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快捷 高效 实用 三大优势助考生夺高分、上名校



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CHINA ELECTRIC POWER PRESS

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考前押题 高考时文阅读与热点写作

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阅读理解

Passage 1



题材：人物传记

体裁：记叙文

词数：407

难度：☆☆☆

建议用时：9 分钟

This year's Nobel Prize awards were especially exciting for Chinese because the winner of the 2012 literature prize was Mo Yan, the first Chinese citizen to receive such an honor. According to the Nobel Prize organization, Mo's work displays "a mixture of fantasy and reality, combining historical and social perspectives".

"I grew up in an environment with thick folk culture, which inevitably comes into my novels when I pick up a pen to write. This has definitely affected, even decided, my works' artistic style," Mo told a group of reporters in his hometown of Gaomi, Shandong, shortly after he won the award.

Although China boasts a tradition of literature and scholarship, few writers have won international acclaim (喝彩). For this reason, the Nobel Prize in Literature has always been an aspiration (热望) for Chinese writers.

"I really didn't see this coming," Lu Jiande, director of the Institute of Literature at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told *21st Century*. "I know Mo Yan pretty well and one thing a lot of people don't know is how good he is with words. In his writing, he can make words live and breathe," Lu added. "He is far ahead of other Chinese in the sense that he takes the critical perspective inside first, starting from criticizing himself instead of the outside world."

Mo created a cast of colorful characters, which bears imprints of the author's childhood. Mo dropped out of school and became a cattle herder as a child. At 20, he left his hometown and joined the army. Gaomi county is where most of Mo's stories happen. It's a place that has inspired him throughout his 31-year-writing career. Many got to know of Mo through director Zhang Yimou's film, *Red Sorghum*, adapted from his 1986 novel of the same name. History, family sagas, blood and violence are frequent elements in his most famous works, such as *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* or *Sandalwood Penalty*.

Some critics point out that Mo's works have a tendency toward vulgarity (粗俗).

*In an interview with *South China Morning Post*, Professor Xiao Ying of Tsinghua University said the award was "Outside of my expectations, as Mo Yan's works are still short on

the idealism of pursuing humanity, which marks previous Nobel literature prize winners. Mo Yan's works are rather vulgar and dark and lack a sincere sympathy and respect for human beings and life."

1. What would be the best title for this passage?
 - A. Inspiration for Chinese Writers
 - B. A Nobel Prize Winner in Literature
 - C. Biography of Mo Yan
 - D. A Mixture of Fantasy and Reality
2. The underlined word "imprints" in Paragraph 5 probably means _____.
 - A. experiences
 - B. success
 - C. schoolings
 - D. naughtiness
3. According to Professor Xiao Ying of Tsinghua University, Mo Yan's works _____.
 - A. combines historical and social perspectives
 - B. make words live and breathe
 - C. lack a sincere sympathy and respect for human beings and life
 - D. have been critical enough of the weakness, dark side of human nature

Passage 2



题材：社会文化

体裁：记叙文

词数：289

难度：☆☆

建议用时：7 分钟

A powerful earthquake struck the northeastern coast of Japan at 2:46 pm local time on March 11 th, 2011. Japan's Meteorological Agency released its first tsunami (海啸) warnings just three minutes later. The country has one of the best earthquake early warning systems in the world.

There are more than four thousand Seismic Intensity Meters in place throughout Japan to measure earthquake activity. These meters provide information within two minutes of an earthquake happening. Information about the strength and the center of the earthquake can be learned within three minutes.

There are also concrete (混凝土) sea walls around much of the Japanese coastline. But these measures proved no match for the powerful earthquake and tsunami.

Costas Synolakis, a tsunami expert at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles said, "Japan is one of those most well-prepared countries on earth in terms of tsunami warning. They had a warning. I think what went wrong is that they had not expected the size of this event."

He says there are two reasons for this. Japan has not had any event anywhere near as big as this one in the last 150 years. And scientists had not expected such a large earthquake happening off the coast of Japan.

The nine-point-zero-magnitude earthquake was the fourth most powerful earthquake ever recorded worldwide. It was also the worst earthquake ever to hit Japan.*The tsunami waves that followed were reported to have reached as high as thirteen meters in some areas.

Costas Synolakis says Japan's concrete sea walls were not built to handle such high waves.

Experts say early warning systems will continue to be limited by these facts until earthquakes and tsunamis can be predicted.

1. Where can this passage probably be adapted from?
 - A. A magazine on science.
 - B. A fairy tale.
 - C. A scientific fantasy book.
 - D. A newspaper.
2. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?
 - A. A terrible earthquake hit the northeastern coast of Japan.
 - B. It was also the worst earthquake in Japan.
 - C. The 9.0 earthquake was the fourth most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan.
 - D. Japan's concrete sea walls was unable to handle such high waves.
3. According to Costas Synolakis, why did Japan suffer such a loss?
 - A. The country had never experienced any event as big as this one over the past 150 years.
 - B. Japan had the best earthquake early warning systems in the world.
 - C. There were not concrete sea walls around all of the Japanese coastline.
 - D. The government didn't announce its first tsunami warnings three minutes earlier.

Passage 3



题材：人物传记

体裁：记叙文

词数：355

难度：☆☆☆

建议用时：8 分钟

Astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, passed away at 82 on August 25, 2012. He commanded the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed on the moon July 20, 1969 and has been best remembered by saying "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

Armstrong was born Aug 5, 1930, on a farm in western Ohio. He took his first airplane ride at the age of 6 and developed a fascination with aviation that prompted him to build model airplanes and conduct experiments in a homemade wind tunnel. As a boy, he took flying lessons and was licensed to fly at 16, before he got his driver's license.

Armstrong enrolled in Purdue University to study aeronautical engineering but was called to duty with the US Navy in 1949 and flew 78 combat missions in Korea. Armstrong was accepted into NASA's astronaut class in 1962. He was backup commander for the Apollo 8 mission in 1968. In that flight, Commander Frank Borman, and Jim Lovell and Bill Anders circled the moon 10 times, and paving the way for the lunar landing seven months later.

On July 20, 1969, an estimated 600 million people—a fifth of the world's population—watched and listened to the landing, the largest audience for any single event in history.

Parents huddled with their children in front of the family television, mesmerized by what they were witnessing. Farmers abandoned their nightly milking duties, and motorists pulled off the highway and checked into motels just to see the moonwalk. Television-less campers in California ran to their cars to catch the word on the radio. Afterward, people walked out of their homes and gazed at the moon, in awe of what they had just seen. Others peeked through telescopes in hopes of spotting the astronauts.

*“I can honestly say—and it’s a big surprise to me—that I have never had a dream about being on the moon,” he once said.

Armstrong married Carol Knight in 1999, and the couple lived quietly in Indian Hill, a Cincinnati suburb. He had two adult sons from a previous marriage.

- The purpose of the passage is to _____.
A. illustrate an estimated 600 million people witnessed the event in history
B. remember the first man to land on the moon
C. tell people the Apollo 11 landed on the moon July 20, 1969
D. explain the saying “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.”
- What happened between 1949 and 1969?
A. Armstrong was called to duty with the US Navy.
B. Armstrong circled the moon 10 times.
C. Armstrong conducted experiments in a homemade wind tunnel.
D. Armstrong gave lectures in NASA’s astronaut class.
- Which word can best describe the people who watched and listened to the landing?
A. Considerate. B. Respectable. C. Generous. D. Overjoyed.
- What can we learn from the passage?
A. Armstrong has ever had a dream about being on the moon.
B. Armstrong got his driver’s license at 16.
C. Armstrong took his first airplane ride at a very young age.
D. Armstrong married Carol in 1999 and had two adult sons from the marriage.

Passage 4



题材：逸闻趣事

体裁：记叙文

词数：291

难度：☆☆

建议用时：7 分钟

Any dog’s love and loyalty can feel like a miracle. Mason may be the most miraculous dog on Earth.

The long-legged dog in North Smithfield, Alabama, rode out a tornado (飓风) in his family’s garage last spring. His family thought he would be safe there, but the tornado blasted through the garage door and Mason disappeared.

Dozens of people were killed that day. Mason’s family was grateful just to be alive, even if the storm had left their home uninhabitable. But they were heartbroken at the thought that their sweet, playful companion had died. They combed the neighborhood, hoping by chance to find him, but Mason didn’t turn up. Until he did.

Three weeks after the disaster, Mason’s family stopped by the house to collect some belongings. There Mason sat on the front porch (门廊), so excited to see his family that his entire body was wagging. They were overjoyed. Where had Mason landed during the windstorm? What did he eat for those long weeks? How did he find his way back home?

There was no answer to those questions. Mason was terribly thin and couldn’t stand properly.

The family quickly sought help and learned their beloved dog had crawled home on broken front legs.* Phil Doster, adoption rescue coordinator for the animal shelter, contacted Dr William Lamb of Vulcan Park Animal Care in Birmingham, who volunteered to perform the needed surgery for free. Lamb inserted two metal plates and 17 screws (螺丝钉) in an operation that lasted more than three hours.

The clinic set up a Facebook page for Mason. Fans all over the world were attracted by the story of a little dog's triumph over a deadly force.

1. What is the passage mainly about?
 - A. The clinic set up a Facebook page for Mason.
 - B. Dr William performed an operation on Mason that lasted more than three hours.
 - C. A loyal dog, Mason, made a narrow escape.
 - D. A little dog's triumph attracted fans all over the world.
2. Mason's family were heartbroken because _____.
 - A. the tornado had destroyed their home completely
 - B. their sweet, playful dog had been killed during the windstorm
 - C. Mason was terribly thin and couldn't stand properly
 - D. the tornado had blasted through the garage door
3. What does the underlined sentence in Paragraph 3 probably mean?
 - A. Mason did turn up.
 - B. Mason's family stopped by the house.
 - C. Mason combed the neighborhood.
 - D. Mason didn't show up.
4. Which is the correct order of the events happening in the passage?
 - a. Three weeks after the disaster, Mason sat at the front porch in a terrible state.
 - b. The family quickly sought help from the animal shelter.
 - c. The long-legged dog was in his family's garage.
 - d. The dog had crawled home on broken front legs.
 - e. It survived a deadly force.

A. a-b-c-d-e B. a-c-b-e-d C. c-b-e-d-a D. c-d-a-b-e

Passage 5



题材: 科普知识

体裁: 说明文

词数: 298

难度: ☆

建议用时: 7 分钟

Global Handwashing Day falls on October 15th every year from 2008. Here are some tips about getting your hands washed properly.

1. Get your hands wet.

Wash your hands in warm water. Contrary to popular belief, hot water does not remove bacteria more effectively than warm water, and may even increase the “irritant (刺激性) capacity” of some soaps.

2. Use soap.

Any type of soap will work, but if it helps you wash your hands more consistently to have soap that is a fun shape or color, or a pleasant fragrance, go for it.

3. Work up a lather (肥皂泡).

*Wash on both sides of your hands, in between your fingers, and your wrists. Remember to wash around and under your fingernails.

4. Wash your hands for about 15~20 seconds.

Be sure and rub your hands vigorously, and don't wash off the soap right away. Give it time to do its job and give yourself time to get soap everywhere it should be.

5. Wash your hands thoroughly.

Place them under running water with your hands pointed downward but not touching the sink. This removes both the soap and the bacteria that was on your hands.

6. Use a towel to turn off the tap, particularly in a public bathroom.

If the tap turns itself off on a spring, let it. If not, use a paper towel, your elbow, or your forearm.

7. Dry your hands with a clean towel.

Although they are not good for the environment, paper towels are better for drying your hands than cloth towels. If you use cloth towels at home, launder them regularly. If you are in a public restroom, you can also use the hot air dryers if they are available.

- The purpose of the passage is to get more people to _____.
 - do research in life
 - know the proper ways to wash hands
 - share the joy of washing your hands
 - celebrate Global Handwashing Day
- A better hand wash includes the following EXCEPT _____.
 - washing your hands under running water
 - washing with your hands pointed upward
 - washing on each side of your hands
 - washing your hands for about 15 seconds or so
- How does the author make his writing clearly?
 - By listing some ways.
 - By using mind pictures.
 - By describing the results.
 - By giving examples.
- Which part is this passage taken from in a newspaper?
 - Travel and leisure.
 - History and politics.
 - Culture and customs.
 - Diet and health.

Passage 6



题材：科普知识

体裁：说明文

词数: 263

难度: ☆☆

建议用时：6 分钟

A new study has found that all women need to lower their stress levels by a strong and happy marriage. A team of researchers led by James A. Coan, a University of Virginia neuroscientist has found that women under threat who hold their husbands' hands show signs of immediate relief, which can clearly be seen on their brain scans. Coan, an assistant professor in

the U.Va. Neuroscience Graduate Program and the Department of Psychology, and his team conducted a study involving several couples who rated themselves as highly satisfied with their marriages.

The researchers designed a functional MRI (magnetic resonance imaging 磁共振成像) study in which 16 married women were subjected to the threat of a very mild electric shock while they by turns held their husbands' hand, the hand of a stranger (male) or no hand at all. They found that the MRI was able to show how these women's brains responded to this handholding while in a threatening situation. The researchers noted a large decrease in the brain response to threat as a function of spouse (配偶) handholding, and a limited decrease in this response as a function of stranger handholding.* Moreover, spouse handholding effects varied as a function of marital quality, with women in the very highest quality marriages benefiting from a very powerful decrease in threat-related brain activity. "This is the first study of the neurological reactions to human touch in a threatening situation," said Dr. Coan. The study is published in the December 2006 issue of the journal *Psychological Science*.

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

- A. Women Are Very Happy While Holding Their Husbands' Hands
- B. High-quality Marriages Are the Best Stress-busters for Women
- C. Women under Threat Need to Be Protected by Their Husbands
- D. High-quality Marriages Benefit Many Women

2. Which of the following statements about the new study is true?

- A. It shows how a woman's brain responds to her handholding.
- B. It shows that a woman can be nervous, holding a male stranger's hand.
- C. It shows a large increase in a woman's brain response to threat as a function of spouse handholding.
- D. In the new study, the 16 married women not only held their husband s' hands.

3. What does the underlined part "were subjected to" probably mean?

- A. Experienced.
- B. Depended on.
- C. Controlled.
- D. Resisted.

Passage 7



题材：交通事故

体裁：说明文

词数：408

难度：☆☆☆

建议用时：9 分钟

Drivers ogling (注视) pedestrians cause nearly one million crashes in Britain every year, new figures have shown. Figures show distracted motorists cause an average of 2,525 crashes every day—the equivalent (相等物) of 921,840 per year. Researchers found drivers crash their cars into lampposts or shunt other vehicles more in the summer when men and women are wearing less clothing. A study of 2,142 drivers found 60 percent of men admitted being distracted by attractive women while 12 percent of women said they took their eyes off the road to leer (斜睨) at good looking men. And 21 percent of drivers also admitted that advertising billboards featuring pictures of perfect models were also a major distraction on

the road. Insurance company Direct Line discovered 17 percent of male drivers admitted knowing their actions were dangerous but said they “could not help but look”. Spokesman Matt Owen said, “*Stealing a quick look at an attractive pedestrian or billboard model may well be a bit of fun but, on a serious note, drivers shouldn’t underestimate that this type of distraction is a major contributing factor in road accidents.” The number of crashes caused in this way have not changed year on year so drivers obviously are not learning to keep their eyes on the road.

Between 2008 and 2009, 921,840 drivers across Britain admitted crashing because they were distracted by a member of the opposite sex. Driver Martyn Beard, 32, from Tipton, West Midlands, wrote off his Ford Fiesta last July when he ogled a girl outside a pub. He said, “I was on my way into Birmingham when I saw this lovely looking blonde girl standing on the side of the road. She was outside a pub wearing pretty much next to nothing. I couldn’t take my eyes off her, she had the classic long legs and lovely figure. My concentration drifted and suddenly I realized I was about to crash into the car in front. I slammed on my brakes and this bloke (家伙) went into the back of me. It wasn’t too bad though and when I told him what had happened he actually saw the funny side of it.” But I was disappointed that the girl didn’t come and check if I was OK, she just walked off and I was stuck swapping insurance details with this big hairy bloke instead.

1. According to the study in the passage, how many men admitted being distracted by attractive women?
A. 12. B. 60. C. 857. D. 1,285.
2. The spokesman Matt Owen tends to tell us _____.
A. drivers should grasp the opportunity of glancing at an attractive pedestrian or billboard model
B. drivers should be distracted by a member of the opposite sex
C. drivers should attach importance to the fact that ogling pedestrians or billboard models always results in road accidents
D. drivers should slam on the brakes to avoid causing road accidents
3. The underlined phrase “wrote off” in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A. removed B. damaged C. pressed D. displaced

Passage 8



题材：学习方法

体裁：议论文

词数：293

难度：☆☆

建议用时：7 分钟

I’m thinking about this question lately—What is the most important skill we need to have? What kind of skill do we need most in this kind of world? To answer it, I guess we need to see what the main characteristic of our world is. What words will you use to describe this world? For me, there are two words which come to my mind: change and speed.

The world is changing and it is changing at an increasing speed. Since we are now living in that kind of world, I once thought that the most important skill is the ability to learn quickly. Of

course it contains truth: to be able to keep up with this world we need to learn quickly. This way we can quickly adapt to new changes whenever they occur. But later I thought that the ability to learn quickly alone is not enough. The world is changing so fast that even those who can learn quickly may not be able to keep up. There's one more thing required: the ability to choose what to learn. This way we won't waste our time learning something which is not useful. We learn only those things which are the most effective for us. The number of new things to learn is huge that choosing which one to learn becomes increasingly difficult.*Mastering the art of choosing what to learn is valuable because it will save our time—not to say our entire career. So to summarize, I think this is the most important skill we need to have: the ability to choose what to learn and to learn them quickly. If we master this skill, we will be ready to face whatever new waves coming in our way.

1. The purpose of the questions at the beginning of the passage is to _____.
 - A. attract readers' attention
 - B. advise readers to read the passage
 - C. help readers understand the author's thoughts
 - D. lead in the topic
2. From the passage we can learn that _____.
 - A. only the ability to learn quickly is enough
 - B. the ability to choose what to learn is the most important skill
 - C. mastering the art of choosing what to learn is valuable to our entire career
 - D. if we learn quickly, we must keep up with the change of the world.
3. According to the passage, the author probably agrees that one should _____.
 - A. have the ability to challenge difficulties
 - B. have the skill to learn quickly
 - C. grasp the ability to choose what to learn and how to learn quickly
 - D. face some new waves coming in one's way
4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - A. The words the author has used to describe this world are "change and speed".
 - B. The author thinks that the most important skill is the ability to learn quickly.
 - C. We need to learn quickly to be able to keep up with this world.
 - D. There are many new things to learn, so choosing which one to learn becomes difficult.

Passage 9



题材：先进技术

体裁：说明文

词数：358

难度：☆☆☆

建议用时：8 分钟

Mobile phone users will be able to charge their devices wirelessly for the first time from 2012. Fujitsu, the Japanese technology company, has created a system capable of simultaneously (同时地) charging multiple portable electronic devices such as mobile phones, digital cameras and laptop computers without the need for cable connections. Electric cars users may also

eventually be able to charge their vehicles wirelessly using the same technology according to Fujitsu. Claiming to be the world's first of its kind, the technology works on the basis of the transmission of electricity using magnetic fields between the charger and the electronic device. The system enables wireless charging at distances of up to several meters, with the final aim of installing public "charging spots" on the streets in order to enable easy charging around the clock. Scientists at Fujitsu Laboratories are planning to commercially sell products integrating (整合) the new wireless charging system as early as 2012 but did not disclose how much they would cost. "This technology paves the way to integrating compact wireless charging functions into mobile phones and enabling multiple portable devices to be charged simultaneously without any restrictions on their position with respect to the charger," the company said in a statement.

The increasing popularity of portable electronic devices ranging from iPads to e-readers is expected to fuel a boom in wireless recharging technology developments over the coming decade. Mobile phone users in Japan can currently top up their batteries using disposable portable plug-in battery-operated devices—available at most train stations and convenience stores—although phone companies warn prolonged (延长的) use can damage the phones. The new system unveiled (公开) by Fujitsu, however, is significantly more complicated and represents the next generation of portable recharging systems using highly tuned wireless technology (高水准无线技术). The company added, "We are also looking at applying the results of this work to fields other than portable electronics, including power transmission between circuit boards (电路板) or computer chips, and providing mobile charging systems for electric cars."

1. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. The new wireless charging system has been widely used.
 - B. The transmission of electricity is carried out by using signals between the charger and the electronic device.
 - C. The new system can simultaneously charge multiple portable electronic devices without any cable connection.
 - D. The new wireless charging equipment can be bought at most Japanese train stations.
2. The advantage of the new wireless charging system is that _____.
 - A. it's convenient to use
 - B. it's cheap and good
 - C. it can extend the service life of electronic equipment
 - D. it's small in size
3. The underlined expression "fuel a boom" probably means _____.
 - A. make the situation common
 - B. produce much energy
 - C. make a loud and deep sound
 - D. have excellent development prospects

4. The passage is mainly about _____.
 A. practical wireless charging equipment
 B. wireless charging for mobile phones by 2012
 C. useful equipment for charging mobile phones
 D. the new wireless charging equipment used widely in Japan

Passage 10



题材：体育锻炼 体裁：说明文 词数：364 难度：☆☆ 建议用时：7 分钟

We all know that exercise is important—vital, in fact. Yet, one of the most common excuses for not exercising enough is “I can’t find time for exercise.”

And it’s true. It is hard to find time for exercise. Just like it’s hard to find time to meditate (冥想), cook healthy meals, and volunteer to make your community a better place. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the American Heart Association (AHA) provides the following minimum exercise guidelines for healthy adults (18-65): Moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity for a minimum of 30 minutes, five days per week (e.g. a brisk walk) or; Vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity for 20 minutes, three days per week (e.g. jogging) or; Some combination of moderate-intensity and vigorous-intensity. NOTE: Exercise can be performed in bouts of at least 10 minutes. That’s not bad. In fact, it’s pretty achievable. So let’s move on to the challenging (but fun) part: Finding time for exercise.

1. Turn off the TV

This is usually a good place to start. In 2011, the average American watched 34 hours of TV per week. If you do the math, you could still watch 30 hours of TV and get all your exercise in (including a shower afterwards, which is typically appreciated by your colleagues/family members). And if you’ve already whittled (削弱) your TV watching down to just one or two favorite shows per week, consider exercising while you watch.


2. Limit Your Time Online

If we’re not watching TV, we’re surfing the Internet, checking email, updating Facebook, tweeting or pinning. According to comScore, the average American spent 32 hours per month online in 2011 (sounds low to me!).* That’s over 60 minutes per day, some of which could be devoted to moving your body rather than letting it waste away in front of a screen. Becoming more efficient with your online dealings is a great way to cut down on the time spent online. It’s not about the technology. It’s about improper use of the technology. You will be amazed by the amount of time you will save if you check your email only once or twice per day.

1. The way of exercise suggested for the adults is _____.
 A. a brisk walk
 B. vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity
 C. some combination of moderate-intensity and vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activities
 D. moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity

2. According to the passage, people could find time for exercise by _____.
 A. spending proper time watching TV and surfing the Internet
 B. turning on the TV
 C. spending his time online
 D. taking exercise while watching TV
3. Which of the following statements about the new study is NOT true?
 A. No time for exercise is an excuse.
 B. Reducing the time of watching TV can save some time for exercise.
 C. Those who take exercise can not surf the Internet.
 D. Moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity is suitable for adults.
4. The passage is mainly about _____.
 A. has a beneficial effect of exercise on health
 B. the advantage of the combination of exercise
 C. American people enjoy aerobic physical activity
 D. the importance of creating time for exercise

Passage 11

 题材：价格波动 体裁：说明文 词数：329 难度：☆☆ 建议用时：7 分钟

A United Nations report says world food prices stayed the same in August. Prices were unchanged after rising sharply in July.

A summer of drought in the United States and Russia has reduced expectations for corn and wheat supplies. As a result, a measure of food prices by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization rose by six percent in July. But FAO economist Concepcion Calpe says the expected reductions did not get any worse in August.

CONCEPCION CALPE, “We’re not in a bad situation, or as bad situation as we were last month because the prospects (预期) are not worsening further. And this is already good news.”

Ms Calpe says the FAO price index remains about ten percent below its highest level, reaching in February 2011. But prices are still twice as high as they were ten years ago.

Demand remains high for food commodities (商品) like maize and wheat. The UN estimates that more cereal crops will be consumed this year than will be produced. That means markets will have to use some of the supplies that have been kept in reserve. Concepcion Calpe says those reserves have been low for several years.

CONCEPCION CALPE: *She says there will be ups and downs in prices until production meets the level of demand. Still, many experts do not expect a repeat of the crisis of 2007 and 2008. Prices jumped, playing a part in civil unrest in several countries.