

第一篇

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

In most cultures throughout the world, there is an expectation that when a person reaches adulthood, marriage should soon follow. In the United States alone, each month upwards of 168 000 couples wed, 1 to love, honor, and respect their chosen life mates until death parts them. The expectation is deep-rooted.

However, the social functions, purposes, and relevance of marriage are rapidly changing in 2 society, making them less clear-cut than they have been throughout history. For instance, in a Pew Research Center random polling of over 2 000 3, fewer than half of all of the adults polled indicated that if a man and a woman plan to spend the rest of their lives together as a couple, it was important that they 4 marry.

Those of us who choose to marry have 5 reasons why we decide to marry the person we do. There is a 6, however, in our Western, individualistic culture: We tend to marry for reasons that benefit ourselves, rather than for reasons that benefit the society at large, such as found in collectivist cultures. Research in Western cultures has found, for example, that the number-one 7 people cite for marrying is to signify a lifelong commitment to someone they love. However, this reason is not the only 8 to why people wed—today, people get married for reasons of commitment, security, and personal belief systems. The Pew Research Center's recent findings suggest that the main reasons people get married are for 9 happiness and commitment, and bearing and raising children. As the data from this survey show us, there are racial, age, and religious differences in what people 10 to be the main purposes of getting married.

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|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A) vowing | F) contemporary | K) visual |
| B) mutual | G) response | L) pretending |
| C) individuals | H) specific | M) substitute |
| D) consider | I) legally | N) equally |
| E) tendency | J) reason | O) suggesting |

第二篇

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

A Nation That's Losing Its Toolbox

- A) The scene inside the Home Depot on Weyman Avenue here would give the old-time American craftsman pause. In Aisle 34 is precut plastic flooring, the glue already in place. In Aisle 26 are prefabricated windows. Stacked near the checkout counters, and as colorful as a Fisher-Price toy, is a not-so-serious-looking power tool, a battery-operated saw-and-drill combination. And if you don't want to do it yourself, head to Aisle 23 or Aisle 35, where a help desk will arrange for an installer.
- B) It's all very handy stuff, I guess, a convenient way to be a do-it-yourselfer without being all that good with tools. But at a time when the American factory seems to be a shrinking presence, and when good

manufacturing jobs have vanished, perhaps never to return, there is something deeply troubling about this dilution of American craftsmanship.

- C) This isn't a *lament* (伤感)—or not merely a lament—for bygone times. It's a social and cultural issue, as well as an economic one. The Home Depot approach to craftsmanship—simplify it, dumb it down, hire a contractor—is one signal that mastering tools and working with one's hands is receding in America as a hobby, as a valued skill, as a cultural influence that shaped thinking and behavior in vast sections of the country.
- D) That should be a matter of concern in a presidential election year. Yet neither Barack Obama nor Mitt Romney promotes himself as *tool-savvy* (使用工具很在行的) presidential timber, in the mold of a Jimmy Carter, a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker.
- E) The Obama administration does worry publicly about manufacturing, a first cousin of craftsmanship. When the Ford Motor Company, for example, recently announced that it was bringing some production home, the White House cheered. "When you see things like Ford moving new production from Mexico to Detroit, instead of the other way around, you know things are changing," says Gene Sperling, director of the National Economic Council.
- F) Ask the administration or the Republicans or most academics why America needs more manufacturing, and they respond that manufacturing gives birth to innovation, brings down the trade deficit, strengthens the dollar, generates jobs, arms the military and brings about a recovery from recession. But rarely, if ever, do they publicly take the argument a step further, asserting that a growing manufacturing sector encourages craftsmanship and that craftsmanship is, if not a birthright, then a vital ingredient of the American self-image as a can-do, inventive, we-can-make-anything people.
- G) Traditional vocational training in public high schools is gradually declining, stranding thousands of young people who seek training for a craft without going to college. Colleges, for their part, have since 1985 graduated fewer chemical, mechanical, industrial and *metallurgical* (冶金的) engineers, partly in response to the reduced role of manufacturing, a big employer of them.
- H) The decline started in the 1950s, when manufacturing generated a sturdy 28% of the national income, or gross domestic product, and employed one-third of the workforce. Today, factory output generates just 12% of G.D.P. and employs barely 9% of the nation's workers.
- I) Mass layoffs and plant closings have drawn plenty of headlines and public debate over the years, and they still occasionally do. But the damage to skill and craftsmanship—what's needed to build a complex airliner or a tractor, or for a worker to move up from assembler to machinist to supervisor—went largely unnoticed.
- J) "In an earlier generation, we lost our connection to the land, and now we are losing our connection to the machinery we depend on," says Michael Hout, a sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley. "People who work with their hands," he went on, "are doing things today that we call service jobs, in restaurants and laundries, or in medical technology and the like."
- K) That's one explanation for the decline in traditional craftsmanship. Lack of interest is another. The big money is in fields like finance. Starting in the 1980s, skill in finance grew in importance, and, as depicted in the news media and the movies, became a more appealing source of income. By last year, Wall Street traders, bankers and those who deal in real estate generated 21% of the national income, double their share in the 1950s. And Warren Buffett, the good-natured financier, became a homespun folk hero, without the tools and *overalls* (工作服).
- L) "Young people grow up without developing the skills to fix things around the house," says Richard Curtin, director of the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers. "They know about computers, of course, but they don't know how to build them."
- M) Manufacturing's shrinking presence undoubtedly helps explain the decline in craftsmanship, if only because many of the nation's assembly line workers were skilled in craft work, if not on the job then in their spare time. In a late 1990s study of blue-collar employees at a General Motors plant (now closed) in Linden, N.J., the sociologist Ruth Milkman of City University of New York found that many line workers, in their off-hours, did home renovation and other skilled work. "I have often thought," Ms. Milkman says, "that these extracurricular jobs were an effort on the part of the workers to regain

- their dignity after suffering the degradation of repetitive assembly line work in the factory.”
- N) Craft work has higher status in nations like Germany, which invests in *apprenticeship* (学徒) programs for high school students. “Corporations in Germany realized that there was an interest to be served economically and patriotically in building up a skilled labor force at home; we never had that *ethos* (风气),” says Richard Sennett, a New York University sociologist who has written about the connection of craft and culture.
- O) The damage to American craftsmanship seems to parallel the steep slide in manufacturing employment. Though the decline started in the 1970s, it became much steeper beginning in 2000. Since then, some 5.3 million jobs, or one-third of the workforce in manufacturing, have been lost. A stated goal of the Obama administration is to restore a big chunk of this employment, along with the multitude of skills that many of the jobs required.
- P) As for craftsmanship itself, the issue is how to preserve it as a valued skill in the general population. Ms. Milkman, the sociologist, argues that American craftsmanship isn’t disappearing as quickly as some would argue—that it has instead shifted to immigrants. “Pride in craft, it is alive in the immigrant world,” she says. Sol Axelrod, 37, the manager of the Home Depot here, fittingly learned to fix his own car as a teenager, even changing the brakes. Now he finds immigrant craftsmen gathered in abundance outside his store in the early morning, waiting for it to open so they can buy supplies for the day’s work as contractors. Skilled day laborers, also mostly immigrants, wait quietly in hopes of being hired by the contractors.
- Q) Mr. Axelrod also says the recession and persistently high unemployment have forced many people to try to save money by doing more themselves, and Home Depot in response offers classes in fixing water taps and other simple repairs. The teachers are store employees, many of them older and semi-retired from a skilled trade, or laid off. “Our customers may not be building cabinets or outdoor decks; we try to do that for them,” Mr. Axelrod says, “but some are trying to build up skill so they can do more for themselves in these hard times.”
1. Mastering tools and working with one’s hands used to be a valued skill in America.
 2. The fact that people can make more money in fields other than manufacturing contributes to the decline of craftsmanship.
 3. High school students are losing opportunities of learning a traditional craft at school.
 4. Compared with German counterparts, American companies did not work towards encouraging craftsmanship.
 5. Barack Obama did not present himself as skilled in craft work during his election campaign.
 6. Some people are trying to ride out the economic depression by doing more themselves.
 7. There is insufficient attention to the negative effects on craftsmanship produced by the decline of manufacturing.
 8. Most politicians or scholars fail to point out that manufacturing promotes craftsmanship.
 9. A sociologist argues that American craftsmanship, instead of disappearing, is being taken up by immigrants.
 10. A study found that many assembly line workers did skilled work in their off-hours to restore their dignity as craftsmen.

第三篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

The report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics was just as gloomy as anticipated. Unemployment in January jumped to a 16-year high of 7.6 percent, as 598 000 jobs were slashed from US payrolls in the worst single-month decline since December, 1974. With 1.8 million jobs lost in the last three months,

there is urgent desire to boost the economy as quickly as possible. But Washington would do well to take a deep breath before reacting to the grim numbers.

Collectively, we rely on the unemployment figures and other statistics to frame our sense of reality. They are a vital part of an array of data that we use to assess if we're doing well or doing badly, and that in turn shapes government policies and corporate budgets and personal spending decisions. The problem is that the statistics aren't an objective measure of reality; they are simply a best approximation. Directionally, they capture the trends, but the idea that we know precisely how many are unemployed is a myth. That makes finding a solution all the more difficult.

First, there is the way the data is assembled. The official unemployment rate is the product of a telephone survey of about 60 000 homes. There is another survey, sometimes referred to as the "payroll survey," that assesses 400 000 businesses based on their reported payrolls. Both surveys have problems. The payroll survey can easily double-count someone; if you are one person with two jobs, you show up as two workers. The payroll survey also doesn't capture the number of self-employed, and so says little about how many people are generating an independent income.

The household survey has a larger problem. When asked straightforwardly, people tend to lie or shade the truth when the subject is sex, money or employment. If you get a call and are asked if you're employed, and you say yes, you're employed. If you say no, however, it may surprise you to learn that you are only unemployed if you've been actively looking for work in the past four weeks; otherwise, you are "marginally attached to the labor force" and not actually unemployed.

The urge to quantify is embedded in our society. But the idea that statisticians can then capture an objective reality isn't just impossible. It also leads to serious misjudgments. Democrats and Republicans can and will take sides on a number of issues, but a more crucial concern is that both are basing major policy decisions on guesstimates rather than looking at the vast wealth of raw data with a critical eye and an open mind.

1. What do we learn from the first paragraph?
 - A) The US economic situation is going from bad to worse.
 - B) Washington is taking drastic measures to provide more jobs.
 - C) The US government is slashing more jobs from its payrolls.
 - D) The recent economic crisis has taken the US by surprise.
2. What does the author think of the unemployment figures and other statistics?
 - A) They form a solid basis for policy making.
 - B) They represent the current situation.
 - C) They signal future economic trends.
 - D) They do not fully reflect the reality.
3. One problem with the payroll survey is that _____.
 - A) it does not include all the businesses
 - B) it fails to count in the self-employed
 - C) it magnifies the number of the jobless
 - D) it does not treat all companies equally
4. The household survey can be faulty in that _____.
 - A) people tend to lie when talking on the phone
 - B) not everybody is willing or ready to respond
 - C) some people won't provide truthful information
 - D) the definition of unemployment is too broad
5. At the end of the passage, the author suggests that _____.
 - A) statisticians improve their data assembling methods
 - B) decision makers view the statistics with a critical eye
 - C) politicians listen more before making policy decisions
 - D) Democrats and Republicans cooperate on crucial issues

第四篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

At some point in 2008, someone, probably in either Asia or Africa, made the decision to move from the countryside to the city. This nameless person pushed the human race over a historic threshold, for it was in that year that mankind became, for the first time in its history, a predominantly urban species.

It is a trend that shows no sign of slowing. *Demographers* (人口统计学家) reckon that three-quarters of humanity could be city-dwelling by 2050, with most of the increase coming in the fast-growing towns of Asia and Africa. Migrants to cities are attracted by plentiful jobs, access to hospitals and education, and the ability to escape the boredom of a farmer's agricultural life. Those factors are more than enough to make up for the *squalor* (肮脏), disease and spectacular poverty that those same migrants must often at first endure when they become urban dwellers.

It is the city that inspires the latest book from Peter Smith. His main thesis is that the buzz of urban life, and the opportunities it offers for co-operation and collaboration, is what attracts people to the city, which in turn makes cities into the engines of art, commerce, science and progress. This is hardly revolutionary, but it is presented in a charming format. Mr. Smith has written a breezy guidebook, with a series of short chapters dedicated to specific aspects of urbanity—parks, say, or the various schemes that have been put forward over the years for building the perfect city. The result is a sort of high-quality, unusually rigorous coffee-table book, designed to be dipped into rather than read from beginning to end.

In the chapter on skyscrapers, for example, Mr. Smith touches on construction methods, the revolutionary invention of the automatic lift, the practicalities of living in the sky and the likelihood that, as cities become more crowded, apartment living will become the norm. But there is also time for brief diversions onto bizarre ground, such as a discussion of the skyscraper index (which holds that a boom in skyscraper construction is a foolproof sign of an imminent recession).

One obvious criticism is that the price of breadth is depth; many of Mr. Smith's essays raise as many questions as they answer. Although that can indeed be frustrating, this is probably the only way to treat so grand a topic. The city is the building block of civilisation and of almost everything people do; a guidebook to the city is really, therefore, a guidebook to how a large and ever-growing chunk of humanity chooses to live. Mr. Smith's book serves as an excellent introduction to a vast subject, and will suggest plenty of further lines of inquiry.

1. In what way is the year 2008 historic?
 - A) For the first time in history, urban people outnumbered rural people.
 - B) An influential figure decided to move from the countryside to the city.
 - C) It is in this year that urbanisation made a start in Asia and Africa.
 - D) The population increase in cities reached a new peak in Asia and Africa.
2. What does the author say about urbanisation?
 - A) Its impact is not easy to predict.
 - B) Its process will not slow down.
 - C) It is a milestone in human progress.
 - D) It aggravates the squalor of cities.
3. How does the author comment on Peter Smith's new book?
 - A) It is but an ordinary coffee-table book.
 - B) It is flavoured with humorous stories.
 - C) It serves as a guide to arts and commerce.
 - D) It is written in a lively and interesting style.
4. What does the author say in the chapter on skyscrapers?
 - A) The automatic lift is indispensable in skyscrapers.
 - B) People enjoy living in skyscrapers with a view.
 - C) Skyscrapers are a sure sign of a city's prosperity.
 - D) Recession closely follows a skyscraper boom.
5. What may be one criticism of Mr. Smith's book?
 - A) It does not really touch on anything serious.
 - B) It is too long for people to read from cover to cover.

- C) It does not deal with any aspect of city life in depth.
D) It fails to provide sound advice to city dwellers.

第五篇

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

The continuous presentation of scary stories about global warming in the popular media makes us unnecessarily frightened. Even worse, it 1 our kids.

Al Gore famously depicted how a sea-level rise of 20 feet would almost completely flood Florida, New York, Holland, and Shanghai, even though the United Nations says that such a thing will not even happen, estimating that sea levels will rise 20 times less than that.

When 2 with these exaggerations, some of us say that they are for a good cause, and surely there is no harm done if the result is that we focus even more on tackling climate change.

This 3 is astonishingly wrong. Such exaggerations do plenty of harm. Worrying 4 about global warming means that we worry less about other things, where we could do so much more good. We focus, for example, on 5 warming's impact on *malaria* (疟疾)—which will put slightly more people at risk in 100 years—instead of tackling the half a billion people suffering from malaria today with prevention and treatment policies that are much cheaper and dramatically more effective than carbon reduction would be.

6 also wears out the public's willingness to tackle global warming. If the planet is doomed, people wonder, why do anything? A record 54% of American voters now believe the news media make global warming appear worse than it really is. A 7 of people now believe—incorrectly—that global warming is not even caused by humans.

But the worst cost of exaggeration, I believe, is the 8 alarm that it causes—particularly among children. An article in *The Washington Post* cited nine-year-old Alyssa, who cries about the possibility of mass animal 9 from global warming.

The newspaper also reported that parents are searching for “productive” outlets for their eight-year-olds' *obsessions* (忧心忡忡) with dying polar bears. They might be better off educating them and letting them know that, contrary to common belief, the global polar bear population has 10 and perhaps even *quadrupled* (成为四倍) over the past half-century, to about 22 000. Despite diminishing—and eventually disappearing—summer Arctic ice, polar bears will not become extinct.

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|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A) terrifies | F) Exaggeration | K) equipped |
| B) excessively | G) confronted | L) disgusts |
| C) unnecessary | H) doubled | M) ignorantly |
| D) argument | I) majority | N) suppresses |
| E) extinction | J) global | O) urgent |

第六篇

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

Welcome, Freshmen. Have an iPod.

- A) Taking a step that many professors may view as a bit counterproductive, some colleges and universities are doling out Apple iPhones and Internet-capable iPods to their students. The always-on Internet devices raise some novel possibilities, like tracking where students gather together. With far less controversy, colleges could send messages about canceled classes, delayed buses, campus crises or just the cafeteria menu.
- B) While schools emphasize its usefulness—online research in class and instant polling of students, for example—a big part of the attraction is, undoubtedly, that the iPhone is cool and a hit with students. Being equipped with one of the most recent cutting-edge IT products could just help a college or university foster a cutting-edge reputation. Apple stands to win as well, hooking more young consumers with decades of technology purchases ahead of them. The lone losers, some fear, could be professors.
- C) Students already have laptops and cell phones, of course, but the newest devices can take class distractions to a new level. They practically beg a user to ignore the long-suffering professor struggling to pass on accumulated wisdom from the front of the room—a prospect that teachers find most irritating and students view as, well, inevitable. “When it gets a little boring, I might pull it out,” acknowledged Naomi Pugh, a first-year student at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., referring to her new iPod Touch, which can connect to the Internet over a campus wireless network. She speculated that professors might try even harder to make classes interesting if they were to compete with the devices.
- D) Experts see a movement toward the use of mobile technology in education, though they say it is in its infancy as professors try to come up with useful applications. Providing powerful hand-held devices is sure to fuel debates over the role of technology in higher education.
- E) “We think this is the way the future is going to work,” said Kyle Dickson, co-director of research and the mobile learning initiative at Abilene Christian University in Texas, which has bought more than 600 iPhones and 300 iPods for students entering this fall. Although plenty of students take their laptops to class, they don’t take them everywhere and would prefer something lighter. Abilene Christian settled on the devices after surveying students and finding that they did not like hauling around their laptops, but that most of them always carried a cell phone, Dr. Dickson said.
- F) It is not clear how many colleges and universities plan to give out iPhones and iPods this fall; officials at Apple were unwilling to talk about the subject and said that they would not leak any institution’s plans. “We can’t announce other people’s news,” said Greg Joswiak, vice president of iPod and iPhone marketing at Apple. He also said that he could not discuss discounts to universities for bulk purchases. At least four institutions—the University of Maryland, Oklahoma Christian University, Abilene Christian and Freed-Hardeman—have announced that they will give the devices to some or all of their students this fall.
- G) Other universities are exploring their options. Stanford University has hired a student-run company to design applications like a campus map and directory for the iPhone. It is considering whether to issue iPhones but not sure it’s necessary, noting that more than 700 iPhones were registered on the university’s network last year.
- H) At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, iPhones might already have been everywhere, if AT&T, the wireless carrier offering the iPhone in the United States, had a more reliable network, said Andrew Yu, mobile devices platform project manager at M. I. T. “We would have probably gone ahead with this, maybe just getting a thousand iPhones and giving them out,” Mr. Yu said.
- I) The University of Maryland at College Park is proceeding cautiously, giving the iPhone or iPod Touch to 150 students, said Jeffrey Huskamp, vice president and chief information officer at the university. “We don’t think that we have all the answers,” Mr. Huskamp said. By observing how students use the gadgets, he said, “We’re trying to get answers from the students.”
- J) At each college, the students who choose to get an iPhone must pay for mobile phone service. Those service contracts include unlimited data use. Both the iPhones and the iPod Touch devices can connect to the Internet through campus wireless networks. With the iPhone, those networks may provide faster connections and longer battery life than AT&T’s data network. Many cell phones allow users to surf the Web, but only some newer ones are capable of wireless connection to the local area computer network.

- K) University officials say that they have no plans to track their students (and Apple said it would not be possible unless students give their permission). They say that they are drawn to the prospect of learning applications outside the classroom, though such lesson plans have yet to surface.
- L) “My colleagues and I are studying something called augmented reality (a field of computer research dealing with the combination of real-world and virtual reality),” said Christopher Dede, professor in learning technologies at Harvard University, “Alien Contact,” for example, is an exercise developed for middle-school students who use hand-held devices that can determine their location. As they walk around a playground or other area, text, video or audio pops up at various points to help them try to figure out why aliens were in the schoolyard. “You can imagine similar kinds of interactive activities along historical lines,” like following the Freedom Trail in Boston, Professor Dede said. “It’s important that we do research so that we know how well something like this works.”
- M) The rush to distribute the devices worries some professors, who say that students are less likely to participate in class if they are multi-tasking. “I’m not someone who’s anti-technology, but I’m always worried that technology becomes an end in and of itself, and it replaces teaching or it replaces analysis,” said Ellen Millender, associate professor of classics at Reed College in Portland, Ore. (She added that she hoped to buy an iPhone for herself once prices fall.)
- N) Robert Summers, who has taught at Cornell Law School for about 40 years, announced this week—in a detailed, footnoted memorandum—that he would ban laptop computers from his class on contract law. “I would ban that too if I knew the students were using it in class,” Professor Summers said of the iPhone, after the device and its capabilities were explained to him. “What we want to encourage in these students is an active intellectual experience, in which they develop the wide range of complex reasoning abilities required of good lawyers.”
- O) The experience at Duke University may ease some concerns. A few years ago, Duke began giving iPods to students with the idea that they might use them to record lectures (these older models could not access the Internet). “We had assumed that the biggest focus of these devices would be consuming the content,” said Tracy Futhey, vice president for information technology and chief information officer at Duke. But that is not all that the students did. They began using the iPods to create their own “content,” making audio recordings of themselves and presenting them. The students turned what could have been a passive interaction into an active one, Ms. Futhey said.
1. Apple refuses to disclose the details of transactions with institutions that plan to purchase iPhones for students.
 2. Providing powerful mobile devices will raise controversies over the role of technology in higher education.
 3. The distribution of iPhones among students has raised concerns that they will further distract students from class.
 4. Compared with laptops, the lighter devices make it easier for students to carry everywhere.
 5. Being equipped with cutting-edge IT products may help colleges and universities build an innovative image.
 6. The students at the University of Maryland must pay for the service fee if they choose to get an iPhone from school.
 7. The iPods could be used to create an active educational experience, as demonstrated in one university that gave iPods to students a few years ago.
 8. Designing campus applications for the iPhone is one alternative of incorporating mobile technology into higher education.
 9. University officials expect that iPhones and iPods can facilitate students’ learning outside the classroom.
 10. It is possible to incorporate interactive activities into history class by means of computer technology.

第七篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

“Depression” is more than a serious economic downturn. What distinguishes a depression from a harsh recession is paralyzing fear—fear of the unknown so great that it causes consumers, businesses, and investors to retreat and panic. They save up cash and desperately cut spending. They sell stocks and other assets. A shattering loss of confidence inspires behavior that overwhelms the normal self-correcting mechanisms that usually prevent a recession from becoming deep and prolonged: a depression.

Comparing 1929 with 2007-09, Christina Romer, the head of President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, finds the initial blow to confidence far greater now than then. True, stock prices fell a third from September to December 1929, but fewer Americans then owned stocks. Moreover, home prices barely dropped. From December 1928 to December 1929, total household wealth declined only 3%. By contrast, the loss in household wealth between December 2007 and December 2008 was 17%. Both stocks and homes, more widely held, dropped more. Thus *traumatized* (受到创伤), the economy might have gone into a free fall ending in depression. Indeed, it did go into free fall. Shoppers refrained from buying cars, appliances, and other big-ticket items. Spending on such “durables” dropped at a 12% annual rate in 2008’s third quarter, a 20% rate in the fourth. And businesses shelved investment projects.

That these huge declines didn’t lead to depression mainly reflects, as Romer argues, countermeasures taken by the government. Private markets for goods, services, labor, and securities do mostly self-correct, but panic feeds on itself and disarms these stabilizing tendencies. In this situation, only government can protect the economy as a whole, because most individuals and companies are involved in the self-defeating behavior of self-protection.

Government’s failure to perform this role in the early 1930s transformed recession into depression. Scholars will debate which interventions this time—the Federal Reserve’s support of a failing credit system, guarantees of bank debt, Obama’s “stimulus” plan and bank “stress test”—counted most in preventing a recurrence. Regardless, all these complex measures had the same psychological purpose: to reassure people that the free fall would stop and, thereby, curb the fear that would *perpetuate* (使持久) a free fall.

All this improved confidence. But the consumer sentiment index remains weak, and all the rebound has occurred in Americans’ evaluation of future economic conditions, not the present. Unemployment (9.8%) is *abysmal* (糟透的), the recovery’s strength unclear. Here, too, there is an echo from the 1930s. Despite bottoming out in 1933, the Depression didn’t end until World War II. Some government policies aided recovery; some hindered it. The good news today is that the bad news is not worse.

1. Why do consumers, businesses and investors retreat and panic in times of depression?
 - A) They suffer great losses in stocks, property and other assets.
 - B) They find the self-correcting mechanisms dysfunctioning.
 - C) They are afraid the normal social order will be paralyzed.
 - D) They don’t know what is going to happen in the future.
2. What does Christina Romer say about the current economic recession?
 - A) Its severity is no match for the Great Depression of 1929.
 - B) Its initial blow to confidence far exceeded that of 1929.
 - C) It has affected house owners more than stock holders.
 - D) It has resulted in a free fall of the prices of commodities.
3. Why didn’t the current recession turn into a depression according to Christina Romer?
 - A) The government intervened effectively.
 - B) Private markets corrected themselves.
 - C) People refrained from buying durables and big-ticket items.
 - D) Individuals and companies adopted self-protection measures.
4. What is the chief purpose of all the countermeasures taken?
 - A) To create job opportunities.
 - B) To curb the fear of a lasting free fall.
 - C) To stimulate domestic consumption.
 - D) To rebuild the credit system.

5. What does the author think of today's economic situation?

- A) It may worsen without further stimulation. C) It has not gone from bad to worse.
B) It will see a rebound sooner or later. D) It does not give people reason for pessimism.

第八篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

“Usually when we walk through the rain forest we hear a soft sound from all the moist leaves and organic debris on the forest floor,” says ecologist Daniel Nepstad. “Now we increasingly get rustle and crunch. That’s the sound of a dying forest.”

Predictions of the collapse of the tropical rain forests have been around for years. Yet until recently the worst forecasts were almost exclusively linked to direct human activity, such as clear-cutting and burning for pastures or farms. Left alone, it was assumed, the world’s rain forests would not only flourish but might even rescue us from disaster by absorbing the excess carbon dioxide and other planet-warming greenhouse gases. Now it turns out that may be wishful thinking. Some scientists believe that the rise in carbon levels means that the Amazon and other rain forests in Asia and Africa may go from being assets in the battle against rising temperatures to liabilities. Amazon plants, for instance, hold more than 100 billion metric tons of carbon, equal to 15 years of tailpipe and chimney emissions. If the collapse of the rain forests speeds up dramatically, it could eventually release 3.5-5 billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere each year—making forests the leading source of greenhouse gases.

Uncommonly severe droughts brought on by global climate changes have led to forest-eating wildfires from Australia to Indonesia, but nowhere more acutely than in the Amazon. Some experts say that the rain forest is already at the brink of collapse.

Extreme weather and reckless development are plotting against the rain forest in ways that scientists have never seen. Trees need more water as temperatures rise, but the prolonged droughts have robbed them of moisture, making whole forests easily cleared of trees and turned into farmland. The picture worsens with each round of El Niño, the unusually warm currents in the Pacific Ocean that drive up temperatures and invariably *presage* (预示) droughts and fires in the rain forest. Runaway fires pour even more carbon into the air, which increases temperatures, starting the whole vicious cycle all over again.

More than paradise lost, a perishing rain forest could trigger a domino effect—sending winds and rains kilometers off course and loading the skies with even greater levels of greenhouse gases—that will be felt far beyond the Amazon basin. In a sense, we are already getting a glimpse of what’s to come. Each burning season in the Amazon, fires deliberately set by frontier settlers and developers hurl up almost half a billion metric tons of carbon a year, placing Brazil among the top five contributors to greenhouse gases in the world.

1. We learn from the first paragraph that _____.

- A) dead leaves and tree debris make the same sound
B) trees that are dying usually give out a soft moan
C) organic debris echoes the sounds in a rain forest
D) the sound of a forest signifies its health condition

2. In the second paragraph, the author challenges the view that _____.

- A) the collapse of rain forests is caused by direct human interference
B) carbon emissions are the leading cause of current global warming
C) the condition of rain forests has been rapidly deteriorating
D) rain forests should not be converted into pastures or farms

3. The author argues that the rising carbon levels in rain forests may _____.

- A) turn them into a major source of greenhouse gases
B) change the weather patterns throughout the world

- C) pose a threat to wildlife
D) accelerate their collapse
4. What has made it easier to turn some rain forests into farmland?
A) Rapid rise in carbon levels.
B) Reckless land development.
C) Lack of rainfall resulting from global warming.
D) The unusual warm currents in the Pacific Ocean.
5. What makes Brazil one of the world's top five contributors to greenhouse gases?
A) The domino effect triggered by the perishing rain forests.
B) Its practice of burning forests for settlement and development.
C) The changed patterns of winds and rains in the Amazon area.
D) Its inability to curb the carbon emissions from industries.

第九篇

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

When my mother's health was failing, I was the "bad" sister who lived far away and wasn't involved. My sister helped my parents. She never asked me to do anything, and I didn't 1. I was widowed, raising kids and working, but that wasn't really why I kept to weekly calls and short, infrequent visits. I was 2 in my adolescent role as the aloof (超脱的) achiever, defending myself from my 3 mother and other family craziness. As always, I turned a deaf ear to my sister's criticisms about my not being around more—and I didn't hear her rising desperation. It wasn't until my mom's 4, watching my dad and sister cling to each other and weep, that I got a hint of their long painful experience—and how badly I'd behaved.

My sister was so furious, she 5 spoke to me during my father's last years. To be honest, I'm not a terrible person. So how did I get it so wrong?

We hear a lot about the 6 of taking care of our graying population. But the big story beneath the surface is the psychological crisis among middle-aged siblings (兄弟姐妹) who are fighting toward issues involving their aging parents. According to a new survey, an estimated 43.5 million adults in the US are looking after an older 7 or friend. Of these, 43% said they did not feel they had a 8 in this role. And although 7 in 10 said another unpaid caregiver had 9 help in the past year, only 1 in 10 said the burden was split equally.

As siblings who are often separated geographically and emotionally, we are having to come together to decide such 10 issues as where Mom and Dad should live and where they should be buried. "It's like being put down with your siblings in the center of a nuclear reactor and being told, 'Figure it out,'" says University of Colorado psychologist Sara Honn Qualls.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| A) stuck | F) volunteer | K) flung |
| B) funeral | G) relative | L) randomly |
| C) provided | H) judgmental | M) noisy |
| D) tough | I) choice | N) adapt |
| E) costs | J) barely | O) attach |

第十篇

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

Norman Borlaug: 'Father of the Green Revolution'

A) Few people have quietly changed the world for the better more than this rural lad from the midwestern state of Iowa in the United States. The man in focus is Norman Borlaug, the Father of the 'Green Revolution', who died on September 12, 2009 at age 95. Norman Borlaug spent most of his 60 working years in the farmlands of Mexico, South Asia and later in Africa, fighting world hunger, and saving by some estimates up to a billion lives in the process. An achievement, fit for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Early Years

B) "I'm a product of the great depression" is how Borlaug described himself. A great-grandson of Norwegian immigrants to the United States, Borlaug was born in 1914 and grew up on a small farm in the northeastern corner of Iowa in a town called Cresco. His family had a 40-hectare (公顷) farm on which they grew wheat, *maize* (玉米) and hay and raised pigs and cattle. Norman spent most of his time from age 7-17 on the farm, even as he attended a one-room, one-teacher school at New Oregon in Howard County.

C) Borlaug didn't have money to go to college. But through a Great Depression era programme, known as the National Youth Administration, Borlaug was able to enroll in the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis to study forestry. He excelled in studies and received his Ph.D. in plant *pathology* (病理学) and genetics in 1942. From 1942 to 1944, Borlaug was employed as a microbiologist at DuPont in Wilmington. However, following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Borlaug tried to join the military, but was rejected under wartime labour regulations.

In Mexico

D) In 1944, many experts warned of mass starvation in developing nations where populations were expanding faster than crop production. Borlaug began work at a Rockefeller Foundation-funded project in Mexico to increase wheat production by developing higher-yielding varieties of the crop. It involved research in genetics, plant breeding, plant pathology, *entomology* (昆虫学), *agronomy* (农艺学), soil science, and cereal technology. The goal of the project was to boost wheat production in Mexico, which at the time was importing a large portion of its grain. Borlaug said that his first couple of years in Mexico were difficult. He lacked trained scientists and equipment. Native farmers were hostile towards the wheat programme because of serious crop losses from 1939 to 1941 due to stem rust.

E) Wheat varieties that Borlaug worked with had tall, thin stalks. While taller wheat competed better for sunlight, they had a tendency to collapse under the weight of extra grain—a trait called lodging. To overcome this, Borlaug worked on breeding wheat with shorter and stronger stalks, which could hold on larger seed heads. Borlaug's new semi-dwarf, disease-resistant varieties, called Pitic 62 and Penjamo 62, changed the potential yield of Mexican wheat dramatically. By 1963 wheat production in Mexico stood six times more than that of 1944.

Green Revolution in India

F) During the 1960s, South Asia experienced severe drought condition and India had been importing wheat on a large scale from the United States. Borlaug came to India in 1963 along with Dr. Robert Anderson to duplicate his Mexican success in the sub-continent. The experiments began with planting a few of the high-yielding variety strains in the fields of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in New Delhi, under the supervision of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. These strains were subsequently planted in test plots at Ludhiana, Pantnagar, Kanpur, Pune and Indore. The results were promising, but large-scale success, however, was not instant. Cultural opposition to new agricultural techniques initially prevented Borlaug from going ahead with planting of new wheat strains in India. By 1965, when the drought situation turned alarming, the Government took the lead and allowed wheat revolution to move forward.

By employing agricultural techniques he developed in Mexico, Borlaug was able to nearly double South Asian wheat harvests between 1965 and 1970.

- G) India subsequently made a huge commitment to Mexican wheat, importing some 18 000 tonnes of seed. By 1968, it was clear that the Indian wheat harvest was nothing short of revolutionary. It was so productive that there was a shortage of labour to harvest it, of bull carts to haul it to the *threshing floor* (打谷场), of *jute* (黄麻) bags to store it. Local governments in some areas were forced to shut down schools temporarily to use them as store houses.
- H) United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) observed that in 40 years between 1961 and 2001, "India more than doubled its population, from 452 million to more than 1 billion. At the same time, it nearly tripled its grain production from 87 million tonnes to 231 million tonnes. It accomplished this feat while increasing cultivated grain *acreage* (土地面积) a mere 8 percent." It was in India that Norman Borlaug's work was described as the 'Green Revolution.'

In Africa

- I) Africa suffered widespread hunger and starvation through the 70s and 80s. Food and aid poured in from most developed countries into the continent, but thanks to the absence of efficient distribution system, the hungry remained empty-stomach. The then Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Ryoichi Sasakawa wondered why the methods used in Mexico and India were not extended to Africa. He called up Norman Borlaug, now leading a semi-retired life, for help. He managed to convince Borlaug to help with his new effort and subsequently founded the Sasakawa Africa Association. Borlaug later recalled, "but after I saw the terrible circumstances there, I said, 'Let's just start growing'".
- J) The success in Africa was not as spectacular as it was in India or Mexico. Those elements that allowed Borlaug's projects to succeed, such as well-organized economies and transportation and irrigation systems, were severely lacking throughout Africa. Because of this, Borlaug's initial projects were restricted to developed regions of the continent. Nevertheless, yields of maize, *sorghum* (高粱) and wheat doubled between 1983 and 1985.

Nobel Prize

- K) For his contributions to the world food supply, Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. Norwegian officials notified his wife in Mexico City at 4:00 a.m., but Borlaug had already left for the test fields in the Toluca valley, about 65 km west of Mexico City. A *chauffeur* (司机) took her to the fields to inform her husband. In his acceptance speech, Borlaug said, "the first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind. Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world. Yet, 50 percent of the world population goes hungry."

Green Revolution vs Environmentalists

- L) Borlaug's advocacy of intensive high-yield agriculture came under severe criticism from environmentalists in recent years. His work faced environmental and socio-economic criticisms including charges that his methods have created dependence on monoculture crops, unsustainable farming practices, heavy indebtedness among subsistence farmers, and high levels of cancer among those who work with agriculture chemicals. There are also concerns about the long-term sustainability of farming practices encouraged by the Green Revolution in both the developed and the developing world.
- M) In India, the Green Revolution is blamed for the destruction of Indian crop diversity, drought vulnerability, dependence on agro-chemicals that poison soils but reap large-scale benefits mostly to the American multi-national corporations. What these critics overwhelmingly advocate is a global movement towards "organic" or "sustainable" farming practices that avoid using chemicals and high technology in favour of natural fertilizers, cultivation and pest-control programmes.
1. Borlaug's new varieties of wheat have shorter stems and stronger resistance to disease.
 2. A large part of Borlaug's life was spent in increasing food supply of poor countries and combating hunger.
 3. Borlaug's wheat programme met with resistance during his first couple of years in Mexico.
 4. In both developed and developing countries there are concerns whether in the long run Borlaug's farming practices will be sustainable.
 5. The lack of necessary supporting facilities in Africa prevented Borlaug from achieving brilliant success.
 6. Borlaug was not able to get ahead with his experiments in India until the government intervened.

7. Borlaug believes that elimination of hunger is one essential element in ensuring social justice.
8. The poorly-managed distribution system prevented the food aid from feeding the hungry in Africa.
9. Statistics indicate that India achieved a dramatic increase of grain production with a modest increase of farming land.
10. Critics blame Green Revolution for producing a huge profit for the American agro-chemical corporations.

第十一篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

In 2011, many shoppers chose to avoid the frantic crowds and do their holiday shopping from the comfort of their computer. Sales at online retailers gained by more than 15%, making it the biggest season ever. But people are also returning those purchases at record rates, up 8% from last year.

What went wrong? Is the lingering shadow of the global financial crisis making it harder to accept extravagant indulgences? Or that people shop more impulsively—and therefore make bad decisions—when online? Both arguments are plausible. However, there is a third factor: a question of touch. We can love the look but, in an online environment, we cannot feel the quality of a texture, the shape of the fit, the fall of a fold or, for that matter, the weight of an earring. And physically interacting with an object makes you more committed to your purchase.

When my most recent book *Brandwashed* was released, I teamed up with a local bookstore to conduct an experiment about the differences between the online and offline shopping experience. I carefully instructed a group of volunteers to promote my book in two different ways. The first was a fairly hands-off approach. Whenever a customer would inquire about my book, the volunteer would take them over to the shelf and point to it. Out of 20 such requests, six customers proceeded with the purchase.

The second option also involved going over to the shelf but, this time, removing the book and then subtly holding onto it for just an extra moment before placing it in the customer's hands. Of the 20 people who were handed the book, 13 ended up buying it. Just physically passing the book showed a big difference in sales. Why? We feel something similar to a sense of ownership when we hold things in our hand. That's why we establish or reestablish connection by greeting strangers and friends with a handshake. In this case, having to then let go of the book after holding it might generate a subtle sense of loss, and motivate us to make the purchase even more.

A recent study also revealed the power of touch, in this case when it came to conventional mail. A deeper and longer-lasting impression of a message was formed when delivered in a letter, as opposed to receiving the same message online. Brain imaging showed that, on touching the paper, the emotional center of the brain was activated, thus forming a stronger bond. The study also indicated that once touch becomes part of the process, it could translate into a sense of possession. This sense of ownership is simply not part of the equation in the online shopping experience.

1. Why do people prefer shopping online according to the author?

- A) It is more comfortable and convenient.
- B) It saves them a lot of money and time.
- C) It offers them a lot more options and bargains.
- D) It gives them more time to think about their purchase.

2. Why do more customers return their purchases bought online?

- A) They regretted indulging in costly items in the recession.
- B) They changed their mind by the time the goods were delivered.
- C) They had no chance to touch them when shopping online.
- D) They later found the quality of goods below their expectations.

3. What is the purpose of the author's experiment?
- A) To test his hypothesis about online shopping.
B) To find out people's reaction to his recent book.
C) To find ways to increase the sale of his new book.
D) To try different approaches to sales promotion.
4. How might people feel after letting go of something they held?
- A) A sense of disappointment
B) More motivated to own it.
C) A subtle loss of interest
D) Less sensitive to its texture.
5. What does brain imaging in a recent study reveal?
- A) Conventional letters contain subtle messages.
B) A lack of touch is the chief obstacle to e-commerce.
C) Email lacks the potential to activate the brain.
D) Physical touch helps form a sense of possession.

第十二篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

Apparently everyone knows that global warming only makes climate more extreme. A hot, dry summer has triggered another flood of such claims. And, while many interests are at work, one of the players that benefits the most from this story are the media: the notion of “extreme” climate simply makes for more compelling news.

Consider Paul Krugman, writing breathlessly in the *New York Times* about the “rising incidence of extreme events.” He claims that global warming caused the current drought in America's Midwest, and that supposedly record-high corn prices could cause a global food crisis.

But the United Nations climate panel's latest assessment tells us precisely the opposite: For “North America, there is medium confidence that there has an overall slight tendency toward less dryness.” Moreover, there is no way that Krugman could have identified this drought as being caused by global warming without a time machine: Climate models estimate that such detection will be possible by 2048, at the earliest.

And, fortunately, this year's drought appears unlikely to cause a food crisis, as global rice and wheat supplies remain plentiful. Moreover, Krugman overlooks inflation: Prices have increased six-fold since 1969, so, while corn *futures* (期货) did set a record of about \$ 8 per *bushel* (蒲式耳) in late July, the inflation-adjusted price of corn was higher throughout most of the 1970s, reaching \$ 16 in 1974.

Finally, Krugman conveniently forgets that concerns about global warming are the main reason that corn prices have skyrocketed since 2005. Nowadays 40 percent of corn grown in the United States is used to produce *ethanol* (乙醇), which does absolutely nothing for the climate, but certainly distorts the price of corn—at the expense of many of the world's poorest people.

Bill McKibben similarly worries in *The Guardian* about the Midwest drought and corn prices. He confidently tells us that raging wildfires from New Mexico and Colorado to Siberia are “exactly” what the early stages of global warming look like.

In fact, the latest overview of global wildfire incidence suggests that fire intensity has declined over the past 70 years and is now close to its preindustrial level.

When well-meaning campaigners want us to pay attention to global warming, they often end up pitching beyond the facts. And, while this may seem justified by a noble goal, such “policy by panic” tactics rarely work, and often backfire.

Remember how, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Al Gore claimed that we were in store for ever more destructive hurricanes? Since then, hurricane incidence has dropped off the charts. Exaggerated

claims merely fuel public distrust and disengagement.

That is unfortunate, because global warming is a real problem, and we do need to address it.

1. In what way do the media benefit from extreme weather?
 - A) They can attract people's attention to their reports.
 - B) They can choose from a greater variety of topics.
 - C) They can make themselves better known.
 - D) They can give voice to different views.
2. What is the author's comment on Krugman's claim about the current drought in America's Midwest?
 - A) A time machine is needed to testify to its truth.
 - B) It is based on an erroneous climate model.
 - C) It will eventually get proof in 2048.
 - D) There is no way to prove its validity.
3. What is the chief reason for the rise in corn prices according to the author?
 - A) Demand for food has been rising in the developing countries.
 - B) A considerable portion of corn is used to produce green fuel.
 - C) Climate change has caused corn yields to drop markedly.
 - D) Inflation rates have been skyrocketing since the 1970s.
4. What does the author say about global wildfire incidence over the past 70 years?
 - A) It has got worse with the rise in extreme weathers.
 - B) It signals the early stages of global warming.
 - C) It has dropped greatly.
 - D) It is related to drought.
5. What does the author think of the exaggerated claims in the media about global warming?
 - A) They are strategies to raise public awareness.
 - B) They do a disservice to addressing the problem.
 - C) They aggravate public distrust about science.
 - D) They create confusion about climate change.

第十三篇

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

The shorter growing seasons expected with climate change over the next 40 years will endanger hundreds of millions of already poor people in the global tropics, say researchers working with the world's leading agricultural organisations.

The effects of climate change are likely to be seen across the entire tropical 1 but many areas previously considered to be 2 food secure are likely to become highly vulnerable to droughts, extreme weather and higher temperatures, say the researchers with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Intensively farmed areas like northeast Brazil and Mexico are likely to see their 3 growing seasons fall below 120 days, which is 4 for crops such as corn to mature. Many other places in Latin America are likely to 5 temperatures that are too hot for bean production, a staple in the region.

The impact could be felt most in India and southeast Asia. More than 300 million people in south Asia are likely to be affected even with a 5% decrease in the 6 of the growing season.

Higher peak temperatures are also expected to take a heavy 7 on food producers. Today there are 56 million crop-dependent people in parts of west Africa and India who live in areas where, in 40

years, maximum daily temperatures could be higher than 30°C. This is close to the maximum temperature that beans can tolerate, while corn and rice yields suffer when temperatures 8 this level.

“We are starting to see much more clearly where the effects of climate change on agriculture could 9 hunger and poverty,”said research leader Patti Kristjanson. “Farmers already adapt to variable weather by changing their planting schedules. What this study suggests is that the speed of climate 10 and the magnitude of the changes required to adapt could be much greater.”

A) shifts	F) prime	K) toll
B) lessen	G) vulnerable	L) length
C) width	H) zone	M) gradually
D) experience	I) intensify	N) immune
E) critical	J) exceed	O) relatively

第十四篇

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

Thirst grows for living unplugged

More people are taking breaks from the connected life amid the stillness and quiet of retreats like the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.

- A) About a year ago, I flew to Singapore to join the writer Malcolm Gladwell, the fashion designer Marc Ecko and the graphic designer Stefan Sagmeister in addressing a group of advertising people on “Marketing to the Child of Tomorrow.” Soon after I arrived, the chief executive of the agency that had invited us took me aside. What he was most interested in, he began, was stillness and quiet.
- B) A few months later, I read an interview with the well-known cutting-edge designer Philippe Starck. What allowed him to remain so consistently ahead of the curve? “I never read any magazines or watch TV,” he said, perhaps with a little exaggeration. “Nor do I go to cocktail parties, dinners or anything like that.” He lived outside conventional ideas, he implied, because “I live alone mostly, in the middle of nowhere.”
- C) Around the same time, I noticed that those who part with \$ 2 285 a night to stay in a cliff-top room at the Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur, California, pay partly for the privilege of not having a TV in their rooms; the future of travel, I’m reliably told, lies in “black-hole resorts,” which charge high prices precisely because you can’t get online in their rooms.
- D) Has it really come to this? The more ways we have to connect, the more many of us seem desperate to unplug. Internet rescue camps in South Korea and China try to save kids addicted to the screen. Writer friends of mine pay good money to get the Freedom software that enables them to disable the very Internet connections that seemed so emancipating not long ago. Even Intel experimented in 2007 with conferring four uninterrupted hours of quiet time (no phone or e-mail) every Tuesday morning on 300 engineers and managers. Workers were not allowed to use the phone or send e-mail, but simply had the chance to clear their heads and to hear themselves think.
- E) The average American spends at least eight and a half hours a day in front of a screen. Nicholas Carr notes in his book *The Shallows*. The average American teenager sends or receives 75 text messages a day, though one girl managed to handle an average of 10 000 every 24 hours for a month. Since luxury is a function of scarcity, the children of tomorrow will long for nothing more than intervals of freedom from all the blinking machines, streaming videos and scrolling headlines that leave them feeling empty and too full all at once.
- F) The urgency of slowing down—to find the time and space to think—is nothing new, of course, and wiser souls have always reminded us that the more attention we pay to the moment, the less time and energy we have to place it in some larger context. “Distraction is the only thing that consoles us for our miseries,”

the French philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote in the 17th century, “and yet it is itself the greatest of our miseries.” He also famously remarked that all of man’s problems come from his inability to sit quietly in a room alone.

- G) When telegraphs and trains brought in the idea that convenience was more important than content, Henry David Thoreau reminded us that “the man whose horse *trots* (奔跑) a mile in a minute does not carry the most important messages.” Marshall McLuhan, who came closer than most to seeing what was coming, warned, “When things come at you very fast, naturally you lose touch with yourself.” We have more and more ways to communicate, but less and less to say. Partly because we are so busy communicating. And we are rushing to meet so many deadlines that we hardly register that what we need most are lifelines.
- H) So what to do? More and more people I know seem to be turning to yoga, or *meditation* (沉思), or *tai chi* (太极); these aren’t New Age *fads* (时尚的事物) so much as ways to connect with what could be called the wisdom of old age. Two friends of mine observe an “Internet *sabbath* (安息日)” every week, turning off their online connections from Friday night to Monday morning. Other friends take walks and “forget” their cellphones at home.
- I) A series of tests in recent years has shown, Mr. Carr points out, that after spending time in quiet rural settings, subjects “exhibit greater attentiveness, stronger memory and generally improved cognition. Their brains become both calmer and sharper.” More than that, *empathy* (同感, 共鸣), as well as deep thought, depends (as neuroscientists like Antonio Damasio have found) on neural processes that are “inherently slow.”
- J) I turn to eccentric measures to try to keep my mind sober and ensure that I have time to do nothing at all (which is the only time when I can see what I should be doing the rest of the time). I have yet to use a cellphone and I have never Tweeted or entered Facebook. I try not to go online till my day’s writing is finished, and I moved from Manhattan to rural Japan in part so I could more easily survive for long stretches entirely on foot. None of this is a matter of *asceticism* (苦行主义); it is just pure selfishness. Nothing makes me feel better than being in one place, absorbed in a book, a conversation, or music. It is actually something deeper than mere happiness; it is joy, which the *monk* (僧侣) David Steindl-Rast describes as “that kind of happiness that doesn’t depend on what happens.”
- K) It is vital, of course, to stay in touch with the world. But it is only by having some distance from the world that you can see it whole, and understand what you should be doing with it. For more than 20 years, therefore, I have been going several times a year—often for no longer than three days—to a Benedictine *hermitage* (修道院), 40 minutes down the road, as it happens, from the Post Ranch Inn. I don’t attend services when I am there, and I have never meditated, there or anywhere; I just take walks and read and lose myself in the stillness, recalling that it is only by stepping briefly away from my wife and bosses and friends that I will have anything useful to bring to them. The last time I was in the hermitage, three months ago, I happened to meet with a youngish-looking man with a 3-year-old boy around his shoulders.
- L) “You’re Pico, aren’t you?” the man said, and introduced himself as Larry; we had met, I gathered, 19 years before, when he had been living in the hermitage as an assistant to one of the monks. “What are you doing now?” I asked. We smiled. No words were necessary. “I try to bring my kids here as often as I can,” he went on. The child of tomorrow, I realized, may actually be ahead of us, in terms of sensing not what is new, but what is essential.
1. The French philosopher Blaise Pascal says distraction is our greatest misery in life.
 2. The author says what the children of tomorrow will need most is the time away from all electronic gadgets.
 3. The Post Ranch Inn is special in that it has no access to television in its rooms.
 4. The neuroscientist Antonio Damasio’s finding is that when people think deeply, their neural processes are slow.
 5. According to Marshall McLuhan, we will not know what to do with our own lives if things come at us very fast.
 6. Yoga, meditation and tai chi can help people understand ancient wisdom.

7. The author walks and reads and loses himself in the stillness of the hermitage so that he can bring people around him anything valuable.
8. In order to see the whole world, the author thinks it necessary to have some distance from the world.
9. The author moved from Manhattan to rural Japan partly because he could live without modern transportation.
10. In the author's opinion, the youngish-looking man takes his little boy to the hermitage frequently so that the boy will know what is essential when he grows up.

第十五篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

Amid all the job losses, there's one category of worker that the economic disruption has been good for: nonhumans.

From self-service checkout lines at the supermarket to industrial robots armed with saws and taught to carve up animal bodies in slaughter-houses, these ever-more-intelligent machines are now not just assisting workers but actually kicking them out of their jobs.

Automation isn't just affecting factory workers, either. Some law firms now use artificial intelligence software to scan and read mountains of legal documents, work that previously was performed by highly-paid human lawyers.

"Robots continue to have an impact on blue-collar jobs, and white-collar jobs are under attack by microprocessors," says economics professor Edward Leamer. The recession permanently wiped out 2.5 million jobs. US gross domestic product has climbed back to pre-recession levels, meaning we're producing as much as before, only with 6% fewer workers. To be sure, robotics are not the only job killers out there, with *outsourcing* (外包) stealing far more jobs than automation.

Jeff Burnstein, president of the Robotics Industry Association, argues that robots actually save US jobs. His logic: companies that embrace automation might use fewer workers, but that's still better than firing everyone and moving the work overseas.

It's not that robots are cheaper than humans, though often they are. It's that they're better. "In some cases the quality requirements are so exacting that even if you wanted to have a human do the job, you couldn't," Burnstein says.

Same goes for surgeons, who're using robotic systems to perform an ever-growing list of operations—not because the machines save money but because, thanks to the greater precision of robots, the patients recover in less time and have fewer complications, says Dr. Myriam Curet.

Surgeons may survive the robot invasion, but others at the hospital might not be so lucky, as iRobot, maker of the Roomba, a robot vacuum cleaner, has been showing off Ava, which could be used as a messenger in a hospital. And once you're home, recovering, Ava could let you talk to your doctor, so there's no need to send someone to your house. That "mobile telepresence" could be useful at the office. If you're away on a trip, you can still attend a meeting. Just connect via videoconferencing software, so your face appears on Ava's screen.

Is any job safe? I was hoping to say "journalist," but researchers are already developing software that can gather facts and write a news story. Which means that a few years from now, a robot could be writing this column. And who will read it? Well, there might be a lot of us hanging around with lots of free time on our hands.

1. What do we learn from the first few paragraphs?

- A) The over-use of robots has done damage to American economy.
- B) It is hard for robots to replace humans in highly professional work.

- C) Artificial intelligence is key to future technological innovations.
 D) The robotic industry has benefited from the economic recession.
2. What caused the greatest loss of jobs in America?
 A) Using microprocessors extensively. C) The bankruptcy of many companies.
 B) Moving production to other countries. D) The invasion of migrant workers.
3. What does Jeff Burnstein say about robots?
 A) They help companies to revive. C) They prevent job losses in a way.
 B) They are cheaper than humans. D) They compete with human workers.
4. Why are robotic systems replacing surgeons in more and more operations according to Dr. Myriam Curet?
 A) They save lots of money for the patients. C) They take less time to perform a surgery.
 B) They beat humans in precision. D) They make operations less painful.
5. What does the author imply about robotics?
 A) It will greatly enrich literary creation.
 B) It will start a new technological revolution.
 C) It will revolutionize scientific research.
 D) It will be applied in any field imaginable.

第十六篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

You've now heard it so many times, you can probably repeat it in your sleep. President Obama will no doubt make the point publicly when he gets to Beijing: the Chinese need to consume more; they need—believe it or not—to become more like Americans, for the sake of the global economy.

And it's all true. But the other side of that equation is that the US needs to save more. For the moment, American households actually are doing so. After the personal-savings rate dipped to zero in 2005, the shock of the economic crisis last year prompted people to snap shut their wallets.

In China, the household-savings rate exceeds 20%. It is partly for policy reasons. As we've seen, wage earners are expected to care for not only their children but their aging parents. And there is, to date, only the *flimsiest* (脆弱的) of publicly-funded health care and pension systems, which increases incentives for individuals to save while they are working. But China is a society that has long esteemed personal financial *prudence* (谨慎). There is no chance that will change anytime soon, even if the government creates a better social safety net and successfully encourages greater consumer spending.

Why does the US need to learn a little *frugality* (节俭)? Because healthy savings rates are one of the surest indicators of a country's long-term financial health. High savings lead, over time, to increased investment, which in turn generates productivity gains, innovation and job growth. In short, savings are the seed corn of a good economic harvest.

The US government thus needs to act as well. By running constant deficits, it is dis-saving, even as households save more. Peter Orszag, Obama's Budget Director, recently called the US budget deficits unsustainable and he's right. To date, the US has seemed unable to see the consequences of spending so much more than is taken in. That needs to change. And though Hu Jintao and the rest of the Chinese leadership aren't inclined to lecture visiting Presidents, he might gently hint that Beijing is getting a little nervous about the value of the dollar—which has fallen 15% since March, in large part because of increasing fears that America's debt load is becoming unmanageable.

That's what happens when you're the world's biggest creditor: you get to drop hints like that, which would be enough by themselves to create international economic chaos if they were ever leaked. (Every time any official in Beijing deliberates publicly about seeking an alternative to the US dollar for the \$ 2.1

trillion China holds in reserve, currency traders have a heart attack.) If Americans saved more and spent less, consistently over time, they wouldn't have to worry about all that.

1. How did the economic crisis affect Americans?
 - A) They had to tighten their belts.
 - B) Their bank savings rate dropped to zero.
 - C) Their leadership in the global economy was shaken.
 - D) They became concerned about China's financial policy.
2. What should be done to encourage Chinese people to consume?
 - A) Changing their traditional way of life.
 - B) Providing fewer incentives for saving.
 - C) Improving China's social security system.
 - D) Cutting down the expenses on child-rearing.
3. What does the author mean by saying "savings are the seed corn of a good economic harvest" (Lines 3-4, Para. 4)?
 - A) The more one saves, the more returns one will reap.
 - B) A country's economy hinges on its savings policy.
 - C) Those who keep saving will live an easy life in the end.
 - D) A healthy savings rate promotes economic prosperity.
4. In what circumstances do currency traders become scared?
 - A) When Beijing allows its currency exchange rates to float.
 - B) When China starts to reduce its current foreign reserves.
 - C) When China talks about switching its dollar reserves to other currencies.
 - D) When Beijing mentions in public the huge debts America owes China.
5. What is the author's purpose of writing the passage?
 - A) To urge the American government to cut deficits.
 - B) To encourage Chinese people to spend more.
 - C) To tell Americans not to worry about their economy.
 - D) To promote understanding between China and America.

第十七篇

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

"My job is killing me." Who among us hasn't issued that complaint at least once? Now a new study suggests that your dramatic complaint may 1 some scientific truth.

The 20-year study, by researchers at Tel Aviv University, 2 to examine the relationship between the workplace and a person's risk of death. Researchers recruited 820 adults who had undergone a 3 physical exam at a health clinic in 1988, and then interviewed them in detail about their workplace conditions—asking how nice their colleagues were, whether their boss was supportive and how much 4 they had in their position.

The participants ranged in age from 25 to 65 at the start of the study and worked in a variety of 5, including finance, health care, manufacturing and insurance. The researchers tracked the participants through their medical records; by the study's conclusion in 2008, 53 people had died—and they were 6 more likely than those who survived to report having a hostile work environment.

People who reported having little or no 7 support from their co-workers were 2.4 times more likely to die during the course of the study than those who said they had close, supportive bonds with their

workmates. Interestingly, the risk of death was 8 only to people’s perceptions of their co-workers, not their bosses. People who reported negative relationships with their supervisors were no more likely to die than others.

The study was observational, so it could not determine whether toxic workplace environments caused death, only that it was 9 with the risk. But the findings add to the evidence that having a supportive social network decreases stress and helps 10 good health. On the other hand, being exposed to chronic stress contributes to depression, ill health and death.

A) autonomy	F) foster	K) significantly
B) correlated	G) hold	L) social
C) districts	H) involved	M) sought
D) domestic	I) propel	N) tied
E) fields	J) routine	O) vigorously

第十八篇

Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.*

Rates are low, but consumers won’t borrow

With heavy debt loads and high joblessness, Americans are cautious.

- A) The US Federal Reserve(Fed)’s announcement last week that it intended to keep credit cheap for at least two more years was a clear invitation to Americans: Go out and borrow.
- B) But many economists say it will take more than low interest rates to persuade consumers to take on more debt. There are already signs that the recent stock market fluctuations, turbulence in Europe and the US deficit have scared consumers. On Friday, preliminary data showed that the Thomson Reuters/ University of Michigan consumer sentiment index had fallen this month to lower than it was in November 2008, when the United States was deep in recession. Under normal circumstances, the Fed’s announcement might have attracted new home and car buyers and prompted credit card holders to rack up fresh charges. But with unemployment high and those with jobs worried about keeping them, consumers are more concerned about paying off the loans they already have than adding more debt. And by showing its hand for the next two years, the Fed may have thoughtlessly invited prospective borrowers to put off large purchases.
- C) Lenders, meanwhile, are still dealing with the effects of the boom-gone-bust and are forcing prospective borrowers to go to extraordinary lengths to prove their creditworthiness.
- D) “I don’t think lenders are going to be interested in extending a lot of debt in this environment,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody’s Analytics, a macroeconomic consulting firm. “Nor do I think households are going to be interested in taking on a lot of debt.” In housing, consumers have already shown a slow response to low rates. Applications for new mortgages have decreased this year to a 10-year low, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Sales of furniture and furnishings remain 22% below their pre-recession peak, according to SpendingPulse, a research report by MasterCard Advisors. Credit card rates have actually gone up slightly in the past year. The one bright spot in lending is the number of auto loans, which is up from last year. But some economists say that confidence among car buyers is hitting new lows.
- E) For Xavier Walter, a former mortgage banker who with his wife, Danielle, accumulated \$20 000 in credit card debt, low rates will not change his spending habits. As the housing market topped out five years ago, he lost his six-figure income. He and his wife were able to modify the mortgage on their four-bedroom house in Medford, New Jersey, as well as negotiate lower credit card payments. Two years ago, Mr. Walter, a 34-year-old father of three, started an energy business. He has sworn off credit. “I’m not going

to go back in debt ever again,” he said. “If I can’t pay for it in cash, I don’t want it.”

- F) Until now, one of the biggest restraints on consumer spending has been a debt aftereffect. Since August 2008, when household debt peaked at \$ 12.41 trillion, it has declined by about \$ 1.2 trillion, according to an analysis by Moody’s Analytics of data from the Federal Reserve and Equifax, the credit agency. A large portion of that, though, was simply written off by lenders as borrowers defaulted on loans. By other measures, households have improved their position. The proportion of after-tax income that households spend to remain current on loan payments has fallen.
- G) Still, household debt remains high. That presents a paradox: many economists argue that the economy cannot achieve true health until debt levels decline. But credit, made attractive by low rates, is a time-tested way to increase consumer spending. With new risks of another downturn, economists worry that it will take years for debt to return to manageable levels. If the economy contracts again, said George Magnus, senior adviser at UBS, then “you could find a lot of households in a debt trap which they probably can never get out of.”
- H) Mortgage lenders, meanwhile, burned by the housing crash, are extra careful about approving new loans. In June, for instance, Fannie Mae, the largest mortgage buyer in the United States, said that borrowers whose existing debt exceeded 45 to 50% of their income would be required to have stronger “compensating” factors, which might include higher savings. Even those borrowers in strong financial positions are asked to provide unusual amounts of paperwork. Bobby and Katie Smith have an extremely good credit record, tiny student debt and a combined six-figure income. For part of their down payment, they planned to use about \$ 5 000 they had received as wedding gifts in February. But the lender would not accept that money unless the Smiths provided a certified letter from each of 14 guests, stating that the money was a gift, rather than a loan. “We laughed for a good 15 or 20 minutes,” recalled Mr. Smith, 34. Mr. Smith, a program director for a radio station in Orlando, Florida, said they ended up using other savings for their down payment to buy a \$ 300 000 four-bedroom house in April.
- I) For those not as creditworthy as the Smiths, low rates are irrelevant because they no longer qualify for mortgages. That leaves the eligible pool of loan applicants wealthier, “older and whiter,” said Guy Cecala, publisher of *Inside Mortgage Finance*. “It’s creating much more of a divide,” he said, “between the haves and the have-nots.” Car shoppers with the highest credit ratings can also get loans more easily, and at lower rates, said Paul C. Taylor, chief economist of the National Automobile Dealers Association.
- J) During the recession, inability to obtain credit severely cut auto buying as lenders rejected even those with good credit ratings. Now automakers are increasing their *subprime* (次级债的) lending again as well, but remain hesitant to approve large numbers of risky customers.
- K) The number of new auto loans was up by 16% in the second quarter compared with the previous year, said Melinda Zabritski, director of automotive credit at Experian, the information services company. But some economists warn that consumer confidence is falling. According to CNW Marketing Research, confidence among those who intend to buy a car this year is at its lowest since it began collecting data on this measure in 2000.
- L) On credit cards, rates have actually inched higher this year, largely because of new rules that curb the issuer’s ability to charge fees or raise certain interest rates at will.
- M) At the end of the second quarter, rates averaged 14.01% on new card offers, up from 13.75% a year earlier, according to Mail Monitor, which tracks credit cards for Synovate, a market research firm. According to data from the Federal Reserve, total outstanding debt on revolving credit cards was down by 4.6% during the first half of the year compared with the same period a year earlier.
- N) Even if the Fed’s announcement helps keep rates steady, or pushes them down, businesses do not expect customers to suddenly charge up a storm.
- O) “It’s not like, ‘Oh, credit is so cheap, let’s go back to the *heydays* (鼎盛时期),’” said Elizabeth Crowell, who owns Sterling Place, two high-end home furnishing and gift stores in New York. “People still fear for their jobs. So I think where maybe after other recessions they might return to previous spending habits, the pendulum hasn’t swung back the same way.”
1. The lenders in the current credit market are becoming more cautious.

2. According to Guy Cecala, the banks' policy on mortgage lending will result in a wider gap between the rich and the poor.
3. The purpose of the announcement issued by the US Federal Reserve last week is to encourage consumers to get more bank loans.
4. The author cites Xavier Walter's case to show that people now won't buy things unless they have the money.
5. The reason for people's reluctance to take on more debt despite the low interest rates is that they are pessimistic about employment prospects.
6. The economists' concern regarding the current economy is the unmanageable debt levels.
7. Credit card interest rates have gradually increased recently because new rules do not allow the issuers to raise certain interest rates or charge fees.
8. During the recession, the number of car buyers decreased because it was difficult to obtain credit.
9. According to Elizabeth Crowell, the current recession, unlike previous ones, has not seen a swing back in people's spending habits.
10. We can learn from the Smiths' story that mortgage lenders are now careful about borrowers' qualifications.

第十九篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

Who's poor in America? That's a question hard to answer. Hard because there's no conclusive definition of poverty. Low income matters, though how low is unclear. Poverty is also a state of mind that fosters self-defeating behavior—bad work habits, family breakdowns, and addictions. Finally, poverty results from bad luck; accidents, job losses, disability.

Despite poverty's messiness, we've measured progress against it by a single statistic: the federal poverty line. By this measure, we haven't made much progress. But the apparent lack of progress is misleading for two reasons.

First, it ignores immigration. Many immigrants are poor and low-skilled. They add to the poor. From 1989 to 2007, about three quarters of the increase in the poverty population occurred among *Hispanics* (西班牙裔美国人)—mostly immigrants and their children.

Second, the poor's material well-being has improved. The official poverty measure obscures this by counting only pre-tax cash income and ignoring other sources of support, including food stamps and housing subsidies. Although many poor live from hand to mouth, they've participated in rising living standards. In 2005, 91% had microwaves, 79% air-conditioning, and 48% cell phones.

The existing poverty line could be improved by adding some income sources and subtracting some expenses. Unfortunately, the administration's proposal for a "supplemental poverty measure" in 2011 goes beyond that. The new poverty number would compound public confusion. It also raises questions about whether the statistic is tailored to favor a political agenda.

The "supplemental measure" ties the poverty threshold to what the poorest third of Americans spend on food, housing, clothing, and utilities. The actual threshold will probably be higher than today's poverty line. Many Americans would find this weird: people get richer, but "poverty" stays stuck.

What produces this outcome is a different view of poverty. The present concept is an absolute one: the poverty threshold reflects the amount estimated to meet basic needs. By contrast, the new measure embraces a relative notion of poverty: people are automatically poor if they're a given distance from the top, even if their incomes are increasing.

The new indicator is a "propaganda device" to promote income redistribution by showing that poverty is stubborn or increasing. The Census Bureau has estimated statistics similar to the administration's proposal. In 2008, the traditional poverty rate was 13.2%; estimates of the new statistic range up to 17%. The new poverty statistic exceeds the old, and the gap grows larger over time.

As senator Daniel Moynihan said, the administration is defining poverty up. It's legitimate to debate how much we should aid the poor or reduce economic inequality. But the debate should not be swayed by misleading statistics that few Americans could possibly understand. Government statistics should strive for political *neutrality* (中立). This one fails.

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - A) Poverty is very often defined as a state of mind.
 - B) Poverty is a problem hard to tackle in America.
 - C) Bad work habits and bad luck lead to poverty.
 - D) There is no consensus on the concept of poverty.
2. What does the author say about the poor in America?
 - A) Their living standards have actually improved.
 - B) Most of them are immigrants and their descendants.
 - C) Their chances of rising above the poverty line are slim.
 - D) Most of them rely on government subsidies for survival.
3. What does the author think of the administration's proposal for a "supplemental poverty measure"?
 - A) It is intended to further help the poor.
 - B) It is made to serve political purposes.
 - C) It is a positive response to changed circumstances.
 - D) It is an attempt to combat the economic recession.
4. What is characteristic of the new measure of poverty?
 - A) It defines poverty by the gap between the rich and the poor.
 - B) It raises the threshold for the poor to get welfare benefits.
 - C) It is more accurate and scientific in terms of statistics.
 - D) It truly reflects the practical needs of the poor.
5. What does the author want to say by quoting Daniel Moynihan?
 - A) Economic equality is but an empty dream.
 - B) Political neutrality can never be achieved.
 - C) The administration's statistics are biased.
 - D) The debate over poverty will get nowhere.

第二十篇

Directions: Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

Eleven summers ago I was sent to a management program at the Wharton School to be prepared for bigger things. Along with lectures on finance and entrepreneurship and the like, the program included a delightfully out-of-place session with Al Filreis, an English professor at the University of Pennsylvania, on poetry.

For three hours he talked us through "The Red Wheelbarrow" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." The experience—especially when contrasted with the horrible prose of our other assigned reading—sent me fleeing to the campus bookstore, where I resumed a long-interrupted romance with meter and *rhyme* (韵).

Professor Filreis says that he is "a little shocked" at how intensely his Wharton students respond to this unexpected deviation from the businesslike, not just as a relief but as a kind of stimulus. Many write afterward asking him to recommend books of poetry. Especially now.

"The grim economy seems to make the participants keener than ever to think 'out of the box' in the way poetry encourages," he told me.

Which brings me to Congress, an institution stuck deeper inside the box than just about any other these days. You have probably heard that up on *Capitol Hill* (美国国会山), they're very big on prayer breakfasts, where members gather over scrambled eggs and ask God for wisdom. You can judge from the agonizing debt spectacle we've watched this summer how well that's working. Well, maybe it's time to add

some poetry readings to the agenda.

I'm not suggesting that poetry will guide our legislators to wisdom any more than prayer has. Just that it might make them a little more human. Poetry is no substitute for courage or competence, but properly applied, it is a challenge to self-certainty, which we currently have in excess. Poetry serves as a spur to creative thinking, a reproach to dogma and habit, a remedy to the current fashion for pledge signing.

The poet Shelley, in defense of poetry nearly two centuries ago, wrote, "A man, to be greatly good, must imagine intensely and comprehensively; he must put himself in the place of another and of many others; the pains and pleasures of his species must become his own." Shelley concludes that essay by calling poets "the unacknowledged legislators of the world," because they bring imagination to the realm of "reasoners and mechanists."

The relevance of poetry was declared more concisely in five lines from the love poem "Asphodel, That Greeny Flower," by William Carlos Williams:

*It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.*

1. Why did the author participate in the Wharton School management program?
 - A) He was a passionate lover of classical poetry.
 - B) He was being trained for an important position.
 - C) He had just been promoted to top management.
 - D) He was interested in finance and entrepreneurship.
2. What did the author think of Professor Filreis's poetry session?
 - A) It diverted students' attention from the assigned reading.
 - B) It made the management program appear romantic.
 - C) It was extremely appealing to the students.
 - D) It pulled students out of prose reading sessions.
3. What was the impact of the poetry session on the program participants according to Professor Filreis?
 - A) It inspired them to view things from broader perspectives.
 - B) It led them to think poetry indispensable to management.
 - C) It helped them develop a keener interest in literature.
 - D) It encouraged them to embark on a political career.
4. What does the author think of Capitol Hill's prayer over breakfast?
 - A) It is a ritual that has lost its original meaning.
 - B) It doesn't really help solve the economic problems.
 - C) It provides inspiration as poetry reading does.
 - D) It helps people turn away from the debt spectacle.
5. What do we learn from Shelley's essay?
 - A) Poetry can relieve people of pains and sufferings.
 - B) It takes poetic imagination to become a legislator.
 - C) Legislators should win public acknowledgement.
 - D) It is important to be imaginative and sympathetic.