

2016



SUPER INTENSIVE READING

考研英语

真题超精读

基础篇 1994-2004 (适合英语一、二)

主编◎陈正康

第**1** 真题试卷
分册

逐词逐句超详解
文章讲解最详细
选项分析最彻底

 北京理工大学出版社
BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS



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P 前言

reface

众所周知,历年真题是考研英语最宝贵的复习资料。历年考研学生也特别注重对真题的研究与学习,但是成绩并没有实质性的提高:单词似曾相识但就是想不起来,长难句依然似懂非懂,做错的题目再次做还是错。这是为什么呢?原因很简单,那就是他们并没有真正吃透真题!!!因此,多年来我始终倡导:要真正搞懂、吃透考研英语历年真题,要想在考研英语中得高分就必须对这些试卷进行“超精读”。所谓超精读,就是超级精细地阅读,就是一字不漏、逐字逐句地精读。要真正做到“超精读”,必须做到如下四点:

第一,没有一个核心单词不认识。在真题中背单词,这种效果是最好的,但有一点大家要注意:考研英语并不要求考生有大量的词汇储备,只是要求考生能掌握核心词汇的一词多义、熟词生义和衍生词,而这些都可以通过真题超精读来实现。

第二,没有一个句子是难句。在备考的过程中,考生如果能做到从考研真题中任意挑出一个句子,就能立刻看懂它,并把它翻译成汉语,那么大家的基本功就非常扎实了。

第三,全文会翻译。在掌握了词汇和难句之后,考生可以尝试着对真题文章(尤其是阅读理解 Part A 部分)进行翻译,一方面可以提高自己的翻译能力,另一方面也可以加深对文章的理解。但是很多考生翻译完之后感觉自己的译文不是很通顺,与参考答案很难对得上。这是正常的,因为参考答案都是老师翻译的,并且很多地方是“意译”的,考生只要能将文章大意看懂,翻译得准确、流畅即可。

第四,透析命题思路,掌握选项规律,弄懂正确选项为什么对,错误选项为什么错。考研英语的选项设置理念就是用一些错误的选项迷惑考生,从而考查考生对文章的理解和推理判断能力。因此,考生要不断地修正自己的做题思路,让自己的思路和命题专家的思路高度一致;不仅要知道正确选项为什么对,而且还要弄懂错误选项为什么错。只有经过认真、系统的准备,才能达到眼中只有正确答案的境界!

因此,在考研英语复习的基础阶段(暑假之前),考生应该仔细研读 1994 到 2004 年这 11 年的真题,这 11 年的真题相对来说比较简单,适合基础阶段使用。在真题中复习核心词汇,复习核心语法及长难句,掌握命题思路与答题技巧。暑假之后再认真专研 2005 到 2014 年的真题。考生只有将真题做到超精读,才能真正领会真题的奥秘!

为了便于大家用超精读的方法复习,结合多年授课经验,我特意编写了《考研英语真题超精读(基础篇)》(1994 到 2004 年真题)和《考研英语真题超精读(提高篇)》(2005 到 2014 年真题),每篇文章均给出了核心词汇详解、长难句精析、英汉互译及思路透析。因排版原因,对试题内容进行了一些调整。这两本书是我多年授课经验精华的总结,与市面上的真题书相比:文章讲解最详细,选项分析最彻底,考点把握最到位。考生只要严格按照科学的方法复习,认真吃透这两本书,英语成绩一定会有质的飞跃!!由于时间与精力有限,本书疏漏之处在所难免,欢迎大家批评指正。考生可以通过关注我的微博:陈正康老师(新浪微博)及公共微信号:czkkaoyanyingyu 进行英语复习中相关问题的交流与答疑。最后祝大家考研成功,金榜题名!!!

陈正康

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1994 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试

英语试题^①

第一部分 阅读理解

Directions:

Each of the passages below is followed by some questions. For each question there are four answers marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions. Then mark your answer on ANSWER SHEET 1 by blackening the corresponding letter in the brackets with a pencil. (40 points)

Passage 1

The American economic system is organized around a basically private-enterprise, market-oriented economy in which consumers largely determine what shall be produced by spending their money in the marketplace for those goods and services that they want most. Private businessmen, striving to make profits, produce these goods and services in competition with other businessmen; and the profit motive, operating under competitive pressures, largely determines how these goods and services are produced. Thus, in the American economic system it is the demand of individual consumers, coupled with the desire of businessmen to maximize profits and the desire of individuals to maximize their incomes, that together determine what shall be produced and how resources are used to produce it.

An important factor in a market-oriented economy is the mechanism by which consumer demands can be expressed and responded to by producers. In the American economy, this mechanism is provided by a price system, a process in which prices rise and fall in response to relative demands of consumers and supplies offered by seller-producers. If the product is in short supply relative to the demand, the price will be bid up and some consumers will be eliminated from the market. If, on the other hand, producing more of a commodity results in reducing its cost, this will tend to increase the supply offered by seller-producers, which in turn will lower the price and permit more consumers to buy the product. Thus, price is the regulating mechanism in the American economic system.

The important factor in a private enterprise economy is that individuals are allowed to own productive resources (private property), and they are permitted to hire labor, gain control over natural resources, and produce goods and services for sale at a profit. In the American economy, the concept of private property embraces not only the ownership of productive resources but also certain rights, including the right to determine the price of a product or to make a free contract with another private individual.

11. In Paragraph 1, "the desire of individuals to maximize their incomes" means _____.

[A] Americans are never satisfied with their incomes

① [注]只保留了和现在大纲一致的题型,不考的题型已经删除。

- [B] Americans tend to overstate their incomes
 - [C] Americans want to have their incomes increased
 - [D] Americans want to increase the purchasing power of their incomes
12. The first two sentences in the second paragraph tell us that _____.
[A] producers can satisfy the consumers by mechanized production
[B] consumers can express their demands through producers
[C] producers decide the prices of products
[D] supply and demand regulate prices
13. According to the passage, a private-enterprise economy is characterized by _____.
[A] private property and rights concerned
[B] manpower and natural resources control
[C] ownership of productive resources
[D] free contracts and prices
14. The passage is mainly about _____.
[A] how American goods are produced
[B] how American consumers buy their goods
[C] how American economic system works
[D] how American businessmen make their profits

Passage 2

One hundred and thirteen million Americans have at least one bank-issued credit card. They give their owners automatic credit in stores, restaurants, and hotels, at home, across the country, and even abroad, and they make many banking services available as well. More and more of these credit cards can be read automatically, making it possible to withdraw or deposit money in scattered locations, whether or not the local branch bank is open. For many of us the "cashless society" is not on the horizon—it's already here.

While computers offer these conveniences to consumers, they have many advantages for sellers too. Electronic cash registers can do much more than simply ring up sales. They can keep a wide range of records, including who sold what, when, and to whom. This information allows businessmen to keep track of their list of goods by showing which items are being sold and how fast they are moving. Decisions to reorder or return goods to suppliers can then be made. At the same time these computers record which hours are busiest and which employees are the most efficient, allowing personnel and staffing assignments to be made accordingly. And they also identify preferred customers for promotional campaign. Computers are relied on by manufacturers for similar reasons. Computer-analyzed marketing reports can help to decide which products to emphasize now, which to develop for the future, and which to drop. Computers keep track of goods in stock, of raw materials on hand, and even of the production process itself.

Numerous other commercial enterprises, from theaters to magazine publishers, from gas and electric utilities to milk processors, bring better and more efficient services to consumers through the use of computers.

15. According to the passage, the credit card enables its owner to _____.
[A] withdraw as much money from the bank as he wishes

- [B] obtain more convenient services than other people do
[C] enjoy greater trust from the storekeeper
[D] cash money wherever he wishes to
16. From the last sentence of the first paragraph we learn that _____.
[A] in the future all the Americans will use credit cards
[B] credit cards are mainly used in the United States today
[C] nowadays many Americans do not pay in cash
[D] it is now more convenient to use credit cards than before
17. The phrase “ring up sales” most probably means “_____”.
[A] make an order of goods [B] record basic sales on a cash register
[C] call the sales manager [D] keep track of the goods in stock
18. What is this passage mainly about?
[A] Approaches to the commercial use of computers.
[B] Conveniences brought about by computers in business.
[C] Significance of automation in commercial enterprises.
[D] Advantages of credit cards in business.

Passage 3

Exceptional children are different in some significant way from others of the same age. For these children to develop to their full adult potential, their education must be adapted to those differences.

Although we focus on the needs of exceptional children, we find ourselves describing their environment as well. While the leading actor on the stage captures our attention, we are aware of the importance of the supporting players and the scenery of the play itself. Both the family and the society in which exceptional children live are often the key to their growth and development. And it is in the public schools that we find the full expression of society's understanding—the knowledge, hopes, and fears that are passed on to the next generation.

Education in any society is a mirror of that society. In that mirror we can see the strengths, the weaknesses, the hopes, the prejudices, and the central values of the culture itself. The great interest in exceptional children shown in public education over the past three decades indicates the strong feeling in our society that all citizens, whatever their special conditions, deserve the opportunity to fully develop their capabilities.

“All men are created equal.” We've heard it many times, but it still has important meaning for education in a democratic society. Although the phrase was used by this country's founders to denote equality before the law, it has also been interpreted to mean equality of opportunity. That concept implies educational opportunity for all children—the right of each child to receive help in learning to the limits of his or her capacity, whether that capacity be small or great. Recent court decisions have confirmed the right of all children—disabled or not—to an appropriate education, and have ordered that public schools take the necessary steps to provide that education. In response, schools are modifying their programs, adapting instruction to children who are exceptional, to those who cannot profit substantially from regular programs.

19. In Paragraph 2, the author cites the example of the leading actor on the stage to show that _____.
[A] the growth of exceptional children has much to do with their family and the society

- [B] exceptional children are more influenced by their families than normal children are
[C] exceptional children are the key interest of the family and society
[D] the needs of the society weigh much heavier than the needs of the exceptional children
20. The reason that the exceptional children receive so much concern in education is that _____.
[A] they are expected to be leaders of the society
[B] they might become a burden of the society
[C] they should fully develop their potentials
[D] disabled children deserve special consideration
21. This passage mainly deals with _____.
[A] the differences of children in their learning capabilities
[B] the definition of exceptional children in modern society
[C] the special educational programs for exceptional children
[D] the necessity of adapting education to exceptional children
22. From this passage we learn that the educational concern for exceptional children _____.
[A] is now enjoying legal support
[B] disagrees with the tradition of the country
[C] was clearly stated by the country's founders
[D] will exert great influence over court decisions

Passage 4

"I have great confidence that by the end of the decade we'll know in vast detail how cancer cells arise," says microbiologist Robert Weinberg, an expert on cancer. "But," he cautions, "Some people have the idea that once one understands the causes, the cure will rapidly follow. Consider Pasteur. He discovered the causes of many kinds of infections, but it was fifty or sixty years before cures were available."

This year, 50 percent of the 910,000 people who suffer from cancer will survive at least five years. In the year 2000, the National Cancer Institute estimates, that figure will be 75 percent. For some skin cancers, the five-year survival rate is as high as 90 percent. But other survival statistics are still discouraging—13 percent for lung cancer, and 2 percent for cancer of the pancreas (胰腺).

With as many as 120 varieties in existence, discovering how cancer works is not easy. The researchers made great progress in the early 1970s, when they discovered that oncogenes, which are cancer-causing genes, are inactive in normal cells. Anything from cosmic rays to radiation to diet may activate a dormant oncogene, but how remains unknown. If several oncogenes are driven into action, the cell, unable to turn them off, becomes cancerous.

The exact mechanisms involved are still mysterious, but the likelihood that many cancers are initiated at the level of genes suggests that we will never prevent all cancers. "Changes are a normal part of the evolutionary process," says oncologist William Haywar. Environmental factors can never be totally eliminated; as Hayward points out, "We can't prepare a medicine against cosmic rays."

The prospects for cure, though still distant, are brighter.

"First, we need to understand how the normal cell controls itself. Second, we have to determine whether there are a limited number of genes in cells which are always responsible for at least part of the trouble. If we can understand how cancer works, we can counteract its action."

23. The example of Pasteur in the passage is used to _____.
[A] predict that the secret of cancer will be disclosed in a decade
[B] indicate that the prospects for curing cancer are bright
[C] prove that cancer will be cured in fifty to sixty years
[D] warn that there is still a long way to go before cancer can be conquered
24. The author implies that by the year 2000, _____.
[A] there will be a drastic rise in the five-year survival rate of skin-cancer patients
[B] 90 percent of the skin-cancer patients today will still be living
[C] the survival statistics will be fairly even among patients with various cancers
[D] there won't be a drastic increase of survival rate of all cancer patients
25. Oncogenes are cancer-causing genes _____.
[A] that are always in operation in a healthy person
[B] which remain unharmed so long as they are not activated
[C] that can be driven out of normal cells
[D] which normal cells can't turn off
26. The word "dormant" in the third paragraph most probably means "_____".
[A] dead [B] ever-present [C] inactive [D] potential

Passage 5

Discoveries in science and technology are thought by "untaught minds" to come in blinding flashes or as the result of dramatic accidents. Sir Alexander Fleming did not, as legend would have it, look at the mold (霉菌) on a piece of cheese and get the idea for penicillin there and then. He experimented with antibacterial substances for nine years before he made his discovery. Inventions and innovations almost always come out of laborious trial and error. Innovation is like soccer; even the best players miss the goal and have their shots blocked much more frequently than they score.

The point is that the players who score most are the ones who take most shots at the goal—and so it goes with innovation in any field of activity. The prime difference between innovators and others is one of approach. Everybody gets ideas, but innovators work consciously on theirs and they follow them through until they prove practicable or otherwise. What ordinary people see as fanciful abstractions, professional innovators see as solid possibilities.

"Creative thinking may mean simply the realization that there's no particular virtue in doing things the way they have always been done," wrote Rudolph Flesch, a language authority. This accounts for our reaction to seemingly simple innovations like plastic garbage bags and suitcases on wheels that make life more convenient: "How come nobody thought of that before?"

The creative approach begins with the proposition that nothing is as it appears. Innovators will not accept that there is only one way to do anything. Faced with getting from A to B, the average person will automatically set out on the best-known and apparently simplest route. The innovator will search for alternate courses, which may prove easier in the long run and are bound to be more interesting and challenging even if they lead to dead ends.

Highly creative individuals really do march to a different drummer.

27. What does the author probably mean by "untaught mind" in the first paragraph?
[A] A person ignorant of the hard work involved in experimentation.

- [B] A citizen of a society that restricts personal creativity.
[C] A person who has had no education.
[D] An individual who often comes up with new ideas by accident.
28. According to the author, what distinguishes innovators from non-innovators?
[A] The variety of ideas they have. [B] The intelligence they possess.
[C] The way they deal with problems [D] The way they present their findings.
29. The author quotes Rudolph Flesch in Paragraph 3 because _____.
[A] Rudolph Flesch is the best-known expert in the study of human creativity
[B] the quotation strengthens the assertion that creative individuals look for new ways of doing things
[C] the reader is familiar with Rudolph Flesch's point of view
[D] the quotation adds a new idea to the information previously presented
30. The phrase "march to a different drummer" (the last line of the passage) suggests that highly creative individuals are _____.
[A] diligent in pursuing their goals
[B] reluctant to follow common ways of doing things
[C] devoted to the progress of science
[D] concerned about the advance of society

第二部分 英译汉

Directions:

Read the following passage carefully and then translate underlined sentences into Chinese. Your translation must be written neatly on ANSWER SHEET 2. (15 points)

According to the new school of scientists, technology is an overlooked force in expanding the horizons of scientific knowledge. (31) Science moves forward, they say, not so much through the insights of great men of genius as because of more ordinary things like improved techniques and tools. (32) "In short", a leader of the new school contends, "the scientific revolution, as we call it, was largely the improvement and invention and use of a series of instruments that expanded the reach of science in innumerable directions."

(33) Over the years, tools and technology themselves as a source of fundamental innovation have largely been ignored by historians and philosophers of science. The modern school that hails technology argues that such masters as Galileo, Newton, Maxwell, Einstein, and inventors such as Edison attached great importance to, and derived great benefit from, craft information and technological devices of different kinds that were usable in scientific experiments.

The centerpiece of the argument of a technology-yes, genius-no advocate was an analysis of Galileo's role at the start of the scientific revolution. The wisdom of the day was derived from Ptolemy, an astronomer of the second century, whose elaborate system of the sky put Earth at the center of all heavenly motions. (34) Galileo's greatest glory was that in 1609 he was the first person to turn the newly invented telescope on the heavens to prove that the planets revolve around the sun rather than around the Earth. But the real hero of the story, according to the new school of scientists, was the long

evolution in the improvement of machinery for making eye-glasses.

Federal policy is necessarily involved in the technology vs genius dispute. (35) Whether the Government should increase the financing of pure science at the expense of technology or vice versa (反之) often depends on the issue of which is seen as the driving force.

第三部分 英语知识运用

Directions:

For each numbered blank in following passage, there are four choices marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. Choose the best one and mark your answer on ANSWER SHEET 1 by blackening the corresponding letter in the brackets with a pencil. (10 points)

The first and smallest unit that can be discussed in relation to language is the word. In speaking, the choice of words is 1 the utmost importance. Proper selection will eliminate one source of 2 breakdown in the communication cycle. Too often, careless use of words 3 a meeting of the minds of the speaker and listener. The words used by the speaker may 4 unfavorable reactions in the listener 5 interfere with his comprehension; hence, the transmission-reception system breaks down. 6, inaccurate or indefinite words may make 7 difficult for the listener to understand the 8 which is being transmitted to him. The speaker who does not have specific words in his working vocabulary may be 9 to explain or describe in a 10 that can be understood by his listeners.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. [A] of | [B] at | [C] for | [D] on |
| 2. [A] inaccessible | [B] timely | [C] likely | [D] invalid |
| 3. [A] encourages | [B] prevents | [C] destroys | [D] offers |
| 4. [A] pass out | [B] take away | [C] back up | [D] stir up |
| 5. [A] who | [B] as | [C] which | [D] what |
| 6. [A] Moreover | [B] However | [C] Preliminarily | [D] Unexpectedly |
| 7. [A] that | [B] it | [C] so | [D] this |
| 8. [A] speech | [B] sense | [C] message | [D] meaning |
| 9. [A] obscure | [B] difficult | [C] impossible | [D] unable |
| 10. [A] case | [B] means | [C] method | [D] way |

1995 年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试

英语试题^①

第一部分 阅读理解

Directions:

Each of the passages below is followed by some questions. For each question there are four answers marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions. Then mark your answer on ANSWER SHEET 1 by blackening the corresponding letter in the brackets with a pencil. (40 points)

Passage 1

Money spent on advertising is money spent as well as any I know of. It serves directly to assist a rapid distribution of goods at reasonable price, thereby establishing a firm home market and so making it possible to provide for export at competitive prices. By drawing attention to new ideas it helps enormously to raise standards of living. By helping to increase demand it ensures an increased need for labor, and is therefore an effective way to fight unemployment. It lowers the costs of many services: without advertisements your daily newspaper would cost four times as much, the price of your television licence would need to be doubled, and travel by bus or tube would cost 20 per cent more.

And perhaps most important of all, advertising provides a guarantee of reasonable value in the products and services you buy. Apart from the fact that twenty-seven Acts of Parliament govern the terms of advertising, no regular advertiser dare promote a product that fails to live up to the promise of his advertisements. He might fool some people for a little while through misleading advertising. He will not do so for long, for mercifully the public has the good sense not to buy the inferior article more than once. If you see an article consistently advertised, it is the surest proof I know that the article does what is claimed for it, and that it represents good value.

Advertising does more for the material benefit of the community than any other force I can think of.

There is one more point I feel I ought to touch on. Recently I heard a well-known television personality declare that he was against advertising because it persuades rather than informs. He was drawing excessively fine distinctions. Of course advertising seeks to persuade.

If its message were confined merely to information—and that in itself would be difficult if not impossible to achieve, for even a detail such as the choice of the colour of a shirt is subtly persuasive—advertising would be so boring that no one would pay any attention. But perhaps that is what the well-known television personality wants.

11. By the first sentence of the passage the author means that _____.

- [A] he is fairly familiar with the cost of advertising
- [B] everybody knows well that advertising is money consuming

① [注]只保留了和现在大纲一致的题型,不考的题型已经删除。

- [C] advertising costs money like everything else
[D] it is worthwhile to spend money on advertising
12. In the passage, which of the following is NOT included in the advantages of advertising?
[A] Securing greater fame. [B] Providing more jobs.
[C] Enhancing living standards. [D] Reducing newspaper cost.
13. The author deems that the well-known TV personality is _____.
[A] very precise in passing his judgment on advertising
[B] interested in nothing but the buyers' attention
[C] correct in telling the difference between persuasion and information
[D] obviously partial in his views on advertising
14. In the author's opinion, _____.
[A] advertising can seldom bring material benefit to man by providing information
[B] advertising informs people of new ideas rather than wins them over
[C] there is nothing wrong with advertising in persuading the buyer
[D] the buyer is not interested in getting information from an advertisement

Passage 2

There are two basic ways to see growth: one as a product, the other as a process. People have generally viewed personal growth as an external result or product that can easily be identified and measured. The worker who gets a promotion, the student whose grades improve, the foreigner who learns a new language—all these are examples of people who have measurable results to show for their efforts.

By contrast, the process of personal growth is much more difficult to determine, since by definition it is a journey and not the specific signposts or landmarks along the way. The process is not the road itself, but rather the attitudes and feelings people have, their caution or courage, as they encounter new experiences and unexpected obstacles. In this process, the journey never really ends; there are always new ways to experience the world, new ideas to try, new challenges to accept.

In order to grow, to travel new roads, people need to have a willingness to take risks, to confront the unknown, and to accept the possibility that they may “fail” at first. How we see ourselves as we try a new way of being is essential to our ability to grow. Do we perceive ourselves as quick and curious? If so, then we tend to take more chances and to be more open to unfamiliar experiences. Do we think we're shy and indecisive? Then our sense of timidity can cause us to hesitate, to move slowly, and not to take a step until we know the ground is safe. Do we think we're slow to adapt to change or that we're not smart enough to cope with a new challenge? Then we are likely to take a more passive role or not try at all.

These feelings of insecurity and self-doubt are both unavoidable and necessary if we are to change and grow. If we do not confront and overcome these internal fears and doubts, if we protect ourselves too much, then we cease to grow. We become trapped inside a shell of our own making.

15. A person is generally believed to achieve personal growth when _____.
[A] he has given up his smoking habit
[B] he has made great efforts in his work
[C] he is keen on learning anything new
[D] he has tried to determine where he is on his journey

16. In the author's eyes, one who views personal growth as a process would _____.
[A] succeed in climbing up the social ladder
[B] judge his ability to grow from his own achievements
[C] face difficulties and take up challenges
[D] aim high and reach his goal each time
17. When the author says "a new way of being" (Line 3, Para. 3) he is referring to _____.
[A] a new approach to experiencing the world [B] a new way of taking risks
[C] a new method of perceiving ourselves [D] a new system of adaptation to change
18. For personal growth, the author advocates all of the following except _____.
[A] curiosity about more chances [B] promptness in self-adaptation
[C] open-mindedness to new experiences [D] avoidance of internal fears and doubts

Passage 3

In such a changing, complex society formerly simple solutions to informational needs become complicated. Many of life's problems which were solved by asking family members, friends or colleagues are beyond the capability of the extended family to resolve. Where to turn for expert information and how to determine which expert advice to accept are questions facing many people today.

In addition to this, there is the growing mobility of people since World War II. As families move away from their stable community, their friends of many years, their extended family relationships, the informal flow of information is cut off, and with it the confidence that information will be available when needed and will be trustworthy and reliable. The almost unconscious flow of information about the simplest aspects of living can be cut off. Thus, things once learned subconsciously through the casual communications of the extended family must be consciously learned.

Adding to societal changes today is an enormous stockpile of information. The individual now has more information available than any generation, and the task of finding that one piece of information relevant to his or her specific problem is complicated, time-consuming and sometimes even overwhelming.

Coupled with the growing quantity of information is the development of technologies which enable the storage and delivery of more information with greater speed to more locations than has ever been possible before. Computer technology makes it possible to store vast amounts of data in machine-readable files, and to program computers to locate specific information. Telecommunications developments enable the sending of messages via television, radio, and very shortly, electronic mail to bombard people with multitudes of messages. Satellites have extended the power of communications to report events at the instant of occurrence. Expertise can be shared worldwide through teleconferencing, and problems in dispute can be settled without the participants leaving their homes and/or jobs to travel to a distant conference site. Technology has facilitated the sharing of information and the storage and delivery of information, thus making more information available to more people.

In this world of change and complexity, the need for information is of greatest importance. Those people who have accurate, reliable up-to-date information to solve the day-to-day problems, the critical problems of their business, social and family life, will survive and succeed. "Knowledge is power" may well be the truest saying and access to information may be the most critical requirement of all people.

19. The word "it" (Line 3, Para. 2) most probably refers to _____.
[A] the lack of stable communities
[B] the breakdown of informal information channels
[C] the increased mobility of families
[D] the growing number of people moving from place to place
20. The main problem people may encounter today arises from the fact that _____.
[A] they have to learn new things consciously
[B] they lack the confidence of securing reliable and trustworthy information
[C] they have difficulty obtaining the needed information readily
[D] they can hardly carry out casual communications with an extended family
21. From the passage we can infer that _____.
[A] electronic mail will soon play a dominant role in transmitting messages
[B] it will become more difficult for people to keep secrets in an information era
[C] people will spend less time holding meetings or conferences
[D] events will be reported on the spot mainly through satellites
22. We can learn from the last paragraph that _____.
[A] it is necessary to obtain as much knowledge as possible
[B] people should make the best use of the information
[C] we should realize the importance of accumulating information
[D] it is of vital importance to acquire needed information efficiently

Passage 4

Personality is to a large extent inherent—A-type parents usually bring about A-type offspring. But the environment must also have a profound effect, since if competition is important to the parents, it is likely to become a major factor in the lives of their children.

One place where children soak up A-characteristics is school, which is, by its very nature, a highly competitive institution. Too many schools adopt the "win at all costs" moral standard and measure their success by sporting achievements. The current passion for making children compete against their classmates or against the clock produces a two-layer system, in which competitive A types seem in some way better than their B-type fellows. Being too keen to win can have dangerous consequences; remember that Pheidippides, the first marathon runner, dropped dead seconds after saying: "Rejoice, we conquer!"

By far the worst form of competition in schools is the disproportionate emphasis on examinations. It is a rare school that allows pupils to concentrate on those things they do well. The merits of competition by examination are somewhat questionable, but competition in the certain knowledge of failure is positively harmful.

Obviously, it is neither practical nor desirable that all A youngsters change into B's. The world needs types, and schools have an important duty to try to fit a child's personality to his possible future employment. It is top management.

If the preoccupation of schools with academic work was lessened, more time might be spent teaching children surer values. Perhaps selection for the caring professions, especially medicine, could be made less by good grades in chemistry and more by such considerations as sensitivity and sympathy. It

is surely a mistake to choose our doctors exclusively from A type stock. B's are important and should be encouraged.

23. According to the passage, A-type individuals are usually _____.
[A] impatient [B] considerate [C] aggressive [D] agreeable
24. The author is strongly opposed to the practice of examinations at schools because _____.
[A] the pressure is too great on the students
[B] some students are bound to fail
[C] failure rates are too high
[D] the results of examinations are doubtful
25. The selection of medical professionals are currently based on _____.
[A] candidates' sensitivity [B] academic achievements
[C] competitive spirit [D] surer values
26. From the passage we can draw the conclusion that _____.
[A] the personality of a child is well established at birth
[B] family influence dominates the shaping of one's characteristics
[C] the development of one's personality is due to multiple factors
[D] B-type characteristics can find no place in competitive society

Passage 5

That experiences influence subsequent behaviour is evidence of an obvious but nevertheless remarkable activity called remembering. Learning could not occur without the function popularly named memory. Constant practice has such an effect on memory as to lead to skillful performance on the piano, to recitation of a poem, and even to reading and understanding these words. So-called intelligent behaviour demands memory, remembering being a primary requirement for reasoning. The ability to solve any problem or even to recognize that a problem exists depends on memory. Typically, the decision to cross a street is based on remembering many earlier experiences.

Practice (or review) tends to build and maintain memory for a task or for any learned material. Over a period of no practice what has been learned tends to be forgotten; and the adaptive consequences may not seem obvious. Yet, dramatic instances of sudden forgetting can seem to be adaptive. In this sense, the ability to forget can be interpreted to have survived through a process of natural selection in animals. Indeed, when one's memory of an emotionally painful experience leads to serious anxiety, forgetting may produce relief. Nevertheless, an evolutionary interpretation might make it difficult to understand how the commonly gradual process of forgetting survived natural selection.

In thinking about the evolution of memory together with all its possible aspects, it is helpful to consider what would happen if memories failed to fade. Forgetting clearly aids orientation in time, since old memories weaken and the new tend to stand out, providing clues for inferring duration. Without forgetting, adaptive ability would suffer; for example, learned behaviour that might have been correct a decade ago may no longer be. Cases are recorded of people who (by ordinary standards) forgot so little that their everyday activities were full of confusion. This forgetting seems to serve that survival of the individual and the species.

Another line of thought assumes a memory storage system of limited capacity that provides adaptive flexibility specifically through forgetting. In this view, continual adjustments are made between learning