针对整篇文章，如概括文章主旨大意，也可以对文中的某个观点进行评论，要求简要说明理由等。

③给出一篇文章，文中一般有5个空白处，空白处可能位于段首、段落中间、段尾，选项部分一般为7段文字，每段可能为一个句子，也可能是两三个句子。要求考生从选项中选5段文字放回到文章中相应的5个空白处。（各院校留出的空白处个数并不统一，一般选项部分要比空白处多出几个。）

(6) 翻译题

翻译题出题形式主要有以下几种：

①单句或段落的英汉互译。

②给出一篇包含若干下划线句的文章，要求考生根据全文意思将这些句子译出，一般英译汉常采用这种形式。

(7) 写作题

写作题出题形式一般为根据所给出的图画或 Topic，写一篇作文，体裁多是发表观点的议论文。字数要求不一，多的400词左右，少的100词左右。有的院校还会涉及到请假条、便条、询问信等应用文的考察。

1.2 重点院校二外英语考研真题比较

通过分析比较全国重点院校的二外英语考研历年试题，可以看出有些院校的历年试题之间以及不同院校的试题之间都会存在差异，具体来说，不同点主要体现在：

一、少数院校试卷的题型和分值会在上一年试题的基础上作一些改动

一般而言，大多数院校“二外英语”历年试题具有很强的沿袭性，即其试卷结构及分值比重变动很小或者跟去年一样，但也有部分院校的题型和分值发生较大变动，对此考生一定要引起注意。考生应对所报考院校最新的题型和分值情况给予足够的重视。

二、不同院校的试题在试卷结构、难易程度、题量和分值等方面存在差异

1. 不同院校的试题的试卷结构不同

二外英语试卷包括词汇、语法、完形填空、改错、阅读理解、翻译和写作等内容，但各院校均有自己所侧重的方面，不会面面俱到。比如北京外国语大学等院校不考写作，上海外国语大学等院校不考翻译。

需要注意的是，各院校的试卷结构不是一成不变的，以往的试题只是提供参照的依据，考生在备考时应尽量多涉及一些题型，提高综合应试能力。

2. 不同院校的试题的难易程度不同

各院校在出题时都会从总体上平衡整个试卷的难易程度，难度大一些的题目相当于大学英语六级水平，低一点的相当于大学四级水平，试卷的总体难度水平相差不会太大。这里所说不同院校的试题的难易程度不同是相对的，由于院校的试卷结构不同，其考察的侧重点也就不同，有的院校侧重翻译，有的院校侧重阅读，有的院校侧重词汇，对于擅长不同题型的考生，其难易程度也会不同。

3. 不同院校的试题的题量和分值不同

各院校“二外英语”的试题一般满分都为 100 分，考试时间为 3 个小时。题量的差异主要是因为题量和分值比重并不对等所致，一般而言，题量大的试题，分值比重应该较高，但有些院校并非如此，从而使得试题题量相对偏大，如一般院校词汇题为每小题 1 分，阅读题为每小题 2 分，而有的院校词汇题为每小题 0.5 分，阅读题每小题 1.5 分，这就意味着分值虽然相同，但对应的题量却不同。

总之，在备考“二外英语”之前，考生一定要对各院校的二外英语历年真题仔细研究，对“二外英语”考试有一个完整的概念，从而准确地制定出复习方法和学习步骤，做到系统、有效地复习。“二外英语”归根接底是考查考生的基本功，考生应该早动手，早复习，扎扎实实巩固语言功底，并要多做一些重点院校二外英语考研真题，弥补复习的广度和深度。

第2章 全国名校外国语学院 二外英语考研真题详解

1. 中国人民大学二外英语考研真题及详解(2007)

中国人民大学2007年二外英语考研真题

I. Vocabulary and Structure (20%)

Directions: There are 40 incomplete sentences in this part. For each sentence there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the ONE answer that best completes the sentence. Then write the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET.

1. "Quite a number of students gave excellent answers to my last question," said the professor in his _____ on our performance in the exam.
A. mention B. statement C. comment D. reference
2. Urban crowdedness would be greatly relieved if only the _____ charged on public transport were more reasonable.
A. fees B. fares C. payments D. costs
3. Sand had _____ at the mouth of the river and formed a bank which boats could not pass.
A. collected B. accumulated C. assembled D. added
4. In a time of social reform, people's state of mind tends to keep _____ with the rapid changes of society.
A. step B. progress C. pace D. touch
5. The movements of a clock are _____ and that is why we can use it to measure time.
A. regular B. punctual C. smooth D. continuous
6. The fire, which otherwise _____ more serious damage, was put out by the volunteer firemen.
A. would cause B. would have caused
C. caused D. had caused
7. Frankly speaking, I'd rather you _____ anything about it for the time being.
A. didn't do B. haven't done C. don't do D. won't do
8. _____ if I had arrived yesterday without letting you know beforehand?
A. Would you be surprised B. Were you surprised
C. Had you been surprised D. Would you have been surprised
9. If not _____ with the respect he feels due to him, Jack gets very ill-tempered and grumbles all the time.
A. being treated B. treated
C. be treated D. having been treated
10. I couldn't sleep last night because the tap in the bathroom was _____.

- A. draining B. dropping C. spilling D. dripping
11. All the rooms on the second floor have nicely _____ carpets, which are included in the price of the house.
A. adapted B. equipped C. suited D. fitted
12. The first two stages in the development of civilized man were probably the invention of weapons and the discovery of fire, although nobody knows exactly when he acquired the use of the _____.
A. latter B. latest C. later D. last
13. "Drive straight ahead, and then you will see a _____ to the Shanghai-Nanjing Expressway." he said.
A. sign B. mark C. signal D. board
14. The new colleague _____ to have worked in several big corporations before he joined our company.
A. confesses B. declares C. claims D. confirms
15. During the reading lesson, the teacher asked students to read a few _____ from the novel.
A. pieces B. essays C. fragments D. extracts
16. During the summer holiday season, it is difficult to find a(n) _____ room in the hotels here.
A. empty B. vacant C. free D. deserted
17. You must insist that students give a truthful answer _____ with the reality of their world.
A. relevant B. simultaneous C. consistent D. practical
18. In order to raise money, his mother had to _____ with some of her most treasured possessions.
A. divide B. separate C. part D. abandon
19. As the manager was away on a business trip, I was asked to _____ the weekly staff meeting.
A. preside B. introduce C. chair D. dominate
20. _____ at in this way, the present economic situation doesn't seem so gloomy.
A. Looking B. Looked C. Having looked D. To look
21. We should make a clear _____ between 'competent' and 'proficient' for the purposes of our discussion.
A. separation B. division C. distinction D. difference
22. Fat cannot change into muscle _____ muscle changes into fat.
A. any more than B. no more than
C. no less than D. much more than
23. Mike likes eating very much, but he isn't very _____ about the food he eats.
A. special B. peculiar C. particular D. specific
24. The Olympic Games _____ in 776 B. C. in Olympia, a small town in Greece.
A. originated B. stemmed C. derived D. descended
25. As a scientist, Mr. Smith has absolute freedom as to what research he thinks is best to _____.
A. engage B. devote C. seek D. pursue
26. We should always bear in mind that _____ decisions often result in serious consequences.
A. urgent B. instant C. prompt D. hasty

27. John is _____ hardworking than his sister, but he failed in the exam.
 A. no less B. no more C. not less D. no so
28. Of the thousands of known volcanoes in the world, the _____ majority are inactive.
 A. tremendous B. demanding C. intensive D. overwhelming
29. *Harry Potter* is said _____ into dozens of languages in the last few years.
 A. to have been translated B. to translate
 C. to be translated D. to have translated
30. John felt somewhat disappointed and was about to leave, _____ something occurred that attracted his attention.
 A. unless B. until C. when D. while
31. He didn't say anything like that at all. You are purposely _____ his idea to prove your point.
 A. revising B. contradicting C. distorting D. distracting
32. Changing from solid to liquid, water takes in heat from all substances near it, and this _____ produces artificial cold surrounding it.
 A. absorption B. transition C. consumption D. interaction
33. He was _____ admittance to the concert hall for not being properly dressed.
 A. rejected B. denied C. withheld D. deprived
34. _____ is often the case with a new idea, much preliminary activity and optimistic discussion produced no concrete proposals.
 A. That B. It C. This D. As
35. Half the excuses she gives are not true, but she always seems to _____ them.
 A. get on with B. get away with C. get up from D. get in on
36. His address _____ more attention to the problem of peer influence among the young on their behaviors and outlooks.
 A. cares for B. looks for C. calls for D. applies for
37. The highway was blocked for five hours yesterday after an accident _____ a car and a lorry.
 A. involving B. including C. combining D. containing
38. The laws which will put into effect next month may preserve the wild animals from being wiped out as well as other animals _____ in Africa.
 A. hunted B. hunting C. that hunted D. are hunted
39. The increase in student number _____ many problems for the universities.
 A. forces B. presses C. provides D. poses
40. It was as a biologist that he represented himself, and _____ he was warmly received.
 A. as such B. such as C. as that D. so that

II. Reading Comprehension (30%)

Directions: There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and write the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET.

Passage One

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

In bringing up children, every parent watches eagerly the child's acquisition (学会) of each new skill—the first spoken words, the first independent steps, or the beginning of reading and writing. It is often tempting to hurry the child beyond his natural learning rate, but this can set up dangerous feelings of failure and states of worry in the child. This might happen at any stage. A baby might be forced to use a toilet too early, a young child might be encouraged to learn to read before he knows the meaning of the words he reads. On the other hand, though, if a child is left alone too much, or without any learning opportunities, he loses his natural enthusiasm for life and his desire to find out new things for himself.

Parents vary greatly in their degree of strictness towards their children. Some may be especially strict in money matters. Others are severe over times of coming home at night or punctuality for meals. In general, the controls imposed represent the needs of the parents and the values of the community as much as the child's own happiness.

As regards the development of moral standards in the growing child, consistency is very important in parental teaching. To forbid a thing one day and excuse it the next is no foundation for morality (道德). Also, parents should realize that "example is better than precept". If they are not sincere and do not practice what they preach (说教), their children may grow confused, and emotionally insecure when they grow old enough to think for themselves, and realize they have been to some extent fooled.

A sudden awareness of a marked difference between their parents' principles and their morals can be a dangerous disappointment.

1. Eagerly watching the child's acquisition of new skills _____.
 - A. should be avoided
 - B. is universal among parents
 - C. sets up dangerous states of worry in the child
 - D. will make him lose interest in learning new things
2. In the process of children's learning new skills, parents _____.
 - A. should encourage them to read before they know the meaning of the words they read
 - B. should not expect too much of them
 - C. should achieve a balance between pushing them too hard and leaving them on their own
 - D. should create as many learning opportunities as possible
3. The second paragraph mainly tells us that _____.
 - A. parents should be strict with their children
 - B. parental controls reflect only the needs of the parents and the values of the community
 - C. parental restrictions vary, and are not always enforced for the benefit of the children alone
 - D. parents vary in their strictness towards their children according to the situation
4. The word "precept" (Sentence 3, Paragraph 3) probably means "_____".
 - A. idea
 - B. punishment
 - C. behaviour
 - D. instruction
5. In moral matters, parents should _____.

- A. observe the rules themselves
- B. be aware of the marked difference between adults and children
- C. forbid things which have no foundation in morality
- D. consistently ensure the security of their children

Passage Two

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

The human brain contains 10 thousand million cells and each of these may have a thousand connections. Such enormous numbers used to discourage us and cause us to dismiss the possibility of making a machine with human-like ability, but now that we have grown used to moving forward at such a pace, we can be less sure. Quite soon, in only 10 or 20 years perhaps, we will be able to assemble a machine as complex as the human brain, and if we can we will. It may then take us a long time to render it intelligent by loading in the right software (软件) or by altering the architecture, but that, too, will happen.

I think it certain that in decades, not centuries, machines of silicon (硅) will arise first to rival, and then exceed their human ancestors. Once they exceed us they will be capable of their own design. In a real sense they will be able to reproduce themselves. Silicon will have ended carbon's long control. And we will no longer be able to claim ourselves to be the finest intelligence in the known universe.

As the intelligence of robots increases to match that of humans and as their cost declines through economies of scale we may use them to expand our frontiers, first on earth through their ability to withstand environments. Thus, deserts may bloom and the ocean beds be mined. Further ahead, by a combination of the great wealth this new age will bring and the technology it will provide, the construction of a vast, man-created world in space, home to thousands or millions of people, will be within our power.

- 6. In what way can we make a machine intelligent?
 - A. By making it work in such environments as deserts, oceans or space.
 - B. By working hard for 10 or 20 years.
 - C. By either properly programming it or changing its structure.
 - D. By reproducing it.
- 7. What does the writer think about machines with human-like ability?
 - A. He believes they will be useful to human beings.
 - B. He believes that they will control us in the future.
 - C. He is not quite sure in what way they may influence us.
 - D. He doesn't consider the construction of such machines possible.
- 8. The word "carbon" (Sentence 4, Paragraph 2) stands for _____.
 - A. intelligent robots
 - B. a chemical element
 - C. an organic substance
 - D. human beings
- 9. A robot can be used to expand our frontiers when _____.
 - A. its intelligence and cost are beyond question
 - B. it is able to bear the rough environment

- C. it is made as complex as the human brain
 - D. its architecture is different from that of the present ones
10. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
- A. after the installation of a great number of cells and connections, robots will be capable of self-production
 - B. with the rapid development of technology, people have come to realize the possibility of making a machine with human-like ability
 - C. once we make a machine as complex as the human brain, it will possess intelligence
 - D. robots will have control of the vast, man-made world in space

Passage Three

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage.

It started small. Just a political slogan, pasted onto a poster in a back office somewhere: NO EURO in 1999. Germany's main opposition party, the Social Democrats, planned to print the poster by the thousands for the state elections, and exposed the party's jingoist (极端爱国主义的) tune. On March 24 the Social Democrats gathered just 25 percent of the vote, their lowest postwar result. The party did almost as poorly in the two other state elections the same day. The big winner: Helmut Kohl and his pet project, the European monetary union, the plan to give the continent a single currency by 1999 and further enclosed Germany into a greater Europe.

Only a few months ago, many Europeans were attacking the EMU. But the day after the state elections, Holger Schmieding, senior strategist in Frankfurt, reverses his prognosis (预测) on the EMU's likelihood from 40-60 against to 60-40 in favor.

At an intergovernmental conference in Italy, the Kohl government gave up some demands for speedy political and diplomatic integration in the interest of pushing the EMU through. French President Jacques Chirac threw in his lot with the German chancellor. Other countries like Spain, Sweden and Italy have recently changed governments and showed a new willingness to introduce EMU-inspired principles.

The result: the markets have now lined up behind the EMU, driving Europe's long-term bond yields closer together and pushing other currencies higher against the German mark. All this has supplied a nice tail wind (顺风) for the prospective Euro, the new currency supposed to replace the cash of the first group of "core" countries. "You can trace the changed mood to one clear source—those state elections," says John Lipsky, chief economist in New York. "Before, the working assumption had been that the German public was distrustful of EMU. But this was viewed as the first time it was tested on the ground rather than in public opinion polls." The EMU, clearly, won.

11. The German Social Democrats lost in the state elections mainly because _____.
- A. they were not in agreement with the public in their attitudes towards Euro
 - B. their dishonorable acts in World War II left a bad impression on the public
 - C. they did not print enough posters before the elections
 - D. their postwar policies were not widely accepted by the public
12. What can be inferred from the prognosis of Holger Schmieding, the senior strategist?
- A. The number of people who are in favor of Euro equals to that who are against.

- B. The number of people who are in favor of Euro is larger than that who are against.
 - C. The number of people who are against Euro is larger than that who are in favor.
 - D. People become more and more willing to accept Euro as a single European currency.
13. Concerning the attitude of the governments of some European countries towards Euro, which of the following is true?
- A. They have been in favor of it from the beginning.
 - B. They become reluctant to accept it.
 - C. They become more willing to go with it.
 - D. They have no choice but to accept it.
14. According to the passage, Euro will be used to replace the currencies of _____.
- A. all the European countries
 - B. Germany, France, Spain and Italy
 - C. several most important European countries
 - D. some Middle European countries
15. What is suggested about the reliability of estimates of public opinions in the last paragraph?
- A. The results of elections are more reliable than public opinion polls.
 - B. Public opinion polls are more reliable than the results of elections.
 - C. Investigations are more reliable than public opinion polls.
 - D. Public opinion polls are the single accurate estimate of public opinions.

Passage Four

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage.

The standardized educational or psychological tests, that are widely used to aid in selecting, classifying, assigning, or promoting students, employees, and military personnel have been the target of recent attacks in books, magazines, the daily press, and even in Congress. The target is wrong, for in attacking the tests, critics turn attention from the fault that lies with ill-informed or incompetent users. The tests themselves are merely tools, with characteristics that can be measured with reasonable precision under specified condition. Whether the results will be valuable, meaningless, or even misleading depends partly upon the tool itself but largely upon the user.

All informed predictions of future performance are based upon some knowledge of relevant past performance. How well the predictions will be supported by later performance depends upon the amount, reliability, and appropriateness of the information used and on the skill and wisdom with which it is interpreted. Anyone who keeps careful score knows that the information available is always incomplete and that the predictions are always subject to error.

Standardized tests should be considered in this context. They provide a quick, objective method of getting some kinds of information about what a person has learned, the skills he has developed, or the kind of person he is. The information so obtained has, qualitatively, the same advantages and shortcomings as other kinds of information.

Whether to use tests, other kinds of information, or both in a particular situation depends, therefore, upon the evidence from experience, and upon such factors as cost and availability.

16. What is the author's attitude towards standardized tests?