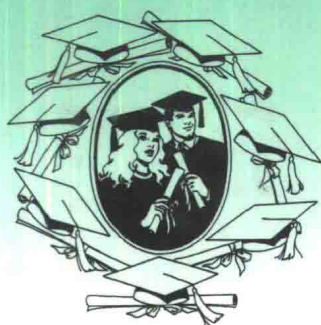




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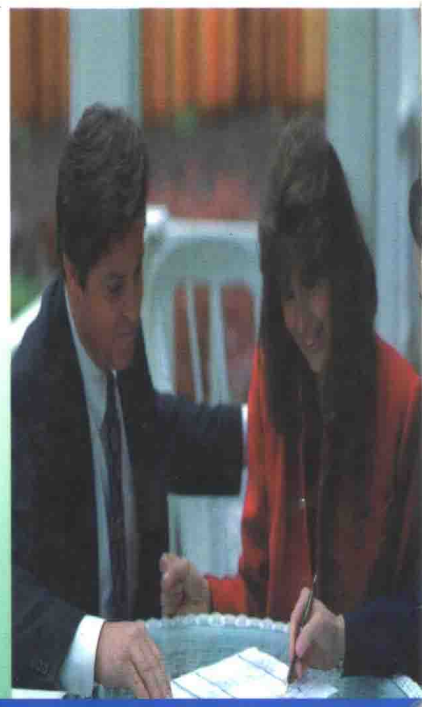
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COLLEGE ENGLISH BAND FOUR

最新

大学英语阅读100篇

COLLEGE ENGLISH BAND FOUR

大学英语考试命题研究组 编写
北京大学英语系 李培 主编
胡东华 总策划



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t t f f s s e n t

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 1 父亲对子女成绩的影响

A father's relationship to his child's current and future academic success and the level of his or her development in academic potential and scholastic achievement are both factors with some rather interesting implications that educators are beginning to study and appraise. As a matter of fact, "life with father" has been discovered to be a very important factor in determining a child's progress or lack of progress in school.

A recent survey of over 16,000 children made by the National Child Development Study in London, England, revealed that children whose fathers came to school conferences and accompanied their children on outings did measurably better in school than did those children whose fathers were not involved in these activities. The study, which monitored children born during a week in march, 1958, from the time of their birth through the years of their schooling, further revealed that the children of actively involved fathers scored as much as seven months higher in reading and math than those children whose only involved parent was the mother. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the role played by fathers in the raising of a child. It indicated a much higher level of parental involvement by the father than had been anticipated. Over 66% of the fathers were said to have played a major role in parental responsibility.

The study also suggested the greatest level of parental parenting took place in the families of only child. As the number of children and financial obligations increased, the father's apparent interest and involvement with the children decreased. However, no matter what the size or financial condition of the family, a father's active participation in the child's development made a great difference in the child's progress.

The study further revealed that while the frequency of overnight absences reflected a corresponding deficiency of the child's level in math and reading, a father's employment on late shifts appeared to have little effect on the child's academic progress. The data from the study was obtained primarily through interviews with parents, teachers and physicians. The information evaluating the level of the father's parenting performance was elicited primarily from the admittedly subjective observations of their wives.

1. The most unusual discovery in the study implied that
 - [A] children in large families tend to do poorly in school
 - ☒ [B] a father's influence played a significant factor in the level of the child's academic progress
 - [C] mothers were subjective in evaluating the roles played by fathers
 - [D] there is a correlation between socio-economic status and scholastic achievement
2. The data was obtained through
 - [A] observation by social psychologists
 - ☒ [B] conversations with mothers of the children being studied
 - ☒ [C] interviews, school records and physicians' reports

- [D] school authorities' appraisal of children's homework
3. According to the study, children who tend to make greater academic progress are typically
- [A] children whose mothers give them affection unlimitedly
- [B] children who have no brothers or sisters
- ☒ [C] children whose fathers are actively involved in parenting
- [D] children whose fathers often stays away at nights
4. Evidence indicated that a high percentage of fathers were involved in the parenting process, which amounted to
- ☒ [A] about 2/3 of the fathers involved in the study
- [B] slightly less than half of the fathers surveyed
- [C] a little less than one hundred of all the fathers involved
- [D] more than three - quarters of the fathers in the study

词汇注释

scholastic *a.* 学者的, 学术的

implication *n.* 涵义, 启发

appraise *v.* 评估

accompany *v.* 陪同

outing *n.* 出游

measurably *ad.* 可观地

monitor *v.* 监测

evaluate *v.* 评估, 评价

anticipate *v.* 预期, 期望

parenting *n.* 养育

frequency *n.* 频度

deficiency *n.* 不足

late shift 晚班

elicit *v.* 得出, 引出

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 2 无脂肪食品——贪吃者的福音?

Imagine eating everything delicious you want—with none of the fat. That would be great, wouldn't it?

New "fake fat" products appeared on store shelves in the United States recently, but not everyone is happy about it. Makers of the products, which contain a compound called olestra, say food manufacturers can now eliminate fat from certain foods. Critics, however, say the new compound can rob the body of essential vitamins and nutrients (营养物) and can also cause unpleasant side effects in some people. So it's up to consumers to decide whether the new fat-free products taste good enough to keep eating.

Chemists discovered olestra in the late 1960s, when they were searching for a fat that could be digested by infants more easily. Instead of finding the desired fat, the researchers created a fat that can't be digested at all.

Normally, special chemicals in the intestines (肠) "grab" molecules of regular fat and break them down so they can be used by the body. A molecule of regular fat is made up of three molecules of substances called fatty acids.

The fatty acids are absorbed by the intestines and bring with them the essential vitamins A,

D, E, and K. When fat molecules are present in the intestines with any of those vitamins, the vitamins attach to the molecules and are carried into the bloodstream.

Olestra, which is made from six to eight molecules of fatty acids, is too large for the intestines to absorb. It just slides through the intestines without being broken down. Manufacturers say it's that ability to slide unchanged through the intestines that makes olestra so valuable as a fat substitute. It provides consumers with the taste of regular fat without any bad effects on the body. But critics say olestra can prevent vitamins A, D, E, and K from being absorbed. It can also prevent the absorption of carotenoids (类胡萝卜素), compounds that may reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, etc.

Manufacturers are adding vitamins A, D, E and K as well as carotenoids to their products now. Even so, some nutritionists are still concerned that people might eat unlimited amounts of food made with the fat substitute without worrying about how many calories they are consuming.

1. We learn from the passage that olestra is a substance that
 - [A] contains plenty of nutrients
 - ☒ [B] makes foods fat-free while keeping them delicious
 - [C] renders foods calorie-free while retaining their vitamins
 - [D] makes foods easily digestible
2. The result of the search for an easily digestible fat turned out to be
 - [A] just as anticipated
 - [B] commercially useless
 - ☒ [C] quite unexpected
 - [D] somewhat controversial
3. Olestra is different from ordinary fats in that
 - [A] it facilitates the absorption of vitamins by the body
 - ☒ [B] it passes through the intestines without being absorbed
 - [C] it helps reduce the incidence of heart disease
 - [D] it prevents excessive intake of vitamins
4. What is a possible negative effect of olestra according to some critics?
 - ☒ [A] It may increase the risk of cancer.
 - [B] It may spoil the consumer's appetite.
 - [C] It may impair the digestive system
 - [D] It may affect the overall fat intake.

词汇注释

compound *n.* 化合物

eliminate *v.* 消除

rob ... of 剥夺

nutrient *n.* 营养物

intestine *n.* 肠

molecule *n.* 分子

break down 分解

fatty acid 脂肪酸

substitute *n.* 代替品

carotenoids *n.* (类胡萝卜素)

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 3 网上商务的发展

In the first year or so of Web business, most of the action has revolved around efforts to tap

the consumer market. More recently, as the Web proved to be more than a profession, companies have started to buy and sell products and services with one another. Such business - to - business sales make sense because business people typically know what product they are looking for.

Nonetheless, many companies still hesitate to use the Web because of doubts about its reliability. "Businesses need to feel they can trust the pathway between them and the supplier," says senior analyst Blame Erwin of Forrester Research. Some companies are limiting the risk by conducting online transactions only with established business partners who are given access to the company's private intranet.

Another major shift in the model for Internet commerce concerns the technology available for marketing. Until recently, Internet marketing activities have focused on strategies to "pull" customers into sites. In the past year, however, software companies have developed tools that allow companies to "push" information directly out to consumers, transmitting marketing messages directly to targeted customers. Most notably, the Pointcast Network uses a screen saver to deliver a continually updated stream of news and advertisements to subscribers' computer monitors. Subscribers can customize the information they want to receive and proceed directly to a company's Web site. Companies such as Virtual Vineyards are already starting to use similar technologies to push messages to customers about special sales, product offerings, or other events. But push technology has earned the contempt of many Web users. Online culture thinks highly of the notion that the information flowing onto the screen comes there by specific request. Once commercial promotion begins to fill the screen uninvited, the distinction between the Web and television fades. That's a prospect that horrifies Net purists.

But it is hardly inevitable that companies on the Web will need to resort to push strategies to make money. The examples of Virtual Vineyards, Amazon.com, and other pioneers show that a Web site selling the right kind of products with the right mix of interactivity, hospitality, and security will attract online customers. And the cost of computing power continues to free fall, which is a good sign for any enterprise setting up shop in silicon. People looking back 5 or 10 years from now may well wonder why so few companies took the online plunge.

1. We learn from the beginning of the passage that Web business
 - ☒ [A] has been striving to expand its market
 - ☐ [B] intended to follow a fanciful fashion
 - ☐ [C] tried but in vain to control the market
 - ☐ [D] has been booming for one year or so
2. Speaking of the online technology available for marketing, the author implies that
 - ☐ [A] the technology is popular with many Web users
 - ☒ [B] businesses have faith in the reliability of online transactions
 - ☒ [C] there is a radical change in strategy
 - ☐ [D] it is accessible limitedly to established partners
3. In the view of Net purists,
 - ☐ [A] there should be no marketing messages in online culture
 - ☐ [B] money making should be given priority to on the Web

[C] the Web should be able to function as Television set

☒ [D] there should be no online commercial information without requests

4. We can learn from the paragraph that

[A] pushing information on the Web is essential to Internet commerce

☒ [B] interactivity, hospitality and security are important to online customers

[C] leading companies began to take the online plunge decades ago

[D] setting up shops in silicon is independent of the cost of computing power

词汇注释

revolve around 围绕着……展开

make sense 有道理

reliability *n.* 可靠性

pathway *n.* 路径, 途径

intranet *n.* 公司内部互联网

strategy *n.* 策略

update *v.* 更新

subscriber *n.* 订户

customize *v.* 定制, 用户化

purist *n.* 纯化论者

resort to 求助于

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 4 基因变异食品面临质疑

People in the United States are having second thoughts about genetically modified food, after years of paying little attention to them, while consumers in Europe were in hysterics. Since the early 1990s, genetically modified grains and vegetables have turned up on produce shelves and as ingredients in processed food. But that's changing. Consumers, legislators and even federal regulators are raising questions about the safety of biotech foods, and about farmers' problems caused by genetically modified seeds.

The industry hopes to prevent regulatory action with more lobbying. That's a mistake. The questions about what has become known as GM food must be answered, not shoved aside. Many US consumers are nervous about food with altered genes. They raise reasonable questions about unknown risks and unintended consequences.

The long-term effects of genetic engineering remain unknown. The potential escape of modified traits into wild plants has been brought up for discussion. The possible effect on infants fed on plants that produce their own pesticides is especially of concern. And then, what about mutations producing harmful side effects? Many demand clear labeling simply because they want to have a choice.

US safety and environmental agencies say that tests found the food safe to grow and eat. But warnings are multiplying. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, whose department has admitted that the tests are fine as far as they go, said "there are many more questions that haven't been thought of, much less answered." The US Food and Drug Administration was sure back in 1992 that no labeling of GM food was needed. Recently, it held a series of hearings around the country to take a closer look. Glickman now concedes that some kind of consumer labeling of GM food

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might be inevitable.

Monsanto and other leading producers of GM seeds are also under assault in the courts. A handful of farmers filed a class-action suit in December. They claim that the farmers were cheated by safety claims about GM seeds. The companies were also accused of illegally controlling the supply of the seeds.

Court is hardly the best focus for the determination of scientific issues. And most farmers like the super corn or soybeans. They don't consider themselves to be fools. But the lawsuit sends a clear signal to the industry that the opposition to the new technology is serious. The industry, instead of fighting its ultimate customers, should concentrate on trying to build public confidence in the new technology.

1. What can we learn from the first paragraph?

- ☒ [A] Consumers in Europe haven't become aware of the dangers of genetically modified food.
- [B] Genetically modified grains and vegetables did not hit the market until the early 1990s.
- [C] Scientists are raising doubts about the safety of biotech foods.
- [D] Genetically modified grains and vegetables are mainly used as ingredients in processed food.

2. Consumers are concerned about all of the following problems EXCEPT

- [A] the unknown risks and unintended consequences of genetically modified foods
- [B] the potential escape of genetically modified traits into wild plants
- [C] the misleading and deceitful labeling of genetically modified foods
- [D] the possibly harmful effect of plants that can produce their own pesticides on babies

3. From the passage we can infer that the author would probably agree with which of the following statements?

- [A] The producers of GM foods should not shrink from their duties in informing the customers.
- [B] The producers of GM foods should have more confidence in their product.
- [C] The producers of GM foods should prevent regulatory action with more lobbying.
- [D] The producers of GM foods should not illegally control the supply of the seeds.

4. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?

- [A] GM Food: Advantages and Disadvantages
- [B] GM Food Producers Under Assault
- [C] US Farmers' Collaborate Combat Against GM Foods
- [D] Legal Actions Against Deceitful Labeling of Foods

词汇注释

genetically modified food 基因变异食品

hysterics *n.* 歇斯底里症的发作, 发疯

ingredient *n.* 成分, 因素

legislator *n.* 立法者

biotech *n.* 生物技术

lobbying *n.* 游说

shove aside 置于一边

pesticide *n.* 杀虫剂

mutation *n.* (生物物种的)突变

side effects 副作用

multiply *v.* 成倍增加

concede *n.* 让步

inevitable *a.* 不可避免的

assault *v.* 攻击

file *v.* 提出诉讼

class - action suit 集体诉讼

soybean *n.* 大豆

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 5 世纪之交最流行单词

"Internet" has created a new vocabulary that has come to represent a historical era of change. Ask John Morse, publisher of Merriam - Webster Dictionaries, to name the word that defines the close of the millennium and he doesn't hesitate: "Internet." "No other word has become part of people's lives so quickly or has had such an impact," he says. The Internet has swept into the American vocabulary and given birth to so many new words and phrases—"netizen," "chatroom" and "homepage," among them—that it has come to represent an era in social history, he says. And remarkably, "Internet" has managed to become the most significant word of the century in less than a decade. "We first started seeing a number of citations in 1994, and by 1998 it was established in the dictionary," Morse says, "It was just astounding." No other new word has gained such widespread acceptance so quickly, he says.

Just a century ago, another form of communication swept into the language. In the 1898 edition of "Merriam - Webster's Collegiate Dictionary," the hot new word was "telephone." "It brought massive social change and reshaped the way people did business, just as the Internet is doing today," Morse says. "Telephone" was no easy linguistic act to follow. It helped bring into popular usage a wide range of new words and phrases—busy signals, wrong numbers, voice mail, cell phones. It also gave the United States its standard greeting: Hello. But "Internet" is holding its own, in part by borrowing words from older technologies and giving them new meaning, such as "bookmark," "copy" and "browser."

"That's how vocabulary evolves," Morse says. "It's human nature to make the concepts easier to understand by using a familiar, in this case print - based, metaphor." Allan Metcalf, a professor at MacMurray College in Illinois, helps put together a list of words of the year for the American Dialect Society. He says the word "Internet" is a strong candidate to define the end of the century, but he has another preference: words with the prefix *e-*, as in "e-mail" or "e-commerce." "It has a little more impact and it conveys attitudes," Metcalf says.

At Merriam, new words earn a place in the dictionary simply by repeated use in the popular press. Merriam's lexicographers spend a large part of their day reading newspapers, magazines, and now Internet publications. Each new word—along with a copy from the publication showing how it was used—goes into an electronic database.

1. Why did John Morse choose "Internet" as the word that defines the close of the 20th century?

[A] The word has the highest frequency count in newspapers, magazines and the Internet publications.

[B] It was highly recommended by the editing group of the Merriam - Webster Dictionaries.

- [C] It had an impact on society and quick merge to the language and people that no other words can match.
- [D] It served as a root for creating more new words.
2. According to the passage, how does a word finally get into the Merriam - Webster Dictionaries?
- [A] By its repeated use in the popular press.
- [B] By its repeated use in the Internet publications.
- [C] By the opinions of the lexicographers.
- [D] By people's votes.
3. The author cited the emergence of the word "telephone" in order to
- [A] show it came into the English language very quickly
- [B] define a linguistic act that occurred a century ago
- [C] compare its impact with the great influence of the word "Internet"
- [D] illustrate how people used language a century ago
4. We can learn from the second paragraph that words like "bookmark", "copy", and "browser" are
- [A] words that have been lent new meanings by the Internet
- [B] words that became popular only a century ago
- [C] words that are strong candidates to define the end of the century
- [D] words that have the most frequency count in the Internet publications

词汇注释

represent *v.* 代表

era *n.* 时代

sweep into 大量涌入

give birth to 产生, 导致

citation *n.* 引用

establish *v.* 建立

astounding *a.* 惊人的

reshape *v.* 重塑

linguistic *a.* 语言学的

cell phone 手提电话

evolve *v.* 进化, 发展

put together 把... 加起来, 装配, 使成整体, 整理(思路, 意见等)

preference *n.* 偏好

convey *v.* 传达, 传递

lexicographer *n.* 词汇学家

publication *n.* 出版物

electronic *a.* 电子的

database *n.* 数据库

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 6 车臣危机出现曙光

In striking contrast to Russia's last campaign against breakaway Chechnya, this time everything seems to be going Moscow's way. The main question is not if, but when victory will be declared. Political leaders and generals seem to agree, the military strategies seem to be working, the rebels are losing the propaganda war, and the Russian public is strongly in favor of the cam-

paign. The situation appears much changed from five years ago, when Russian troops stormed the rebel capital, Grozny, on December 31, 1994 and fighting went on for weeks. Commanders sent soldiers into the narrow streets where they became easy targets for guerrillas throwing grenades. Finally the politicians ordered the generals to retreat from Chechnya after a peace deal was signed in 1996.

This time, however, everything is different. Russian troops are now more experienced, and more of them are professional soldiers. Generals have adopted a more focused military strategy and are trying to avoid civilian casualties. This has made some desperate Chechens ready to accept them, and Russian commanders have managed to talk their way into some towns and villages rather than shoot their way in. Russia's parliamentary election last Sunday showed how strongly Russian voters support the current campaign.

The newly formed Unity Party, which had no clear programme but enjoyed the support of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin—whose launching of the Chechen war has made him Russia's most popular politician—came a close second to the Communists. But questions remain about what will come next. Rebuilding Chechnya will require more money than the military campaign. Russia depends to a large extent on earnings from exports of oil and gas, but world oil prices could go down. This will make it more urgent to get foreign credits, which have been effectively stopped since the war started. The West has urged Russia to curb the use of force but Moscow dismisses the appeals as interference in its internal affairs. The public high mood may fade and Russians could be reminded of the poor state of the economy.

The two men who will have to answer these questions are the unpredictable president Boris Yeltsin and Premier Putin, Yeltsin's preferred successor in the 2000 presidential elections.

1. What can we learn from the first paragraph?

- ☒ [A] Russian troops suffered a severe setback in the battle in Chechnya five years ago.
- [B] A peace treaty was signed right after the 1994 defeat of Russian troops.
- [C] Russian public is strongly in favor of the propaganda campaign.
- [D] Russian troops lost the war five years ago because their soldiers were inexperienced.

2. Russian troops are winning this war for all of the following reasons EXCEPT

- [A] Russian troops have more professional soldiers.
- [B] Russian troops have adopted better strategies.
- [C] Russian commanders have tried to avoid the casualties of civilians.
- ☒ [D] The desperate Chechens are ready to surrender.

3. According to the passage, what would be the problem facing Russia after the war?

- [A] Incompetent leadership.
- ☒ [B] Financial constraints.
- [C] Public dissent.
- [D] Energy crisis.

4. What does "this time everything seems to be going Moscow's way" mean (Line 1 – 2, Paragraph 1)?

- [A] Everything is under Moscow's control.
- ☒ [B] Everything is favorable to Moscow.
- [C] Moscow can have its own way in everything.

[D] Everything has been previously planned by Moscow.

词汇注释

in striking contrast to 和……形成鲜明对比

breakaway *a.* 分离出去的

propaganda *n.* 宣传

guerrilla *n.* 游击队

grenade *n.* 手榴弹

civilian *n.* 平民

casualty *n.* 伤亡

parliamentary *a.* 议会的

curb *v.* 控制

interference *n.* 干涉, 干扰

internal affair 内部事务

Questions 1 - 4 are based on the following passage:

Passage 7 千年虫:让全世界虚惊一场

They were scared. They were anxious, and now some of the most prominent Y2K doomsayers are ready to admit that they were wrong. After helping to stir up widespread fear when the world's computers turned over to "00" on New Year's Day, two economic experts now acknowledge that a global recession doesn't look likely. But they insist they are happy to have made the mistakes.

"I'm just totally stunned," said Dennis Grabow, a Chicago investment banker who has been forecasting a Y2K meltdown for two years. "Those of us who have been following this issue are quite shocked that we've had this seamless transition," he said. "It's remarkable."

Grabow's Millennium Investment Corp has been distributing its Y2K - calamity investment strategy to clients with US \$ 20 billion under management. Anticipating a market correction and then a recession, he advised his clients to prepare for the worst. Grabow has given about 100 speeches in the past two years, taking on a role that one newspaper characterized as that of a Y2K prophet.

Similarly, New York economist Edward Yardeni has been warning of a Y2K - related recession since 1997, saying the economy was likely to shrink this year because of widespread computer failures.

Now these Y2K pessimists have egg on their faces. But neither indicated regret in telephone interviews this week, figuring they can take some small credit for sounding alarms that may have helped wake up companies and helped solve problems. Besides, Grabow joked, no matter what anyone else might say about his failed prediction, "I know my mom still likes me." After advising his clients the previous day, that he was preparing to admit his Y2K errors, Yardeni, the chief economist for Deutsche Bank Securities Corp in New York, came clean on January 4.

"The recession forecast was just wrong," he said. "That's simply the fact. It turns out that none of my concerns were warranted, and that the Y2K community did a great job of giving us a flawless transition."

Dale Vecchio, an analyst who has followed Y2K issues for five years, notes in the doomsayers' defence that some US \$ 300 billion to US \$ 600 billion was spent world - wide to help ensure