



石春祯

英语阅读理解

220篇

题本

石春祯 编著

新华出版社



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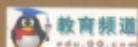
石春桢

北京大学外语学院教授、北京大学考试中心主任。长期从事大学英语教学与研究工作。

本书特色

- | | |
|------|------------------------------|
| 主旨明确 | 帮助读者尽快提高英语阅读理解真实能力 |
| 内容新颖 | 全部文章均选自国外最新出版的英文原版书刊 |
| 题材广泛 | 涉及科普、经济、社会生活、文化教育、人的生理和心理等方面 |
| 难度适当 | 略高于研究生入学英语考试阅读理解题的难度 |
| 体例科学 | 配备透彻的长难句分析、详尽的答案注释、精准的汉语译文 |
| 题型完备 | 除传统阅读外，还适当比例地选材与编写了新题型和英译汉 |
| 轻型纸张 | 纸质轻柔、反射率低，抗视觉疲劳，并保护视力、便于携带 |
| 分册装订 | 解决了读者对照原文看解析时前后翻阅的不便 |

郑重声明：本书经作者石春桢教授授权，自2007年起由新华出版社独家出版发行。强强联手，全新升级！分为题本和解析本，请广大读者注意识别。



联合推荐



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前 言

本书以 2008 全新版《石春祯英语阅读理解 220 篇》为基础修订而成。

本书旨在帮助读者尽快提高英语阅读理解真实能力,选材以议论文和说明文为主,主要涉及科普、经济、社会生活、文化教育、人的生理和心理等方面。

本书共四大部分。每部分 10 个单元,全书共 40 个单元。

每单元的前 4 篇为多项选择练习,每篇文章后附有 5 道阅读理解题。这些题目以深层次问题为主,主要涉及文章的主旨要义,作者的意图、观点或态度,文章的总体结构以及上下文之间的关系等。

每单元有一篇英译汉练习,要求把划线的 5 句话译成汉语,重点练习根据上下文准确理解英语原文并用汉语正确表达的能力。

第三、四部分的每个单元中的第 5 篇为新题型练习,其中包括:选句填空题、段落排序题、信息匹配题,以及概括大意题。

本书可供准备参加研究生入学考试的读者使用。如果考生能把本书的 220 篇阅读理解文章全部读完,练习全部做完,必然会大幅度提高自己的英语阅读水平和考试成绩。

为方便读者使用,本书分成两册:题本和解析本。在解析本中提供了每篇文章的难句透析、答案注释和全文翻译。

解析本是为读者检验自己对文章的理解而设置的。应该先靠自己的力量千方百计真正读懂每一篇文章,争取在读懂文章的基础上把题目做对。如果个别地方实在有困难,自己解决不了的话,再去查阅解析本中的难句解释、答案注释和译文。

编写本书的主要目的是帮助读者提高英语阅读理解能力。要想提高真实的英语阅读理解能力,首先不在于读了多少篇文章,而在于究竟读懂了多少。阅读时千万不要贪多,不要贪快,而应靠自己的力量真正读懂文章,读懂一篇是一篇。即使每天只能读懂一篇,只要坚持下去,经过 220 天,把 220 篇都读完了,而且都读懂了,自己的英语阅读理解能力必然有了飞跃,英语阅读理解部分的考试成绩必然会大幅度提高。

在此特别提醒读者,本书不是模拟题。如果把本书当做模拟题,匆匆忙忙看完一篇文章,做完练习后,马上查答案、看注释、读译文,觉得一下子都懂了,就接着做下一篇,这样做下去,220 篇都做完了,英语阅读理解能力不会真正提高,更不用说考试成绩了。

学习英语时,词汇固然很重要,但是,不应该把词汇当知识来学。学习词汇,首先是为了用,能在听、说、读、写的过程中熟练应用。学习词汇,不是知道的越多越好,而是会用的越多越好。读者在使用本书过程中,首先应关注大纲中基本词汇的熟练使用。本书每个单元的参考词汇表是为了减轻读者阅读过程中查找生词的困难而设置的。绝对没有必要花大量时间死记硬背这些词汇。

本书文章选材涉及的面相当广泛,希望能在扩充知识方面给读者带来一定益处。

本书可供那些对提高英语阅读理解能力感兴趣的读者使用,尤其适合大学英语四级以上水平的读者使用。当然,也可供准备参加英语六级等考试的读者使用。

本书的 220 篇文章全部选自国外最新出版的英文原版书刊。

英国曼切斯特大学(Manchester University)的 Sunny 女士为本书的选材做了很大贡献,在此特向 Sunny 女士表示真诚感谢!

本书 220 篇文章的全部译文都是由中国人民大学张勇先教授翻译的,在此特向张勇先教授表示由衷感谢!

石春祯

2008 年 2 月 2 日

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PART ONE 基础练习篇 I

UNIT 1

It never rains but it pours.

不鸣则已，一鸣惊人。

Text 1-1

Our understanding of the Emotional System today is still in the Dark Ages. This has its analogy to the time when people's understanding of our Solar System was based upon the belief that the Sun revolved around the Earth, as it certainly appeared that way—however, just the reverse was true. ① The problem was, as long as we believed the Sun went around the Earth, we were limited as to how far we could go in the Solar System.

We find the same condition existing today in regard to the Emotional System. Society believes that our emotional feelings are a result of our experiences in our environment. In essence, something happened and it made me feel the way I do. This belief, though it is certainly the way it appears, is just the reverse of how it really works.

What happens to us as we embrace an emotional feeling is that it is first received by our brain, which converts it into electrical energy that flows through our body by means of the central nervous system. ② We can often "feel the charge" in our body associated with the experience of emotions. When this occurs an electromagnetic field is generated around our body which attracts to us another person who has an identical electromagnetic field around their body and the same emotional feeling in their heart. ③

We have not been able to make much progress in the emotional area. Let's face it, although this age reflects great advancements in technology, the feelings in the hearts of men and women are still plagued by darkness.

Believing that something or someone made us feel the way we do gives rise to the concept of victimization. ④ To see self as a victim places the responsibility for our feelings on someone or something other than self. ⑤ The real problem with this view is that if we are not responsible for having created our feelings, we are also unable to change those feelings and create new and different ones.

This dilemma we face creates quite a struggle in life. Although we may externally struggle with different circumstances and situations, the emotional feelings associated with them are always the same—frustration, resentment, anger, etc. ⑥ It is as if we have fallen into quicksand, gotten stuck, and the only way we know to extricate ourselves is to struggle. What we find is that the more we struggle to get out, the deeper in we sink.

To state a simple rule: there is an inverse relationship between struggling with a problem and understanding the problem. Understanding how the emotional system really works allows the resolution of problems without struggle. This understanding is the key to unlocking the emotional doorway to enter into the Kingdom of Heavenly Feelings within us.

【460 words】

1. By referring to the solar system, the author intends to show C.
- A. the evolution of the Emotional System
 - B. the mechanism of the Emotional System
 - C. the widespread ignorance of the Emotional System

- D. the analogy between Solar System and Emotional System
2. It is widely believed that our emotional feelings _____.
☒ A. result from our experiences in the environment
B. justify our struggle with the adverse environment
C. plague us more than anything else in the environment
D. are shared by people with an identical electromagnetic field
3. The author argues that _____.
☒ A. the environment generates our feelings
☒ B. everyone is responsible for his own feelings
C. one shouldn't be blamed for his resentment or anger
D. one's feelings are created by something or someone else
4. In the author's opinion, the concept of victimization in the emotional area _____.
A. should be justified
B. should be embraced
C. should be recognized
☒ D. should be gotten rid of
5. It can be inferred from the text that the effective way to get rid of unhealthy feelings is to understand _____.
A. how to get out of the quicksand with ease
☒ B. how our emotional feelings are brought about
C. the relationship between feelings and adversity
D. the essence of the Kingdom of Heavenly Feelings

Text 1-2

Two years ago, a Danish environmentalist called Bjorn Lomborg had an idea. We all want to make the world a better place but, given finite resources, we should look for the most cost-effective ways of doing so.^① He persuaded a bunch of economists, including three Nobel laureates, to draw up a list of priorities. They found that efforts to fight malnutrition and disease would save many lives at modest expense, whereas fighting global warming would cost a colossal amount and yield distant and uncertain rewards.^②

That conclusion upset a lot of environmentalists. This week, another man who upsets a lot of people embraced it. John Bolton, America's ambassador to the United Nations, said that Mr Lomborg's "Copenhagen Consensus" provided a useful way for the world body to get its priorities straight. Too often at the UN, said Mr Bolton, "everything is a priority." The secretary-general is charged with carrying out 9,000 mandates, he said, and when you have 9,000 priorities you have none.

So, over the weekend, Mr Bolton sat down with UN diplomats from seven other countries to rank 40 ways of tackling ten global crises. The problems addressed were climate change, communicable diseases, war, education, financial instability, governance, malnutrition, migration, clean water and trade barriers.

Given a notional \$ 50 billion, how would the ambassadors spend it to make the world a better place? Their conclusions were strikingly similar to the Copenhagen Consensus. After hearing presentations from experts on each problem, they drew up a list of priorities. The top four were basic health care, better water and sanitation, more schools and better nutrition for children. Averting climate change came last.

The ambassadors thought it wiser to spend money on things they knew would work. Promoting breast-feeding, for example, costs very little and is proven to save lives. It also helps infants grow up stronger and more intelligent, which means they will earn more as adults. Vitamin A supplements cost as little as \$ 1, save lives and stop people from going blind. And so on.

For climate change, the trouble is that though few dispute that it is occurring, no one knows how severe it will be or what damage it will cause.^③ And the proposed solutions are staggeringly expensive.

Mr Lomborg reckons that the benefits of implementing the Kyoto protocol would probably outweigh the costs, but not until 2100.^④ This calculation will not please Al Gore. Nipped at the post by George Bush in 2000, Mr Gore calls global warming an “onrushing catastrophe” and argues vigorously that curbing it is the most urgent moral challenge facing mankind.^⑤

Mr Lomborg demurs. “We need to realise that there are many inconvenient truths,” he says. But whether he and Mr Bolton can persuade the UN of this remains to be seen.

【460 words】

1. According to some economists, fighting global warming _____.
 - A. is of little help to make the world a better place
 - B. is as favorable as fighting malnutrition and disease
 - C. is not the first priority for us to make the world better
 - D. is one of the priorities for us to make the world better
2. By saying “everything is a priority”, John Bolton means that _____.
 - A. it is reasonable to think of fighting global warming as a priority
 - B. if you thought that way, there would be no priority at all
 - C. it is a useful way for the UN to get its priorities straight
 - D. every mandate to be carried out is actually a priority
3. According to some UN diplomats, _____.
 - A. fighting global warming is worth spending a huge amount of money on
 - B. promoting breast-feeding is more urgent than fighting global warming
 - C. averting climate change should be excluded from the list of priorities
 - D. there are at least 40 effective ways to tackle the top ten global crises
4. According to the text, Mr Lomborg _____.
 - A. doubts whether climate change is occurring
 - B. proposes an ideal solution for climate change
 - C. knows clearly how severe the future climate change will be
 - D. questions the immediate benefits of averting climate change
5. It seems that the UN _____.
 - A. still takes averting climate change as a priority
 - B. fails to realize many inconvenient truths in the world
 - C. has its crucial policies challenged by many member countries
 - D. is trying to tackle all the global crises to make the world better

Text 1-3

Begin with the fuss over wiretapping. According to Robert Byrd, a Democratic senator from West Virginia, George Bush has assumed “unchecked power” that is “reserved only for kings and potentates”. Barbara Boxer of California says there is “no excuse” for Mr Bush’s actions. A growing chorus of outrage, including Congressman John Lewis and John Dean (of Watergate fame), has suggested impeachment. Over at the *Nation*, Jonathan Schell argues that “Bush’s abuses of presidential power are the most extensive in American history”. The administration “is not a dictatorship”, he concedes, before adding that “it does manifest the characteristics of one in embryonic form.”^⑥

And the proof of dictatorship? On more than 30 different occasions, Mr Bush authorised the tapping of telephone calls made by American citizens. Tapping domestic telephone calls without getting a warrant is illegal. But Mr Bush claims that his constitutional powers as commander-in-chief allowed him to do so because all these calls were international ones. He maintains that going to the courts would have been cumbersome and that his first priority was to prevent another terrorist attack.^⑦

You can pick at this reasoning—for instance, there are retrospective warrants that might have done

the trick. ③ But it is hard to claim that Mr Bush is being outlandish on any of these scores. John Schmidt, an associate attorney-general under Bill Clinton, thinks Mr Bush has the constitutional power to approve such taps; General Michael Hayden, the deputy director of national intelligence, has argued that the programme "has been successful in detecting and preventing attacks inside the United States".

That assertion is for Congress to probe, but the real argument here is surely one of nuance: it has to do with how much freedom you should reasonably curtail in the name of security. ④ Mr Bush may have crossed a line, but he has hardly smashed through it. Most European countries have more intrusive surveillance regimes than America's. As for impeachment, the prospect of having to defend Mr Bush against the charge that he went a tad too far trying to avert a terrorist attack is the sort of thing Karl Rove salivates about. ⑤

【353 words】

1. What led to the challenge to President George Bush's power?
 - A. His abuses of presidential power.
 - B. The characteristics of his administration.
 - C. A growing chorus of outrage to his recent actions.
 - D. His authorization of tapping of telephone calls.
2. Bush's excuse for wiretapping is that _____.
 - A. he has constitutional power to do so
 - B. the prevention of terrorism is the top priority
 - C. international calls might be made by terrorists
 - D. no warrant is needed for tapping telephone calls
3. _____ least supports Bush's authorization of wiretapping.
 - A. The press
 - B. John Schmidt
 - C. Michael Hayden
 - D. Jonathan Schell
4. The author believes that _____.
 - A. freedom must be sacrificed to certain extent to safeguard security
 - B. even Congress has no more power to wiretap than the President
 - C. Mr Bush has been successful in fighting against terrorism
 - D. Mr Bush went too far trying to avert another terrorist attack
5. The author _____ Mr Bush's authorization of wiretapping in many occasions.
 - A. despises
 - B. discusses
 - C. appreciates
 - D. approves of

Text 1-4

When IBM announced an overhaul of its pension plan for employees in America last week, it joined a parade of employers that are shifting more responsibility for saving for retirement on to workers. ① For many Americans, of course, this is nothing new: millions of them have been managing their retirement assets in individual accounts for years. Nevertheless, in both America and Britain the closure of paternalistic corporate "defined benefit" programmes, in which pensions depend on earnings and years of service, is accelerating—even at healthy companies such as IBM. ②

To the extent that this creates and encourages individual choice and responsibility, it is something to welcome rather than to fear. ③ Many other countries, facing huge state-pension obligations, would also like to see their citizens assume a bigger role in providing for their own retirement. Even so, the trend raises an important question: how much do people due to take on these new responsibilities know about basic financial concepts? ④

The answer seems to be: not much, and less than they think they do. Studies show that many people overestimate their knowledge of everything from inflation to risk diversification and compound

interest. One survey in Australia found that 37% of people who owned investments did not know that they could fluctuate in value. In America 31% did not know that the finance charge on a credit-card statement is what they pay to use credit. Britain's Financial Services Authority will release the results of its own survey on financial literacy in the next month or two.

Even educated professionals may know the basics but see no need to keep up to date—having no idea of the interest rates on their credit cards, the fees on their mutual funds or how their investments are doing.^⑤ But in both America and Britain low personal saving rates (negative in America, indeed) and record numbers of personal bankruptcies do not bode well. If people are to take charge of their pensions, shouldn't they know a little more?

In the end, ignorance could rebound on governments; if people save too little for old age, the state may have to provide for them willy-nilly. "Governments are taking this very seriously," says Barbara Smith of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which recently produced a report on global financial literacy. Just this week the British government launched an online debt calculator for overstretched consumers and a money-management course for teenagers that will be offered in schools across the country later this year.^⑥ New Zealand is another country trying to catch its people young: one official financial-information website there (www.sorted.org.nz) includes an online game on "Money Island".

【438 words】

1. It is informed in the text that _____.
A. IBM cannot help but overhaul its pension plan
B. IBM takes much responsibility for saving for retirement
☒ C. workers will assume more financial responsibility for their old age
D. most Americans have taken on responsibility for saving for retirement
2. Corporate "defined benefit" programmes will come to an end primarily because _____.
A. most companies are not so healthy as IBM
☒ B. it can help companies relieve their pension obligations
C. millions of Americans have opened their individual accounts for years
D. more factors should be taken into consideration for a healthy pension plan
3. If one is to assume more financial responsibility, he should have more knowledge about _____.
A. risk diversification
☒ B. basic financial concepts
C. how much he pays to use credit
D. the fluctuation in value of his investment
4. It can be inferred from the text that _____.
☒ A. even professionals are short of financial information
B. personal saving rates will no doubt increase remarkably
C. professionals are usually better prepared for their retirement
D. there will be less personal bankruptcies in both America and Britain
5. The main idea of this text is that _____.
☒ A. most people are very ignorant about investment
B. individuals should have more choices and responsibility
C. individuals should be better prepared for their retirement
D. government should provide official financial-information

Text 1-5

【英译汉】

When one uses the scientific method to study or investigate nature or the universe, one is practicing scientific thinking. All scientists practice scientific thinking, of course, since they are actively studying nature and investigating the universe by using the scientific method. But scientific thinking is not reserved

solely for scientists. (1) Anyone can "think like a scientist"/who learns the scientific method and, most importantly, applies its precepts, whether he or she is investigating nature or not. (2) When one uses the methods and principles of scientific thinking in everyday life—such as when studying history or literature, investigating societies or governments, seeking solutions to problems of economics or philosophy, or just trying to answer personal questions about oneself or the meaning of existence—one is said to be practicing critical thinking. Critical thinking is thinking correctly for oneself that successfully leads to the most reliable answers to questions and solutions to problems. In other words, critical thinking gives you reliable knowledge about all aspects of your life and society, and is not restricted to the formal study of nature.

Some professionals in the humanities, social sciences, jurisprudence, business, and journalism practice critical thinking as well as any scientist, but many, alas, do not. (3) Scientists must practice critical thinking to be successful, but the qualifications for success in other professions do not necessarily require the use of critical thinking, a fact that is the source of much confusion, discord, and unhappiness in our society.

The scientific method has proven to be the most reliable and successful method of thinking in human history, and it is quite possible to use scientific thinking in other human endeavors. For this reason, critical thinking is being taught in schools throughout the United States, and its teaching is being encouraged as a universal ideal. (4) The important point is this: critical thinking is perhaps the most important skill a student can learn in school and college, since if you master its skills, you know how to think successfully and reach reliable conclusions, and such ability will prove valuable in any human endeavor, including the humanities, social sciences, commerce, law, journalism, and government, as well as in scholarly and scientific pursuits. (5) Since critical thinking and scientific thinking are, as I claim, the same thing, only applied for different purposes, it is therefore reasonable to believe that if one learns scientific thinking in a science class, one learns, at the same time, the most important skill a student can possess—critical thinking. This, to my mind, is perhaps the foremost reason for college students to study science, no matter what one's eventual major, interest, or profession.

【436 words】

超纲词汇

Text 1-1

plague[plæg] *vt.* 折磨, 困扰
victimization[ˌvɪktɪmə'zeɪʃən] *n.* 牺牲, 被害
quicksand[ˈkwɪksænd] *n.* 流沙, 危险而捉摸不定的事物
extricate[ˈɛkstrikerɪt] *vt.* 解救, 救出
inverse[ɪn'vɜ:s] *adj.* 颠倒的, 相反的

Text 1-2

protocol[ˈprəutekɔl] *n.* (条约)草案, 草约; (外交)议定书
avert[ə've:t] *vt.* 避免, 防止
laureate[ˈlɔ:riət] *n.* 戴桂冠的人
demur[di'mɜ:] *vi.* 反对, 表示异议, 迟疑
notional[ˈnəʊʃənəl] *adj.* 概念上的, 想象的, 象征的
Copenhagen[ˌkəʊpən'heɪɡən] *n.* 哥本哈根
colossal[kə'lɒsl] *adj.* 巨大的, 庞大的
nip[nɪp] *vt.* 挤, 压, 压缩
governance[ˈgʌvənəns] *n.* 统治, 管理, 控制
mandate[ˈmændet] *n.* 委托, 委任, 授权

staggeringly[ˈstæɡərɪŋli] *adv.* 摇晃地, 蹒跚地
bunch[bʌntʃ] *n.* 一群, 一帮
curb[kɜ:b] *vt.* 抑制, 控制
consensus[kən'sensəs] *n.* 意见一致, 多数人的意见, 舆论
malnutrition[ˌmælnju(:)triʃən] *n.* 营养失调, 营养不良

Text 1-3

attorney general[ə'te:ni 'dʒenərəl] *n.* 首席检察官, 司法部长
dictatorship[dɪk'teɪtʃɪp] *n.* 独裁, 专政
cumbersome[ˌkʌmbəsəm] *adj.* 讨厌的, 麻烦的, 笨重的
curtail[kə'teɪl] *vt.* 缩短, 减缩, 限制
embryonic[ˌembri'ɒnɪk] *adj.* [生]胚胎的, 开始的, 初期的
impeachment[ɪm'pi:tʃmənt] *n.* 弹劾, 指摘
intrusive[ɪn'tru:sɪv] *adj.* 闯入的, 插入的
nuance[nju:'ɑ:ns] *n.* 细微差别
outlandish[ˌaʊtlændɪʃ] *adj.* 奇怪的, 古怪的
potentate[ˈpəʊtəntet] *n.* 当权者, 统治者
retrospective[ˌretre'spektɪv] *adj.* 回顾的, 回想的

salivate['sæliveɪt] *v.* 过量分泌唾液
 smash[smæʃ] *v.* (网球等)扣球,杀球
 surveillance[sə:'veɪləns] *n.* 监视,监督
 tad[tæd] *n.* 微量,少量
 tap[tæp] *v.* 窃听电话
 wiretap['waɪetæp] *v.* 搭线窃听,窃听或偷录

Text 1-4

bankruptcy['bæŋkrʌptsi] *n.* 破产,无偿付能力,倒闭,公司破产
 bode[bəʊd] *vi. / vt.* 预示,预兆
 diversification[daɪvə:sɪfɪ'keɪʃən] *n.* 分散化,多种经营,

多样化经营,多样化
 overhaul['əʊvəhɔ:l] *n.* 彻底革新,改革,全面修订
 overstretch[əʊvə'stretʃ] *vt.* 过度伸长,过度拉伸
 paternalistic[pə'te:nə'listɪk] *adj.* 家长式作风的,感情主义的
 rebound['ri:bəʊnd] *vi.* 弹回,跳回,产生与初衷相违的结果
 willy-nilly['wɪlɪ'nɪli] *adv.* 不管愿意与否

Text 1-5

jurisprudence[dʒʊrɪs'pru:dəns] *n.* 法学,法理学
 discord['dɪskɔ:d] *n.* 不一致,分歧,争论

答案速查

Text 1-1 1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. B

Text 1-2 1. C 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. A

Text 1-3 1. D 2. B 3. D 4. A 5. B

Text 1-4 1. C 2. B 3. B 4. A 5. C

Text 1-5

【参考译文】

- (1)任何人,无论是否研究自然界,只要学习科学方法,更重要的是,应用其规则,都能“像科学家一样思维”。
- (2)一个人在每日生活中,比如,学习历史或文学时,研究社会或政府管理时,寻求解决经济学或哲学问题时,或者只是试图回答有关自己或人生意义等个人问题时,应用了科学思想方法和原则,就可以说,他在进行严谨的思维。
- (3)科学家的思维必须严谨才能取得成功。但是,在其他行业取得成功并不一定要求具备严谨思维能力。这个事实是造成社会中许多混乱、分歧和烦恼的根源。
- (4)关键在于:严谨思维是学生在学校中能够学会的最重要技能。因为,如果你掌握了这种技能,你就知道如何正确思考问题并得出可靠结论;这种能力不仅在学术和科学研究领域,而且在人类活动的任何领域,包括人文学科、社会科学、商业、法律、新闻,以及政府管理等,都极其宝贵。
- (5)正如我所说,严谨思维和科学思维是同一回事,只是用于解决不同问题。因此,有理由认为,如果一个人在科学课上学会了科学思维,那么,与此同时,也就学会了一个学生应该具备的最重要技能——严谨思维能力。

UNIT 2

No man is born wise or learned.
没有生而知之者。

Text 2-1

The heat wave in Europe in early August 2003 was a catastrophe of heartbreaking proportions. With more than 3,500 dead in Paris alone, France suffered nearly 15,000 fatalities from the heat wave. Another 7,000 died in Germany, 8,000 in Spain and Italy, and 2,000 in the United Kingdom. Understandably, this event has become a psychologically powerful metaphor for the frightening vision of a warmer future and our immediate need to prevent it.

For Europe as a whole, about 200,000 people die from excess heat each year. However, about 1.5 million Europeans die annually from excess cold. That is more than seven times the total number of heat deaths. Just in the past decade, Europe has lost about 15 million people to the cold, more than 400 times the iconic heat deaths from 2003. That we so easily neglect these deaths and so easily embrace those caused by global warming tells us of a breakdown in our sense of proportion.^①

How will heat and cold deaths change over the coming century with global warming? Let us for the moment assume—very unrealistically—that we will not adapt at all to the future heat. Still, the biggest cross-European cold/heat study concludes that for an increase of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit in the average European temperatures, “our data suggest that any increases in mortality due to increased temperatures would be outweighed by much larger short-term declines in cold-related mortalities.”^② For Britain, it is estimated a 3.6°F increase will mean 2,000 more heat deaths but 20,000 fewer cold deaths. Likewise, another paper incorporating all studies on this issue and applying them to a broad variety of settings in both developed and developing countries found that “global warming may cause a decrease in mortality rates, especially of cardiovascular diseases.”^③

But of course, it seems very unrealistic and conservative to assume that we will not adapt to rising temperatures throughout the 21st century.^④ Several recent studies have looked at adaptation in up to 28 of the biggest cities in the United States. Take Philadelphia. The optimal temperature seems to be about 80°F. In the 1960s, on days when it got significantly hotter than that (about 100°F), the death rate increased sharply. Likewise, when the temperature dropped below freezing, deaths increased sharply.

Yet something great happened in the decades following. Death rates in Philadelphia and around the country dropped in general because of better health care. But crucially, temperatures of 100°F today cause almost no excess deaths. However, people still die more because of cold weather. One of the main reasons for the lower heat susceptibility is most likely increased access to air-conditioning.^⑤ Studies seem to indicate that over time and with sufficient resources, we actually learn to adapt to higher temperatures. Consequently we will experience fewer heat deaths even when temperatures rise.

【465 words】

1. The death toll in several European countries is noted to show that _____.

- A. it was hotter in early August 2003 than ever before
- B. It is urgent to prevent the coming of a warmer future
- C. the catastrophe in Europe in 2003 was heartbreaking
- D. Europe suffered from more heat deaths than anywhere else

2. The author believes that _____.

- A. we have lost our sense of proportion
- B. it is irrational to embrace heat deaths

- C. cold deaths should claim due attention
 D. the heat deaths in 2003 were only iconic
3. In the author's opinion, with global warming, _____.
 A. mortality rates will remarkably decrease
 B. there will be less cardiovascular diseases
 C. people will surely adapt to the future heat
 D. temperature will rise 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit
4. The example of Philadelphia is used to illustrate that _____.
 A. rising temperatures will cause more deaths
 B. people still die more because of cold weather
 C. rising temperatures will cause no excess deaths
 D. people will be less susceptible to rising temperatures
5. The author argues that _____.
 A. all deaths should be treated with equal concern
 B. it is vital to avoid many more dying from cold
 C. heat waves will no longer cause excess deaths
 D. excess cold will cause more deaths in the future

Text 2-2

By the time most people realized that whales were not oversize fish but warm-blooded mammals with large brains, sophisticated social structures and an elaborate language of squeals, clicks and low moans, it was nearly too late.^① The orgy of unrestrained whale hunting, which began in the 1600s and became industrialized in the 19th century, had already sent many species into serious decline. Environmental groups, fearing that the whales would become extinct, lobbied hard to bring the hunting and killing to a halt. In 1986 they came very close: the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted to prohibit whaling, allowing it only for scientific purposes or, in a handful of cases, such as among native peoples in Alaska and Greenland, to preserve ancient food-gathering practices.^②

But the treaty has proved all too easy to get around. Japan, Iceland and Norway, in particular, have slaughtered tens of thousands of whales in the past 20 years. The first two countries claim they are doing it for science, although much of the meat they take ends up on dinner tables. Norway doesn't even bother pretending. It openly flouts the IWC's rules.

Now Japan has upped the ante: at the annual meeting of the IWC last week in the Caribbean nation of St. Kitts and Nevis, the Japanese pushed through a resolution calling for a repeal of the whaling moratorium, declaring it "no longer necessary".^③

Fortunately for the whales, the resolution isn't binding. The vote was 33 to 32 in favor, but it would have taken a 75% majority to overturn the ban. For whaling opponents, however, the vote was an ominous sign of Japan's power over the IWC—and of its willingness to use strong-arm tactics and not-so-subtle bribery to get its way.^④ Japan has reportedly showered more than \$100 million in aid in recent years on island nations that it has persuaded to back its pro-whaling positions.

And though Japan's allies don't have the votes to overturn the whaling ban, it takes only a simple majority to make other changes—to take future votes on secret ballots, for example, so that nations can't be held accountable for their positions, or to exclude antiwhaling groups from IWC meetings.^⑤ Indeed, Japan last week sparred once again with Greenpeace—the organization that agitated hardest for the original ban—until Japan was pressured to back off.

【388 words】

1. The author intends primarily to tell readers in the first paragraph that _____.
 A. unrestricted whaling will inevitably result in whales' extinction

- B. there has been some achievement in the protection of whales
 - C. the whales would become extinct in the foreseeable future
 - D. whales are warm-blooded mammals worth strict protecting
2. The International Whaling Commission _____.
- A. is dedicated to the protection of ever-decreasing whales
 - B. allows scientists to slaughter whales for their research
 - C. is not powerful enough to prohibit unrestricted whaling
 - D. tries its best to prohibit the hunting and killing of whales
3. The resolution pushed through by the Japanese isn't binding because _____.
- A. it exploits illegal tactics to accomplish its aim
 - B. only a few nations back its pro-whaling position
 - C. its not-so-subtle bribery tactics has been revealed
 - D. more votes are needed to overturn the whaling ban
4. It is implied that _____.
- A. future votes will be taken on secret ballots
 - B. Greenpeace strongly supports the whaling ban
 - C. nations openly taking pro-whaling position are few
 - D. both Alaska and Greenland are against the whaling ban
5. The text is mainly about _____.
- A. revenge of the whale hunters
 - B. the protection of declining whales
 - C. Japan's powerful command of the IWC
 - D. the tactics used to overturn the whaling ban

Text 2-3

Ben Bernanke, Mr Greenspan's successor, likes to explain America's current-account deficit as the inevitable consequence of a saving glut in the rest of the world. Yet a large part of the blame lies with the Fed's own policies, which have allowed growth in domestic demand to outstrip supply for no less than ten years on the trot.^① Part of America's current prosperity is based not on genuine gains in income, nor on high productivity growth, but on borrowing from the future.^② The words of Ludwig von Mises, an Austrian economist of the early 20th century, nicely sum up the illusion: "It may sometimes be expedient for a man to heat the stove with his furniture. But he should not delude himself by believing that he has discovered a wonderful new method of heating his premises." ^③

Handovers to a new Fed chairman are always tricky moments. They have often been followed by some sort of financial turmoil, such as the 1987 stockmarket crash, only two months after Mr Greenspan took over.^④ This handover takes place with the economy in an unusually vulnerable state, thanks to its imbalances. The interest rates that Mr Bernanke will inherit will be close to neutral, neither restraining nor stimulating the economy. But America's domestic demand needs to grow more slowly in order to bring the saving rate and the current-account deficit back to sustainable levels. If demand fails to slow, he will need to push rates higher. This will be risky, given households' heavy debts. After 13 increases in interest rates, the tide of easy money is now flowing out, and many American households are going to be shockingly exposed. In the words of Warren Buffett, "It's only when the tide goes out that you can see who's swimming naked."

How should Mr Bernanke respond to falling house prices and a sharp economic slowdown when they come? While he is even more opposed than Mr Greenspan to the idea of restraining asset-price bubbles, he seems just as keen to slash interest rates when bubbles burst to prevent a downturn.^⑤ He is likely to continue the current asymmetric policy of never raising interest rates to curb rising asset prices, but

always cutting rates after prices fall.^⑥ This is dangerous as it encourages excessive risk taking and allows the imbalances to grow ever larger, making the eventual correction even worse. If the imbalances are to unwind, America needs to accept a period in which domestic demand grows more slowly than output.

The big question is whether the rest of the world will slow too. The good news is that growth is becoming more broadly based, as demand in the euro area and Japan has been picking up, and fears about an imminent hard landing in China have faded. America kept the world going during troubled times. But now it is time for others to take the lead.

【479 words】

1. America's current prosperity can be attributed to _____.
A. high productivity growth
B. increased incomes of most Americans
C. far too much saving in the rest of the world
D. its extravagant lifestyle at the expense of future
2. Which of the following is compared to "heating one's premises with his furniture"?
A. America's domestic demand grows much faster than supply.
B. America's domestic demand grows much slower than supply.
C. America's job creation is obviously weaker than usual.
D. American incomes have increased much more slowly than ever before.
3. The imbalances of American economy _____.
A. result from the current-account deficit
B. result from the Federal Reserve's policies
C. coincide with the handover to a new Fed chairman
D. are often followed by some sort of financial turmoil
4. It can be inferred from the text that in America _____.
A. the saving rate should be increased
B. the current-account deficit is sustainable
C. the current interest rates can help stimulate its economy
D. investors are eager to finance the current-account deficit
5. Mr Bernanke will probably manage to _____.
A. restrain asset-price bubbles
B. lower households' heavy debts
C. maintain the current imbalances
D. unwind the current imbalances

Text 2-4

The unhappy history of Ukraine, Russia and gas is the story of energy security in miniature. When it comes to hydrocarbons, geopolitics and geology are inextricable. That is a problem for most countries in eastern Europe, which would love to get their energy from allies, and feel understandably twitchy about having their former master as a big supplier.^①

Russia sees it differently. It wants to use its energy riches to the maximum effect in the world market. It sees former communist satellite countries as nuisances, which scrounge subsidised gas, pay late if at all, and jeopardise sales to western Europe by brinkmanship about transit fees.^②

It is easy to understand why Ukraine and other Russian neighbours are exasperating Gazprom, Russia's huge gas monopoly. Its gas has long been siphoned off in vast quantities and Ukraine, like Georgia, has a dreadful record of falling behind with its payments.^③ The main power station that supplies Moldova doesn't pay its bills at all. In 2005 Ukraine paid only \$ 50 per 1,000 cubic metres of Russian gas, compared with the \$ 240 paid by the EU. Now Gazprom says it wants to sell to these countries on a purely commercial basis.

That seems fair enough, but there is another dimension. Formally, at least, the \$ 50 price is part of