One of the key ways to improve the management function in an organization is to improve the decision-making process. IT is commonly used to support and streamline (提高……的效率) decision making in an organization. It can be used to address decisions about how to structure job tasks, organize production operations, manage inventory flow, and so on.

Decisions that are simple and / or highly structured are good candidates for automation. A structured decision is one in which the inputs, decision criteria, method to process those inputs, and specific outputs are well-defined. For example, it is a relatively straightforward task to develop a computer program that will generate late payment notices for those customers who have not paid their monthly telephone bill on time. The program requires certain input data about billing information, decision rules about what constitutes a missed payment, and output instructions to generate a form letter or billing notice to be sent to the customer.

The automation of structured decisions is also used to improve communication and decision making between organizations. Not long ago, it was necessary for retailers to call credit card companies every time a customer wished to charge a purchase using a credit card. A representative working for the credit card company would examine the customer’s record to determine whether or not to approve each purchase. Today, this process has been automated so that information and decisions related to purchases using a credit card are transmitted electronically.

Now consider the many benefits of automating this simple process. First, automating this process has reduced the cost of operations for credit card companies. Card issuers have streamlined and downsized (缩小规模；减员) their staff since fewer customer representatives are needed to handle purchase approvals / disapprovals. Second, the automated process has sped up the approval process so that retailers can deliver prompt and reliable service to their customers (improving customer satisfaction) and process more financial transactions within a given time period. Thirdly, the communication between retailers and card issuers has been improved. More purchases can be approved with greater accuracy using the IT-enabled system.

1.What is the passage mainly about?

A.Types of decisions that can be easily automated.

B.Methods of automating decision-making process.

C.Benefits of automating decision-making process.

D.Improved decisions brought by IT-based system.

答案：C

2.Why is it easier to develop a program for generating late payment notices for customers who failed to pay their bills on time?

A.The decision is simple and well-defined.

B.The problem is common and widespread.

C.There are clear input and output instructions.

D.Customers’ billing information is easily available.

答案：A

3.What did retailers have to do in the past to charge a purchase with a credit card?

A.They had to examine the customer’s payment history.

B.They had to send a representative to the card company.

C.They had to call the credit card company to get approval.

D.They had to wait for the card company to handle the charge.

答案：C

4.What can we learn about today’s credit card companies?

A.They would like to handle more purchase approvals.

B.They have reduced the number of their workers.

C.They can contact retailers directly about a purchase.

D.They are determined to provide better customer service.

答案：B

5.From the passage, we can conclude that automation can most greatly change \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.work efficiency

B.work accuracy

C.communication system

D.communication process

答案：A

Popular stereotype would have us believe that young women are often concerned about every up and down in their relationships – but one study says “romance drama” actually has a bigger effect on men.

Any reader of Cosmo could be forgiven for thinking that women spend all their time analyzing their boyfriends’ body language, text messages, and even sleep style for evidence of a likely breakup or marriage proposal. But according to Science Daily, researchers from Wake Forest University and Florida State University surveyed a thousand men and women between the ages of 18 and 23, and found that men were actually more likely to suffer emotionally from relationship difficulties. Study co-author Robin Simon explains that “for young men, their romantic partners are often their primary source of intimacy – in contrast to young women who are more likely to have close relationships with family and friends.”

Young men themselves – as well as pop culture in general – often proclaim the idea that women spend all their time talking about their boyfriends, while men never mention their girlfriends to their fellow beings. This may be partially true – but it’s not because men don’t care about their girlfriends or because other topics are simply more important to men than relationships. In fact, it might be better for men to discuss their relationships more openly, getting reassurance about small problems and advice for solving larger ones.

But young men shouldn’t necessarily act like young women in every way. Simon also says that “while young men are more affected emotionally by the quality of their current relationships, young women are more emotionally affected by whether they are in a relationship or not. So, young women are more likely to experience depression when the relationship ends, or benefit more by simply being in a relationship.” Being single is still a greater stigma (耻辱) for women than for men, but bad relationships aren’t good for either gender. And, as has been learned by many, sometimes you’re better off alone.

1.What is the finding of the study done by researchers in the US universities?

A.Women usually have closer relationships with family and friends.

B.Men find their source of intimacy mainly from their romantic partners.

C.Women are more concerned about the ups and downs of a relationship.

D.Men are often more strongly affected by relationship difficulties.

答案：D

2.Why don’t men talk about their girlfriends?

A.They don’t care so much about relationships.

B.They have more important topics to talk about.

C.They prefer not to talk about relationships openly.

D.They don’t like listening to advice from other people.

答案：C

3.In Simon’s opinion, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.men often feel more depressed when a relationship ends

B.men often care more about the quality of a relationship

C.women don’t benefit as much as men do from a relationship

D.women often spend much time talking about their relationships

答案：B

4.What is the advice given by the writer?

A.Women shouldn’t feel embarrassed if not in a relationship.

B.Both genders should try to benefit from their relationships.

C.It’s sometimes better to be alone than being in a relationship.

D.Bad relationships should be put to an end as soon as possible.

答案：C

5.What tends to be the writer’s attitude toward the finding?

A.Skeptical.

B.Supportive.

C.Objective.

D.Challenging.

答案：B

School districts all over the country are starting to rethink the way learning happens and where it happens. On a recent school district visit I had an assistant principal telling me that her school system better figure out how to meet the needs of these digital learners because they have access to so many free resources and experts, and she fears that their institution might soon be behind the times. What she said resonated (共鸣) with me and my colleagues because many amazing educators across the country are trying to figure out how to meet the needs of these 21st century learners and the role technology can play in that transformation. Along the journey we have added new terms to our vocabulary, such as blended, virtual, online, anywhere / everywhere and personalized (个性化的) learning. All of these phrases bring a new conversation to our education practice and allow us to redefine where, when and how learning happens.

When I think of the word “personalized” I immediately think of Amazon and Google. For years I have been receiving email from Amazon sharing that I might be interested in a specific book because of the books I have purchased in the past. I also see a stream of book ideas when I log in to my account. Similarly, when I do a Google search I know that Google is now using my past search behavior, my online presence and connections, to serve up information that is personalized for me. Author Cathy Davidson defines learning as being a constant disruption (中断，扰乱) of an old pattern, a breakthrough that substitutes something new for something old in a cyclical process. I like this definition because learning needs to be thought of as a continuous process that will require us to be exposed to new information constantly while we reflect on what we know and what we need to know. When you combine these two terms you get an approach that will help define a system that assumes that we can use technology and human capacity to figure out what students need to learn and what they want to learn and expose them to opportunities formally and informally. So how does this help us transform our education institutions?

1.What makes it necessary for educators to rethink how and where learning happens?

A.The fear of lagging behind other institutions.

B.The needs of the 21st century for transformation.

C.The impact of technology on young learners.

D.The appearance of new phrases in a language.

答案：C

2.The examples about Amazon and Google are given to illustrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.how personalized information can be made today

B.why information needs to be personalized

C.where one can get personalized information

D.what is necessary to personalize information

答案：A

3.According to Cathy Davidson, learning happens when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.it is thought of as a continuous process

B.people keep themselves exposed to new information

C.older information alternates with newer information

D.older information is constantly replaced by newer information

答案：D

4.By “these two terms” (underlined in paragraph 2), the writer refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.“something new and something old”

B.“what we know and what we need to know”

C.“technology and human capacity”

D.“what students need to learn and what they want to learn”

答案：B

5.What is the main concern of this passage?

A.How to define the meaning of “learning” today.

B.How to serve up personalized information.

C.How to transform the education institutions.

D.How to respond to the needs of the 21st century.

答案：C

Reality television is a genre of television programming which presents dramatic or humorous situations without any pre-written script, documents actual events, and features ordinary people rather than professional actors. It could be described as a form of “heightened” documentary. It covers a wide range of formats, from game or quiz shows to productions which focus on careful observation of the participants. Although the genre has existed in some form or another since the early years of television, the current explosion of popularity just started a decade ago.

Critics comment that the term “reality television” is somewhat of a misnomer. Such programs do not actually present reality as it is, but rather show a modified and highly influenced form of reality. The participants are often put in exotic locations or unusual situations, sometimes coached to act in certain ways by off-screen handlers. The events on screen are also manipulated through editing and other post-production techniques.

Part of reality television’s appeal lies in its ability to place ordinary people in extraordinary situations. For example, on the ABC show, The Bachelor, an eligible man dates a dozen women simultaneously, traveling to beautiful places on various dates. Reality television also has the potential to turn its participants into national celebrities, especially in talent and performance programs such as Pop Idol.

Some critics have said that the name “reality television” is an inaccurate description for several styles of program included in the genre. In competition-based programs such as Big Brother and Survivor, and other special-living-environment shows like The Real World, the producers design the format of the show and control the day-to-day activities and the environment. These types of show create a completely fabricated (虚构的) world in which the competition plays out. Producers specifically select the participants, and use carefully designed scenarios, challenges, events and settings to encourage particular behaviors and conflicts. Mark Burnett, creator of Survivor and other reality shows, agrees with this comment and avoids the word “reality” to describe his shows. He once said, “I tell good stories. It really is not reality TV. It really is unscripted drama.”

1.This passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.a definition of a new art

B.a type of television show

C.the influence of television

D.the history of television dramas

答案：B

2.By using the word “misnomer” (Line 1, Para. 2), the author means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.reality television contains events purposely selected by ordinary people

B.reality television contains scenes carefully chosen by national celebrities

C.reality television is not an accurate description of what happens in real life

D.reality television is not designed to be produced in strange or unusual situations

答案：C

3.The program named “The Bachelor” is mentioned as an example to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.explain why reality television attracts people

B.illustrate what ordinary people can do on the screen

C.describe how participants can become famous instantly

D.show how talent and performance programs compete

答案：A

4.According to the passage, producers of competition-based programs may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.do their best to prevent participates from having conflicts

B.avoid having any invented element in the design

C.encourage the participants to create the settings

D.induce participants to behave in a particular way

答案：D

5.Which of the following will probably NOT be considered as a reality television show?

A.A program in which the participants play a certain game or quiz.

B.A program that puts ordinary people in an invented environment.

C.A program in which actors play according to a script written in advance.

D.A program that controls the day-to-day activities of the participants.

答案：C

Organic food has more of the antioxidant (抗氧化剂) compounds linked to better health than regular food, according to the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date. The international team behind the work, led by Prof. Carlo Leifert at Newcastle University, concludes that there are “statistically significant, meaningful” differences, with a range of antioxidants being “substantially higher” in organic food. The increased levels of antioxidants are equivalent to “one to two of the five portions of fruits and vegetables recommended to be consumed daily”.

The findings will bring to the boil a long-simmering (炖) row over whether those differences mean organic food is better for people. Tom Sanders, a professor of nutrition at King’s College London, said, “The question is whether they are within natural variation, and whether they are nutritionally relevant.” According to Sanders, Leifert’s work had caused controversy in the past. He added that the research also showed organic cereals have less protein than conventional crops.

Leifert’s research, released in the British Journal of Nutrition, are based on an analysis of 343 peer-reviewed studies from around the world – more than ever before – which examine differences between organic and conventional fruits, vegetables and cereals.

Leifert and his colleagues conclude that many antioxidants have previously been linked to a reduced risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and certain cancers. But they also note that no long-term studies showing health benefits from a broad organic diet have yet been conducted.

The research is certain to encounter criticism. The inclusion of so many studies in the analysis could mean poor quality work distorts the results, although the team claimed that excluding weaker work did not significantly change the outcome. The greatest criticism, however, will be over the suggestions of potential health benefits. An earlier analysis, which took in 223 studies in 2012, found little evidence that organic foods are significantly more nutritious than conventional foods.

Sanders said he was not persuaded by the new work. “You are not going to be better nourished if you eat organic food,” he said. “What is most important is what you eat, not whether it’s organic or conventional. It’s whether you eat fruit and vegetables at all.”

1.The findings of Leifert’s research indicate that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.organic food contains higher levels of antioxidants than regular food

B.organic fruits have higher levels of antioxidants than organic vegetables

C.simmering makes organic food more nutritious than boiling

D.organic food has higher nutritional values than conventional food

答案：A

2.The word “they” in Sanders’ words (Lines 3-4, Para. 2) refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.differences between fruits and vegetables

B.differences between antioxidants and nutrition

C.differences between organic food and conventional food

D.differences between organic cereals and conventional crops

答案：C

3.According to passage, what will happen as a result of the release of Leifert’s findings?

A.More studies will be conducted on the variation of organic food.

B.More studies will be conducted on the nutrition of traditional food.

C.The dispute over organic food will finally come to an end.

D.The dispute over organic food will become more intense.

答案：D

4.According to Leifert’s research, a diet containing a variety of organic food \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.has not been shown to be clearly beneficial to human health

B.has been proved to be able to reduce the risk of chronic diseases

C.has been proved to contain less protein than a conventional diet

D.has not been shown to contain more antioxidants than regular food

答案：A

5.It is suggested in the passage that you should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if you want to get better nutrition.

A.eat more organic food than conventional food in your meals

B.have a good amount of fruit and vegetables in your daily diet

C.include more vegetables than fruits in your daily meals

D.choose fruits and vegetables that contain more antioxidants

答案：B

While we instinctively know what appeals to our own sense of beauty, defining what determines attractiveness is not always easy. Recent studies have shown that the secret of beauty may at last be understood. It seems that attractiveness may be hard wired in our brains.

Experiments designed to measure attractiveness usually involve showing a series of images of human faces and asking subjects to rate their visual appeal. Surprisingly, people from a variety of different ages, races and cultures agree on what is and isn’t beautiful. Babies as young as three months can identify and prefer faces that most adults would deem beautiful. Europeans can pick out the same beautiful Japanese faces as Japanese subjects; Japanese can agree on which European faces another Europeans will view as beautiful. So what’s going on?

Our brains have a special part called “the fusiform” (纺锤体), located in the back of the head near the spine. It’s the same neural pathway needed to recognize faces of family, friends and people we have met. When it’s damaged, the patients cannot recognize anyone, even people they have just met. Also, in experiments, they cannot discriminate between photographs of plain and beautiful faces.

When we recognize a face as “beautiful”, we tend to think in terms of facial symmetry, the similarity of the left and right halves of a face. This is because the human brain relates this feature to the health and vitality of an individual. A non-symmetrical face, or Facial Asymmetry (FA), increases with the presence of genetic disturbances and the exposure to environmental perturbations (干扰) during development such as extremes in temperature and pollution. This implies a genetic weakness and less than optimum health. In contrast, Bilateral Symmetry of a face is equated with resistance to infection and debilitating (使人虚弱的) bacteria or virus. It is an important factor that shows optimum health and increases the success in competition.

Thus, when we rate a face as “beautiful” or “plain”, we are actually judging whether that individual is healthy or not. We interpret facial symmetry to mean that a person has good genes and has been free from diseases, and we understand facial asymmetry as a sign of being weaker and less healthy.

1.Experiments that measures attractiveness show that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.age is a crucial factor involved in how human beings define beauty

B.people from different countries have little agreement on what is beautiful

C.images of human faces are effective tools for people to rate themselves

D.cultural differences have no influence on how human beings define beauty

答案：D

2.The fusiform can help us do all of the following EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.distinguishing between good-looking faces and plain ones

B.distinguishing between the neural cells in different parts of the face

C.recognizing the face of someone we have just met a moment ago

D.recognizing the face of a family member or a long-time friend

答案：B

3.Facial symmetry plays an important role in our definition of beauty because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.the brain considers it as a crucial indicator of an individual’s health and vitality

B.the brain associates it with high probability of developing serious infections

C.the brain can only interpret the genes of an individual with a non-symmetrical face

D.the brain can only evaluate the vitality of an individual with a symmetrical face

答案：A

4.A non-symmetrical face is likely to develop when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.a person experiences genetic disturbances in his development

B.a person has optimum health and excessive physical strength

C.a person is exposed to extreme conditions in the natural environment

D.a person has strong resistance to most kinds of infection and bacteria

答案：C

5.The passage is mainly concerned with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.the biological factors of face recognition and discrimination

B.the brain mechanism underlying the evaluation of beauty

C.the structure and function of the fusiform in the human brain

D.the genetic foundations of health and disease prevention

答案：B

If by “intelligent” you mean someone who performs better on IQ tests, the simple answer is no. Studies in the UK, US and Australia have revealed that left-handed people differ from right-handers by only one IQ point, which is not noteworthy.

Left-handedness is, however, much more common among individuals with severe learning difficulties, such as mental slowness. A slightly higher proportion of left-handers have problems in reading or speaking. Other problems, such as a higher rate of accidents reported in left-handers, mostly result from a world designed for the convenience of right-handers, with many tools not made for left-handed use. Although some people claim that a higher percentage of left-handers are exceptionally bright, large research studies do not support this idea.

If by “smarter” you mean more talented in certain areas, left-handers may have an advantage. Left-handers’ brains are structured differently from right-handers’ in ways that can allow them to process language, spatial (空间的) relations and emotions in more diverse and potentially creative ways. Also, a slightly larger number of left-handers than right-handers are especially gifted in music and math. A study of musicians in professional orchestras (管弦乐队) found a significantly greater proportion of talented left-handers, even among those who played instruments that seem designed for right-handers, such as violins. Similarly, studies of adolescents who took tests to assess mathematical giftedness found many more left-handers in the population. The fact that mathematicians are often musical may not be a coincidence.

For other talents and skills, the benefits of being left-handed are less clear. In one-on-one competitive sports, being in the minority can be a tactical advantage. For instance, most right-handed tennis players have little experience playing left-handers, whereas left-handers have plenty of experience playing right-handers. Sports arenas can also be asymmetric (不对称的), which may give left-handers an advantage. In baseball, for instance, a left-handed hitter is closer to first base after striking the ball than a right-handed batter is.

Whatever the advantages, handedness seems to be genetic. With 10 percent of people preferring their left hand, there must be some selective advantage, or else the genes would probably not survive.

1.In writing this passage, the writer mainly deals with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.the advantages and disadvantages displayed by left-handers

B.the areas in which left-handers often display an advantage

C.the differences between left-handers and right-handers

D.the reasons why some people turn out to be left-handers

答案：B

2.In the writer’s opinion, most of the left-handers’ accidents have been caused by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.their lower IQ score

B.their learning difficulties

C.their different brain structure

D.the inconvenience of tools they use

答案：D

3.One area in which the left-handed are found not to have an advantage is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.music

B.math

C.reading or speaking

D.one-on-one competitive sports

答案：C

4.The advantage that left-handers get in a baseball game is a result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.their playing positions in the game

B.the design of the game field

C.the tactics they use in the game

D.the asymmetric movement of the ball

答案：B

5.The writer tends to believe that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.left-handers are born not made

B.the benefits of being left-handed are not clear

C.to be or not to be left-handers is a matter of choice

D.it’s a coincidence for mathematicians to be often musical

答案：A

Reality television is a genre of television programming which presents dramatic or humorous situations without any pre-written script, documents actual events, and features ordinary people rather than professional actors. It could be described as a form of “heightened” documentary. It covers a wide range of formats, from game or quiz shows to productions which focus on careful observation of the participants. Although the genre has existed in some form or another since the early years of television, the current explosion of popularity just started a decade ago.

Critics comment that the term “reality television” is somewhat of a misnomer. Such programs do not actually present reality as it is, but rather show a modified and highly influenced form of reality. The participants are often put in exotic locations or unusual situations, sometimes coached to act in certain ways by off-screen handlers. The events on screen are also manipulated through editing and other post-production techniques.

Part of reality television’s appeal lies in its ability to place ordinary people in extraordinary situations. For example, on the ABC show, The Bachelor, an eligible man dates a dozen women simultaneously, traveling to beautiful places on various dates. Reality television also has the potential to turn its participants into national celebrities, especially in talent and performance programs such as Pop Idol.

Some critics have said that the name “reality television” is an inaccurate description for several styles of program included in the genre. In competition-based programs such as Big Brother and Survivor, and other special-living-environment shows like The Real World, the producers design the format of the show and control the day-to-day activities and the environment. These types of show create a completely fabricated (虚构的) world in which the competition plays out. Producers specifically select the participants, and use carefully designed scenarios, challenges, events and settings to encourage particular behaviors and conflicts. Mark Burnett, creator of Survivor and other reality shows, agrees with this comment and avoids the word “reality” to describe his shows. He once said, “I tell good stories. It really is not reality TV. It really is unscripted drama.”

1.This passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.a definition of a new art

B.a type of television show

C.the influence of television

D.the history of television dramas

答案：B

2.By using the word “misnomer” (Line 1, Para. 2), the author means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.reality television contains events purposely selected by ordinary people

B.reality television contains scenes carefully chosen by national celebrities

C.reality television is not an accurate description of what happens in real life

D.reality television is not designed to be produced in strange or unusual situations

答案：C

3.The program named “The Bachelor” is mentioned as an example to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.explain why reality television attracts people

B.illustrate what ordinary people can do on the screen

C.describe how participants can become famous instantly

D.show how talent and performance programs compete

答案：A

4.According to the passage, producers of competition-based programs may \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.do their best to prevent participates from having conflicts

B.avoid having any invented element in the design

C.encourage the participants to create the settings

D.induce participants to behave in a particular way

答案：D

5.Which of the following will probably NOT be considered as a reality television show?

A.A program in which the participants play a certain game or quiz.

B.A program that puts ordinary people in an invented environment.

C.A program in which actors play according to a script written in advance.

D.A program that controls the day-to-day activities of the participants.

答案：C

International business has been conducted ever since national borders were formed and has played a major role in shaping world history. Growing in importance over the past three decades, it has shaped an environment that, due to economic linkages (关联), today presents us with a global marketplace.

In the past two decades, world trade has expanded from $200 billion to more than $4 trillion while international direct investment has grown from $211 billion to $1.8 trillion. The growth of both has been more rapid than the growth of most domestic economics. As a result, nations are much more affected by international business than in the past. Global linkages have made possible investment strategies and business alternatives that offer tremendous opportunities. Yet these changes and the speed of change also can represent threats to nations and firms.

Over the past 30 years, the dominance of the US international trade position has gradually declined. Increasingly, new participants in international business compete fiercely for world market share, and US firms have fallen behind in their global competitiveness. Apart from changes in the world environment, this development is mainly the result of delays in policy adjustments and unwillingness by the US private sector to participate in international business.

Yet times are changing. Individuals, corporations, and policymakers have awakened to the fact that international business is a major tendency and opportunity for future growth and prosperity. International business offers access to new customers, affords economies of scale, and leads to the progress in competitive skills. Performing well in global markets is the key to improved standards of living, higher profits. And the continued leadership of the United States in the world knowledge about international business is therefore important to everyone in the country, whether it is used to compete with foreign firms or simply to add to an understanding of the world around us.

1.According to the first paragraph, what is the result of the development of international business?

A.The formation of national borders.

B.The change of economic environment.

C.The restoration of economic linkages.

D.The creation of a global marketplace.

答案：D

2.What is the amount of international direct investment about 20 years ago?

A.200 billion dollars.

B.4 trillion dollars.

C.211 billion dollars.

D.1.8 trillion dollars.

答案：C

3.According to the author, what is the main reason for the decline of the dominant position of the US in international trade?

A.Constant changes in the world business environment.

B.Uncompetitive skills of the US firms when faced with a world market.

C.Fierce competition of new international trade participants for world market share.

D.Policy adjustment delays and the US private sector’s reluctance to participant in world business.

答案：D

4.Why should US companies participate further in international business?

A.Because international business is the only opportunity for future growth in modern times.

B.Because international business can create new customers and afford economies of scale.

C.Because only through international business could companies improve in competitive skills.

D.Because participating in international business would surely bring about higher profits.

答案：B

5.What attitude does the author take toward maintaining the leadership position of the US in international business?

A.Strongly positive.

B.Mildly negative.

C.Neutral.

D.Indifferent.

答案：A

School districts all over the country are starting to rethink the way learning happens and where it happens. On a recent school district visit I had an assistant principal telling me that her school system better figure out how to meet the needs of these digital learners because they have access to so many free resources and experts, and she fears that their institution might soon be behind the times. What she said resonated (共鸣) with me and my colleagues because many amazing educators across the country are trying to figure out how to meet the needs of these 21st century learners and the role technology can play in that transformation. Along the journey we have added new terms to our vocabulary, such as blended, virtual, online, anywhere / everywhere and personalized (个性化的) learning. All of these phrases bring a new conversation to our education practice and allow us to redefine where, when and how learning happens.

When I think of the word “personalized” I immediately think of Amazon and Google. For years I have been receiving email from Amazon sharing that I might be interested in a specific book because of the books I have purchased in the past. I also see a stream of book ideas when I log in to my account. Similarly, when I do a Google search I know that Google is now using my past search behavior, my online presence and connections, to serve up information that is personalized for me. Author Cathy Davidson defines learning as being a constant disruption (中断，扰乱) of an old pattern, a breakthrough that substitutes something new for something old in a cyclical process. I like this definition because learning needs to be thought of as a continuous process that will require us to be exposed to new information constantly while we reflect on what we know and what we need to know. When you combine these two terms you get an approach that will help define a system that assumes that we can use technology and human capacity to figure out what students need to learn and what they want to learn and expose them to opportunities formally and informally. So how does this help us transform our education institutions?

1.What makes it necessary for educators to rethink how and where learning happens?

A.The fear of lagging behind other institutions.

B.The needs of the 21st century for transformation.

C.The impact of technology on young learners.

D.The appearance of new phrases in a language.

答案：C

2.The examples about Amazon and Google are given to illustrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.how personalized information can be made today

B.why information needs to be personalized

C.where one can get personalized information

D.what is necessary to personalize information

答案：A

3.According to Cathy Davidson, learning happens when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.it is thought of as a continuous process

B.people keep themselves exposed to new information

C.older information alternates with newer information

D.older information is constantly replaced by newer information

答案：D

4.By “these two terms” (underlined in paragraph 2), the writer refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.“something new and something old”

B.“what we know and what we need to know”

C.“technology and human capacity”

D.“what students need to learn and what they want to learn”

答案：B

5.What is the main concern of this passage?

A.How to define the meaning of “learning” today.

B.How to serve up personalized information.

C.How to transform the education institutions.

D.How to respond to the needs of the 21st century.

答案：C

What is the future of the bookstore? This was a burning question on everyone’s lips at a recent event at Foyles’s flagship bookshop on Charing Cross Road in London, where some of Britain’s leading literary agents, authors, marketing managers and booksellers gathered to discuss its fate.

For a bookstore to remain successful, it must improve “the experience of buying books,” says Alex Lifschutz, an architect whose London-based practice is designing the new Foyles. He suggests an array of approaches: “small, quiet spaces surrounded with books; larger spaces where one can dwell and read; other larger but still intimate spaces where one can hear talks from authors about books, literature, science and travel.” The atmosphere is vital, he adds. Entrances must be full of eye-catching presentations and a bar and café is essential.

The trend for not only incorporating cafés in bookstores but also placing them on the top floor makes good sense. The new Foyles will have one, Mr. Lifschutz explains, because this draws shoppers upwards floor-by-floor, which is bound to encourage people to linger longer and spend more.

There are plenty of ways to delight the bookstore customer, but few are easily monetized. It is agreed that bookstores need to become cultural destinations where people are prepared to pay good money to hear a concert, see a film or attend a talk.

But forcing people to pay for the privilege of potential good services could deter (震慑) shoppers altogether. A more attractive idea might be a membership scheme like those offered by museums and other cultural venues (场地). A club membership could provide priority access to events (talks, literary workshops) and a private lounge where members can eat, drink and meet authors before events. Different memberships could tailor to the needs of children and students.

The future of the bookstore will have to work hard. Service will be knowledgeable and personalized, spaces well-designed and the cultural events tempting. But still, the fate of these bookstores, especially small independents, is a cliffhanger (悬而未决的局势).

1.According to Alex Lifschutz, what “experience of buying books” should a bookstore provide?

A.The design of the bookstore should cater to different needs.

B.There must be many eye-catching best-sellers displayed.

C.There must be enough spaces for readers to communicate with authors.

D.Authors of best-sellers should be invited to give talks or lectures.

答案：A

2.Why is it a good idea to place a café on the top floor of a bookstore?

A.Because the rent for the café is lower on the top floor.

B.Because shoppers can have a better view on the top floor.

C.Because shoppers tend to spend more time and money in the store.

D.Because the top floor will be much quieter for readers.

答案：C

3.What does the first sentence (Para. 4) most likely mean?

A.It is hard for bookstores to please customers and earn money at the same time.

B.It is difficult for bookstores to work out right ways to please customers.

C.It is rather common for customers not to be able to afford the books in the stores.

D.It is necessary for bookstores to be customer-centered instead of money-centered.

答案：A

4.According to the passage, what privilege do members of bookstores have?

A.They don’t need to pay for the events they attend.

B.Children and students can enjoy a special discount.

C.They will be considered first when there are some activities.

D.They can attend any cultural events organized by the bookstore.

答案：C

5.What does the author think of the future of bookstores?

A.Promising.

B.Doomed.

C.Challenging.

D.Depressing.

答案：C

Creativity has been considered in terms of process, product or person and has been defined as the interpersonal and intrapersonal process by means of which original, high quality, and genuinely significant products are developed. In dealing with young children, the focus should be on the process, i.e., developing and generating original ideas, which is seen as the basis of creative potential.

For a proper understanding of children’s creativity, one must distinguish creativity from intelligence and talent. Some experts expressed concern about whether creativity in young children could be differentiated from other cognitive abilities. More recent studies have shown that components of creative potential can indeed be distinguished from intelligence. The term “gifted” is often used to imply high intelligence. But some scientists have argued that intelligence and creativity are independent of each other, and a highly creative child may or may not be highly intelligent.

Creativity goes beyond possession and use of artistic or musical talent. In this context, “talent” refers to the possession of a high degree of technical skill in a specialized area. Thus an artist may have wonderful technical skills, but may not succeed in evoking the emotional response that makes the viewer feel that a painting, for example, is unique. It is important to keep in mind that creativity is evidenced not only in music or art, but throughout the curriculum, in science, social studies and other areas.

Most measures of children’s creativity have focused on ideational (构思的) fluency. Ideational fluency tasks require children to generate as many responses as they can to a particular stimulus, as is done in brainstorming. Ideational fluency is generally considered to be a critical feature of the creative process.

For young children, the focus of creativity should remain on process: the generation of ideas. Adult acceptance of multiple ideas in a non-evaluative atmosphere will help children generate more ideas or move to the next stage of self-evaluation. As children develop the ability for self-evaluation, issues of quality and the generation of products become more important. The emphasis at this age should be on self-evaluation, for these children are exploring their abilities to generate and evaluate hypotheses, and revise their ideas based on that evaluation.

1.What should be paid attention to in terms of young children’s creativity development?

A.Their intelligence and talent.

B.Their process of developing original ideas.

C.Mastery of a higher degree of technical skills.

D.Better understanding of their creative potential.

答案：B

2.The main purpose of Paragraph 2 is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.show that highly creative children are usually intelligent

B.reveal the connection between intelligence and creativity

C.illustrate that intelligence and creativity are not always related

D.express concern about whether intelligent children are creative

答案：C

3.How can an artist make the viewers feel that he is creative?

A.He must possess artistic talent.

B.He must have great technical skills.

C.He must express emotions in his paintings.

D.He must make people feel his paintings are unique.

答案：D

4.What ability does “ideational fluency” (Para. 4) refer to?

A.The ability to provide many ideas about a topic.

B.The ability to generate ideas as fast as possible.

C.The ability to make full use of the intelligence.

D.The ability to come up with many creative ideas.

答案：A

5.How should adults induce creativity in children?

A.By teaching children to be able to evaluate their own ideas.

B.By responding to children’s ideas in a non-judgmental way.

C.By reminding children of the importance of others’ evaluations.

D.By asking children to correct their ideas whenever they are wrong.

答案：B

Targeting online advertisements at a web user should work better than targeting them at a web page. That, at least, is the idea behind “behavioral targeting”. It holds great promise. In theory, the Internet ought to lead to far more accurately targeted advertising than other media can. In practice such targeting means working out what a web user is interested in.

And here is the problem: Gathering information and building up profiles, if not done in a sensitive and transparent manner, can look an awful lot like snooping (窥探). The ultimate way to work out what someone is interested in would be to intercept (拦截) his web-browsing traffic and search it for keywords. And that is exactly what companies such as Phorm and NebuAd enable internet-service providers (ISPs) to do. Equipment in the ISP’s network scans passing web pages for keywords that are then used to target ads. The ISP then gets a cut when someone clicks on an ad, which is why ISPs are so keen on the technology.

Activists and politicians have questioned whether all this violates privacy or wiretapping (窃听) laws. Britain’s Information Commissioner has warned that such systems should be “opt in”, and in America two congressmen have questioned the “opt out” approach of the NebuAd system.

Done properly, behavioral targeting promises to make advertising more relevant for consumers, and to increase shift rates for advertisers. But as behavioral targeting systems become more sophisticated and aggressive, it is vital that the companies behind them be open with users about what is going on, and give them control over their personal information. “It’s mine – you can’t have it,” says Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the web of such information. “If you want to use it for something, then you have to negotiate with me.” Customers may, for instance, be happy to opt in if they are offered a discount on their broadband bills: After all, most web users seem to be willing to reveal some personal information provided they get something in return. But unless they play fair, the proponents (支持者) of behavioral targeting risk ruining a promising new idea.

1.What is the main purpose of this passage?

A.To introduce a new way of advertising.

B.To explain how the new way of advertising works.

C.To compare the new way of advertising with the old one.

D.To discuss the problems involved in the new way of advertising.

答案：D

2.Why does targeting online advertisements at a web user work better?

A.Because the Internet users can get something in return from it.

B.Because consumers can get more accurate information through it.

C.Because the Internet users are more curious about the new way.

D.Because consumers are more sensitive to information on a web.

答案：B

3.What does “the technology” in the last sentence (Para. 2) refer to?

A.Scanning passing web pages.

B.Finding out what someone is interested in.

C.Searching web-browsing traffic for keywords.

D.Targeting online advertisements at a web user.

答案：C

4.What is the biggest problem that behavioral targeting system is faced with?

A.The government is not supportive of the new system.

B.There have been no relevant laws to regulate the system.

C.One’s personal information may be revealed unknowingly.

D.Politicians haven’t reached an agreement on whether to use the system.

答案：C

5.How can supporters of behavioral targeting win more web users?

A.Less aggressive methods should be adopted.

B.Web users should be offered discounts in using the Internet.

C.Only some personal information should be disclosed online.

D.Customers should be given more control over their personal information.

答案：B

The term “company” has a special meaning when applied to business. A company is usually an enterprise that has limited liability. Companies with the word “Limited” or the abbreviation (缩写) “Ltd” after their name are defined as a company. Also, if you form a limited liability partnership, or open a franchise (特许经营权), these are usually defined as companies as well. If you are not sure of the legal status of your business, you can contact a business solicitor for legal advice.

Within a company a board of directors, partners or chief executive will usually make the day-to-day decisions for their business. Most of the decisions the chief executive makes do not need to be ratified (批准), but more far reaching decisions will usually need the backing of the company’s board of directors with a majority vote.

A company can also have shareholders. How many shares an individual or investment group holds will determine how much say they have about the running of the company. Major decisions in these types of companies are usually made at the company’s AGM (Annual General Meeting).

All shareholders are entitled to attend AGMs and vote on any motions. Majority shareholders have the most power within a company to make decisions about how they want the company to develop. If you are a shareholder and are challenged about any decisions, you should contact business solicitors for help to ensure your rights are protected.

If your business is a partnership, all partners usually have a say in the decision-making in your business. However, the status of some partners could affect their right to make management decisions. So-called sleeping partners don’t take an active role in the day-to-day operation of your business and don’t normally have any management decision-making powers. However, you should consult with a company lawyer to ensure the terms of your partnership agreement makes it clear which partners have the decision-making powers within your company. If any disputes arise, business solicitors should be consulted.

1.What is the passage mainly about?

A.The way a company makes decisions.

B.The style a company does business.

C.Development process of a company.

D.Organizational structure of a company.

答案：A

2.According to Paragraph 2, within a company, who usually has the final say on the most important decisions?

A.Its business solicitor.

B.Its board of directors.

C.Its business partners.

D.Its chief executive.

答案：B

3.What determines how much say an individual has in a company’s decision-making?

A.The importance of the decision.

B.The state of the company’s business.

C.The number of shares the person has in the company.

D.The company’s Annual General Meeting.

答案：C

4.How do business partners know whether they have the decision-making powers within a company?

A.Through the challenges their decisions meet.

B.Through checking with other partner companies.

C.Through consulting with a business solicitor.

D.Through the items of their partnership agreement.

答案：D

5.In writing this passage, the writer seems to be addressing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.people who are laymen in business matters

B.people with much business experience

C.people who are going to start a company

D.people with power in business management

答案：A

Research suggests that we view our loved ones through rose-tinted glasses that overlook the physical flaws that might put others off. As a result, husbands and wives think their other halves are more attractive than they really are.

The phenomenon could help explain some apparently physically mismatched couples such as the glamorous Beyonce and Jay-Z, the striking Lara Stone and David Walliams, or the statuesque Sophie Dahl and the diminutive Jamie Cullum.

The “positive illusion” theory comes from researchers who asked 70 couples to rate their other halves for attractiveness. Questions included how attractive their husband, wife, boyfriend or girlfriend was to the opposite sex, and how they rated compared with others of the same age. The results, reported in The Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, revealed that couples rated the physical appeal of their partners higher than that of strangers.

The researchers at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands explain this from a psychological perspective. During the course of a romantic relationship, partners will frequently uncover sources of negativity or conflict that may raise the fear that their partner is not the “right” person after all. Such doubts about the partner are troublesome because negativity typically surfaces when the individuals have already invested in their relationship.

In order to reach some resolution between their hopes and doubts, and sustain a sense of security, partners often weave an elaborate fictitious (虚构的) story that both magnifies a partner’s virtues and minimizes his faults. By means of these positive illusions, partners may enhance their sense of security and stabilize their long-term bond.

Those who participated in the study were relatively young and had been together on average for just two and a half years. The researchers said that more work is needed to see if those in long marriages are still blind to their partner’s physical flaws. They think it is possible that positive illusions are much stronger in the beginning of the relationship when partners are still in love and tend to idealize each other strongly. Likewise, positive illusions may be stronger when people are younger and, as a consequence, relatively attractive.

1.According to the passage, people think their partners are attractive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.even if physical flaws are seen clearly through glasses

B.even if physical flaws appear to be dark colored

C.even if the partners have obvious physical flaws

D.even if their partners decide to turn them off

答案：C

2.The author mentions physically mismatched couples for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.explaining the rules of romantic relationships

B.explaining the standards of physical appeal

C.supporting the importance of being attractive

D.supporting the theory of positive illusion

答案：D

3.Researchers believe that partners tend to ignore their other halves’ faults in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.improve the long-term security of their family

B.maintain the stability of their relationship

C.solve conflicts between dreams and reality

D.uncover potential problems in their relationship

答案：B

4.It can be inferred from the researcher’s view that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.a woman in her 20s may view her husband more positively than when in her 40s

B.a man in his 2nd-year marriage may view his wife less positively than 10 years later

C.a woman in her 40s care more about her husband’s appearance than before

D.a man in his 20s may care less about his wife’s appearance than 10 years later

答案：A

5.Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

A.Romance reduces marriage stability.

B.Attractiveness comes with age.

C.Love is blind for a good reason.

D.Appearance enhances happiness.

答案：C

One of the key ways to improve the management function in an organization is to improve the decision-making process. IT is commonly used to support and streamline (提高……的效率) decision making in an organization. It can be used to address decisions about how to structure job tasks, organize production operations, manage inventory flow, and so on.

Decisions that are simple and / or highly structured are good candidates for automation. A structured decision is one in which the inputs, decision criteria, method to process those inputs, and specific outputs are well-defined. For example, it is a relatively straightforward task to develop a computer program that will generate late payment notices for those customers who have not paid their monthly telephone bill on time. The program requires certain input data about billing information, decision rules about what constitutes a missed payment, and output instructions to generate a form letter or billing notice to be sent to the customer.

The automation of structured decisions is also used to improve communication and decision making between organizations. Not long ago, it was necessary for retailers to call credit card companies every time a customer wished to charge a purchase using a credit card. A representative working for the credit card company would examine the customer’s record to determine whether or not to approve each purchase. Today, this process has been automated so that information and decisions related to purchases using a credit card are transmitted electronically.

Now consider the many benefits of automating this simple process. First, automating this process has reduced the cost of operations for credit card companies. Card issuers have streamlined and downsized (缩小规模；减员) their staff since fewer customer representatives are needed to handle purchase approvals / disapprovals. Second, the automated process has sped up the approval process so that retailers can deliver prompt and reliable service to their customers (improving customer satisfaction) and process more financial transactions within a given time period. Thirdly, the communication between retailers and card issuers has been improved. More purchases can be approved with greater accuracy using the IT-enabled system.

1.What is the passage mainly about?

A.Types of decisions that can be easily automated.

B.Methods of automating decision-making process.

C.Benefits of automating decision-making process.

D.Improved decisions brought by IT-based system.

答案：C

2.Why is it easier to develop a program for generating late payment notices for customers who failed to pay their bills on time?

A.The decision is simple and well-defined.

B.The problem is common and widespread.

C.There are clear input and output instructions.

D.Customers’ billing information is easily available.

答案：A

3.What did retailers have to do in the past to charge a purchase with a credit card?

A.They had to examine the customer’s payment history.

B.They had to send a representative to the card company.

C.They had to call the credit card company to get approval.

D.They had to wait for the card company to handle the charge.

答案：C

4.What can we learn about today’s credit card companies?

A.They would like to handle more purchase approvals.

B.They have reduced the number of their workers.

C.They can contact retailers directly about a purchase.

D.They are determined to provide better customer service.

答案：B

5.From the passage, we can conclude that automation can most greatly change \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A.work efficiency

B.work accuracy

C.communication system

D..communication process

答案：A

An insurance company provides a service to the community by protecting it against expected and unexpected disasters. Before an insurance company agrees to insure anything, it collects detailed figures about the risk. It knows, for example, that the risk of a man being killed in a plane accident is less than the risk he takes in crossing a busy road. This enables it to quote low figures for travel insurance. Sometimes the risk may be high, as in motor racing or mountain climbing. Then the company charges a much higher price. If too many climbers have accidents, the price rises still further.

An ordinary homeowner may wish to protect his home against fire or his property against burglary. A shopkeeper may wish to insure against theft. In normal cases, the company will check its statistics and quote a premium (保险费). If it is suspicious, it may refuse to quote. If it insures a shop and then receives a suspicious claim, it will investigate the claim as a means of protecting itself against false claims. It is not unknown for a businessman in debt to burn down his own premises (房屋) so that he can claim a lot of money from his insurance company. He can be sure that the fire will be investigated most carefully. Insurance companies also accept insurance against sea disasters or disasters in the air. Planes and ships are very expensive, so a large premium is charged, but a reduction is given to companies with an accident-free record.

Every week, insurance companies receive premium payments from customers. These payments can form a very large total running into millions of dollars. The company does not leave the money in the bank. It invests in property, shares, farms, and even antique paintings and stamps. Its aim is to obtain the best possible return on its investment. This is not as greedy as it may seem, since this is one way by which it can keep its premiums down and continue to make money while being of service to the community.

1.What does the author say about an insurance company?

A.It protects the community against disasters.

B.It usually charges more for travel insurance.

C.It only insures things with the smallest risks.

D.It refuses to insure mountain climbers against accidents.

答案：A

2.Why will the insurance company investigate a suspicious claim?

A.To refuse to quote a premium.

B.To make sure that the claim is truthful.

C.To try to collect a premium as high as possible.

D.To catch the person responsible for the disaster.

答案：B

3.When will the insurance companies charge higher premium?

A.When the price of transportation rises.

B.When there are more people traveling.

C.When the incidents have occurred many times.

D.When other companies can afford large premiums.

答案：C

4.What do insurance companies do with customers’ premium payments?

A.They save the money in the bank.

B.They donate the money to the community.

C.They buy antique paintings and stamps for customers.

D.They make investments so as to provide better services.

答案：D

5.What does the author try to do in this passage?

A.To explain how insurance companies operate.

B.To encourage people to invest in insurance companies.

C.To advise people on how to insure their life and property.

D.To persuade people to insure against unexpected disasters.

答案：A

Researchers in China have found a novel way to fight ocean pollution -- by developing little robot fish that eat microplastics. Soft to touch and just 1.3cm in size, these robots can already suck up microplastics in shallow water, according to a team of Chinese scientists.

Microplastics are either produced as particles or break off from bigger plastic items such as bottles or synthetic clothing. They are being found virtually everywhere on the earth, posing risks to the environment as well as animal and human health. The tiny particles have been making their way into the food we eat and the water we drink and have also been found in human blood and lungs.

Scientists are now hoping to get the robot fish to collect microplastics beyond the surface of the water, at deeper levels and provide information that analyses marine pollution in real-time. This small lightweight robot can be used in many ways. For example, in biomedical or risky operations, such a small robot can be localized to a part of the patients’ bodies to help them get rid of some diseases.

The black robot fish is powered by light, helping it to move its body. Scientists can control the fish using light to prevent it from running into other creatures or even ships. If it happens to be eaten by other fish, it can be digested without harm as it is made from a material that is biocompatible (不会引起排斥的). It can swim up to 2.76 body lengths per second, faster than most soft robots. The robot fish is able to suck up pollutants and will be mostly working on collection. Not only can it be used repeatedly, but it can fix itself when damaged.

Experts have warned that plastic pollution was a growing threat to marine life and humans. Studies show that 11 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean each year, which could be three times more by 2040 unless production and use of throwaway containers are reduced.

1.According to the text, what did Chinese researchers manage to do?

A.To make robots with plastics.

B.To catch more fish from the ocean.

C.To deal with pollution in the ocean.

D.To change plastics into microplastics.

答案：C

2.What does the author say about microplastics on the earth?

A.They can be made into bottles or clothing.

B.They can get into human blood and lungs.

C.They can do more harm to animals than to humans.

D.They can pollute our drinking water more easily than our food.

答案：B

3.What is the main task of the little robot fish described in this passage?

A.To do risky operations in the ocean.

B.To work on the surface of the water.

C.To help ocean life get rid of some diseases.

D.To collect microplastics and information on pollution.

答案：D

4.What will happen if a real fish eat a robot fish?

A.The robot fish will damage itself.

B.The robot fish will hurt the real fish.

C.The scientists will find the robot fish by light.

D.The real fish will absorb the robot fish without harms.

答案：D

5.What was the warning given by experts?

A.Plastic pollution in the ocean could get even worse.

B.Plastics in the ocean might increase by three times each year.

C.11 million tons of plastic waste could end up in the ocean by 2040.

D.It might already be too late to stop the production of plastic containers.

答案：A

Judging from recent surveys, most experts in sleep behavior agree that there is virtually a common phenomenon of sleeplessness in the U.S. “I can’t think of a single study that hasn’t found Americans getting less sleep than they ought to,” says a doctor. “Even people who think they are sleeping enough would probably be better off with more rest.”

The beginning of the sleep-deficit problem can be traced to the invention of the light bulb a century ago. From diary entries and other personal accounts from the 18th and 19th centuries, sleep scientists have reached the conclusion that the average person used to sleep about 9.5 hours a night. The best sleep habits once were forced on us in the evening down on the farm because we could do nothing when it was dark. By the 1950s and 1960s, that sleep schedule had been reduced dramatically to between 7.5 and 8 hours, and most people had to wake to an alarm clock. Some researchers hold the view that people are cheating on their sleep without realizing it. Individuals often mistakenly believe that they get enough rest with a mere 6.5 hours of sleep, disregarding the fact that they actually require a full 8 hours or even more.

Perhaps the most merciless robber of sleep, researchers say, is the complexity of the day. There seems to be a common misconception that if someone claims only to need 5.5 hours of sleep, they are seen as energetic and driven. On the other hand, if someone admits to requiring a total 8.5 hours of sleep, they are often perceived as lacking ambition.

To determine the consequences of sleep deficit, researchers have put subjects through a set of psychological and performance tests requiring them, for instance, to add columns of numbers or recall a passage read to them only minutes earlier. “We’ve found that if you’re in sleep deficit, performance suffers,” says one of the experts. “Short-term memory is weakened, as are abilities to make decisions and to concentrate.”

1.What does the doctor say about sleeplessness in the U.S.?

A.It is not as serious as experts thought.

B.It is a widespread problem nowadays.

C.It has not been proved by a single study yet.

D.It has been reported by a small group of experts.

答案：B

2.According to sleep scientists, what was the average amount of time a person slept in the 19th century?

A.About 5.5 hours per night.

B.About 6.5 hours per night.

C.About 7.5 hours per night.

D.About 9.5 hours per night.

答案：D

3.When was people’s sleeping schedule dramatically reduced, according to the passage?

A.As people began to write diaries.

B.When people were forced to sleep.

C.Before the invention of the light bulb.

D.By the 50s and 60s in the 20th century.

答案：D

4.What do modern people think of those who only sleep 5.5 hours a night under pressure?

A.They have much energy.

B.They have enough sleep.

C.They have a complex day.

D.They have an important job.

答案：A

5.What is a consequence of lack of sleep in the psychological and performance tests in Para. 4?

A.People fail to recognize numbers.

B.People fail to make any decisions.

C.People fail to focus their attention.

D.People fail to read whole passages.

答案：C