



博士研究生入学考试英语辅导用书

# 2012年考博英语 模拟试卷与精解

博士研究生入学英语考试命题研究组 / 编著

考博英语命题与阅卷专家**亲自编写**，科学预测、权威预测、最新预测 ★

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博士研究生入学考试英语辅导用书

# 2012 年考博英语模拟试卷与精解

博士研究生入学考试英语考试命题研究组 编著

中国人民大学出版社

• 北京 •

**图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据**

2012 年考博英语模拟试卷与精解/博士研究生入学考试英语考试命题研究组编著. —北京: 中国人民大学出版社, 2011.3

ISBN 978-7-300-13418-5

I. ①2… II. ①博… III. ①英语-研究生-入学考试-题解 IV. ①H319.6

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2011) 第 036821 号

博士研究生入学考试英语辅导用书

**2012 年考博英语模拟试卷与精解**

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2012 Nian Kaobo Yingyu Moni Shijuan yu Jingjie

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**出版发行** 中国人民大学出版社

**社 址** 北京中关村大街 31 号

**电 话** 010-62511242 (总编室)

010-82501766 (邮购部)

010-62515195 (发行公司)

**网 址** <http://www.crup.com.cn>

<http://www.lkao.com.cn> (中国 1 考网)

**经 销** 新华书店

**印 刷** 北京东方圣雅印刷有限公司

**规 格** 185 mm×260 mm 16 开本

**印 张** 36.5

**字 数** 878 000

**邮政编码** 100080

010-62511398 (质管部)

010-62514148 (门市部)

010-62515275 (盗版举报)

**版 次** 2011 年 3 月第 1 版

**印 次** 2011 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

**定 价** 68.00 元

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中国加入 WTO 之后, 改革开放逐步深化, 与国外进行的经济、贸易、科学、教育、管理和军事等领域的合作也更加紧密, 从而对我国人才的知识水平提出了更高的要求。社会对博士、硕士研究生等高层次人才的需求越来越大, 报考博士、硕士研究生的考生正在逐年增多。从整体上看, 由于博士生招生形势的不断发展, 各院校博士生入学考试的难度越来越大, 对考生的外语水平要求也越来越高, 特别是听、说能力。攻读博士学位的学生, 一方面应该具备坚实的专业理论基础和扎实的科研能力, 另一方面还应该具备较高水平的外语能力。

综合考察最近的图书市场, 有关硕士研究生英语考试的辅导资料很多, 而直接针对博士研究生入学英语考试的指导用书几近空白。报考博士研究生的考生对如何复习应考常常感到无所适从, 他们迫切需要一套高质量的考前辅导资料, 以应对考博英语的实际要求, 帮助其把握命题规律, 在考试中获取高分。

博士研究生入学英语考试主要测试听力、语法、词汇、阅读理解、完形填空、翻译、写作等方面的知识, 各个招生院校的试题尽管具体的考查范围有些出入, 但是基本上都是在这些题型的范畴内出题。具体考查内容归纳总结如下:

听力部分主要测试考生对一般性听力材料的理解与判断能力, 要求考生听过一遍后回答所提问题。主要考查考生如下能力: (1) 判断对话场景; (2) 判断人物关系及身份; (3) 理解说话者的意图、观点或态度; (4) 理解话语要点和含义; (5) 获取具体信息; (6) 理解中心思想; (7) 进行有关的判断和推理。

词汇部分主要测试考生是否具备一定的词汇量和根据上下文对词和词组意义进行判断的能力。每题有一个留有空白的英文句子, 要求考生从所给的四个选项中选出可填在空白处的最恰当的词或词组。

完形填空部分主要测试考生在语篇层次上的理解能力以及对词汇表达方式和结构掌握的程度。考生应具有借助词汇、句法及上下文线索对语言进行综合分析和应用的能力, 要求考生就篇章所留空白分别从四个选项中选出最佳答案。

阅读理解部分主要测试考生在规定时间内通过阅读获取相关信息的能力。考生须完成 1 800~2 000 词的阅读量 (3 篇~6 篇短文), 并作答文后题目。要求考生能: (1) 掌握中心思想、主要内容和具体细节; (2) 进行相关的判断和推理; (3) 准确把握某些词和词组在上下文中的特定含义; (4) 领会作者观点和意图、判断作者的态度。

翻译部分要求考生将一篇近 400 词的英语短文中有下划线的 5 个句子翻译成汉语, 主要测试考生是否能从语篇的角度正确理解英语原句的意思, 并能用准确、达意的汉语书面

表达出来。

写作部分要求考生按照命题、所给提纲或背景图、表，写出一篇不少于 200 字的短文。目的是测试考生用英语表达思想或传递信息的能力，以及对英文写作基础知识的实际运用。

为了更好地帮助考生复习，了解各高等院校考试的内容、要求、题型以及难易程度，并通过有效的考前试题训练掌握各种题型的答题方法和技巧，提高得分能力，我们根据多年的教学实践经验，在认真分析了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、中国科学院、中国科技大学、复旦大学、同济大学、南京大学、武汉大学、厦门大学等 50 余所重点高等院校最近几年博士生入学考试英语试题的考点、难点、重点及命题套路之后，倾情奉献了这套“博士研究生入学考试英语辅导用书”系列丛书，包括《考博英语综合辅导教程》、《考博英语全国重点院校真题详解》、《考博英语模拟试卷与精解》、《考博英语词汇分级考点详注》、《考博英语词汇、语法与完形填空高分突破》、《考博英语阅读理解、翻译与写作高分突破》共六本。

这套丛书的特色如下：

### 一、作者阵容强大、辅导经验丰富、深谙命题动态

这套丛书的编著者长期从事考博英语命题、阅卷与辅导，对考博英语的考点非常熟悉。他们具有相当丰富的辅导和教学工作经验，深谙命题规律和出题动态，从而使本丛书具有极高的权威性。这套丛书的出版凝结着参与编写的专家、学者多年教学、命题、评卷的经验。

### 二、鲜明的创新特色，编写体例非常符合考生的需要

这套丛书全面吸收了同类图书的优点，结合作者丰富的辅导经验，博采众长，推陈出新，使丛书结构和内容具有鲜明的创新特色。下面分别加以介绍。

《考博英语综合辅导教程》：参考全国重点院校的最新考试大纲，按照最新精神编写。在编写过程中，特别注意知识的系统性。在每章后都编写了足量的同步强化练习题，并给出答案和解析。考生可通过做这些强化练习题进行自测，巩固复习成果。该书力求把重点、难点与考点讲深、讲透。

《考博英语全国重点院校真题详解》：历史是一面镜子，了解过去可以预知未来。通过对历年试题的详细解析，考生可以了解命题原则与规律。研习有代表性的院校的真题是复习备考中必不可少的关键环节，也是考生掌握考试动态、赢得高分的最佳捷径。循着命题人的思路，我们就可以把握考试的脉搏，明确考试的重点和难点。

《考博英语模拟试卷与精解》：许多考生缺乏实际临场经验。该书将精辟阐明解题思路，全面展现题型变化，将浩渺的习题浓缩于有限的模拟题精华中，迅速提高考生快速、准确、灵活的解题能力，为考生全程领航和理性分析，引领考生高效通过考试难关。每套试卷都有详细的标准答案和解析。考生可以利用模拟试卷进行考前模拟实战训练，检验自己的学习成果，及时进行查漏补缺，有针对性地进行复习备考。

《考博英语词汇分级考点详注》：该书包括博士生入学考试基本词汇及其衍生词汇共计万余例。该书最大的亮点就是将词汇复习与考试紧密结合，将全国重点院校的词汇测试题按照词汇的分类进行了详细深入的分析，让考生能巩固对该词的掌握和运用，做到记单词与考试紧密结合，对考试内容融会贯通。

《考博英语词汇、语法与完形填空高分突破》：该书以重点、难点和疑点为依据，在精心研究重点院校真题的基础上，组织编写了同步练习题，相信会对考生有所裨益。该书难易结合，试题与考试真题难易程度相当，它系统、全面地对大纲规定的知识点从多方位、多角度进行考查。通过做同步练习题，考生可以牢固掌握词汇、语法与完形填空的相关内容，融会贯通，举一反三，为最后赢得考试高分打下坚实的基础。

《考博英语阅读理解、翻译与写作高分突破》：该书在认真研究全国重点院校的阅读理解、翻译与写作部分的相关考点以后，编写了符合考试深度的同步辅导与强化练习题，让考生能见识、熟悉考查的各种题型，达到熟能生巧的境地。

实践证明，一套好的复习资料，能够帮助考生收到事半功倍的效果。我们以考博英语专家组辅导经验的深厚积累，以在继承中创新、在开拓中前进的精神，凭借阵容强大的专家编写队伍，向广大考生奉献这套辅导书，希望能帮助考生在考试中蟾宫折桂，夺得高分！

在这套丛书的编写过程中，得到了北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、中国科学院、中国科技大学、复旦大学、同济大学、南京大学、武汉大学、西安交通大学、厦门大学等高等院校给我们提供的大力支持，在此表示由衷的感谢。

参加本书编写的除了主编索玉柱、成芬、刘爽外，还有谭莉、王新会、赵艳萍、吴盈敏、崔杰凯、欧阳少波、张晓燕、张孜、江海波、刘仕文、宋纪新、杨勇、王宁、张磊、崔军胜、赵秀云、程立元、陈金贞、叶充、张杰、管卫勇、孙遥遥、洪潇、李征、罗福生、郭庆、梅涛、陈娜等同志，在此一并表示感谢。

由于时间仓促，错误和纰漏之处诚望广大读者批评指正。

编著者 于北大燕园



目前,我国博士生英语入学考试采取的是各招生院校自行命题、自行组织考试的办法,各个院校的考试重点、命题特点有相当大的不同。目前国内没有统一的考试大纲,这主要是由于国内没有对博士生入学英语考试采取统考形式。从整体上看,各院校博士生入学考试的难度越来越大,对考生的外语水平要求也越来越高,特别是听、说能力。国际化人才首先要具备良好的外语水平,包括听、说、读、写、译的综合能力。

教育部《硕士、博士学位研究生英语教学大纲》提出,博士生入学考试的3门课程之一——博士生英语入学考试的理论指导标准是:“博士生入学时,其英语水平原则上应达到或略高于硕士生的水平”;应具有“熟练的阅读能力”、“较好的写作能力”和“一定的听说能力”。博士生英语入学考试很大程度上是一种水平测试,很多考生能用英语进行流利的交流,但在博士生入学考试中外语成绩却没能达线。考博英语考查的不只是英语方面的基础知识,而是基础知识与实际应用能力的综合考查。从全国重点院校的博士研究生入学考试英语试卷来看,向主观题型发展是今后考试的趋势,如北京航空航天大学、西安交通大学考博试卷中全是主观题型,仅考汉译英与英译汉和写作;又如北京大学考博试卷中有篇章改错,还曾采用没有阅读类客观题、只有主观问答和阅后写总结的试题形式,现在又增加了英文解释和选择。因此,考生要想取得好成绩,应重视主观题型的备考和能力的提高。

英语考试是博士生入学考试中最大的障碍和挑战。许多考生并非由于专业课的缘故,而是英语考试未达到所报考学校最低录取分数线而与自己理想的学校失之交臂。外语成绩一直是筛选考生入选博士研究生的最重要的尺度。

根据统计可知,全国博士生入学英语考试录取分数线总体呈上升趋势,这主要是由于报考人数增加和考生整体水平提高。许多院校的录取分数线几年之内没有任何变化,呈持续稳定趋势。近年来各院校博士生入学英语考试实际录取分数线在50分~60分之间波动,有的院校少数专业破格录取分数也可能降到50分以下。从试题难度来说,难度最大的应当是中科院、社科院和北京大学的试题。通过分析全国大多数院校的历年考博英语试题,其他院校测试难度基本低于这三所院校。

听力的难度有所增大,是因为听写在听力考试中逐渐被采用和推广。听写与其他听力选择题的区别是,在听写时,当考生听不懂的时候,一分都不可能猜写出来,而其他听力选择题有可能猜对。翻译和写作都属于非标准化的题型,即主观测试题,这说明了博士生入学英语考试中能力测试的成分很大。尤其是有的院校还加了英语口语。

通过对国内重点院校近年考题进行分析可知,翻译(汉译英和英译汉)和写作平均占

总分的 30 分左右,最高的为财政部财科所的 70 分,最低的为北京大学的 15 分。一些院校考试题型中特别强调某一方面的测试,如北京师范大学的题型比较特殊,翻译写作占 55 分,阅读占 30 分,听力占 15 分;财政部财科所翻译和写作就占了 70 分,并且听力没有和笔试合计,这说明了该研究所将来对阅读和写作要求较高;而天津大学博士生入学英语测试中没有阅读理解,用其他考试题型代替阅读理解。因此在复习的时候,考生应该有针对性地强化训练。对于同时报考两所院校的学生,尤其要注意不同院校的题型差别。

为了更好地帮助考生复习,了解各高等院校考博英语命题特点和出题动态,我们参照一些名校博士生入学英语考试大纲,在认真研究 50 多所高校 150 多份历年考博英语真题,仔细分析近几年全国多所院校博士生入学英语考题中的考点、难点、重点及命题套路之后,倾情奉献了这本《考博英语模拟试卷与精解》。本书特点如下:

### 一、作者阵容强大,预测具有权威性

本书的编著者都是考博英语的首席主讲专家,他们都在全国一线亲自辅导广大考生的考前复习,有相当丰富的辅导和教学工作经验,深谙命题规律和出题的动态,集清华大学、北京大学和中国人民大学等名校的权威讯息,浓缩成本书。

### 二、紧扣最新考试形式与出题动态,高效预测

本书紧紧联系当前各个高校考博英语的考试动态以及最新考试形势与政策,注重实际操作演练。每套试卷均由一线著名专家精选材料,题题推敲,优化设计命制完成。

### 三、启迪备考,极具操作性

许多考生缺乏实际临场经验,本书将精辟阐明解题思路,全面展现题型变化,将浩瀚的习题浓缩于有限的模拟题精华中,迅速提高考生快速、准确、灵活的解题能力。为考生全程领航和理性分析,引领考生高效通过考博难关。每套试卷都有详细的标准答案和解析。考生可以利用模拟试卷进行考前模拟实战训练,检验自己的学习成果,及时进行查漏补缺,有针对性地进行复习备考。希望考生能在仿真的环境下进行模拟训练,这样效果最佳。

由于时间有限,不当之处在所难免,望广大读者和专家批评指正。

编著者



# C O N T E N T S

2012 年 考 博 英 语  
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# 博士研究生入学考试

## 英语模拟试卷一

### Section I Vocabulary

#### Directions:

There are 20 incomplete sentences in this section. For each sentence there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence and mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.

1. American women were \_\_\_\_\_ the right to vote until 1920 after many years of hard struggle.  
A. ignored              B. denied              C. refused              D. neglected
2. The poor mother lacked her husband's capacity for discipline, and found herself \_\_\_\_\_ her headstrong son.  
A. against the will of              B. in the way of  
C. at the mercy of              D. in terms of
3. Changing from solid to liquid, water takes in heat from all substances near it, and this \_\_\_\_\_ produces artificial cold surrounding it.  
A. absorption              B. dissemination              C. assimilation              D. interaction
4. I want to know if I need to complete a FAFSA form in order to be \_\_\_\_\_ for any type of financial aid.  
A. eligible              B. competent              C. proper              D. legitimate
5. What an outrageous suggestion, young man—I'm a \_\_\_\_\_ married woman!  
A. respecting              B. respected              C. respectful              D. respective
6. Her ease has attracted an enormous \_\_\_\_\_ of public sympathy.  
A. sum              B. deal              C. amount              D. number
7. \_\_\_\_\_ couples generally share the same values and have similar lifestyles and goals.  
A. Consistent              B. Amiable              C. Sympathetic              D. Compatible
8. I cannot thank you \_\_\_\_\_ much for your kindness, for I owe my success to you.  
A. so              B. very              C. too              D. as
9. Written primarily for a specialized but diverse body of scholars, this book \_\_\_\_\_ the attention of those interested in seventeenth-century English literature.  
A. warrants              B. proposes              C. acclaims              D. distills

10. The most significant measure we should take to stop terrorists is to \_\_\_\_\_ them of material and moral support from within the country.  
A. squeeze      B. eliminate      C. prevent      D. deprive
11. The stream overflowed and the flood \_\_\_\_\_ all of the farmland in the area.  
A. submerged      B. sank      C. soaked      D. stripped
12. Powell calls for drawdown from Iraq by mid-2007. His comments break his long public silence on the issue and place him \_\_\_\_\_ with the administration.  
A. at will      B. at ease      C. at times      D. at odds
13. We cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ the choices that our children are going to make, even though we have contributed to those choices.  
A. subject to      B. susceptible to      C. accountable for      D. crazy about
14. It's easier to dismiss reports of low employee morale than face the facts and act \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. consequently      B. accordingly      C. successfully      D. excessively
15. She took a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to the house as soon as she saw it.  
A. preference      B. affection      C. attention      D. fancy
16. He always included something above the understanding of his hearers in order to prevent them from becoming \_\_\_\_\_ and to stimulate their desire to learn more.  
A. pessimistic      B. complacent      C. perplexed      D. complicated
17. The students on the school bus were \_\_\_\_\_ for half an hour in the traffic so all of them were late for class that morning.  
A. held up      B. kept off      C. taken back      D. put off
18. This special committee was established for well-integrated members of the society and not for \_\_\_\_\_ individuals.  
A. marginal      B. minor      C. eccentric      D. distinctive
19. In the past, competition for jobs caused different \_\_\_\_\_ groups to be hostile toward each other.  
A. sexist      B. ethnic      C. gracious      D. classic
20. The old musician decided to move to her country home \_\_\_\_\_ her advanced age and poor health.  
A. with regard to      B. by virtue of      C. on account of      D. at the verge of

## Section II Cloze

### Directions:

Read the following passage. For each numbered blank there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the best one and mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.

Many theories concerning the causes of juvenile delinquency ( crimes committed by young people) focus either on the individual or on society as the major contributing influence. Theories 21 on the individual suggest that children engage in criminal behavior 22 they were not sufficiently penalized for previous misdeeds or that they have learned criminal behavior through 23 with others. Theories focusing on the role of society suggest that children commit crimes in 24 to their failure to rise above their socioeconomic status, 25 as a rejection of middle-class values. Most theories of juvenile delinquency have focused on children from disadvantaged families, 26 the fact that children from wealthy homes also commit crimes. The latter may commit crimes 27 lack of adequate parental control. All theories, however, are tentative and are 28 to criticism. Changes in the social structure may indirectly 29 juvenile crime rates. For example, changes in the economy that 30 to fewer job opportunities for youth and rising unemployment 31 make gainful employment increasingly difficult to obtain. The resulting discontent may in 32 lead more youths into criminal behavior. Families have also 33 changes these years. More families consist of one-parent households or two working parents; 34 , children are likely to have less supervision at home 35 was common in the traditional family structure.

- |                    |                 |                 |                   |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 21. A. acting      | B. relying      | C. centering    | D. commenting     |
| 22. A. before      | B. unless       | C. until        | D. because        |
| 23. A. interaction | B. assimilation | C. cooperation  | D. consultation   |
| 24. A. return      | B. reply        | C. reference    | D. response       |
| 25. A. or          | B. but rather   | C. but          | D. or else        |
| 26. A. considering | B. ignoring     | C. highlighting | D. discarding     |
| 27. A. on          | B. in           | C. for          | D. with           |
| 28. A. immune      | B. resistant    | C. sensitive    | D. subject        |
| 29. A. affect      | B. reduce       | C. check        | D. reflect        |
| 30. A. point       | B. lead         | C. come         | D. amount         |
| 31. A. in general  | B. on average   | C. by contrast  | D. at length      |
| 32. A. case        | B. short        | C. turn         | D. essence        |
| 33. A. survived    | B. noticed      | C. undertaken   | D. experienced    |
| 34. A. contrarily  | B. consequently | C. similarly    | D. simultaneously |
| 35. A. than        | B. that         | C. which        | D. as             |

### Section III Reading Comprehension

#### Directions:

Read the following four passages. Answer the questions below each passage by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.

## 1

Sometimes, over a span of many years, a business will continue to grow, generating ever-increasing amounts of cash, repurchasing stock, paying increased dividends, reducing debt, opening new stores, expanding production facilities, moving into new markets, etc., while at the same time its stock price remains *stagnant* (or even falls).

When this happens, the average and professional investors alike tend to overlook the company because they become familiar with the trading range.

Take, for example, Wal-Mart. Over the past five years, the retailing behemoth has grown sales by over 80%, profits by over 100%, and yet the stock price has fallen as much as 30% during that timeframe. Clearly, the valuation picture has changed. An investor that read the annual report back in 2000 or 2001 might have passed on the security, deeming it too expensive based on a metric such as the price to earnings ratio. Today, however, the equation is completely different—despite the stock price, Wal-Mart is, in essence, trading at half its former price because each share is backed by a larger dividend, twice the earnings power, more stores, and a bigger infrastructure. Home Depot is in much the same boat, largely because some Wall Street analysts question how fast two of the world's largest companies can continue to grow before their sheer size slows them down to the rate of the general economy.

Coca-Cola is another excellent example of this phenomenon. Ten years ago, in 1996, the stock traded between a range of \$36.10 and \$54.30 per share. At the time, it had reported earnings per share of \$1.40 and paid a cash dividend of \$0.50 per share. Corporate per share book value was \$2.48. Last year, the stock traded within a range of \$40.30 and \$45.30 per share; squarely in the middle of the same area it had been nearly a decade prior! Yet, despite the stagnant stock price, the 2006 estimates Value Line Investment Survey estimates for earnings per share stand around \$2.16 (a rise of 54%), the cash dividend has more than doubled to \$1.20, book value is expected to have grown to \$7.40 per share (a gain of nearly 300%), and the total number of shares outstanding (未偿付的, 未完成的) has actually decreased from 2.481 billion to an estimated 2.355 billion due to the company's share repurchase program.

36. This passage is probably a part of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Find Hidden Value in the Market    B. Become Richer  
C. Get Good Bargains    D. Identify Good Companies

37. The italicized word "stagnant" (Line 4, Para. 1) can be best paraphrased as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. prominent    B. terrible    C. unchanged    D. progressing

38. Wal-Mart is now trading at a much lower price because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. it has stored a large quantity of goods  
B. it has become financially more powerful  
C. it has been eager to collect money to prevent bankruptcy

- D. it is a good way to compete with other retailing companies
39. All the following are shared by Wal-Mart and Coco-Cola EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. the cash dividend has increased
- B. the earning power has become stronger
- C. both businesses have continued to grow
- D. the stock price has greatly decreased
40. According to the author, one had better \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. buy more shares when the stock price falls down
- B. sell out the shares when the stock price falls down
- C. do some research on the value of a business when its stock price falls down
- D. invest in the business when its stock price falls down

2

Today's college students are more narcissistic (自恋的) and self-centered than their predecessors, according to a comprehensive new study by five psychologists who worry that the trend could be harmful to personal relationships and American society.

"We need to stop endlessly repeating 'You're special' and having children repeat that back," said the study's lead author, Professor Jean Twenge of San Diego State University. "Kids are self-centered enough already." "Unfortunately, narcissism can also have very negative consequences for society, including the breakdown of close relationships with others," he said. The study asserts that narcissists "are more likely to have romantic relationships that are short-lived, at risk for infidelity, lack emotional warmth, and to exhibit game-playing, dishonesty, and over-controlling and violent behaviors." Twenge, the author of *Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever Before*, said narcissists tend to lack empathy, react aggressively to criticism and favor self-promotion over helping others.

Some analysts have *commended* today's young people for increased commitment to volunteer work. But Twenge viewed even this phenomenon skeptically, noting that many high schools require community service and many youths feel pressure to list such endeavors on college applications.

Campbell said the narcissism upsurge seemed so pronounced (非常明显的) that he was unsure if there were obvious remedies. "Permissiveness seems to be a component," he said. "A potential antidote would be more authoritative parenting. Less indulgence might be called for."

Yet students, while acknowledging some legitimacy to such findings, don't necessarily accept negative generalizations about their generation.

Hanady Kader, a University of Washington senior, said she worked unpaid last summer helping resettle refugees and considers many of her peers to be civic-minded. But she is dismayed (气馁, 灰心) by the competitiveness of some students who seem prematurely

Kari Dalane, a University of Vermont sophomore, says most of her contemporaries are politically active and not overly self-centered. “People are worried about themselves—but in the sense of where they’re going to find a place in the world,” she said. “People want to look their best, have a good time, but it doesn’t mean they’re not concerned about the rest of the world.”

41. According to the passage, a narcissistic person may \_\_\_\_\_.

- C. be unwilling to help others                      D. all the above

- A. praised      B. criticized      C. recommended      D. disfavored

- A. Narcissism may result in bad consequences.

- B. College students are active to participate in volunteer work.

- C. Some people doubt whether there are remedies to counter the narcissism upsurge.

- D. Some college students are overly engaged in self-promotion.

44. It is implied that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. both the researchers and college students are worried about the trend of narcissism

- B. the researchers and college students disagree on the findings of the study

- C. the researchers and college students disagree on some of the findings of the study

- D. college students are pessimistic about their future

45. It is proper to be \_\_\_\_\_ when you hear someone say “I’m special.”

- A. objective      B. pessimistic      C. optimistic      D. worried

## 3

The House is expected to pass a piece of legislation Thursday that seeks to significantly rebalance the playing field for unions and employers and could possibly reverse decades of declining membership among private industries.

The Employee Free Choice Act would allow a union to be recognized after collecting a majority of vote cards, instead of waiting for the National Labor Relations Board to oversee a secret ballot election, which can occur more than 50 days after the card vote is completed.

Representatives of business on Capitol Hill oppose the bill. The National Association of Manufacturers, the National Federation of Independent Business, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups oppose the shift away from secret ballots saying the



change could threaten the privacy of the workers. "This isn't about preventing increased unionization, it's about protecting rights," said the National Association of Manufacturer's Jason Straczewski, of his organization's opposition to bill. Straczewski says eliminating the secret-ballot step would open up employees to coercion (强迫, 胁迫) from unions.

Samuel of the AFL-CIO contends the real coercion comes from employers. "Workers talking to workers are equals while managers talking to workers aren't," Samuel said. He cites the 31,358 cases of illegal employer discrimination acted on by the National Labor Relations Board in 2005.

Samuel also points out that counter to claims from the business lobby, the secret ballot would not be eliminated. The change would only take the control of the timing of the election out of the hands of the employers. "On the ground, the difference between having this legislation and not would be the difference between night and day," said Richard Shaw of the Harris County Central Labor Council, who says it would have a tremendous impact on the local level.

The bill has other provisions (规定, 条款) as well. The Employee Free Choice Act would also impose binding arbitration (仲裁) when a company and a newly formed union cannot agree on a contract after 3 months. An agreement worked out under binding compulsory arbitration would be in effect for 2 years, a fact that Straczewski calls, "borderline unconstitutional." "I don't see how it will benefit employees if they're locked into a contract," said Straczewski.

The bill's proponents point to the trend of recognized unions unable to get contracts from unwilling employers. The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the organization that oversees arbitration, reported that in 2004, 45 percent of newly formed unions were denied first contracts by employers. The bill would also strengthen the penalties for companies that illegally coerce or intimidate employees. As it stands, the law on the books hasn't changed substantially since the National Labor Relations Act was made into law in 1935. The NLBR can enforce no other penalty than reinstating wrongfully fired employees or recovering lost wages.

46. Which of the following statements best summarizes the main idea of the passage?

- A. House bill aims to spur labor union growth.
- B. House bill aims to counter labor union growth.
- C. Employee Free Choice Act aims to spur employment.
- D. Employee Free Choice Act aims to raise employees' income.

47. According to its opponents, the bill \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. will protect employees' rights
- B. will benefit workers by binding contracts
- C. will empower unions too much
- D. makes it possible for employees to yield to coercion from unions