

新东方学校考研英语培训教材

考研英语

胡敏 / 编著

阅读理解高分宝典

- ★ 60 篇文章全新亮相 语言鲜活
- ★ 15 套试题精心设计 仿真度高
- ★ 12 大命题原则分析透彻 指导性强
- ★ 词汇注释准确到位 参考译文忠实通顺

世界图书出版公司

新东方学校考研英语命题研究中心

考研英语

阅读理解高分宝典

考研英语阅读理解命题规律与解题技巧

考研英语阅读理解命题规律与解题技巧

考研英语阅读理解命题规律与解题技巧

考研英语阅读理解命题规律与解题技巧

考研英语阅读理解命题规律与解题技巧

考研英语 阅读理解高分宝典

胡 敏 编著

- 60 篇文章全新亮相、语言鲜活
- 15 套试题精心设计、仿真度高
- 12 大命题原则分析透彻、指导性强
- 词汇注释准确到位、参考译文通顺流畅

世界图书出版公司

北京·上海·广州·西安

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

考研英语阅读理解高分宝典/胡敏编著. - 北京:世界图书出版公司北京公司,2002.6

ISBN 7-5062-4985-5

I. 考… II. 胡… III. 英语-阅读教学-研究生-入学考试-自学参考资料

IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 040422 号

考研英语阅读理解高分宝典

编 著:胡 敏

责任编辑:孟淑贤 雷玉清

装帧设计:阿 森

出 版:世界图书出版公司北京公司

发 行:世界图书出版公司北京公司

(北京朝内大街 137 号 邮编 100010 电话 64077922)

销 售:各地新华书店和外文书店

印 刷:北京兆成印刷厂

开 本:787×1092 毫米 1/16 **印张:**17

字 数:420 千

版 次:2002 年 6 月第 1 版 2002 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

印 数:1-10000

ISBN 7-5062-4985-5/H·400

定价:30.00 元

版权所有 翻印必究

新东方丛书策划委员会

总策划 包凡一 胡 敏

委员会 (按姓氏笔划为序)

王 强 王文成 包凡一

杜子华 周成刚 杨 继

胡 敏 俞敏洪 徐小平

新东方大学英语丛书编委会

主 编 胡 敏

副 主 编 陈采霞 汪海涛

编 委 张世红 张亚哲 李传伟 何 钢 李 鑫
林 复 周 雷 郑 群 胡 锐 熊 莹

英语顾问 Paul White [英国]

目录

第一部分 阅读理解题命题原则与应试对策 / 1

- 一、应试总则 / 1
- 二、主题原则 / 7
- 三、态度原则 / 16
- 四、首段原则 / 21
- 五、段落原则 / 25
- 六、转折/对比原则 / 29
- 七、复指原则 / 32
- 八、类比原则 / 34
- 九、例证原则 / 36
- 十、句子理解原则 / 38
- 十一、词汇原则 / 40
- 十二、判断原则 / 42

第二部分 阅读理解全真模拟试题 / 51

- Reading Test 1 / 51
- Reading Test 2 / 58
- Reading Test 3 / 66
- Reading Test 4 / 74
- Reading Test 5 / 82

Reading Test 6	/ 90
Reading Test 7	/ 97
Reading Test 8	/ 105
Reading Test 9	/ 113
Reading Test 10	/ 121
Reading Test 11	/ 129
Reading Test 12	/ 137
Reading Test 13	/ 144
Reading Test 14	/ 151
Reading Test 15	/ 158

第三部分 阅读理解全真模拟试题词汇注释与 参考译文 / 166

Reading Test 1	/ 166
Reading Test 2	/ 172
Reading Test 3	/ 180
Reading Test 4	/ 187
Reading Test 5	/ 194
Reading Test 6	/ 199
Reading Test 7	/ 206
Reading Test 8	/ 213
Reading Test 9	/ 220
Reading Test 10	/ 226
Reading Test 11	/ 231
Reading Test 12	/ 239
Reading Test 13	/ 244
Reading Test 14	/ 250
Reading Test 15	/ 255

第四部分 阅读理解全真模拟试题答案 / 262

第一部分

阅读理解命题原则与应试对策

考生在复习备考时,会发现研究生英语试卷的阅读理解部分虽只有 20 道题,分数值却占总分的 40%,而这一部分正是考生的难点所在,所以能否在阅读理解这一部分取得理想的成绩,就成为考研英语成功的关键所在。如何突破阅读难关?怎样迅速提高阅读水平?能否找到一些切实可行的应试规律?面对考生提出的这些迫切的问题,笔者仔细研究了历年考题,结合自己多年的教学经验,针对考研考试大纲所考核阅读理解能力的八条要求,并分析回顾历年考研阅读理解题目的大致规律,总结归纳出考研阅读理解应试的十二大原则,希望能为正在求学之路上辛苦求索的学子们助一臂之力。

《英语考试大纲》在阅读部分要求考生能够读懂不同类型的文字材料(生词量不超过所读材料总词汇量的 3%),包括信函、书刊和杂志上的文章,还应能读懂与本人学习或工作有关的文献、技术说明和产品介绍等。根据所读材料,考生应能:

- 1) 理解主旨要义;
- 2) 理解文中的具体信息;
- 3) 理解文中的概念性含义;
- 4) 进行有关的判断、推理和引申;
- 5) 根据上下文推测生词的词义;
- 6) 理解文章的总体结构以及单句之间、段落之间的关系;
- 7) 理解作者的意图、观点或态度;
- 8) 区分论点和论据。

一、应试总则

翻开考研英语试卷的阅读部分,考生首先应当掌握的最基本的应试总则可以概括为 12 个字:文章思路、圈点到位、重叠原文。事实上这

12 个字已经概括了阅读解题的全部过程。

“文章思路”是指考生首先应对文章总体的思路和结构有一个大概的了解,先不要急于去读题目,而是应当将文章从头到尾看一遍,弄清楚文章的中心意思,这一遍阅读的目的并不是要立即找到答题所需要的信息点。在阅读的时候还要有主次之分,文章的第一段是文章的灵魂和核心,也应当是第一遍阅读的重点所在。考生要尽量将第一段的每一句话都理解透彻,因为掌握了第一段,就已经基本了解掌握了整篇文章的内容,至于其他的段落可以加快速度,看得懂就看,看不懂就暂时跳过去,在不懂的地方做出记号,留待以后解决。读完文章并理清思路后就可以接着阅读试题,命题专家在设计考卷时,题目排列的次序与文章的布局基本是相吻合的,也就是说题目所需要的信息点在文章中应当是按顺序出现的,这一点对于基础差的考生相当重要,因为考生完全可以根据每篇文章题目的题干来推测文章大致的内容和思路。

有些考生在把握文章思路时常常会陷入困境,他们虽然也从头到尾把文章读了一遍,但还是搞不清文章到底在讲什么。如何扫清阅读理解中出现的盲点?笔者建议考生在第一遍阅读时注意以下几点:1. 文章中有些信息可以忽略,例如有关职务、头衔、社会地位等补充性说明;2. 第一遍阅读时,可暂时不管句中破折号后所提供的旁支信息;3. 复杂的难句看清主、谓、宾即可,其他辅助信息除非与解题有关,否则亦可暂时不管;4. 上下文中平行对称的地方经常内容相同,所以这些互相对照的内容也可帮助考生消除盲点;5. 做题时应注意:因为命题时要求选项部分的语言难度要低于文章语言的难度,所以读懂选项的语言常会帮助考生正确理解文章的内容。

第二步“圈点到位”,是就审题而言,实质上就是要求考生审题到位,弄清楚题目针对文章的什么内容提问。考生在读完题目后通常会返回到文章里去寻找答案,这时又会出现另一种情况,有些考生文章都看懂了,可就是找不到答案在哪里。出现这种情况的根本原因是考生没有审清题意,没有弄清楚题目要求考生在文章中寻找什么信息,因为绝大部分题目是针对文章的具体内容提问。所以只要考生审题到位,返回原文搜索答案时,即可圈点出相应的内容,从而缩小寻找范围,大大提高正确率。2000 年考研试题的 20 道阅读题中只有 4 道题目(3 道主旨题,1 道判断题)无法依据题干语言在原文中圈点,其他的 16 道题目均可根据题干命题语言在文中圈点出相应的内容,答案基本就在所圈语句的附近。所以只要能在掌握文章思路的基础上做到“圈点到位”,基本上所有的阅读题目都可以迎刃而解,特别是具体的细节题,可以说是手到擒来。

完成题目之后就要检查所找到的答案是否正确,也就是阅读解题的第三个步骤“**重叠原文**”。设计阅读题时,选项通常是这样四种情况,假设选项内容是一个圆,文章内容也是一个圆,第一种情况是两者相距甚远,根本没有相交的地方,内容完全不一样,这种选项很容易就被排除掉;第二种情况是这两个圆相切,即只有很小一部分互相联系,但会有一部分考生选这个选项,因为选项的内容文中有所提及,有一定的迷惑性;第三种情况是这两个圆相交,有大部分内容重叠,考生往往会选择这种选项。较之前者,这种情况的迷惑性更大,也是最危险的干扰项;但只有符合第四种情况,即两个圆完全重合、内容完全相符的选项才是正确答案。因此在检查时,考生要做的就是将所选的选项与文章中相应的内容做比较,看其是否能与原文重叠。

在判断选项是否能重叠原文时,考生常常也会感到迷惑,无法判断选项是否与原文内容完全重叠,这是因为命题专家在设计考题时会使用一些语言来迷惑考生,从而测试考生的英语水平和阅读能力。一般说来,事实上命题专家最常用的有四种方式:“语言简化”、“反话正说”、

“正话反说”和“关键词替换”。

“语言简化”是命题专家命题使用语言时所必须遵守的总则。在设置选项时,四个选项的长度及句法不应有太大差异,而选项所使用的语言难度必须低于文章本身的难度。这一点对考生大有帮助,因为考生可以利用选项来理解文章。这一原则几乎在所有的阅读试题中都有所体现,故此笔者在这里就不再列举。

“反话正说”的命题方式是指选项用肯定的方式来表述文中用否定方式所表述的内容。仅在 2000 年的考研试卷中,就有四道题目采用了这种命题方式。

2000 年 54 题: The author seems to believe the revival of the U. S. economy in the 1990s can be attributed to the _____.

- [A] turning of the business cycle
- [B] restructuring of industry
- [C] improved business management
- [D] success in education

[正确答案]A

“作者似乎认为 90 年代美国经济的复兴可以归功于经济周期的转机。”

圈点原文“Few Americans attribute this solely to such obvious causes as a devalued dollar or the turning of the business cycle.”

“几乎没有哪个美国人将这一增长只看做是美元贬值或经济周期的转机等明显的原因造成的。”文章字面意思是否定的,作者的言下之意是这一增长就是由经济周期的转机等原因造成的,命题者以此作为考点,设计了一个肯定的选项,如果考生无法掌握这一命题方式,就容易掉入陷阱。

2000 年 57 题: The author argues that our bodies have stopped evolving because _____.

- [A] life has been improved by technological advance
- [B] the number of female babies has been declining
- [C] our species has reached the highest stage of evolution
- [D] the difference between wealth and poverty is disappearing

[正确答案]A

“作者认为我们的身体停止了进化是因为我们的生活已经被技术进步改进。”

圈点原文: But in the past 100,000 years—even the past 100 years—our lives have been transformed but our bodies have not. We did not evolve, because machines and society did it for us.

“但是在过去的 10 万年间——甚至是在过去的 100 年间——我们的生活改变了,但我们的身体没有改变,我们没有进化,是因为机器和社会在替我们进化。”

2000 年 65 题: Which of the following is true according to the author?

- [A] Japanese education is praised for helping the young climb the social ladder.

- [B] Japanese education is characterized by mechanical learning as well as creativity.
 [C] More stress should be placed on the cultivation of creativity.
 [D] Dropping out leads to frustration against test taking.

[正确答案]C

圈点原文: While often praised by foreigners for its emphasis on the basics, Japanese education tends to stress test taking and mechanical learning over creativity and self-expression. “Those things that do not show up in the test scores—personality, ability, courage or humanity—are completely ignored,” says Toshiki Kaifu, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s education committee. “Frustration against this kind of thing leads kids to drop out and run wild.”

此题问的是作者的观点, A 项讲日本教育受赞扬的是它可以帮助年轻人在社会上往上爬, 与文中内容不符, 文中是说日本教育因其对基础的重视而受到表扬。而 B 选项中的 “as well as creativity” 与文中所说的 “over creativity...” 不符, 也不能选。D 项的逻辑恰好与原文相反, 作者在评论日本教育时批评其 “完全忽略了考试成绩中无法表现的个性、能力、勇气和人性和”, 作者用否定的方式表达出自己的意见。C 选项所说的是应 “更多地强调培养创造性”, 所以答案为 C 选项。

2000 年 70 题: From the last paragraph the conclusion can be drawn that ambition should be maintained _____.

- [A] secretly and vigorously
 [B] openly and enthusiastically
 [C] easily and momentarily
 [D] verbally and spiritually

[正确答案]B

从最后一段可得出结论: 野心应当保持公开的、积极的状态。

圈点原文: The attacks on ambition are many and come from various angles; its public defenders are few and unimpressive, where they are not extremely unattractive. As a result, the support for ambition as a healthy impulse, a quality to be admired and fixed in the mind of the young, is probably lower than it has ever been in the United States. This does not mean that ambition is at an end, that people no longer feel its stirrings and promptings, but only that no longer openly honored, and it is less openly professed. Consequences follow from this, of course, some of which are that ambition is driven underground, or made sly. Such, then, is the way things stand: on the left angry critics, on the right stupid supporters, and in the middle, as usual, the majority of earnest people trying to get on in life.

“这并不意味着野心已经不存在了, 或人们感觉不到它的涌动和激励了, 只是因为人们不再公开赞美它了, 它因此也就得不到公开的表述了。”

支持公开承认做人要有雄心壮志, 因为在上文中作者已经指出, 野心应当 “作为一种促进因素, 作为一种应该受到称赞, 应该铭记在年轻人心中的品质”, 正是由于野心不再公开受到尊

敬和赞美,也就越来越得不到公开的承认,而 B 选项恰好从肯定的角度表述了作者的态度,是正确答案。

第三种常用的命题方式“正话反说”,是指文中用肯定方式表述,而选项用否定方式表述,两者意义相吻合。这一命题方式在近年的试卷中也可找到例证。

1999 年第 68 题: The author asserts that scientists _____.

[A] shouldn't replace "scientific method" with imaginative thought

[B] shouldn't neglect to speculate on unpredictable things

[C] should write more concise reports for technical journals

[D] should be confident about their research findings

[正确答案]B

“作者认为科学家不应忽略对不可预见的事物进行观察。”

圈点原文: How many men would have considered the possibility of an apple falling up into the tree? Newton did because he was not trying to predict anything. He was just wondering. His mind was ready for the unpredictable. Unpredictability is part of the essential nature of research. If you don't have unpredictable things, you don't have research. Scientists tend to forget this when writing their cut and dried reports for the technical journals, but history is filled with examples of it.

“不可预见性是研究本质的一部分,如果没有不可预见的事物就没有研究可言,科学家们在为专业杂志写那些干巴巴的报告时趋向于忘记这一点,但历史上到处都是这种例子。”

原文采用肯定的表达方式,说科学家常常忽略那些不可预见的东西,上文中提到不可预见性是研究本质的一部分,很自然就可以推出结论:科学家应重视不可预见的东西。

1999 年第 70 题: The author implies that the results of scientific research _____.

[A] may not be as profitable as they are expected

[B] can be measured in dollars and cents

[C] rely on conformity to a standard pattern

[D] are mostly underestimated by management

[正确答案]A

“作者以为科学研究的成果可能不会像他们预计的那样有利可图。”

圈点原文: What this amounts to, of course, is that the scientist has become the victim of his own writings. He has put forward unquestioned claims so consistently that he not only believes them himself, but has convinced industrial and business management that they are true. If experiments are planned and carried out according to plan as faithfully as the reports in the science journals indicate, then it is perfectly logical for management to expect research to produce results measurable in dollars and cents. It is entirely reasonable for auditors to believe that scientists who know exactly where they are going and how they will get there should not be distracted by the necessity of keeping one eye on the cash register

while the other eye is on the microscope. Nor, if regularity and conformity to a standard pattern are as desirable to the scientist as the writing of his papers would appear to reflect, is management to be blamed for discriminating against the “odd balls” among researchers in favor of more conventional thinkers who “work well with the team.”

“如果实验能像科学杂志上发表的论文所显示的那样按计划设定并完成,那么管理者期望研究产生出能以美元和美分衡量的结果就是很符合逻辑的了。”

原文中的“If”一词表明作者陈述的只是一个假设,这一假设可能不会实现,因此原文是在暗示科学研究的结果并不像所预见的那样有效益,而选项 A 所表达的意思正好与之吻合。

2000 年 52 题: The loss of U. S. predominance in the world economy in the 1980s is manifested in the fact that the American _____.

- [A] TV industry had withdrawn to its domestic market
- [B] semiconductor industry had been taken over by foreign enterprises
- [C] machine-tool industry had collapsed after suicidal actions
- [D] auto industry had lost part of its domestic market

[正确答案] D

“80 年代美国失去在全球经济的主导地位由美国的汽车工业失去部分国内市场这一事实体现出来。”

圈点原文: By the mid 1980s Americans had found themselves at a loss over their fading industrial competitiveness. Some huge American industries, such as consumer electronics, had shrunk or vanished in the face of foreign competition. By 1987 there was only one American television maker left, Zenith (Now there is none: Zenith was bought by South Korea's LG Electronics in July). Foreign-made cars and textiles were sweeping into the domestic market.

“到 20 世纪 80 年代中期,面对其工业竞争力的日益衰退,美国人感到无计可施。一些大型的工业如电子消费品面对外国竞争已萎缩或消失。到 1987 年美国只剩下一个电视制造商:现在一个都没有了,7 月韩国的 LG 电子公司买下了 Zenith 公司。进口汽车和纺织品迅速占领了国内市场。”

文章说进口汽车占领国内市场,反过来就是国产汽车工业失去了一部分国内市场,D 选项与之内容一致。

“关键词替换”是出现最频繁的命题方式,几乎每年都有一些用这种方式设置的题目。

1999 年 55 题: 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

[正确答案] A

“从文章开头我们得知网络经济正在力争扩展市场。”

对应原文: In the first year or so of Web business, most of the action has revolved around efforts to tap the consumer market.

“在网络经济的头一年左右,大多数的行动与致力于开发买方市场有关。”

strive 替换原文中的 efforts, expand 替换原文中的 tap。

1999 年 62 题: According to the author, basic computer skills should be _____.

[A] included as an auxiliary course in school

[B] highlighted in acquisition of professional qualifications

[C] mastered through a life-long course

[D] equally emphasized by any school, vocational or otherwise

[正确答案] A

“根据作者所说基础的计算机技能在学校中应设为辅修课程。”

对应原文: In any case, basic computer skills are only complementary to the host of real skills that are necessary to becoming any kind of professional.

auxiliary 替换 complementary。

“关键词替换”这一方式不仅用于设置选项,还可以用于设置题干。

例如: 2000 年 61 题: Futurists claim that we must _____.

[A] increase the production of literature

[B] use poetry to relieve modern stress

[C] develop new modes of expression

[D] avoid using adjectives and verbs

[正确答案] C

“未来派诗人声称我们必须发展新的表达方式。”

对应原文: This speeding up of life, says the Futurist, receives a new form of expression.

题干中的 claim 替换原文中的 say, 而选项中的 mode 则替换原文中的 form。

命题专家常常采用“语言简化”、“反话正说”、“正话反说”、“关键词替换”这四种方式设置考题,对考生进行干扰。考生在了解这些方式后,就可以反其道而行之,利用这四种命题方式来检查所选选项是否与原文重叠。

总则中笔者介绍了考研阅读理解应试的基本步骤,下面将就具体题型提出相应的应试原则。

二、主题原则

主旨题型又叫主题原则,主要针对文章主题设问,考查考生对通篇文章的理解和把握,但是要特别注意和下面这种题型区分开来。

This passage appears to be a digest of _____.

(A) a book review

(B) a scientific paper

(C) a magazine feature

(D) a newspaper editorial[1996.70]

[正确答案]A

这种题型考查考生是否能根据文章的行文风格判断文章的文体。但迄今为止,此类题型只在1996年出现了一次,因此考生复习时可以忽略此种题型,只需将其与主题原则题目区分开来即可。

笔者建议考生在做主题题型时遵循这样的原则:因为此类题干扰性最大,难度也最大,考生须读完全文才能准确把握文章主题。所以考生拿到这种题时,不要急于去找答案,不论其出现在什么位置都把它作为最后一道题来做,因为在做另外三道题时,无疑有助于加深对整篇文章的理解。而且,事实上,首先做主旨题,考生往往还会回过头来核查答案,这样耗时间,做题效率低。

主题题型分为两种:

1. 明确的主题题型

此类题型位置较为固定,一般是第一个问题或最后一个问题,要求考生为文章选择合适的标题或是总结文章的中心思想。此类题型相对难度较小。

What accounts for the great outburst of major inventions in early America—break-throughs such as the telegraph, the steamboat and the weaving machine?

Among the many shaping factors, I would single out the country's excellent elementary schools; a labor force that welcomed the new technology; the practice of giving premiums to inventors; and above all the American genius for nonverbal, "spatial" thinking about things technological.

Why mention the elementary schools? Thanks to these schools our early mechanics, especially in the New England and Middle Atlantic states, were generally literate and at home in arithmetic and in some aspects of geometry and trigonometry.

Acute foreign observers related American adaptiveness and inventiveness to this educational advantage. As a member of a British commission visiting here in 1853 reported, "With a mind prepared by thorough school discipline, the American boy develops rapidly into the skilled workman."

A further stimulus to invention came from the "premium" system, which preceded our patent system and for years ran parallel with it. This approach, originated abroad, offered inventors medals, cash prizes and other incentives.

In the United States, multitudes of premiums for new devices were awarded at country fairs and at the industrial fairs in major cities. Americans flocked to these fairs to admire the new machines and thus to renew their faith in the beneficence of technological advance.

Given this optimistic approach to technological innovation, the American worker took readily to that special kind of nonverbal thinking required in mechanical technology. As Eugene Ferguson has pointed out, "A technologist thinks about objects that cannot be reduced

to unambiguous verbal descriptions; they are dealt with in his mind by a visual, nonverbal process . . . The designer and the inventor . . . are able to assemble and manipulate in their minds devices that as yet do not exist."

This nonverbal "spatial" thinking can be just as creative as painting and writing. Robert Fulton once wrote, "The mechanic should sit down among levers, screws, wedges, wheels, etc. , like a poet among the letters of the alphabet, considering them as an exhibition of his thoughts, in which a new arrangement transmits a new idea."

When all these shaping forces—schools, open attitudes, the premium system, a genius for spatial thinking—interacted with one another on the rich U. S. mainland, they produced that American characteristic, emulation. Today that word implies mere imitation. But in earlier times it meant a friendly but competitive striving for fame and excellence.

The best title for this passage might be _____

[A] Inventive Mind

[B] Effective Schooling

[B] Ways of Thinking

[D] Outpouring of Inventions[1996.66]

[正确答案]A

No company likes to be told it is contributing to the moral decline of nation. "Is this what you intended to accomplish with your careers?" Senator Robert Dole asked Time Warner executives last week. "You have sold your souls, but must you corrupt our nation and threaten our children as well?" At Time Warner, however, such questions are simply the latest manifestation of the soul-searching that has involved the company ever since it was born in 1990. It's a self-examination that has, at various times, involved issues of responsibility, creative freedom and the corporate bottom line.

At the core of this debate is chairman Gerald Levin, 56, who took over for the late Steve Ross in 1992. On the financial front, Levin is under pressure to raise the stock price and reduce the company's mountainous debt, which will increase to \$17.3 billion after two new cable deals close. He has promised to sell off some of the property and restructure the company, but investors are waiting impatiently.

The flap over rap is not making life any easier for him. Levin has consistently defended the company's rap music on the grounds of expression. In 1992, when Time Warner was under fire for releasing Ice-T's violent rap song Cop Killer, Levin described rap as a lawful expression of street culture, which deserves an outlet. "The test of any democratic society," he wrote in a Wall Street Journal column, "lies not in how well it can control expression but in whether it gives freedom of thought and expression the widest possible latitude, however disputable or irritating the results may sometimes be. We won't retreat in the face of any threats."

Levin would not comment on the debate last week, but there were signs that the

chairman was backing off his hard-line stand, at least to some extent. During the discussion of rock singing verses at last month's stockholders' meeting, Levin asserted that "music is not the cause of society's ills" and even cited his son, a teacher in the Bronx, New York, who uses rap to communicate with students. But he talked as well about the "balanced struggle" between creative freedom and social responsibility, and he announced that the company would launch a drive to develop standards for distribution and labeling of potentially objectionable music.

The 15-member Time Warner board is generally supportive of Levin and his corporate strategy. But insiders say several of them have shown their concerns in this matter. "Some of us have known for many, many years that the freedoms under the First Amendment are not totally unlimited," says Luce. "I think it is perhaps the case that some people associated with the company have only recently come to realize this."

The best title for this passage could be _____.

- [A] A Company under Fire
- [B] A Debate on Moral Decline
- [C] A Lawful Outlet of Street Culture
- [D] A Form of Creative Freedom[1997. 66]

[正确答案]A

Being a man has always been dangerous. There are about 105 males born for every 100 females, but this ratio drops to near balance at the age of maturity, and among 70-year-olds there are twice as many women as men. But the great universal of male mortality is being changed. Now, boy babies survive almost as well as girls do. This means that, for the first time, there will be an excess of boys in those crucial years when they are searching for a mate. More important, another chance for natural selection has been removed. Fifty years ago, the chance of a baby (particularly a boy baby) surviving depended on its weight. A kilogram too light or too heavy meant death almost certain. Today it makes almost no difference. Since much of the variation is due to genes, one more agent of evolution has gone.

There is another way to commit evolutionary suicide: stay alive, but have fewer children. Few people are as fertile as in the past. Except in some religious communities, very few women have 15 children. Nowadays the number of births, like the age of death, has become average. Most of us have roughly the same number of offspring. Again, differences between people and the opportunity for natural selection to take advantage of it have diminished. India shows what is happening. The country offers wealth for a few in the great cities and poverty for the remaining tribal peoples. The grand mediocrity of today—everyone being the same in survival and number of offspring—means that natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes.