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1. Do We Owe Anything to Future Generation?

我们欠后代什么吗？

Pre-reading questions:

1. What should we leave to the future generations?
2. Why must we be responsible for the future generations?

1 "We are made wise not by the recollections of our past but by the responsibility for our future," wrote George Bernard Shaw. This responsibility may be clear to us when we think in terms of our lives and the lives of our children. But there are other generations to come. Do we owe them anything?

2 We have inherited a world of relative abundance, one where we can still for the most part meet our needs. We can be thankful for the wisdom of our forebears, who evidently took their responsibility for the future seriously. Yet, imagine a world without the amazing diversity of species from which we now benefit, a world without decent soil to farm, air to breathe, or water to drink. Such a world is one that any generation could inherit if its predecessors did not find wisdom in its responsibility to the future.

3 What we are today depends to a great extent upon how we have been formed by the generations that have preceded us. When we look to future generations, our position toward them is analogous to the position of past generations toward us. We are the data out of which the future will be formed. What we are and do today will limit or create their options, and in this way we profoundly help to shape their destiny¹. What kind of world we leave to the future is essentially a question of moral responsibility.

This responsibility involves four key issues:

Population size.

Conservation of nonrenewable resources².

Diversity of the gene pool.³

Environmental quality.

4 In recent years, the rate of population increase has slowed, so today many countries are already approaching zero population growth. Population forecasts for the future have been revised downward because fewer people born now means fewer reproducing a generation from now.

5 Because each generation has the unique power to bequeath life to the next, each generation determines who will be members of the next. The choices we make constitute our first moral responsibility. Do we act wrongly when we fail to bring into existence persons whom we would reasonably expect to lead happy lives and contribute to the happiness of others? Would this imply that a potentially unhappy person has no right to exist? Are rights, then, simply a function of happiness?

Notes:

1. We profoundly help to shape their destiny: 他们的命运深受我们的影响。
2. conservation of nonrenewable resources: 保护不会再恢复的资源
3. diversity of the gene pool: 遗传基因的多样性

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仔细做练习吧!



Comprehension

I. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:

1. The author suggests that our relation to future generation is
 - A. a question of moral responsibility.
 - B. based on what we have inherited from our forefathers.
 - C. a question of wisdom.
2. Our forefathers left us
 - A. relatively rich resources.
 - B. limited resources.
 - C. a moral problem.
3. Future generations will be essentially the same as we are because they will
 - A. also live in a world with decent soil, and clean water and air.
 - B. have the same basic needs and seek for the same basic rights.
 - C. still pollute the environment.
4. According to the author, in the future there will be
 - A. a rapid population growth.
 - B. a rapid population growth in the developed countries.
 - C. a very slow population growth.
5. In order to leave adequate resources to future generations
 - A. we must make some sacrifice.
 - B. we must create a highly technological society.
 - C. we must raise our moral criteria.
6. As an ideal conductor, optical fibers are made to replace
 - A. petroleum.
 - B. silver.
 - C. copper.
7. Genes are recombined in the reproductive process
 - A. to keep the variety of plants and animals.
 - B. to raise the animal and plants production.
 - C. to preserve the top-quality plants and animals.
8. Which is implied in paragraph 9?
 - A. Our individual survival is more important than our survival as a species.
 - B. Our survival as a species is more important than our individual survival.
 - C. Genes are most important for one's survival.

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6 Do we have any responsibility to limit the size of future generations? If so, with what criteria do we so decide? Obviously, population policies raise a host of complex moral questions.

7 Resources are another area of ethical concern. We know that many nonrenewable resources we consider vital to the maintenance of Western civilization, such as petroleum, silver, zinc, and tin, are in short supply and will soon be exhausted at present rates of usage. Thus, a responsible policy toward future generations might require sacrifices in our present standard of living. Or can we assume that by creating a highly technological society we will leave future generations the requisite knowledge to find substitute materials among the more abundant products of the earth? For example, copper, once thought to be the ideal conductor⁴ for electrical communications system, is now being replaced by optical fibers⁵ made from the very common substance silicon⁶.

8 Closely related to this issue is that of preserving an adequate gene pool. The inherited characteristics of every living organism, from bacterium to baby, are transmitted via a unique set of genes. Diversity in plants and animals is preserved by the recombination of genes in the reproductive process⁷. So, the more genes in the "pool" to be chosen from, the more variety possible.

9 When certain varieties of plants or animals are driven to extinction each year, the whole set of genes are lost forever. Many plants and animals are driven to extinction each year. And because we want to raise only top-quality strains⁸ of plants and breeding animals (i.e., those with the largest yields and the most disease resistance), some varieties are permitted to disappear. Their genes cease to be part of the gene pool despite the loss to future research possibilities. Both diversity and quality are important to future generations. But how are they weighed against each other?

10 The fourth question about environmental quality for future generations is directly related to our pollution concerns. These extend from impurities in water and air to the protection of the ozone layer⁹ and the safe disposal of nuclear wastes. If we have any responsibility to future generation, we must at least be obliged to leave them air to breathe, water to drink, and soil to farm.

11 But we must decide what proportion of our wealth ought to be diverted to the task of safeguarding these elements. Must we bear the expense of cleaning up the mess bequeathed to us by past generation, or can we simply do our best not to increase the burden on the future? In short, if the task of preserving environmental quality requires the sacrifice of our present life-style, are we morally obliged to make the adjustment?

Notes:

4. conductor: a substance that readily acts as a path for electricity, heat, etc.: 导体

5. optical fiber: 光纤

6. silicon: a simple chemical substance 硅

7. Diversity in plants and animals ... in the reproductive process: 在再生过程中通过使基因相结合来保持动植物的多样性。

8. strain: a breed or type of plant or animal 种类, 品种

9. ozone layer: 臭氧层

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仔细做练习吧!



II. Find the sentences in the text where the following ideas are expressed:

1. Relatively speaking, our forefathers have left us sufficient things.
2. What the future will be like will basically depend on us.
3. We will greatly determine the fate of the future generations.
4. Today population almost stops growing in many countries.
5. Would this means that a person possibly dissatisfied is not entitled to survive?
6. If we are to be responsible for the future generations, we need to give up our present level of life.
7. Enough supply of genes has quite a lot to do with this matter.
8. Each year many plants and animals are forced to die out.
9. Should we undertake the task to get rid of the disorder we inherited from our predecessors?
10. Do we feel it is morally necessary to change (*our present life-style*) to meet the demands?

Vocabulary

III. Choose the one which has the closest meaning with the word underlined in each of the following sentences:

1. We can be thankful for the wisdom of our forebears,... .
A. grandfathers B. ancestors C. grandparents
2. And because we want to raise only top-quality strains of plants and breeding animals.
A. tunes B. features C. types
3. When we look to future generations, our position toward them is analogues to the position of past generations toward us.
A. alike B. close C. identical
4. Must we bear the expense of cleaning up the mess bequeathed to us by past generation.
A. support B. show C. keep in mind
5. Because each generation has the unique power to bequeath life to the next, each generation determines who will be members of the next.
A. offer B. send C. pass on

IV. Find antonyms for the following words in the paragraphs given:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. foolish _____ (1) | 2. poor _____ (2) |
| 3. follow _____ (3) | 4. different _____ (3) |
| 5. simplicity _____ (3) | 6. short _____ (7) |

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2. Back on the Road

回到大路上

Pre-reading questions:

1. How are the dirt bikes seriously damaging the environment?
2. How do they affect the wild life and animals?
3. According to the author, what should be done to solve the problem?

1 There are many aspects of this society for which most Americans can be thankful. In spite of recessions¹ and rising unemployment, one of these positive aspects of American life is that millions of our citizens are able to spend time and money on recreation on a scale that is unique in history. This ability had given rise to a mushrooming industry which produces thousands of two, three, four, six, and eight wheeled vehicles designed specially for use in areas where there are no roads. From tiny, child sized motorcycle, to house cars created from the resurrected carcasses² of old military vehicles, every weekend and holiday finds them careening across the deserts and hills of California. They do not care about the incalculable damage done to nature by their uncurtailed³ use of such noisy crushers of bushes.

2 Fifteen years ago, I visited Red Rock Canyon, and was impressed by the grandeur and solitude of the place, and marveled at the heartiness and the few plants that were able to survive the desolateness and the extremes of temperature that came with the various seasons. Five months ago, I paid another visit to that same area. I arrived during the twilight and promptly went to sleep. When I arose with the dawn, the early sun cast its rays on a landscape devoid of greenery and crisscrossed⁴ with the tracks of tires. It was about five o'clock in the morning when the sound of a dirt bike, or off-road motorcycle, assaulted my ears. I have always been fond of the sunrise over a cold desert landscape, accompanied by the strains of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture⁵, or the Russian Easter Overture⁶, coursing through my mind, but somehow that wonderful effect was lost in the drone of a gas-burning motorcycle engines. The four-wheel drive vehicles were, because of their size and cumbersomeness⁷, restricted to the roads and relatively flat areas, whereas the dirt bikes infested⁸ every area. Wherever we went, dirt bikes were present, and the tracks of their tires were everywhere, even across the broken remains of the last few bushes.

3 The Red Rock Canyon was a state park. Erosion has been extensive in the last two years. "Even there was some hope of controlling damage from vehicles in the future," a ranger⁹ said to us, "the Red Rock Canyon's natural development has been permanently altered and the ecological balance would probably never be restored." The Red Rock Canyon is in the Mojave Desert. I contend that the balance of nature in a desert is particularly fragile¹⁰. The

Notes:

1. recession: lack of activity 不景气, 萧条
2. carcass: the decaying remains of something 残骸
3. uncurtail: not reduce or limit 无限制
4. crisscross: network of lines 错综复杂
5. Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture: 柴可夫斯基于 1812 年创作的前奏曲
6. the Russian Easter Overture: 俄国复活节序曲
7. cumbersomeness: a state of heavy and awkward 笨重
8. infest: cause trouble to by being present in large numbers 骚扰, 滋扰
9. ranger: a forest guard 护林员
10. fragile: weak, easy to be attacked 虚弱的

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仔细做练习吧!



Comprehension

I. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:

1. The introduction of this essay flows on _____ until the end of the paragraph.
A. a serious note B. a cheerful note C. a grim fact
2. Paragraph 2 tells that
A. dirt bikes are seriously damaging the environment.
B. dirt bikes are severely destroying our natural resources.
C. dirt bikes are killing more and more wildlife.
3. Which of the following statements is not true?
A. The four-wheel vehicles and dirt bikes have more negative aspects than positive one.
B. The rapid growing industry of the off-road vehicles is the product of people's greater demand of recreation.
C. Most Americans can be thankful for the recession, for they have more time to entertain themselves.
4. Fifteen years ago the Red Rock Canyon was a _____ place.
A. noisy and beautiful B. beautiful and desolate C. grand and erosive
5. The author gives specific evidence in paragraph 2 to support his thesis by using
A. contrast and comparison. B. cause and effect. C. classification and division.
6. _____ made the author deeply absorbed in Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.
A. The sound of the gas-burning motorcycle engines
B. The sunrise over a cold desert landscape
C. The sunrise together with the vigorous bikers
7. In the last paragraph the author sums up _____ if the ecological threat is handled inadequately.
A. the consequences B. the problems C. the promising future

II. Complete the following sentences according to the passage:

1. To preserve the ecological balance the government should _____.
2. The San Bernardino Mountains had been _____ before the motor cyclists assaulted it. But now it is filled with _____.
3. More and more people are indulged in _____ which have done great damage to the environment.
4. In paragraph 6 the author shifts from the problem to the _____.
5. The main idea of this passage is _____.

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bushes that grow there, and hold the earth down during the frequent flash floods, can endure many types of weather, but not the brutal smash of a motorcycle wheel. Larger vehicles must be confined to certain areas, but the extreme mobility which gives motorcycles their popularity makes them hard to control, and, therefore, much more dangerous. In addition to that, they are noisier and have proven their capability of scaring animal life from any area in which they are frequently used.

4 For twelve years my father has owned a cabin in the San Bernardino Mountains, near Big Bear Lake. Until about five years ago we enjoyed feeding deer, squirrels, raccoons, and birds that approached the cabin from the national forest, whose border is directly behind the cabin. These years we have seen and heard dirt bikes behind the cabin, winter and summer, snow and sunshine. We have also seen, during that time, fewer and fewer, and now, no animals. The only animal in the area now is the neighbor's dog, Spooky, and the dogs of the motorcyclists, with whom Spooky plays. The forest seems devoid of animal life for about five miles behind the cabin.

5 Not only have the animals ceased to frequent the areas where the bikers go, but in the clouds of dust, mud, and noise that they raise, most of the smaller plants have died. During the last spring vacation, my wife and I lived in the cabin to work on our term papers. It was difficult to concentrate with the constant racket of small engines in the background, but just as annoying was the stink¹¹ of exhausted fumes which made the once fragrant pines smell like dung on a windless summer day. Now when any of our family uses the cabin we take bags, usually able to fill them with beer and soda cans, candy wrappers, and cigarette butts. Litter¹² in the area was almost nonexistent before the cyclists came. It is evident that the decrease in animals and plants and the increase in litter dropping has been in direct proportion to the increased incidence of motorcycles riding in the area. Anyone can see the places where broken bushes and plants lie in the paths of motorcycle tire marks.

6 As an enthusiast of foot travel, I enjoy almost unrestricted use of California's unpopulated lands. Equality of opportunity is supposed to be one of the privilege enjoyed by Americans. Unfortunately many individuals abuse that privilege, and one of the things they do is misusing and defiling¹³ the natural features of the landscape with their recreational vehicles. They have shown emphatically that they are incapable of enjoying the beauty in nature. It is unfair to deprive people of their privilege, so the state should severely curtail and even prohibit the use of the dirt bikes in natural protectorates.

7 Protective measures should be taken. It is clear that many hundreds of square miles in California will be altered and damaged possibly with complete destruction of local plant and animal life. With the use of these vehicles increasing constantly, it will not take long for the destruction of the natural areas. The deserts of North Africa still bear the marks of tires and tracks put down by the early bikers. Is California to experience such damage? If so it will be an even greater loss, for California has much more to lose than North Africa did. If action is not taken soon, the wide usage of these vehicle will turn many of our natural lovely areas into scarred places of bare desolation which no one will enjoy except, perhaps the off road vehicle enthusiasts, whose only concern seems to be the piloting of his vehicle¹⁴ along any surface other than a conventional road.

Notes:

11. stink: unpleasant smell 恶臭的气味
13. defile: make dirty 玷污,弄脏

12. litter: things thrown away 垃圾
14. pilot of his vehicles: 驾驶他的车辆

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仔细做练习吧!



III. Choose the one which has the closest meaning with the underlined word in each of the following sentences:

- This ability had given rise to a mushrooming industry.
A. rapidly growing B. widely spreading
C. quickly developing
- From tiny, child sized motorcycle, to house cars created from the resurrected carcasses of old military vehicles, ...
A. brought back to use B. alive C. restored
- The four-wheel drive vehicles were, because of their size and cumbersomeness, restricted to the roads and relatively flat areas.
A. ugliness B. clumsiness C. hugeness
- ...whereas the dirt bikes infested every area.
A. flooded B. attacked C. polluted
- They are noisier and have proven their capability of scaring animal life from any area in which they are frequently used.
A. hurting B. damaging C. frightening
- The forest seems devoid of animal life for about five miles behind the cabin.
A. short of B. empty C. rich
- ...one of the things they do is misusing and defiling the natural features of the landscape with their recreational vehicles.
A. damaging B. threatening C. contaminating
- The wide usage of these vehicle will turn many of our natural lovely areas into scarred places of bare desolation.
A. marked with damages B. wounded C. hurt

IV. Find antonyms for the following words in the paragraphs given:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. prosperity (1) _____ | 2. restricted (1) _____ |
| 3. temporarily (3) _____ | 4. stability (3) _____ |
| 5. seldom (3) _____ | 6. distract (5) _____ |
| 7. stink (5) _____ | 8. covered (5) _____ |

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Forward

3. The Oceans — Man's Last Great Resource

海洋 —— 人类最后的资源

Pre-reading questions

1. It is estimated that the world population will double in size by the year 2006. How can the world feed all these people?
2. Most of our food-producing land is already in use. Where will we get minerals and other natural resources to run our industries?

1 For millennia man has exploited and destroyed the riches of the land, now man covets the wealth of the oceans, which covers nearly three-quarters of the earth. But the scramble for minerals and oil, for new underwater empires, could heighten international tensions and set a new and wider stage for world conflict.

2 Even the most conservative estimates of resources in the seabed stagger the imagination. In the millions of miles of ocean that touch a hundred nations live for four out of five living things on earth. In the seabed, minerals and oil have been proved to exist in lavish supply. The oceans are a source of pure water and food protein; of drugs and building materials; they are even possibly a habitat for man himself and a key to survival for the doubling population on the land.

3 Man may yet learn to use a tiny fraction of this wealth. Unless international law soon determines how it shall be shared, that fraction alone could set off a new age of colonial war. Is the deep seabed, like the high seas, common to all? Or, like the wilderness areas of land, is it open to national claim by the use and occupation of the first or the strongest pioneer? The question of what is to be done to regulate and control exploitation of the seabeds is no longer a theoretical matter. It is a problem of international concern. We must decide how to divide this great wealth equitable among nations. But wealth is not the only thing at stake. We must also learn how to protect the oceans from the menace of pollution.

4 A few years ago, "practical" men dismissed speculations about wealth in the sea. "That is economic foolishness," they said. It will never be economically profitable to exploit the seabeds, no matter how great the riches are to be found there. Unfortunately, they underestimated the lure of gold as the mother of invention. Yet the pessimists may be proved right. In these pioneer years of the Ocean Age, the damage done sometimes seems to exceed the benefit gained. Beaches from England to Puerto Rico to California have been soaked in oily slime. Fish and wildlife have been destroyed. Insecticides, seeping into the rivers and then the oceans, have killed fish and waterfowl and revived fears that other lethal chemicals may contaminate our waters when they are used as garbage dumps. The future disposal of increasing amounts of atomic waste is an unresolved problem. Millions of acres of offshore/seabed have been leased for drilling. Largely in ignorance, we are tinkering with our greatest source of life.

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仔细做练习吧!



Comprehension

I. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:

1. The oceans cover nearly
A. half the world. B. two-thirds of the world. C. three-quarters of the world.
2. Man's competition for underwater riches could
A. increase international tensions. B. improve international understanding.
C. decrease international pollution.
3. Minerals are found in the ocean
A. in limited supply. B. in lavish supply. C. infrequently.
4. The people who did not think we could mine the ocean are called
A. optimists. B. pessimists. C. pioneers.
5. After an oil spill, the beaches are soaked in
A. lime. B. seabed. C. protein.
6. The reserves of manganese in the ocean are
A. much larger than land reserves. B. about the same as land reserves.
C. smaller than land reserves.
7. Most of the nodules are found in
A. shallow water. B. deep water. C. near a reef.
8. Aquaculture is a way of increasing our supply of
A. crude oil. B. salt water. C. fish and plant life.
9. One reason for building an offshore city outside the country's territorial limit is
A. to encourage gambling and avoid taxes. B. to get better water.
C. to improve the seabed.
10. At the moment, legal questions about the oceans are
A. easily settled by the Federal Government.
B. easily settled by the U.N..
C. very difficult to settle.

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5 The incredible magnitude of the oceans' resources can be measured by just one isolated example: the metal content of manganese nodules¹. These lumps of mineral on the ocean floor were once regarded as a curiosity with no economic value. One study of reserves in the Pacific Ocean alone came up with an estimate that the nodules contained 358 billion tons of manganese, equivalent, at present rates of consumption, to reserves for 400,000 years, compared to known land reserves of only 100 years. The nodules contain equally staggering amounts of aluminum, nickel, cobalt, and other metals. Most of these resources exist at great depths, from 5,000 to more than 15,000 feet below sea level. Yet within five to ten years the technology will exist for commercial mining operations. This will make available virtually unlimited metal reserves.

6 More familiar to most of us is the accelerated pace of offshore drilling that now extends more than 50 miles out to sea and accounts for 15 percent of U.S. oil production. In the twelve years between 1955 and 1967, offshore production of crude oil increased from seven million barrels. Estimates of known reserves of natural gas have more than tripled in the past 15 years, and each advance of scientific exploration of the ocean beds brings to light new finds that would gladden the eye of the most hardened veteran² of the California gold rush³.

7 Perhaps the least developed resources, and one of critical importance to spiraling population figures, is the use of the seas for farming techniques or "aquaculture⁴." Present methods of fishing can only be compared with primitive hunting with a bow and arrow; if fish were cultivated like livestock, the present world fish catch could easily be multiplied five or as much as ten fold. The production of protein concentrate and the distillation of fresh water are still experimental in an economic sense; there is no reason to believe that they too cannot become both useful and profitable. Aquaculture could also be applied to a variety of marine plant life.

8 Nor is the potential confined to⁵ what we can extract from the seas or the seabed. In crowded England, serious plans have been developed to build entire cities just off the coast. Offshore airports may solve the demand for large coastal cities as New York and Los Angeles. Some people, quick to take advantage of the legal confusion that reigns beyond coastal waters, have planned to build independent islands atop seamounts and reefs outside the country's territorial limit—this is indeed, a romantic notion, but one with, it is suspected, the more prosaic aim of avoiding the constructions of domestic law concerning gambling and taxes, one such venture has been restrained by the courts on the grounds that the reefs and seamounts attach to the seabed on the continental shelf⁶, and are, therefore, under U.S. jurisdiction. In another case the United Nations was presented with an application for permission to extract minerals from the bed of the Red Sea in an area 50 miles from the coastal states. The Secretariat⁷ dodged this thorny question, citing lack of authority to act.

9 Such claims are no longer isolated or frivolous. How to dispose of this wealth and exploit these possibilities has become a world problem.

Notes:

1. nodules: a small round mass or lump as of a mineral: **矿瘤**; manganese nodules **锰矿结核**
2. the most hardened veteran: **最不易动心的老手**
3. the California gold rush: **加利福尼亚淘金热**
4. aquaculture: **水产养殖**
5. is the potential confined to: **局限于**
6. the continental shelf: **大陆架**
7. The Secretariat: **联合国秘书处**

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仔细做练习吧!



II. Decide which of the following statements are true (T) and which are false (F):

1. The oceans are an excellent place to dump atomic waste.
2. Most of the ocean's minerals are found in shallow water.
3. Present methods of fishing are at the "bow-and-arrow" level of technology.
4. The world fish catch could be increased ten times if fish were cultivated like livestock.
5. In this article, the author expresses dissatisfaction with the present methods of settling international disputes over control and use of the oceans.

Vocabulary

III. Choose the one which has the closest meaning with the word underlined in each of the following sentences:

1. There is a scramble for the ocean's reserves.
A. competitive struggle B. regional plan C. new optimism
2. The most conservative estimates of the ocean's wealth stagger the imagination.
A. astound B. back up C. frighten
3. Lethal chemicals can contaminate the water.
A. improve B. spoil C. diminish
4. Fresh water can be distilled from seawater.
A. obtained B. improved C. added
5. The continental shelf is under the jurisdiction of the federal government.
A. sale B. loan C. authority

IV. Fill in each blank with the correct form of the word:

1. disperse The ____ of insecticides in a river kills the fish.
2. restrain The courts show ____ in certain criminal cases.
3. economical Our ____ has its ups and downs.
4. authority Congress may ____ commercial use of the oceans.
5. conserve According to ____ estimates, the world population will double by 2006.

V. Fill in the blanks with the words whose meanings are suggested by the italicized words in the same sentence:

The (*shallow, underwater ledge near the shore*) 1 extends about 12 miles out to sea. This part of the ocean was the first to be (*used by man for his own advantage*) 2 by man. It is an ideal place for (*underwater agriculture*) 3. Man (*desires*) 4 the wealth of the ocean. He wants to mine the seabed. He also wants to drill for (*some distance from the shore*) 5 oil. When oil is drilled, there is an occasional accident. A (*deadly*) 6 amount of oil can seep into the water, killing the fish. This oil can leave (*a sticky substance*) 7 on the beach. The (*great amount*) 8 of work in cleaning up an oil spill is (*unbelievable*) 9. But an oil spill is but a (*commonplace*) 10 consequence of man's hopes and dreams.

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4. Going for the Green

追求绿色环境

Pre-reading questions:

1. The author introduced four environmental protecting institutions. What are they?
2. What characteristics does each institution have?
3. What methods do they use to improve the environment?

Komatsu

1 The problem of concrete debris became an environmental rallying¹ point in Japan during the early 1990s after an increase in explosive building demolitions². With dumping sites in short supply, the problem became more than just an environmental headache. Disposal costs were escalating out of control.

2 With its mobile recycling machine, Komatsu offers an environmentally responsible alternative. Their Reterra mobile soil recyclers crush waste into small pieces which can be mixed with a solidifying agent³, producing quality soil for immediate reuse. As a result, the need to remove solid waste for disposal and carry in fresh soil to replace it is drastically reduced.

3 Komatsu estimates that its machines handle one third of the total concrete debris in Japan. Komatsu's mobile crusher program, which began in 1992, has sold more than 1,200 units, increasing the total amount of recycled asphalt in that country from 50 percent in 1990 to 81 percent in 1995. Recycled concrete rose from 48 percent to 65 percent over the same period.

4 One major reason for Komatsu's success is that the soil recyclers are mobile. Installing stationary recycling plants entails gaining the consent of neighboring residents — which is a perpetual stumbling block⁴. With the shortage of disposal sites, on-site recyclers are cheaper, and more environmentally effective than stationary installations.

ZinCo GmbH

5 Founded in 1957, ZinCo GmbH, located near Stuttgart, Germany, has been a pioneer in the business of green roofs. The company has covered residential roofs with babbling brooks and gardens, factory roofs with lavender heaths, and even an office roof with a golf putting green completed with a kidney-shaped sand trap⁵. The air vents stand hidden behind the bushes⁶.

6 "Building sites are very expensive," says Reiner Wihelm, who handles foreign relations for the company. "The roof is a second building site." One company commissioned a penthouse conference room⁷ on the roof, so people could open the windows for the smell of the garden in the middle of a downtown city.

7 Green roofs proved to be a successful business partly because Germany places a premium on urban greenery. By law, builders may cover only 50 percent of the site, unless they include a green roof, which allows them to fill 75 percent of the property. Although these roofs cost more to install, they last twice as long as conventional roofs. A naked roof may face temperatures ranging from minus 20 to 60 degrees. But rooftop soil and vegetation dramatically moderate the temperatures from minus 5 to 20 degrees.

Notes:

1. rally: recover; restore 恢复,复原 2. explosive building demolitions: 通过爆炸拆除大楼 (demolition: 拆除)
 3. solidifying agent: 能凝固的成分 4. Installing stationary recycling plants ... stumbling block: 安装固定的回收利用厂需要得到附近居民的同意, 那是心理上永久的障碍物。
 5. The company has covered ... sand trap: 公司给住户楼顶覆盖上了潺潺的小溪和花园, 给工厂的楼顶覆盖上紫色的石楠, 给办公大楼顶上覆盖上由肾形沙圈围起来的绿色高尔夫草地。
 6. The air vents stand hidden behind the bushes: 通气孔隐藏在灌木丛里。
 7. a penthouse conference room: 楼顶房屋会议室

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Comprehension

I. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions:

1. Among the four environmental protectors, which is engaged in green roofs?
A. Komatsu. B. Biocorp. C. ZinCo.
2. The disposal costs of concrete debris are rising quickly because
A. more and more buildings are pulled down.
B. dumping sites are in short supply. C. Both A and B.
3. Komatsu's mobile recyclers can make the concrete debris reusable by turning it into
A. quality soil. B. solidifying agent. C. small pieces.
4. Instead of installing fixed recycling plants, Komatsu makes mobile soil recyclers because
A. it can acquire the consent of the neighboring residents.
B. it can save a lot of land.
C. its recycled concrete can rise to 65 percent.
5. The green roofs don't have the advantage of
A. lasting longer than conventional ones.
B. providing a relatively agreeable temperature.
C. costing less than the conventional ones.
6. Biocorp makes serviceware with such materials as
A. cottonseeds and cornstarch.
B. petroleum-based plastics. C. neither A nor B.
7. Many digital coping machines and Bubble Jet printers in Japan carry
A. Canon's environmental information. B. Canon's global scale environmental objectives.
C. Canon's environmental management program.
8. Which of the following is not included in Canon's objectives for 2001?
A. To recycle and reuse more than 90 percent of its product.
B. To improve the energy and resource efficiency.
C. To recycle and reuse more than 90 percent of the global product.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. How can Komatsu's mobile recycling machines improve our environment?
2. What advantages do ZinCo's green roofs have?
3. How can Biocorp's biodegradable serviceware be put into wide use?
4. What is the most important characteristic of Canon's environmental management?
5. What are Canon's environmental objectives for 2001?
6. What is Canon's special strategy to arouse global attention to environmental protection?

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