**41) The greatness of individuals can be decided only by those who live after them, not by their contemporaries.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

1. 观点:偏肯定

2. 正:由于时代局限性， a、很多被现在人 modern people 认可的成就不被当代人认可:

被评价者的思想可能超越同时代人。达芬奇设计的直升机，飞机，不被同时代人认可。 Van Gogh 梵高的后印象派作品(impressionism)同时代人无法理解，但是他的作品现在 被人们广泛称赞; 伽利略(Galileo)，反对日心说，被教堂打压。爱因斯坦，Albert Einstein, 发展了相对论(the theory of relativity)，被认为是 20 世纪最伟大的发现，被广泛应用到 天文学、物理学等很多领域。他也被后人评价为 20 世纪最伟大的物理学家。然而在当 时，这个理论不被世界上超过 10 个人理解。中国古代的庄子，在几千年前提出了保护 环境的观点，在当时不被 君主认可，但是 对于当代却有着 重要的意义。b、 很多被当代 人认可的不被后人认可。后人可以以更全面的眼光看问题。有一部分工程 project 在当 时看起来很好，随时间推移显出坏处，例如环境污染。

3. 反:a、也有一些 人的成就被同 时代的人认可， 例如比尔盖茨 。他放弃哈佛 ，开微软公 司，他的才能和远见被当 代人认可;b、 当代人的评价也 不一定准确。由于 时间原因， 现 代 人 已 经 与 他 们 不 处 于 同 一 个 时 代 ( e r a )， 所 以 后 人 获 得 的 资 料 不 准 确 ， 导 致 错 误 评 价。

4. 交汇:评价复杂，涉及到很多方面，没有绝对的对错:a、评价标准不同;b、不同时期 评价不同

5. 结论:尽管关于是否伟大需要继续讨论，我仍认同后人评价更准确。且如果评价方法被 掌握，后人弊端可以被削弱，准确性提高。

… some talents are ignored by their contemporaries? … contemporaries’ opinions about the repute of individuals are useless? ... ‘descendant’ ‘contemporary’… descendant is more disinterested judging individuals’ achievements… contemporary could assess individuals using their current values, which is meaningful when we consider their greatness… there is no norm to decide the greatness of individuals.

… some individuals’ greatness is recognized by contemporaries. Here is an example, Bill Gates, the founder of the CEO and the chief software architect of Microsoft, is accepted by most contemporaries. During his childhood, Gates took an interest in programming the GE system in BASIC, a kind of programming languages, and was fascinated by the machine and how it would always execute software code perfectly. While a student at Harvard, he did not have a definite study plan and spent a lot of time using the school's computers. In order to pursue his own interest, he gave up the opportunity to study at Harvard, and started his own computer software company. Contemporaries regard Gates as one of the best-known entrepreneurs of the personal computer revolution and this assessment is not biased. In short, not all judgment of contemporary is meaningless.

… there are some limits when contemporaries decide others achievements. A good case in hand is Van Gogh, a famous painter whose work was not acknowledged by people during his lifetime, and was considered a madman and a failure. He sold only one of his paintings at a low price all over his career, but he never gave up his painting style and followed his own heart. Even a majority of people don’t understand the art work, it still doesn’t mean it is valueless. Decades later, he attained widespread critical, commercial and popular success, and is remembered as an important but tragic painter, whose troubled personality typifies the romantic ideal of the tortured artist. In sum, even some individuals are not comprehensible for most people, it might be meaningful to the world and descendant would reassess their greatness impersonally.

… it’s meaningless to compare the judgment of contemporaries and descendants since they are based on divergent standard. Before van Gogh, people cared about the subject and the painting had to look like the object it was supposed to represent. With the development of fast technology innovation, painters were not basically cameras anymore. After van Gogh, they start to focus on the intent of the artist and the painting no longer had to represent a specific object. Van Gogh was ahead of his time, hence, his paintings were considered by most people to be ugly. However, it doesn’t mean those people’s judgment are useless. They just have different aesthetic standard. To sum up, both the judgment of contemporaries and descendants are effective since no one can guarantee which norm is absolutely right.