

**BFW** 英语系列

四级英语

标准阅读

精解 60 篇

夏倚荣 编著  
贺毅

*How to Learn  
How to Take a Test  
How to Use*

西北工业大学出版社

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**精心按照真题设置命题，  
认真解读以达到事半功倍之效果  
文章题材体裁科学挑选，  
最大限度地覆盖新大纲关键考点  
新颖编排增加本书用途，  
攀登学习应考而跨入使用的阶梯**

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## 前 言

本书根据《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》(新大纲)的要求精心编著而成,目的是帮助读者迅速提高阅读水平。读者通过大量的试题实践操作,可以培养语篇分析能力,并在实践中把握四级阅读考试命题规律,从而实现从理论到实践的飞跃,顺利通过全国大学英语四级考试。

全书由 15 个单元组成,每个单元 4 篇短文,共有文章 60 篇,附有参考译文和答案。书中文章、段落全部选自近年来国内外出版的书籍、报刊及杂志,编者对各位作者的辛勤劳动表示衷心的感谢。本书内容丰富,题材多样,语言规范,实为英语学习者的好帮手。本书每篇文章之后的阅读理解测试题是编者根据《考试大纲》和新题型的要求,并完全按照标准化样题的模式潜心编制而成,具有较强的适用性与针对性,而且最大限度地覆盖了《教学大纲》规定的内容。本书主要培养学生掌握所读材料的主旨大意,既理解字面意义,又能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推理,以提高准确、快速获取信息的能力。

本书可供学生自读自译,也可作为准备参加各种类型的大规模标准化英语考试的读者提高阅读、翻译能力及强化训练之用。相信能满足广大考生和英语爱好者实现提高阅读能力的心愿。

本书练习部分的英语由英籍专家 Michael Hughes 先生审阅。由于编者水平有限,时间仓促,疏漏与不足之处在所难免,恳请读者批评指正。

编 者

2002 年 3 月

于昆明

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## 使用说明

为了让读者从本书的使用过程中获得最大收益，现就使用方法特做出如下建议：

1. 读完阅读理解文章之后，完成文章后面的问题。正确答案参见参考译文中斜体部分，以检测自己的阅读质量。
2. 认真推敲命题思路和解题方法，学会分析自己存在的问题，提高解题技能。
3. 分析“关键词注释”部分。记住所有解释的词汇( 这些词汇为阅读理解中较为常见的词汇或表达 )，对照原文思考复杂句型分析。这样做才能打下词汇与结构知识的坚实基础。
4. 每套阅读文章中有 4 个句子在原文中做了下划线，作为翻译练习之用。参考答案为参考译文的相应划线句。这一安排实现了本书一书多用的设想。
5. 在阅读理解过程中，如果出现自己无法理解的生词，可以参见参考译文，从而体会、记忆和同化英语单词在具体上下文中的用法。
6. 利用本书的特殊排版格式，可以对比分析英语和汉语两门语言在篇章层次上的差异，来提升自己用英语思考的能力。

# Unit 1

*Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage:*

Cancer is feared by everyone. And this fear is reaching *epidemic* (流行性) proportions. Not the disease itself — there is no such thing as a cancer epidemic. Except for lung cancer, mostly caused by cigarette smoking, the *incidence* (发生率) rates are leveling off, and in the case of some kinds of cancer are decreasing. But the fear of cancer is catching, and the country stands at risk of an anxiety. The earth itself is coming to seem like a huge *carcinogen* (致癌物). (1) The ordinary, more or less scientific statement that something between 80 and 90 percent of all cancers are due to things in the environment is taken to mean that none of us will be safe until the whole environment is “cleaned up.” This is not at all the meaning.

The 80-percent calculation is based on the unthinkable differences in the incidence of cancer in various societies around the world — for example, the high proportion of liver cancer in Africa and the Far East, stomach cancer in Japan, breast cancer in Western Europe and North America, and the relatively low figures for breast cancer in Japan and parts of Africa and for liver cancer in America. These data indicate there may be special and specific environmental influences, largely based on personal life-style, that determine the incidence of various forms of cancer in different communities — but that is all the data suggest. The overall incidence of cancer, counting up all the cases, is probably roughly the same everywhere.

1. Which of the following is closest to meaning to the phrase “leveling off” (Line 3, Para.1)?
  - A) Became very popular.
  - B) Reached its lowest level in popularity.
  - C) Stopped being popular.
  - D) Stopped increasing its popularity.
2. According to the passage, the incidence of cancer is generally believed \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) to be based on inactive life style
  - B) to be due to anxiety
  - C) to result from environmental influences
  - D) to be caused by heavy smoking
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the writer’s opinion about the relationship between cancer and environment is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) positive
  - B) negative
  - C) neutral
  - D) approving
4. According to the passage, the writer seems to feel that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) cancer risk is on the rise
  - B) the whole earth resembles a huge carcinogen
  - C) the risk of catching cancer is not so great as most people conceive
  - D) cancer can be cured sooner or later
5. Which of the following would be the best TITLE for the passage?
  - A) Cancer and Environment
  - B) The Fear Caused by Cancers
  - C) Data on Cancer Incidence
  - D) Cancer and its Investigation

## 参考译文

大家都害怕癌症，这种恐慌正在蔓延开来。倒不是惧怕癌症本身，癌症也并非流行病。除了主要由于抽烟引起的肺癌之外，癌症的发病率不但稳定下来，而且有些还正在减少。但人们却都谈“癌”色变，陷入一种惶恐不安之中。地球本身看上去就越来越像一个巨大的致癌物。(1)有一种多多少少带点科学性的普遍说法，认为80%到90%的癌症都是由于环境中的物质引起的。也就是说，直到把整个环境都“清洁干净”，我们才没有危险。然而，数据所说明的真正含义根本不是这样。

80%这个数据是基于全球不同地区癌症发病率的差异统计出来的。比如，非洲和远东地区肝癌比例高，日本胃癌比例高，西欧和北美乳腺癌比例高，但是日本和非洲部分地区乳腺癌病例较少，美洲肝癌病例也较少。这些差异使人难于置信。这些数据表明，不同地区癌症的发病率可能受到环境中某些具体和特殊的影响，其实这种影响主要是由个人的生活方式决定的。所以数据不能说明全部情况。如果把所有病例合计起来，也许各地总体发病率都大致相同。

- 下面哪项与“leveling off”(第1段第3行)的意义相近?
  - 变得十分普及。
  - 到了最不流行的地步。
  - 不再受欢迎。
  - 不再增加。**
- 根据作者的观点，人们普遍认为癌症的发病率 \_\_\_\_。
  - 取决于不活跃的生活方式
  - 是由于焦虑造成的
  - 是由于环境影响造成的**
  - 是由于抽烟引起的
- 我们可以从文章得到的推论是，关于癌症与环境的关系，作者所持的观点是 \_\_\_\_。
  - 肯定的
  - B) 否定的**
  - 中立的
  - D) 赞同的
- 在文中，作者似乎认为 \_\_\_\_。
  - 癌症的危险正在增加
  - 整个地球宛如一个巨大的致癌物
  - C) 患癌症的危险并不像人们所想像的严重**
  - 人们早晚能够治愈癌症
- 下面哪项可能是本文最好的标题?
  - A) 癌症与环境**
  - 癌症带来的恐慌
  - 癌症发生率的数据
  - D) 癌症及其研究

## 关键词注释

proportion: 比例

except for: 除了

decrease: 减少

risk: 危险，冒险

anxiety: 焦虑

statement: 陈述

due to: 由于

calculation: 计算

relatively: 相对地

overall: 总和

popular: 流行，受欢迎

inactive: 不活跃的

neutral: 中立的

resemble: 相似

conceive: 构想

investigation: 调查，研究

**Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage:**

Until the 1980s, the American homeless population comprised mainly older males. Today, homelessness strikes much younger part of society. In fact, a 25-city survey by the U. S. Conference of Mayors in 1987 found that families with children make up the fastest growing part of the homeless population. Many homeless children gather in inner cities; this *transient* (变化无常的) and frequently frightened student population creates additional problems — both legal and educational — for already overburdened urban school administrators and teachers.

Estimates of the number of homeless Americans range from 350,000 to three million. Likewise, estimates of the number of homeless school children vary radically. (2) A U.S. Department of Education report, based on state estimates, states that there are 220,000 homeless school-age children, about a third of whom do not attend school on a regular basis. But the National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that there are at least two times as many homeless children, and that less than half of them attend school regularly.

One part of the homeless population that is particularly difficult to count consists of the “throwaway” youths who have been cast of their homes. The Elementary School Center in New York City estimates that there are 1.5 million of them, many of whom are not counted as children because they do not stay in family shelters and tend to live by themselves on the streets.

Federal law, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, includes a section that addresses the educational needs of homeless children. The educational provisions of the McKinney Act are based on the belief that all homeless children have the right to a free, appropriate education.

6. It is implied in the first paragraph that \_\_\_\_.
- A) the writer himself is homeless, even in his eighties
  - B) many older homeless residents are going on strike in 25 cities
  - C) there is a serious shortage of academic facilities
  - D) homeless children are denied the opportunity of receiving free education
7. The National Coalition for the homeless believes that the number of homeless children is \_\_\_\_.
- A) 350,000
  - B) 1,500,000
  - C) 440,000
  - D) 110,000
8. One part of the homeless population is difficult to estimate. The reason might well be \_\_\_\_.
- A) the homeless children are too young to be counted as children
  - B) the homeless population is growing rapidly
  - C) the homeless children usually stay outside school
  - D) some homeless children are deserted by their families
9. The McKinney Act is mentioned in this passage in order to show that \_\_\_\_.
- A) the educational problems of homeless children are being recognized
  - B) the estimates on homeless children are hard to determine
  - C) the address of grade-school children should be located
  - D) all homeless people are entitled to free education
10. The passage mainly deals with \_\_\_\_.
- A) the legal problems of the homeless children
  - B) the educational problems of homeless children
  - C) the social status of older males
  - D) estimates on the homeless population

## 参考译文

直到 20 世纪 80 年代,美国无家可归的人口主要包括的还是年龄较大的男性。现在,社会上年龄较小的一些人也面临无家可归的威胁。的确,美国市长会议在 1987 年对 25 个城市进行了一项调查,结果表明,在无家可归的人口中,儿童的增长比例是最快的。许多无家可归的儿童都聚集在城市的中心地带。其中学龄儿童四处流浪,饱受惊吓。这给已经负担过重的城市教学和教学管理带来了许多额外的麻烦,其中既涉及法律问题又涉及教育问题。

美国无家可归的人口数量估计在 35 万到 300 万人之间。同样,无家可归的学龄儿童人数也无法做出准确的估计。(2)一份根据各州估计数字而得出的美国教育部的报告指出,有 22 万无家可归的学龄儿童,其中约有三分之一没有按规定上学。然而国家关于无家可归人员的联合会却估计,这样的儿童人数至少还应该多一倍,其中半数以上没有正常入学。

有一部分无家可归的人口尤其难以统计,就是那些遭家庭遗弃的“浪荡”少年。据纽约小学中心估计,这样的人口有 150 万左右。其中还有许多小孩没有估计进去,因为这些小孩不呆在安全的家中,却往往独自在街头流浪。

联邦法律(1987 年斯图尔德·B·麦肯尼无家可归人员救助法案)有一部分专门指出了无家可归儿童的教育需要。法案中有关于教育的条款所依据的观点是所有无家可归的儿童都有权接受正规的义务教育。

6. 作者在第 1 段中的暗示是 \_\_\_\_。
- A) 甚至到了 80 多岁时,作者仍无家可归  
B) 许多年长的无家可归的居民在 25 个城市举行罢工  
C) **存在教育设施严重不足的问题**  
D) 无家可归的小孩没有接受免费教育的机会
7. 国家关于无家可归人员的联合会却估计,无家可归的儿童人数是 \_\_\_\_。
- A) 350 000  
B) 1 500 000  
C) **440 000**  
D) 110 000
8. 无家可归人群中的有些人数难以估计,原因可能是 \_\_\_\_。
- A) 无家可归的孩子年龄太小,不能按照儿童来统计  
B) 无家可归的人数正在急剧上升  
C) 无家可归的儿童往往不在学校  
D) **有些无家可归的儿童被家庭遗弃**
9. 文中提及麦肯尼无家可归人员救助法案的目的是为了说明 \_\_\_\_。
- A) **无家可归儿童的教育问题正在受到关注**  
B) 很难对无家可归的儿童数目进行估计  
C) 应该找到无家可归儿童的住址  
D) 所有无家可归的儿童都应该接受免费教育
10. 文章的中心思想是 \_\_\_\_。
- A) 无家可归儿童的法律问题  
B) **无家可归儿童的教育问题**  
C) 年长男性的社会地位  
D) 无家可归人口的估计数字

## 关键词注释

comprise: 由...组成

survey: 调查

additional: 额外的

legal: 法律的,合法的

overburdened: 负有沉重负担的

urban: 城市的

due to: 由于

estimate: 估计

on a regular basis: 通常地

particularly: 尤其地

cast: 抛弃

act: 法案

section: 部分

provisions: 条款

appropriate: 适当的

shortage: 短缺

deny: 否决

address: 对...说话;地址

be entitled to: 有权利...

status: 地位

**Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage:**

The greatest contribution to civilization in the century may well be the air-conditioning — and American leads just as amazing is the speed with which this situation came to be. Air-conditioning began to spread in industries as a production aid during World War II. Today most Americans need to take air-conditioning for granted to homes, offices, factories, theatres, shops, studios, schools, hotels, and restaurants.

But not everybody is aware that high cost and easy comfort are merely two of the effects of the vast cooling of American. In fact, air conditioning has substantially altered the country's character and customs.

Many of the byproducts are so conspicuous that they are scarcely noticed. To begin with, air-conditioning transformed the face of America by making possible those glassy, boxy, sealed-in skyscrapers. It has been indispensable, no less, to the functioning of sensitive advanced computers, whose high operating temperatures require that they be constantly cooled...

It has, at will, forced families into retreating into families with closed doors and shut windows, reducing the interactions of neighborhood life. It is really surprising that the public's often noted withdrawal into self-pursuit and privacy has coincided with the historic spread of air-conditioning? Though science has little studied how habitual air-conditioning affects mind and body, some medical experts suggest that, like other technical avoidance of natural variations in climate, air-conditioning may damage the human capacity to adapt to stress. (3) If so, air-conditioning is only like many other greatly useful technical developments that liberate man from nature by increasing his productivity and power in some way — while indirectly weakening him in others.

11. According to this selection, which of the following constitutes the unique character of U.S.?
- A) Its excessive use of air-conditioning.
  - B) Its advanced computerized civilization.
  - C) Its public's retreating into self-pursuit.
  - D) Its greatest contribution to human civilization.
12. According to the author, the chief consequence brought about by the wide application of air-conditioning is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) the loss of human capacity to adapt to changes in climate
  - B) the reduction of social communications of neighborhood life
  - C) the active life style of all its users
  - D) the decreased human production and power
13. The tone of this selection reveals that air-conditioning \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) has little effect on its users
  - B) has more effect on body than on mind
  - C) brings more benefits than damage to its users
  - D) does harm as well as good to its users
14. Who benefits the least from air-conditioning according to the author?
- A) Medical experts.
  - B) Manufacturers.
  - C) Factory laborers.
  - D) Consumers.
15. What is the author's overall attitude towards air-conditioning?
- A) Neutral.
  - B) Objective.
  - C) Critical.
  - D) Compromising.

## 参考译文

本世纪(20世纪)对人类文明贡献最大的非空调莫属,而领导该潮流的正是美国人。令人吃惊的是美国人空调消费的发展速度。第二次世界大战时期,空调只是作为生产的辅助设备在各种企业中广泛使用。如今大多数的美国人把空调装进家里、办公室、工厂、剧院、商店、工作室、学校、旅馆和餐馆。这些地方没有空调才怪呢。

空调对美国所产生的效果并不只是奢逸,然而却并非人人都注意到了这一点。事实上,空调彻底改变了美国的特殊风貌和生活习俗。

许多副作用实在太明显,倒反而没人注意了。首先,空调辅助了摩天大楼的建设,就是那些封闭盒状的、玻璃幕墙的大厦,改变了美国的面貌。高级灵敏的计算机更离不开空调,高温不利于电脑的运行,得需要保持在适宜的恒温下...

人们顺从于空调的随意摆布,退缩在家里,关门闭户。社区生活中的交流从而也就大大地减少了。常常可以注意到人们处在与世隔绝的环境之中,沉醉于自我的发展。而这种情况发生的时候,恰好也正是空调具有划时代意义的泛滥之时。这种巧合难道不令人吃惊吗?习惯性使用空调会对身心产生怎样的影响,科学几乎没有对此进行过什么研究。然而,有些医学专家却提醒说,如同其它用技术的方法去抵御自然界气候变化一样,空调可能会削弱人们对压力的适应力。(3)果真如此,空调只会像其它许多相当有用的科技发明一样,增加了人类的生产力和力量,让人从自然中解放了出来,却无形中削弱了人们其它方面的能力。

11. 根据文章提供的信息,下面哪项为美国的惟一特征?  
A) **其广泛的使用空调。**  
B) 其高度发达的计算机文化。  
C) 其公众沉醉于自我的发展。  
D) 其对人类文明的巨大贡献。
12. 根据作者的观点,广泛使用空调带来的主要结果是 \_\_\_\_。  
A) 人们已经丧失了适应气候变化的能力  
B) **社区生活中的交流从而也就大大地减少了**  
C) 空调用户的积极生活方式  
D) 人们生产和能力的减少
13. 可以从作者的语气中看出,空调 \_\_\_\_。  
A) 对使用者几乎没有什么影响  
B) 对人们身体的影响大于对心理的影响  
C) **与其说给使用者带来好处,不如说更多的是不良的影响**  
D) 损害了用户,而带来了更多的好处
14. 在作者看来,下面哪一群人从空调中受益最少?  
A) 医学专家。  
B) 制造厂家。  
C) 工厂劳工。  
D) **消费者。**
15. 下面哪项表达了作者对空调的总体态度?  
A) 中立的。  
B) 客观的。  
C) **批评的。**  
D) 折中的。

## 关键词注释

contribution (to):  
作用

as a matter of fact:  
事实上

consume: 消费

amazing: 惊奇的

take...for granted:  
把...想当然

substantially: 相  
当地,大量地

alter: 改变

byproduct: 副产  
品,副效应

scarcely: 几乎不

transform: 改变

indispensable (to):  
不可缺少的

sensitive: 敏感的

retreat: 撤退

withdrawal: 撤退

self-pursuit: 自我  
追求

coincide: 巧合

liberate: 解放

excessive: 多余的

unique: 惟一的

reveal: 揭示

compromising: 折  
中的

**Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage:**

Of the thousands of different kinds of animals that exist in the world man has learned to make friends with an enormous number. Some are pets, and offer him companionship; some give protection, and some do hard work which man cannot do for himself. Dogs, which serve man in all three capacities, are found in various breeds in all countries of the world. The Husky can live in the cold polar regions, and the Saluki is at home in the hottest parts of Central Africa. The inhabitants of certain countries are dependent for their very lives on the camel. In the West Indies the little donkey, strong and sure-footed, carrying heavy loads even in mountainous places, is a familiar sight.

Trained and tamed for many generations, domestic animals are not accustomed to *roaming* (到处走动) in search of food and shelter. They look to their masters to provide for their needs, and as long as these are supplied, they are content to do what their masters require.

All domestic animals need proper food. It must be suitable for them, sufficient in quantity, fresh and clean. (4) Some people feed a pet dog or cat on odds and ends of table scraps, and then wonder why the animal seems listless (倦怠的) and dull. The quantity of food depends on the size of the animal and the amount of exercise it takes. Overfeeding is as bad as underfeeding. Containers for food and water must be washed regularly if the animal is to maintain good health.

Even well cared for animals may sometimes fall ill. If this happens, the wise master seeks the best advice he can get. All sorts of medicines and treatments are available for sick animals, and in some countries organizations exist to provide them free or at a cheap price. Useful, friendly, hardworking animals deserve to have some time, money and attention spent on their health.

16. What main idea does the author want to convey in the first paragraph?
  - A) There exists thousands of species of animals in the world.
  - B) Man came to establish a close relationship with a number of animals.
  - C) In some regions a donkey seems to be a very useful beast.
  - D) An animal will be useless unless domesticated.
  
17. When an animal is underfed, it will probably \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) refuse to obey its master
  - B) immediately fall ill
  - C) require its master to offer some food
  - D) seek for food on its own
  
18. Which of the following is NOT true of dogs according to the passage?
  - A) They can act as friends, guards, and servants to man.
  - B) They have great adaptation for the environment.
  - C) There live a great variety of breeds of dogs on the globe.
  - D) The Husky and the Saluki are the strongest breed ever known in the world.
  
19. To keep a domestic animal physically fit, its owner is advised \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) not to hesitate to spend enormous amount of money on it
  - B) to pay attention to its proper feeding
  - C) not to allow it to take excessive amounts of exercise
  - D) to join some sort of pet-keeping organizations
  
20. Which of the following would be best TITLE for this passage?
  - A) Domesticated Animals — Man's Best Friend
  - B) Proper Diet — the Road to Health
  - C) The Advantages of Raising Domestic Animals
  - D) Some Tips on Pet-keeping

## 参考译文

在成千上万种现存于世的动物中，人类已学会与许多物种交朋友。这些动物中有的成为人的宠物，与他作伴；有的起保护作用；有的做一些人们自己做不了的重活。北美洲爱斯基摩的厚毛狗可以生活在寒冷的极地地带，萨卢基狗生活在非中非最炎热的地区。某些国家居民的生计依靠骆驼。在西印度群岛，脚步稳健的小驴，在山上驮载重物的景象也屡见不鲜。

经过许多代的驯养之后，家畜已不习惯在野外四处寻觅食物和寻找栖身之处。它们要靠主人提供生存必需品，只要需求得以满足，它们乐意为主人效力。

所有的家畜都需要合适的食物。食物必须适合它们的需要，此外还要数量充足，新鲜干净。(4)有些人用饭桌上剩下的残羹冷炙喂养小猫小狗，之后搞不懂为什么这些动物变得好像有点无精打采、缺乏灵气。喂食的多少取决于动物的大小和它的运动量。喂得过多和喂得过少一样有害。要想动物健壮，食物和饮水的容器必须经常清理干净。

即使是精心照料的动物有时也会生病。如果发生这种情况，精明的主人会竭力寻求最佳建议。为生病的动物提供的各种药物和治疗到处都可以得到，有些国家还成立了组织为生病动物提供廉价或无偿的药物和治疗。对有用的、友善的和拼命干活的动物，主人理应为其健康投入一些时间、金钱并给予关心照顾。

16. 文章第 1 段的中心思想是什么？
- A) 世界上存在有成千上万种动物。  
B) **人类慢慢地和许多动物建立了密切的关系。**  
C) 在有些地区驴好像是一种有用的动物。  
D) 除非受到驯养，动物都是无用的。
17. 当动物没有吃够时可能会 \_\_\_\_。
- A) **拒绝听从主人的命令**  
B) 马上病倒  
C) 要主人提供更多的事物  
D) 自己寻找食物
18. 根据文章提供的就有关狗的信息而言,下面哪项是错误的？
- A) 狗可能是人类的朋友、护卫和仆人。  
B) 狗有很强的环境适应能力。  
C) 在地球上许多种类的狗。  
D) **爱斯基摩的厚毛狗和萨卢基狗是最强健的狗种。**
19. 如果要让家养动物身体健壮，主人最好 \_\_\_\_。
- A) 不要吝惜自己的钱财  
B) **注意动物恰当的进食**  
C) 不要让动物做大量的运动  
D) 加入某些动物饲养组织
20. 下面哪项可能是本文最好的标题？
- A) **驯养动物 —— 人类最好的朋友**  
B) 适当饮食 —— 健康之路  
C) 饲养家养动物的好处  
D) 宠物喂养的建议

## 关键词注释

enormous: 大量的

companionship:  
伙伴关系

inhabitant: 居民

dependent (on):  
依赖

tamed: 驯养的

accustomed (to):  
习惯于

shelter: 庇护处

content: 满足

sufficient: 充足的

overfeeding: 饮食过饱

underfeeding: 食量不足

container: 容器

seek: 寻求

available: 可以得到的

fall ill: 病倒

organizations: 机构, 组织

deserve: 值得

species: 物种

domesticated: 驯养

adaptation: 适应

physically: 身体地

## Unit 2

*Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage:*

(1) Our quarrel with efficiency is not that it gets things done, but that it is a thief of time when it leaves us no leisure to enjoy ourselves, and that it strains our nerves when we try to get things done perfectly. In building bridges, American engineers calculate so finely and exactly as to make the two ends come together within one-tenth of an inch. But when two Chinese begin to dig a tunnel from both sides of a mountain both come out on the other side. The Chinese's firm belief is that it doesn't matter so long as a tunnel is dug through, and if we have two instead of one, why, we have a double track to boot.

The pace of modern industrial life forbids this kind of glorious and magnificent idling. But, worse than that, it imposes upon us a different conception of time as measured by the clock and eventually turns the human being into a clock himself. (This sort of thing is bound to come to China, as is evident, for instance, in the case of a factory of twenty thousand workers. The luxurious prospect of twenty thousand workers coming in at their own sweet pleasure at all hours is, of course, somewhat terrifying.) Nevertheless, such efficiency is what makes life so hard and full of excitement. A man who has to be punctually at a certain place at five o'clock has the whole afternoon from one to five ruined for him already. Every American adult is arranging his time on the pattern of the schoolboy — three o'clock for this, five o'clock for that, six-thirty for change of dress, six-fifty for entering the taxi, and seven o'clock for arriving at the destination. It just makes life not worth living.

1. The writer objects to efficiency mainly on the grounds that it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) entitles us to too much leisure time
  - B) urges us to get things done punctually
  - C) deprives us of leisure time
  - D) imposes on us a perfect concept of time
  
2. In the eyes of the author, the introduction of industrial life gives rise to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) the excitement of life
  - B) magnificent idling of time
  - C) more emphasis on efficiency
  - D) terrifying schoolboy
  
3. The passage tells us \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) Chinese workers come to work when it is convenient
  - B) all Americans are forced to be efficient against their will
  - C) Chinese engineers are on better terms with the management
  - D) Americans ought not to work so hard for efficiency
  
4. The author believes that relaxing the rule of punctuality in factories would lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) great confusion
  - B) increased production
  - C) a hard and exciting life
  - D) successful completion of a tunnel
  
5. What is implied but NOT stated by the author is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) every American is arranging his time in the pattern of a schoolboy
  - B) every American is reluctant to be efficient
  - C) every one should have some time to spend as he pleases
  - D) being punctual is an undesirable habit which should not be formed

## 参考译文

(1)我们不赞成讲效率的原因，不是由于效率让我们把事情都做完了，而往往是由于它偷走了我们的闲暇时光。当我们想把事情都做好时，往往又是效率让我们神经紧张。美国的工程师在建筑桥梁时，计算得相当精确和严格，连两端连接的误差都不超过十分之一英寸。而两个中国人从山的两侧对挖一条隧道时，却都从山的另外一侧挖了出来。中国人坚信只要挖通就行了。如果挖一条隧道而挖出两条来，那又何妨，我们不正好有两条道可以走？

现代工业生活的节奏不允许这种十分愉快的、不加克制的闲散。可更糟糕的是，这种节奏让我们强行树立起一种不同的、由时钟来控制的时间观念，而最终把人都变成了钟。(这肯定也会发生在中国。比如，一个两万人的工厂肯定会是这样的。若这两万工人想什么时候来上班，就什么时候来，后果当然会有点不堪设想。)然而这样的效率却使得生活既紧张又激动人心。如果一个人必须在5点准时到达某个地方，那么他整个下午从1点到5点的时间都给毁了。几乎每一个美国人都正在按学生的模式来安排自己的时间：3点钟做这件事，5点钟做那件事，6：30换衣服，6：50上出租车，7点钟到达。这并非生活的质量。

1. 作者反对效率的主要原因是效率 \_\_\_\_。  
A) 让我们享有更多的闲暇时光  
B) 敦促我们按时把事完成  
C) **剥夺了我们的闲暇时光**  
D) 给我们强加一个有关时间的正确观点
2. 作者认为工业生活为 \_\_\_\_ 铺平了道路。  
A) 激动人心的生活  
B) 不加克制的闲散  
C) **更加注重效率**  
D) 恐吓学生
3. 我们由文章可知 \_\_\_\_。  
A) 中国工人在方便的时候工作  
B) 所有的美国人违背自己的意愿，被迫讲求效率  
C) 中国工程师与管理阶层关系更好  
D) **美国人不该过分讲求效率**
4. 作者认为松懈工厂里守时的规定则会导致 \_\_\_\_。  
A) **极大的混乱**  
B) 增加产量  
C) 艰苦而兴奋的生活  
D) 成功地完成隧道建设
5. 在文中，作者暗示说明，但是没有直接提及的是 \_\_\_\_。  
A) 每个美国人都按学生的模式来安排时间  
B) 每个美国人都不同意讲求效率  
C) **每个人都应该有可随自己意愿支配的时间**  
D) 守时是不该养成的不良习惯

## 关键词注释

efficiency:	效率
leisure:	休闲时间
strain:	紧张
keep track of:	跟踪
pace:	节奏
magnificent:	辉煌的
impose (on):	强加
conception:	观念
evident:	明显的
bound (to):	注定...
prospect:	前景
punctually:	准时地
ruin:	损害，破坏
destination:	终点
on the grounds that:	由于
entitle (to):	让...有权...
deprive (of):	剥夺
against one's will:	违背某人的意愿
confusion:	混乱
reluctant:	勉强的
undesirable:	不可取的