

“考研加速度”系列

高教版
2018

考研英语一 终极预测 5 套卷

主编 夏倚荣

高等教育出版社

- 严格依据 2018 年考研英语一考试内容和要求编写
- 考研英语词汇 8000 一本通 + 考研英语冲刺写作 30 天 30 篇（英语一适用）
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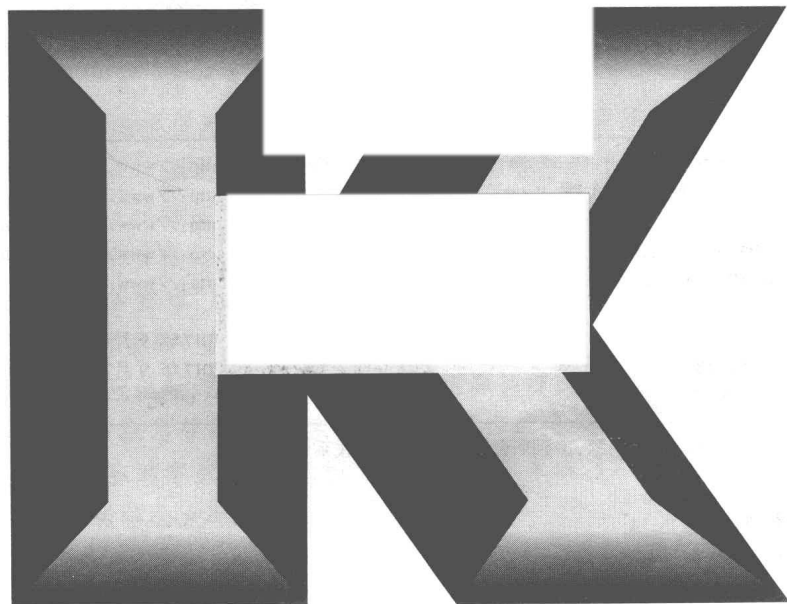
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主编 夏倚荣 副主编 伍松 曾敏

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内容简介

《2018 考研英语一终极预测 5 套卷》严格按照最新考研英语的考试内容、要求和命题趋势进行命制,内容、题材全部选自高频外刊最新时文,涵盖社会热点,思路清晰简洁,技巧、方法独特实用,译文精准。做完本试卷会让考生在考场应试时有种似曾相识的感觉,增强考生自信。对于广大考生来说,应该学会好好利用手中的试卷。在此给予以下两点建议:第一,全真模拟考试,精准定位时间;第二,寻找复习薄弱点,巩固复习效果。

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出版前言

为帮助考生更加轻松应对考试,真正做到省时高效,高等教育出版社特邀考研英语原命题人、阅卷专家和熟悉考生弱点的一线名师,为广大考生全力打造考研英语配套系列权威用书。本系列丛书严格按照最新考研英语的考试内容和要求编写,适用于考研学生英语全程备考,是历年考生认可、权威、高品质的考研英语配套用书。本系列用书共计九本:

(一)《2018 考研英语词汇 8000 一本通》(英语一、英语二适用)

出版时间:2016年4月

《2018 考研英语词汇 8000 一本通》(英语一、英语二适用)是科学实用的应试类词汇速查速记书。该书特色主要有:第一,科学的编写依据。第二,最大限度达到考试要求。第一部分必背核心词汇。列出每个词的精准常考词义和熟词僻义,习惯搭配,真题例句。上述词义的不同形式是研究生英语考试内容对词汇的重要考查要求,请考生重视。第二部分选背扩展词汇。包括:(1)大纲要求但尚未在真题中出现过的词汇(根据大纲和真题的统计分析);(2)大纲没有要求但是在历届真题中已经出现的词汇(其中有百分之六十左右已经成为考点,需要考生重视);(3)大纲没有要求而且真题没有出现的词汇(选择于最新期刊语料库,有很大的被考查的可能性)。

(二)《2018 考研英语突破阅读 60 篇(英语一适用)》

出版时间:2017年1月

《2018 考研英语突破阅读 60 篇(英语一适用)》是考研英语配套权威系列的基础、强化阶段用书,为考生揭示了考研英语阅读命题的思路和角度,同时让学生通过练习与真题同源的阅读材料,真正提高阅读速度和掌握准确的方法、答题技巧,得到了原命题老师的认可和推荐。提高阅读能力的途径有精读、多读、广读、常读、快读等。建议考生使用该书时根据自己的薄弱环节选择性地使用上述阅读策略和参考注释部分的内容,比如:如何提高阅读质量和速度、如何识别干扰项并提高“命中率”、如何培养良好的阅读习惯等。

(三)《2018 考研英语一历年真题超详标准解析》

出版时间:2017年8月

《2018 考研英语一历年真题超详标准解析》包括 2008 年至 2017 年共计 10 年的考研英语一真题及答案的超详解,其权威性和与同类书的最大区别在于:

第一,真实还原了命题人的命题思路。编者与原命题专家有相同的留学经历和学术背景,权威地解析了材料的挑选、最佳选项和干扰选项的设置、试题的难度、信度和效度等规律,真正揭秘考研英语命题的真相。第二,真题讲解和篇章注释准确、权威。该书提供了独具特色的“语篇赏析”和“译文、语篇分析”,包括“段落以及句间关系分析”“作者立场观点分析”“修辞赏析”等内容,帮助考生理解篇章一致性和连贯性,突破薄弱环节。第三,便于考生把握应试规律,了解自己的复习重点。考生通过对历年考题的比较、对书中详尽解析和复习方法指导的把握,发现一些规律性的东西,使这些资料为我所用,从而提高自身水平,轻松应对考试。此外,该书词汇、短语、长难句的详尽解释可以通过该书封面所提供的博客和微信公众号获得。

(四)《2018 考研英语冲刺阅读理解 30 天 30 篇(英语一适用)》

出版时间:2017 年 9 月

《2018 考研英语冲刺阅读理解 30 天 30 篇(英语一适用)》是考研不可多得的极具价值的阅读冲刺阶段用书。最大的特点是把握英语阅读理解(A 节)命题的特点规律以及解题对策,提供代表新的命题趋势的练习。该书所选文章以议论文和评论文为主,旨在提高考生对考研特定类型文章的分析 and 理解能力。此外,文章后的问题设计颇具代表性,题型、难度等与真实考题难度相当,均按最新考试内容和要求精心编写而成。问题之后提供的问题分析、解题策略、参考译文等信息,帮助考生不但知其然而且知其所以然,既巩固语言知识,也提高语言能力。

(五)《2018 考研英语冲刺写作 30 天 30 篇(英语一适用)》

出版时间:2017 年 9 月

《2018 考研英语冲刺写作 30 天 30 篇(英语一适用)》依据最新考研英语的考试内容和要求编写而成,写作材料均选自当前社会热点,具有极强的预测性。该书按照 30 天的复习节奏为考生提供了每天一篇写作的冲刺阶段复习计划,为考生提供优秀范本和写作模板,力求从根本上提高考生的英文写作能力,为写作得高分打下坚实的基础。该书由考研原命题专家审定并推荐,是考生复习备考必备冲刺用书。

(六)《2018 考研英语一终极预测 5 套卷》

出版时间:2017 年 9 月

《2018 考研英语一终极预测 5 套卷》由考研英语原命题专家和夏荷荣教授亲自选材、命题并做精准解析。试卷严格按照最新考试内容、要求和命题趋势进行命制,内容、题材全部选自高频外刊最新时文,涵盖社会热点,思路清晰简洁,技巧、方法独特实用,译文精准。做完本试卷会让考生在考场应试时有种似曾相识的感觉,增强考生自信。对于广大考生来说,应该学会好好利用手中的试卷。在此给予以下两点建议:第一,全真模拟考试,精准定位时间;第二,寻找复习薄弱点,巩固复习效果。

(七)《2018 考研英语突破阅读 60 篇(英语一适用)》

出版时间:2017 年 1 月

《2018 考研英语突破阅读 60 篇(英语二适用)》吸取了市面上同类阅读辅导书的精华,全面解读考研英语阅读真相,得到了考研英语原命题人的倾力推荐。《2018 考研英语突破阅读 60 篇(英语二适用)》所有文章均与真题同源,体裁、难度一致,为考生提供优质的阅读练习素材;试题设计充分体现了考研英语阅读命题的要点、重点和难点。所提供的问题、问题解析等能够帮助考生逐渐克服阅读理解的障碍。所有文章均配有精准译文和精读讲解,能够快速提高考生的阅读速度,帮助考生掌握答题技巧,实现阅读高分。

(八)《2018 考研英语冲刺阅读理解 30 天 30 篇(英语二适用)》

出版时间:2017 年 9 月

《2018 考研英语冲刺阅读理解 30 天 30 篇(英语二适用)》是考研不可多得的极具价值的阅读冲刺阶段用书。最大的特点是把握英语阅读理解(A 节)命题的特点规律以及解题对策,提供代表新的命题趋势的练习。该书所选文章以议论文和评论文为主,旨在提高考生对考研特定类型文章的分析 and 理解能力。此外,文章后的问题设计颇具代表性,题型、难度等与真实考题难度相当,均按最新考试内容和要求精心编写而成。问题之后提供的问题分析、解题策略、参考译文等信息,帮助考生不但知其然而且知其所以然,既巩固语言知识,也提高语言能力。



(九)《2018 考研英语冲刺写作 30 天 30 篇(英语二适用)》

出版时间:2017 年 9 月

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前 言

由于考研复习没有统一的标准化教材,自学是其主要特征,因此,选用合身、合用、合适的复习参考书,掌握有效的复习方法,避免“用功用错了地方”就成为考生在考研复习过程中的头等大事。时至今日,随着最新考研英语(一)考试内容和要求的出台,考研英语复习应该进入到全面综合训练为主的阶段,因此选择选材与真题相同、命题方向与真题一致、试题的设置与真题的信度、效度、难度相当的参考书十分重要。

基于以上思考,并应广大考生的强烈要求,编者在深入研究近 20 年已考真题的基础上,严格以历年真题为依据,以最新考研英语(一)考试内容和要求为准绳,并紧密结合多年来的考研辅导和阅卷经验,编写了本冲刺预测卷,并在命制试题的过程中进行了严肃认真、艰苦卓绝的努力。

本书中的客观题文章全部选自 2017 年国外主流英语网站,编者对各位作者的辛勤劳动表示衷心的感谢。像命制真题一样,编者对原文进行了必要的改写。此外,本书的试题部分的英语由美籍专家 Michael Hughes 先生审阅。

选择高效率的辅导资料,掌握正确的学习方法并付出努力,那么成功一定是水到渠成的。考生在考场上面对试卷时,只不过是一次轻松的演习而已。

夏倚荣

2017 年 8 月

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Section 1 Use of English

Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word(s) for each numbered blank and mark A, B, C or D on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

For centuries, men and women have worked tirelessly to fit the physical molds of their time. Diets, which have 1 from the 2 to the colorful and kind of silly, have 3 a wide range of results—and all sorts of followings.

Not long ago, the Atkins diet made carbohydrates wicked and convinced millions to 4 starches of any kind. Today, the Paleo diet, which means to 5 the eating habits and digestive systems of ancient humans who lived for many 6 years than people on average do today, is 7 the most popular—or at least talked about—dietary fad. Soon there will be another fad that the dieting sweeps 8. And another one.

The question that seems to revolve 9 all this diet talk is whether any of the 10 weight loss schemes has worked. If one had, shouldn't it have 11 the test of time? And if we've gone this long 12 a diet that has been shown to work—according to science, not simply the sellers of the fad—will one ever emerge 13 actually does?

The short answer is no, according to Traci Mann, who has been studying eating 14, self-control and dieting for more than 20 years. 15 the course of her research, largely 16 at the University of Minnesota's Health and Eating Lab, Mann has 17 asked these sorts of questions, and always found the same 18 answers. Her findings, introduced in her newly published book *Secrets from the Eating Lab*, offer a fascinating 19 for why dieting over the long term is actually 20.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. [A] covered | [B] ranged | [C] changed | [D] differed |
| 2. [A] ingenious | [B] mischievous | [C] straightforward | [D] controversial |
| 3. [A] produced | [B] reflected | [C] obtained | [D] indicated |
| 4. [A] emphasize | [B] neglect | [C] prohibit | [D] avoid |
| 5. [A] surpass | [B] dismiss | [C] ignore | [D] admire |
| 6. [A] fewer | [B] earlier | [C] more | [D] later |
| 7. [A] still | [B] otherwise | [C] never | [D] perhaps |
| 8. [A] lecture | [B] debate | [C] conversation | [D] negotiation |
| 9. [A] above | [B] over | [C] beyond | [D] around |
| 10. [A] multiple | [B] surplus | [C] excessive | [D] particular |
| 11. [A] survived | [B] experienced | [C] undertaken | [D] highlighted |

12. [A] with [B] for [C] without [D] after
 13. [A] as [B] than [C] what [D] that
 14. [A] routines [B] habits [C] customs [D] practices
 15. [A] In [B] Off [C] Among [D] Over
 16. [A] inspired [B] expressed [C] conducted [D] secured
 17. [A] constantly [B] repeatedly [C] habitually [D] irregularly
 18. [A] disappointing [B] enlightening [C] misleading [D] promising
 19. [A] explanation [B] assessment [C] determination [D] investigation
 20. [A] opposite [B] average [C] substantial [D] impossible

Section II Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (40 points)

Text 1

Politicians who want to celebrate the health of the British economy are always on the lookout for data to bolster their case, yet routinely neglect one consistent metric of success: immigration. People do not abandon the place of their birth and cross continents without expectation of a better life. It is a vote of confidence in the destination country.

But it is politically difficult to celebrate this magnetism. A perception that new arrivals are on a mission to milk the benefits system and abuse the hospitality of the native population is widespread yet false. Most come to work. Yet assertion of that fact doesn't neutralise demand that the numbers come down. While the full effect of immigration on GDP might be positive, the gain is meaningless in places where there is no concrete feeling of prosperity and demographic change feels sudden and uncontrolled. Those conditions did not wholly account for Brexit but their contribution was significant enough that Theresa May has chosen to make an end to free movement of labour a non-negotiable clause of any Brexit deal. Even once passionate supporters of EU membership, such as former business secretary Vince Cable, say the economics of free movement are open to ambivalent interpretation.

The PM's decision solves a short-term problem but it brings her no closer to answering the deeper question—how to combine a border regime that is fluid enough to preserve economic dynamism and rigorous enough to inspire public confidence? The scale of that challenge gets clearer daily. Yesterday, Andrea Leadsom, the environment secretary, suggested that farmers should be able to hire EU workers post-Brexit. Yet such seasonal influxes of labourers, bringing high densities of transient workers, are precisely the kind of migration that provokes resentment among longer-

established populations. It is unlikely she would have suggested such a compromise last year, when drumming up leave votes.

One way to deal with these dilemmas is a move to more sector-specific and regional arrangements. Industries could sponsor incomers, whose immigration status would be pegged to their local job. Something along those lines is proposed in a report published today by MPs and peers. The all-party parliamentary group on social integration suggests visa devolution in imitation of Canada, where autonomous provinces help to set their own immigration requirements. This has the appeal of matching migration decisions to local conditions but is fraught with practical difficulty—the task of enforcing geographically circumscribed visas without offence to civil liberties, for example. Canada's arrangements are predicated on its relaxedness about overall increases in the number of people in a vast country with low population density. Those conditions do not pertain in Britain.

21. It seems that the author criticizes politicians for their failure to
- [A] focus on the growth of economy.
 - [B] realize the role of immigration.
 - [C] find data to support their argument.
 - [D] appreciate the confidence of immigrants.
22. The author holds in Paragraph 2 that the movement of immigrants
- [A] is subject to groundless doubts.
 - [B] has been overestimated.
 - [C] is resistant to constant criticism.
 - [D] has fallen victim to bias.
23. Vince Cable's remarks are quoted to indicate that
- [A] the free movement of labor should be banned completely.
 - [B] the economic effect of immigration can be interpreted flexibly.
 - [C] the conditions of immigrants entail government intervention.
 - [D] the full effect of immigration on GDP is insignificant.
24. We learn from Paragraph 3 that
- [A] transient workers become the envy of many local populations.
 - [B] no immigration regime for Britain can alleviate political pressure.
 - [C] the British government is being caught in great dilemmas.
 - [D] British employers demand a stricter border regime.
25. Towards the feasibility of Canada's practices in Britain, the author's attitude seems to be one of
- [A] skepticism.
 - [B] approval.
 - [C] indifference.
 - [D] objectivity.

Text 2

In an unprecedented and dangerous move that threatens the press freedom rights of all journalists, the U.S. Justice Department has indicated it is preparing to charge



WikiLeaks with a crime and may attempt to arrest its founder Julian Assange. The charges may stem from the publication of US State Department cables in 2010 and their more recent disclosure of CIA hacking tools.

Whether you like or dislike WikiLeaks—especially if you dislike them—it's important to understand just how dangerous this potential prosecution is to the future of journalism in the United States. Newspapers publish classified information all the time, and any prosecution of WikiLeaks puts journalists of all stripes at risk of a similar fate. Even WikiLeaks' harshest critics need to denounce this potential move as a grave threat to the first amendment.

People may not realize it, but not a week goes by without classified information on the front pages of the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* or *Wall Street Journal*. "Without the right to publish secret information," as *New York Times* reporter Max Frankel put it more than 40 years ago in the landmark Pentagon Papers case: "there could be no adequate diplomatic, military and political reporting of the kind our people take for granted, either abroad or in Washington and there could be no mature system of communication between the government and the people."

It's easy to see what the response to these potential charges will be from some WikiLeaks critics. There is certainly a portion of the American public that holds an animus towards the organization due to the Clinton e-mails it published in the lead up to the presidential election and are eager to see the organization and Assange punished. "Julian Assange isn't a journalist" or "he's not an American citizen", will be the claims, in an attempt to distance him from other news organizations.

This is incredibly shortsighted. Whatever criticism you want to level at WikiLeaks for its editorial judgment, there is no doubt that it publishes significant information that many people consider newsworthy. Yes, the organization has angered two successive administrations because much of what it publishes is considered "secret", but so has every paper worth its salt in this country at one time or another.

Just because you may think WikiLeaks may have bad opinions, that it is more aggressive, biased or unpleasant than traditional news organizations, does not mean that our free press should be put at risk with this deeply misguided prosecution. (By the way, first amendment rights are not just afforded to U. S. citizens, they are universal to anyone who falls under U.S. jurisdiction—citizen or not—contrary to what the CIA director thinks.) And does anyone really think the Trump administration—with its avowed hatred for the press—is really going to stop at WikiLeaks?

26. It is indicated in Paragraphs 1 and 2 that WikiLeaks are to be prosecuted because it

- [A] overstepped the authority of the government.
- [B] let out some inside official information.
- [C] threatened the press freedom rights of reporters.
- [D] disturbed the power of the Justice Department.

27. In Paragraph 3, the author shows his appreciation of

- [A] rights to free press.



- [B] secret information.
[C] means of communication.
[D] political awareness.
28. The word “animus” (Paragraph 4) denotes
- [A] tendency. [B] anxiety.
[C] hostility. [D] craze.
29. Towards WikiLeaks’ practices, the author’s attitude seems to be
- [A] biased. [B] sympathetic.
[C] critical. [D] ambiguous.
30. It can be concluded that the WikiLeaks prosecution would
- [A] set an example for the U.S. judicial system.
[B] go against the interpretation of the constitution.
[C] pose a threat to traditional news organizations.
[D] endanger the future of U.S. journalism.

Text 3

Immigrants have helped generate some of America’s most beloved inventions. Immigrants are also essential to America’s innovative spirit. Immigrants have historically helped boost the ingenuity of some American regions and industries, according to a new paper by the University of Chicago economists Ufuk Akcigit and John Grisgsby, and Harvard Business School’s Tom Nichols.

Akcigit and colleagues also looked at geographic areas with high numbers of immigrants and found those produced more inventions and patents. In the most inventive states—New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and Massachusetts—20.6 percent of the population were international migrants. In the least inventive states, just 1.7 percent were international migrants.

There are a few reasons why immigrants have produced these innovation bumps, Nichols, of Harvard, told me. Immigrants might have come to the U.S. specifically to work in growing fields, and so had ideas and expertise they had cultivated before they arrived. When they arrived, they were able to quickly turn those ideas into patents in a way that would have been more difficult in other countries with weaker intellectual-property protections. For example, the amount it cost to hold a patent to a term of 17 years in 1900 cost just 11 percent of what it cost in the United Kingdom in the same year. What’s more, as Hunt points out, many immigrants have expertise and interest in fields like science and engineering where there are fewer native-born specialists, and which are more conducive to patents and invention.

In addition, because they had some discretion in choosing their destination city, some immigrant inventors might have sought out geographic areas where there were other people working in similar fields. This would create what economists refer to as spillover, which is when the presence of a bunch of experts in one geographic area leads to the generation of more ideas because people share notes and collaborate. For



example, a number of immigrants, including a Canadian, a Belgian and a Russian, worked together at the Radio Corporation of America to create the first electron microscope.

All this innovation is about more than just advancing science—technological change drives economic growth, and so immigrants have been key to helping produce growth in the U.S. economy, which can raise living standards and produce widespread prosperity.

A reduction in the number of immigrants coming into the U.S., then, could affect U.S. growth. “Any lack of innovative capacity will lead to economic growth drying up,” Nichols said. “If a major source of innovation is immigrants, and that source stops, you would be worried about economic growth more generally.”

31. It is indicated in Paragraphs 1 and 2 that immigrants
- [A] are quickly fitting into the U.S. common culture.
 - [B] constitute the majority of the U.S. population.
 - [C] have contributed greatly to American inventiveness.
 - [D] are unnecessarily issued more patents than others.
32. The case of the United Kingdom is mentioned to justify
- [A] the practice of intellectual-property protections.
 - [B] the effective use of ideas and expertise.
 - [C] the predominance of native-born inventors.
 - [D] the interest in fields like science and engineering.
33. The over-crowdedness of experts in one area is usually caused by
- [A] the generation of more ideas and wealth.
 - [B] the readiness for immigrants to be influenced.
 - [C] the cooperation of people from different backgrounds.
 - [D] the freedom for immigrants to choose their places.
34. Paragraph 5 suggests that growth in the U.S. economy is closely related to
- [A] the innovativeness of immigrants.
 - [B] the progress of technology.
 - [C] the setting of living standards.
 - [D] the creation of economic prosperity.
35. Towards immigrants' contribution to economic growth, Nichols' attitude can be said to be that of
- [A] skepticism.
 - [B] approval.
 - [C] indifference.
 - [D] apprehension.

Text 4

Last week, a team of Harvard researchers announced they were on the brink of creating a hybrid woolly mammoth-elephant embryo, the next step on the long road to resurrecting the prehistoric creatures. As we move steadily closer to being able to bring extinct species—or something closely resembling them—to life through genetic

engineering, some scientists say the technology could prove a valuable, much-needed conservation tool.

But a new economic analysis suggests that bringing back extinct species may detract from, rather than add to, conservation efforts. “Given this atmosphere of a biodiversity crisis and limited resources, we really need to do the best job we possibly can,” says Joseph Bennett, a biologist at Carleton University in Ottawa and lead author of the study. “If de-extinction represents a gain in biodiversity, that’s great. If it represents a Pyrrhic victory in that we could have better spent those resources to save species on their way to extinction, that’s essentially a one step forward, two steps back scenario.”

The study, published Monday in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, used data from New South Wales, Australia, and New Zealand to consider the cost of sustaining de-extincted populations under two scenarios. In the first scenario, a private agency funds the resurrection of an extinct species, then hands the responsibility of caring for the revived population over to the government. In the second, a private agency pays for the entire project, covering the costs of both resurrection and maintenance.

The results, researchers found, didn’t bode well for endangered, living species. Under the first scenario, the cost of maintaining the de-extincted species was taken directly from the government’s already limited conservation budget, resulting in an overall loss for biodiversity: Roughly two species would go extinct for every one resurrected, the team concluded. The second scenario produced a small increase in biodiversity, particularly for species that would require the same conservation tools and techniques already being used to protect endangered animals.

But the greatest hypothetical gains for biodiversity, the study said, came when the money required for de-extinction was instead put toward existing conservation programs for living species. In this scenario, roughly two to eight times more species were saved.

Bennett and his team aren’t the first to question whether de-extinction would help or hurt conservation efforts. Other scientists have argued that harnessing the technology to bring back extinct species, or something closely resembling them, could take away momentum from the push to protect endangered animals and give property developers an excuse to build over their natural habitats.

36. As indicated in Paragraph 1, it seems that some scientists

- [A] take a vain pride in their conservation tool.
- [B] think highly of the conservation technology.
- [C] show greater interest in the prehistoric creatures.
- [D] are pessimistic about bringing back extinct species.

37. The phrase “a Pyrrhic victory” (Paragraph 2) connotes

- [A] rewarding.
- [B] thankless.
- [C] fruitless.
- [D] harmful.



38. Toward the technology of bringing back extinct species, the author's attitude seems to be that of
- [A] contempt. [B] approval.
[C] hesitancy. [D] skepticism.
39. The researchers have eventually found in their study that
- [A] de-extinction may not help conservation efforts.
[B] the government assumes part of responsibility.
[C] the cost of maintenance outweighs that of revival.
[D] extinction poses a greater threat to biodiversity.
40. The author seems to be mainly concerned with the protection of
- [A] sustained biodiversity.
[B] endangered animals.
[C] private properties.
[D] extinct species.

Part B

Directions:

In the following text, some sentences have been removed. For Questions 41—45, 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 the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points)

“Of the people, by the people, and for the people.” That’s how Abraham Lincoln described the American government in his *Gettysburg Address*. These simple phrases capture the essence of American democracy. Instead of ruling over U.S. citizens, the government is ruled by them. 41 . Each American citizen has a vested interest in how he or she is governed. Former President Theodore Roosevelt expressed the American view of government well: “The government is us.” At first glance, it might seem that the U.S. president, as “leader of the free world,” is the “ruler” of America. 42 . Even as far back as George Washington, who once rejected a suggestion to become “King of America,” people have sought to ascribe far-reaching powers to the president. But the Constitution ensures that the president will not become an all-powerful ruler.

The U. S. government, as outlined by the Constitution, is divided into three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative branch passes the laws, the executive enforces the laws and the judicial interprets the laws. The legislative branch is comprised of the two houses of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Thanks to CNN, C/SPAN and the nightly news, many lawmakers have almost become celebrities in their own right. 43 . Besides that, as commander in chief of the armed forces, the president carries more than a little clout in world affairs. The judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and about 100 other federal courts. The nine Supreme Court justices hold office for life. In order

to prevent any one branch of government from becoming more powerful than the other two, the Constitution has established a system of “checks and balances.” For instance, when Congress passes a bill, it must have the signature of the president in order to become law. But even if the president rejects the bill, Congress can override his veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House and the Senate. The Supreme Court, as final arbiter of the Constitution, can overturn legislative acts or executive orders if it finds them to be unconstitutional. In this way, the powers of government are balanced, or held in check.

44

The English political theorist Thomas Paine wrote in 1776, “Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one.” The American government, like every government, has its share of thorny problems. An increasing number of governmental agencies and government workers has created the problem of bureaucracy, where a mountain of paperwork stifles efficiency.

45

- [A] The presidency has formal powers deriving from the Constitution, acts of Congress, and judicial opinions interpreting them. Thus the Constitution charges presidents with nominating federal judges and members of their administrations, an act of Congress directs them to submit annual budget requests, and judicial decisions have directed presidents to spend money appropriated by Congress.
- [B] Elected officials are known as public servants who represent their constituents. Americans can get involved in government by voting, by writing letters to their representatives and even by organizing peaceful demonstrations to make their voices heard.
- [C] In many countries, power rests with a strong centralized government. In contrast, under the American federal system, the national government shares its power with the state governments. The federal government possesses only those powers clearly delineated in the Constitution; all remaining powers are reserved for the states.
- [D] On Inauguration Day, the swearing of President Bill Clinton for his second term will reflect the pomp and circumstance of a coronation ceremony, with dignitaries from around the world in attendance.
- [E] Today questions about the relations between the national government and the states have again become a hot issue for Americans. This debate was one of the central themes of the 1994 congressional and the 1996 presidential elections.
- [F] Lobbyists make appeals to Congress on behalf of special interest groups. As a result, those with the biggest lobby—and the most money—tend to have the loudest voice in Washington.
- [G] The executive branch is represented by the president, who is called the chief executive or chief of state.

