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考研英语阅读理解

120篇 精读

主审 庄绎传
主编 张 锐

- 文章选自官方题库及国外报刊杂志
- 北外等命题单位知名教授精心编辑，深度参与
- 注释详尽，译文地道，拓展有度，非常适合精读
- 自新一届命题组成立以来，考研阅读理解唯一全新力作，最贴近现任命题组思路

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考研英语阅读理解 120 篇精读

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前　言

教育部制定的《全国硕士研究生入学考试英语考试大纲》(非英语专业)于2004年7月对试卷结构做了重大调整,将其中的阅读理解部分由原来的2节25小题共50分改为现在的3节30小题共60分,使该部分在试卷中的比重进一步提高,成为考研英语的重中之重。不言而喻,准备考研的同学对阅读理解部分进行重点复习和练习,无疑是取得考试成功的明智之举。如果这部分拿到百分之七十到八十,甚至是百分之九十的分数,即使其余两大部分得分不够理想,达到或超过初试录取分数线是不成问题的。

《考研英语阅读理解120篇精读》是为报考硕士研究生非英语专业的考生编写的辅导资料。本书以教育部制订的《全国硕士研究生入学考试英语考试大纲》为依据,根据编者长期的教学经验和辅导硕士研究生入学考试的实践,全方位解决广大考生阅读理解中存在的问题,以使广大考生在考研英语备考中更充分更主动。

本书的主要特点如下:

选材严谨 贴近真题　本书所选文章来源既有教育部考试中心官方题库,又有最新国外报刊、杂志。所选文章按历年常考题材,社会科学、人文科学、自然科学在考研阅读理解中的分布比例进行排列组合。充分保证了所选材料的时效性和典型性。本书共分20个单元,每单元均包括:**Part A** 四篇文章,**Part B** 一篇文章,**Part C** 一篇文章,共六篇文章。非常有利于考生熟悉考试模式。

名师主笔 权威力作　根据教育部考试中心新一届命题组成员来源,特邀其所在单位长期从事教学工作和考研辅导、命题研究的资深教授担任本书的编者。他们既有很深的学术造诣,又熟悉研究生考试的大纲、命题人,深谙命题原则和最新考试动态。根据考生的需要,认真研究、精心编写了这本最贴近现任命题组思路的权威辅导书。

重点词汇 边读边记　大纲中的重点词汇即频考词汇和变动词汇是阅读理解考查的要点之一,也是考生最感头痛的难点之一。本书精选的120篇阅读理解文章中涵盖了近1500条考研阅读部分经常出现的重点词汇,以及部分重要短语,并列出了其在文章中的含义。这样,既增强了考生对文章的理解又帮助考生在具体语境中记忆重点词汇,可谓一举两得。

典型难句 系统分析　阅读理解文章中的长难句是考生面临的又一个难点。句子读不懂,既影响做题又打击了士气。本书在每篇文章中均摘选了3-5个典型长难句对其进行语法句法的分析和讲解,并提供参考释义,帮助考生提高阅读基本功,轻松突破长难句,使考生真正感到无障碍阅读的乐趣。

精品练习 题解详尽　所有练习题均经过编者反复推敲论证后确定,习题形式紧跟考研试题的命题步伐;习题题型符合考研试题的命题形式;习题题量突出考研试题的命题重点。并对其作了深入浅出的解析,便于考生抓住要点,触类旁通。(所要指出的是,本书所选文章是教育部考试

中心所要求的“**text**”而非“**passage**”。“**text**”结构严谨，浑然一体，所问有所答；“**passage**”节选摘要，支离破碎，所问未必有所答。这也是其他版本中阅读理解答案解释牵强附会，不合逻辑的根本原因。）

全文翻译 精读倍易 每篇文章后面均附有地道全文翻译，可供考生在汉语语篇环境下，更加准确的理解文章的整体意义及其细枝末节，掌握翻译要点。

新一届命题组组长北京外国语大学语言研究所博士生导师吴教授说：“阅读能力的提高，不是一朝一夕、一蹴而就的事情，更不是随便翻阅几篇文章就能实现的。英语复习靠的是平时的积累，善始善终的学习。投机取巧是万万不能要的。”吴教授学识渊博，思维缜密，命题风格诡秘，没有扎实的功底是根本无法通过她这一关的。

不管是从打基础的角度，还是从提高的角度，本书对于广大考生来说，都是一本不可多得、难能可贵的宝典。如果你能认真精读此书，脚踏实地的学习，就一定能够增强应试能力和信心，给你带来意想不到的惊喜，轻松获取高分。

本书在编写过程中得到了我国著名英语教育家庄绎传先生的很多帮助，特致以谢意！

最后，预祝广大考生在2009年的研究生考试中取得好成绩，如意高中，金榜题名！

编　者

2008年2月

目　录

Unit 1

Part A

Direction: Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A、B、C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.

Text 1

When enthusiasts talk of sustainable development, the eyes of most people glaze over. There is a whiff of sackcloth and ashes about their arguments, which usually depend on people giving up the comforts of a modern economy to achieve some debatable greater good. Yet there is a serious point at issue. Modern industry pollutes, and it also seems to cause significant changes to the climate. What is needed is an industry that delivers the benefits without the costs. And the glimmerings of just such an industry can now be discerned.

That industry is based on biotechnology. At the moment, biotech's main uses are in medicine and agriculture. But its biggest long-term impact may be industrial. Here, it will diminish demand for oil by taking the cheapest raw materials imaginable, carbon dioxide and water, and using them to make fuel and plastics.

Plastics and fuels made in this way would have several advantages. They could accurately be called "renewables", since nothing is depleted to make them. They would be part of the natural carbon cycle, borrowing that element from the atmosphere for a few months, and returning it when they were burned or dumped. That means they could not possibly contribute to global warming. And they would be environmentally friendly in other ways. Bioplastics are biodegradable, since bacteria understand their chemistry and can therefore digest them. Biofuels, while not quite "zero emission" from the exhaust pipe (though a lot cleaner than petrol and diesel), would be cleaner overall even than the fuel-cell technology now being touted as an alternative to the internal combustion engine. That is because making the hydrogen that fuel cells use is not an environmentally friendly process, and never will be—unless it, too, uses biotechnology.

All this will, in the end, depend on costs. But these do not look unfavourable. Already, the price of bioplastics overlaps the top end of the petroleum-based plastics market. Bulk production should bring prices down, particularly when the raw materials are free. Meanwhile, ethanol would be a lot easier to introduce than fuel ceils. Existing engines will run on it with minor tweaking, so there is no need to change the way cars are made. And since, unlike hydrogen, it is a liquid, the fuel-distribution infrastructure would not need radical change.

The future could be green in ways that traditional environmentalists had not expected. Whether they will embrace that possibility, or stick to sack-cloth, remains to be seen.

1. According to the author, applying biotechnology to industry will
   [A] benefit the environment with little costs. [B] prove to be nothing but an imagination.
   [C] deprive people of modem comforts. [D] help eliminate global warming.
2. The word "depleted" (Line 2, Paragraph 3) can be substituted by
   [A] exhausted. [B] discarded. [C] abandoned. [D] wasted.
3. One advantage of the biofuels is that
   [A] they will not pollute the environment.
   [B] they are degradable by bacteria.
   [C] they are cheaper than hydrogen fuels.
   [D] they are suitable for internal-combustion engine.
4. According to paragraph 4,
   [A] the cost of bioplastics has risen up to a high level.
   [B] fuel cells are hard to apply.
   [C] cars have to be made in a non-traditional way.
   [D] gas stations need radical change if they switch to hydrogen.
5. The best title for the text might be
   [A] A World Clean Yet in Comfort. [B] Conserving Before It's Too Late.
   [C] There Is Only One Earth. [D] The Fuel-Hungry Planet.

Text 2

An invisible border divides those arguing for computers in the classroom on the behalf of students career prospects and those arguing for computers in the classroom for broader reasons of radical educational reform. Very few writers on the subject have explored this distinction—indeed, contradiction—which goes to the heart of what is wrong with the campaign to put computers in the classroom.

An education that aims at getting a student a certain kind of job is a technical education, justified for reasons radically different from why education is universally required by law. It is not simply to raise everyone's job prospects that all children are legally required to attend school into their teens. Rather, we have a certain conception of the American citizen, a character who is incomplete if he cannot competently assess how his livelihood and happiness are affected by things outside of himself. But this was not always the case; before it was legally required for all children to attend school until a certain age, it was widely accepted that some were just not equipped by nature to pursue this kind of education. With optimism characteristic of all industrialized countries, we came to accept that everyone is fit to be educated. Computer-education advocates forsake this optimistic notion for a pessimism that betrays their otherwise cheery outlook. Banking on the confusion between educational and vocational reasons for bringing computers into schools, computered advocates often emphasize the job prospects of graduates over their educational achievement.

There are some good arguments for a technical education given the right kind of student. Many European schools introduce the concept of professional training early on in order to make sure children properly equipped for the professions they want to joint. It is, however, presumptuous to insist that

there will only be so many jobs for so many scientists, so many businessmen, so many accountants. Besides, this is unlikely to produce the needed number of every kind of professional in a country as large as ours and where the economy is spread over so many states and involves so many international corporations.

But, for a small group of students, professional training might be the way to go since well-developed skills, all other factors being equal, can be the difference between having a job and not. Of course, the basics of using any computer these days are very simple. It does not take a lifelong acquaintance to pick up various software programs. If one wanted to become a computer engineer, that is, of course, an entirely different story. Basic computer skills take—at the very longest—a couple of months to learn. In any case, basic computer skills are only complementary to the host of real skills that are necessary to becoming any kind of professional. It should be observed, of course, that no school (vocational or not) is helped by a confusion over its purpose.

6. The author thinks the present rush to put computers in the classroom is
   [A] far-reaching.
   [B] dubiously oriented.
   [C] self-contradictor.
   [D] radically reformatory.

7. The belief that education is indispensable to all children
   [A] is indicative of a pessimism in disguise.
   [B] came into being along with the arrival of computers.
   [C] is deeply rooted in the minds of computered advocates.
   [D] originated from the optimistic attitude of industrialized countries.

8. The word "betray" (Para. 2) replaced by
   [A] deceive. [B] sell. [C] abandon. [D] rebel.

9. It could be inferred from the text that in the author's country the European model of professional training is
   [A] dependent upon the starting age of candidates.
   [B] worth trying in various social sections.
   [C] of little practical value.
   [D] attractive to very kind of professional.

10. According to the author, basic computer skills should be
   [A] included as an auxiliary course in school.
   [B] highlighted in acquisition of professional qualifications.
   [C] mastered through a life-long course.
   [D] equally emphasized by any school, vocational or otherwise.

Text 3

We're moving into another era, as the toxic effects of the bubble and its grave consequences spread through the financial system. Just a couple of years ago investors dreamed of 20 percent returns forever. Now surveys show that they're down to a "realistic"8 percent to 10 percent range.

But what if the next few yearsturn out to be below normal expectations? Martin Earners of the Bank

Credit Analyst in Montreal expects future stock returns to average just 4 percent to 6 percent. Sound impossible? After a much smaller bubble that burst in the mid-1960s Standard & Poor's 5000 stock average returned 6.9 percent a year (with dividends reinvested) for the following 17 years. Few investors are prepared for that.

Right now denial seems to be the attitude of choice. That's typical, says Lori Lucas of Hewitt, the consulting firm. You hate to look at your investments when they're going down. Hewitt tracks 500, 000 401 (k) accounts every day, and finds that savers are keeping their contributions up. But they're much less inclined to switch their money around. "It's the slot-machine effect," Lucas says. "People get more interested in playing when they think they've got a hot machine"—and nothing's hot today. The average investor feels overwhelmed.

Against all common sense, many savers still shut their eyes to the dangers of owning too much company stock. In big companies last year, a surprising 29 percent of employees held at least three quarters of their 402 (k) in their own stock.

Younger employees may have no choice. You often have to wait until you're 50 or 55 before you can sell any company stock you get as a matching contribution.

But instead of getting out when they can, old participants have been holding, too. One third of the people 60 and up chose company stock for three quarters of their plan, Hewitt reports. Are they inattentive? Loyal to a fault? Sick? It's as if Lucent, Enron and Xerox never happened.

No investor should give his or her total trust to any particular company's stock. And while you're at it, think how you'd be if future stock returns—averaging good years and bad—are as poor as Barnes predicts.

If you ask me, diversified stocks remain good for the long run, with a backup in bonds. But I, too, am figuring on reduced returns. What a shame. Dear bubble, I'll never forget. It's the end of a grand affair.

11. The investors' judgment of the present stock returns seems to be
[A] fanciful. [B] pessimistic. [C] groundless. D. realistic.

12. In face of the current stock market, most stock-holders
[A] stop injecting more money into the stock market.
[B] react angrily to the devaluing stock.
[C] switch their money around in the market.
[D] turn a deaf ear to the warning.

13. In the author's opinion, employees should
[A] invest in company stock to show loyalty to their employer.
[B] get out of their own company's stock.
[C] wait for some time before disposing of their stock.
[D] give trust to a particular company's stock.

14. It can be inferred from the text that Lucent, Enron and Xerox are names of
[A] successful businesses. [B] bankrupted companies.
[C] stocks. [D] huge corporations.

15. The author's attitude towards the long-term investors' decision is

[A] positive. [B] suspicious. [C] negative. [D] ambiguous.

Text 4

Half the world's population will be speaking or learning English by 2015, researchers say. Two billion people are expected to start learning English within a decade and three billion will speak it, says a British Council estimate.

Other languages, such as French, risk becoming the casualties of this "linguistic globalization". But the boom will be over by 2050 and the English-language teaching industry will have become a victim of its own success, says David Graddol, author of the report, *The Future of English*.

Mr. Graddol's research was based on a computer model developed to estimate demand for English-language teaching around the world. The lecturer, who has worked in education and language studies at the Open University for the past 25 years, said the model charted likely student numbers through to 2050.

It was compiled by looking at various estimates from the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) on education provision, demographic projections, government education policies and international student mobility figures. The impact of educational innovations and other developments affecting the world population including the Chinese government's policy of one baby per family were also factored in.

Based on its findings, Mr. Graddol has predicted that the world is about to be hit by a tidal wave of English. "Many governments, especially in countries which have relatively recently gained independence, are introducing the teaching of English under a utilitarian banner."

"But English predominates in the business world, and for such countries to be able to compete for work, including lucrative (profitable) outsourcing contracts, English is being pushed heavily from kindergarten on."

The potential bonanza (source of wealth) on offer from outsourcing means even maths and science are being taught in English at secondary schools in Malaysia. But demand for English teaching would drop as children progress through academia, and more universities across the world choose to teach in the language.

Mr. Graddol also estimated that the boom would be over by 2050. "English-language students will be down from two billion to 500 million then," he said, "Increasingly, as English spread across the globe, more people will become bilingual, even multi-lingual and such skills are highly prized in business. But Britain has not got the best reputation for learning other languages."

The report also showed that English was not the only language spreading, and the world, far from being dominated by English, was to become more multi-lingual. Mr. Graddol said, "Chinese, Arabic and Spanish are all popular, and likely to be languages of the future."

16. It is estimated that in a decade English will be

[A] actively studied by over 200 million people.

[B] freely spoken by global English learners.

[C] popular with over 80% of world inhabitants.

[D] really mastered by 50% of people worldwide.

17. According to the text, "linguistic globalization" will

[A] eliminate French from the globe. [B] defeat other European languages.

[C] fail all languages except English. [D] make English the biggest winner.

18. David Graddol predicts that the thriving period of English will

[A] terminate within half a century. [B] climax in the middle of the century.

[C] endure for no less than five decades. [D] quit till the beginning of the 2050s.

19. The report "The Future of English" factored in all of the following EXCEPT

[A] the educational condition and policy. [B] the directions and designs of Unesco.

[C] the statistics about population. [D] the movements of overseas students.

20. The writer of the report deems that outsourcing is to

[A] result in the increase of English subjects.

[B] lead to the drop of interest in English study.

[C] account for the further spread of English.

[D] bring about transition in college curricula.

Part B

Directions: In the following article, some sentences have been removed. For Questions 21-25, Choose the most suitable one from the list A - G to fit into each of the numbered blanks. There are two extra choices, which do not fit in any of the blanks. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1.

Leukemia is the most common type of cancer kids get, but it is still very rare. Leukemia involves the blood and blood-forming organs, such as the bone marrow. (21) _____.

A kid with leukemia produces lots of abnormal white blood cells in the bone marrow. Usually, white blood cells fight infection, but the white blood cells in a person with leukemia don't work the way they're supposed to. (22) _____.

The abnormal white blood cells multiply out of control, filling the bone marrow and making it hard for enough normal, infection-fighting white blood cells to form. Other blood cells-such as red blood cells (that carry oxygen in the blood to the body's tissues) and platelets (that allow blood to clot)—are also crowded out by the white blood cells of leukemia. These cancer cells may also move to other parts of the body, including the bloodstream, where they continue to multiply and build up.

Although leukemia can make kids sick, most of the time it is treatable, and kids get better. Almost all leukemia patients are treated with chemotherapy, which means using anti-cancer drugs. (23) _____. Chemotherapy quickly goes to work, traveling through the blood to the bone marrow. There, the drugs can attack the cancer cells. After several weeks of chemotherapy, many kids begin to feel better.

Some children with leukemia will also have to have radiation therapy, too. (24) _____.

If the cancer isn't getting better from using the usual amounts of chemotherapy and radiation, then a kid with leukemia will probably need more treatment—with higher doses of chemotherapy and radiation finally kill the cancer cells. But this heavy-duty treatment will also harm the normal cells in the kid's bone marrow too, and the bone marrow will no longer be able to produce normal blood cells. So, doctors will then give a kid—or anyone else who is healthy. (25) _____.

[A] The chemotherapy drugs are given through a catheter, a narrow tube that is inserted into a blood vessel, sometimes in the kid's upper chest.

[B] Early symptoms of leukemia are often overlooked, since they may resemble symptoms of the flu of other common diseases.

[C] This is a special procedure called a bone marrow transplant, and it helps the patient make new blood cells so they can recover from the leukemia.

[D] Bone marrow is the innermost part of some bones where blood cells are first made.

[E] The don't protect the person from infections very well.

[F] Radiation therapy uses invisible high-energy waves (similar to X-rays) to kill cancerous cells.

[G] A kid with leukemia seems to be hopeless without being treated at hospital.

Part C

Directions: Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written clearly on ANSWER SHEET 2.

(26) The message of the first Earth Day—April 22, 1970—had a certain innocence, filled with a certain can-do-ism: individual actions would roll back the damage done to the planet. The emphasis on the individual was picked up in best sellers like "50 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet", as well as in public-service campaigns that drove us to carpool, bicycle to work, recycle, and boycott rain-forest wood.

Earth Day 2000—April 22—reflects a new ethos. The theme of events that will be staged in the 185 participating countries is climate change and the threats—rising seas, shifting agricultural zones, more extreme weather—that a warmer world poses. The Earth Day 2000 slogan, "Clean Energy Now!" calls for replacing energy sources that produce heat-trapping greenhouse gases with energy sources (solar electricity, wind power) that do not. (27) Although some of the most eco-righteous have unplugged their homes from the electricity supply net in favor of solar panels on their roofs and fuel cells in their basements, at the rate that is happening there will be orange plantations in Alaska, before the greenhouse effect is forced into submission,

(28) Royal Dutch/Shell is reducing emissions of greenhouse gases at its plants by 2002 to a projected 25 percent below the levels of 1990, to 100 million tons. For an equivalent annual cut, every car in New England would have to be taken off the road for five years. (29) Boeing's lighting upgrade reduces its use of electricity for lighting 90% and saves 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide every year, to achieve which aim some 500,000 people would have had to change to energy-saving light

bulb.

None of this is to say that individual decisions do not matter. They do: the aimless movement from cars to SUVs has resulted in some 200 million more tons of carbon-dioxide emissions every year than if everyone had stayed with his nice little Taurus. (30) But individuals can exert a greater force for environmental good by pressuring corporations and governments than by lecturing their big car-driving friends.

文章注释与答案分析

Part A

Text 1

核心词汇

1. whiff n. 一点点，些许，轻微的迹象（或感觉）
2. glimmering n. 微弱的迹象，一丝，一线
3. discern v. 觉察出，识别；分辨出
4. biotechnology n. 生物科技
5. renewable adj. 可再生的，可延长有效期的
6. deplete v. 大量减少，耗尽，使枯竭
7. biodegradable adj. 生物所能分解的
8. digest v. 消化；领会，理解；n. 摘要
9. tout v. 吹捧，标榜；兜售，招徕
10. combustion n. 燃烧，着火
11. petroleum n. 石油，原油
12. ethanol n. 乙醇
13. tweak v. 扭，拧，扯；稍稍调整

难句分析

1. They would be part of the natural carbon cycle, borrowing that element from the atmosphere for a few months, and returning it when they were burned or dumped.

【结构分析】本句话的主干为 They would be part of the natural carbon cycle。borrowing 和 retuning 引导的两个句子都是作 cycle 的定语，when 引导的为时间状语从句。

【阅读重点】本句话的关键是理解句子结构，分清句子的层次。

【参考译文】它们将成为自然界碳循环的一部分，从大气中先借碳元素用上几个月，然后被烧毁或丢弃时再将其归还。

2. Biofuels, while not quite "zero emission" from the exhaust pipe (though a lot cleaner than petrol and diesel), would be cleaner overall even than the fuel-cell technology now being touted as an alternative to the internal combustion engine.

【结构分析】本句话的主干是 Biofuels would be cleaner overall。while 引导让步状语从句，括号中 though a lot cleaner than petrol and diesel 作补充说明的作用，now being touted 作 technology 的定语。

【阅读重点】本句的关键是理解句子结构和短语意思。短语 be touted as "被吹捧为…。"

【参考译文】生物燃料，虽然不完全是"零排放"（比汽油和柴油干净多了），但总体上说将会比时下正被吹捧为可用来代替内燃机的燃料电池干净清洁。

答案分析

1.【答案】A

本题问作者认为将生物技术应用到工业上会怎样。首段中"What is needed is an industry that delivers the benefits without the costs. And the glimmerings of just such an industry can now be dis-

cerned."指出现在需要一种不付出代价又有收益的工业,并指出现在这种工业已经隐约可见了;紧接着第二段首句"That industry is based on biotechnology."回答了刚刚提到的问题,指出这种工业是生物技术。因此A"能够不付出代价而给环境带来好处"正确。

2.【答案】A

本题问第三段第二行"depleted"一词可以被下面哪个词替换。该词所在句的前句They could accurately be called "renewables",说明他们是可再生的,紧接着用"since"给出原因"nothing is depleted to make them."然后对此做进一步解释"They would be part of the natural carbon cycle, borrowing that element from the atmosphere for a few months, and returning it when they were burned or dumped."这说明在生产它们的时候没有什么东西被消耗掉,只是进行了自然界的碳循环,所以A"被消耗掉"正确。

3.【答案】D

本题问生物燃料的一个优点是什么。第四段倒数第一、第二句提到生物燃料适用于现在汽车的内燃机,所以D"它们适合内燃机"正确。

4.【答案】D

本题问根据第四段可以得出什么结论。文中提到"And since, unlike hydrogen, it is a liquid, the fuel-distribution infrastructure would not need radical change.",也就是说"加油站如果改用氢则需做根本性的改变",而用酒精就无须费什么事,所以D正确。

5.【答案】A

本题问文章的最佳标题。文章首段指出现代工业给环境造成了极大的破坏,要消除污染就要放弃现代生活的安逸,针对此种情况提出了生物技术,并从技术和价格上论证了它应用于工业的可行性,说明它的确是"benefits without the costs";最后指出"The future could be green in ways that traditional environmentalists had not expected";也就是说生物技术既可避免污染,又可保持现代的物质文明。因此A"清洁而又舒适的世界"正确。

全文翻译

当热心者们谈到可持续发展时,大多数人的眼睛都发呆了。他们的论证引起一阵懊悔,因为该观点通常要求人们放弃现代经济带来的安逸,而去追求一些存有争议的更大的好处。至今,对此仍存在着严重的争议。现代工业带来污染,似乎也对气候造成重大影响。我们需要的是会带来利益而不要付出代价的一种工业。而且这样的工业如今已渐渐萌发。

这种工业是以生物科技为基础的。目前,生物科技主要应用于医疗和农业。但它最大,最深远的影响应该在工业方面。它将利用一切可想到的最廉价的原料、二氧化碳和水,并利用它们制造燃料和塑料,从而减少人们对石油的需求。

用这种方式制造成的塑料和燃料有几个优点。制造时不用消耗任何东西,它们可以名副其实地被称为"可再生的"。它们将成为自然界碳循环的一部分,从大气中先借碳元素用上几个月,然后被烧毁或丢弃时再将其归还。这就意味着它们不可能促使全球变暖。而且它们还会在其他方面对环境有好的影响。生物塑料是可以生物降解的,因为细菌知道它们的化学成分,所以能消化它们。生物燃料,虽然不完全是"零排放"(比汽油和柴油干净多了),但总体上说将会比时下正被吹捧为可用来代替内燃机的燃料电池干净清洁。那是因为燃料电池所需的氢气在生产过程中会对环境造成污染,除非它也利用生物技术来生产。

所有这些最终都取决于成本。但是这看起来也不是很贵。生物塑料的价钱已与石油塑料的

高端价位持平。批量生产将使价格下调，特别是使用免费原料的时候。同时，比起燃料电池，酒精将会更容易推行。现在用的引擎只需稍作调整就可以使用，所以也没必要改变汽车的制造方式。并且，与氢气不同，它是一种液体，加油的基础设施就不需要做根本性的改变。

在将来，生物技术所带来的环保将是传统环保主义者从未预想过的。他们是接受这种可能性还是因循守旧，尚需拭目以待。

Text 2

核心词汇

1. justify v. 证明…有道理
2. radically adv. 本质地；根本地
3. assess v. 估定；评估
4. optimism n. 乐观；乐观主义
5. forsake v. 放弃；抛弃
6. pessimism n. 悲观；悲观主义
7. vocational adj. 职业上的；特别技术训练的
8. advocate n. 主张者；拥护者
9. presumptuous adj. 自以为是的；妄为的
10. complementary adj. 补充的

难句分析

1. An invisible border divides those arguing for computers in the classroom on the behalf of students career prospects and those arguing for computers in the classroom for broader reasons of radical educational reform.

【结构分析】本句主干是 an invisible border divides those arguing，其中 and 后的两个 those arguing 分别是 divide 的宾语，而 arguing 其后的均为介词短语作定语。

【阅读重点】本句的关键是理解句子结构，找出两个并列的宾语，进而理解其各自的立场和观点。

【参考译文】有关计算机在课堂上的应用存在一条无形界线——有人争论说，在课堂上应用计算机是出于对学生就业前途的考虑；另一些人则争论说，在课堂上应用计算机更为明显的原因是为了实行彻底的教育改革的考虑。

2. An education that aims at getting a student a certain kind of job is a technical education, justified for reasons radically different from why education is universally required by law.

【结构分析】本句的主干是 An education is a technical education。第一部分中 that 引导的是修饰 education 的定语从句。逗号以后的部分同样是定语从句，different 作 reasons 的后置定语。why 引导的是宾语从句。

【阅读重点】本句话的关键是理解其句子结构并理解单词的意思。justify 意为“证明…是对的”；radically 意为“根本上地”。

【参考译文】旨在帮助学生找到某种工作的教育是技术教育。这种教育被证明它与用法律所保障的普及教育完全不同。

3. It is, however, presumptuous to insist that there will only be so many jobs for so many scientists, so many businessmen, and so many accountants.

【结构分析】本句主干是 It is presumptuous…。It 为形式主语，to 引导的为真实主语，that 引导宾语 insist 的宾语从句。

【阅读重点】本句的关键是句子结构和单词意思的理解。presumptuous 意为“自以为是的；妄为