**9) In any field of endeavor, it is impossible to make a significant contribution without first being strongly influenced by past achievements within that field.**

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 I tend to take a cautiously positive attitude
2. 一开始被强烈影 响可能造成思 想的束缚，无 法充分发挥 自己的创造力(stretch their wings in creativity); 举例，学术方面(science)，Challenging academic authority promotes academic progress，如哥白尼 Copernicus 质疑权威 Catholic Church，提出 heliocentric theory，推动 astronomy 发展。例如 哈维发现血液循环以及心脏的作用，质 疑了盖伦的老学说，奠定了现代生理学 physiology 的基础。政治方面，屈原、董仲舒提 倡改革祖宗之法。Challenging political authority forces politicians and the government to be more democratic, efficient, responsible and honest
3. 显然(obviously)，许多成就是建立在之前的基础之上的:a、Isaac Newton 站在巨人的

肩膀上。“If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”不只是牛顿，许 多伟人都从前人的研究中获得启发(inspirat ion)，从而在自己的领域中获得了巨大成功。 例如，音乐家莫扎特，将古典主义 classicism 的基础上发展了浪漫主义 romanticism，其 作品非常出名。;b、没有哪个学科的成就是毫无基础就可以取得的，如果不建立在一定 的基础上，那么获得成就就无从谈起。

1. 事实上，这个问题不可一概而论(We should not make sweeping generalizations):a、对 于某些已经相对成熟的学 科，接受学科内 的影响是相当重 要的;b、对于新 兴学科的开 辟，更重要的是创造力和综合不同领域知识的能力
2. 结论:尽管实现伟大成就和已有成就影响的关系有待继续讨论，我们仍必须承认已有成 就的重要影响，并努力避免被束缚，充分发挥创造力。

Is that true that neophyte might find out new ideas ignored by expert? I bet your answer is yes. Then do you agree that those beginners should be inspired to judge any thing they don’t know? People’s opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tagged them as the ‘obey authority’ oriented and the ‘question authority’ oriented. The ‘obey authority’ supporters assert that authority considers or studies a problem for a long time, and a layperson should not keep question them before he accumulates enough backgrounds. Meanwhile, the ‘question authority’ believers insist that a person without professional or specialized knowledge in a particular subject could find out a novel point that those authorities might ignore. Both sides justify themselves with sound reason. From my perspective, in most cases, I would encourage individuals to be skepticism.

The ‘obey authority’ supporters might argue that if deficient in fundamental knowledge, over-skepticism will lead to total simplicity and naivety. Albert Einstein said, "Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth." We are not omniscient, nor can we be experts in every field. We, of necessity, respect the authority of doctors, dentists, and other medical specialists. After my pulmonary embolism, my doctor put me on a blood thinning drug. I am not about to question his expertise, though I did read up on the disease and the drug. This is not a failure to question authority so much as an acknowledgement that he knows more about the ailment and its treatment than I do. In sum, compliance with an order or submission to authority would be effective in the well-being of the field.

Nevertheless, the ‘question authority’ believers could also cite some advantages of questioning authority. It would stimulate creativity, inspire us to explore the truth and promote innovation. Challenging academic authority promotes academic progress. Copernicus, a Renaissance- and Reformation-era mathematician and astronomer who formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the center of the universe, oppose the authority of the Church and of Aristotle, triggering the Copernican Revolution and making an important contribution to the Scientific Revolution. In conclusion, questioning rules or authority is essential for individuals to be creative.

Furthermore, experts should be cautious to narrow down to a field and reject to hearken others question, since disciplines are not independent but interdependent. Here is an example, John F. Nash’s achievement on mathematics and economics suggests that mathematical knowledge is conducive to establish a deeper understanding of economics. Moreover, some disciplines in theoretical science such as mathematics, physics, etc., might be ignored by students but are consequential. For instance, as philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the prerequisite of every discipline, it’s inevitably that experts are directed to learn some philosophy. In short, society should recommend people question authority, since those authorities might improve faster owning to their skeptical attitude.