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黑博士最后冲刺浓缩押题系列

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# 第7版前言

本书是HBS“十一五”社会科学重点规划攻关课程的主要项目之一，由北京各大名校的实力派考研名师执笔。

《黑博士考研英语最后冲刺密押5套卷A卷》自出版以来，已连续多年荣获国内同类最畅销书的美誉，是全国唯一的密押卷品牌系列书。“押题”二字虽褒贬不一，有风险性，但我们相信，只要本着呕心沥血，殚精竭虑为万千学子衷心服务的原则，以一颗无私奉献的心助之一臂之力，那么不管以什么称谓冠之，它都会成为一本极具参考价值的书。

考生后期复习的关键是复习的系统化和深度化，只有系统地全面地洞析了考纲规定的所有重要考点，考生才能有真正的保障。选择一本高质量的、切合自身实际的预测试题是考生后期复习的一个关键点。“题量应当较少，但质量一定要高”是对后期资料的总体定位，考生后期不可能有大量的时间去做太多的题，更何况若走马观花式地做习题集远不如静下心来精研三、五套高质量且收效颇丰的试卷。

本书精选五套试题，各套试题根据考研英语大纲精心编制，具有全面性、典型性、针对性、技巧性、综合性等特点，帮助考生在考试来临之前最后巩固基础阶段所学的基础知识，掌握重点和难点，熟悉解题思路和方法，增强应试能力，查漏补缺。

本书与同类书相比，其显著的区别在于：

## 一、押题要旨“三充分”

### 1. 充分研究命题规律：

它汇集了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、教育部考试中心、北京师范大学等部门八位专家多年的教学经验和研究成果。挑战命题者的选材题库，走入命题者的秘密腹地，透视历年真题的命制特点，揭示题目背后的蕴藏信息，依此为依据，从而打造出信息精、准、新的五套试卷！

### 2. 充分了解考生实际：

通过在北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学前后五次的市场调研及亲临走访，我们深刻明晰考生在后期真正需要的是什么，从考生实际出发，对考生提出的“疑难杂症”一一罗列分析，从而在本书五套题的命制以及答题方法和技巧上，各位专家均精心做了归纳、引导和详细讲解，用心良苦为考生是我们的荣耀，考生的认可与好评是对我们的最高回馈。

### 3. 充分掌握最新信息:

时刻注重搜集教育部考试中心、北京六大考研班、北京八大权威考研培训机构等各方面信息,建立以时令性信息题材为主的、内容极其丰富的信息库,关注社会热点及焦点,分析经济、科技、社会现象,从而预测每一个最有可能的考点,把最前沿、最权威、最新的命题信息带给每一个考生。

## 二、特色内容“三体现”

### 1. 题型体现完全仿真: 增强针对性

即在题型方面与7月14日发行的《英语大纲》样题完全保持一致,试题选材尽可能将大纲中新增的词汇涵盖进去。应该是目前市场上扣大纲最紧、题材最新、信息最精的浓缩五套卷系列。

### 2. 难度体现略高真题: 增加实战性

即五套试题的难度系数都略高于《英语大纲》样题及历年真题,教育部考试中心最有可能的命题点、最新命题精神和命题趋势均集中体现在题目当中。考生若能精心消化这五套试题,那么面对明年的考研试题时就游刃有余且有意外收获了。

### 3. 答案体现精析精解: 浓缩权威性

各位命题专家全力突破的是,每套试题的参考答案都作了详细的诠释,并且解题时十分讲究技巧和速度、信度和效度。通过对这五套题的精心解答,深刻体现了若干答题技巧和多角度分析定位方法,让考生不仅知其然,而且知其所以然。

需要特别说明的是,本书五套试卷中大作文的命题均根据社会最新现象,反映社会热点,完全符合近七年作文的命题趋势,以图画作文为主导,通过以图命题来考查考生的应变能力及思维方式,培养考生正确的价值观和人生观。特别需要注意的是,5篇大作文的主题如下:

- |       |      |           |    |
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| ★试卷一: | 诚信主题 | “考试舞弊”    | 图表 |
| ★试卷二: | 社会现象 | “大学生创业”   | 图画 |
| ★试卷三: | 社会生活 | “人口与住房”   | 提纲 |
| ★试卷四: | 信用主题 | “商家虚假承诺”  | 图画 |
| ★试卷五: | 社会热点 | “打工者来京原因” | 图表 |

感谢教育部考试中心有关专家的大力支持和帮助。我们真诚地希望能为考生走向成功带来好运,最后恭祝每一位考生考研成功!

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# 最后冲刺重点命题预测卷：

## 英语冲刺最后密押5套题·最新题型密卷A1

### Section I Use of English

**Directions:** Read the following text. Choose the best word(s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on ANSWER SHEET 1. (10 points)

推荐指数：★★★★

With the increasing pace of economic globalization and competition among various countries in the market, information, technology, professionals, capital and other types of economic resources are becoming increasingly evident. International 1 is becoming progressively 2. Previously 3 competition among enterprises in different countries is growing gradually into competition among governments that finds expression in a concentrated form. Previous 4 contention for enterprises' interests in the world market now evidences itself in the contention for 5 interests. In this new situation, to 6 national interests and to enable a country to be constantly in a favorable position in the international market, the most important thing is to have a highly 7 government that 8 the full trust of citizens.

The basic objective of the study of the "government administration" is to 9 the competitive edge of a government in the international market, to 10 the efficiency and quality of government administrative behaviors, and to enhance the skills and the efficiency of government policy operations. The evident 11 between government administration and enterprise management lies in the fact 12 the former is a macro-activity and represents the overall national interests. Considering this from the 13 of the theory of behavioral efficiency function, the degree of the efficiency and quality of government administrative behaviors and the standard of the skills and the efficiency of government policy operations have a direct 14 on the amount of national interests and the degree of security and happiness of its people. Thus, to 15 the level of overall national interests requires a highly efficient enterprise management and a high-quality enterprise group with significant core competitiveness. More importantly, it requires highly efficient government administration and the government's international competitiveness to have a 16 advantage. For China, a country that is still in the 17 of "shift in the mode of growth" and "transformation in the system", the fundamental 18 to turn this objective into a 19 is to make innovations in government administration.

So, against the 20 backgrounds of economic globalization and the domestic economic transformation, how should we make innovations in government administration? I think many things



can be done in this regard. Yet the most important thing is to effect the change of the concept, functions, forms and the institution of government administration.

- |                          |                         |                     |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. information        | B. identification       | C. competition      | D. imagination    |
| 2. <u>A.</u> fiercer     | B. easier               | C. crueler          | D. cruder         |
| 3. A. concentrated       | <u>B.</u> scattered     | C. complicated      | D. concerned      |
| 4. <u>A.</u> unique      | B. universal            | C. united           | D. unitary        |
| 5. <u>A.</u> national    | <u>B.</u> international | C. internal         | D. external       |
| 6. A. generalize         | <u>B.</u> maximize      | C. mobilize         | D. moralize       |
| 7. A. sufficient         | B. deficient            | <u>C.</u> efficient | D. inefficient    |
| 8. A. pants              | B. curves               | C. dazzles          | <u>D.</u> enjoys  |
| 9. A. array              | B. contrive             | C. corrode          | <u>D.</u> enhance |
| 10. A. impress           | B. prove                | <u>C.</u> improve   | D. preach         |
| 11. <u>A.</u> difference | B. indifference         | C. fluence          | D. influence      |
| 12. A. which             | <u>B.</u> that          | C. what             | D. who            |
| 13. A. cradle            | B. angle                | C. eagle            | <u>D.</u> stable  |
| 14. A. hearing           | B. sharing              | <u>C.</u> bearing   | D. caring         |
| 15. <u>A.</u> uplift     | B. maintain             | C. draw             | D. reach          |
| 16. <u>A.</u> manageable | B. liable               | C. movable          | D. notable        |
| 17. <u>A.</u> phase      | B. phrase               | C. pulse            | D. impulse        |
| 18. A. impurity          | <u>B.</u> approach      | C. obstacle         | D. shriek         |
| 19. A. locality          | B. publicity            | <u>C.</u> reality   | D. dynasty        |
| 20. A. durable           | B. due                  | C. dull             | <u>D.</u> dual    |

## Section II Reading Comprehension

### Part A

**Directions:** Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (40 points)

#### Text 1

推荐指数：★★★★☆

In choosing a method for determining climatic conditions that existed in the past, paleo-climatologists invoke four principal criteria. First, the material—rocks, lakes, vegetation, etc—on which the method relies must be widespread enough to provide plenty of information, since analysis of material that is rarely encountered will not permit correlation with other regions or with other periods of geological history. Second, in the process of formation, the material must have received an environmental signal that reflects a change in climate and that can be deciphered by

modern physical or chemical means. Third, at least some of the material must have retained the signal unaffected by subsequent changes in the environment. Fourth, it must be possible to determine the time at which the inferred climatic conditions held. This last criterion is more easily met in dating marine sediments, because dating of only a small number of layers in a marine sequence allows the age of other layers to be estimated fairly reliably by extrapolation and interpolation. By contrast, because sedimentation is much less continuous in continental regions, estimating the age of a continental bed from the known ages of beds above and below is more risky.

One very old method used in the investigation of past climatic conditions involves the measurement of water levels in ancient lakes. In temperate regions, there are enough lakes for correlations between them to give us a reliable picture. In arid and semiarid regions, on the other hand, the small number of lakes and the great distances between them reduce the possibilities for correlation. Moreover, since lake levels are controlled by rates of evaporation as well as by precipitation, the interpretation of such levels is ambiguous. For instance, the fact that lake levels in the semiarid southwestern United States appear to have been higher during the last ice age than they are now was at one time attributed to increased precipitation. On the basis of snowline elevations, however, it has been concluded that the climate then was not necessarily wetter than it is now, but rather that both summers and winters were cooler, resulting in reduced evaporation.

Another problematic method is to reconstruct former climates on the basis of pollen profiles. The type of vegetation in a specific region is determined by identifying and counting the various pollen grains found there. Although the relationship between vegetation and climate is not as direct as the relationship between climate and lake levels, the method often works well in the temperate zones. In arid and semiarid regions in which there is not much vegetation, however, small changes in one or a few plant types can change the picture dramatically, making accurate correlations between neighboring areas difficult to obtain.

21. Which of the following statements about the difference between marine and continental sedimentation is supported by information in the passage?
- A. Data provided by dating marine sedimentation is more consistent with researchers' findings in other disciplines than is data provided by dating continental sedimentation.
  - ☒ B. It is easier to estimate the age of a layer in a sequence of continental sedimentation than it is to estimate the age of a layer in a sequence of marine sedimentation.
  - C. Marine sedimentation is much less widespread than continental sedimentation.
  - ☒ D. Marine sedimentation is much more continuous than is continental sedimentation.
22. Which of the following statements best describes the organization of the passage as a whole?
- A. The author describes a method for determining past climatic conditions and then offers specific examples of situations in which it has been used.
  - ☒ B. The author discusses the method of dating marine and continental sequences and then explains how dating is more difficult with lake levels than with pollen profiles.
  - C. The author describes the common requirements of methods for determining past climatic

- conditions and then discusses examples of such methods.
- D. The author describes various ways of choosing a material for determining past climatic conditions and then discusses how two such methods have yielded contradictory data.
23. It can be inferred from the passage that paleo-climatologists have concluded which of the following on the basis of their study of snow-line elevations in the southwestern United States?
- A. There is usually more precipitation during an ice age because of increased amounts of evaporation.
- B. There was less precipitation during the last ice age than there is today.
- C. Lake levels in the semiarid southwestern United States were lower during the last ice age than they are today.
- D. The high lake levels during the last ice age may have been a result of less evaporation rather than more precipitation.
24. The author discusses lake levels in the southwestern United States in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. illustrate the mechanics of the relationship between lake level, evaporation, and precipitation
- B. provide an example of the uncertainty involved in interpreting lake levels
- C. prove that there are not enough ancient lakes with which to make accurate correlations
- D. explain the effects of increased rates of evaporation on levels of precipitation
25. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the study of past climates in arid and semiarid regions?
- A. It is sometimes more difficult to determine past climatic conditions in arid and semiarid regions than in temperate regions.
- B. Although in the past more research has been done on temperate regions, paleo-climatologists have recently turned their attention to arid and semiarid regions.
- C. Although more information about past climates can be gathered in arid and semiarid than in temperate regions, dating this information is more difficult.
- D. It is difficult to study the climatic history of arid and semiarid regions because their climates have tended to vary more than those of temperate regions.

## Text 2 ◆◆ 重点押题，特别推荐 ◆◆

推荐指数：★★★★

Caffeine, the stimulant in coffee, has been called “the most widely used psychoactive substance on Earth”. Snyder, Daly and Bruns have recently proposed that caffeine affects behavior by countering the activity in the human brain of a naturally occurring chemical called adenosine. Adenosine normally depresses neuron firing in many areas of the brain. It apparently does this by inhibiting the release of neurotransmitters, chemicals that carry nerve impulses from one neuron to the next. Like many other agents that affect neuron firing, adenosine must first bind to specific receptors on neuronal membranes. There are at least two classes of these receptors, which have been designated A1 and A2. Snyder et al propose that caffeine, which is structurally similar to adenosine, is able to bind to both types of receptors, which prevents adenosine from attaching there and allows the neurons

to fire more readily than they otherwise would.

For many years, caffeine's effects have been attributed to its inhibition of the production of phosphodiesterase, an enzyme that breaks down the chemical called cyclic AMP. A number of neurotransmitters exert their effects by first increasing cyclic AMP concentrations in target neurons. Therefore, prolonged periods at the elevated concentrations, as might be brought about by a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, could lead to a greater amount of neuron firing and, consequently, to behavioral stimulation. But Snyder et al point out that the caffeine concentrations needed to inhibit the production of phosphodiesterase in the brain are much higher than those that produce stimulation. Moreover, other compounds that block phosphodiesterase's activity are not stimulants.

To buttress their case that caffeine acts instead by preventing adenosine binding, Snyder et al compared the stimulatory effects of a series of caffeine derivatives with their ability to dislodge adenosine from its receptors in the brains of mice. "In general," they reported, "the ability of the compounds to compete at the receptors correlates with their ability to stimulate locomotion in the mouse; i. e. , the higher their capacity to bind at the receptors, the higher their ability to stimulate locomotion." Theophylline, a close structural relative of caffeine and the major stimulant in tea, was one of the most effective compounds in both regards.

There were some apparent exceptions to the general correlation observed between adenosine-receptor binding and stimulation. One of these was a compound called 3- isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX), which bound very well but actually depressed mouse locomotion. Snyder et al suggest that this is not a major stumbling block to their hypothesis. The problem is that the compound has mixed effects in the brain, a not unusual occurrence with psychoactive drugs. Even caffeine, which is generally known only for its stimulatory effects, displays this property, depressing mouse locomotion at very low concentrations and stimulating it at higher ones.

26. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. discuss a plan for investigation of a phenomenon that is not yet fully understood.
- B. present two explanations of a phenomenon and reconcile the differences between them.
- C. summarize two theories and suggest a third theory that overcomes the problems encountered in the first two.
- D. describe an alternative hypothesis and provide evidence and arguments that support it.

27. According to Snyder et al, caffeine differs from adenosine in that caffeine

- A. stimulates behavior in the mouse and in humans, whereas adenosine stimulates behavior in humans only.
- B. has mixed effects in the brain, whereas adenosine has only a stimulatory effect.
- C. increases cyclic AMP concentrations in target neurons, whereas adenosine decreases such concentrations.
- D. permits release of neurotransmitters when it is bound to adenosine receptors, whereas adenosine inhibits such release.

28. In response to experimental results concerning IBMX, Snyder et al contended that it is not

uncommon for psychoactive drugs to have

- A. mixed effects in the brain.
- B. inhibitory effects on enzymes in the brain.
- C. close structural relationships with caffeine.
- D. depressive effects on mouse locomotion.

29. The author quotes Snyder et al in the last paragraph most probably in order to

- A. reveal some of the assumptions underlying their theory.
- B. summarize a major finding of their experiments.
- C. point out that their experiments were limited to the mouse.
- D. indicate that their experiments resulted only in general correlations.

30. The last paragraph of the passage performs which of the following functions?

- A. Describes a disconfirming experimental result and reports the explanation given by Snyder et al in an attempt to reconcile this result with their theory.
- B. Specifies the basis for the correlation observed by Snyder et al and presents an explanation in an attempt to make the correlation consistent with the operation of psychoactive drugs other than caffeine.
- C. Elaborates the description of the correlation observed by Snyder et al and suggests an additional explanation in an attempt to make the correlation consistent with the older theory.
- D. Reports inconsistent experimental data and describes the method Snyder et al will use to reanalyze this data.

### Text 3

推荐指数：★★★★

How can a company improve its sales? One of the keys to more effective selling is for a company to first decide on its “sales strategy”. In other words, what is the role of the salesperson? Is the salesperson’s job narrative, suggestive, or consultative?

The “narrative” sales strategy depends on the salesperson moving quickly into a standard sales presentation. His or her pitch highlights the benefits for the customer of a particular product or service. This approach is most effective for customers whose buying motives are basically the same and is also well suited to companies who have a large number of prospects on which to call.

The “suggestive” approach is tailored more for the individual customer. The salesperson must be in a position to offer alternative recommendations that meet a particular customer’s needs. One key aspect of the suggestive approach is the need for the salesperson to engage the buyer in some sort of discussion. The salesperson can then use the information gleaned from the customer to suggest an appropriate product or service.

“We tell our salespeople to be like wine stewards,” says Mindy Sahlawannee, a corporate sales trainer, “the wine steward first checks to see what food the customer has ordered and then opens by suggesting the wine that best complements the dish. Most companies who use a narrative strategy should be using a suggestive strategy. Just like you can’t drink red wine with every dish, you can’t

have one sales recommendation to suit all customers.”

The final strategy demands that a company’s sales staff act as “consultants” for the buyer. In this role, the salesperson must acquire a great deal of information about the customer. They do this through market research, surveys, and face-to-face discussions. Using this information, the salesperson makes a detailed presentation tailored specifically to a customer’s needs.

“Good sales ‘consultants’,” says Alan Goldfarb, president of Ad Pro, Inc. , “are the people who use a wide range of skills including probing, listening, analysis, and persuasiveness. The best sales ‘consultants’, however, are the ones who can ‘think outside the box’ and use their creativity to present a product and close the sale. The other skills you can teach. Creativity is innate. It’s something we look for in every employee we hire.”

More and more sales teams are switching from a narrative or suggestive approach to a more consultative strategy. As a result, corporations are looking more at intangibles such as creativity and analytical skills and less at educational background and technical skills.

“The next century will be about meeting individual customer needs,” says Goldfarb, “the days of one size fits all are over.”

31. The major difference between narrative sales and suggestive sales is that

- A. the former highlights the benefits while the latter emphasizes the function of the product.
- B. the former uses more prepared information while the latter has to get ready for unexpected information.
- C. the former involves no discussion while the latter involves discussion a lot.
- D. the former is effective in creating demand while the latter is effective in satisfying existing demand.

32. Mindy compares salespeople to wine stewards in that

- ~~A.~~ both of them have to sell products to their customers.
- ~~B.~~ both of them use their eloquent tongue to make a living.
- ~~C.~~ both of them need to suit their services to the customer’s needs.
- ~~D.~~ both of them have to make recommendations all the time.

33. The biggest challenge for a consultative salesperson is

- A. face-to-face discussion.
- B. tailor-made presentation.
- C. appropriate pitch of voice.
- D. large amount of research.

34. According to Alan, creativity in salespeople

- ~~A.~~ is something that can not be trained or taught.
- B. is something that can be gained through years of experience.
- C. is the ability to “think outside the box” .
- D. is the ability to persuade customers effectively and efficiently.

35. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

- A. The Power of Persuasion.
- B. New Trends in the Sales Industry.



C. Suit Your Tactics to the Customers.

D. The Importance of Creativity in Sales.

Text 4 ◆◆ 重点押题，特别推荐 ◆◆

推荐指数：★★★★☆

The fear of Americanization of the planet is more ideological paranoia than reality. There is no doubt that, with globalization, English has become the general language of our time, as was Latin in the Middle Ages, and it will continue its ascent, since it is an indispensable instrument for international transactions and communication. But does this mean that English necessarily develops at the expense of the other great languages? Absolutely not. In fact, the opposite is true. The vanishing of borders and an increasingly interdependent world have created incentives for new generations to learn and assimilate other cultures, not merely as a hobby, but also out of necessity, because the ability to speak several languages and navigate comfortably in different cultures has become crucial for professional success.

Consider the case of Spanish. Half a century ago, Spanish speakers were an inward-looking community; we projected ourselves in only very limited ways beyond our traditional linguistic confines. Today, Spanish is dynamic and thriving, gaining beachheads or even vast landholdings on all five continents. That there are between 25 and 30 million Spanish speakers in the United States today explains why the two recent US presidential candidates—the Texas governor George W Bush and the vice-president Al Gore—campaigns not only in English, but also in Spanish.

How many millions of young men and women around the globe have responded to the challenges of globalization by learning Japanese, German, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian or French? Fortunately, this tendency will only increase in the coming years. That is why the best defense of our own cultures and languages is to promote them vigorously throughout this new world, not to persist in the naive pretense of vaccinating them against the menace of English. Those who propose such remedies speak much about culture, but they tend to be ignorant people who mask their true vocation: nationalism. And if there is anything at odds with the universalist propensities of culture, it is the exclusionary vision that nationalist perspectives try to impose on cultural life. The most admirable lesson that cultures teach us is that they need not be protected by bureaucrats or commissars, or confined behind iron bars, or isolated by customs services, in order to remain alive and exuberant; to the contrary, such efforts would only wither or even trivialize culture. Cultures must live freely, constantly jousting with different cultures. This renovates and renews them, allowing them to evolve and adapt to the continuous flow of life. In antiquity, Latin did not kill Greek; to the contrary, the artistic originality and intellectual depth of Hellenic culture permeated Roman civilization and, through it, the poems of Homer and the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle reached the entire world. Globalization will not make local cultures disappear; in a framework of worldwide openness, all that is valuable and worthy of survival in local cultures will find fertile ground in which to bloom.

36. It is assumed in the first paragraph that

A. languages differ in importance.

- B. language helps understand culture.  
C. there is one world language.  
D. language reflects culture.
37. Which of the following is TRUE of Spanish?  
A. It is a widely spoken language in the world.  
B. It is going to replace English in the future.  
C. It has developed at the expense of other languages.  
D. It has become a political language.
38. Which of the following views would a nationalist hold?  
A. Language and culture are mutually exclusive.  
B. English is conducive to the survival of cultures.  
C. The best way to preserve culture is to protect it from the influence of other cultures.  
D. Cultures should compete with other cultures in order to survive.
39. The phrase "joust with" (Para. 3) most probably means  
A. cooperate with. B. combine with.  
C. compete with. D. consult with.
40. Which of the following does the author use to make his point in the last paragraph?  
A. Comparison and contrast. B. Definition of terms and classification.  
C. Metaphor and simile. D. Rhetorical question and specific example.

## Part B

◆◆ 重点押题，特别推荐 ◆◆

**Directions:** The following paragraphs are given in a wrong order. For Questions 41—45, you are required to reorganize these paragraphs into a coherent article by choosing from the list A—G to fill in each numbered box. The first and the last paragraphs have been placed for you in Boxes. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (10 points)

推荐指数：★★★★

- [A] These issues cut right across traditional religious dogma. Many people cling to the belief that the origin of life required a unique divine act. But if life on Earth is not unique, the case for a miraculous origin would be undermined. The discovery of even a humble bacterium on Mars, if it could be shown to have arisen independently from Earth life would support the view that life emerges naturally.
- [B] Contrary to popular belief, speculation that we are not alone in the universe is as old as philosophy itself. The essential steps in the reasoning were based on the atomic theory of the ancient Greek philosopher Democritus. First, the laws of nature are universal. Second, there is nothing special or privileged about Earth. Finally, if something is possible, nature tends to make it happen. Philosophy is one thing, filling in the physical details is another. Although astronomers increasingly suspect that bio-friendly planets may be abundant in the universe, the chemical steps leading to life remain largely mysterious. £2/17

- [C] There is, however, a contrary view—one that is gaining strength and directly challenges orthodox biology. It is complexity that can emerge spontaneously through a process of self-organization. If matter and energy have an inbuilt tendency to amplify and channel organized complexity, the odds against the formation of life and the subsequent evolution of intelligence could be drastically shortened. The relevance of self-organization to biology remains hotly debated. It suggests, however, that although the universe as a whole may be dying, an opposite, progressive trend may also exist as a fundamental property of nature. The emergence of extraterrestrial life, particularly intelligent life, is a key test for these rival paradigms.
- [D] Similar reasoning applies to evolution. According to the orthodox view, Darwinian selection is utterly blind. Any impression that the transition from microbes to man represents progress is pure chauvinism of our part. The path of evolution is merely a random walk through the realm of possibilities. If this is right, there can be no directionality, no innate drive forward; in particular, no push toward consciousness and intelligence. Should Earth be struck by an asteroid, destroying all higher lifeforms, intelligent beings, still less humanoids, would almost certainly not arise next time around.
- [E] Traditionally, biologists believed that life is a freak—the result of a zillion-to-one accidental concatenation of molecules. It follows that the likelihood of its happening again elsewhere in the cosmos is infinitesimal. This viewpoint derives from the second law of thermodynamics, which predicts that the universe is dying—slowly and inexorably degenerating toward a state of total chaos. Life stumbles across this trend only because it is a pure statistical luck.
- [F] Historically, the Roman Catholic church regarded any discussion of alien life as heresy. Speculating about other inhabited worlds was one reason philosopher Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake in 1600. Belief that mankind has a special relationship with God is central to the monotheistic religions. The existence of alien beings, especially if they were further advanced than humans intellectually and spiritually, would disrupt this cozy view.
- [G] The discovery of life beyond earth would transform not only our science but also our religions, our belief systems and our entire world view. For in a sense, the search for extraterrestrial life is really a search for ourselves—who we are and what our place is in the grand sweep of the cosmos.

Order:

G → 41. B → 42. E → 43. D → 44. C → 45. A → F

Part C

Directions: Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written clearly on ANSWER SHEET 2. (10 points)

推荐指数：★★★★

Modern-day families are buying more than ever before. (46) The typical American family owns more goods than families fifty years ago—second cars and televisions, VCRs, CD players, and