

通过真题记单词

大学英语六级

主 编 卢 根
副主编 金凌虹

四六级业界
培训机构
顶级名师
倾力巨献



中国石化出版社

[HTTP://WWW.SINOPEC-PRESS.COM](http://www.sinopec-press.com)

教 · 育 · 出 · 版 · 中 · 心

通过真题记单词 大学英语六级

主 编 卢 根
副主编 金凌虹

四六级业界
培训机构
顶级名师
倾力巨献



中国石化出版社

[HTTP://WWW.SINOPEC-PRESS.COM](http://www.sinopec-press.com)

教·育·出·版·中·心

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

通过真题记单词. 大学英语六级/卢根主编. —北京: 中国石化出版社, 2014. 2
ISBN 978-7-5114-2649-9

I. ①通… II. ①卢… III. ①大学英语水平考试-词汇-自学参考资料 IV. ①H313

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2014)第 028573 号

未经本社书面授权, 本书任何部分不得被复制、抄袭, 或者以任何形式或任何方式传播。版权所有, 侵权必究。

中国石化出版社出版发行

地址: 北京市东城区安定门外大街 58 号

邮编: 100011 电话: (010)84271850

读者服务部电话: (010)84289974

<http://www.sinopec-press.com>

E-mail: press@sinopec.com

北京富泰印刷有限责任公司印刷

全国各地新华书店经销

787×1092 毫米 16 开本 14.75 印张 373 千字

2014 年 3 月第 1 版 2014 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

定价: 29.80 元



本书是一本与众不同、能给你带来最大回报的六级单词记忆书，使你在历年六级真题真实生动的语境中轻松快乐地记住六级英语单词，同时掌握它的用法和考试点，增强你的阅读能力、听力能力、翻译能力，教会你作文句式。

词汇在英语学习中的重要性，好比砖头之于大厦，词汇量的不足会严重制约听、说、读、写、译等诸多能力的提高，也阻碍学生在考试中取得理想的成绩。但是记忆词汇之艰难于我们都有同感。著名英语教育家、语言学家许国璋先生曾说过：“最好的记生词的办法不能只是背单词，我认为最好的办法莫过于通过词句或文章来记，这样就学得活，就记得牢。”

如果你已经厌倦了从 A 到 Z 的枯燥繁琐而且效果甚微的记忆方法，又觉得许多语境记忆书籍太浪费时间（一大段的语境只能帮助记住少数的几个英语单词）；如果你想真正高效率地记住英语单词，提高英语水平和六级考试应试能力，本书将是你最好的选择。本书具有如下的几个特点：

1. 精选六级真题 90 余篇文章，使你在真实生动的语境中轻松快乐地记住六级英语单词，熟悉六级考试语境，掌握单词的考点和用法。
2. 每篇文章后都有相应的精彩译文，在记忆单词的同时增强你的阅读能力、翻译能力、写作能力。

编者希望本书能使你在六级备考中辛苦的付出能有最大的回报——提升你的六级考试成绩，也希望你在本书中所得到的“砖块”能让你在构建英语学习的“大厦”中一生受用！

最后感谢你对本书的支持！

编 者

目 录

CONTENTS

1	Concerns About Global Warming 对全球变暖的担忧	1
2	On-line Shopping 网上购物	3
3	Peter Smith's New Book 彼得·史密斯的新作	5
4	The Problem of Relying on the Unemployment Figures 依赖失业数据的问题	7
5	Studying on Poetry at the University of Pennsylvania 在宾夕法尼亚大学学诗歌	9
6	Poverty Line 贫困线	11
7	Why does the U.S. Need to Learn a Little Frugality? 为什么美国需要学着节俭一点?	13
8	The Economic Disruption, Good for Nonhumans 经济衰退使机器人受益	15
9	The Western Nations Learning from a Flourishing Asia 西方国家向蓬勃发展的亚洲学习	17
10	The Potentially Harmful Effects of Goal-setting 目标的设定可能会带来不利的影响	19
11	Translating New Knowledge in the UK's University Sector 英国大学在将新知识进行转化	22
12	A Strategy of Companies and Individuals to Export More 公司和个人的扩大出口战略	24
13	Minority Report 少数派报告	26
14	Learn to Say "No" 学会说“不”	30
15	Illegal Immigrants 非法移民	32
16	Choose the MBA Candidates 选择 MBA 的候选人	35
17	Into the Unknown 进入未知	37
18	Males Are able to Learn to Outward Emotions 男孩应学会外露情感	42
19	Take More Attention to Humanistic 加强对人文学科的关注	44
20	Will There Ever Be Another Einstein? 会有另一位爱因斯坦吗?	46
21	Obama's Success Isn't All Good News for Black Americans 奥巴马的成功对美国黑人来说不完全是好消息	49
22	Good Grading System 好的评分系统	54
23	Paid Family Leave 带薪产假	56

24	More and More Young Voters and Activists Support Traditionally Liberal Causes 越来越多的年轻投票者和活跃分子支持传统的自由事业	58
25	Bosses Say “Yes” to Home Work 老板们同意在家办公	61
26	Don’t Chat into a hand-held Mobile Phone While Driving 不要在驾驶汽车时打手机	66
27	Build the Better Primary Care System 建立更好的基本医疗系统	68
28	Organic Lunch, Toxic Campus 有机午餐,有毒校园	70
29	Helicopter Moms vs. Free-range Kids 直升机母亲和自由养育的孩子	73
30	Body Activism 身材行动主义	78
31	Protect Turtles’ Prime Nesting Sites 保护海龟的主要产卵点	80
32	College—an Expensive Consumer 大学——昂贵的消费品	82
33	What will the World Be Like in Fifty Years? 50年后世界是什么样?	84
34	United 93 《93 号航班》	90
35	When Dollar Isn’t All-powerful 当美元不再无所不能	92
36	Selective Schools Are Not the Most Important Thing for Children 对于孩子而言,名校并不是最重要的	94
37	Seven Ways to Save the World 拯救世界的七种方法	97
38	The Good Men, the Good Fathers 好男人,好父亲	102
39	How People Treat Someone Who Have Different Jobs 人们是如何对待从事不同工作的人	104
40	Income Inequality 收入不平等	106
41	Seven Steps to Get a More Fulfilling Job 得到一份令人满意工作的七个步骤	109
42	Success of Google 谷歌的成功	113
43	The Pursuit of Affluence does Not Always End with Happiness 求富之路的终点站未必都是幸福	115
44	The “Corruption” of Women’s Language 女性语言“蜕化”	118
45	Space Tourism 太空旅游业	120
46	Simplifing Lives 简化生活	125
47	The Amygdal—a Cluster of Neurons Deep in the Brain 扁桃核——一束深入大脑内部的神经元	127
48	Improving Business Ethics 提高商业道德的价值	129
49	Rainforests 雨林	131
50	The Betrayal of Work 工作的背叛	137
51	“Survival of the Fittest” Ideas of Rich Capitalists 富有资本家的“适者生存”理念	139
52	Cut the Gordian Knot 斩断“戈耳迪之结”	141
53	Maternal Education and Child Mortality 母亲教育水平与儿童死亡率	143
54	Managers and Workers 管理者和员工	148
55	The Violence that Spreads Throughout the Media 媒体上暴力泛滥	150
56	Brand-name Prescription Drugs Wreck Our Brilliant Health-care System 名牌处方药破坏我们健全的医疗保障体系	153
57	Cloning 克隆	156

58	Teaching Science and Teaching Math 教科学与教数学	158
59	E-waste 电子垃圾	160
60	Don't Blame Yourself 不要责备你自己	162
61	How to Improve Immigration System 怎样改进移民制度	164
62	Who Is Spying on Our Private Lives 谁在侵犯我们的私生活	166
63	Gifted Students and Their School 天才与学校	168
64	A Tragedy 一次灾难	170
65	"Virtual" Environment 虚拟环境	172
66	Human Nature 人性	174
67	Problems Brought by Women Worker 妇女劳动力引发的问题	176
68	Taking Multivitamins or Not 服用多种维生素还是不服	178
69	A New High-performance Contact 新型高性能隐形镜片	180
70	Public Education 公共教育	182
71	Teaching 教学	183
72	Net's Security 网络安全	185
73	Overconsumption and Poverty 过度消费与贫穷	187
74	Education System and Receivership 教育制度和破产管理	189
75	My Views on MBA 我的 MBA 观	191
76	Compensation Benefit System 补偿金制度	193
77	Global Warming 全球变暖	194
78	Social Violence 社会暴力	196
79	Culture and Ethnic Groups 文化与种族	198
80	Being Thin 变瘦	200
81	The Change of People's Natural Relations 人们自然关系的变化	202
82	Intelligence Testing 智力测验	204
83	Navigation Computers 导航电脑	206
84	Market and Environment 市场与环境	207
85	Exploring Mars 火星探险	209
86	The Depressing State of Literacy 令人失望的识字状况	212
87	Culture 文化	214
88	High Heels 高跟鞋	216
89	Who Should Be Intelligent Men? 谁应该是明智之人?	218
90	Two Systems of Automated Highways 两种自动化公路系统	220
91	Debunk the Medical Treatment 揭穿医药治疗的真相	222
92	A Study on Half-asleep of Animals 对动物“半边睡眠”的一项研究	224

1

Concerns About Global Warming 对全球变暖的担忧



真题·共赏

Apparently everyone knows that global warming only makes climate more extreme. A hot, dry summer has triggered another flood of such claims. And, while many interests are at work, one of the players that benefits the most from this story are the media: the notion of “extreme” climate simply makes for more compelling news.

Consider Paul Krugman, writing breathlessly in the *New York Times* about the “rising incidence of extreme events.” He claims that global warming caused the current drought in America’s Midwest, and that supposedly record-high corn prices could cause a global food crisis.

But the United Nations climate panel’s latest assessment tells us precisely the opposite: For “North America, there is medium confidence that there has been an overall slight tendency toward less dryness.” Moreover, there is no way that Krugman could have identified this drought as being caused by global warming without a time machine: Climate models estimate that such detection will be possible by 2048, at the earliest.

And, fortunately, this year’s drought appears unlikely to cause a food crisis, as global rice and wheat supplies remain plentiful. Moreover, Krugman overlooks inflation: Prices have increased six-fold since 1969, so, while corn *futures* (期货) did set a record of about \$ 8 per *bushel* (蒲式耳) in late July, the inflation-adjusted price of corn was higher throughout most of the 1970’s, reaching \$ 16 in 1974.

Finally, Krugman conveniently forgets that concerns about global warming are the main reason that corn prices have skyrocketed since 2005. Nowadays 40 percent of corn grown in the United States is used to produce *ethanol* (乙醇), which does absolutely nothing for the climate, but certainly distorts the price of corn—at the expense of many of the world’s poorest people.

Bill McKibben similarly worries in *The Guardian* about the Midwest drought and corn prices. He confidently tells us that raging wildfires from New Mexico and Colorado to Siberia are “exactly” what the early stages of global warming look like.

In fact, the latest overview of global wildfire incidence suggests that fire intensity has declined over the past 70 years and is now close to its preindustrial level.

When well-meaning campaigners want us to pay attention to global warming, they often end up pitching beyond the facts. And, while this may seem justified by a noble goal, such “policy by panic” tactics rarely work, and often backfire.

Remember how, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Al Gore claimed that we were

in store for ever more destructive hurricanes? Since then, hurricane incidence has dropped off the charts. Exaggerated claims merely fuel public distrust and disengagement.

That is unfortunate, because global warming is a real problem, and we do need to address it. (2013 年 6 月真题)



参考·译文

显然,每个人都知道全球变暖只会让气候变得更极端。炎热干燥的夏天引发了新一轮这样的论述。很多利益关系牵涉其中,但从这一事件中受益最多的应属媒体:“极端”气候这一概念造就了更多引人注目的新闻。

保罗·克鲁格曼在《纽约时报》上不停地写着关于“极端事件的发生率逐渐上升”的文章。他宣称全球变暖导致了最近美国中西部地区的干旱,估计会使得玉米价格再创新高,由此可能导致全球粮食危机。

但是联合国气候小组的最新评估显示,情况恰恰相反:在“北美,基本上可以确定,其干旱发生率整体而言呈轻微下降趋势”。此外,在没有时间机器的情况下,克鲁格曼没有办法确定这起干旱是由全球变暖引起的。气候模型估计,至少要等到 2048 年以后,这样的发现(即发现全球气候变暖导致干旱)才有可能。

幸运的是,看起来今年的干旱不大可能引发粮食危机,因为全球大米和小麦的供应仍保持充足。另外,克鲁格曼忽视了通货膨胀:自从 1969 年以来,价格翻了六番。玉米期货在去年七月确实创下了每蒲式耳 8 美元的记录,而在 20 世纪 70 年代的大部分时间里,玉米的通货膨胀调整价格更高,在 1974 年达到了 516。

最后,克鲁格曼顺便还忘记了,对全球变暖的担忧正是 2005 年以来玉米价格飙升的主要原因。现在美国生产的玉米 40% 都用来生产乙醇,这与气候完全不相关,但必然会扭曲玉米价格——这是以世界上大部分最贫穷的人们为代价的。

比尔·迈克本同样在《卫报》上表达了自己对于中西部干旱和玉米价格的担忧。他自信地告诉我们,从新墨西哥州和科罗拉多州到西伯利亚一路肆虐的野火“正是”全球气候变暖早期阶段所应有的表现。

事实上,最新的关于全球野火事件的概览表明,在过去的 70 年里,野火的强度一直呈下降趋势,现在已经接近工业化前的水平。

当善意的社会运动人士希望我们关注全球变暖时,他们最终往往言过其实。而且,虽然这看上去似乎是出于一个崇高的目标,这种“恐慌政策”的战术很少能真正起作用,而且往往事与愿违。

还记得 2005 年卡特里娜飓风之后 Al Gore 宣称我们准备好了迎接更具破坏力的飓风吗?从那以后,飓风发生的次数打破了之前的记录。夸大的断言只会加剧公众的不信任和离弃。

这让人遗憾,因为全球变暖确实是一个问题,而且我们确实需要应对它。



核心·词汇

current /'kʌrənt/ *a.* 现时的,当前的;流行的,流传的 || *n.* (空气、水等的)流,潮流;电流;趋势,倾向 (☞ 频率 11 次) **end** /end/ *n.* 最后部分,末尾;端,梢,尽头;终止,结局;结果,目的,目标 || *v.* 结束,终止 (☞ 频率 5 次)

- 【词组】end in 以……为结果/end up 结束, 【同义】storm
 告终/in the end 最后, 结果/no end of 无数的 medium /'mi:diəm/ *a.* 中等的, 适中的 || *n.*
 的, 大量的/on end 连续地 媒介物, 传导体; 手段, 工具 (☞ 频率 2 次)
 hurricane /'hʌrikən/ *n.* 飓风, 暴风雨 similarly /'similəli/ *ad.* 相似地, 类似地
 (☞ 频率 2 次) (☞ 频率 1 次)

2

On-line Shopping

网上购物



真题·共赏

In 2011, many shoppers chose to avoid the frantic crowds and do their holiday shopping from the comfort of their computer. Sales at online retailers gained by more than 15%, making it the biggest season ever. But people are also returning those purchases at record rates, up 8% from last year.

What went wrong? Is the lingering shadow of the global financial crisis making it harder to accept extravagant indulgences? Or that people shop more impulsively—and therefore make bad decisions—when online? Both arguments are plausible. However there is a third factor: a question of touch. We can love the look but, in an online environment, we cannot feel the quality of a texture, the shape of the fit, the fall of a fold or, for that matter, the weight of an earring. And physically interacting with an object makes you more committed to your purchase.

When my most recent book *Brandwashed* was released, I teamed up with a local bookstore to conduct an experiment about the differences between the online and offline shopping experience. I carefully instructed a group of volunteers to promote my book in two different ways. The first was a fairly hands-off approach. Whenever a customer would inquire about my book, the volunteer would take them over to the shelf and point to it. Out of 20 such requests, six customers proceeded with the purchase.

The second option also involved going over to the shelf but, this time, removing the book and then subtly holding onto it for just an extra moment before placing it in the customer's hands. Of the 20 people who were handed the book, 13 ended up buying it. Just physically passing the book showed a big difference in sales. Why? We feel something similar to a sense of ownership when we hold things in our hand. That's why we establish or reestablish connection by greeting strangers and friends with a handshake. In this case, having to then let go of the book after holding it might generate a subtle sense of loss, and motivate us to make the purchase even more.

A recent study also revealed the power of touch, in this case when it came to conventional mail. A deeper and longer-lasting impression of a message was formed when delivered in a letter, as opposed to receiving the same message online. Brain imaging showed that, on touching the paper, the emotional center of the brain was activated, thus forming a stronger bond. The study also indicated that once touch becomes part of the process, it could translate into a sense of possession. This sense of ownership is simply not part of the equation in the online shopping experience. (2013年6月真题)



参考·译文

在2011年,许多消费者选择避开疯狂的人群,舒舒服服地通过电脑购买节日物品。网上零售商的销售额的上涨超过了15%,是历年来销售最火爆的一季。但是,退货率也创了历史新高,比去年同期增长了8%。

究竟出了什么问题?是挥之不去的全球金融危机的阴影使人们对沉迷于奢侈品难以接受了吗?或者是,人们在网上购物时更加冲动,因此做出了错误的决定?这两种说法好像都有道理。然而,还有第三个因素:触摸。我们或许会喜欢自己所看到的图片,但是在网络环境中,我们无法感触物品的质地,了解衣物是否合身,感受褶皱的下垂,同样,也无从感知耳环的重量。这种人与商品之间的身体接触使得你对购买到的商品更为钟爱。

当我最近的新书《品牌洗脑》发行之时,我同当地的一家书店合作开展了一项实验,调查网上购物与线下购物的不同体验。我仔细指导了一组志愿者用两种不同的方式推销书籍。第一种方式叫“请勿动手”。当顾客询问《品牌洗脑》这本书时,志愿者将他们带到放书的书架旁并指出书籍所在位置。20位有购书需求的顾客中,有6位购买了的书。

第二种方式同样需要将顾客带到放书的书架旁,除此之外,志愿者还需拿出书本在自己手上先放一会儿,然后再递给顾客。最终20位顾客里有13位买了《品牌洗脑》。只是亲手把书递给顾客就展示了销售额上的巨大差异。这是为何?手握物品让我们拥有了一份自己是物品主人的感觉。这就是为何我们在问候陌生人或朋友时通过握手来建立或重建与他们之间的关系。在这种情况下,当我们拿着书本却又放下时,可能会产生一种微妙的失落感,更加促使我们进行购买。

最近的一项调查也显示了触觉的力量。这个案例是与传统的邮件有关。与在线接收一条信息相比,虽然是同样的信息,在寄信的过程中能形成更深刻更持久的感觉。大脑成像显示,在接触纸的时候,大脑的情感中心就会被激活,因此形成一种更强大的联系。研究还表明,一旦接触成为这个过程中的一部分,就可能转化成一种占有感。而拥有感压根就不会是网购体验中的一部分。



核心·词汇

promote /prə'məut/ *vt.* 促进,增进,发扬; **local** /'ləukəl/ *a.* 地方性的,当地的,本地的
提升,提拔;宣传,推销(商品等) 的;局部的,狭隘的 || *n.* [常 *pl.*]当地人,
(频率9次) 本地人 (频率8次)
【记忆】**mot**(词根) 运动 → **promote** 提升, **generate** /'dʒenəreit/ *vt.* 生成,产生(光、热、
晋升 电等);引起,导致 (频率5次)

purchase /'pɜ:tʃəs/ *n.* 购买, 买到的东西; 防滑的支点, 起重装置, 价值 || *v.* 购买, 紧握, 赢得, 努力取得 (☞ 频率 3 次)

【词组】purchasing price 买价

texture /'tekstʃə/ *n.* 质地, (材料等的) 结构, (织物) 组织, 织纹, (木材、岩石等的) 纹理; (皮肤) 肌理 (☞ 频率 2 次)

【助记】text(编织) + ure

motivate /'məʊtɪveɪt/ *v.* 给予动机, 刺激, 促使, 激发, 提高……的欲望, 鼓动 (☞ 频率 2 次)

【助记】motiv(动机) + ate → 有动机 → 促使
release /ri'li:s/ *vt.* 释放, 排放; 解除, 解脱; 放开, 松开; 发布, 发行 || *n.* 释放, 排放; 放开, 松开; 解除, 解脱; 发布, 发行 (☞ 频率 1 次)

conduct /kən'dʌkt, 'kɒndʌkt/ *n.* 行为, 举止, 举动; 【生】(感觉的) 传导; 液体的引流 || *v.* 做(实验、研究等); 引导, 带领, 指挥, 管理, 实施; 【物】传导 (☞ 频率 1 次)

【派生】conductivity *n.* 导电率; 传导率; conductor *n.* 导(电、热等)体

3 Peter Smith's New Book 彼得·史密斯的新作



真题·共赏

At some point in 2008, someone, probably in either Asia or Africa, made the decision to move from the countryside to the city. This nameless person pushed the human race over a historic threshold, for it was in that year that mankind became, for the first time in its history, a predominantly urban species.

It is a trend that shows no sign of slowing. *Demographers* (人口统计学家) reckon that three-quarters of humanity could be city-dwelling by 2050, with most of the increase coming in the fast-growing towns of Asia and Africa. Migrants to cities are attracted by plentiful jobs, access to hospitals and education, and the ability to escape the boredom of a farmer's agricultural life. Those factors are more than enough to make up for the *squalor* (肮脏), disease and spectacular poverty that those same migrants must often at first endure when they become urban dwellers.

It is the city that inspires the latest book from Peter Smith. His main thesis is that the buzz of urban life, and the opportunities it offers for cooperation and collaboration, is what attracts people to the city, which in turn makes cities into the engines of art, commerce, science and progress. This is hardly revolutionary, but it is presented in a charming format. Mr. Smith has written a breezy guidebook, with a series of short chapters dedicated to specific aspects of urbanity—parks, say, or the various schemes that have been put forward over the years for building the perfect city. The result is a sort of high-quality, unusually rigorous coffee-table book, designed to be dipped into rather than read from beginning to end.

In the chapter on skyscrapers, for example, Mr. Smith touches on construction methods, the revolutionary invention of the automatic lift, the practicalities of living in the sky and the likelihood that, as cities become more crowded, apartment living will become the norm. But there is also time for brief diversions onto bizarre ground, such as a discussion of the skyscraper index (which holds that a boom in skyscraper construction is a foolproof sign of an imminent recession).

One obvious criticism is that the price of breadth is depth; many of Mr. Smith's essays raise as many questions as they answer. Although that can indeed be frustrating, this is probably the only way to treat so grand a topic. The city is the building block of civilization and of almost everything people do; a guidebook to the city is really, therefore, a guidebook to how a large and ever-growing chunk of humanity chooses to live. Mr. Smith's book serves as an excellent introduction to a vast subject, and will suggest plenty of further lines of inquiry.

(2013年6月真题)



参考·译文

在2008年的某一刻,某个人(很可能是亚洲人或者非洲人)决定从农村移居到城市。这位不知名的人推动人类跨越了一道历史性的门槛,因为正是在那一年,人类有史以来第一次成为主要生活在城市里的种群。

这一趋势没有减缓的迹象。人口统计学家预计,到2050年世界人口将有四分之三居住在城市,其中大部分新增城市人口来自于亚洲和非洲发展迅速的城镇。人们移居城市是受到城市中大量的工作岗位以及能够获得医疗和教育资源的吸引,此外,城市还使他们能够逃离当农民的枯燥农业生活。这些因素足以使一些刚刚移居到城市的人愿意住在环境肮脏、疾病肆虐、极度贫困的城市区域,这是很多城市新移民在最初阶段都肯定经常忍受的情况。

正是城市激发了彼得·史密斯新作的创作灵感。他的主要观点是“忙碌的城市生活以及这种生活提供给人们的合作、协作的机会,既是吸引人们来到城市的因素,反过来也使城市变成了艺术、商业、科学与进步的引擎。”这一观点谈不上具有颠覆性,但它呈现出来的形式却是那样的迷人。史密斯先生的新作是一本轻松愉快的指导手册,书中有一系列短小的章节,这些章节致力于描写城市风格的独特方面——比如公园,或者近几年来为建设完美城市而推出的各种各样的方案。这种创作的结果就是,这本书成为了一本高质量的、异常严谨的咖啡桌书籍,其设计旨在适合随便翻阅,而不适合从头至尾仔细品读。

例如,在讲述摩天大楼的一章中,史密斯先生谈到了建筑方法,谈到了革命性的自动电梯的发明,谈到了居住在高层的现实意义以及由于城市正变得越来越拥挤,居住在公寓楼里将成为一种生活常态的可能性。但是,书中有时也会出现一些奇谈怪论作为短暂的消遣,例如对摩天大楼指数的讨论(摩天大楼指数认为摩天大楼越盖越多是经济将要衰退的可靠标志)。

对于这本书的一个突出的批评就是它只有广度而没有深度——史密斯先生的许多文章中提出的与他所解答的问题一样多。虽然史密斯的这种做法确实让人感到沮丧,但是面对“城市”这样一个庞大的话题,这可能是唯一的处理方式。城市是文明以及人类几乎所有行为的基石——因此,一本城市指导手册实际上是关于一个庞大的、日益增长的人类群体选择如何生活的指导手册。史密斯先生的著作对这一宽泛的话题起到了很出色的引导作用,它将倡导人们对于“城市”这个庞大的话题展开大量的、深入的研究。



核心·词汇

urban /'æ:bən/ *a.* 城市的 (☞ 频率 4 次)

【记忆】urb (词根) 城市 → urban 城市的, 都市的

humanity /hju:'mæniti/ *n.* 人性; 博爱, 仁慈; 人类; 人文学科 (☞ 频率 2 次)

threshold /'θrefhəuld/ *n.* 门槛; 入门, 开始, 开端; 【物】阈, 临界值; 界限; (产生效果或造成影响的) 下限 (☞ 频率 1 次)

【助记】thresh (反复击打) + old (老) → 反复击打变旧了 → 门槛 → 入门

line /lain/ *n.* 线条, 界线; 条纹, 皱纹; 方针, 路线; 线路, 电话线; 线, 绳; 排, 行; (行进) 路线, 航线, 铁路线; 行业, 专长 || *vt.* 使排成一行; 用线标出, 划线于 || *vi.* 排队, 排齐 (☞ 频率 1 次)

【词组】in line 成一直线, 成一排; (with) 与……一致, 与……符合 / line up (使) 排成行, (使) 排队 / on line 与计算机连接的, 联机的 / out of line 不成一直线; 不一致, 出格 / one the line 处于危险中

4

The Problem of Relying on the Unemployment Figures 依赖失业数据的问题



真题·共赏

The report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics was just as gloomy as anticipated. Unemployment in January jumped to a 16-year high of 7.6 percent, as 598,000 jobs were slashed from U.S. payrolls in the worst single-month decline since December, 1974. With 1.8 million jobs lost in the last three months, there is urgent desire to boost the economy as quickly as possible. But Washington would do well to take a deep breath before reacting to the grim numbers.

Collectively, we rely on the unemployment figures and other statistics to frame our sense of reality. They are a vital part of an array of data that we use to assess if we're doing well or doing badly, and that in turn shapes government policies and corporate budgets and personal spending decisions. The problem is that the statistics aren't an objective measure of reality; they are simply a best approximation. Directionally, they capture the trends, but the idea that we know precisely how many are unemployed is a myth. That makes finding a solution all the more difficult.

First, there is the way the data is assembled. The official unemployment rate is the product of a telephone survey of about 60,000 homes. There is another survey, sometimes referred to as the "payroll survey", that assesses 400,000 businesses based on their reported payrolls. Both surveys have problems. The payroll survey can easily double-count someone: if you are one person with two jobs, you show up as two workers. The payroll survey also

doesn't capture the number of self-employed, and so says little about how many people are generating an independent income.

The household survey has a larger problem. When asked straight forwardly, people tend to lie or shade the truth when the subject is sex, money or employment. If you get a call and are asked if you're employed, and you say yes, you're employed. If you say no, however, it may surprise you to learn that you are only unemployed if you've been actively looking for work in the past four weeks; otherwise, you are "marginally attached to the labor force" and not actually unemployed.

The urge to quantify is embedded in our society. But the idea that statisticians can then capture an objective reality isn't just impossible. It also leads to serious misjudgments. Democrats and Republicans can and will take sides on a number of issues, but a more crucial concern is that both are basing major policy decisions on guesstimates rather than looking at the vast wealth of raw data with a critical eye and an open mind. (2013年6月真题)



参考·译文

劳工统计局的报专与预计的一样令人沮丧。一月份的失业率跃升至16年来的新高,达到7.6%。美国就业人数创下了自1974年12月以来的最大单月跌幅,59.8万个就业岗位遭到了削减。在过去三个月里,180万个工作岗位不复存在,人们迫切渴望能尽快提振经济。然而,在对这些严峻的数字作出反应之前,华盛顿(即美国政府)还是先做个深呼吸(冷静一下)为好。

总体而言,我们依赖于失业数据和其他数据来对现实情况作出判断。我们利用一系列的数据来判断现状是好是坏,而这些数据反过来又能左右政府政策、企业预算以及个人消费决定,失业数据及其他数据只是此类数据中的一个重要部分。问题在于,这些数据并不能客观地衡量现实情况,它们只是最佳的近似值。就方向而言,它们能够体现出趋势,但如何准确地获知失业人数还是个谜。这就使得寻求解决之道难上加难。

首先是收集数据的方式。官方公布的失业率是对6万家庭进行电话调查的结果。另外还有一种调查方式,有时被称为“薪资名单调查”,即根据40万家企业报告的薪资名单评传得出。两种调查都存在问题。薪资名单调查很容易把一个人算成两个人,如果某个人同时拥有两份工作,结果会显示为两个人有工作。薪资名单调查也无法获取个体经营的那部分人数,所以,对有多少人拥有独立收入基本无法得出结果。

家庭调查的问题更突出。当人们被直截了当地问及有关性别、金钱或就业问题时,往往会说谎或隐瞒事实。如果你接到一个电话,对方问你是否拥有一份工作,你给予肯定回答的话,你就被认定为有工作。而如果你给出否定回答,则会很惊讶地了解到,只有在过去四个星期中积极寻找工作却无果才能算失业,否则你只是“游荡在劳动力市场的边缘”,而不是真正意义上的失业。

凡事都要求用数字说话的理念已经在我们的社会中根深蒂固。而统计学家掌握客观情况也并非不可能。但这也会导致严重的判断错误。民主党人和共和党人可以,而且也会在许多问题上有一定的倾向,但更关键的问题在于,双方都基于猜测性的估计来做出重大的政策决定,而不是用批判性的眼光和开放的心态来研究大量的原始数据。



核心·词汇

objective /əb'dʒektiv, əb'dʒektiv/ *a.* 【哲】客观的, 真实的, 外在的, 不受个人感情影响的 || *n.* 目标, 目的, 实物 (☞ 频率 3 次)

【同义】goal, aim, purpose

myth /miθ/ *n.* 杜撰出来的人(或事物); 神话 (☞ 频率 2 次)

marginal /'mɑ:dʒɪnəl/ *a.* 【商】仅能维持收支平衡的; 不重要的; 边缘的, 书页空白处的; 界限的; 勉强够格的; 很少的, 微量的

(☞ 频率 1 次)

【助记】来自 margin(边缘) + al

5

Studying on Poetry at the University of Pennsylvania 在宾夕法尼亚大学学诗歌



真题·共赏

Eleven summers ago I was sent to a management program at the Wharton School to be prepared for bigger things. Along with lectures on finance and entrepreneurship and the like, the program included a delightfully out-of-place session with Al Filreis, an English professor at the University of Pennsylvania, on poetry.

For three hours he talked us through “The Red Wheelbarrow” and “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”. The experience—especially when contrasted with the horrible prose of our other assigned reading—sent me fleeing to the campus bookstore, where I resumed a long-interrupted romance with meter and *rhyme* (韵).

Professor Filreis says that he is “a little shocked” at how intensely his Wharton students respond to this unexpected deviation from the business like, not just as a relief but as a kind of stimulus. Many write afterward asking him to recommend books of poetry. Especially now.

“The grim economy seems to make the participants keener than ever to think ‘out of the box’ in the way poetry encourages,” he told me.

Which brings me to Congress, an institution stuck deeper inside the box than just about any other these days. You have probably heard that up on *Capitol Hill* (美国国会山), they're very big on prayer breakfasts, where members gather over scrambled eggs and ask God for wisdom. You can judge from the agonizing debt spectacle we've watched this summer how well that's working. Well, maybe it's time to add some poetry readings to the agenda.

I'm not suggesting that poetry will guide our legislators to wisdom any more than prayer has. Just that it might make them a little more human. Poetry is no substitute for courage or competence, but properly applied, it is a challenge to self-certainty, which we currently have in excess. Poetry serves as a spur to creative thinking, a reproach to dogma and habit, a remedy to the current fashion for pledge signing.

The poet Shelley, in defense of poetry nearly two centuries ago, wrote, "A man, to be greatly good, must imagine intensely and comprehensively; he must put himself in the place of another and of many others; the pains and pleasures of his species must become his own." Shelley concludes that essay by calling poets "the unacknowledged legislators of the world," because they bring imagination to the realm of "reasoners and mechanists".

The relevance of poetry was declared more concisely in five lines from the love poem "Asphodel, That Greeny Flower," by William Carlos Williams:

*It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.*

(2012 年 12 月真题)

参考·译文

11 年前的夏天,我被送去沃顿商学院学习管理课程,为承担更重要的事情做好准备。这个项目除了提供金融和企业管理等课程外,令人高兴的是居然还有一门“格格不入”的课程,就是跟宾夕法尼亚大学的英语教授 Al Filreis 学习诗歌。

他给我们讲了 3 个小时的《红色手推车》和《雪夜林边停》。这些经历——尤其是跟我们另外指定要阅读的讨厌文章相比——让我飞跑到校园书店,我在那又重新开始了中断已久的与音步和韵律的浪漫。

Filreis 教授说,沃顿的学生对这种意料之外的偏离商业的课程反应如此热情,他是“有点惊讶”,学生不仅把它当作一种解脱,而且是一种刺激。后来许多学生写信要他推荐诗集。特别是现在这个时候。

“严峻的经济似乎让参与者比以往任何时候都更加渴望用诗歌所激发的‘打破常规’的方式思考。”他告诉我。

这让我想到了国会,近来这几乎是思维方式最刻板、机械的一个机构。你也许听说过他们热衷于在美国国会山上进行祈祷早餐会,议员们聚集在那里吃着炒鸡蛋,向上帝祈求智慧。从今年夏天我们看到的那些令人痛苦且庞大的债务状况,你就可以判断这祈祷有多大效果了。那么,也许是时候该在议程中添加一些读诗的环节了。

我并不是认为诗歌会比祈祷给我们的立法者带来更多的智慧。只是觉得它可能会让立法者更人性化一点。诗歌不能代替勇气或能力,但如果运用得当,就是对我确定性的挑战,而我们现在过于自我确定了。诗歌可以激发创造性思维,谴责教条和习惯,矫正当今动辄人们搞“许愿签名”活动的时尚。

诗人雪莱在近 200 年前《为诗歌辩护》中写道:“一个伟大的人,必须具备强大的想象力和理解能力;他必须懂得换位思考;别人的痛苦和欢乐他必须感同身受。”雪莱在这篇散文最后把诗人称为“世上没有被明确承认的立法者”,因为他们给“理性的人和机械主义者”带来了想象空间。

威廉·卡洛斯·威廉斯的爱情诗《水仙,那淡绿的花束》里面的五行诗句更简洁地表明了诗歌的重大意义: