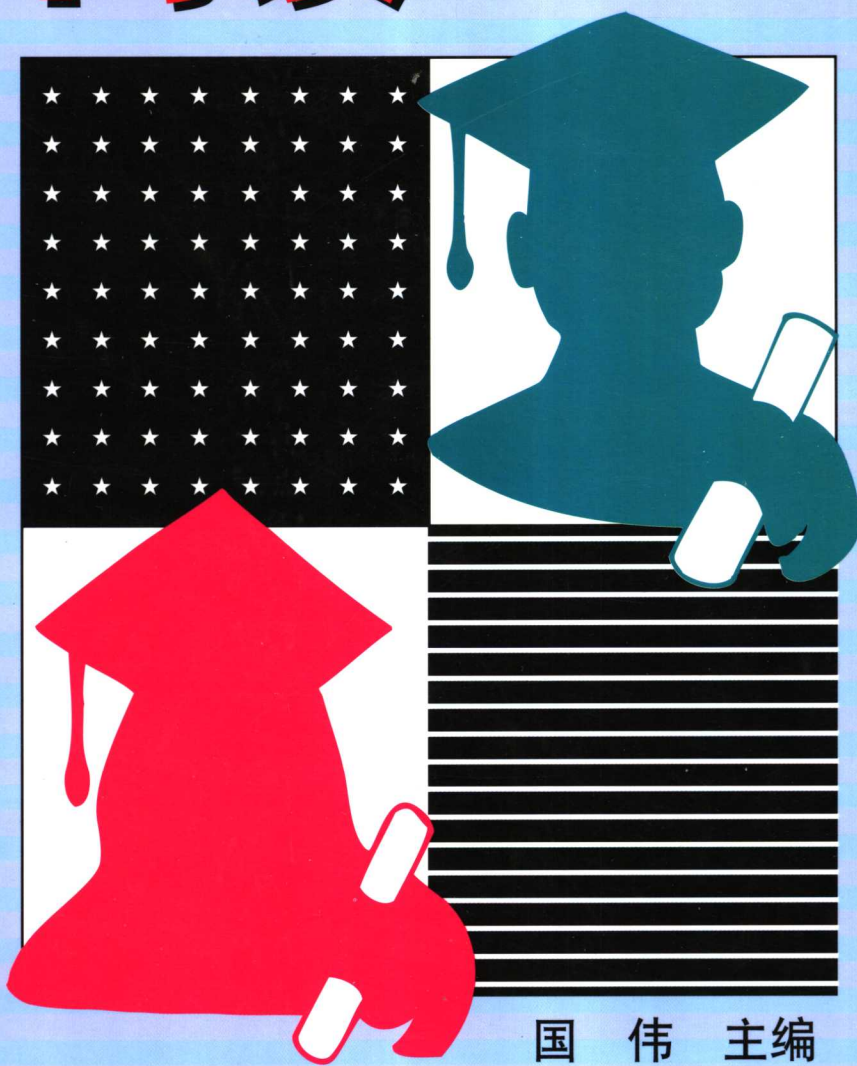


最新

考研英语

阅读

精讲精练



国伟主编



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考研英语 阅读 精讲精练

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内 容 提 要

本书严格按照《2005年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲》编写,在深入考察1994年至2005年硕士研究生阅读专项考试的基础上,结合编者多年从事考研英语入学考试的辅导经验,精心挑选了120篇仿真阅读文章及30篇完型填句的阅读练习。本书旨在帮助考生尽快复习、巩固和加深所学的英语知识,逐步培养对英语阅读的信心和对英语语言的综合运用能力,通过掌握正确的阅读方法和解题技巧以顺利迎接硕士研究生入学考试并取得高分。

本书对象是参加硕士研究生统考的应考生。本书的内容、解题思路和规律对于参加MBA、博士研究生入学考试以及其他类型英语考试的考生和各类渴望提高阅读理解技能的读者也大有裨益。

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前言

本书严格按照《2005年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲》编写,在深入考察1994年至2005年硕士研究生阅读专项考试的基础上,结合编者多年从事考研英语入学考试的辅导经验,精心挑选了120篇仿真阅读文章及30篇完型填句的阅读练习,旨在帮助考生尽快复习、巩固和加深所学的英语知识,逐步培养对英语阅读的自信心和对英语语言的综合运用能力,通过掌握正确的阅读方法和解题技巧以顺利迎接硕士研究生入学考试并取得高分。

纵观1994年到2005年的阅读理解篇章,不难看出考研命题的变化主要表现在以下几个方面:就形式而言,阅读理解Part A由原来的5篇缩减为目前的4篇,问题由每篇4个增加为5个。这无疑增加了每篇文章的信息量并提高了做题难度;就内容而言,社会热点问题、科普新知识、环保类和经济类一直是近几年考试的重点,如2005年第二篇文章谈的是全球变暖这一比较热门的环保问题,第一篇文章以及第三篇文章是有关心理学的文章;2004年第一篇也是如今的热门话题——通过网站的搜索工具求职;2003年第二篇讨论了近几年争论激烈的动物实验问题;2002年第三篇讨论了油价上涨对全球经济的影响。这种题材时效性和实用性较强,故考察价值较高。

从Part A出题类型分析,细节题和推理题在每套题中占有较大比例。提问侧重点是考查考生把握文章主旨大意、依据事实和细节做出合理推断以及获取其他主要信息的能力。但从2005年的出题类型来看有两大变化:第一个变化,它删除了阅读理解中几乎每年必考的两种题型,即情感态度题和中心思想题。这两种题型在以往的阅读考试中通常占4道题,而这次一道都没有考察。第二个变化,在今年的题型中增加了两种新题型,这两种题型都属于议论文的写作方法,如类比等。2006年命题趋势:1)题材仍将以社会、经济、科技、环保、心理学为主;2)体裁以议论文、说明文为主,加入新闻报道和评论;3)题型侧重文章宏观的把握,如段意的归纳、细节推断、词语释义等;4)4篇文章中会有1~2篇难度较大的文章。

Part B为完型填句,是2005年考研英语试题阅读理解新增题型,从试卷分析来看,由于与大纲上的样题形式有所不同,多数考生不知如何应对。大纲样题出题形式很多,有段首题、段尾题、段落题,而今年的考题通篇是段落题。这无疑加大了该题型的难度。未来的命题趋势仍然是对篇章的整体把握,选项会具有很强的迷惑性,考生在此部分上容易失分。Part C是考研传统题型——英译汉。要求考生阅读一篇约400词的文章,并将其中5个划线部分(约150词)译成汉语。对今年的考题分析不难看出,翻译部分仍然以由多重复合句构成的长难句为主,考生如果没有扎实的语言功底,还是很难顺利渡过此关。

本书具备以下主要特色:

- **结构清晰、便于自学:** 本书结合考试大纲在题材、体裁和篇幅上都作了详细安排和筛选。为方便考生自主学习,本书划分为30个单元,各单元涵盖了阅读理解的全部题型。其中英译汉部分没有单独出题,而是从Part A的4篇文章中选出5个句子划线,供考生做翻译练习用。考生可根据个人时间安排,每天或每隔一天做一套试题。
- **体例新颖、讲解透彻:** 本书各题的讲解精辟准确、脉络清楚、逻辑分明,译文准确流畅。各篇文章都设有带音标的生词及短语注释、参考译文和答案精解。基础薄弱的考生因而能够吃透篇章难点要点,基础好的考生可以扎实稳步地提高。
- **题材丰富、专项突破:** 本书所选篇章的内容系统全面、丰富多彩,所选阅读文章均选自最新报纸、杂志、书籍等,内容涵盖科普、医学、社会、经济、文化、人物传记、历史、政治等。

- **内容权威、名师主笔：**本书紧扣最新考研考试大纲，结合多年命题研究经验编写而成，具有超强的权威性、实战性和目的性。本书的编者多年从事硕士研究生入学考试的命题研究和考前辅导，深谙命题原则、思路与动态。

本书对象是参加硕士研究生统考的应考生，但本书的内容、解题思路和规律对于参加 MBA、博士研究生入学考试以及其他类型英语考试的考生和各类渴望提高阅读理解技能的读者也大有裨益。

由于编者水平和编写时间有限，错误和疏漏之处在所难免，敬请广大读者不吝指正。

编 者

2005 年 3 月

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Unit 1

Section I

Passage 1

- 1 Global energy demand is expected to triple by mid-century. The earth is unlikely to run out of fossil fuels by then, given its reserves of coal, but it seems unthinkable that we will continue to use them as we do now. It's not just a question of supply and price, or even of the disease caused by filthy air. The terrorist assault on the World Trade Center raises other scary scenarios: how much easier would it be to crack open the Trans-Alaska pipeline and how much deadlier would it be to bomb a nuclear plant than to attack a wind farm?
- 2 Skeptics may recall the burst of enthusiasms for conservation and renewable power when oil prices quadrupled in the 1970s. State-funded energy research and development surged, while tax incentives boosted solar, wind and other alternatives to petroleum and the atom. But when oil supplies loosened and prices dropped in the 1990s, governments lost interest. In the state of California, subsidies evaporated, pushing wind companies into bankruptcy.
- 3 Clean energy has a long way to go. Only 2.2% of the world's energy comes from "new" renewable such as small hydroelectric dams, wind, solar and geothermal. How to boost that share—and at what pace—is debated in industrialized nations—from Japan, which imports 99.7% of its oil, to Germany, where the nearby Chernobyl (切尔诺贝利) accident turned the public against nuclear plants, to the U.S., where the Bush Administration has strong ties to the oil industry. But the movement toward clean renewable is undeniable. How soon we reach an era of clean, inexhaustible energy depends on technology. Solar and wind energies are intermittent: When the sky is cloudy or the breeze dies down, fossil fuel or nuclear plants must kick in to compensate. But scientists are working on better ways to store electricity from renewable sources.
- 4 While developed nations debate how to fuel their power plants, however, some 1.6 billion people—a quarter of the globe's population—have no access to electricity or gasoline. Many spend their days collecting firewood and cow dung, burning it in primitive stoves that belch smoke into their lungs. To emerge from poverty, they need modern energy. And renewables can help, from village-scale hydro power to household photovoltaic systems to bio-gas stoves that convert dung into fuel.
- 5 Ultimately, the earth can meet its energy needs without fouling the environment. "But it won't happen," asserts Thomas Johansson, an energy adviser to the United Nations Development Program, "without political will." To begin with, widespread government subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy must be dismantled to level the playing field for renewables. Moreover, government should pressure utility to meet targets for renewable sources of energy. (451 words)

scenario / si'na:riəu / n. (pl.) 剧本提纲; (小说的) 情节梗概

quadruple / 'kwɒdrʌpl / v. (使) 使成四倍

geothermal / ,dʒi:əu'θe:məl / adj. 地热的

intermittent / ,intə(:)'mitənt / adj. 间歇的, 断断续续的

foul / faul / v. 弄脏

dismantle / dis'mæntl / v. 拆除

kick in 缴付, 提供

fossil fuel 化石燃料

1. The renewable energy research lose support from governments in the early 1990s because _____.
 - A. skeptics were becoming doubtful about the efficiency of renewables
 - B. the investment into the field was not worth its value
 - C. renewables could not meet the increasing energy needs of the society
 - D. it was much easier and cheaper to use oil than before
2. According to the passage, which one of the following is true?
 - A. The more developed a nation is, the higher the proportion of renewables being used.
 - B. Developed nations haven't reached a consensus about using more renewables.
 - C. Developed nations are experiencing a fierce energy revolution.
 - D. Developed nations' ties with the oil industry are becoming tense.
3. We can conclude from the passage that _____.
 - A. poor areas are badly polluted and are in high need of renewable energy
 - B. the development of a nation will inevitably pollute the environment
 - C. it will be impossible for wind and solar energy to completely replace fossil fuels
 - D. high technology plays a vital role in the trend toward clean energy
4. What is the writer's purpose?
 - A. To urge the governments to take effective measures.
 - B. To encourage developed nations to set up an example in the energy revolution.
 - C. To illustrate the urgent demand of clean energy.
 - D. To elaborate the difficulties in the use of clean energy.
5. The author's biggest worry about using nuclear energy is that _____.
 - A. there will be a wide gap between developed and developing countries
 - B. it will limit the development of many other alternatives
 - C. it is deadly if terrorists attack a nuclear plant
 - D. it will do great harm to the inadequate reserves of coal

[译文]

- 1 本世纪中期, 全球对能源的需求可能要比现在增加两倍。由于煤炭的储存量比较丰富, 到那时地球上的化石燃料不太可能被用完, 但肯定不够让我们像今天这样使用能源。这不仅仅是一个供给与价格的问题, 也不是一个由污浊空气引起疾病的问题。恐怖分子对世贸中心大楼的攻击为我们展现了一个更加恐怖的画面: 与攻击大楼相比, 炸开横跨阿拉斯加输油管道将会更加容易, 而与袭击一个风力发电厂相比, 用炸弹轰炸核电站会更加致命。
- 2 怀疑论者也许会记得 20 世纪 70 年代当石油价格上涨三倍时, 人们突然迸发出对环境保护和可再生资源的热情。由国家资助的能源研发蓬勃发展, 同时税收优惠政策也促进了可替代石油和原子能的太阳能、风能等其他能源的开发。但到 20 世纪 90 年代, 由于石油供给的管制放宽, 价格下跌, 政府就失去了兴趣。在加利福尼亚州, 补助被取消, 一些风力发电公司被迫走向破产。
- 3 清洁型能源还有很长一段路要走。世界能源当中仅有 2.2% 来自于可再生能源, 例如小型水电站、风能、太阳能和地热资源。对于如何提高清洁型能源所占的比重以及用什么样的速度来提高, 在工业化国家中一直存在争论。在日本, 99.7% 的石油依靠进口; 在德国, 在切尔诺贝利事故发生后, 公众便不再支持核电站; 在美国, 布什政府与石油工业有着密切的联系。但朝着清洁、可再生能源发展的势头是不可否认的。至于我们何时进入这种能源时代取决于技术的发展。太阳能和风能都是间断性的, 当天空布满云彩或风停了, 化石燃料和核电站就必须替补使用。但科学家们正在寻求更好的方法来储存来自可再生能源的电力。
- 4 当发达国家在争论电厂该使用什么燃料时, 地球上四分之一的人口即 16 亿人却还没有用过电或

汽油。许多人忙着捡柴火、拾牛粪，然后放在原始的炉子里焚烧，冒出的黑烟被他们吸进肺里。为了摆脱贫穷，他们需要现代能源。可再生能源能帮助他们，如建立村内水利能源、家庭光电系统、将粪便转化成燃料的生物气火炉等。

- 5 地球最终将会满足人类对能源的需求而不污染环境。但联合国发展项目的能源顾问托马斯指出：“如果没有政治的意愿，这一天将永远不会到来。”首先，政府必须从对化石燃料和核能源的补贴中分出一大笔拨给可再生能源领域。另外，政府必须强制公用事业达到使用可再生能源的特定目标。

[答案与分析]

1. D 细节题。文章第二段的第三句指出，在 20 世纪 90 年代初，由于石油供给的管制放宽，价格下跌，政府就失去了对可更新能源的兴趣。也就是说由于石油管制放宽和价格的回落造成了可更新能源产业的衰败。D 项“因为更容易买到石油并且价格便宜”与文意相符，是正确选项；A 项“怀疑论者对可更新能源的效率越来越怀疑”在文章并未提及；B 项“对此领域的投资与其价值不相符”曲解了原文意思；由原文第二段，政府出资扶持可更新能源的发展可以看出，可更新能源能够满足社会的需求，所以 C 项“可更新能源不能满足社会不断增长的能源需求。”不符原意。
2. B 正误判断题。文章第三段第三句指出对于如何提高清洁型能源所占的比重以及用什么样的速度来提高，在工业化国家中一直存在争论。接着列举了日本、德国和美国的立场，表明这些国家还未达成一致意见。B 项“发达国家还未对可更新能源的利用达成一致意见”与文意相符，是正确选项；A 项“国家越发达，可更新能源应用的比重就越高”文章未涉及此问题；原文中只说发达国家要提高可更新能源的比重，并未说可更新能源马上要取代旧能源，故 C 项“发达国家正经历着一场严酷的能源革命”是错误的；D 项意为：“发达国家与石油工业的关系更加紧密。”原文中只提到美国与石油工业的关系紧密，但并不是所有发达国家都如此，故 D 项扩大了原文的意义范围。
3. D 推断题。文章第三段第一句话指出清洁型能源还有很长一段路要走。第四句指出至于我们何时进入这种能源时代取决于技术的发展。这说明在能源清洁化的过程中，技术起着重要的作用。D 项“在能源清洁化的过程中，技术起着很重要的作用”与原文意思相符，是正确选项；文章第四段第三、四句指出贫穷地区需要现代能源，可更新能源能起作用，但并未说贫困地区污染严重，所以 A 项“贫困地区受污染严重并急需可更新能源”错误；B 项“一个国家的发展必然会导致环境的污染”与文章最后一段第一句所说的“地球最终将满足人类对能源的需求而又不破坏环境”相矛盾；C 项“风能和太阳能不可能完全取代化石燃料。”文章第三段最后一句说，科学家们正在寻求更好的方法来储存来自可更新能源的电力，这只能表明现在还不能完全取代，并未论及将来，故 C 项也是错误的。
4. A 推断题。原文最后一段作者先引用托马斯的话指出，如果没有政治的意愿，这一天将永远不会到来。说明了政府力量的重要性。接着又指出政府必须采取的两项措施，由此可以看出作者的目的是敦促政府采取强有力的措施。A 项“促使政府采取有效措施”符合文意，是正确选项；B 项“鼓励发达国家在能源革命中树立榜样”在文中未提及；C 项“描述对清洁型能源的迫切需求。”文章中只提到了清洁型能源需要继续发展，并未提及需求问题；D 项“详细描述清洁型能源使用中的困难。”文章对清洁能源的描述出现在第三段，说明清洁型能源还需要继续发展完善，并未说明其困难。
5. C 细节题。文章第一段最后两句指出，恐怖分子对世贸中心大楼的攻击为我们展现了一个更加恐怖的画面：与攻击大楼相比，炸开横跨阿拉斯加输油管道将会更加容易，而与袭击一个风力发电厂相比，用炸弹轰炸核电站会更加致命。C 项“如果恐怖分子袭击核电站的话，打击将是致命的”与文意相符，是正确选项；A 项“发达国家与发展中国家的差距将越来越大”、B 项“这将限制许多可替代能源的发展”和 D 项“这将对原本储量就不足的煤炭资源造成危害”在文中均未提及。

Passage 2

- 1 Get ready for the second act of the grand drama we call globalization. The 1980s opened with a massive manufacturing migration from industrialized countries to the Third World that accelerates to this day. This decade is witnessing a second huge shift, this time in services, with white-collar professional jobs following the same blue-collar migratory routes to Asia and elsewhere.
- 2 We believe that the latest iteration in the evolution of the global economy will generate more growth for everyone over time as countries focus their abilities on doing what they do best. But the adjustment may well be painful for those middle-class Americans and Europeans who see their jobs in software writing, chip design, architecture, and accounting move to India, China, Israel, Russia and the Philippines. If the migration of services is not mediated by good growth-promoting government policy, there is a serious risk that anti-globalization forces will gain an army of jobless white-collar recruits.
- 3 The dimensions of the service shift are only just beginning to come into focus. We can discern the trend but not the strength or size of the move. The collapse of the tech bubble and the weak recovery are leading a growing number of U.S. bank, insurance, credit card, accounting, investment banking, high-tech, engineering and design companies to outsource white-collar work.
- 4 This is likely to prove to be more than just a cyclical phenomenon. The Internet, digitization, the spread of white-collar skills abroad and the big cost savings of outsourcing will probably make the shift of services a permanent feature of economic life. The good news is that flinging off of commodity-like service work will increase the profits and efficiency of American corporations and set the stage for the next big growth-generating breakthrough. Innovation is the driving force of the U.S. economy, not mass production of low-value goods or services. The painful loss of manufacturing in the 1970s and 1980s paved the way to the high-tech gains of the 1990s. The same forces are at work today.
- 5 For their part, India, China, and other countries are gaining large numbers of well-paying jobs, expanding the middle class, and reducing poverty. As a result, China is emerging as a locomotive to world growth. American exports to China in November 2003 were up 30% year-over-year at an annual rate of 24 billion dollars, matching what the U.S. exports to France.
- 6 The U.S. must act without hesitation. It should do what it has done in the past—move up the value-added ladder to create new products and services. That means promoting better education, completing the job of reforming the capital market, and reducing business and investor risk at home and abroad. If it can restart the growth engine, the U.S. has nothing to fear from the great white-collar migration. If it doesn't, there may be serious trouble ahead. (468 words)

iteration / ,ite'reiʃən / n. 反复

digitization / ,didʒitai'zeiʃən / n. 信息数字化

outsource / 'aut.sɔ:sɪŋ / n. 转包

1. Globalization of the current decade proves to be _____.
 - A. a dramatic event resulting in serious economic problems
 - B. a massive transfer of manual workers from West to East
 - C. identical to the previous movement in scale and value
 - D. sending upscale jobs off the highly-developed countries
2. According to the passage, which one of the following is the possible result of the white-collar migration?
 - A. Forceful intervention by the government.
 - B. Great advances in information technology.
 - C. Sufferings for U.S. technical professionals.

- D. Rapid progress in manufacturing industry.
3. As a result of the collapse of the tech bubble, many countries are _____.
 A. undermining the healthy basis of employment
 B. exhausting the sources of service-job supply
 C. exporting well-trained and experienced workers
 D. shifting well-paying jobs to the developing countries
4. In which aspect will the move of services be beneficial to developed countries?
 A. Driving corporations to pursue the biggest profits.
 B. Making conditions ready for new breakthrough.
 C. Preventing the production of low-value goods.
 D. Throwing off the heavy burden of service duties.
5. To solve the problems caused by service shift, _____.
 A. financial firms are to escape investment risks
 B. the middle class must receive further education
 C. the U.S. should act as it did during the last shift
 D. developed countries have to check their exports

[译文]

- 1 让我们做好准备来迎接我们所说的全球化的第二阶段。20 世纪 80 年代, 工业国家开始将生产制造大批量地向第三世界转移并加速发展至今。这十年是第二个大规模转移的十年, 这次涉及到了服务业, 白领职业也会和当年的蓝领工作一样涌入亚洲和其他地区。
- 2 我们相信, 当各国集中精力做好他们最擅长的工作时, 这场全球经济变革中的最新的转移将会为每个人带来更大的发展机遇。但这种调整对于那些美国和欧洲的中产阶级来说可能是很痛苦的, 因为他们不得不眼看着自己的软件编写、芯片设计、建筑、会计的工作转移到印度、中国、以色列、俄罗斯和菲律宾等国家。如果服务业的转移没有一个好的促进发展的政府政策来调节的话, 就会有大量的失业白领成员群起反对全球化所带来的严重的危机。
- 3 我们才刚刚开始关注这场服务业转移的规模。我们可以辨识出这次转移的趋势却看不出它的规模和强度。技术泡沫的崩溃和其缓慢的复苏正使得越来越多的美国银行、保险、信用卡、会计、投资银行、高科技、工程和设计等公司把他们的白领工作转包给其他国家。
- 4 很可能, 这不仅仅是个周期性的现象。因特网、信息数字化、白领技能传往国外和转包所节省下的大量资金都将可能使得服务业转移成为经济生活中的一个长期特征。有利的方面是商品化服务工作的转包将会提高美国企业的利润和效率, 从而为促成下一阶段大规模的经济发展的突破作好准备。美国经济的驱动力是革新而非低价值商品的大规模制造生产或服务。20 世纪七八十年代令人痛心的制造业流失为 90 年代高科技的获利铺平了道路。如今, 同样的力量在起作用。
- 5 对于印度、中国和其他国家来说, 由于他们得到了很多赚钱的工作, 因而扩大了中产阶级, 减少了贫困。其结果就是中国因此成为了世界经济发展的龙头。美国对中国的出口在 2003 年 11 月上升了 30%, 达到年出口额 240 亿美元, 与美国对法国的出口相持平。
- 6 对此, 美国应毫不犹豫地采取行动, 就如同应对上次的转移一样——提高技术含量以提供新的产品与服务。这就意味着要提高教育水平、完善资金市场并减少国内外商家和投资人的投资风险。如果美国能够再次把握发展契机, 就不用担心这次大规模的白领工作转移会给美国带来什么不良影响; 反之, 就会有大麻烦了。

[答案与分析]

1. D 细节题。从文中第一段的最后一句中我们得知, 此次大规模的转移就是白领工作从发达国家到

发展中国家的转移。由此可见，D项“把高档次的工作从高度发达的国家输出”是第二次转移，即近十年来转移的特点，因此是正确选项；A项“是导致严重经济问题的出人意料的事件”在文中没有提及；B项“体力劳动者从西方到东方的大规模的转移。”体力劳动工作是20个世纪80年代，即第一次转移的内容，与题干近十年来全球化的要求不符，且转移的是工作，不是劳动者本人；C项“与上次运动在规模和重要性方面相似”与原文内容相悖，因为在文中第三段的第二句话中提到，我们现在还看不出此次转移的规模和强度，因此在规模和重要性方面是没法同上次转移相比较的。

2. C 细节题。从原文第二段的第二句话“但这种调整对于那些美国和欧洲的中产阶级来说可能是很痛苦的，因为他们不得不眼着自己的软件编写、芯片设计、建筑、会计的工作转移到印度、中国、以色列、俄罗斯和菲律宾等国。”可以看出C项“白领工作的转移会带给美国技术人员痛苦的失业经历”是正确选项；而A项“政府的强烈干预”虽然在原文中也提到过，但不能与题干构成因果关系；B项“信息科技的巨大发展”在文中没有根据；而D项“制造工业的迅速发展”并非白领工作的转移而是当年蓝领工作转移引起的。
3. D 细节题。D项意为：“把赚钱的工作转包给发展中国家。”此选项中的转包 shift 是对原文第三段最后一句“技术泡沫的崩溃和其缓慢的复苏正使得越来越多的美国银行、保险、信用卡、会计、投资银行、高科技、工程和设计公司把他们的白领的工作转包出去”中的转包一词“outsource”的同义替换，故选此项；而A项“削弱了健康的雇佣基础”和B项“耗尽了服务工作的人力资源”在文中没有根据；C项“输出有经验且训练有素的工人”则是对文章主旨的错误理解，转包的是工作而不是人。
4. B 细节题。文中第四段第三句话指出，有利的方面是商品化服务工作的转包将会提高美国企业的利润和效率，从而为下一阶段大规模的经济发展的突破作好准备。由此可判断B项“为经济的新突破作好准备”应为正确选项；而A项“驱使企业追求最大的经济效益”在文中虽有体现但不全面；C项“阻止低价值商品的生产”不能与题干构成因果关系；D项“摆脱沉重的服务税的负担”在文中没有提及。
5. C 细节题。文章最后一段第一、二句话指出：对此，美国应毫不犹豫地采取行动，就如同应对上次的转移一样——提高技术含量以提供新的产品与服务。C项“美国应如同应对上次转移一样采取行动”与此细节相符，故选此项；最后一段只是说要“减少国内外商家和投资人的投资风险”，而没有提及“金融公司”，故A项“金融公司要躲避投资风险”错误；B项“中产阶级要接受进一步的教育”在文章中最后一段虽有体现，但是C项内容的细节，所以不对；D项“发达国家不得不停止出口”在文章中也没有提及。

Passage 3

- 1 Our current system of unemployment compensation has increased nearly all sources of adult unemployment. First, for those who are already unemployed, the system greatly reduces the cost of extending the period of unemployment. Second, for all types of unsteady work—seasonal, cyclical and casual—it raises the net wage to the employee, relative to the cost of the employer.
- 2 As for the first, consider a worker who earns \$500 per month or \$6,000 per year if she experiences no unemployment. If she is unemployed for one month, she loses \$500 in gross earnings but only \$116 in net income. How does this occur? A reduction of \$500 in annual earnings reduces her federal payroll and state tax liability by \$134. Unemployment compensation consists of 50% of her wage or \$250. Her net income therefore falls from \$366 if she is employed, to \$250 paid as unemployment compensation. Moreover, part of the higher income from employment is offset by the cost of transportation to work and other expenses associated with employment; and in some industries, the cost of unemployment is reduced further or even made negative by the supplementary unemployment benefits paid by employers under collective bargaining

agreement. The over-all effect is to increase the duration of a typical period of unemployment and to increase the frequency with which individuals lose jobs and become unemployed. The more general effect of unemployment compensation is to increase the seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in the demand for labor and the relative number of short-lived casual jobs. A worker who accepts such work knows she will be laid off when the season ends. If there were no unemployment compensation, workers could be induced to accept such unstable jobs only if the wage rate were sufficiently higher in those jobs than in the more stable ones.

- 3 The higher cost of the labor, then, would induce employers to reduce the instability of employment, among other things, by additional development of off-season work and by the introduction of new production techniques, e.g. new methods of outdoor work in bad weather. Employers contribute to the state unemployment compensation fund on the basis of the unemployment experience of their own previous employees. Within limits, the more benefits that those former employees draw, the higher is the employer's tax rate. The theory of experience rating is clear. If an employer paid the full cost of the unemployment benefits that his former employees received, unemployment compensation would provide no incentive to an excess use of unstable employment. In practice, however, experience rating is limited by a maximum rate of employer contribution. For any firm that pays the maximum rate, there is no cost for additional unemployment and no gain from a small reduction in unemployment.
- 4 The challenge at this time is to restructure the unemployment system in a way that strengthens its good features while reducing the harmful effects. Some gains can be achieved by removing the ceiling on the employer's rate of contribution and by lowering the minimum rate to zero. Employers would then pay the full price of unemployment insurance benefits and this would encourage employers to stabilize employment and production. Further improvement could be achieved if unemployment insurance benefits were taxed in the same way as other earnings. This would eliminate the situations in which a worker's net income is actually reduced when he returns to work. (558 words)

offset / 'ɔ:fset / n. 抵消

collective bargaining agreement 集体谈判协议

off-season n. 淡季

supplementary unemployment benefit 失业补助金

1. Which of the following is the criticism the author makes of the unemployment compensation system?
 - A. It places an unfair burden on firms whose production is cyclical or seasonal.
 - B. It encourages out-of-work employees to extend the length of time they are unemployed.
 - C. It constitutes a long-term threat to those more capable yet jobless workers.
 - D. It encourages a worker to stay on his or her present job longer.
2. In writing this article, the author is primarily to _____.
 - A. advocate expanding the benefits and scope of coverage of unemployment compensation
 - B. suggest reforms to eliminate inefficiencies in unemployment compensation
 - C. propose methods of increasing the effectiveness of government programs to reduce unemployment
 - D. defend the system of unemployment compensation against criticism
3. The example of a worker earning \$500 per month is cited by the author so as to show _____.
 - A. that unemployed workers would not be able to make a living without unemployment compensation
 - B. that workers would rather live on unemployment compensation than take a job
 - C. that employers do not bear the full cost of worker compensation
 - D. the negative effects created by unemployment compensation on the worker's return to work
4. Which of the following changes should be made in the unemployment compensation according to the author's recommendation?

- A. To shorten the length of time during which a worker receives benefits to force the worker to seek work.
 - B. To increase the amount of money paid by employers into the unemployment compensation fund.
 - C. To tax unemployment compensation to lower net benefits received by unemployed workers.
 - D. Both B and C.
5. All the followings are mentioned as ways in which employers might reduce seasonal and cyclical unemployment EXCEPT _____.
- A. creating new job opportunities for laid-off workers at the off-season
 - B. adopting a system of supplementary benefits for workers laid off in slow periods
 - C. finding new jobs to be done by workers during the off-season
 - D. developing new techniques of production not affected by weather

[译文]

- 1 我们当前的失业补偿制度几乎使得成年人失业的状况更严重化了。首先，对于那些处于失业状态的人而言，这种制度大大减少了延长失业时间为其带来的损失。其次，对于诸如季节性、周期性和临时性工作等不稳定工作而言，较之雇主的劳力成本，这种制度提高了员工的净工资。
- 2 对于第一个群体，请考虑一下，假定一个有着稳定工作的工人每月可挣 500 美元，即每年 6000 美元，如果她失业一个月，她的毛收入损失 500 美元，但是净收入只损失 116 美元。这是怎么回事呢？年收入减少 500 美元，她应缴纳的联邦工薪税和州税就减少 134 美元。失业补偿金由她原工资的一半构成，即 250 美元。因而如果她失业，她的净收入就会从就业时的 366 美元降到作为失业补偿金发放的 250 美元。另外，工作所获得的较高收入的一部分往往被前去工作的交通费和其他与就业相关的费用所抵消；在某些工业部门，失业损失会进一步减少，甚至变为负数，因为根据集体谈判协议，雇主应发放失业补助金。其总体影响是失业典型期持续时间延长，个人丢掉工作而失业的频率也增加了。失业补偿制度所产生的更普遍的影响是对于劳动力的需求和短期临时工作的相对数目产生了季节性和周期性的浮动。一个接受短期临时工作的人知道，她在这个季节结束的时候，就会失业。但是如果没有失业补偿制度，只要这些不稳定的工作的工资远远高于相对稳定的工作的工资，工人们可能会受利益驱使而接受这种不稳定的工作。
- 3 在那种情况下，较高的劳动力成本会驱使雇主通过额外开发淡季工作和引进新生产技术，比如，引进在恶劣气候条件下户外工作的新方法从而减少就业的不稳定性。雇主根据自己以前的员工的失业情况向州失业补偿基金捐款。在一定限度内，那些前员工领取的补助越多，雇主的纳税率就越高。根据员工失业实际情况决定纳税率是清楚的。如果雇主全额支付前员工的失业补助金，那么失业补偿制度对过度使用不稳定工作的做法就不会起到鼓励作用。但是在实践中，根据前员工失业情况决定纳税率的做法受到雇主最高捐款率的限制。对捐款率最高的任何公司而言，增加失业不会造成损失，而少量减少失业也不会从中受益。
- 4 目前的问题是如何通过加强积极因素和减少有害影响来调整失业补偿制度。通过取消雇主捐款率的最高限额和把最低捐款率降到零，人们是可以受益的。那样的话，雇主就要全额支付失业保险补助金，这样的做法会鼓励雇主设法稳定就业和生产。如果对于失业保险补助金像其他收入一样征税，情况就能得到进一步的改善。这样就会消除工人在回去工作时净收入实际减少的情况。

[答案与分析]

1. B 细节题。根据第一段第二句“首先，对于那些处于失业状态的人而言，这种制度大大减少了延长失业时间为其带来的损失”和第二段第七句“其典型的影响是使失业持续时间延长”，可以确定 B 项“失业补偿制度鼓励失业工人延长失业期”是原文的同义替换；文中并未提及失业补偿对于季节性和周期性生产公司的影响，所以 A 项“它为那些生产呈周期性和季节性的公司带来了不公平的负担”是错误的；C 项“它对于那些有工作能力却处于失业状态的工人构成了一个长期的威胁”

与原文正好意思相反，失业补助实为失业工人失业期内提供了救济，而非构成威胁；D项“它鼓励工人在自己现有岗位上工作更长时间……”与第二段倒数第四句“其典型的影响是使失业持续时间延长”相矛盾。

2. B 主旨题。文章第一段开门见山地指出了存在的问题，第二、三段对问题的产生进行了具体分析，并举例进行说明，第四段对解决问题提出了建议。可见本文的宗旨在于分析问题并解决问题，即如何使失业补偿制度更好地保障失业群体，同时又不至于让其产生过分的依赖性。作者的写作目的和B项“建议改革失业补偿制度从而消除其低效率的问题”吻合，故是正确选项；A项“主张增加失业补助金的金额，同时扩大其保障覆盖面。”与作者的主张刚好相反，作者建议对失业补助征税以刺激失业劳动力尽快就业。本文着重讨论的是失业补偿制度的效能及它给社会带来的影响，所以C项“建议政府采取更加有效的措施减少失业”与主旨无关。D项“反驳批评、为失业补偿制度辩护”与作者全篇的论证刚好相反。
3. D 例证题。第二段开头作者举例说明一个工人失业后，毛收入明显减少，可实际上免去交税、交通费等等与就业相关的开销，又得到工资一半的补助金，他的净收入并没有受到多大的影响。由第二段第七句“其总体的影响是使失业持续时间延长，个人丢掉工作而转为失业的频率也增加了”由此可以看出，这是典型的负面影响，所以D项“失业补偿制度对于工人重新就业产生了负面影响”与原文相符，是正确选项；由第二段最后一句话“但是如果没有失业补偿制度，只要这些不稳定工作的工资远远高于相对稳定的工作的工资，工人们可能会受利益驱使而接受这种不稳定的工作”可知，A项“没有失业补偿金失业工人将无法谋生”与此细节不符；B项“工人宁愿靠失业补助金生活也不重新就业”不如D项概括深刻、涵盖面广；C项“雇主不应该承担全额的失业补偿金”并不是例子讨论的内容，不能被例子所说明，所以是错误的。
4. D 细节题。根据最后一段第二句“通过取消雇主捐款率的最高限额和把最低捐款率降到零，人们可以受益”和倒数第二句“如果对于失业保险补助金如其他收入一样征税，情况就能得到进一步的改善”，可知D项正确；而A项“缩短失业工人领取失业补偿金的期限，来迫使工人尽快找到工作”在文中并没有涉及；B项“增加雇主负担的失业补偿基金的金额”和C项“对于失业补助金收税来降低工人的净收益”虽然与最后一段内容相符，但他们分别是作者的建议之一，由于其片面性，我们不能选这两项中任何一项作为答案。
5. B 正误判断题。根据原文第三段第一句“较高的劳动力成本会驱使雇主通过额外开发淡季工作和引进新的生产技术，比如，引进在恶劣气候条件下户外工作的新方法从而减少就业的不稳定性”可知，作者提及的降低季节性和周期性失业的办法包括A项“在生产淡季为下岗工人创造新的就业机会”、C项“在生产淡季为工人找到新的工作来做”和D项“开发新的不受天气影响的技术”；只有B项“对在增长缓慢时期被解雇的工人采用一种补充救济制度”没有被提及，故是正确选项。

Passage 4

- 1 Western states were the first to give women the vote. Between 1869 and the outbreak of World War I, seventeen states west of Mississippi gave women the right to vote in state elections for Governors and Representatives. It was not until 1920 that the Federal Government under pressure by suffragettes (women insisting on their right to votes), followed the states' lead and permitted women to take part in national elections for Congresswomen and the President.
- 2 Women have made great strides since then in achieving political equality. Recently, American feminists have been working hard to achieve social and economic equality as well as political. Their belief is that, as there is nothing that women cannot do just as well as men, they should be shown the same respect and have the same social rights and the same pay as their male counterparts. Anything less is discrimination and sexism.
- 3 Few American girls agree with the extreme feminists who deride marriage and romantic love, but more

and more of them are prepared to live with a man outside marriage, often with the intention of buying a home and marrying only when, between them, they have saved enough money. Young couples today share both the household chores and care of the baby.

- 4 The old generations, especially those that live in the city suburbs, are bewildered and disturbed by this trend. It is all against the great American tradition of the “home” as the symbol of the unified family.
- 5 The American women makes the most of her free time. She helps with political campaigns. She sits on committees. She goes to classes of all kinds, from health foods to English literature, from environmental studies to karate. She swims, plays tennis, and she takes an active interest in her children’s education. In most of these activities her companions are other housewives from her neighborhood.
- 6 There are women executives of some important industries and businesses. In fact, there are women in most jobs which were formerly reserved for men. There are women lawyers, doctors, architects, as well as women bus drivers, but the ordinary working women will earn less than a man gets for doing the same job—although there is a law which makes this illegal. American girls tend to marry young, which means that 60% of the women in work are married. This also helps to explain why so many young married couples have such a high standard of living.
- 7 American women seem to have more self-confidence than women from most other countries. For years they have felt no inferiority whatsoever to the male sex. Therefore visitors to the U.S.A. rarely meet militant feminists. (446 words)

suffragette / ˌsʌfrəˈdʒet / n. 妇女参政权论者

karate / kəˈrɑːti / n. 空手道

deride / diˈraɪd / v. 嘲弄, 嘲笑

sit on a committee 任委员会委员

- When were the American women first given right to vote in national elections?
 - In 1869.
 - During World War I.
 - In 1920.
 - In recent years.
- American feminists believe that women _____.
 - have made great progress in obtaining both political and social equality
 - have achieved both social and economical equality
 - have not got enough social and economical equality as well as political
 - have not had the same self-confidence as the men have
- What attitude do the American women have towards marriage according to the passage?
 - Most of them still believe in marriage and romantic love.
 - Their marriages should be able to bring them money and home.
 - Extreme feminists are ready to live with a man outside marriage.
 - The younger generations of women prefer to have a unified family.
- During their free time, American women are usually engaged in _____.
 - helping with political movements
 - learning how to fight to protect themselves
 - doing housework and taking care of children
 - both A and B
- Which of the following can be the best title of this passage?
 - American Feminists
 - American Women and Their Struggle for Equality
 - American Girls
 - Women and Rights