




- 坚决不背模板
- 扎实精练文章
- 文题紧密匹配
- 稳步提高分数

文勇的 **新托福**
真题详解
写作分卷(第一册)

刘新娟 刘文勇 编著

TOEFL® iBT

WRITING

 中国人民大学出版社

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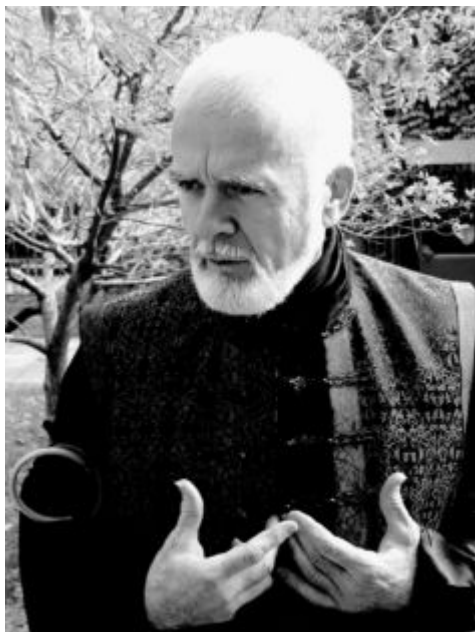
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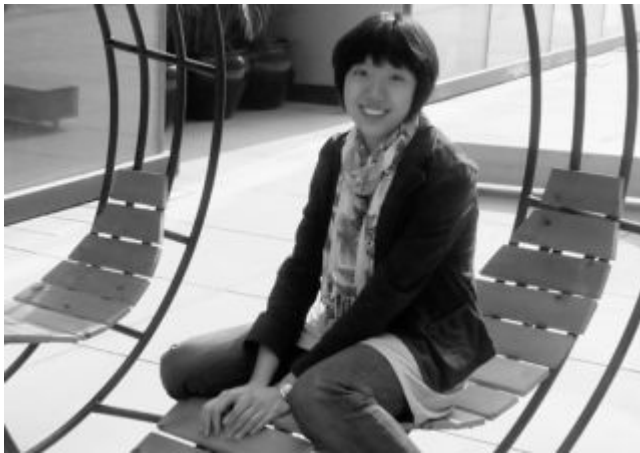
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前言

Preface

《新托福真题详解》系列的《写作分卷》终于面世了——尽管我们教授写作这个科目的时间已经不短，尽管这只是一本看似简单的范文合集，尽管我们的的确确在编纂和创作的过程中费尽心血，但交稿之时，我仍忍不住反复嗟叹道：“但愿大家的骂声能够少些吧！”——因为，托福写作的确是一个极重要却又不简单的科目。让我很洋气地引用培根先生所说的话：“Reading maketh (makes) a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. (读书使人渊博, 交谈使人机敏, 写作使人严谨。)”这说的就是写作的重要性，其成为托福重点考查的科目也是理所当然。而朱自清先生曾说：“写字要‘如面谈’，比‘面谈’需要更多的心思和技巧，并不是一下笔就能做到的。”这说的是写作的难处，同学们因而也就难免为了托福写作抓耳挠腮。

托福写作的确很不容易，但是作为长期处在托福教学第一线的老师，我们却时常发现在托福考查的“听说读写”四个科目中，“写作”往往是同学们最不愿意花精力和练习量最少的科目。我甚至时常会遇上在上考场之前连一篇完整的作文都没有写过的同学！

为什么会这样呢？

是因为“写作”比“阅读”和“听力”等科目更容易么？应该不是：写作糟糕（而且也意识到自己写作糟糕）的学生大有人在。是因为其他科目有更多的习题么？应该也不是：各个科目的练习题都多如牛毛。追其缘由，同学们最容易给出的回答是“不想练”，若再追问“为什么不想练”，回答往往是“练了也看不到效果”。我想，同学们所指的应该是“练了也不知道有没有效果”。

真正的问题出在这儿：其他譬如“阅读”及“听力”等科目，考试时大都是客观题（选择题），自然有正确答案。练习完成后，我们立即就能知道结果如何，分数是高是低，还可以通过分析错误选项来弥补缺陷，最终提高能力——这样的学习路径，看得见摸得着，心里踏实。相比较而言，“写作”^①的练习往往没有标准答案（在大部分情况下甚至连参考答案都没有）。尽管在ETS (Educational Testing Service, 托福考试的官方出题机构) 出版的《新托福官方指南》中给出了较明确的评分标准和几篇范文，但都只是泛泛而谈，同学们依旧很难找到自己所练题目的“标杆”，当然也就很难评价自己的作文——若是只写文章不做评判，不知好坏，当然也就“练了也看不到效果”。

以上的困境也正是本书出版的原因：我们一群老师坐在一起，尝试对新托福考过的真题进行逐一写作（从2005年到2009年年底的考试真题），希望让以后的学生在做写作真题训练时，能够有参考作文，看一看，想一想，对比甚至模仿一下。如果能够在这个过程中对写作训练略有帮助，就算本书起到作用了。

文勇
2011年春

注释

^①当然，“口语”部分其实也是难以评分的——这一点等口语单项解析出版时再阐述。

编著说明

刘新娟

若问起现如今备战托福作文的广大学子如下问题：

托福作文课上过吗？
托福作文读过吗？
托福作文写过吗？

答案听起来出奇地一致：

无数。
寥寥无几。
屈指可数。

从小就苦学汉字的我们，有哪个不是与汉语文章天天见面，伴汉语作文日日抒情，记叙文、议论文、散文、古文轮番上阵，即使如此，又有几个能下笔成章成为千秋万代、万世敬仰的一代文豪？

道理是如此的简单，书不能不读，笔不能不动，否则课听得再多也枉然，30分的满分作文，28分和29分的高分作文，都会因为自己的懒惰而远离我们。

翻开本书，最引人注目的是每一个论点都有无数的论据来支撑，这就是本书的特点之一——用事实说话。托福作文题目要求有细节支撑，而这也正是美国人喜欢并习惯的写法。中国人写中国的高考作文，永远都比美国人写中国的高考作文地道且熟悉，反之也一样。我相信，美国人写出来的那数不胜数的例子总有一个适合你的文章，但愿这些事例能为你的托福甚至塞达（SAT）作文增色。

写遍了无数汉语文章的中国学生，对于结构、过渡、主题这些词语都不陌生，我们从小就被教育：结构要清晰，过渡要自然，主题要明确，这些都可以顺理成章地应用到托福作文中去，只需要经验，只需要动笔。

论据、细节、事例可以靠背诵；结构、过渡、主题这些锦上添花的东西可以靠经验，可是语言要靠什么呢？怎么才能写得“好”呢？答案很简单：多读多写，勤写苦读巧分析，从此刻开始，从此书开始。

出一本书是体力上的消耗，出一本好书是体力加脑力的折磨，而出一本令众生受益的好书则是良心加道义上的驱使。托福作文最难的是什么？答案数不胜数，然而世上无难事，只怕有心人，愿本书不仅让你成为高分考生，还成为有心人。

本书特点

√应接不暇的**detail**（细节）：考场上搜肠刮肚，脑袋里依然空空如也不知道举什么例子的时候，想想本书中的**detail**，会不会柳暗花明又一村了呢？

√无需担心的**language**（语言）：谁用谁知道，高分作文到手后记得告诉大家：英美籍人士的语言真不是盖的。

√简单明了的**structure**（结构）：不需要费尽心机去分析文章的段落结构，一看就明白。

√环环紧扣的**topic**（主题）：说得再多再好，也不会跑题。

关于写作^①的“速成方法论”简述^②

我想用这篇简短的文章，尝试向同学们描述关于托福写作的一些基本想法，并且解答这样的一个“常见”问题：“如果托福写作分数提高真的有速成，那这条捷径应该是什么？”

目标明确是成功的前提：我们现在坐在一起，是想尝试讨论“怎样才能写出一篇高分的托福作文”。显然首先应该分析清楚“ETS官方对于高分作文的判定标准”（以下内容摘自《新托福官方指南（第三版）》（英文版）P209）：

- **effectively addresses the topic and task;**
 - **is well organized and well developed, using clearly appropriate explanations, exemplifications, and/or details;**
 - **displays unity, progression, and coherence;**
 - **displays consistent facility in the use of language, demonstrating syntactic variety, appropriate word choice, and idiomaticity, though it may have minor lexical or grammatical errors.**
-

我们依据上文，逐条解释：

effectively addresses the topic and task:

这条标准，说的是要求作文“切题”。恰当的开题源于仔细的审题。我并不认为这一点对于同学们来说会是困难，托福的写作无非是问你是否同意某个特定的观点，只要题目中的单词大部分都认识（这只需要普通的高中词汇量就能做到），理解上就不应有误差^③。

但值得注意的是，对于某些特定的、看似能够从“两个或者更多角度来分开阐述”的话题，无论选择其中的哪一个角度（甚至两个角度都讨论到），也都可算“切题”。

以如下这个题目为例：

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? **Parents are the best teachers.** Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

对于上题，有同学会从the best这个点来入手，讨论“父母是否最好（比别人更优）的老师”；也有同学会从parents这个点来入手，讨论是否“所有的父母都是好老师”：其实以上的两种想法都毫无问题，符合“切题”的要求——甚至是这两点在同一篇文章之中出现也可以。

is well organized and well developed, using clearly appropriate explanations, exemplifications, and/or details:

ETS给出的第二条标准，直译过来唤作“良好的组织，良好的发展，并且使用了恰当的阐述、举例和/或细节”。我想把这条标准分为两个部分，前半部分称为“条理清晰”，后半部分称为“言之有物”。若只有条理，没有内容，文章难免陷入空泛，读者则味同嚼蜡，毫无趣味；若只有内容，没有条理，则会让读者觉得一团乱麻，不知所言；两者着实缺一不可——想要做到这一点，我们当然需要狠下些工夫。

displays unity, progression, and coherence:

ETS所给出的第三条标准，是要求文章展现出良好的“统一、发展和连贯性”：总的来说，就是要求“行文流畅”。我以为，这一要求十分严苛，绝非一朝一夕所能练就。

当我们触及“行文流畅”与“统一性”的话题，就有一个绕不开的名词——“模板作文”。模板，是指在考试之前，预先准备好精美甚至精妙的“通用”句型以及结构，等上考场之时，无论话题如何，都循例将模板中相应的内容敲入文章，以期获得高分。我以为，“模板作文”是一个很值得“再商榷”的方法：其“利”未见，其“害”无穷。

其实，ETS在《新托福官方指南（第三版）》英文版P207页，曾经有专门针对模板的论述：

Do not “memorize” long introductory and concluding paragraphs just to add words to your essay. Raters will not look favorably on wordy introductory and concluding paragraphs such as the following:

“The importance of the issue raised by the posed statement, namely creating a new holiday for people, cannot be underestimated as it concerns the very fabric of society.

As it stands, the issue of creating a new holiday raises profound implications for the future. However, although the subject matter in general cannot be dismissed lightly, the perspective of the issue as presented by the statement raises certain qualms regarding practical application.”...

同学们可以看到ETS的鲜明表态：

“.....不要仅仅为了增加文字字数而死记硬背一些冗长的首、末段，评分人员不会看好如下的累赘段落”，而后面跟的，不正是一个经典的首段模板④么？官方对于模板的反对态度不可谓不坚决。

“那么文勇，如果我自己写一个模板呢？不使用网络上所流行的模板，花大心血完全由自己制作的模板，独此一份，精美无比，绝对不会出现雷同！”

问题是即便是自己制作的模板，依旧十分危险：模板的真正危险，并不来自雷同（官方根本不可能每天上网收集这诸多新流行的作文模板），而来自源于“模板行文”所带来的“行文不流畅和不统一”。还记得我们正在讨论的“统一性和一致性”的话题么？由于模板作文中“模板内容”和“非模板内容”在句型结构等诸多方面差别巨大，风格迥异，因此造成“低分”也就在所难免了。

“老刘，你所说的危险无非是由于提前准备的模板和其他自己临场发挥所写的结构和内容不一致、不流畅，所以导致了低分。那如果我把模板中的内容转化为和我临场发挥内容一样的句型结构，不就把这个问题解决了么？”

嗯，这倒是个好主意。不过既然内容和你临场写的一样，你还提前准备“模板”干吗呢？

另外，基于我们正在讨论的托福作文“一致性和流畅性”这一点，我还想与大家聊一下关于“机经”准备的话题。（所谓的“机经”复习法，就是基于“托福考试可能重复以往考题”的特点，在考试前专门准备十篇左右的作文，希望正式考试时能够碰上已经准备过的考题。同样的做法在学生准备GRE的AW作文过程之中也常被使用，又称为“高频考题”备考法。）

只复习机经预测的考题（或者押宝于机经重复考题），无论最终是否遇到准备过的题目，都很有可能导致悲剧般的分数。因为同学们可能遇到的情况无非这样几种：

- 若考试时未能遇上机经重复，自然会心情低落，阵脚大乱，考试成绩很难理想；
- 若考试时的确遇上机经重复，而题目恰好提前写过一遍，但没有进行过精心修改与雕琢，于是在考试之时，无非将已有水平在考试之中又复制了一遍，分数也只应该是真实水平的体现；

- 若考试时的确遇上机经重复，而题目非但提前写过，而且也都逐句逐词地细致雕琢过，最终分数可能依旧未必理想。这个糟糕情况往往缘于：我们不可能把所有的内容都完整地背诵下来——能够复制你精雕细琢过部分的三分之二就已经很不容易了。于是最终呈现在考官面前的文章可能是这样的：特定的一些句子因为经过了雕琢，显得十分的优异，但是另外的一部分句子可能由于考试的时候心情紧张而只是临时拼凑，写得不那么精彩。这下完蛋了：我们在没有使用模板的情况下，居然很有可能被考官们认定为模板的痕迹很重，文章的“一致性和统一性”严重缺乏，分数难免悲剧。

·displays consistent facility in the use of language, demonstrating syntactic variety, appropriate word choice, and idiomaticity, though it may have minor lexical or grammatical errors.

ETS所给出的第四条标准，强调的是“良好的语言能力”，无论是“多样性”和“恰当性”，都不易于达到。而且大家需要注意的是，要想体现自身的语言“掌控能力”，方法的确并不唯一：有些满分作文以“精妙”取胜，使用诸多复杂句型（常被人戏称为“炫技”派）来展现语言水平；也有人使用“简明质朴”的句子，清楚地表达自己的含义，往往也能够取得近乎满分的成绩——可谓条条大路通罗马。但任意一条道路的修建，都不是一天达成的。我并不是认为语言不重要，但语言的确不是在短期取得分数飞跃的突破口。

我们的目标很清楚，想要找到一条“尽可能快的”提高“写作分数”的路径。（原谅我在这里暂时比较功利地不以“写作能力”而是以“写作分数”作为标准来讨论这个问题。）我们把以上的标准逐一列举：“良好的审题”不需要花很多工夫就能做到；短时间内提高语言能力并且实现行文流畅的风格又不容易做到（至少文勇很难带领学生在短时间内做到），于是我想，如果最终准备作文考试的时间不超过两个月，最应该花时间的，就是让自己的文章能够做到“条理清晰”和“言之有物”。

让我调换一下讲解的顺序——先与诸位讨论如何使自己的文章“言之有物”，再讨论如

“ “ “ “

何使自己的文章在 言之有物 的基础上 条理清晰 。

我们先从“言之有物”开始说起。

“言之有物”，简单地说就是需要在我们构建的文章之中，呈现足够丰富的信息来支撑自身的观点——关键之处在于如何“收集信息”。我在与我的学生们讨论这个问题时，有这样的两个关键词，其一为“专注”，另一为“发散”。这是两个看似方向完全相悖的词，怎么可能是统一的原则呢？听我慢慢道来。

所谓“专注”，是指“一次收集只为一个观点，一次行文只为一个主题”。应该指出的是，同学们在写文章时，最容易犯的错误，是思维四海云游，觉得自己有好多想法似乎都与话题相关，又觉得似乎每一个想法都需要得到论证，思绪紊乱，无从下笔。对于这种情况，我常建议我的学生们在动笔前（无论是着手撰写一篇文章抑或只是构造一个段落），心里默念这样的一句话（如果是刚刚开始练习，还容易走神的话，甚至可以考虑在纸面上写下来）：

My purpose is to _____ my audience that _____.

构造一篇文章，我们从最开始就应该想清楚，我的目标是什么？我是否“观点/目的明确”地想要讨论何种内容？

“老刘，你让我观点‘明确’，是否意味着作文中的观点就一定要‘一边倒’呢？”

当然不是！诸位需要格外注意的是：观点要“明确”其实并不意味着观点要“极端”。一个典型的托福写作题目往往是这样问道：

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “观点A”。Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

这时，如下三种情况都属于观点明确的情形：

·“我的文章观点很明确：我同意A。”

·“我的文章观点很明确：我反对A。”

·“我的文章观点很明确：我既不完全同意A，也不完全反对A。”

我以为，“观点明确”是一篇优秀的托福作文极其重要的前提条件，所以请允许我多唠叨几句关于文中“让步”句（有时可能是“让步段”）的话题。

在我们行文时，明确支持自己的观点自然是必不可少的，但有时候我们为了保持“严谨”^⑤，也会写到一些句子（甚至段落），来讨论自己观点的缺陷（有时是对方观点的优势）。在此过程中最常见的错误是：只简单地承认自己观点的缺陷（或是赞同对方观点的优势）。而真正正确的做法应该是：描述并承认自己观点的缺陷（或是赞同对方观点的优势），但应该将重心放在描述缺点（或者对方优势）“小”或者“可以被克服”上——因为一篇文章中的所有内容（即便只是让步段）都应该是用于支持（而不是削弱）文章中心。可以说：文中若有段落是“承认自己观点的缺陷”——这显然是对己方观点的削弱（压根就不应该出现），而如果文中出现段落是在强调己方观点的缺陷小或缺陷可以被克服，则依旧是强调自己观点的“优势”（缺点小不就是优势么？）。

举例：ETS在一篇讨论风力发电的文章之中，主观点明确——风力发电是很好的电力来源。在这样的前提条件下，文章讨论到“风力发电会将鸟儿杀死这一广受环境保护主义者诟病的缺陷时”，用的是这样的一句话：

Responding to environmentalists concerned about birds killed by wind turbines, analysts point to other human developments that are even more dangerous to birds.

的确，这句话指出了风力发电的一大缺陷：“风力发电会危害鸟类”。但是本句真正着重描述的是“风力发电相比较于其他的人类发展方式来说，缺点已经算是很小的了”——反过来想，这不也正是风力发电的“优势”所在么？

再举另一个更为“现实”的、以后诸位同学可能会遇到的例子：“推荐信”。无疑，任何老师推荐信的观点都是清楚的：被推荐人很优秀，很适合到贵校读书。（否则你还会找该老师写推荐信么？）既然如此，文中自然少不了对学生的“吹捧”，文章的展开无非是根据该学生“优点一”，“优点二”，“优点三”。但无论是否只是为了装装样子，推荐信之中都很容易会出现一个这样的段落：

“当然了，该学生还是有一定的缺点的。比如，由于兴趣繁多带来的对于诸多问题的浅尝辄止，又比如懒惰的特质时常展现，总喜欢懒觉……但是，这些缺点在年轻人的身上实太过于常见了，而该学生相比较而言，这些缺点还不算严重，更何况，这个学生其实已经开始尝试在克服这诸多的问题。”

同学们请仔细思考，本段落添加上“但是”之后的部分，论证的效果是否大不一样？

专注带来的另一关键词是“简洁concise”（规避冗余信息）。让我们洋气一点，先引用契诃夫老师这样的一句话：

“Brevity is the sister of talent.”

对于一名优秀的作者，行文中的冗余信息是不可忍受的。“简洁”并不意味着“简短”，

每个信息的出现都有其必要性，文章写得很长时也可以做到很简洁。让我以一篇ETS构建的阅读文章作为例子，说明对于考生来说认识到这一点有多么重要：

One of the most puzzling aspects of the paintings is their location. Other rock paintings—for example, those of Bushmen in South Africa—are either located near cave entrances or completely in the open. Cave paintings in France and Spain, however, are in recesses and caverns far removed from original cave entrances. This means that artists were forced to work in cramped spaces and without sources of natural light. It also implies that whoever made them did not want them to be easily found. Since cave dwellers normally lived close to entrances, there must have been some reason why so many generations of Lascaux cave dwellers hid their art.

What can be inferred from paragraph 2 about cave painters in France and Spain?

◎ **They developed their own sources of light to use while painting.**

原文出自一篇阅读文章，“解題句”和“正确选项”都已经被直接标注出来了。但是对这个阅读题目，很多学生都曾提出过疑惑：

“老刘，文章之中说的是，这意味着艺术家们被迫在狭小而且没有自然光线的地方工作。这只是‘没有自然光线’而已啊，答案如何推测出‘艺术家们发展出了作画时属于自己的人造光源’？”

有这样的疑惑的同学，显然对“简洁”二字，对“每个信息的出现都需有其必要性”这一点的理解不够深刻。试比较如下两句话：

This means that artists were forced to work in cramped spaces and without sources of light.

This means that artists were forced to work in cramped spaces and without sources of natural light.

如果文中是准备强调，画家们学会了“摸黑画画”，就应该直接说“without sources of light”；如果文中是准备强调画家们拥有除了“自然光线”之外的其他光源，应该说“without sources of Natural light”。回想一些更加通俗的例子吧：如果有人问你，“会开车么？”你的回答是，“我不会开丰田车”，你是否在暗示你会开其他品牌的车？如果有人问你，“带钱了么？”你的回答是，“没带美元”，你是否在暗示你带了其他币种？如果我们在说光线的时候，额外强调没有“自然”光线，我们又在暗示什么呢？

如果我们尝试更深刻地去理解“信息的冗余”，大家会发现，“冗余”的问题在“举例”时也是一个大话题。什么样的举例是好的举例？

“没有冗余信息，论证方向明确”

让我来把这一点讲解得更加细致一些。如下是一个十分“著名”的描述伽利略生平的段落——很多学生朋友都曾经背诵如下段落（或者类似的其他段落），来帮助在考试中遇到不同话题时，都用伽利略的生平来论证：

Galileo Galilei, commonly known as Galileo, was an Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher who played a major role in the Scientific Revolution. His achievements include improvements to the telescope and consequent astronomical observations, and support for Copernicanism. Galileo has been called the “father of modern observational astronomy” and the “father of modern physics”. Stephen Hawking says, “Galileo, perhaps more than any other single person, was responsible for the birth of modern science.” A biography by Galileo's pupil Vincenzo Viviani stated that Galileo had dropped balls of the same material, but different masses, from the Leaning Tower of Pisa^⑥ to demonstrate that their time of descent was independent of their mass. This was contrary to what Aristotle had taught: that heavy objects fall faster than lighter ones, in direct proportion to weight.^⑦

在阅读完如上材料后，我们发现伽利略的生平可以用来论证诸多话题：譬如伽利略是“后人挑战前人，普通人挑战权威”的典型范例；又譬如伽利略也是“历史是否会由于个人而发生巨大变化”的良好题材；再譬如伽利略并没有按照家里建议和背景从商，而选择了自己的爱好开始研究科学，这更是有关“选择”话题的绝佳素材。尽管伽利略的案例能够用于论证诸多的话题，但在不同的情况下，应该描绘的语句并不相同。譬如，如果要讨论“挑战权威”这一点，就应该花时间描述伽利略在物理学领域当时只是无名小卒，而不应该强调他是多么著名的物理学家（这些部分属于冗余不明确的部分），更多地，我们应该描述的是他所挑战的亚里士多德是伟大的物理学家；相反地，如果我们在文中是要强调伽利略由于遵循自己的正确选择而获得了巨大成功，当然就应该更多地描述他是多么伟大的物理学家——同样的内容在这里就不再冗余了。

我们来开始讨论“收集信息”过程中的另一个关键词“发散”^⑧。

“发散”听起来似乎与“专注”正好相悖，但此时我们所提及的“发散”，是指在前文我们所讨论的“专注”条件下的“发散”。

发散的第一个要点，当然是尽可能多地收集所有相关材料，甚至应该是“**the more, the better**”。而且在这个阶段的练习中，我有这样一个小技巧要分享：“千万不能放过看到话题后首先想起的内容——甚至其他信息的发展，都最好从第一个话题衍生出去。”其实在真实的考试过程中，不少学生因为举例不当而没有获得好的分数，这并不是因为学生想不到恰当的例子，而是因为学生觉得以自己的语言水平，描述另外一个简单（但可能不那么恰当）的例子会更加轻松——甚至临时决定更换或者是胡诌出来一个例子。人人都知道“伽利略”和“亚里士多德”的故事可以很好地帮助讨论“挑战权威”的话题，但是你真的确认自己敢于在考试时拼写“**Galileo Galilei**”及“**Aristotle**”这两个单词么？这件小事情其实给了诸位一个简单的暗示：平时训练时，应该好好地写一写那些你对于这个话题最想写的例子（至少从你的角度来讲，是论证效果最好的例子），而不是很轻松地去写一个你最容易写的例子——不要怕查字典，不要怕翻阅资料，这些苦工夫会对大家的文章在论证效果上大有裨益。

发散的第二个要点是更深层次的问题：

我该如何确认收集的信息是“无遗漏的”而且“足够的”？

其实，同学们之所以会产生这个疑惑，担心信息是否“遗漏”，是否“充足”，关键在于已经收集到的信息之间好像“层次不一，杂乱无章”。（当然这没有什么好羞愧的，老刘在面对一个新问题或话题时，涌入脑海中的信息也应该是无序的——有一些是分论点，另一些可能是论证观点的例子，又或是一些背景知识等等）。这时，我们只是需要一个方法来整理、补充和完善我们的信息收集体系而已。

如何改进？可能的方法是“金字塔原则(Pyramid Principles)”。

“金字塔原则（Pyramid Principles）”可能是麦肯锡公司用来“卖钱”的分析工具中最著名的一个——这或许得益于一本叫做《麦肯锡方法——金字塔原则》的畅销书。

有时候我们觉得很困惑，麦肯锡（或类似的战略咨询公司）到底做对了什么？它们看似没有提供实际的商品但却获利颇多：我所认识的朋友中就有花重金请麦肯锡来分析近况，做战略咨询。一开始我认定这是一个笑话：一个公司的老总，对一个完全由他自己所创立的公司，居然还需要让别人来进行分析和总结（更要命的是，他请过来的麦肯锡可能在咨询之前，对这个企业根本不甚了解）。麦肯锡到底做对了什么，可以让人心服口服？

原因：麦肯锡能够极好地利用包括“金字塔原则”在内的各种严谨的方式，收集数据，分析信息并做出决策。

听完了金字塔原则的大来头之后，让我们慢慢地阐述这个原则，并且试着思考一下，这个大来头的金字塔原则究竟能够给我们托福作文的构造带来什么。

所谓的金字塔原则，是指一件事情（或一个观点）可以被分为三五个分论点，而每个分论点又可以由三五个论据支撑，如此延伸，宛如金字塔一般。而在金字塔原则之中，最重要的要求是MECE（Mutually Exclusive and Collectively Exhaustive），可以译成：“相互独立和完全穷尽”。

“相互独立”，指的是一旦信息被摆放在同一个层级，那么同层信息之间应该相互独立（而不是相互交叉或是包含的）。对于作者来说，分论点之间达成相互独立，能够使得我们的论证过程不做无用功，换句话说，这是“**concise**”原则的另一个角度的体现。这一条如果没有达成，就容易在写文章中出现“车轱辘话”——让别人觉得（甚至是自己也这样觉得），文章翻来覆去地都在“同义改写(paraphrase)”同一句话，文章自然没有纵深。

“完全穷尽”，指的是在同一个层级之内，应该包含该层级之中所有的方面，能够做到不遗漏，不误事儿。假定我们将写文章的过程简单地置换成为说服别人（也就是读者）的过程，做到“完全穷尽”是为了让别人不发出“这个方面你并没有讨论到啊”的诟病。也正因为如此，在追求金字塔原则的同时，我们似乎也在对自己所收集到的信息做“查漏补缺”的工作。

我来试着举一例，期待从更加本质的角度来说一说，为什么很多文章让人觉得内容看似丰富，但却没有说服力，并且也给出我心中的修改意见。如下是一名比较优秀的学生，在写关于“为何要反对Teenage Smoking”时所列出的文章大纲：

Teenage Smoking

1. Introduction;

2. One negative effect is addiction, not habit;
 - (1) First fact related to addiction;
 - (2) Second fact related to addiction.
 3. Negative effect two is long-term health consequences;
 - (1) Lung diseases;
 - (2) Heart disease.
 4. Negative effect three is the cost to taxpayers;
 - (1) How much;
 - (2) Why is this bad.
 5. Conclusion.
-

应该说,一个学生能够在考试时想到这样多的内容并且列成提纲,已经是很不易,而眼前的提纲至少看上去结构清晰。但不得不指出的是,本文的提纲会给读者留下许多问题:

· 第一个“negative effect”和第二个“negative effect”讲的像是同一件事情,又似乎是一件事情的两个方面,又像是互为因果关系——至少不是文章结构中所体现出来那样的简单并列关系;

· 第三个“negative effect”和前面两点感觉并不属于同一个范畴;

· 这篇文章感觉并没有讨论应该涉及的所有方面——而且作者似乎都没有意识到这点。

如果要改写本文,在完全不增加新信息的情况下,可能会这样组织已有的信息:

· 吸烟对于人“身体”健康方面有很深的影响;

o lung diseases

o heart diseases

· 吸烟对于人“精神”健康方面有很深的影响;

o addiction, not habit

· 吸烟除了对吸烟者“自身”很有影响外,对“他人乃至社会”也有不好的影响。

o cost to taxpayers

想来同学们已经发现,“改写后的提纲”与“改写前的提纲”在内容上并无变化,但改后清晰程度会好得多。在危害方面,文章先讲了两点,其一是“身体健康”,其二是“精神”健康(利用“身体”与“精神”的分类来暗示读者,自己讨论的话题在同一层面上已经做到“相互独立”,“完全穷尽”),随后又将前两点归结于“对个人危害”层面,因此引出“对集体危害”层面(利用“个人”与“集体”的分类,再次暗示读者,在新的层面上依旧做到了“相互独立”,“完全穷尽”):利用金字塔原则来收集、组织信息,条理清晰,说服力强是必然的效果。

为了更好地阐述和理解金字塔原则,我们引入这个写作工具:“分类/定义”。

让我们重新回到“吸烟”的例子,诸位会发现,为了达成金字塔原则,我们的提纲改写过程,其实就是一个在文中加入“分类/定义”的过程,利用了两个层次的分类“身体/精神”以及“个人/集体”来帮助组织文章内容。

其实从另一层面来讲,“分类/定义”的过程之所以重要,是因为对于任意的文章来说,圈定讨论范围都是重要的。我们需要通过这样的方法来告诉读者,将要讨论的内容是哪些(也就等于说清楚了哪些内容不在讨论范围之内),并且更进一步通过“分类/定义”的方法展现给读者,我们在圈定的讨论范围之内良好地达成了金字塔原则之中的MECE(相互独立和完全穷尽)。亲爱的同学们,“分类/定义”的好处也在于规避我们写文章时想要把话题中所有沾边的方面都讨论到的错误倾向。托福写作的时间有限,篇幅亦有限,盲目追求“所有方面”,恐怕最终只能导致每一个内容都极其空泛,毫无说服力可言,而且在写文章时甚至有疲于奔命^⑨的感觉。

“金字塔原则”及其相应的MECE原则,还能够指导我们构建“并列”、“递进”和“转折”的关系——这三种关系正好是一篇观点明确文章的“分论点之间所有可能存在的关系”——能够写出真正优秀的“并列”、“递进”和“转折”句/段/关系,文章也就成功了一半。

如果信息前后感情色彩一致,而且角度相同,应该使用并列。

Absenteeism and lateness hurt productivity and, since work was specialized, disrupted the regular factory routine.

在这句话之中,显然, and 前后的感情色彩是一致的,都是表示这两种情况(无论是absenteeism还是lateness都会对一个情况造成“不好”的影响),而讨论问题的角度都是一致的,都是在讨论工厂之中的生产问题(只不过是用的指标不一致而已)。

如果感情色彩一致,但是角度不同,应该使用递进。

It is not enough to avoid being clinically obese, even just a bit overweight.

这句话应该是良好的递进。为什么这样说呢？其实这两句话感情色彩是一致的，显然，作者对于肥胖的憎恶是肯定的，但是，这两句话讨论问题的角度已经不一致了。如果感情色彩不一致，但是角度相同，应该使用转折。

The labor movement made progress in the decade before the Panic of 1837, but in the depression that followed, labor's strength collapsed.

这句话是优秀的转折，因为前后感情色彩是相悖的，前半部分说的是工人运动取得进展，而后半部分则是工人运动的衰落，但是角度是类似的，都是探讨工人运动的话题。

这时，一定会出现这样的问题：为什么我们在分类时，偏偏少了一类呢？为什么老刘并没有提及“感情色彩并不相同，角度也并不相同”的情况呢？那不也是转折么？诸位关注一下如下的句子，就能理解，写文章时不应该也不能够出现“感情色彩不相同，角度也并不相同”的情况——那将会导致语意上的断层现象。

The labor movement made progress in the decade before the Panic of 1837, but in the depression that followed, Hossam Zaki lost his seat in the Parliament at the election.

其实，要想使得这个句子恢复成为良好的转折，只需要使得转折之后的部分体现从labor movement 问题的角度讨论，比如给Hossam Zaki这个人加上一个简单的定语，告诉大家Hossam Zaki这个人其实是一位工人运动的领袖就可以了。

当我们讨论之后发现，其实我们所能够写的文章（观点之间）居然都只是“并列”、“递进”和“转折”的排列组合时，你可能会问：

在这三种关系之中，有没有那种关系是被偏爱的呢？

“递进”和“转折”的确比“并列”在行文过程之中更受推崇。为什么？听我逐一分析：“并列”^⑩，意味着思维平行，这也就意味思维深度上并没有增加；而“递进”则与上面的情况并不一致，它可以让人们觉得思维深度有所增加；如果是“转折”概念，则会让人觉得你的思维很严谨。换句话说，递进可以让别人觉得你的想法很“深邃”，而转折则容易让别人评价你的想法很“严谨”。

当我这篇简单的“速成”方法论的文章即将到达尾声，我想明确表示，如上内容其实并没有包括提高托福写作能力的方方面面——而只是讨论了可能见效较快的几个小方面而已。当你已经完成了托福写作的考试，大可以忘记这篇文章中所讨论的话题，好好读一些文章，模仿一些文章，慢慢修订，方能大成。

注释

① 限于篇幅，此处所讨论的“托福作文”，只包含真实考试过程之中的“独立写作”部分；“综合写作”部分留给《新托福真题详解——综合写作分卷》来讨论。

② 在乐闻携尔教师经验交流会上，同仁们多次对本文提出了修订意见，在此表示感谢。

③ 作为一种语言能力测试，托福考试并不打算在审题上为难考生——考试真正关注的是“阐述简单话题时的语言掌控能力”，相比较而言，SAT/GRE等考试在审题上存在更高的要求。

④ 这样段落中的语句一般的学生还写不出来呢。

⑤ 关于“严谨”，常被解读为Critical Thinking的一种——这在托福考试之中并没有被额外强调——但在GRE/SAT等作文考试中，Critical Thinking则被重点考查。

⑥ 伽利略是否真的曾经登上“比萨斜塔”进行过这次实验，在科学史上仍有争议，本文避而不谈。

⑦ 本段材料引自维基百科http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galileo_Galilei。

⑧ “发散”的训练体系过长，因此有鉴于文章篇幅，此处只能概述。

⑨ 如果大家觉得毫无方向，可以着重考虑如下可能的递进方向：“微观”与“宏观”；“轻微”与“严重”；“物质”与“精神”；“简单”与“复杂”；“已知”与“未知”；“次要”与“重要”；“一般”与“具体”；“过去”、“现在”与“将来”。

⑩ 在实际的行文过程之中，经常使用“并列”来表示强调。

2005年11月19日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities should give the same amount of money to their students' sports activities as they give to their university libraries. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

The purpose of an institution that calls itself a "university" is to produce graduates who have been exposed to a wide variety of learning experiences. A true university should attempt to mold its students into scholars who are also "well-rounded" advocates of athletics. In this respect, then, universities most assuredly should fund sports activities and libraries in equal measure.

How do university students benefit from university-funded sports programs? Students participating in organized university sports learn many useful interpersonal skills that will be of benefit to them in their future careers. A student on the track team, for example, will learn how to strive for a specific goal with persistence and fortitude. A student on the basketball team will learn that teamwork may be more important than individual performance. And the benefits do not just accrue to the students who actually play the sports—the spectators also learn about loyalty and encouragement, as well as good sportsmanship in the face of defeat.

Of course, the university's libraries must also receive sufficient funding to provide students with extensive resources for acquiring knowledge. Indeed, the most prestigious universities owe a significant amount of their fame to the size of their libraries' collections. In 2008, for example, Harvard's library boasted over 16 million volumes; the Bodleian Library of Oxford University has over 11 million items. Despite the easy availability of research tools on the Internet, a "bricks and mortar" campus library remains a haven for students who relish the thought of turning the pages of a work by Shakespeare or Stephen Hawking in an atmosphere of quiet contemplation.

But it is not necessary that the university split its funding for sports and libraries right down the middle: Many university sports activities generate their own income, which can add considerably to the budget's bottom line. At a typical American university, particularly a public university (such as Ohio State or the University of Texas), the sports programs are significantly underwritten by the citizens of the community. "Booster clubs" also generate revenue by recruiting "season ticket subscribers" who receive season passes, the best seats, and other amenities.

So we can see that there really is not much of a dilemma here: The library should continue to receive the same amount of funding as the sports programs—it's just that the budget for the sports activities will include external sources of revenue, such as ticket sales and donor contributions. If its funds are apportioned wisely, there is no reason a university cannot adequately support both its sports programs as well as its libraries. As its name indicates, a university should provide a "universe" of knowledge—both in the classroom and on the court.^①

译文

你是否同意以下观点？大学应该在体育活动与图书馆建设方面投入同样多的资金。你的观点如何？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

大学的办学目的在于培养具有广泛而多样学习经历的毕业生。真正的大学应该在致力于把自己的学生培养成为出色的学者的同时，还培养他们成为全面发展和热爱体育的学生。从这个方面来讲，大学确实应该在体育活动和图书馆建设方面投入同样多的资金。

大学生如何从学校投资的体育项目中受益呢？通过参加学校组织的各项体育活动，大学生可以培养自己的人际交往能力，这将有利于他们未来的事业发展。例如，田径队的学生，通过田径这项运动，他们能学到为了实现目标而坚持不懈和不屈不挠的精神。而篮球队的学生能体会到团队合作的重要性，明白团队合作比个人表现更为重要。不仅参与体育活动的学生可以受益，观赛者也可以从中了解忠诚和相互鼓励的重要性，体会运动员面对失败时保持的良好的体育精神。

当然，大学也必须在学校图书馆建设方面投入足够的资金，为学生获取知识提供丰富的资源。确实，享有盛誉的大学都因为本校馆藏量丰富的图书馆而享誉全球。例如，在2008年，哈佛大学称本校图书馆图书册数突破1 600万册，而牛津大学的博德利图书馆则已超过1 100万册。尽管网络为我们提供了许多便利的研究工具，但校园图书馆对那些享受在静谧的环境中一页页翻阅莎士比亚或斯蒂芬·霍金作品的学生来说，仍旧是人间天堂。

但是大学不必将体育项目和图书馆建设的资金恰好一分为二：许多体育活动本身就能创造收益，这些收入可以增加学校的预算底线中。在典型的美国大学里，尤其是公立大学（比如俄亥俄州立大学和得克萨斯大学），体育项目被社区居大量承保了。后援会还通过吸引“季票预约者”创造收益，这些预订者可以获得季票、最好的座位和其他的便利。

所以我们可以看到，确实没有必要陷入两难境地：图书馆和体育项目应该得到同样的资金投入——只是体育活动的预算应包含体育活动的外部收入，比如门票收入和捐款。如果学校的资金分配合理，它完全可以同时支持这两个方面。正如它的名字所示，一所大学，应该为学生提供全面的教育，无论是在教室里还是在运动场上。

注释

^① 该句话的字面意思是：正如它的名字所示，一所大学（a university）应该提供全面（universe取university前缀，意为全域、宇宙、全世界、全面等）的教育，不管是在教室里还是在运动场上。

2005年12月17日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? These days, we have so many sources of news and information that we can hardly tell which one is reliable or who is telling the truth. Use specific reasons or examples to support your ideas.

"Man came by to hook up my cable TV
We settled in for the night my baby and me
We switched 'round and 'round 'til half-past dawn
There was fifty-seven channels and nothin' on."

In this humorous song, Bruce Springsteen is mocking a situation that present-day media users know all too well: Just because there is a lot of information out there, there is no guarantee that anything you find will be true or useful.

This glut of information, especially in cyberspace, poses serious problems for serious researchers. How is one to determine the validity of resources on the Internet? Take Wikipedia, for example, which describes itself as "an open source web-based online encyclopedia." The site continues: "Today Wikipedia includes 15 million freely usable articles in over two hundred languages worldwide, and content from a million registered user accounts and countless anonymous contributors." Ay, there's the rub. Who are these "anonymous contributors"? Why won't they tell us their names? Is it because they are simply too modest to boast about their talents? Or is it because they are making up most of what they write?

The ease with which professional writers can access information from the Internet also leads us—on too many occasions—to suspect the veracity of their output. More and more often, we hear horror stories of journalists who have had to resign their posts because they were caught plagiarizing from another news reporter's work. In recent years, for example, a journalist at the Seattle Times newspaper was accused of inserting paragraphs that he himself did not write into an article under his own byline. When confronted, the journalist replied in his defense, "It was obviously a cut-and-paste job; I probably used a number of wire stories and other sources and carelessly squished them all together when I wrote the story."

Teachers know all too well the hazards of allowing their students to do research on the Web. Too many students seem to think that "cutting and pasting" a section of someone else's work into your own paper is just "paraphrasing" the original source. In 2003, Donald L. McCabe, the founder of the Center for Academic Integrity (C.A.I.) at Duke University, estimated that 40% of college students admitted to plagiarizing their assignments. No doubt that number is even higher now.

So what can be done about this unchecked flood of useless (and sometimes outright false) information? The answer is clear, "Researcher beware." We need to become more discerning readers and consumers of information, open to all aspects of a particular topic, unwilling to accept statements as fact until we can verify them for ourselves, and suspicious of anything that is too popular, too accepted, too good to be true.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？现在，我们每天都接触大量新闻和信息，以至于不能确定哪些信息是真实的，谁说的话又是值得相信的。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

“电信工人给我家装上了有线电视
夜里，我和宝贝终于安定下来
我们一圈一圈地调着电视频道直到半夜
57个频道，没有一个可以看的。”

通过这首诙谐的歌曲，布鲁斯·斯普林斯汀嘲笑了现在媒体用户都极为清楚的一种社会现象：因为信息太多，所以不能确定哪些信息是真实的，哪些是有用的。

过剩的信息，特别是网络信息，给严谨的研究人员带来了严重的问题。我们怎么确定

网络信息来源的有效性？以维基百科为例，它把自己描述为“一本来源开放的网络在线百科全书”。该网站还说：“至今，在全球范围内，维基百科拥有1 500多万篇自由使用的条目，这些条目被译成200多种语言，由百万注册用户以及数不清的匿名用户贡献编写。”问题就在这里，谁是这些匿名奉献者？为什么他们不告诉我们真实的姓名？难道因为他们过于谦虚，以至于不想向世人炫耀他们的才能？抑或是因为他们所提供的信息其实大多是自己杜撰的？

很多时候，职业写作者轻易引用网络的信息也不禁令我们对其作品的真实性产生怀疑。我们越来越频繁地听到关于新闻工作者的可怕的传闻。因为被发现剽窃了别人的作品，他们不得不辞掉工作。例如近几年，一名《西雅图时报》的记者被控告在一篇署自己名字的文章中插入了一些不是自己原创的段落。在当面对质的时候，他辩解道：“很显然它就是一个复制、粘贴的工作，在我写这个故事的时候，很有可能是把一些专线报道和别的来源不经意地组合在一起。”

老师们深知让自己的学生在网络上做研究的危害。太多学生似乎认为，把别人作品中的某些材料直接引用到自己的论文中，就是对原始材料的解释说明。2003年，杜克大学学术诚信中心的创始人唐纳德·L·麦凯布估计，40%的大学生承认他们的作业存在剽窃。不用说，现在这个数目甚至会更高。

那么现在该如何应对这股不加校验、无用（有时甚至是完全错误的）信息泛滥的洪流呢？答案很简单——做一个谨慎的研究者，成为对信息更有鉴别力的读者和消费者；对具体话题的每个方面持开放态度；在我们能自己证实之前，不轻易相信他人的说法；敢于怀疑那些过于流行、过于肯定、过于完美的事情的真实性。

2006年1月6日考试题

(同2006年7月15日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Nowadays, people are putting too much emphasis on appearance and fashion. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In the second act of Shakespeare's King Lear, we find the old king quarreling with his daughters Regan and Goneril, who have challenged him to justify why he "needs" all the trappings and raiment of nobility. Lear's point is that the clothing we wear serves a much larger purpose than merely protecting us from the elements—our fashions express who we are. Clothes DO "make the man" (as the old saying goes) and our modern society is no more or less obsessed with fashion than those of years gone by.

Appearance is particularly important when we are dealing with people who offer us certain services—we may not recognize the individual person, but we most assuredly recognize the uniform. Who would want to take a trip on an airplane piloted by a grubby-looking guy in cut-off jeans and a torn T-shirt? Even Southwest Airlines, which prides itself on its more relaxed and casual atmosphere, requires that its flight attendants clearly appear to be wearing a uniform. And imagine how you would feel as a patient in a hospital where the nurses and doctors were wearing ballet tutus?

The choices we make about the clothing we wear also say much about our personalities and our attitudes towards the society we live in. We no longer go to extremes of fashion to indicate our social rank (a notable exception, of course, is the Queen of England at a state ceremony—how disappointing if she didn't wear her crown!), but we do pay attention to when a more "formal" appearance is required. At a job interview, for example, it would be a very unwise choice to show up in "casual" clothes. If you want to make a good impression, you obviously need to pay particular attention to how you are dressed.

Of course, there will always be certain groups in our society who will use fashion to make a particular "statement." Tune in to any Hollywood-like event and see how amazing (and sometimes ludicrous) the stars' costumes can be. One example was the outfit worn by the Icelandic pop star Bjork at the 2001 Academy Awards, which made her look like a giant swan. Clothes will continue to "make the man" but beauty will always remain in the eye of the beholder.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？现代人过于关注外表和时尚。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在莎士比亚的《李尔王》第二幕中，老国王与他的女儿里根、高纳里尔发生争执。女儿们质问他为什么一定要穿高贵服饰。李尔王答道，穿衣除为了蔽体之外，更体现了一个人的身份。俗话说得好，“佛靠金装，人靠衣装”，我们现代人或多或少比古人更痴迷时尚。

在与为我们提供特定服务的人打交道时，一个人的着装显得尤为重要。我们可能不认识这个人，但是我们肯定熟悉他们的制服。试想一下，谁会想要搭乘一架由穿着牛仔短裤和破烂短衫，看起来很邋遢的人驾驶的飞机旅行？即便是以其轻松、随意氛围而引以为豪的美国西南航空公司也要求他们的空乘人员看起来像穿着制服。又或者当你去医院看病的时候，看到医生护士都穿着芭蕾短裙，你又作何感想？

除此之外，我们在着装上所做的决定还体现了我们的特点和处世态度。我们已不再为了标明社会等级而过分追求时尚。（当然也有例外的时候，如果英国女王没有带着皇冠出现在国家庆典上该是一件多么遗憾的事情！）但是在正式场合，我们确实会对自己的着装花点心思。比如在工作面试的时候，穿着随意的衣服就去面试绝非明智之举。如果你想给面试官留下好印象，很显然你需要格外注意着装。

当然，社会中总是存在这样一些特殊的群体，他们利用时尚来标榜个性。看一下好莱坞之类的盛事，明星们的着装多么令人惊异（有时显得很滑稽）！冰岛流行歌手比约克就

是一个鲜明的例子，在2001年奥斯卡金像奖颁奖典礼上，她的装扮使得她看起来像一只巨大的天鹅。衣装会使人们变得漂亮，但是这种美丽一直都是由旁观者来鉴定的。

2006年1月14日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Television, newspapers, magazines, and other media pay too much attention to the personal lives of famous people such as public figures and celebrities. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.

Oh, no! Lindsay Lohan has flunked out of rehab again! And Paris Hilton swears that the cocaine the cops found in her purse wasn't hers. And Prince William's fiancée (the future Queen of England—gasp!) was seen leaving a pub late at night—WITHOUT THE PRINCE! There's not a day goes by that some media outlet (People magazine and the British tabloid The Sun, to name just two out of thousands) pays contributing paparazzi handsome fees to publish their photos of famous people looking unusually ugly. The Germans call it *schadenfreude* (delight in the misery of others). Any intelligent and tolerant person should call it TMI (Too Much Information).

In the first place, the reporting of such "news" is a horrible invasion of the subject's privacy. What does it matter to a moviegoer that Lindsay Lohan is a drug addict—she's an actress, for goodness' sake; she's not the President of the United States or the Premier of China. If she gets doped up and makes a bad film, who does that hurt? The rest of us should not be obsessed with what goes on in a celebrity's private life; rather, we should perhaps thank our lucky stars that complete strangers could care less about whether we are being unfaithful to our spouses or have gained or lost too much weight.

Secondly, the veracity of such "exposés" is almost always subject to suspicion. In 1981, actress Carol Burnett won a libel judgment against a US tabloid, the National Enquirer, after the paper said she had been seen drunk in a public restaurant. In 2009, Sharon Osbourne (TV personality and wife of rocker Ozzy Osbourne) won a lawsuit against The Sun, which said that she was "driving her frail husband to destruction" and trying to keep him working until he "dies on stage." Did British soccer star David Beckham really hook up with a hooker? Did singer/actor Justin Timberlake have an affair with a model while he was going steady with Cameron Diaz? It would seem that the mass media would prefer to take a chance and publish a lie, so long as they can sell more magazines or newspapers.

There does not seem to be much hope for a re-assessment and/or retraction of such salacious (and often slanderous) stories. As the saying goes, "Any publicity—good or bad—is still publicity." Even in the early 19th century, sales of Lord Byron's racy poem, "Don Juan," shot through the roof when readers learned of his many affairs. It is left up to discerning readers to ignore the merely sensational and focus on the truly meaningful.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？电视、报纸、杂志和其他媒体过于关注名人例如公众人物和社会名流的私生活。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

噢，天啊！林赛·洛翰又从戒毒所出来了！帕里斯·希尔顿发誓说警察在她的钱包里发现的可卡因不是她的。而威廉王子的未婚妻（未来的英国王后——倒抽一口气）则被发现深夜从酒吧中出来——没有王子的陪同！每天一些新闻媒体（例如《人物》杂志和英国小报《太阳报》就是无数媒体中的其中两家）总会支付给狗仔队可观的报酬来刊登名人们看起来无比丑陋的照片。德国人称之为“幸灾乐祸”——从别人的不幸中获得乐趣。而聪明和宽容的人则称之为TMI（这是标准的美国口语，意思是告诉别人太多关于你的信息，可以被理解为：说得太多太具体了——译注）。

首先，这类报道严重侵犯了当事人的隐私。拜托，林赛·洛翰只是个女演员，她既不是美国总统也不是中国总理，即便她是个瘾君子，对电影爱好者又会有什么影响呢？如果她因为吸毒而拍了部很差劲的影片，那又能伤害谁呢？我们不应该过分关注名人的私生活；恰恰相反，也许我们应该庆幸陌生人对我们是否出轨、是胖了还是瘦了可能根本不关心。

其次，这些爆料的真实性几乎总是受到大众的质疑。1981年，在美国小报《国家询问报》报道说目睹女星卡罗·贝奈特在公共饭店喝醉酒后，卡罗·贝奈特告其诽谤并胜

诉。2009年，电视名人雪伦·奥斯本（重金属大师奥兹·奥斯本的妻子）在与《太阳报》的官司中胜诉，因为《太阳报》冠与她“摧毁脆弱丈夫”的罪名，并指责她一直逼迫自己的丈夫工作，直到死在舞台上。而英国球星大卫·贝克汉姆是否真的与妓女勾搭？歌手兼演员贾斯汀·汀伯莱克在与卡梅隆·迪亚兹交往的时候是否真的与模特有暧昧关系？看起来，只要能卖出更多的杂志或报纸，媒体就会不惜冒险报道谎言。

这种低俗的且常常诽谤性的故事一经报道便很难复查或者撤回。常言道：“宣传就是无论好坏，消息一经传播，便会广为流传。”早在19世纪早期，当读者听说了拜伦的风流韵事之后，他的特色诗《唐璜》空前大卖。能否忽略新闻的轰动性、看到那些真正有意义的消息，则取决于有辨识力的读者。

2006年1月21日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Being happy with a job is more important than having a high salary. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them," wrote Henry David Thoreau in 1854. In our modern times of economic downturns, it would seem that any job that brings in a salary (particularly a high salary) would be worth the desperation if only we could then buy things we do or do not really need. But conspicuous consumption is never quite as fulfilling as self-actualization; it is therefore much more important to feel passionate about one's job, not just one's paycheck.

Working just for the money can have serious soul-deadening repercussions: How often do we hear of a "disgruntled" employee, who feels neglected or abused by his coworkers, arriving at work one day carrying an M-16 automatic rifle? At the other extreme, how often do we hear of an employee who works at boring job for 40 years, then retires and realizes she has no idea what to do with the rest of her life?

In 1943, the psychologist Abraham Maslow published his "Hierarchy of Needs"—those elements that truly motivate us to act, whether for self-preservation or for self-fulfillment. Lowest on the pyramid is physiological—the need for food and shelter.

Highest is self-actualization—the need to use our minds to be creative and solve problems (to be all that we can be). A 2001 survey of Australian employees indicated that it was not the salary that kept the top-performing employees motivated; on the contrary, it was "career and learning opportunities" and "challenging, stretching work."

If you feel that you are wasting your life in a dead-end job, you have many options available to you, from approaching your boss with ideas for how you can make more of a creative contribution to the company, to quitting and starting your own business doing something you love to do (like leading fly-fishing tours or selling hand-made quilts at crafts fairs). The important thing is to try and take charge of your own life. Thoreau learned this lesson early in his life, and we need to follow his wise words: "I... because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life... and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

译文

你是否同意以下观点？工作愉快比获得高薪更重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

亨利·大卫·梭罗（美国作家及自然主义者——译注）在1854年写道：“大多数人都过着一种平静的绝望的生活，到死去时心中还有未唱出的歌。”在经济低迷的当代社会，一份工作能够给我们提供薪水（特别是高薪），并能让我们购买到需要或者不怎么需要的东西，即便生活在这种绝望中似乎也是值得的。然而挥霍消费绝不能如自我实现一样给我们带来满足感。所以，与追求薪水相比，能够在工作中收获激情重要得多。

只为钱工作会令我们心灵严重枯竭：我们不是常听到这样的新闻吗？一个因为被同事忽视和欺负而心生不满的员工，有一天带着M-16自动步枪去上班。另一极端方面，一位从事乏味工作四十年的员工，退休之后发现余生不知道何去何从。

1943年，美国心理学家亚伯拉罕·马斯洛发表了需求层次论，阐述了那些无论是出于求生本能还是追求自我实现而真正激发我们能动性的因素。需求金字塔的最底层是生理需求——对食物和住所的需求。金字塔的最高层是自我实现——用我们的头脑使我们自己富有创造性，解决各种问题（最大限度发掘自己的潜能）。2001年，一项在澳大利亚从业人员中进行的调查研究表明，令业绩最佳的员工保持工作积极性的并不是高额薪水，恰好相反，是事业发展和学习的机会，是富有挑战和发展空间的工作。

如果你觉得自己在一份毫无出路的工作上浪费生命，那么你有很多选择：你可以向老板表明你能为公司的发展做出更多创造性的贡献；你也可以辞去工作开始创业，做一些自己喜欢做的事情，比如从事与假蝇钓鱼相关的旅游业或者在手工艺品交易会上卖纯手工棉被。重要的是勇于尝试，掌控自己的生活。梭罗在他早年时已经意识到这一点，而我们需要记住他富有哲理的话语：“我.....是因为我想要从容不迫地生活，直面生活的本

质.....而不是到死的那一天才发现，自己其实没有真正活过。”

2006年2月3日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Young people enjoy life better than older people. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.

On one of his fabulous journeys, Jonathan Swift's fictional explorer Gulliver visits an island where the Struldbrugs live. Gulliver has been told that the Struldbergs are immortal, and he imagines how wonderful it would be to live forever. But when he actually meets the Struldbergs, he finds them to be depressed and suicidal because, although they cannot die, they cannot stop aging either. What's the point of immortal life, Swift indicates, if you cannot be in good enough physical shape to enjoy it? Older people may appreciate the wisdom that comes with age, but younger folks enjoy much more the very fact of being alive.

It mostly comes down to physical fitness. A healthy young man in his twenties, say, who breaks his leg skiing, will typically undergo a pretty short healing period before he is on the slopes again. In the meantime, he can get around quite easily on crutches. A 55-year-old skier, on the other hand, who takes a tumble, is probably looking at a rather long recovery period, disability leave from work, and a leg that will never be quite the same again. A woman might like to hang out at night clubs with her other 18-year-old friends till the wee hours of the morning until she turns 50 and realizes that she needs to be in bed by 10 in order to function the next day.

Young people are also typically more attracted to risk-taking than people of "a certain age." If, for example, a twenty-something entrepreneur takes a chance on a new idea and then fails miserably, he can say to himself, "Well, no problem. There are lots more opportunities ahead for me to achieve great success." Thomas Edison tried over 1,000 different materials until he found the one that worked as the filament for the electric light bulb. He published his patent in 1879, when he was 32 years old. He must have thought he had plenty of time to experiment.

An old saying goes, "Youth is wasted on the young." By the time we know what we want and how to get it, we may not be able to move very much. This is not to say that older people can't achieve great things: John Milton was 56 years old (and blind) when he finished dictating his masterpiece, *Paradise Lost*, to his daughter. But he probably didn't really "enjoy" the task of working so hard at a time when his physical health was failing him. (He died 10 years later of kidney failure.) The older we are, the more we are satisfied with where we have been; the younger we are, the more we enjoy the journey itself.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？年轻人比老年人更懂得享受生活。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

乔纳森·斯威夫特（英国政治家及小说家——译注）小说中虚构的冒险家格列佛来到了住着斯特勒尔布勒格人的小岛。此前格列佛便被告知，斯特勒尔布勒格人长生不死，他想象着永生该是件多么美妙的事情！但是当他真的见到斯特勒尔布勒格人之后，发现他们精神抑郁，有自杀倾向，因为尽管斯特勒尔布勒格人不会死去，但是他们依然停止不了衰老。斯威夫特指出，如果不能以良好的身体状态去享受生活，长生又有何意义？老年人可能会感激随年龄而增长的智慧，但年轻人会更加享受活着的乐趣。

人生最重要的是身体健康。比如一个20来岁、身体健康的年轻人，在滑雪的时候摔断了腿，他只需要经历短暂的康复期，便可以再次站在滑雪场上。在此期间，他可以拄着拐杖四处走走。但是另一方面，一名55岁的滑雪者如果摔断腿，很有可能需要一段更长时间的康复期，并不得不因此休假，而且即便腿伤好了，也不能恢复到以前的状态。18岁的年轻女子可能喜欢跟同龄朋友在夜总会狂欢到凌晨，然而到了50岁后，她就会意识到自己需要每天晚上10点之前上床睡觉，以确保第二天生活的正常运转。

此外，年轻人比上了一定年纪的人更容易被冒险所吸引。比如，如果一个20来岁的企业家冒险启用了—一个新想法但是非常不幸地失败了，那么他可以对自己说：“没关系，前面

有更多的机会等着我去取得巨大的成就。”托马斯·爱迪生尝试了一千多种材料才最终找到适合制作电灯泡灯丝的那一种。他在**1879**年申请了专利，而此时爱迪生是**32**岁，他一定是以为自己足够的时间去做实验。

俗语说：“青春是用来挥霍的。”当我们知道自己想要的并且懂得怎么去得到的时候，我们也许已经老得动不了了。这不是说老年人不能取得巨大成功：约翰·弥尔顿口述完杰作《失乐园》留给他女儿的时候已经**56**岁并且双目失明。但是他可能并不真正享受身体垮掉那个阶段所做的辛苦的工作。（**10**年之后，弥尔顿死于肾衰竭。）人总是越老越安于现状，越年轻就越热衷于过程本身。

2006年2月11日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A teacher's ability to relate well with the students is more important than knowing the subject well. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.

In his beautifully filmed movie, *Not One Less*, Chinese director Zhang Yimou tells the story of 13-year-old Wei Minzhi, who is hired as a substitute teacher in a poor country town, even though she is only slightly older than the students. When one of the students leaves to find work in the city, she recruits the others to help her raise money to find him and bring him back. In the process, she teaches her students practical math. ("How many days will we need to stack bricks to earn enough for the ticket?") The students, formerly rowdy and disobedient towards this completely inexperienced teacher, rally around her, help her raise the funds, and amazingly learn math principles as well. Wei Minzhi barely knows the subject matter herself, but she is able to engage her students in the learning process.

The greatest teachers do more than just transfer information to their students—they encourage them to learn for themselves. In the 5th century BC, Socrates taught his student Plato by means of a series of logical questions (a technique known as the "Socratic Method"). Plato, in turn, used what he learned from Socrates (published in the *Socratic Dialogues*) to teach his own student, Aristotle (who then passed the lessons on to HIS student, Alexander the Great).

In more recent times, educators have emphasized the importance of participatory learning, by which students have a say in their own course of study and can challenge themselves with problems to be solved, not just formulae to be memorized. As influential 19th-century writer and philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe put it, "A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows and rows of natural objects, classified with name and form." In the early 20th century, pioneering educator Maria Montessori perfected her "Method," which demonstrated that children learn best through self-directed study.

There is a very famous saying about learning, attributed to Confucius, which goes: "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." In that run-down elementary school, Wei Minzhi began the lesson with the same old rote learning method of years past—but she ended up involving her students in their own learning process. They might never remember a particular mathematical equation, but they will surely never forget how they used what they had learned to achieve a particular success.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？老师让学生一起参与的能力比了解学科更为重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在美丽的影片《一个都不能少》中，中国导演张艺谋讲述了13岁女孩魏敏芝在一个贫困山区任代课老师的故事，尽管她自己并不比那些学生大多少。当其中一名学生为了到城里打工而退学的时候，她号召学生们为她筹车票钱，以便能够到城里找到这名学生并把他带回来。在这个过程中，魏敏芝教学生们实用数学。（我们需要砌多少天的砖才能攒够车票钱？）那些之前对这个毫无授课经验的代课老师吵吵闹闹很叛逆的学生，聚集在她身边，不仅帮她筹钱，而令人惊奇的是他们还很好地掌握了数学原理。虽然魏敏芝本身几乎不懂数学，但是她能够把她的学生吸引到学习的过程中。

出色的老师不仅向学生传达信息——他们更鼓励学生自主学习。公元前5世纪，苏格拉底总是通过提一系列逻辑问题的方法来教他的学生柏拉图。这就是著名的“苏格拉底问答法”。之后，柏拉图把从苏格拉底学到的教育方法发表于《苏格拉底对话》应用到了自己的学生亚里士多德身上（而亚里士多德又向自己的学生亚历山大大帝传授了这种方法）。

在近代，教育家强调参与式学习的重要性，通过这种方式，学生在学习过程中有发言权，并且敢于去挑战自己解决问题，而不仅仅是死记硬背。正如非常有影响力的19世纪作家、哲学家约翰·沃尔夫冈·冯·歌德所言：“一个能够唤起学生任何一个良好的举动，引导学

生做出任何一首好诗的老师，比单纯地向学生灌输条条框框的知识更有成就。”在20世纪早期，教育先驱玛丽亚·蒙特梭利完美实践了自己的“教育方法”，该教育方法指出在学业上，通过自主学习，儿童可以学得最好。

中国有句关于学习的名言出自孔子，他说：“听而易忘，见而易记，做而易懂。”在那个简陋的小学，虽然一开始，魏敏芝用老套的死记硬背的方法来教导学生，但最后她成功地让学生参与到了自己的学习中。学生也许根本记不住那些特定的数学方程，但是他们肯定不会忘记，他们如何用自己所学的知识取得了成功。

2006年3月3日考试题

(同2007年1月19日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A person should never make an important decision alone. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

There are some decisions you should definitely make alone: Whether or not to cut your hair or get a tattoo; whether to eat an egg fried or scrambled. Not all solitary decisions are of minor importance—one day in 1955, Rosa Parks, tired after a long day of work, decided all by herself not to give up her seat on the bus to a white person and sparked the Civil Rights Movement in the US. But in general, if the decision you are pondering is important to you, and to the important people in your life, you will have a much greater chance of making the right choice if you ask for their help.

"There is safety in numbers," goes the old proverb. If the decision you are considering may have a negative impact on your company, for example, it would be wise to seek out opinions and gain "buy-in" from your fellow workers before you announce your plan. In 1980, Akio Morita, the head of Sony, decided to produce a new gadget that would allow teenagers to tote around their music—the Walkman. Should he have been nervous about this decision? No, because he had the backing of Sony's talented workers. "The public does not know what is possible," Morita told his naysayers. "We do."

There is another old saying, "Two heads are better than one." If this is true, then we can assume that five or six heads will be even more powerful when it comes to making the right decision. Before any law can be passed in the US, for example, it must wend its way through committee discussion, then House and Senate consideration, and finally signing(or veto) by the President. (As much as presidential candidates love to promise that they will make BIG changes when they are elected, they soon learn that they will not be able to act alone in the office—they will need to listen to the people's representatives, both for and against any proposed change.)

In your personal life, you should seriously consider including others in your decisionmaking process whenever practical. A parent does not need to consult with a child about family rules and regulations, but a husband certainly needs to talk to his wife about what those rules and regulations should be. Are you trying to decide whether to enlist in the army or go to college? Talk to your recruiter, but more importantly, talk to your parents, brothers and sisters, friends, and high school counselors. "No man is an island," said the poet John Donne. Our choices invariably affect the people we love, so we need to let them in on our thoughts.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？人不应该独自做重要的决定。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

有些事情当然需要我們自己去做决定：比如是否要剪头发，是否要文身；是要吃煎鸡蛋还是要吃炒鸡蛋。但并不是所有的单独决策都是无关紧要的——1955年的某天，黑人女子罗莎·帕克斯在经过一天的劳累工作后，在公交车上决定不给一名白人让座，结果引发了美国著名的民权运动。但一般说来，如果你觉得某个决定无论是对你还是对你生命中重要的人而言都很重要，征询他们的意见，你将更有可能做出正确的选择。

俗语说得好：“人多势众。”例如，如果你正在考虑的决定可能会给公司带来消极影响，最明智的做法是在宣布决策之前广泛征求团队的意见，寻求他们的支持。1980年，索尼总裁盛田昭夫决定生产一款能让年轻人随身携带的音乐播放器——漫步者。他应该为此决定而感到焦虑吗？不，因为他得到了本公司优秀团队的支持。“大众并不知道什么是可行的，”他如此反驳反对者，“但是我们知道。”

还有一句古语：“三个臭皮匠顶过一个诸葛亮。”如果此言不假，我们可以假设五六个人的智慧必定更大，而这将更利于做出正确的决定。例如，在美国，任何法律最终通过之前，势必要先经过委员会的讨论，然后是参众两院的审议，最终由总统签署或者否决。

（很多总统候选人总爱在竞选的时候许诺，一旦被选上，他们势必会做出重大改革。但是很快他们就会发现，他们根本不可能单独决策，而都需要听取议员的意见，不管是支持还是反对。）

生活中，在你的决策过程中，只要切实可行，你都应该慎重考虑让其他人参与其中。家长不需要跟孩子协商家庭的各项规定，但是丈夫肯定要跟妻子商量应该是什么样的规定。你正在尝试决定是参军还是去上大学吗？与征募人员谈一下，但是更重要的是，跟你的父母、兄弟姐妹、朋友或者是高中辅导员商量。英国诗人约翰·多恩曾经说过：“没有人完全孤立如小岛。”我们的选择总会影响到我们爱的人，因此我们需要考虑到他们的感受。

2006年3月17日考试题

Businesses should hire employees for their entire lives. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

"Success is a science," Oscar Wilde once said. "If you have the conditions, you get the result." What conditions must be present for a person to work diligently and productively? According to renowned psychologist Abraham Maslow's "Hierarchy of Needs," our first required condition is physiological—we need food, water, and oxygen just to exist. But next up on the pyramid is the concept of "safety"—"security of body, employment, resources, morality, the family, health, property." In a person's professional career, the need for "safety" is paramount if the worker is to be both satisfied and productive. Hence, it is a company's duty to offer new employees a place to work for the rest of their lives.

For one thing, an employee who feels secure in his or her job will be more likely to work smarter, not harder. With the freedom of security, an employee can devote his or her time to devising creative solutions to knotty problems, without fear that one failure will lead to severance. For example, many organizations institute some kind of "suggestion box" by which they encourage employees to speak up when they see a need for a change. An insecure employee is certainly not going to share any negative criticisms with managers who have the power of reprisal. Secure workers, on the other hand, will be much more likely to openly broach their concerns to upper management. Such a sense of security also results in another critical characteristic of successful companies: employee loyalty. When the secure worker solves a problem or designs an innovative product, he or she is much less likely to take that novel idea and sell it to another company. Likewise, if the company is going through bad times, employee loyalty will have a major impact on how quickly the company bounces back from an economic downturn.

Of course, there is no guarantee that any company—whether it promises its employees job security or not—will always be able to make good on that pledge. (Just imagine how the loyal employees of Enron felt in 2001 when their CEO Kenneth Lay announced that the company was bankrupt and their life savings were gone.) Nevertheless, a company must at least attempt to provide its employees with life-long job security, else why consider working there at all?

译文

公司应该终生雇用员工。你的观点如何？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

“成功是一门科学，”英国作家奥斯卡·王尔德曾经说过，“如果具备相应的条件，就可以获得相应的结果。”想让一个人勤奋工作并富有成效，需要什么样的条件呢？根据著名心理学家亚伯拉罕·马斯洛的“需求层次理论”，我们的第一需求是生理需求——我们需要生活所需的食物、水和氧气。但是生理需求的上一层是安全需求——人身、工作、资源、道德、家庭、健康和财产的安全。在一个人的职业生涯中，如果他既要满意又要卓有成效，那么安全需求对他而言是非常重要的。所以，终生雇用员工是公司的责任。

首先，工作得到了保障的员工会更巧妙地工作，而不只是埋头苦干。在安全的自由空间里，员工就可以花时间去寻找难题的解决办法，而不必担心因为失败而被炒鱿鱼。例如，很多机构都设立了“意见箱”，他们希望通过这个鼓励员工在发现需要改变的地方的时候勇于提出意见。一个对自己的工作没有安全感的员工绝对不会去向有权力报复他的上司做任何负面的批评。另一方面，对自己的工作有安全感的员工更有可能向管理层表达他们对企业的忧虑。

这种安全感也会铸就成功企业的另一个关键特性：员工的忠诚。当有安全感的员工想出了一个解决方案或者设计了一个创新项目，他/她将不大可能把这种新点子卖给另一家公司。同样地，如果公司陷入了运营的困境，员工忠诚度就会变成影响公司“起死回生”速度的主要因素。

当然，不管是否承诺给员工保障，公司都可能无法保证如承诺时的那样好。（当安然公司执行总裁肯尼思·雷在2001年宣布公司破产时，那些忠诚的员工一生的积蓄付诸东流，

试想一下他们的感受是怎样的？）尽管如此，公司至少得试着给员工提供终生有保障的工作，否则为什么还要考虑在那里工作？

2006年3月25日考试题

Some people say that the Internet provides people with a lot of valuable information. Others think access to so much information creates problems. Which view do you agree with? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

What is the weather going to be like tomorrow in Beijing, China? Where did the Scottish bagpipes originate? What is Aristotle famous for? How many Euros equal one dollar?

To answer such questions in the "old" days—BI (Before the Internet)—a person would have to track down various sources in different physical places. The questioner, for example, would need to actually visit a local library to locate a world almanac (to predict Beijing's weather) or an encyclopedia (for the bagpipes' or Aristotle's history), or drive to a bank for the Euro equivalency. Now all of these questions (and millions more) can be accessed easily and swiftly from any computer connected to the Internet, from (almost literally) any place in the world. Such a treasure trove of instant information is surely one of the most impressive and most useful developments of the last 20 years.

And yet, there is also an unending supply of useless, and often outright dangerous, information to be had from a few clicks of the keyboard. Users can fritter their time away for hours reading banal postings from their "friends" on Facebook. ("I just made some soup and now I think I'll take a nap.") They can download the "Stumbleupon" tool bar and spend the day lurching randomly from one site to another. More darkly, they can spend days and nights learning how to make a bomb, or adding to the political vitriol that is posted everywhere on the Web.

Access to information has always caused problems. Dissatisfied members of the Roman Catholic Church may have kept their complaints to themselves for much longer had Martin Luther not started the Protestant Reformation by "publishing" his 95 Theses by nailing them on the door of the church in Wittenburg. The slave-owning southerners in the US could not have been too happy when Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, Uncle Tom's Cabin incited 19th-century northerners to solidify their objections to the institution of slavery and consider the idea of a civil war. And just about every Bible-reading churchgoer was horrified by what Charles Darwin hypothesized in his Origin of Species (1859). Yes, information can be very dangerous.

As free people, however, it is up to us to use resources such as the Internet wisely; it is not for our governments to tell us what we can read or what we can learn. A little knowledge may indeed be a dangerous thing, but a broad understanding of the world and how it works will surely contribute to the common good in the long run.

译文

有人认为网络给人们提供了大量有用信息；而有的人则认为吸纳如此众多的信息会给我们带来问题。你同意哪种观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

中国北京明天的天气如何？苏格兰风笛的起源地是哪里？亚里士多德因什么而出名？欧元与美元的汇率是多少？

在“旧”时代——BI时代（指在网络信息时代之前），要回答这些问题，我们可能需要跑很多地方，查阅大量信息。例如，发问者可能需要到当地图书馆查阅世界年鉴来预测北京的天气情况；或者查阅百科全书，了解风笛或亚里士多德的历史；为了了解欧元兑美元的汇率，还得开车去银行。但是现在，从世界的任何地方的任意一台连接了网络的电脑上，所有这些问题（以及大量更多的问题）都可以轻易快捷地几乎一字不差地找到答案。毫无疑问，网络这个即时的宝藏是过去20年来最令人惊叹、最有用的发展之一。

可是，网络同时也不停地给网民提供无数无用且往往危险的信息，而这些信息往往敲几下键盘就可以轻易得到。有些网民可能会浪费几个小时在Facebook网上浏览朋友没多大意义的帖子。（“我刚煲了汤，现在打算小睡一会儿。”）他们也可能下载“网页推荐引擎”之类的工具栏，然后整天漫无目的地到各网站浏览。更可怕的是，他们可能会不分昼夜地学习怎么制作炸弹，或者加入网络上到处都是的恶意攻击政治的大军。

掌握信息总是会引发一些问题。如果马丁·路德没有发动新教改革，通过钉在韦登伯的

教堂大门上发表他的《九十五条论纲》，那么不满的罗马天主教会成员会更久地将埋怨咽到自己的肚子里。当比彻·斯托夫出版《汤姆叔叔的小屋》激励19世纪的北方人团结起来反对奴隶制度，考虑发动美国内战时，那些美国南方蓄奴主肯定笑不出来。而几乎每个阅读圣经的教徒都会因为查尔斯·达尔文在《物种起源》（1859）中的假设而无比惊恐。所以，是的，信息可能非常危险。

但是，作为自由人，明智利用例如互联网之类的资源完全取决于我们自己；而不是政府来告诉我们去读什么或者学什么。一知半解可能的确是一件危险的事情，但是对世界及其运行法则广泛地了解，将一定会有助于保障人类长远的共同利益。

2006年4月28日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In modern society, the ability to speak well is more important than the ability to write well. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

A recent movie, *The King's Speech*, tells the true story of England's King George VI, who was plagued by a terrible stutter that left him frozen with stage fright whenever he had to address his subjects on matters of national importance. As the film makes clear, it was never enough for the King to WRITE a message to his people—he had to TALK to them, so they could hear his voice and be reassured by his strength and conviction. Indeed, since the development of mass communication technologies, the ability to speak well has certainly been of more importance than the ability to write well, especially when the speaker is the leader of a country or a movement.

In 1942, US President Franklin Roosevelt, in one of his radio-broadcast "Fireside Chats" with the American people, rallied the spirits of his fellow citizens with thrilling assertions. There can be no doubt that his passionate delivery of the stirring words achieved Roosevelt's purpose much more than any written essay could have done. Even his adversary, Adolph Hitler, would hardly have been able to persuade his own countrymen to participate in such a deadly conflict if they had not been able to hear his passionate calls to action.

In more recent times, a leader's ability to move his or her followers to action by speaking to them has become even more important. US President Barak Obama has written several books, but none of them has received more attention than his televised speeches. In a time of crisis, such as the assassination of a member of Congress and the murder of her innocent bystanders, a nation stunned by grief takes heart when the president tells them, "I believe we can be better. Those who died here, those who saved lives here—they help me believe. We may not be able to stop all evil in the world, but I know that how we treat one another is entirely up to us." No written document could move so many so powerfully.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？在当代社会，演讲能力比写作能力更为重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

最近一部影片《国王的演讲》讲述了英国国王乔治六世的真实的故事。他被严重的结巴所折磨，每次当他需要发表国家重大事项的演讲时，他都因为怯场而全身僵硬。正如影片表明的那样，仅仅通过“写”向人们传递信息是远远不够的，他还需要跟他们“说”，只有这样，人们才能听到他的声音，感受到他的力量和信念。确实，随着大众交流技巧的不断发展，出色的演讲能力确实要比娴熟的写作技巧更重要，尤其当演讲者是国家元首或者运动的领袖时更是如此。

1942年，美国总统富兰克林·罗斯福在他的一档无线电广播节目中与全国人民进行“炉边谈话”。他通过一番激情的论述使他的同胞们振作了起来：毫无疑问地，罗斯福激动人心的演讲达到了他的目的，而这是任何书面描述都无法比拟的。更不用说他的对手鲁道夫·希特勒了，如果没有激情的号召，希特勒几乎不可能说服他的民众参与到这次致命的战争中来。

现在，领导者通过演讲使其追随者行动起来变得尤为重要。美国总统巴拉克·奥巴马尽管已经写了好几本书，但是都不如其电视演讲引人注目。在危急情况下，比如国会议员被暗杀，无辜的旁观者被谋杀，在国民悲痛震惊的时候，他们的总统对他们说：“我相信我们会变得更好。那些在此献出了宝贵生命的人，以及那些侥幸活下来的人，他们给了我信心。我们可能没有能力去阻止所有罪恶，但是我知道如何互相对待，这取决于我们自己。”那么国民就会振作起来。任何书面文件都不可能如此强有力地激励如此多的人。

2006年5月12日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for a teacher to help students gain self-confidence rather than teach specific knowledge. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

If you want to learn how to fix a leaking faucet, you just need an instruction manual. If you want to know the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire, you just need a history book. If you want to learn a new language, you just need a computerized language program. In each of these cases, if you just want to obtain information about a particular subject, you don't need a teacher. So what do teachers actually do, if they don't just impart knowledge to their students? The good ones teach their students how to have faith in themselves and give them the courage to overcome any obstacles.

Each year, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology asks its students to nominate the teachers that have demonstrated the "most commitment to the well-being of students"(not the most knowledge about a particular subject). In 2010, teacher Mark Holthouse was nominated by one of his students, who said that his teacher "made sure that we pushed ourselves to learn new things rather than stay within our comfort zones. In a school such as MIT, these abilities are priceless." Another student said of her nominee:"She completely changed my life... she taught me how to learn. I'm here because of her, studying at MIT."

There is perhaps no more moving story about an inspirational teacher than the true account of Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan. At 19 months, Helen became deaf and blind due to a childhood illness. When she was seven, her family hired a young teacher, herself nearly blind, to teach their daughter how to communicate. As recounted in the play, *The Miracle Worker*, Annie's progress with Helen was slow, frustrating, and at times physically painful. Yet Annie never gave up trying to teach her rebellious student that the fingers touching her hand were actually spelling out the names of things. Helen Keller went on to earn a college degree and become a world-famous author and speaker and Annie Sullivan lived with her for the rest of her life. (Helen's name for Annie was "Teacher.")

Of course, it is not always easy for a teacher to be inspirational: Many teachers in public schools, for example, may face long hours with bored or even hostile students. And yet somehow the best teachers are able to find the best in their students. The stories abound: In *Up the Down Staircase* an inner-city English instructor wants to teach her students Chaucer, but ends up teaching them to like themselves. In *To Sir with Love*, a young black teacher overcomes prejudice in a white British school. The conclusion is clear: The best teachers don't just teach—they affect eternity.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？老师帮助学生获得自信比教授他们专业知识更加重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

如果想要学会修漏水的水龙头，你只需要一个说明书；如果想要知道罗马帝国没落的原因，你只需要一本历史书；如果想要学一门新语言，你只需要一个电子语言程序。在以上提到的这些情况中，如果你只是想获得一些特定的信息，就不需要老师。那么如果老师不是只给学生传授知识，他们的真正职责是什么？优秀的老师会教学生如何对自己有信心，如何拥有克服障碍的勇气。

每年，麻省理工大学都会让自己的学生提名，推选出能够体现“最为学生幸福负责”宗旨的老师（而不是专业知识最渊博的老师）。2010年马克·霍尔索斯获得了自己的一名学生的提名，该学生指出，马克教授“一直激励我们去学习新的知识，而不是满足于现状。在麻省理工大学这样的名校，这些能力是无价的”。另一名学生在提名自己的老师的时候表示：“她彻底改变了我的生活……她教会了我如何学习。我在麻省理工大学学习是因为她。”

关于激励人心的老师，也许再也没有比海伦·凯勒和她的老师安妮·莎莉文之间的真实事迹更感人的了。在19个月大的时候，海伦因为疾病变得又聋又瞎。在7岁的时候，海伦的家人为她请了一位年轻的老师，一个自身也几乎失明的年轻女子，来教海伦如何与人交

流。正如《奇迹的缔造者》中所描述的一样，安妮教导海伦的过程极其缓慢，让人沮丧，有时候还伴随着身体的伤痛。但是安妮从来没有放弃教这个叛逆的学生懂得，手指触碰手心实际上是在拼写事物的名字。海伦·凯勒后来获得了学士学位，并成为世界著名的作家和演讲家，而安妮·莎莉文余生一直与其生活在一起。（安妮对海伦来说，名字叫做“老师”。）^①

当然，要成为一个激励人的老师并非易事。例如，公立学校的许多老师可能得长时间面对一群无聊的、甚至敌意的学生。但是，出色的老师总能发现学生最好的一面。这样的事例比比皆是：在《桃李满门》中，一名市中心的英语教师想教他的学生学习《乔叟》，但最后还让他们学会了喜欢自己；在《吾爱吾师》中，一名年轻的黑人教师成功打破了他所在的英国白人学校对他的偏见。结论很明显：最好的老师并不只是教书，他们会影响人一辈子。

注释

^① Helen Keller was a very famous American deaf and blind person. Annie Sullivan was hired to teach her how to communicate by moving her fingers (using "sign language") in her hand. There is a very famous play and movie (The Miracle Worker) which shows the scene where Helen realizes that the movements Annie is making in her hand actually mean something, so for the first time she is able to communicate. Then she puts her hand on Annie's face and implies, "What is your name?" And Annie signs into her hand, "Teacher." So that is what Helen called her for the rest of her life.

海伦·凯勒是美国有名的盲聋人，安妮·莎莉文用手指在她手心里写字（手势语）教她如何与人交流。有部非常有名的电影《奇迹的缔造者》展现了一个场景：海伦意识到了安妮在她手心里的动作事实上是有意义的，这也是第一次她可以交流了。然后她把手放在安妮的脸上暗示“你叫什么名字？”安妮在她的手心里写道“老师”。这就是海伦在余生中对安妮的称呼。

2006年5月26日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Letting a friend make a mistake is better than saying or doing something which will destroy the friendship. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Before we can say what responsibilities friends have towards each other, we must first define what friendship is. "A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud," said American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson. Or, as inventor Henry Ford put it, "My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." On a lighter (but no less meaningful) note, ^① playwright Oscar Wilde claimed, "A true friend stabs you in the front." What all these quotes have in common is this simple insight: A true friendship cannot be destroyed by words or actions, so long as they are honest. Thus, true friends will never let you make a mistake without telling you why you should think twice about your decision.

Of course, it may not be easy for your friend to admit that you were right. Suppose, for example, your friend asks your advice on whether or not he should get a tattoo. Now, perhaps you yourself have no problem with tattoos in general, but what if your friend wants to get a tattoo of his girlfriend's name, in huge letters across the middle of his chest? As a true friend yourself, would it not be your duty to remind your friend that relationships are somewhat temporal, but tattoos are almost always pretty permanent? Perhaps you could suggest he get some sort of image on his chest, one that might remind him of his girlfriend, but one that he could also pass off as meaning something different if (when) he gets a new girlfriend.

You would not be much of a friend if all you wanted was the chance, at some future date, to say, "I told you so." Another proof of true friendship lies in what happens after you tell your friend why you think she is making a mistake and she goes ahead and does it anyway. Let's say your friend wants to marry someone you dislike (for any number of reasons—he likes to go to monster truck pulls; she enjoys the ballet). As her friend, you must tell her about your reservations; you must not keep quiet and hope for the best. But after she goes ahead and marries the guy, as her friend you must now be determined to support her in whatever happens, good or bad. "In the end," said Martin Luther King, Jr., "we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

"Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity," said Kahlil Gibran. Friends who feel responsible for each other would never let the other make a mistake without input followed by support.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？放任朋友犯错与因制止他而破坏了友情相比，前者更好一些。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在谈论朋友间的责任之前，我们首先必须明确什么是友情。美国散文家拉尔夫·瓦尔多·爱默生曾说过：“朋友是我会真诚相待的人，在他面前我可以想到什么就说什么。”发明家亨利·福特是这样定义友情的：“我最好的朋友往往最能发掘我最好的一面。”我们来说点轻松的（但是依旧很有意义），剧作家奥斯卡·王尔德曾声称：“真朋友才会当面中伤你。”所有这些引语共同说明的是这样一个简单的道理：只要朋友之间足够真诚，真正的友谊不会因为言语或行动而遭到破坏。所以，真正的朋友绝不会任你犯错而不告诉你为什么需要再三考虑你的决定。

当然，让你的朋友承认你是对的可能不容易。例如，设想一下，你的朋友问你他是否应该去文身。通常来说，你自己不反对文身，但是如果他想把女朋友的名字用大大的字体文在整个胸口中央呢？身为朋友的你，是否有义务提醒他，他和女朋友的关系可能是短暂的，但是文身几乎都是恒久的呢？或许你可以建议他在胸前做某种图案，这种图案可能会让他想起女朋友，但是在他交了新女朋友之后也可以有其他解释。

如果你想要的就是将来哪天对朋友说：“我告诉过你的”，那你还真挺不够朋友的。另外一个证明真友情的办法是，你告诉了朋友你觉得她在犯错的原因之后，她依然故我，执

意去做了，那么之后的事态发展就能证明。比如，你的朋友想和一个你反感的人结婚（不管是出于什么理由，可能是因为他喜欢大脚车拉力赛，而她喜欢芭蕾）。身为她的朋友，你必须告诉她，在这个事情上你持保留意见，而不是保持沉默，尽量往好处想。但是她执意和这个人结婚后，那么作为朋友，无论发生什么好的或坏的事情，你都必须坚定地支持她。小马丁·路德·金说过：“最后，我们记住的不会是敌人曾经说过的话，而是朋友的沉默。”

卡利尔·吉布朗说：“友谊永远意味着甜蜜的责任，而绝非某种机会。”觉得对彼此有责任的朋友绝不会任另一方犯错而不提意见，不给予支持。

注释

① Wilde's comment would be considered a "lighter note" because it is funny. The word "note" refers to a note as in music. The expression "on a lighter note" just means that one is moving from something serious (or heavy) to something less serious(or light).

美国人认为这是一句有趣的话，直白的意思就是来点儿轻松点儿的调子，指的是前面说了一些非常严肃的事情，后面开始说点儿轻松的。

2006年6月9日考试题

(同2006年6月10日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Extended family (grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts) becomes less important today than in the past. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

There used to be a time when family members remained physically near each other through all generations: When Mother and Father got married, they moved in with Grandma and Grandpa (and perhaps also Brother and Sister); when Mother and Father had children, Grandma and Grandpa helped raise them; Brother and Sister remained close to Niece and Nephew, helping to share the burden of parenting until they left to start their own families (and probably moved in right next door).

Nowadays, it seems harder to find such extended family models—when the children grow up, they typically leave the family "nest," venturing out to find their own adventures and start their own family units far from "home." Sometimes it's economics that separates the family members (children must leave to find jobs); sometimes it's political (children must leave to find freedom of speech). It's not unusual nowadays for Grandma and Grandpa to be retirees living in Florida, while one child lives with his family in Germany, another is in Canada, and another is in New Mexico. Just getting together for Thanksgiving dinner can be a huge problem.

Yet the need for the kind of support that members of an extended family can provide each other remains as important today as ever. After all, the family is the means by which we know our place in the history of the world—who we are depends to a large extent on where we come from. Before written history, the mores and traditions of various cultures were passed down directly from parents to children; the clan's very existence depended on its members' ability and willingness to look out for each other and protect the family. Now we may live much further apart, but we can still be connected by means of various technologies: We may not be able to sit with each other in the same room, but we can see and talk to each other by means of Skype.

Most importantly, the members of our extended family provide us with the kind of support we cannot get anywhere else because of one critical element: loyalty. We may not like some of our relatives, but we will not abide anyone outside the family attacking one of them. In our modern fragmented world, where stress is rampant and fear seems universal, it is comforting to know that there are at least some people (grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles) who will love and protect us just because we are family.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？与过去相比，现在的大家族（祖父母、表兄妹以及叔婶）变得越来越不重要了。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

曾经有段时间，家族成员世代都住得很近：父亲和母亲结婚之后，他们搬去与祖父母（可能还有兄弟姐妹）住在一起；当父亲和母亲有了小孩之后，祖父母帮忙抚养；弟弟妹妹也会跟自己的侄女、外甥很亲近，分担抚养小孩的责任，直至他们出去组建自己的家庭（可能只是搬到隔壁的房子里住）。

现在，似乎已经很难找到这种大家庭模式——孩子长大后一般就会搬离家庭的“鸟巢”，去外面闯荡寻找他们自己的奇遇，并在远离家的地方组建属于自己的家庭。有时候，是经济原因导致了这种家庭成员的分离（孩子必须出外打工挣钱）；有时候则是政治原因所致（孩子执意离开去寻找自己的言论自由）。现在很常见的现象是退休的祖父母住在佛罗里达州，其中一个孩子跟他的父母生活在德国，一个在加拿大，而另外一个则远在新墨西哥州。仅是聚在一起吃顿感恩节晚餐，对他们来说都是一件非常困难的事情。

但是现在，大家庭成员之间的相互扶持依然和过去一样重要。毕竟，家族是让我们了解自己在历史中所处位置的途径——我们是谁很大程度上取决于我们来自哪里。在可记载的历史之前，风俗和传统都是父母直接传给孩子；而氏族部落能否存活下来，取决于本部

落成员相互保护并且保卫家族的能力和意志。在现代，我们可能分隔几地，但是依然可以通过各种高科技手段保持联系：虽然可能没有办法同坐一屋，但是我们可以通过网络沟通工具面对面地交谈。

最重要的是，因为关键的一点：忠诚，所以家庭成员所给予的支持是我们无法从别人那里获得的。我们可能不喜欢某些亲人，但是我们不能容忍家庭成员之外的人抨击任何人。在现在这个分崩离析的社会，压力肆虐，恐惧无边无际，我们知道至少有一群人（祖父母、表兄妹、叔叔婶婶等）仅仅因为我们是一家人就会爱我们并保护我们，我们该有多欣慰啊。

2006年6月24日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to award students for effort (trying or hard working) than for achievement (good grades). Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In the "real" world, success is measured by results, not efforts. If, for example, an employee at a research institution spends many long hours conducting an experiment that eventually fails to produce the expected result, he or she is not given accolades just for the time spent. Thomas Edison exerted great effort to find the right filament to light up his incandescent bulb—what matters now is that he succeeded, not that he worked really hard. If we reward students in the world of academia with meaningless "E" for "Effort" grades, we will be handicapping their chances for real success in their future careers.

For one thing, it is almost impossible to measure "effort" quantitatively (and thus fairly). Much of the hard work that is necessary to score a good grade in school occurs outside of class; how is the teacher to know, exactly, whether Sally spent all her free time working on her homework? And what about Henry, who is naturally bright, with a real talent for mathematics? Should he be given a lower grade than George, just because George chewed his pencil more during the test (and so looked like he was trying harder)?

Without an objective standard, applicable to everyone, it is difficult (if not impossible) to accurately gauge performance. Modern organizations have thus attempted to institute performance review systems that assign specific values to specific behaviors.

Nevertheless, gray areas abound, leaving employees disgruntled about their ratings. ("What does my boss mean, 'not a good listener'? I am a very good listener!") So it is in the classroom, when students feel that the teacher is evaluating them on, say, their personality rather than their performance. ("The teacher likes George because he compliments her all the time and smiles a lot.")

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, an objective grading system levels the playing field. It doesn't matter whether you work a little or a lot, an "A" should still stand for "excellent" work. (A "B" is "good," but it's definitely not "excellent.") Without such outside standards, we end up with the possibility of rewarding mediocrity. Let parents and grandparents compliment little Junior on how hard he worked, how much he studied. Teachers must hold him accountable for meeting (or exceeding) accepted standards of excellence.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？按努力的程度来奖励学生比按其取得的成绩进行奖励更重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在这个“现实的”社会里，成功是由取得的结果而非努力的程度来衡量的。比如，某个研究机构职员花费了大量时间做一个实验，最终失败了，没有取得预期结果，那么他不会因为花掉的时间得到别人的赞扬。托马斯·爱迪生花费了大量精力去寻找能够点亮白炽灯泡的合适的灯丝——现在重要的是他成功了，而不是他为此付出了多少努力。如果我们用毫无意义的“E”来奖励在学术领域的学生的“努力”，那么我们就可能妨碍他们抓住在未来事业取得成功的机遇。

首先，我们几乎不可能公正地衡量“努力”的程度。要在学业上取得好成绩，需要在课外非常努力地学习；试问，老师如何能准确地知道莎莉是否真的把课余时间都花在了功课上？而性格开朗、在数学方面很有天赋的亨利，他的数学考试成绩是不是就应该比乔治低——仅仅因为乔治在考试中几乎嚼烂了自己的笔头（这让他看起来比亨利更努力）？

没有一个适用于大众的客观评判标准，将很难（如果不至于不可能）准确衡量个人绩效。现代组织因此试图通过建立绩效评估系统，根据员工具体的表现来确定他们具体的价值。虽然如此，灰色领域（不清楚、没把握或不完全了解的领域——译注）的大量存在还是令员工对自己所获得的评定等级感到不满。（我的老板什么意思？我不善于倾听？我是个出色的听众啊！）在学校里，学生们会觉得老师是根据他们的性格而非学习表现来评定

自己的等级。比如，老师可能会因为乔治经常赞美自己、还总对自己微笑而对他喜爱有加。

最后，也可能是最重要的一点，客观的评分制度创造了竞争平台。不管你干得多或少，字母“A”始终代表出色。（虽然“B”也代表了表现良好，但并非出色。）没有这种外部标准，我们将很有可能奖励了平庸之人。父母和祖父母可以因为自己的孩子刻苦学习而赞美他，但是作为老师，就应该要求学生为达到（或者超越）公认的出色的标准而负责。

2006年7月29日考试题

(同2007年10月20日考试题)

Which would you choose: a high-paying job with long hours that would give you little time with family and friends or a lower-paying job with shorter hours that would give you more time with family and friends? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

Everyone likes to have good times with family and friends but to make this the most important aspect in one's life is shortsighted and the quality of the "enjoyment" would be less varied and interesting if the job were not high-paying. I would choose a high-paying job with long hours because such a job has much greater long-term benefits for myself, my family and for others.

In the first place, high pay means that I could provide a better life for my family—a good home, plenty of food, nice clothes, nice birthday presents and money for my children's education. These factors are more important than a few more hours a week to spend with family if it meant, for instance that I could not send my kid to a good school or pay for needed medical treatments.

With a good job, my wife would not need to work and she could spend more time caring for the children and giving them a good life.

Also, with a good job, I could save up money for a good retirement and then have lots of leisure with my wife to travel, enjoy a more active social life and be able to be generous with my grandchildren.

Lastly, with a good paying job, despite the long hours, I could also be more generous with my friends and with needy people. The guy who has an easy job with lots of free time but little money cannot help himself in a crisis much less his friends, his family and the needy who enter his life.

So, in order to provide a good life for my family, enable my wife to concentrate on the family, have an enjoyable retirement and be a responsible, generous person, I would definitely choose the high-pay, long-hour job.

译文

一个是高薪但是工作时间长的工作，只有很少的时间可以与家人和朋友在一起；一个是低薪但是工作时间短的工作，却可以有很多时间与家人和朋友在一起，你会选择哪一个？请用具体的理由和事例来解释你的选择。

所有人都想和家人朋友一起度过快乐时光，但若把这看作人生中最重要方面则是目光短浅的。如若没有高薪的工作，与家人朋友一起享受乐趣的质量和多样性将会受到影响。因此，我会选择高薪工时长的工作，因为它可以使我自己、家人和其他人长期受益。

首先，高薪意味着我可以为家人提供更好的生活：优质的住房、丰富的食物、漂亮的衣服、美好的生日礼物、还有孩子的教育费用。这些因素比每周多与家人待几个小时重要得多，如果它意味着我不能让自己的孩子读好的学校或者支付不了需要的医疗费用。

有了好工作，我的妻子就不需要外出工作了，她可以花更多的时间照顾孩子，给他们更好的生活。

其次，高薪工作还可以为我以后的退休生活存下更多的钱。有了这些钱，我在退休之后可以和妻子享受闲暇，一起旅行，享受更活跃的社交生活，还能对我的孙辈们更加慷慨。

最后，尽管高薪工作的工时较长，但我可以更为慷慨地对待朋友和其他需要帮助的人。而那些从事简单的工作、有大段空闲时间却没有钱的人，他们在遇到危机时都自顾不暇，更不用说去帮助朋友、家人和其他需要的人。

因此，为了给我的家人提供更好的生活，让我的妻子能够集中照顾家庭，并在以后过上优越的退休生活，成为一个负责、慷慨的人，我当然会选择高薪长时的工作。

2006年8月12日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to keep old friends than to make new ones. Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

Though I think there is great value in both, for purposes of this test, I will argue that making new friends is more important. The reasons why new friends are so important are numerous.

As we progress in life, in our studies, in our careers, we come into contact with people who reasonably become friends and are of great value to our developing lives, careers, families and wellbeing.

Friends we make in university studies provide us with comrades with whom to study and enjoy extracurricular activities. If we were to refuse their friendships and hold fast the more distant, hometown high school friends, we would not have a current support group to help us study and enjoy our time and would be lonely and probably not do well in our studies.

New friends, as we take new jobs, are important to us because we are comrades in a joint effort to do good business and are team members in many projects and programs. Being friends, as well as fellow workers, makes the work more efficient and enjoyable. To neglect them and spend time with colleagues from former jobs would not be as productive for our career advancement.

Even in terms of "boyfriends" and "girlfriends" as we mature, it is common for us to grow distant from the "girl (or boy) we left behind". Though it may sound disloyal to think of changing girlfriends over time, it is important that as we develop, we find friends with whom we have current and future goals in common rather than holding on to a past relationship in which there is now little mutual interest.

Thus, though we should not lightly drop old friendships, we must pay greater attention to those new friends with whom we have current important career, social, spiritual, and economic interests and interdependencies.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？维护老朋友比结交新朋友更重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管我认为两者都很重要，但是为了这个测试，我认为结交新朋友更为重要。这其中的理由非常之多。

在我们的人生历程中，无论是在学习还是工作中都会与很多人有所接触，这些人自然变成了朋友，对我们的生活、工作、家庭和幸福具有很重大的价值。

我们在大学中所结交的朋友，陪伴我们一起学习，一起参加课外活动。如果我们拒绝友情，只牢牢抓住远在家乡的中学朋友，将会失去那些近在咫尺可以帮助我们学习和一起愉快地度过时光的新朋友的支持。我们会因此变得孤独，并且可能不能很好地完成学业。

当我们找到新工作时，新的朋友也对我们十分重要，因为我们是齐心协力完成工作的同事和项目中的团队合作伙伴。与同事成为朋友、成为伙伴能使工作完成得更加高效和愉快。若是忽视现今的同事，花时间与以前的同事在一起，则会阻碍我们的工作效率和职业发展。

甚至对于在我们成人后的男朋友和女朋友的问题上，我们往往会和前女友或前男友保持距离。尽管随着时间的推移换女友听起来很不忠诚，但随着成长，我们会发现，与那些和自己目前有同样的奋斗目标的朋友在一起，比紧紧抓住现在双方几乎没有共同兴趣的过去那段关系来说重要得多。

因此，我们虽然不应该轻易放弃老朋友，但应该更多关注那些与我们当前有共同的重要的工作、社交、精神和经济兴趣和相互依赖的新朋友。

2006年8月18日考试题

Which way do you think is the best way towards success, spending a lot of time to study or being creative? Explain your choice, using specific reasons and details.

Though creativity and hard study are both important, I think that to achieve success, spending a lot of time in study is more important because, being a creative person or not has more to do with a quality of thinking and imagination with which we seem to be born with or naturally pick up from the upbringing our parents give us.

But in order to best make use of whatever creativity we may have, we must first study hard to learn, gain knowledge about the facts of an area of study or endeavor. Only if we have a good understanding of the details, principles, techniques, qualities of an area can we exercise our creativity in imagining and intuitively seeing a new, unusual, satisfying, practical, cutting edge way of accomplishing a task or creating something.

If you have not studied well the physics and the laws of motion and aerodynamics, what good does creativity do when it comes to airplane design? If we do not know well the characteristics and qualities of clay, how can we put creative concepts into the production of a work of ceramic art? If we have not spent lots of time studying banking regulations, financial practices, and the current economic situation, what good is imagination in coming up with feasible, practical, legal investment products or services for our bank's customers? If you have not studied hard to learn the principles of chords, harmonics, meter, and tones, or mastered some musical instrument, what good is creativity in composing a beautiful symphony?

In summary, it is difficult to learn creativity and we can do a good, solid job in our careers and private lives without it. But if we have not studied hard to learn the requisite skills and knowledge, it is difficult to be successful in any career or activity.

译文

你认为取得成功的最好的方法是什么？是通过长时间的努力学习还是拥有创造精神？请用具体理由和事例来说明。

尽管创造力和努力学习同样重要，但我认为，要想取得成功，长时间的努力学习更重要，这是因为是否具有创造力，与思考和想象力的质量更有关系，而这一点是我们天生具有或是在父母抚养我们时给我们的。

但为了更好地利用那些我们所拥有的创造力，我们首先必须努力学习，获得所想要致力的领域的知识。只有当对细节、原则、技术和质量方面有了充分的了解之后，我们才能在想象中锻炼自己的创造力，并直觉地发现一种全新的、不寻常的、令人满意的、实用的、具有前瞻性的完成任务或创造事物的方法。

如果你还没有学好物理、运动定律和气体力学，那么你设计飞机时光有创造力又有什么用呢？如果我们不了解黏土的特性和品质，那么我们如何把创造性思维加入陶瓷艺术之中去呢？如果我们没有花费很长的时间学习银行监管、金融实践以及现今的经济形势，那么我们如何能够仅仅凭借想象力为银行客户设计实用可行的合法投资产品和服务呢？如果你没有努力学习和弦、和声、韵律和声调的原理，并掌握某门乐器，仅仅具有创造力对创作优美的交响乐又有什么用处呢？

简而言之，我们很难学到创造力，但是我们可以在没有创造力的情况下，在我们的职业生涯中做好工作，过好个人生活。但是，如果我们未能努力学习必需的技能 and 知识，我们将很难在任何职场和活动中取得成功。

2006年8月26日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Nowadays, people are busy doing too many things at a time, so they cannot do anything well.

I agree that many people are too busy, but I do not agree that they cannot do anything well.

In this modern era in which communication by computer, cell phone, Skype, etc. is so easy and in which travel is so much faster, whether locally by private car, taxi, subway and bus or for greater distance by train and plane, people are better able to coordinate, consult, give guidance, ask for help, place orders, ship goods, etc. Thus it is obvious that they would be busier because they can now get much more done in their businesses by better coordination with those in distant places as in the review of computer downloads for new product designs, listening to proposed theme music for a new TV series via the net; learning more and learning it faster in education and research by use of online libraries, easier consultation with distant experts, attendance at conferences; and participating more in social activities as simple as having a pleasant conversation with a distant loved one via Skype, sending e-birthday cards, seeing instant pictures of newborn grandchildren, or booking a flight on line to go to see the child.

Yes, life definitely has the potential to be much busier than for previous generations but obviously people are still "doing things well". Improved medical procedures such as face transplants are being regularly developed; great improvements in communication technology such as I-Pad, I-Pod, computer books, etc. are being announced almost daily; breakthroughs in space exploration such as the recently shown first-ever 3D view of the sun, the announcement of the discovery of more than 1,000 potentially inhabitable planets; and excellent, interesting and moving music, movies, books and works of art are still being created in great number.

Yes, people are busy, very busy, but people are obviously still doing things well, and from the looks of all the progress, people are doing it even better!

译文

你是否同意以下观点？如今，人们忙碌于太多的事情，以至于什么事都做不好。

我同意如今许多人都太过忙碌，但是我并不认为他们什么事情都做不好。

在这个现代社会，电脑、手机和网络电话等方式使得交流变得十分便利；短途的私家车、出租车、地铁、公交车和长途的火车和飞机使得旅行变得越来越快捷；人们能够更好地相互协调、咨询、给予指导、寻求帮助、下达命令、运输物品等行为活动。所以很显然他们变得越来越忙碌，因为他们能够更好地通过电脑网络进行远程控制，例如下载新的产品设计，通过网络聆听为新电视剧创作的主题音乐，通过网上图书馆更多更快地学习和研究，通过网络更简洁地咨询远程专家，参加会议，参与更多社交活动，和爱人通过网络电话甜蜜交谈，发送电子生日贺卡，看新生的孙子孙女的照片，在线订机票以去探望孩子。

是的，我们的生活的确有可能比上几代人更为繁忙得多，但是我们显然也能把事情都处理好。改良过的医疗程序例如脸部移植，一直在定期更新；通讯技术的进步成果例如苹果平板电脑和苹果音乐播放器、电子书等等，几乎每日都被公布出来；还有太空探索的突破，比如最近公布的有史以来首次太阳三维观测，和1 000多个可能适于居住星球的发现公布；以及正在创作的大量优秀的、有趣的和感人的音乐、电影、书籍和艺术作品。

是的，人们很忙，非常的忙，但是人们仍然能处理好事情。从人类发展进程全局来看，人们甚至比以前做得更好！

2006年9月9日考试题

Some people prefer to work for a large company. Others prefer to work for a small company. Which would you prefer? Use specific reasons and details to support your choice.

In the current global economic situation, it is difficult to find a job in ANY company but, if I could find the job I want, it would be in a small but growing company.

There are several reasons for this preference. Firstly, I like the idea of working with a small group of like-minded, enthusiastic folk who have a good idea and are dedicated to making it all work and become really good, loyal friends through shared effort and the pride of success.

Secondly, I like the potential of having greater influence on the shaping of a smaller company either from its foundation or after it has been in operation but needs my particular skill to move forward. In such a situation, I can exercise my mind, make a more obvious contribution, and feel a great sense of pride that I truly make a difference.

Thirdly, I like the feeling of greater responsibility that comes with being in a smaller company even when, or maybe, especially when, there are problems. I like the idea of being the one who can make a positive difference perhaps in terms of displaying greater sensitivity to lower staff concerns; of being the one who has the idea for a new marketing strategy to bring the company out of a business slump; or being the one who has the good idea for a new product or service to help improve company profits.

Fourthly, perhaps, in my case, it all comes down to the feeling of power and influence for the positive that I could have in a smaller company where my own personality, expertise, and sensitivity make me a highly influential and respected member of the management team.

Yes, I want to start in a small company for these reasons but, hopefully, with my influence, it won't be a small company for long!

译文

有些人喜欢在大公司工作，而有些人喜欢在小公司工作。你喜欢哪一个？详细说明你的观点并给出理由。

在现今的全球经济形势下，想要在任何公司找到工作都是不容易的。然而，如果我可以按照自己的喜好来求职，那么我愿意在一所规模小却正在发展的公司工作。

我选择的原因如下：第一，我喜欢与一小群志趣相投、充满热情、拥有好想法并愿意为想法变成现实而付出努力的人一起工作，并与他们通过共同的努力和成功的自豪成为忠诚的好友。

第二，我希望自己能对小公司的发展发挥更大的潜在影响力，无论是从这个公司的建立还是运营方面，我希望我的专长能够被需要，并推动公司前进。在这种情形下，我可以充分发挥思想，作出更大的贡献，并为自己能够成就不凡而产生强烈的自豪感。

第三，我喜欢小公司带来的更大的责任感，即便这个公司正陷于很多问题之中；我想要成为在公司面临裁员的敏感时期能给公司产生积极影响的人；我喜欢成为那个策划出新的市场战略，并将公司带出经济低迷的人；我也乐意成为那个拥有好的点子，设计出新的产品或服务，帮助公司盈利的人。

第四，也许对于我个人而言，在小公司中凭借自身的品性、专业性和行业敏感性成为有高度影响力和受尊重的管理成员，这其中所产生的权力和具有积极影响力的自我感受对我来说极为重要。

没错，这些就是我想要在小公司工作的原因，但是希望在我的影响下，它在不久的将来不再是小公司！

2006年9月23日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important education that a person gets is from the outside of the schools and classrooms. Use specific reasons and examples to support your ideas.

I agree with the statement that the most important education comes from outside the classroom, though the degree to which this is true, in some cases, depends on what the career goal is. Lectures, book study, and lab experiments are essential for the research scientist but, "outside education" may not have so great an impact on the effectiveness of his research conducted individually in his own lab. But for most people who are in interactive roles in their social and professional lives, the "street-smarts", the actual experience they get as members of a football team, a chorus, a community service project, and who travel to other provinces or countries are better able to put their classroom knowledge into an effective social, professional, personal perspective which makes them more understanding friends, more helpful colleagues, and more fulfilled individuals.

The marketer who does not understand the varying tastes and characteristics of those from other areas of the country or world cannot truly understand how to "reach" the customers to convince them to buy his product. The colleague who has never played on a sports team, participated in a community project, or sung in a chorus cannot truly understand the importance of teamwork and shared responsibility. The manager who has never traveled in-country or abroad cannot be truly sensitive to the cultural differences within his staff. Those who have not experienced or seen the difficulties of life that face so many less fortunate, can never really appreciate how lucky they are.

While it is true that we must have the special knowledge in specific areas of endeavor to have sufficient technical and informational data to do a job, it is the out-of-class experience that gives us the practical social skills and understanding of human nature to allow us to be really effective, efficient, successful, fulfilled individuals in all aspects of life.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？人们得到的最重要的教育是来自学校和课堂之外的。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我同意最重要的教育来自课堂之外，尽管其正确性的程度在某些情况下取决于你的职业目标是什么。课堂、书本和实验，对于研究科学家来说至关重要，但是对于在自己的实验室中独自做研究的科学家来说，“课外教育”就可能不会有那么大的影响。然而对大多数在社会生活和职业生涯中处在人际互动角色的人来说，“实战经验”，以及他们从足球队、合唱团、公益活动及去别的城市和国家旅行所收获的经验，能够让他们更好地把课堂知识融入有效的社会、工作和个人生活当中去，使他们能够更加理解朋友，成为更加有助益的同事，更加完满的个体。

不了解不同国家和地区的大众品味和特征的市场人员很难真正了解如何打动客户并说服他们购买自己的项目产品。从未参加过运动队、社工活动、合唱团的人则不能真正理解团队协作和共担责任的重要性。没有在国内和国外旅行过的管理人员不会对于职员之间的文化差异真正敏感。而那些没有体验过和眼见生活的困苦、没有承受过不幸的人也无法领会到自己是多么的幸运。

我们确实应该在课堂上学习专业领域的知识，以掌握充足的技术和信息数据来进行工作，然而课外的经历带给我们实用的社会技能和对人性的了解，让我们生活中的各个方面变成有效、高效、成功和完满的个体。

2006年10月2日考试题

(同2008年1月13日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities and colleges should give more challenging courses, even if the students cannot get good grades with such courses. Use specific reasons and examples to support your ideas.

Though what is considered "challenging" is more often a matter of the students' ability than the difficulty of the course, I agree that colleges and universities should offer more challenging courses. The purpose of higher education is to provide a good education for those who are able to successfully complete secondary education, pass the requisite entrance exams, and generally convince the university/college that they are ready for higher education. The courses, should, in fact, therefore, prepare the students for their future career or further study. To do this the courses must be challenging for several reasons.

In the first place, dedicated students want to learn as much as possible; challenging courses that cause the student to work harder, think more analytically, question and participate will maintain the interest and enthusiasm of such students and ensure a deeper understanding of the topic.

Secondly, tuition is expensive; students and their parents expect the students to receive more from the university than they could learn by simply studying on their own with a few books; thus they feel they have "gotten their money's worth" if the courses are more challenging and the students learn more.

Thirdly, students have more respect for the highly well informed, professional professors who can teach them well and challenge them to learn more; if the course is easy, the students assume the professor is not a real expert and the value of the course is much less.

Lastly, the more challenging and difficult the university/college curriculum is known to be, the more the prestige the students will have for their future careers or further education if they have attained good grades from such an institutions.

For the reasons, it is clear that challenging courses are in the best interest of the university and college and most definitely for the good of the students.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？大学院校应该多开设一些更具挑战性的课程，即便学生不能取得高分。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管所谓的“挑战”通常是一个学生的能力的问题，而不是课程的难度问题，我仍然认为大学院校应该多开设一些更具挑战性的课程。高等教育的目的在于给那些成功完成了中等教育、通过了必要的入学考试并且让大学相信他们已经为接受高等教育做好了准备的人提供好的教育。因此大学提供的课程应该而且能够切实地让学生为未来的事业或深造做好准备。为了达到这个目的，大学课程应该具有挑战性，理由如下：

首先，专心用功的学生想要尽可能地多学一些；令他们更加用功、勤于思考、提问题和参与其中的具有挑战性的课程能让这些学生保持兴趣和热情，确保他们更深地理解话题。

其次，学费很昂贵，学生和他们的父母都希望能够从大学学到更多东西，而不仅仅是自己从课本上学到的那点知识。所以，如果课程更具挑战性，学生学到的更多，他们会觉得钱花得值。

再次，学生更崇拜那些能把他们教好并且激励他们多学的博学的专业教授；如果课程过于简单，学生们会认为这位教授不够专业，上这门课的价值也不大。

最后，大学院校的课程越具挑战性和难度，如果在这些学科中取得好成绩，学生在未来的事业或者学业中就越能发挥更大的作用。

综上所述，开设具有挑战性的课程将给大学院校带来最大的利益，学生也必定因此受

益。

2006年10月8日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In twenty years, there will be fewer cars in use than in today. Use specific reasons and examples to support your ideas.

Though it would be good for the local and global environment, I do not believe there will be fewer cars in twenty years. There are several reasons I believe this.

First of all, in the rapidly developing countries like China, India, and Brazil more and more people are now able to afford cars as a status symbol of "having arrived" into the affluent class and these newly rich will continue to buy cars as a symbol of their new status. This will be so despite the irritation of massive traffic jams because they feel it is better to be stuck in the comfort of one's own car than in a crowded bus and there is always a chance that, in their own car, they can find an alternative route or leave to or from work earlier.

Secondly, these same people also want to use their cars as a way to "get away" for the weekend out in to the countryside for a little relaxation in the fresh air with their families.

Thirdly, even with the rising prices of gasoline, this "mobile independence" and status symbol of one's own car will continue to be strong and despite the gas issue, more and more solar powered and electric cars will be produced. The fact that recently new oilfields have been discovered and more countries are loosening their restrictions on off shore drilling will also make it less likely that people will feel driving a car is beyond their means.

Fourthly, truly convenient, non-crowded public transportation is still more than twenty years away for most societies even in the most advanced and even with the massive increase in streets, roads, subway lines and super-modern "straddle-road-busses" such as those being developed in China.

So, despite our most heartfelt wishes, even if the pollution issues are resolved, traffic jams will continue to be a headache for all city dwellers for the next twenty years at least!

译文

你是否同意以下观点？在20年后，车辆的使用会比现在有所减少，请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

虽然这将有利于当地和全球的环境，但是我并不认为在20年后，车辆的使用相比现在会有所减少。以下是我的理由：

首先，在高速发展的国家如中国、印度和巴西，越来越多的人能够买得起车，买车也因此成为进入富人阶层的地位的象征。而这些新富也会继续买车来呈现他们的新社会地位。这种情况会一直持续，尽管车辆的增多会造成严重交通堵塞的困扰，他们也认为堵车时被滞留在自己舒适的私家车中也好过在拥挤的公交车上。而且，自己开车总是能够更为自由地选择行车路线，掌握上下班的时间。

第二，这些拥有私家车的人也想要在周末逃离忙碌的生活，与家人一起开车去乡村放松身心，呼吸新鲜空气。

第三，即使油价上涨，车辆所带来的行驶自由和社会地位依然坚固。尽管有油价问题，可是更多的太阳能、电能汽车也会出现。事实上，新近发现的油田和更多的国家放松了对离岸钻探开采石油的限制，让人们因此认为，开车所需支付的费用不大会超出他们的经济能力范围。

第四，即使在最发达的地区，即使街道、公路、地铁和超先进的“立体快巴”大规模增长，真正便捷、不拥挤的公共交通对多数社会来说需要的也不仅仅20年。

因此，尽管我们有真诚的意愿，即便污染问题解决了，交通堵塞会依然是未来至少20年所有城市居民头疼的问题！

注释

[①](#)立体快巴：目前中国正在发展的一种巴士，分为两层，上层可以运载乘客，下层可以让轿车通行。

2006年10月18日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Most advertisements make the product seem much better than it really is. Use specific reasons and examples to support your ideas.

Of course it is true that the advertisements make the product seem better than it really is! This is the nature of advertising which presents the "ideal" regarding the product and raises the desire for that product in the mind of the customer.

Advertising plays on people's desire for something better, more beautiful, more delicious than the customers' desire and "need" to have the product and achieve the realization of their dreams or simple wishes. If the products were presented as if just a part of our daily life in our own homes we would not be as incited to buy it because it is not seen as an improvement over or something better than we have and therefore would want.

So it turns out that even if we do buy that expensive perfume, we still cannot find a man as handsome as is pictured with the model in the ad. Nor can we find a lady as beautiful in the one advertised standing beside the man in the after-shave lotion ad.

Another example is very simple. Has the waiter ever brought to our table a dish that looked as large or as deliciously beautiful as the picture in the menu or the out-front advertisement posters? Of course not! But who ever rejects the dish because it does not look like the menu picture? We eat it anyway hoping that it tastes as good as the picture made us think it would.

We are all aware of this dissonance between our dreams, desires, and wishes as envisioned in these ads and our own realities but, we still buy the products in the hopes that we can attain something like the pictured ideals either in terms of the product itself or the idyllic scene in which it is presented. We are willing participants in our own deception.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？大多数广告使得产品看起来比实际的好得多。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

当然广告会使产品看起来比实际的好。这是广告的本质：展现产品最理想的一面以引起消费者购买的欲望。

为了实现内心的渴望，消费者总希望能够获得更好、更美观、更美味的产品，而广告就是利用了人们这种心理。如果产品就跟家里的一部分一样，那么我们将不会被煽动购买了，因为我们看不出这种商品有任何改进或者比我们已有的更好而使得我们想要它。

事实证明，即便我们买了那款昂贵的香水，还是不可能遇到和广告中的模特一样英俊的男子；同样，我们也不可能遇到那位在剃须膏广告中与男子站在一起的一样美丽的女子。

再举一个简单的例子。在外用餐时，服务员端上来的饭菜真的跟菜单、海报上宣传的那样分量那么大、味道那么美味吗？当然不是。但是又有谁为此而要求更换了？我们仍然选择这道菜，仅仅是希望它能够如图片上所看到的那样美味罢了。

我们都知道从这些广告中所想象出来的梦想、期望、愿望与现实不一致，但是我们依然会购买这些商品，期待着我们能获得一些如描绘的那样理想的东西，或者是产品本身，或者是它所展现出来的美好情景。我们乐于参与到这种自我欺骗中去。

2006年10月28日考试题

(同2007年11月11日及2008年2月24日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Renewable resources of energy(sun, wind, water) will soon replace the old resources of fossil fuels (gas, oil and coal). Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Taking "soon" as the key word, I do not believe that renewable resources will be replacing fossil fuels anytime in the near future despite the fact that the gathering evidence of the pollution from fossil fuels is dramatically changing the quality of life on earth.

The major reason that this change will not come soon is that fossil fuels and their usage facilities and devices and our transportation energy production methods are still very plentiful and cheap compared to renewable energy production techniques and devices. This is the key factor because much of the world is still too poor to be able to afford the change to cleaner forms of energy. This term "poor" refers to individuals in many nations, even the developed ones, as well as the nations themselves. Individuals cannot afford the equipment. Nations do not have sufficient funds for necessary production facilities, supply systems, or infrastructure changes to put these sources into mass utilization.

Another reason is that there is not sufficient technological development of user-friendly devices at a cheap enough cost to make the transition feasible for the mass numbers of those still using fossil fuels.

Yet another reason is that oil producing nations are not putting sufficient effort into the transition. This is understandable for an economic perspective for these nations long dependent on revenues from fossil fuels.

Because of the world economic crisis and the too common problem of terrorism and the Iraq and Afghanistan situations, many nations and peoples are simply distracted from this issue and have problems which they feel are of more urgent importance.

Lastly, it seems that the general public is not sufficiently convinced of the urgency of the situation to bring pressure on their governments to do more or to take the initiative themselves to make the necessary changes in fuel sources.

Thus it is clear that the switch to renewable energy sources will be too long in coming, certainly not "soon".

译文

你是否同意以下观点？不久之后，可再生能源（如太阳能、风能和水能）将取代旧的矿物能源（比如汽油、石油和煤炭）。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

如果着眼于“soon（不久之后）”这个字眼，我不认为在不久的将来可再生能源能够取代矿物能源，尽管大量事实证明这些矿物能源带来的污染极大地降低了我们的生活质量。

这种改变不能很快实现的主要原因是，与生产可再生能源的技术和设备相比，使用矿物能源的机器设备以及它在交通运输中的应用方法和设备要更加丰富和廉价。这是最关键的因素，因为全世界的大部分依然贫穷，无力承受这种更为清洁的能源。这里的“贫穷”是指许多国家中的个人，甚至是发达国家中的某些人；还有很多国家本身。个人无力购买这种设备。而国家也没有足够的资金去承受必要的生产设备、供应体系或者基础设施以大量推广使用这些能源。

不能实现的另一个原因是，没有充足的技术将易操作设备以足够低廉的成本向大量仍然使用矿物能源的人群实现可行性过渡。

还有一个原因是，那些石油生产国并没有为此花费足够多的心思。从经济的角度来看

是可以理解的，毕竟它们长期依赖这些矿物燃料的收入。

世界经济危机、恐怖主义行径以及伊拉克和阿富汗的局势不稳定使许多国家和民族分心，它们认为，与能源问题相比，所面临的这些问题更为紧急和重要。

最后，公众似乎对能源形势的紧迫性并不足够确信，这使得他们没有对政府更多地施压，公众自己也没有主动在能源问题上做出必要的改变。

所以，转变使用可再生能源的周期显然会很长，而不是在“不久的将来”。

2006年11月18日考试题

(同2008年3月2日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The best way to travel is in a group led by a tour guide. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Though the purpose of the travel, the personalities of the other group members and the skills and knowledge of the tour guide are all factors to consider, generally speaking, I prefer to travel alone or with only one or two close friends.

Traveling alone is an exciting test of one's "survival skills", gives an opportunity to face challenges and develop confidence and skills which going with a tour guide does not.

Because the varied interests and personalities of the other travelers, conflicts as to what to see, how long to stay at a site, what to eat, what mode of travel to use etc. often arise making the group experience unpleasant. Conversely, traveling alone allows one to concentrate on the major purpose of the trip or on those aspects most interesting to the individual.

Traveling alone also enables one to interact more often and more closely with the locals, not only in terms of asking for directions and other help but also enables the traveler to develop personal friendships with the locals who may have some interests in common.

Language skills are also developed as the lone travelers fend for themselves in a land with a different language.

Lone travelers also learn much more about the people and the culture as they try to discover or negotiate with the locals about the myriad details of their stay in a local area. Dealing with the taxi driver or horse caravan leader, haggling with the small inn keeper or 5 star hotel clerk for the best rates, questioning the waiter about what such-and-such a dish is, asking for directions from someone on the street—all these give the lone travelers a much better understanding of the people and the society and the gratifying feeling of really understanding the culture.

Thus, for a really challenging, educative and fulfilling travel experience, traveling along is the best choice.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？旅游的最好方式就是参加导游带领的旅游团。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管旅游的目的、组员的性格以及导游的能力和知识都是需要考虑的因素，一般来说，我还是比较喜欢独自出游，或者仅和一两个好朋友同行。

独自旅行是对人“生存技能”的一项充满刺激的考验，它给人们提供了面对挑战、建立自信以及学会生活技能的机会，而这在导游带领的旅行中是得不到的。

因为组员的兴趣和性格各异，所以在游览的景点、所待的时长，吃的东西以及采用的旅游模式等问题时会产生分歧，使得团体游的经历变得不愉快。相反，独自旅行让我们专注于旅行的主要目的，还能游览自己最感兴趣的景点。

在独自旅行时，我们与当地人交流互动会更频繁和亲密，而不只是问问路或者寻求一些别的帮助，我们还能和一些志同道合的当地人成为朋友。

因为独自旅行者需要在不同语言的地方照料自己，他们的语言技能也能得到提高。

在当地停留期间，通过对当地人生活的种种观察以及和他们的互动，独自旅行者还能多了解当地的人文特点和文化。和出租车司机或者马车夫打交道，和小旅馆老板或者五星级饭店的前台人员讨价还价以获得最理想的入住价格，询问侍者饭菜的种类，在大街上向别人问路——所有这些都能让独自旅行者更好地了解当地人和他们的社会，由此获得一种真正了解当地文化的满足感。

所以，如果想要体验一次真正具有挑战性、充满启发以及获得满足的旅行，独自出游是最好的选择。

2006年11月19日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important to choose a subject of your interest than to choose those that prepare you for a job or career. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I firmly believe it is best to choose a subject of study in which you have great interest; master that topic, then make that your career choice accordingly.

Choosing a course of study just to get a job, make money, or "get rich" does not lead to real life fulfillment. You may get that career but if you have no real interest in it, if you do not enjoy it, you will not feel happy, situations on the job will be more irritating, you will have less patience, and you will be anxious to leave at the end of the day rather than put in the extra time to be really successful.

On the contrary, choosing a field of study in which you have real interest and enjoy will ensure that you study more diligently. You will ask more questions because you really want to know more. You will think more analytically, thoroughly and innovatively because you are fascinated by the possibilities. Then, because you have studied so well, have mastered the topic so completely, you will automatically have an enthusiasm and knowledge base that allows you to develop a career that is fulfilling, useful for society, and financially rewarding because of the extra time, effort and thought you put into that career.

There is also a benefit for society in general. Because you have chosen an area based on your interest, you will do it better benefiting the society in general as you produce a better product, develop a more efficient system, or make the people you serve feel happier.

If you have chosen the area to study based on your interest, your life outside the work will also be happier because job satisfaction pretty much determines general outlook on life. Thus your personal social life and interactions with family and friends will be brighter and more satisfying.

Without a doubt, chose to study what interest you first and let the career be a natural result of that study.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？与仅仅为了未来的工作或事业做准备而选择专业相比，根据自己的兴趣来选择专业更为重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我坚信选择自己感兴趣的科目是最理想的；掌握这门课程，然后据此来选择自己的事业。

如果选择一门课程仅仅是为了得到工作、赚钱或者“变得富有”，并不能真正地实现人生价值。你有可能获得那份工作，但是如果你对它不感兴趣，你并不享受这个工作，那么你不会开心；而且工作的状况令人更加烦躁；你会失去耐性；每天你都想快点下班，而不会加班以获得真正的成功。

相反，选择真正感兴趣和喜欢的专业，你就会更加勤奋地学习。因为想要知道更多，你会提出更多问题；你被各种可能性吸引，所以你会更加理性、深刻、创新地思考。然后，因为精通了这个专业，你就会不自觉地拥有激情和知识库，这使得你因为付出了额外的时间、精力和思考而因此发展了既能自我实现、又能对社会作出贡献、还能在金钱上得到回报的事业。

一般来说，整个社会也将因此受益。因为你根据自己的兴趣选择了一个领域，之后你就会努力做好它，比如生产出一种更好的产品，或者开发一种更有效的体系，或者让你的服务对象无比开心，这些都将令社会受益。

如果选择了自己感兴趣的领域，你工作以外的生活也会变得更快乐，因为工作的满足感基本决定了一个人的总体生活状态。所以，你与自己的家人、朋友的社会生活和互动就会更愉快和更有满足感。

毫无疑问，首先要根据兴趣选择专业，让职业变成学习的自然结果。

2006年12月1日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Classmates are a more important influence than parents on a child's success in school. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Although the influence of classmates is very important, a child's success in school depends mainly on the influence of the parents.

In general, the example set by the parents is the basis for the behavior and attitudes of the child. If the parents show an interest in learning, are supportive, loving, encouraging and have made it clear that education is important by reading to them, praising their progress and not being overly critical when they do not achieve maximum success, the child will probably be confident, relaxed, enjoy learning, and not be afraid of making mistakes as they try to be more creative in their thinking and studies in the classroom amidst all kind of classmates. Because of their confidence and feeling of security given by their parents, they will be happy, well adjusted students and popular with their classmates and the teachers, and better students.

If the child knows that, no matter what, their parents are loving and encouraging and that they always have a "safe" base to return to, there is little that can really upset them at school and they will be able to attend to their studies successfully even in the face of bullies, naughty, distracting classmates or even unskilled and overly critical teachers. No matter what the classmates or the teachers say or do, the child has the sure knowledge that their parents love and "approve" of them; so, they are not seriously bothered by negative aspects at school.

On the contrary, if the parents are critical, unsupportive, unloving, there is little that classmates or teachers can or will do that will be of much help because the core being of the child is "in trouble" and that child does not have the basic confidence that only parents' love and support can instill in them.

Clearly, the influence of the parents is much more critical to a child's success in school than the classmates.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？子女在学业上取得成功，同学起到了比父母更重要的作用。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管同学的影响很重要，但是孩子在学业上获得成功却是父母起到了最主要的作用。

一般来说，父母在日常行为和处世态度上给孩子树立了榜样。如果父母对学习表现出兴趣；对他们支持、爱护和鼓励；通过读书给他们听、表扬他们的进步、在他们没有取得成功时不过度批评，让他们明白教育的重要性；如此一来，孩子就可能变得自信、放松，享受学习，不怕犯错，因为他们在思考和课堂学习的过程中变得更加具有创造力。因为从父母那里感受到了自信和安全感，孩子就会变得快乐，很好地适应，受到同学以及老师的欢迎，进而成为更出色的学生。

如果孩子认识到，无论如何父母总是对自己充满爱护和鼓励，总有一个安全的港湾可以回归，在学校就会很少有事情让他们不安。即便在学校被欺负、被捉弄，自己的同学总是令自己分心或者老师教学水平不怎么样还很严厉，他们也可能在学业上取得成功。不管同学、老师说什么，做什么，孩子坚信自己的父母会爱自己并支持自己，那他们就不会被学校的消极因素严重影响。

反过来，如果父母非常严厉，对自己也不支持不爱护，那么同学、老师所做的对孩子的学习起到的帮助也不大，因为问题的核心在于他陷入了困境，并且缺乏只有父母的爱和支持能够给予的基本的自信。

所以，与同学相比，父母的影响更多地决定了孩子在学业上能否取得成功。

2006年12月3日考试题

(同2008年2月16日考试题)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Grades (marks) encourage students to learn. Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion.

To my mind, grades do encourage students to learn. There is no doubt that grades effectively measure students' knowledge and progress. Without grades, it would be difficult for students to know whether they had mastered some knowledge and could move on or whether they needed to study it further. For example, an A grade makes it clear that a student has learned all he or she needs to learn in a particular area; on the other hand, an E grade shows that the student has a big problem. If students did not have grades to guide them, they would not have a clear study path.

Moreover, a good grade inspires a student because he or she knows that the teacher recognizes his or her progress. This motivates the student to continue working hard. In addition, grades influence a student's reputation. Grades tell parents and classmates about someone's study performance. A high grade, for example, earns people's respect whereas a low grade causes a student to lose face. Even students who are not motivated to study for their own benefit are likely to study in order to avoid angry parents and a bad reputation at school or university.

The problem with grades is that sometimes achieving a good grade becomes the goal of study but, in my view, the goal should be to develop one's understanding of the world. In some cases, grades have a negative impact on learning because students focus on learning the techniques of getting a high score instead of focusing on understanding a subject deeply. Therefore, I believe grades are useful for encouraging students to learn but we should not forget the other important factors, for instance a good learning environment, an inspiring teacher, and personal interest.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？成绩（分数）激励学生学习。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我认为成绩确实能够激励学生学习。毫无疑问，成绩能够有效地衡量学生的知识和学习进度。若没有成绩，学生将很难判断自己是否已经掌握了某些知识并可以继续前进，或是对原有知识进行进一步的学习。例如，成绩A很清楚地说明了学生已经充分学习了他们／她所需要学习的领域，而另一方面，成绩E则显示了学生有很大的问题。如果没有成绩去引导学生，他们就没有一个清晰的学习轨迹。

此外，好成绩激励学生，因为他／她知道老师认可了自己的进步。这促使学生继续努力学习。另外，成绩可以影响一个学生的声誉。家长和同学会从成绩来判断一个学生的学习表现。例如，高分赢得大家的尊重，而低分则会让学生丢脸。即使是那些并没有动力为自己学习的学生，为了避免家长的怒气和学校里不好的声誉，也很有可能去努力学习。

成绩引起的问题在于，有时取得好成绩变成了学生学习的目标，而在我看来，目标应该是培养个人对世界的认知。在某些情况下，成绩对学习会产生消极影响，因为学生关注取得高分的技巧，而忽视去深入了解所学的学科。因此我认为，分数对激励学习很有帮助，但是我们应该忘记其他重要的因素，例如良好的学习环境、鼓舞人心的老师及个人的兴趣。

2006年12月16日考试题

What do you want most in a friend—someone who is intelligent, or someone who has a sense of humor, or someone who is reliable? Which one of these characteristics is most important to you? Use reasons and specific examples to explain your choice.

As far as I am concerned, these three characteristics are all important in a friend but I consider reliability to be the most important. Intelligence is important because I can have good conversations with an intelligent friend. Intelligent friends have a strong thinking capacity, which challenges and inspires me, and they have their own ideas, as I do, so we can learn new things from each other. I believe that a sense of humor is an important characteristic in a friend because life has many stresses and "laughter is the best medicine." A friend with a sense of humor is fun to be with and can help me to relax and balance the stress of study.

However, while intelligence and humor are important characteristics, they do not necessarily mean that we can trust someone to be a true friend. In my personal experience, people with bad characters can use intelligence and humor to deceive and cheat other people. These people are not real friends. In fact, intelligence and a sense of humor are only good characteristics when they are combined with reliability. When someone is reliable, we know that we can trust this person and that he or she will not cheat us.

Moreover, intelligence and humor may be inspiring qualities when times are good, but sometimes we all experience bad times, and this is when we most need our friends. As the idiom says, "a friend in need is a friend indeed." I want a friend who will comfort me when I am sad, who will reassure me when I am scared, and who will support me when others do not. In short, the best friend is someone we can rely on at any time and in any situation, and this is why I have chosen reliability as the most important characteristic.

译文

你最想要朋友是怎样的人？一个聪慧的人，一个幽默的人，还是一个可靠的人？哪一种品质对你最为重要？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

就我而言，聪慧、幽默和可靠这三种特质都非常重要，但其中可靠是最为重要的。聪慧的重要在于我能够和一个聪慧的朋友进行愉快的交谈。聪慧的朋友具有很强的思维能力，这可以挑战和激励我，他们和我一样，有自己的想法，因而我们可以从对方身上学习新的知识。朋友的幽默感很重要是因为生活中有太多的压力，而笑声是最好的良药。和一个有幽默感的朋友在一起充满乐趣，可以帮助我放松和平衡学习中的压力。

然而，尽管聪慧和幽默感都是重要的特质，并不意味着我们可以放心地将具有这些特性的人当做真正的朋友。在我的个人经验中，一些有着不良品德的人会运用他们的聪慧和幽默感去欺骗他人，这些人不会是真正的朋友。事实上，聪慧和幽默只有和可靠组合在一起才是真正好的特质。当一个人是可靠的，我们就知道我们可以信任这个人，他/她不会欺骗我们。

此外，聪慧和幽默在人生顺利的时候，也许是令人振奋的特质。但有时我们都会经历低谷，而这时是我们最需要朋友的时候。如习语所说：“患难识知己。”我想要一个能在悲伤时安慰我，在害怕时鼓励我，在不被支持的时候支持我的朋友。总之，最好的朋友是我们在任何时间、任何情况下都可以依赖的人，这就是我选择可靠为最重要特质的原因。

2007年1月13日考试题

Many teachers assign homework to students every day. Do you think that daily homework is necessary for students? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

To be honest, I do not believe that daily homework is necessary for students. In fact, I believe that it often has a negative effect. In my opinion, too much homework is a burden for students and it means that they have little time to do other things. Not only do students in China spend eight hours of every weekday in studying in school or university, but also they spend most evenings and weekends doing homework. There is a strong focus on academic study in China and most students are not able to participate in other activities. Yet, in my opinion, some of these activities have a positive influence on a person's development.

In the US, for example, students have much less homework and they spend their free time playing sports, participating in clubs, volunteering, and even having part-time jobs. From these activities, they learn many important life skills, such as teamwork, leadership, creative thinking, managing money, and being independent. They also get to experience fun, which is important because "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." When they graduate from university, they are well-prepared for life. Chinese students, on the other hand, often find it difficult to adapt to the sudden change.

However, the problem is not just the amount of daily homework; another issue is the inflexibility of daily homework. Since the homework must be completed on a certain day, students are not able to organize their own schedules. From my point of view, homework should be set weekly and students should be given the freedom to plan their timetable. This will teach them responsibility and they will learn how to manage their time efficiently, which is a vital skill for any job. In summary, I believe that assigning daily homework prevents students from becoming mature and responsible.

译文

许多老师每天都给学生布置家庭作业。你认为日常家庭作业对学生来说是必要的吗？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

说实话，我并不认为日常的家庭作业对学生是必要的。实际上，我认为这种家庭作业经常会产生消极影响。太多作业对学生来说是一个负担，这意味着他们没有时间去做其他事情。中国学生不仅平日花8小时在学校上课，夜晚和周末也都大多用来完成作业。中国对学业的重视让多数学生无法参加其他活动。而我认为有些活动对学生的个人发展是有积极作用的。

例如，在美国，学生们的作业要少得多，他们用闲暇时间做运动，参加社团，做志愿者，甚至做兼职工作。从这些活动中，他们学到了很多重要的生活技能，例如团队合作、领导能力、创造性思维、金钱管理以及独立能力。并且他们从中得到了趣味，而这也是很重要的，因为“劳逸要相宜（只工作不玩耍，聪明的孩子也变傻）”。当他们从大学毕业毕业后，他们已为生活做好了充足的准备，然而中国学生则往往很难适应生活的这种突然转变。

尽管如此，问题不仅仅是日常家庭作业的数量，还在于作业缺乏灵活性。由于家庭作业必须在某一天完成，学生们无法安排自己的时间表。在我看来，作业应该每周布置一次，学生应该有自行安排时间表的自由。这样可以教他们责任感和如何有效地管理时间，这也是所有工作中至关重要的技能。总而言之，我认为布置日常家庭作业会阻碍学生们变得成熟和负责任。

2007年1月14日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Drivers should pay a certain amount of fee to drive on the city streets during the busiest hours of a day. Use reasons and specific examples to explain your choice.

I agree with the statement that drivers should pay a fee to drive on the city streets during the busiest hours of a day. Private car ownership is a characteristic of modern society and, although cars give people more convenience and are good for the economy, there are several negative impacts on society, such as pollution and traffic congestion. Pollution is bad for people's health and traffic congestion causes inefficiency due to low traffic speeds. In addition, increased car use causes more traffic accidents. Therefore, I believe it is important to minimize car use and a fee or congestion charge is an effective method.

A congestion charge, if set high enough, would deter people from using their cars during the busiest hours, thereby improving road efficiency, decreasing harmful emissions, and reducing accidents. Instead of using cars, more people would be encouraged to use public transportation, for instance buses and subway trains. This would help the development of a sustainable society. I am not convinced that less car use would be bad for the economy because a congestion charge could reduce traffic congestion without decreasing the number of people going shopping. The money raised could be invested in public transportation, further increasing its efficiency and attractiveness to people.

It is said that this kind of tax is unfair as it penalizes common people more than rich people, who are more able to afford the fee. However, this is true of any fee and I believe that the benefits of a congestion charge outweigh this disadvantage. This type of system has been successfully implemented in cities such as London and Stockholm and has proven to be an effective solution to congestion. I hope that Beijing can implement a similar system in the near future so we can benefit from cleaner air and better roads.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？在一天最繁忙的时刻，司机在城市道路上行驶应该交付一定费用。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我同意司机在一天内最繁忙时刻行驶在城市道路上须交付一定费用这一观点。拥有私家车是现代社会的特征。虽然车给予了人们更多的便利，并有利于经济发展，但它对社会却有一些消极影响，例如污染和交通堵塞。污染危害了人类健康，交通堵塞则造成由低速交通引起的低效性。此外，车辆使用的增加还会引起更多的交通事故。因此，我认为尽量减少车辆使用是十分必要的，而城市道路行驶费或拥堵费的征收将是一个有效的方法。

交通拥堵费如果设置得足够高昂，则能阻止人们在道路最繁忙的时刻使用车辆，从而提高交通效率，减少有害气体排放，减少交通事故。更多人将会受到鼓励去乘坐公共交通工具，例如公交车和地铁，而非使用私家车辆，这将有利于可持续性社会的发展。我不认为减少私家车辆使用会对经济有不利影响，因为交通拥堵费的征收可以减少交通拥挤，而不会减少购物人群的数量。而这些所筹集的费用可以用于公共交通工具的投资，进一步提高公共交通工具的交通效率和对公众的吸引力。

有人说这种税收是不公平的，因为富人更能够支付这项费用，普通百姓与富人相比处于更不利的地位，然而这种情况对于任何费用都会发生，所以我认为征收交通拥堵费的优点多于其缺点。这一收费系统已经在很多城市例如伦敦和斯德哥尔摩成功实施，并证明其为有效的交通堵塞解决办法。我希望在不久的将来北京能够实行类似的收费系统，以让我们能够呼吸到更清新的空气，享受到更好的路面交通。

2007年2月3日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People can learn more from watching television than reading books. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Most parents and teachers believe that television is just a distraction, but I think that people can learn more from watching television than from reading books. The main reason is that television is more suitable for modern lifestyles. Most people spend the majority of their time working or studying and they do not have a lot of free time. Reading books is time-consuming and often we need to think carefully about the information. Television can use pictures, videos, written and spoken words, and music to transmit information, so people can absorb information more quickly.

As well as being more efficient, television is also more convenient. People only need to buy one television and this brings all the information to their homes. There are hundreds of different television channels with a great variety of information. Some are general, like CCTV 1, but many focus on specific subjects, like the Discovery Channel. Often the information is not something that we have considered before. On the other hand, before we can read a book we must go to a bookshop or library to get the book, and we need to know what kind of book we want. Therefore, I believe that television is better at introducing people to new ideas.

Although we can learn about more things from television, it is also true that television does not give us a deep understanding. In order to entertain people, television programs present information in a very simple way, whereas books allow people to explore a topic in detail. While people can learn about many things from television, they only learn a little about each area. People might learn about fewer things from reading books and spend more time, but they learn more about each thing. To me, the quality of information is more important than the quantity.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？人们看电视比阅读书籍能学到更多的知识。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

大多数家长和老师认为电视只会分散注意力，但我认为人们看电视比阅读书籍能学到更多的知识。最主要的原因是电视更适合于现代的生活方式。多数人每天的大部分时间都用于工作和学习，他们没有多少闲暇时间。阅读书籍是个需要消耗时间的活动，并常常需要仔细思考书中的信息。而电视可以使用图片、视频、书面和口头文字以及音乐来传递信息，所以人们能更快吸收这些信息。

除了更有效率之外，电视也更加便利。人们只需要买一台电视，就可以让电视为他们家中带来所有信息。成百上千的电视频道提供了各种各样的信息。有些频道的信息是综合类的，例如CCTV1，但也有许多频道关注某些特定主题，例如探索频道。这些信息往往都不是我们曾经注意过的。而另一方面，在我们能够阅读一本书之前，我们必须去书店或者图书馆取得书籍，并且了解所需要的书是哪种类型。因此，我认为电视能更好地向人们引入新思想。

虽然我们可以从电视中学到更多的知识，但是电视的确不能给予我们对于事物的深刻理解。为了娱乐观众，电视节目以简单的方式呈现信息，而书本则能让读者更详尽地探讨一个主题。当人们在电视中学习新知识的时候，他们只能在各个知识领域浅尝辄止。人们阅读书籍也许用更多的时间获得了较少的知识，但却对每项知识学习得更深刻。而对于我来说，知识的质量比其数量要重要得多。

2007年2月24日考试题

Which is more important for students, to understand concepts or to learn facts? Use specific reasons and examples to support your choice.

I have no doubt that understanding concepts is more important for students than learning facts. Facts are specific pieces of information, like the population of a country or the date of an event. Facts can help students know about one thing but they are not useful in other areas of students' lives. For example, China has 1.3 billion people. This is a fact that tells a person something about China but he or she cannot use this fact to understand another thing. Knowing the population of China cannot teach a student about population problems or the population of other countries.

Furthermore, a fact does not explain why something is so, or whether it is a good or bad thing. If students just know facts, they will have knowledge but they will not be able to analyze this knowledge. By understanding concepts, students learn how to be analytical and think independently. They can use a concept to understand a situation deeply, and then they can apply the concept to other areas. They can know why something happened and whether it is a good thing or a bad thing. In short, learning facts tell people "what" but understanding concepts tells them "why" and "how."

For example, if we know about the concepts of population growth and overpopulation, we can know why China's population is so large, whether it is a good or bad thing, and the possible consequences. We can also use the same concept to analyze every country's population. Understanding concepts ensures that people or countries can learn from each other. Concepts focus on explaining the relationship between different things. To my mind, it is very important to know why something is true because this means we can apply the knowledge to other areas in order to improve society.

译文

对于学生来说，理解概念和知道事实哪个更重要？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我从不怀疑对学生来说理解概念比认识事实要重要得多。事实是具体的信息片段，例如一个国家的人口或是一个事件的日期。事实可以帮助学生了解一件事情，却无法在学生生活中的其他领域帮助他们。例如，中国有13亿人口。这一事实可以告诉一个人关于中国的一些信息，却无法让他／她用这一事实去理解其他事情。知道中国人口数量并不能让学生了解因人口产生的问题或是其他国家的人口数量。

此外，一个事实本身并不能解释事情为什么如此，事情是好是坏。如果学生仅仅知道事实，他们会有知识，但是无法分析知识。而通过理解概念，学生可以学会如何掌握分析能力，如何独立思考。他们可以利用概念去深入了解一种现象，并把概念运用于其他领域。他们可以知道事情为什么发生，事情是好是坏。简而言之，学会事实只能告诉人们“是什么”，而理解概念则告诉人们“为什么”和“怎样做”。

举个例子，如果我们知道关于人口增长和人口过剩的概念，我们就可以知道为什么中国的人口如此之多，了解这是好事还是坏事，以及可能产生的结果。我们也可以使用这同样的概念去分析每一个国家的人口。理解概念使人们和国家可以相互学习。概念关注解释不同事物的关系。在我看来，了解事物为什么是正确的十分重要的，因为这意味着我们可以将这些知识运用到其他领域来改善社会。

2007年3月4日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The ability to cooperate well with others is more important today than in the past. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I personally feel that the ability to cooperate well with others has always been important, from the earliest days of scattered human interaction to our current technologically connected civilization.

We can only just imagine that our early human ancestors depended for their very lives on their ability to get along with the other members of their clan. There is evidence, for example, that individual hunters would never attempt to take down a mastodon alone—they would need to work as a team to successfully hunt such large beasts. Early humans must also have depended on each other for such creature comforts as warmth and shelter; they would most certainly have shared the same cave in extended family groups, and they would have had to learn how to get along with differing personalities in extremely close quarters.

As humans became more "civilized" (and moved from caves into cities), they still needed very much to cooperate with each other to produce great works of architecture, such as the pyramids of Egypt or the Great Wall of China, and to organize their own governments. Although throughout history there have been scores of individuals who have attempted to assert their despotic power over their own people, around 5th century BC the Greeks devised a cooperative form of government, known as a "democracy" ("rule of the people"), in which laws were passed and rules enforced not by one person, but by a collaboration of representatives.

In today's global economy, there is more need than ever for people to be able to cooperate with each other, and fortunately the development of international communication channels has made this very easy to do. Now scientists from different parts of the world can collaborate with each other through online discussions; corporations can keep in touch with all branches of their companies through Internet services such as gotomeetings.com; families with far-flung relatives can keep in close contact through the "magic" of Skype and the intimacy of webcams.

Nevertheless, just because it is easier than ever to connect with other people, we still need to work on our interpersonal and collaborative skills if we truly wish to move forward as the human race, and not as separate communities. Too many of us hold too many misconceptions about others who seem strange to us; we must learn to exploit technology in ways that will bring us together, rather than drive us apart. "No man is an island," John Donne wrote. More than ever, we must collaborate to survive.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？与过去相比，当代社会与人协作的能力更重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我个人认为，从早期分散的人际互动到因科技而紧密联系的现代文明时期，与人协作的能力都非常重要。

我们可以想象一下，我们的祖先赖以生存的是与其他部落成员相处的能力，这是有证据的，比如，猎人一般不会试图独自一人猎杀乳齿象——他们需要组成一个团队以便能够成功猎杀这样的庞然大物。同样地，早期人类必须依靠彼此才能确保保暖和住所等物质条件；他们肯定也与大家族群体同住一个洞穴，于是在如此近距离的环境里，他们不得不学会与不同性格的人相处。

在人类进化得越发文明的今天（人类从洞穴搬到了城市里），人们同样非常需要相互合作，一起建造宏伟的建筑（比如埃及金字塔或中国的万里长城），组建自己的政府。尽管历史上许多人都宣称自己有统治人民的权力，但是大约在公元前5世纪，希腊人提出了一种新的政府模式，那就是“民主制”——由人民实行统治。在这种体制下，法律的通过和制度的生效不是由个人决定，而是由人民代表共同来决定。

经济全球化的今天，需要人们具备更强的与人合作的能力。幸运的是，国际交流渠道

的发展使之变得更加容易了。来自世界不同地区的科学家可以通过网络在线讨论进行合作；企业也可以通过诸如gotomeetings.com等网络服务项目来与自己所有的分公司保持联系；而相距甚远的亲戚朋友也可以通过网络聊天工具的神奇或者网络摄像头的亲密保持紧密的联系。

尽管如此，如果我们真的希望人类社会作为一个整体进步而不是分离的单个群体，在与人联系更为简便的今天，我们依然需要培养自己的人际交往和合作能力。我们中有太多人对自己不熟悉的人抱有错误的观念；我们必须学会利用一些能把我们团结在一起的新科技，而不是任其把我们相互分离。正如约翰·多恩（英国诗人——译注）所说：“没有人完全孤立如小岛。”为了生存，我们必须比以往任何时候都要团结合作。

2007年3月23日考试题

Some movies are serious, designed to make the audience think. Other movies are designed primarily to amuse and entertain. Which type of movie do you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I most definitely prefer movies that are entertaining, meaning I can "hold them in my mind." Thus, a movie that makes me think would also be, in my mind, supremely entertaining.

Take a recent movie, *The King's Speech*, as one example. In this historical drama, the anguish suffered by George VI of England because of his stutter forces the viewer to consider how often we all are afflicted by similar shortcomings such as stage fright or severe shyness. The moral of this fine movie is simply this: If you work hard, and have faith in yourself, you can overcome any weakness and achieve success.

The King's Speech is certainly philosophical and erudite, filled with historical references and sophisticated dialogue. But it is also hilariously funny. In one scene, for example, the King explains to Lionel Logue (his speech therapist), that the royal physicians have advised him to smoke cigarettes to relax his throat muscles. "They're idiots," says Lionel. "They've all been knighted," the King replies. "Makes it official then," retorts Lionel. When I saw this scene in the movie theater, the audience erupted into howls of laughter. There are many other such humorous bits in this movie, interspersed with scenes of great emotion. *The King's Speech* is entertaining in all definitions of the word.

Another movie that I found to be most entertaining (because it made me think AND amused me) is *Not One Less*, directed by Zhang Yimou. This movie tells the story of 13-year-old Wei Minzhi, who is hired as a substitute teacher in a poor country town, even though she is only slightly older than the students. When one of the students leaves to find work in the city, she recruits the others to help her raise money to find him and bring him back. Although the "schoolhouse" is little more than a ramshackle hovel and although the students are living in horrible poverty, this movie shines with hope.

Watching it, I thought about how an inspirational teacher can change the lives of even the most disadvantaged students, and how important it is to make good on your promises. The children in the movie were just delightful to watch, and I found myself laughing often at their antics. It all comes down to this: The best movies, in my opinion, make me laugh, make me cry, thrill me to no end. They also make me think.

译文

有些电影主题深刻，旨在令观者思考，而有的电影则主要是为了消遣和娱乐。你更喜欢哪种电影？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我当然更喜欢那些既富有娱乐性，又能令我印象深刻的电影。所以，在我心里，一部令我思考的电影同时也具有很高的娱乐性。

以最近的一部电影《国王的演讲》为例。在这部历史片中，英格兰国王乔治六世因为口吃所遭受的痛苦，迫使观众去思考自己因为类似的缺陷比如怯场和极端害羞而遭受的折磨。这部优秀影片的寓意很简单：只要你肯努力，相信自己，你可以克服任何困难并取得成功。

《国王的演讲》当然是一部极富哲理性和博学性的影片，其中充满各种历史典故和深刻的对话，但同时它也是充满趣味的。例如，有个场景，国王跟他的语言障碍矫正师莱昂内尔·罗格说，皇家医师们都建议他抽烟以舒缓喉部的肌肉。莱昂内尔说：“他们都是白痴。”国王辩解说：“可是他们都被封为爵士了。”“那他们都是官方认证的白痴。”莱昂内尔反驳道。当我在电影院里看到这一幕时，观众们都大笑起来。影片中还有许多类似的幽默情节，点缀着情节中强烈的情感。无论如何，《国王的演讲》都是充满娱乐性的。

另一部我觉得有趣的电影是张艺谋导演的《一个都不能少》，因为它既引发了我思考，也带给了我欢乐。这部影片讲述了13岁女孩魏敏芝在一个贫困山区任代课老师的故事，尽管她自己并不比那些学生大多少。当其中一名学生为了到城里打工而退学的时候，她号召学生们为她筹车票钱，以便能够到城里找到这名学生并把他带回来。虽然他们的“校舍”不过是一个摇摇欲坠的小屋，那些学生过着极端贫苦的生活，但是这部影片依然充满希

望。看着这部影片，我在想该是一个多么鼓舞人心的老师才能够改变那些生活条件最差的学生们的生活，而兑现一个承诺又是多么重要。影片中的孩子令人看着愉悦，我自己也常常因为他们的滑稽举动而发笑。

总之，在我看来，最好的电影能够让我笑，让我哭，让我激动不已，也让我思考。

2007年4月21日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Movies and television exert more negative effects than positive effects on young people's behaviors. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Parents and other "guardians of the young" have long been worried that movies and television shows might have a horrendously negative effect on young viewers. Even as long ago as 1896, people were shocked at the sight of a man and a woman smooching sideways in Thomas Edison's brief film, *The Kiss*. Today we still have a system that won't allow anyone under 18 to see an "x-rated" movie, and certain "dirty" words and outright nudity are not permitted on public television. Yet, with all these safeguards in place, young people today are still subjected to people and situations that most certainly do lead to unacceptable (or even dangerous) behaviors.

First there is the problem with "copycat" behavior—a teenager sees some idiot on a TV show (like *Jackass*) performing some ridiculously perilous stunt and runs right out to try it himself. This is where the foolhardy and oftentimes lethal "game" of "car surfing" originated: A person jumps on the roof of a moving car and pretends to "surf" it down the street. (You can just imagine what happens next when the driver slams on the brakes.)

This "monkey see, monkey do" mentality applies as well to sexuality as portrayed in film and on TV. Parents may bemoan the fact that their 12-year-old "little girl" appears to favor dressing like a prostitute, with low cleavage, a high hem, and a bare midriff, but she's just watching MTV and mooning about looking like Madonna or Lady Gaga. And what about performers like Ricky Martin or Prince, whose suggestive dance moves in music videos would have made Elvis blush?

The problem with having public access to media is that there is always going to be the danger that our young people will be exposed to "bad" behavior. Movie and TV producers know full well that sex and violence sells, so they will not be persuaded to clean up their acts. Viewers must therefore beware. The only thing concerned parents can do is to monitor their children's media encounters and provide guidance towards more positive role models.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？电影与电视对年轻人的行为所起的消极影响大于积极影响。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

家长和其他的“年轻人监护者”长期以来都很担心电影和电视节目会给年轻的收看者带来可怕的消极影响。甚至早在1896年，在观看托马斯·爱迪生的短剧《吻》时，观众就因为一个男人和一个女人在街边拥吻的镜头而震惊不已。直至今日，我们依然有制度规定18岁以下的青少年儿童不得观看限制级影片，带有某些下流字眼、全裸镜头的影片也不得在公共频道播出。但是，即便所有这些安全保护布置到位，年轻人还是会因为受周围人与环境的影响而很可能做出一些不被接受的甚至危险的行为。

首先，问题在于盲目模仿的“跟风”行径。十几岁的青少年看到电视节目中（比如《蠢蛋搞怪秀》）某个白痴做出一项荒诞可笑又极其危险的特技，就会马上想要自己去尝试一下。这也是鲁莽而又常常致命的“汽车冲浪”游戏兴起的原因：一个人跳上一辆行驶中的车顶，假装他在大街上冲浪。（不难想象，如果司机猛踩刹车会发生什么。）

青少年的这种“有样学样”的心理同样适用于电影和电视中对“性”的描述。父母可能会因为自己12岁的小女儿热衷于把自己打扮得像个妓女（穿着低胸衣领，高分叉裙子和露脐装）而心痛不已，但是其实她只是看了MTV然后也希望自己看起来像麦当娜和Lady Gaga一样。更不用说去模仿瑞奇·马丁或王子“罗杰斯·奈尔逊”这些在音乐影像中跳着连猫王埃尔维斯都会脸红的充满性暗示舞蹈的表演者了。

媒体对大众开放的危险性在于年轻人总会接触到一些“坏”的行为。电影和电视生产商深知性和暴力的销售效应，所以不可能成功说服他们消除影视作品中的这些卖点。因此，观众自身就必须保持警惕。忧虑的父母唯一能做的，就是监控孩子观看的媒体节目并通过

更有积极教育引导作用的榜样对他们进行指引。

2007年4月29日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is desirable to know about events from all over the world even if it is unlikely to have any effect on your daily life. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Somewhere in the deserts of east Africa, a small village is facing starvation. Does this affect me in any way? No, I watch the news report on TV and then head out to do some grocery shopping. The streets of Cairo, Egypt, are filled with protestors; I plan my upcoming trip to England. Every day there are stories on CNN or in the New York Times dealing with people I don't know facing situations I have never experienced myself. My own life may not be changed because of these events, but my knowledge of my place in this world would be seriously impoverished without such exposure.

By learning about events happening down the street from us (the local news) or in Washington, D.C. (the national news) or in a far-off country (the international news), we become better-educated citizens of the world. On the local level, we learn what is happening in our own town or city: Are we living in a safe neighborhood? Are our children attending good schools? On the national level, we learn what is happening in our country: Are our elected officials representing our interests as well as we would like? Are we prepared for any physical disasters? And on the international level, we learn that other countries often experience the same periods of unrest and agitation as we ourselves have done, and that other nations are just as proud of their heritage as we are of ours. Such knowledge leads to understanding and tolerance.

Knowing about events taking place all over the world may not make a difference in our daily actions, but they frequently have a noticeable effect on us in the long run. Any unrest in the Middle East, for example, will likely cause gasoline prices to rise in our own country. China's booming housing market may eventually help our own economy because of the need for building materials produced in the U.S. Terrible floods in Australia will at some point decrease the volume of our imports from the Land Down Under. As far as the global economy is concerned, any disruption in the supply chain will have a ripple effect all over the world. Is it not preferable that we are aware of these ripples before they do have a major impact on our lives?

A little knowledge may be a dangerous thing, but a broad, balanced, and comprehensive knowledge of the events that shape our world is surely a positive benefit to all of us.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？了解天下事是值得的，即使这些事可能与日常生活毫不相干。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

东非沙漠某个地区的某个小村庄正在遭受饥荒。这会对我造成影响吗？不会，我在电视上看完这条新闻之后，便到杂货店里购物去了。埃及首都开罗大街上到处都是抗议游行的人，但我依然计划着即将来临的英国旅行。每天美国有线电视和《纽约时报》等媒体都在报道我不认识的人面临的我从来没有经历过的境遇。我自己的生活可能并不会因为这些事情而有任何改变，但假如没有这些信息的呈现，我对自己在这个世界上所处位置的认知将会严重枯竭。

通过对街边（当地新闻）、美国华盛顿特区（国内新闻）以及其他遥远国家（国际新闻）的了解，我们变成了受过良好教育的世界公民。从本地新闻，我们了解到生活的城镇周遭发生的事情，比如：我们是否生活在安全的社区？我们的孩子上的学校好不好？通过国内新闻，我们知道了本国发生的事情，比如：我们选举出来的政府官员是否如我们所愿代表我们的利益？我们是否为自然灾害做好了准备？凭借国际新闻，我们知道，其他国家也常常与我们国家一样经历过一些动荡不安的时期；还有一些国家也跟我们一样，为本国宝贵的遗产而自豪。这些知识让我们学会了理解和宽容。

了解世界大事虽然不会给我们的日常行为带来影响，但是从长远来看它们依然起着显而易见的作用。比如，中东地区的任何一点动荡，都可能使我们国内的汽油涨价；中国房地产市场繁荣最终也可能会促进美国经济的发展，因为需要美国制造的建筑材料；而澳大

利亚可怕的洪灾则在一定程度上减少了从澳大利亚到美国的进口量。就全球经济来看，供给链中的任何一环出现断裂都会对全球经济造成连锁反应。在对我们的生活造成重大影响之前，我们便意识到这些连锁反应难道不是更可取吗？

一知半解也许是危险的，但是如果对这些构成整个世界的事件有了广泛、平衡、全面的认识，则肯定会令我们从中受益。

2007年5月18日考试题

Some people prefer to spend money on something that lasts for a long time, such as an expensive piece of jewelry. Others prefer to spend the money on something that provides a short-term pleasure such as a vacation. Which way would you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

Aesop's famous fable of The Ant and the Grasshopper tells the story of an industrious and hard-working ant, who spends all summer storing up food for the winter. Meanwhile, the grasshopper sits around playing music, singing, and having a grand old time. When winter finally comes, the ant is happily ensconced in his well-stocked home, while the grasshopper is left out in the cold to starve. The fable's moral, "Idleness brings want," is meant to teach us that we had better work hard today for some happy idle time in the future; I prefer to think that the grasshopper had a much better life than the grouchy ant. Money that is spent on a current desire (like a vacation) is, in my opinion, money well spent.

In the first place, "saving for a rainy day" does not necessarily mean that when that "rainy day" finally arrives you will be able to enjoy what you have saved. This is a common case with people who work hard all their adult lives, then retire and are miserable because they no longer have anything to keep them busy. And suppose someone puts all his money in, say, gold bullion to ensure his happy retirement, but when the time comes to quit work and take pleasure in the "good life," he finds that he is now too old and too physically disabled to live it up. Or imagine a woman who believes that "diamonds are a girl's best friend," so she collects them from each of her suitors, only to wind up alone and depressed in the last years of her life.

The Buddha tells us, "Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment." If we spend all of our time hoarding our dreams for the future, we may miss the pleasures of our lives today. Most assuredly we will miss out on the joy that comes from human interactions. Parents who put every penny they have into a savings account for their offspring may someday regret that they have no dear memories of happy times with their children. And how many neglected children would give anything they have inherited (real estate, jewelry, investments) for one day of true happiness with their mother and father?

Money can buy you a string of pearls, but it can not buy you love. And you certainly cannot take it with you when you die. "If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm," said novelist Morris West, "you'll never enjoy the sunshine." Tell that to the ant.

译文

有的人比较喜欢花钱买一些长期保值的東西，比如昂貴的寶石。而有的人則更喜欢用錢買短期的樂趣，比如旅遊。你更喜欢哪种？請用具體的理由和事例來說明。

伊索的著名寓言故事《螞蟥和蚱蜢》講述了一隻勤奮刻苦的螞蟥，整個夏天都在忙於為冬天儲備糧食；而蚱蜢終日坐着沒事干，只是奏樂，唱歌，享受美好舊時光。冬天來了，螞蟥安逸地呆在儲備豐厚的洞里，而蚱蜢無處安身，又冷又餓直到死去。這則故事的寓意是：今天努力工作是為了將來的悠閑自在！然而，我認為蚱蜢過着比愛抱怨的螞蟥更美好的生活。如果金錢能夠滿足現時需求（比如旅遊），那便花得值得。

首先，“未雨綢繆”並不意味着在“雨天”真正來臨的時候，你一定能夠享受到前期所準備的。很普通的例子，有些人辛苦工作一輩子，退休之後却覺得很痛苦，因為他們無事可做，無法再使自己忙碌起來。設想一下，有個人用自己所有的積蓄去購買金塊，以確保晚年過得安逸。但是當他退休後準備開始享受美好生活時，忽然發現自己已經老得沒法過那種逍遙快活的日子了。再比如，一個信奉“鑽石是女孩最好的朋友”的女人，樂於向每個求婚者收集鑽石，可結果只能孤獨抑郁地度過余生。

佛曰：“不要沉迷於過去，也不要寄望於未來，要活在當下。”如果我們將所有的時間都用來去堆積未來的夢，我們將錯失當下生活的樂趣。毫無疑問，我們將會錯失人際交往的樂趣。父母把所掙的錢都存起來留給自己的兒女，可能有一天他們會因為沒有和孩子一

起的幸福回忆而追悔不已。又有多少被忽视的孩子宁愿用自己从父母那里继承得来的财产（房产、珠宝、投资）来交换与父母共度的哪怕只有一天的幸福时光？

钱可以买到珍珠，但是买不到爱。当你死去的时候，不可能一并带走它。小说家莫里斯·韦斯特曾经说过：“如果你用一生来等待暴风雨的来临，那你将永远享受不到阳光。”这是对蚂蚁说的话。

2007年5月19日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers should be rewarded with incomes comparable to those of doctors, lawyers or business leaders. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

In 2009, David Tepper, manager of Appaloosa Management, received a salary of four million dollars. A brain surgeon will make anywhere between 150,000 to 270,000 dollars a year. An established lawyer can charge \$400–500 an hour. Meanwhile, the professionals who have the greatest influence on these future fund managers and surgeons and lawyers—their teachers—make, on average, around \$67,000 a year. This is a gross inequality of reward for service. Teachers deserve to be paid more—much more.

Some people may point out that teachers do not have the same long work hours as many of the other professions. These people don't know what they are talking about. Yes, a typical public school teacher may appear to be working only during the hours that school is in session (nine to three PM on average), and may take the entire summer off. But in reality, teachers work many long hours before and after school—prepping for their classes, grading papers, designing exams, and so forth. If not teaching summer school (to try and bring in a few more dollars), many teachers are themselves attending classes to achieve an advanced degree (and thus a bump in salary). If one does the math, assuming a teacher works at least 40 hours a week for most of the year (with two weeks off for vacation), that's a total of 2,000 hours. At \$67,000 that's \$33.50 an hour. (Plumbers make more than that.)

If we wised up and started to pay teachers what they are REALLY worth, we would have much better teachers. As it stands now, the U.S. ranks well below other countries in terms of student achievement in math and science. This is no surprise: Really brilliant mathematicians and physicists are probably going to seek their careers in the private sector, where they can command much higher salaries than what public school teachers get. But what if we offered our high school teachers \$350,000 a year in salary? If we could populate our schools with the best and the brightest teachers, surely we would then see a significant increase in students' test scores. With such attractive salary levels, we could also afford to be very discriminating about whom we choose to teach our children; this in turn would make it even more likely that students in every part of our country, urban and rural, would receive a superior education."

Teaching is not a lost art," said historian Jacques Barzun, "but the regard for it is a lost tradition." Let us strive to rediscover our regard for teachers by paying them appropriately.

译文

你是否同意以下的观点？教师应该得到与医生、律师以及企业领导者类似的工资。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

2009年，阿帕卢萨资产管理公司的大卫·泰伯获得了400万美元的收入；而一名脑外科医生在随便什么地方的年薪都在15万到27万美元之间；拥有律师执照的律师的时薪是400美元到500美元。与此同时，那些对这些未来的基金经理、外科医生以及律师影响最为重大的老师们平均年薪才6.7万美元。服务与回报极不相符。老师应该获得更高，而且高很多的薪水。

有人指出，老师工作的时间比别的行业的人工作的时间短。抱有这种想法的人根本不了解情况。是的，一名典型的公立学校老师看起来似乎只在学校的上课时间工作（平均是上午9点到下午3点），然后整个夏天都不用上班。事实上，老师还要在课前和课后花费大量的时间——备课、评卷、设计试题等等。如果不带暑假班（试图赚点外快），许多老师本身会上课，以获得更高的学位（以便有更高的薪水）。算算看，假设一名老师一周工作至少40个小时，一年下来，他的工时达2000个小时（除去两周时间用于旅游）。按年薪6.7万美元计算，他的时薪也就33.5美元。（水管工人挣的都比这多。）

如果我们认清这一点并开始付给老师确实值得的薪水，那我们将拥有更加出色的老

师。现在，美国学生在数学和科学方面取得的成绩远不如别的国家。这不足为奇：真正聪明的数学家和物理学家极有可能去私营机构发展自己的事业，在那里他们的薪水要比公立学校的老师高很多。但是如果我们给中学老师支付35万美元的年薪，又会怎样呢？如果我们学校都是最优秀最聪明的老师，学生的成绩肯定也会大幅提高。富有吸引力的薪酬水平，让我们可以自行鉴别选择自己孩子的老师；反过来我们国家各个地区的孩子都将更有机会接受精英教育，不管是在城市还是在农村。

历史学家雅克·巴尊说：“教育不是一门失落的艺术，但尊师重教传统却已丧失。”让我们通过给老师合理支付薪水，重拾对老师的尊敬。

2007年6月9日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In twenty years, people will have more leisure time. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Every generation sees advances in new technology that make life better—and easier—for those who are lucky enough to be able to take advantage of them. Although the situation of the poor in disadvantaged countries will remain pretty much unchanged (hard-scrabble work, limited education, isolation from the electronically-connected world), those members of the middle and upper classes with access to technological innovations will definitely see their leisure time increasing in the next twenty years.

Perhaps the most important innovation for the average person in developed countries will be the use of robots, both in businesses and in homes. No longer will a homeowner have to vacuum the house, spending upwards of about an hour of time to do so. Instead, a pre-programmed robot will take care of this task, while the homeowner is free to read a book, watch a movie, or visit a museum. We can also imagine that many of our other common chores will also be accomplished twenty years from now by automated processes—the washing machine of the future, for example, might not just wash the clothes but dry and fold them as well.

And just imagine how much the computer will be affecting our everyday lives twenty years from now! Through voice recognition technology (available now, but not widely used yet) we may be able to speak directly to our computer and say (for example), "I want to spend my vacation in the Bahamas this year," and then go play a round of golf while the computer (which has been programmed with all our personal preferences) contacts the airlines and a resort in the Bahamas and books our flight and room. All that will be left for us to do is to go there. (A "personal assistant" robot might even be available to pack our bags.)

In the 18th century, before the widespread availability of electricity, just being able to stay warm and well-fed required copious amounts of time and energy. A typical rural "housewife" in 1850, for example, would have to grow vegetables and raise animals to feed her family. It might take her all day long just to prepare a simple dinner: She would have to pick the vegetables from the garden, then select and slaughter a hen or a pig, then process it, then chop wood for the wood stove, then prepare the meal. Nowadays, the same woman can simply go to the pantry, select a microwavable meal, zap it for a few moments and then serve it up. Twenty years from now, the process may be even quicker, allowing her to spend more time playing with her family and less time working for them.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？20年后，人们将拥有更多休闲时间。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

每一代人都在看到新技术的进步，使有幸利用这种进步的人的生活变得更加美好和便捷。尽管一些贫穷的国家的贫穷状况几乎不会有什么改变（艰辛的工作、接受有限的教育、远离电子信息时代），而那些有机会接触科技创新事物的中层和上层人士将清楚地看到，他们的休闲时间会在未来的20年间增加。

可能对发达国家的普通人民来说，最重要的发明将会是机器人的使用，不管是用于商业还是家用。房主不再需要花费将近一个小时的时间用吸尘器清扫房子，可预设程序的机器人将代劳，而主人就可以悠闲地看书、看电影或者逛博物馆。不难想象20年后，许多类似的杂务劳动也可以全都由自动化程序完成——例如，未来的洗衣机可能不仅可以洗衣服，还能烘干和折叠衣物。

想象一下20年后电脑又将对我们的日常生活造成多么巨大的影响？通过语音识别技术（虽然现在也有，但是并没有普及），我们可以直接对电脑下指令，比如，只需要对电脑说：“今年我想到巴哈马群岛旅行，”然后电脑（事先已经通过程序设订了我们的个人喜好）在联系航空公司和旅游胜地、预订机票和房间的时候，我们就可以去打高尔夫球了。

我们只需要启程前往即可。（“私人助理”机器人甚至还能为我们打包行李。）

在18世纪电普及之前，仅仅是为了保暖和吃饱，就需要耗费大量的时间和精力。例如在1850年，典型的农村“家庭主妇”不得不自己种菜和养家畜来养活家人。她也许要花一整天时间去准备一顿简单的晚餐：她必须去菜园摘菜，然后挑出一只鸡或者一头猪宰杀加工；完了还得为生火砍柴，然后才能真正开始煮菜做饭。而现在，同样的“家庭主妇”只需要到食品储藏室选出一盒微波食品，加热几分钟直接端上桌就行。20年后，这个过程花费的时间可能会更短，如此一来，家庭主妇可以花更多的时间与家人玩乐，更少的时间为家人工作。

2007年6月16日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents find it hard to control their children for the children are now influenced by many things outside home like television or movies. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

There is a very old expression, "Monkey see, monkey do," which describes how easy it is for people to be influenced by what they see and hear. In the days before mass communication and electronic media, it would have been much harder for children to be exposed to any role models other than their own parents, family members, and neighbors. Nowadays, however, it is practically impossible to keep impressionable young people isolated from the images they see every day on TV or in the movies. Try as they might, modern parents have a much harder job than ever before to protect their children from the negative images they encounter in the media.

One of the most distressing results of such exposure to detrimental influences is the increase in bullying among young people. Bombarded every day by images of beautiful people with perfect bodies, even elementary school students become quick to judge other children based solely on their physical characteristics. It doesn't matter if a child is smart, or sensitive, or creative, or musical—if he or she is too chubby, or too short, or too "ugly," there will be bullies on hand to make their young lives miserable. As much as parents would like to intercede in such cases and protect their children from such attacks, they can't always be there on the bus, or in the classroom or the schoolyard—and neither can the parents of the bullies, who might be able to put a stop to the behavior if only they could witness it firsthand.

While bullying may lead to awful ends (such as a persecuted child committing suicide), it is not the only behavior that parents seem to have no control over. From violent video games, children learn that many of life's problems can be solved with a weapon, particularly a high-power, automatic rifle. And it does little good for parents to assert controls over what their children see and hear at home—there are too many opportunities for children to play violent video games at public arcades and their friends' houses.

In the mid-fifties, many parents were scandalized by the "pelvic gyrations" of Elvis Presley on the Ed Sullivan Show, and vowed to do whatever they could to protect their kids from the evils of rock 'n roll. Little did they know then that the problem would only get worse.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？现在的父母觉得很难管束自己的孩子，因为他们受太多外界事物（比如电视、电影）的影响。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

古语有云：有样学样——描述人是多么容易受他们所看到和听到的影响。在大众通信和电子媒体出现之前，孩子很难接触到除父母、家庭成员以及邻居以外的模仿对象。但是现在，让易受外界影响的青少年远离每天都能接触到的电视或电影影像根本不可能。不论他们如何努力，现在的父母都比过去更难让自己的孩子远离那些负面的媒体影像。

这种有害影响引发的最令人担忧的结果之一，就是年轻人中恃强凌弱现象的增加。每天受那些拥有出色容貌和姣好身材的形象的影响，即便是小学生也变得以貌取人了。不管一个小孩多么聪明、机敏、富有创造力和音乐天赋，只要他／她长得胖，长得矮，抑或“丑”，随时都可能被欺负，使他们的童年很痛苦。尽管父母们尽最大的努力去调解以保护自己的孩子免受这样的打击，但是他们不可能一直陪着自己的孩子，比如在公车、教室或者校园这样的地方——而那些恃强凌弱者的父母虽然可能只要第一时间看到，便能够制止自己孩子的行为，但他们也一样不能一直与孩子在一起。

尽管这种欺凌行为可能导致可怕的后果（比如被欺负的孩子自杀），父母无法管教的行为还不止于此。从含暴力内容的电子游戏中，儿童认识到生活中的很多问题都可以通过武器来解决，特别是高威力的自动步枪。即便父母们断言要严格控制自家孩子在家里收看和收听的节目，但作用并不大，儿童依然有很多机会去玩含暴力内容的电子游戏，比如在

公共游戏中心和朋友家里。

在20世纪50年代中期，很多父母为埃尔维斯·普雷斯利（美国著名摇滚明星“猫王”）在埃德·沙利文节目中的“骨盆摇摆舞”而感到震惊，并发誓无论如何也要保护他们的孩子免受摇滚的侵害。他们当时几乎一无所知，问题只会变得更糟。

2007年6月24日考试题

Some people prefer to finish a project completely before starting another. Others prefer to do two or several projects at the same time. Which way would you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

I am always much more efficient if I focus all my attention on one project at a time. The problem with trying to "multi-task" is that it is much too easy for me to get distracted and spend too much time on projects of less importance. For example, if I decide to paint my kitchen, it is very important that I follow through on all the steps in sequence—cover up the kitchen counters and other surfaces, lay drop cloths on the floor, clean and prep the walls and ceiling, gather all my painting tools, then begin to paint. If I stop to accomplish any other task half-way through (like decide to reorganize my bedroom closet) I will run out of time and energy for the painting project and wind up with a messy and unusable kitchen.

One advantage of the "finish-one-project-at-a-time" approach is that it forces me to pay particular attention to the task at hand and not be distracted by other thoughts. Thus, my kitchen painting project turns out much better since I am really conscious of how much paint I need on my brush, how strong a stroke I need to use on the wall or ceiling, and how careful I need to be around edges and corners.

Another advantage to my approach is that it saves me much time in the long run. If I am continually running off to take care of other matters (Clean out the closet! Wash the car!), it will no doubt take me at least twice as long to finish my painting job. Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motors, is also the inventor of the assembly line, a system by which each worker is responsible for just one part of the overall process to construct an automobile. Ford's efficient method resulted in better-built and less expensive cars because his workers could remain completely focused on doing just one task well.

It all comes down, really, to the ability to prioritize effectively. First I must make a list of things I need to accomplish, then prioritize them according to importance, then tackle each item on the list one by one. In this way, I can concentrate all my efforts on one task at a time, but also feel that I am making progress in dealing with all the items on my list. The most successful organizations have learned to "do one thing right." This is my motto, as well.

译文

有人喜欢开始新项目之前先做完手头的项目，而有人更乐于两个甚至几个项目同时进行。你更喜欢哪一种方式？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

如果全心全意一次做一个项目，我的效率会高很多。同时进行多项任务容易使我分心，并且在一些相对而言不是很重要的项目上花费太多时间。比如，如果我决定粉刷厨房，依次进行每个步骤就很重要——先把家具盖上，然后在地板上铺好罩单，清洁墙壁和天花板，之后准备好所有的粉刷工具，最后才开始粉刷。如果中途去做别的事情（比如决定去整理卧室壁橱），我就会浪费掉已花在粉刷厨房上的时间和精力，还把厨房弄得一团糟，无法正常使用。

一次只做一件事情的好处在于它让我专心做眼前的事情，而不会因为别的想法分心。如此一来，我便能把厨房刷得很好，因为我清楚地知道该用多少油漆，该用什么力度，在粉刷边角的时候该多么细心。

另一个好处是，从长远来看，它节省了很多时间。如果我总是中途去处理别的事情（比如清理壁橱，洗车！），毫无疑问，我将多花一倍的时间去完成粉刷工作。福特汽车的创始人亨利·福特也是流水线（在生产汽车的过程中，一个工人只负责一个环节）的发明者，运用这种有效的方法，福特制造出了更好的、更便宜的汽车，因为工人可以完全集中精力好好地完成一项任务。

这都归功于有效地按照优先顺序处理问题的能力。首先，我必须列出需要完成的事情，然后按其重要性进行排序，最后再依次完成。通过这种方式，我可以全力以赴一次处理一件事情，但是我也感觉到我在处理任务单上所有事情的时候正在进步。最成功的机构已经学会了“专注于做一件事情”，这同时也是我的座右铭。

2007年7月7日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? University students should be required to take basic science courses no matter what field they study. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Why should an English major have to take geology? Why should a history major be required to enroll in chemistry? And of what use will it be to a drama major to attend a math class? Questions like these have long been asked by annoyed university undergraduates who see little reason to spend their study time on subjects outside their area of interest. What is the value of a so-called "well-rounded" education, they may ask. The answer lies in the very definition of a "good" education itself.

In the first place, a good education comprises more than just practical skills acquisition. If our English major, for example, just wants to become familiar with the great works of literature, he can just read books by authors such as Plato, Shakespeare, or Wordsworth by himself. But if he wants to extend his range of expertise to other areas, an introduction to the study of geology can provide him with a much broader view of how the world that fostered these great writers initially came to be. We may not all be inspired writers, but we are certainly all "earthlings" and thus should know something about our planet's history.

Secondly, taking courses outside of one's major field of study helps to broaden our range of knowledge and enhance our analytical skills. Take the history major enrolled in the chemistry class: She may already know how to plot incidents on an historical time line; an introduction to the elements provided by her chemistry class may very well deepen her ability to analyze how cause and effect functions across many different disciplines. Indeed, learning how to break down a chemical formula into its component parts can't help but be of value to the historian looking for specific reasons for an event such as the Civil War.

Lastly, the true value of a well-rounded education may not be realized until sometime after the student graduates and finds a career in the "real" world. Suppose our drama major finds himself working in an off-Broadway theater, where he is expected not only to act on stage, but also to work in the box office, sell tickets, and devise ways to publicize the production. Surely even a brief grounding in basic math will be very useful in helping him determine by how much the theater needs to increase its sales to become profitable.

We live in a world of diversity and constant change. Who can say what smattering of knowledge learned in a required course will not prove to be of immense value one day? After all, the very name "university" implies an institution of higher learning where all things should be considered.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？不管所学的专业是什么，大学生都应该修读基础科学课程。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

为什么英语专业的学生要学地理？为什么历史专业的学生一定要修化学课？戏剧学专业学生修数学课又有什么用？这些问题总会被那些认为没有必要花时间学专业之外的课程的郁闷的本科生提及。他们可能会质疑全面教育的价值所在。“好”的教育本身的定位给出了答案。

首先，好的教育不仅仅是实用技能的获得。比如，英语专业的学生如果只是想熟悉了解伟大的文学作品，那他只需要自己拜读名家（譬如柏拉图、莎士比亚或者华兹华斯）的作品即可。但是如果他想扩展自身对其他领域的了解：塑造这些伟大作家的世界最初是怎样的？地理学可以让他对此有更开阔的视野。我们可能不会人人都成为鼓舞人心的作家，但毫无疑问，我们都是地球人，因此应该对我们星球的历史有所了解。

其次，修读专业之外的课程有助于扩大我们的知识面，加强分析能力。以历史系学生修读化学课程为例：他们可能已经知道如何按照历史时间线来描述事件，但是化学课上对某些元素的介绍可以加强他们分析不同学科之间的因果关系的能力。确实，学会分解化学

分子式成分作用不大，但是对于帮助从历史角度分析某个事件，例如美国内战的特定原因，则是有价值的。

最后，全面教育的真正价值可能直到学生毕业并在现实生活中开始了自己的职业生涯之后才会有所体现。假设，一个戏剧学专业学生在一个非百老汇剧院上班，在那里他不仅要上台表演，还可能到售票处卖票和设计宣传影片的不同方案。此时，对数学的一些基本了解能让他清楚知道剧院为获得盈利需要卖出的票数。

我们生活在一个不断变化的多元化世界里。谁敢断言必修课上学到的那点知识不会在未来的某一天发挥巨大作用？毕竟，“大学”的名字就暗示了大学就是一个提供多方面高等教育的机构。

2007年7月14日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? To truly understand any events happened in the world, we should draw our news from newspapers; television cannot provide enough information. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

On any given day, an event may occur somewhere in the world that captures the attention of people far away. A recent case in point is the uprising in Egypt, in which thousands of its citizens demonstrated in Cairo's main square, protesting the reign of their long-time dictator and calling for his immediate resignation. While many people outside of Egypt may have first learned about this situation from radio or TV broadcasts, there is no doubt that anyone who truly wants to understand the causes of the uprising and its effects on the economy of Egypt will find much more useful information in the print media.

One reason why newspapers provide more information than TV programs is that they have the space to include many more articles and in-depth analyses. TV broadcasts are severely limited by time constraints: In a typical half-hour "Nightly News" program, for example, the news is presented in under 20 minutes (the other 10 minutes are commercials), and many different stories must be presented, from the crisis in Egypt, to the weather, to sports news, to "feel good" bits ("Granny attacks bank robbers"). Thus, anyone wanting to know exactly what is going on in Egypt will get only the briefest overview on the televised news.

A newspaper, on the other hand, can offer in-depth coverage across many different viewpoints. The Egyptian situation may be updated on the first page (PROTESTORS REFUSE TO EVACUATE) and continued on the second page. Another article on page three might be a description of the lives of the ordinary people who are trying to cope with the crisis in their homeland (EGYPTIANS WORRIED ABOUT LOSS OF BUSINESS). And still further, there might be an "opinion piece" on the editorial page, in which a columnist writes at some length about what he or she believes will be the negative effects of the Egyptian uprising on other countries.

It may certainly be the case that, in the near future, the newspaper printed on paper that you can hold in your hands will disappear, but the structure and content of the newspaper will surely continue in an electronic form, supplying readers with the same amount of background information and analyses as before. "A good newspaper," playwright Arthur Miller said, "is a nation talking to itself." We may need television news to alert us to what is going on, but we need newspapers to tell us WHY such things are happening.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？为了真正了解世界正在发生的事情，我们应该从报纸上获取信息；电视所能提供的信息有限。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

随便哪一天，世界上某个地方发生的事情都可能吸引相距遥远的人的眼球。最近相关的一个例子是埃及国内的暴动事件，数千名埃及人民聚集在开罗主广场，抗议政府首脑在国内实行长期的独裁统治，要求其立即辞职。尽管很多埃及之外的人们可能第一时间是通过收音机或电视广播获得了这个消息，但是毫无疑问，那些想要清楚知道暴动起因及其给埃及经济造成的影响的人会通过印刷媒体获得更多有用的信息。

与电视节目相比，报纸之所以能够提供更多有用的信息，是因为报纸有更大的空间来容纳更多的文章和深入的分析。电视广播节目受到了时间的严格限制：比如，典型的“半小时晚间新闻”节目通常只花20分钟报道新闻（其余10分钟都是广告），而且不同类型的内容都必须播报，从埃及危机，到天气、体育新闻和感觉良好的故事片段（比如老奶奶反击银行劫匪）等内容。所以，想要确切知道埃及事态发展的人们通过电视新闻只能略知一二。

反过来，报纸能对很多不同观点进行深入报道。在报纸第一页报道埃及最新局势（“示威游行拒绝撤离”），然后在第二页继续详细报道。而在第三页可以刊登另外一篇文章，

描述当地普通民众如何应对这一危机（“埃及人民担心经营亏损”）。更甚者，在社论版面还可以刊登评论文章，某个专栏作家在此发表他／她的观点，认为埃及暴动将对别的国家带来消极影响。

可能在不久的将来，这些可以拿在手里看的纸质报纸会消失，但是结构一致、内容不变的电子版本同样能给读者带来足够多的背景信息和相关分析。剧作家亚瑟·米勒曾经说过：“一份好的报纸是一个国家在同自己对话。”我们也许需要电视新闻提醒我们发生了什么事情，但同样需要报纸告诉我们为什么发生了这些事情。

2007年7月21日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Modern society has become more complex, so it is essential for the young people to have the ability to plan and organize. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

We live in a world of many distractions—mobile phone calls, text messages, emails, instant messenger, blogs, Facebook postings, and on and on. It is easy thus to understand why today's young people, who are constantly bombarded by such demands on their attention, might find it very difficult to establish a plan for success and organize their actions to achieve it. Nevertheless, a student's ability to manage his or her time well and establish clear and concrete goals remains the one crucial criterion for success in school and in life.

"If you don't know where you're going," the Cheshire Cat says in *Alice in Wonderland*, "it doesn't much matter how you get there." The first step on the road to success is to plan a goal that is "S.M.A.R.T."—Specific, Measurable, Action-Oriented, Realistic, and Timely. A goal that is "specific" is defined clearly. ("Get a good education" is not specific. "Enroll in my community college this fall" is.) A "measurable" goal is objective. ("Get good grades" is not measurable. "Earn no mark lower than a B" is.) "Learn to play the flute" is not "action-oriented." "Sign up for flute lessons this semester" is. A more difficult aspect to consider is whether the goal is realistic. "Learn to speak fluent Mandarin in one month" is most likely not achievable. And a goal without a time frame is almost certainly doomed to failure. "Goals are dreams with deadlines," Diana Scharf Hunt (author of *Studying Smart*) reminds us.

Once the young person has identified "S.M.A.R.T." goals, he or she will need to figure out how to organize tasks to achieve the best results. A college student, for example, will need to devise ways to study for each class, without spending too much time on one subject and not enough on another. Preparing a calendar or a progress chart would be an effective way to keep everything on track: Is that big chemistry test scheduled for Friday? Then you need to free up time for study on Thursday; the book report that is due on Monday can wait till Saturday.

The complexities of our modern society demand effective planning and organizational skills. The definition of a good manager is one who can identify problems, prioritize solutions, and achieve deadlines. Young people who learn such skills in school will be well prepared for their future careers.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？现代社会变得越发复杂了，年轻人拥有计划和组织的能力必不可少。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我们生活的世界里到处都是令人分心的事物——电话、短信、邮件、即时通讯、博客、脸谱贴等。所以，不难理解为什么那些总是不断遭到此类事物轰炸的年轻人很难制订计划并有效实施以取得成功。尽管如此，不论是在学校还是生活中，学生合理规划时间和建立明确目标的能力，依然是衡量他们是否成功的主要标准。

在《爱丽丝梦游仙境》中，柴郡猫说：“如果你连目的地都不知道，如何到达根本不重要。”成功的第一步是制定“明智的目标”——明确的、可衡量的、以行动为导向的、现实的并且及时的目标。“明确的”目标可以很清楚地定义（“接受好的教育”是不明确的；“秋季到我们社区大学注册入学”就是明确的）。“可衡量的”目标是客观的（“获得好成绩”是无法衡量的；争取B或比B高的分数是可以衡量的）。“学吹长笛”方向是不确定的，但是“报名参加长笛课程”方向却是确定的。比较难确定的是目标的“现实性”。“一个月内学会说流利的普通话”就非常的不现实。没有时间要求的目标注定会失败。《聪明学习》的作者戴安娜·莎佛·亨特提醒我们：“目标是有截止日期的梦想。”

年轻人一旦明确了什么是“明智的目标”，他／她要懂得如何组织实施才能够取得最好的结果。比如，大学生需要为每门课程制订方法，不能一门课程花费太多时间，而另外一门课程时间又不够。制订日历或者进程表将是一个让所有事情有条不紊进行的有效方法：

周五化学大考？那么你就需要在周四腾出时间来复习；而下周一才交的读书报告就可以推到周六再写。

现代社会的复杂性要求我们具备有效的计划和组织能力。好的管理人员能够发现问题，按照优先顺序解决问题，并能在截止日期之前完成。而在学校里培养了这种能力的年轻人将能为未来事业做好准备。

2007年7月28日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? University students should be required to take history courses no matter what field they study. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it." This remark sums up quite succinctly why history courses should be part of a university student's core curriculum. All college students could benefit from such a requirement, but those majoring in science, business, and pre-law would stand to gain the most value for their future careers.

To begin with, let's look at how the study of history could benefit a biology major. How much more enriching it would be for a student who is learning about DNA to also know the history behind the first discovery of this building-block of life. Although many previous researchers had studied the DNA molecule, it was James Watson and Francis Crick who, in the early 1950s, discovered the actual structure of the molecule—the double helix. In anatomy class, it would be of inestimable value to our biology student to learn the story behind William Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood in 1627.

How would a history class benefit a business major? For anyone interested in the rise and fall of the stock market, for example, an historical point of view would be essential. What were the causes of the stock market crash of 1929? What led to the depression/recession of 2009? The answers to these questions would certainly be useful to a future securities analyst. And if our business major wants to own her own business someday, a study of historical cases should give her much to think about: What happened to the Enron company? Where did the managers go wrong? What safeguards does an organization need to have in place to keep such a disaster from happening again?

As for pre-law majors, a knowledge of historical events will be indispensable to their understanding of the current state of jurisprudence in our society. These future lawyers need to know the background and conditions of a host of major legal developments, from the reasoning behind the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1789, to the rationale for giving women the right to vote in 1920, to the arguments in defense of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. At trial, there is no better way to make complicated legal decisions more understandable to a jury than by telling them the story of how they came to be.

"If you would understand anything, observe its beginning and its development," said Aristotle. Indeed, we cannot hope to progress successfully into the future without a firm understanding of the past.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？大学生无论修读什么专业，都应该上历史课。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

哲学家乔治·桑塔亚那曾经说过：“那些遗忘历史的人注定要重演历史。”这句话简明扼要地概括了历史课应该成为大学生核心课程的一部分的理由。所有的大学生都将从中受益，而科学、商科以及法律预科专业的学生将在未来的事业中受益最大。

首先，让我们看一下学习历史将如何为生物专业的学生带来益处。对一名正在学习DNA的学生而言，熟知这一生命结构被初次发现背后的历史将极大地丰富他的专业知识。尽管之前许多研究者都研究过DNA分子，但是詹姆斯·沃森和弗朗西斯·克里克于20世纪50年代早期发现了分子的实际结构——双螺旋结构。在解剖课上，了解威廉·哈维在1627年发现血液循环背后的故事，将会给我们的生物学学生带来不可估量的价值。

而商科专业的学生又是如何从历史课中受益的呢？比如，一个对股市涨落感兴趣的人，具备历史眼光是至关重要的。是什么引发了1929年的股市崩盘？而又是什么导致了2009年的经济衰退？这些问题的答案对一个未来的证券分析家是非常有用的。如果商科学生想要在未来拥有自己的企业，对历史实例的学习将能引发她许多思考：安然公司发生了什么事？那些管理人员错在哪里？一家企业需要采取什么样的保障措施才能预防此类灾难的再次发生？

而对于法律预科生，学习历史对他们理解现代社会法律体系是必不可少的。未来的律师们需要懂得大量主要法律发展的背景以及产生的条件，从1789年通过《人权法案》的原因到1920年赋予妇女选举权的依据，再到1973年罗伊诉韦德案的辩论等。在审判中，为了让复杂的法律决策更容易被陪审团接受，没有比告诉他们决策形成的故事更好的方法了。

亚里士多德说：“如果想要了解一件事情，观察它的起源和发展即可。”确实，不明确地了解历史，我们就不能期待成功地走向未来。

2007年8月4日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In twenty years from now, students will not use printed books any more. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

With each advance in written communication, people have learned to adapt. From hieroglyphics on cave walls, to Sumerian texts on scrolls, to Gutenberg's printed Bible, to leather-bound copies of the classics, readers have adjusted to the way information is presented to them. Books and other printed publications have been the accepted media for centuries, but now we are seeing a gradual increase in the number of documents that are read solely on a computer or e-reader screen. There seems to be little doubt that, twenty years from now, students will no longer need to acquire hard-copy course materials.

In the first place, most students in developed countries have ample exposure to electronic media: It is rare to find a college student, for example, who does not own an iPhone or an iPad or a laptop computer, all of which they can take with them to class. And on that laptop, a student can pull up the text for the course, highlight key passages as the teacher comments on them, and even insert "comments" for further review and study. Likewise, a student can use the Word program to take notes, and then structure those notes by using bullet, copy and paste, and other word-processing functions. Portable media (such as laptops) will also change the way students pack for school: No longer will a high school student have to lug around a large backpack, stuffed full with textbooks for each class—every text and all supplemental material will be stored on one laptop.

Teachers will also find it much more useful to assign electronic, rather than printed, reading assignments simply because it will be so easy to update the course materials. If a new edition of a biology textbook, for example, is available, the students do not have to complain about buying another book—they will simply have to download the latest update (for a fraction of the hard-copy price). Even now, e-copies of textbooks are much less expensive than hard copies, as there are no actual pages to print.

There are many people who bemoan the decline of printed reading material. "I want to hold the newspaper in my hands," they complain. "I like the way a book feels," others say. But young people do not typically feel this same way about old communications systems; they are much more comfortable with new technologies and willing to take a chance on a revolutionary product. Twenty years from now, printed books will be ancient history and the "writing on the wall" will refer to something posted on a Facebook page.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？20年以后，学生将不再使用纸印书籍。请用具体理由和事例来说明。

随着书面交流的逐渐发展，人们学会了适应。从洞穴墙壁的象形文字，卷轴上的闪族文字，古腾堡的印刷圣经，再到皮革印制的经典名著，读者们适应了各种信息的呈现方式。多个世纪以来，书本和其他印刷物一直是被广为接受的媒介，但如今我们见证了一种逐渐的转变，越来越多的文件通过电脑和电子阅读器屏幕被人们阅读。因此毫无疑问，20年后，学生们将不再需要打印版课程教材。

首先，大多数发达国家的学生已经充分接触到了电子媒介：例如你很少发现大学生没有苹果手机、平板电脑或是笔记本电脑，而这些东西都会被他们带到课堂上。在笔记本电脑上，学生可以打开电子课程教材，根据老师的评论标记关键段落，甚至键入自己的观点以用于复习和学习。同样，学生也可以通过文档程序记笔记，并通过列项目，复制粘贴，以及其他文字处理功能排版笔记。便携式媒体（例如笔记本电脑）还可以改变学生的学习装备，中学生不再需要背着装满所有课程书本的大书包上学，因为课本和补充材料都可以存储在笔记本电脑中。

老师也会觉得布置电子阅读作业比打印版更有用，因为它对于更新课程素材是如此简

单。例如，一本生物教材有了新的版本，学生不必抱怨需要购买新书，而只要支付一小部分书籍费用下载最新版本即可。即便是现在，电子版课程也比印刷版本要便宜得多，因为电子版不需要打印任何纸张。

还有很多人对使用印刷阅读材料的减少而惋惜。他们抱怨道：“我想要拿着报纸阅读。”而另一些人称：“我喜欢书本的感觉。”但是年轻人并没有对老旧的交流系统产生同样的情感。他们更喜欢新的科技，并愿意尝试革新产品。20年后，纸印书籍将成为历史，而“在墙上写字”将会是指在网络页面上发布信息。

2007年8月11日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The only effective way to encourage energy conservation is by increasing prices of gasoline and electricity. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

It is my personal belief that if products and/or services are easy to get and inexpensive to buy, most people will abuse and overuse them. Take fast food, for example. If you go to a McDonald's, you can get a huge amount of food at a relatively cheap price. Thus, many people eat copious amounts of such "fast" food and become seriously overweight. On the other hand, if you go to a very expensive upscale restaurant, you will be more likely to relish small portions of delicious food. The higher the price, the more careful people seem to be about how much they consume. This is particularly true for such commodities as electricity and gasoline.

In the typical modern household, there is a constant battle between the parents and the children to conserve electricity. Children appear to be blithely ignorant of the monthly cost of having living room lights and electrical appliances. Their parents, however, are the ones who actually pay the utility bills, and so they are often deeply concerned about whether or not the family is saving or wasting electrical power. If we go back to an even earlier generation—those people who grew up during the Great Depression—we find an even stronger reluctance to splurge on today's modern conveniences. Without serious increases in the price of utilities, how will the young people of today feel about conserving energy when they themselves are part of the older generation?

There is a distinct correlation between high gas prices and the number of people who take public transportation. When gas prices go up, so do bus rider number. Unlike Americans, drivers in Europe have long had to pay extremely high prices for petrol (nearly US \$10 a gallon); thus, countries like England and Germany have built extensive public transportation systems, from subways to trains to buses, and many more people in London and Munich "ride the rails" rather than drive their own cars. Currently, Americans are paying around \$3 a gallon, so there is little incentive for them to curtail their own driving in favor of taking a bus.

It would be nice to think that we could encourage people to conserve energy by just asking them to do so, or by making appeals to them based on our shared humanity. But history has shown that general incentives do not work; personal profit is always more attractive. If we go ahead and raise the price of gasoline or electricity to astronomical levels, will people still insist on driving three blocks to the store or leaving the lights on all night long? I think not.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？提高油价和电费是唯一有效的鼓励节约能源的方法。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我个人认为，如果产品和服务能够容易获得，很便宜地购买到，那么人们就容易滥用它们。以快餐食品作为例子，如果在麦当劳，你可以用相对便宜的价格买到大量的食物，那么很多人就会食用很多快餐食品，并因此产生严重的体重超重问题。另一方面，如果你去一家昂贵的高级餐厅，你更可能细细品尝少量的食物。价格越高，人们就会更注意自己的消费量。而这个道理对电和汽油这样的商品尤其正确。

在典型的现代家庭中，父母和孩子总是因为节省用电的问题争吵。孩子无所顾忌地忽视客厅灯光和其他电器用具所带来的月度开销。而父母却是真正承担这些费用的人，他们总是深切关心家庭是否节省或浪费了电。如果我们回到更早的年代便会发现，那些在经济大萧条时期长大的人们甚至更加不情愿挥霍现代社会的便利资源。因此，如果不提高费用，即便今日的年轻人日后成为老一辈，他们又如何能了解节省能源的重要呢？

此外，高昂的油价和乘坐公共交通的人数之间有明显的联系。油价上涨时，乘坐公共汽车的人数也会因此增多。不像在美国，欧洲的司机已经有了长时间支付高额油费的历史（将近10美元一加仑）。因此，如英国和德国之类的国家已经建立了大量的公众交通系统，从地铁到火车再到公共汽车，越来越多的伦敦和慕尼黑人选乘坐地铁，而不是自己

驾车。而如今美国的油费大致为每加仑3美元，因此，美国人没有动力去减少自驾选择乘坐公共汽车。

如果仅仅是要求大家，或者号召大家为了人类的生存节省能源就能达到目的的话就再好不过了。但是历史证明，一般的鼓励并不管用，个人的利益永远更有吸引力。如果我们将油价和电费提高至天文数字，人们会坚持开车去相距仅仅三条街的商店或者让灯整夜照明吗？我想他们不会。

2007年8月17日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The advice you take from the friends who are older than you is more valuable than that taken from the friends at your age. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

When I was a young child, I broke my arm when my friend dared me to jump off the roof of the house while wearing my Superman cape. Left to my own devices, I might not have attempted such a foolhardy stunt in the first place, but my friend seemed to think that I might, indeed, be able to fly, and I so wanted my friend to like me that I would have done any crazy thing he suggested. The morale of this story is clear: Never take advice from someone your own age; find someone who is older and wiser.

The problem is that our peers almost always have the same point of view as we do; they don't necessarily see ahead into the future, but (like us) are focused on the here and now. For example, a friend your own age may advise you to enlist in the army rather than go to college. Perhaps this friend is himself planning to enlist, and so is looking for someone else to validate his own decision. An older friend, one who has perhaps been in the army or graduated from college, is in a much better position to give you advice that will be most useful to your particular situation.

"Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment." This quote from U.S. Senator Bob Packwood highlights the reason why advice from older friends is so valuable. Those older than us have already made the mistakes that they are trying to help us avoid. Perhaps it was a love affair that soured—our older friend can tell us what went wrong and what signs to look for in our own interpersonal relationships. Maybe it was a risky venture that led to bankruptcy—our older friend can save us not only time but also money, by encouraging us to look carefully before we leap into what might turn out to be a Ponzi scheme.

In sports, as in life in general, we need to turn to our coaches, not our fellow athletes, for advice. What Olympic gymnast, for example, would ask another gymnast for advice on how to best perform on the balance beam? Her coach is the one who can best guide her, with a wealth of experience and a broad perspective. When it comes to asking for help, it is always better to listen to a more mature point of view.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？你从年长朋友那里得来的建议总是比同龄朋友的建议有价值得多。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在我还年幼时，我的朋友问我敢不敢穿着超人披肩从屋顶上跳下来，结果，我摔断了胳膊。抛开超人披肩的装备不说，首先我也许原本并不会去尝试如此愚蠢的“特技”。但是我的朋友似乎认为我可以飞，我为了讨他欢喜，根据他的建议做出了如此疯狂的行为。这个故事告诉我们：不要听从同龄人的意见，而是去征求比你年长、比你明智的人的建议。

问题在于我们的同龄人总是和我们有相同的思维视角。他们和我们一样，不能长远地看到未来，而只关注眼前和当下。例如，一个同龄的朋友也许会建议你参军而非读大学。其原因也许是这个朋友自己就打算参军，因此需要找到另一个人来证明他的决定是对的。而一个年长的朋友，也许曾经参军，或者从大学毕业，则更有资格针对你目前的处境给予有用的建议。

“明智的判断来自经验，经验来自错误的判断。”美国议员鲍勃·帕克伍德曾如此说过，这强调了为什么来自年长朋友的建议更为有价值的理由。这些年长者已经犯过这些错误，他们只是设法帮助我们避免犯同样的错误。也许是一段已经变质的感情——年长朋友可以告诉我们是什么出了错，以及我们自己的人际关系中应该去注意什么样的征兆。也许是一次导致破产的冒险——我们的年长朋友通过鼓励我们三思而后行，避免陷入庞兹骗局，可以帮助我们节省时间和金钱。

一般来说，在体育运动中，也如在生活中一样，我们需要向教练而非我们的队友寻求建议。例如，难道一个体操运动员会问其他的运动员如何在平衡木上作出最佳动作吗？她的教练拥有丰富的经验和广阔的眼光，是可以给予她最佳指导的人。因此，当需要寻求帮

助时，聆听更为成熟的观点总是更好的选择。

2007年8月25日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Schools should not pay so much attention to general subjects but should help students prepare for specific careers and jobs. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

While, of course, sufficient course work in the major directed toward a specific career is important, it is also good for schools to provide a wide range of general subjects. The reasons are academic, business related, social and personal.

General subjects such as language, history, philosophy, ethics, geography, art, etc. help put the academic major into an overall framework of intellectual endeavor and give students a better understanding of the world, their own language, their own national history, life skills, and appreciation of the arts, varying philosophies etc. which are necessary for a well-rounded, informed understanding of life in general. Without the general education courses, graduates tend to be one-sided in their focus and have less success in understanding society and how to fit in most effectively so as to be successful in their careers.

Those who have a wide general knowledge can better see how they and their specialty, fit into the broader context of their lives and their careers. This helps them make better personal, career, and on-the-job decisions. This is even more true in an increasingly globalized working environment where an understanding of other cultures, philosophies, etc., helps business folk make decisions better for their business. In those cases where the staff is a mixture of races and cultures, this general education helps make the working environment more harmonious.

The person with a good general education also has a broader view of life and a better understanding of what is going on and why; therefore that person is better adjusted, happier, is more respected by friends and colleagues and is a more productive member of society.

General education is an essential augmentation to one's specific area of study and ensures that a person is a more understanding, aware, effective, and happy member of society.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？学校不应侧重通识科目教育而是应该帮助学生为工作和职业做准备。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

虽然，充足的职业导向课程毫无疑问是非常重要的，但对学生提供广泛的通识学科教育也同样益处良多。我将从学术、商业、社会和个人这四个方面陈述我的理由。

语言、历史、哲学、伦理、地理、艺术等方面的通识学科，可以帮助学生在学术领域上建立综合的知识框架，并对整个世界、自身语言、国家历史、生存技巧、艺术鉴赏和哲学等方面有更深刻的理解，而这些对于更全面广泛地理解生活是不可或缺的。如果没有通识教育课程，毕业生往往关注领域比较单一，不能很好地理解社会和高效地融入社会，并影响他们在职业生涯中取得成功。

那些具有广博知识的人可以更好地了解自己和自身的特点如何融入更广泛的生活和工作中去。这将帮助他们更好地做出关于个人、职业和工作的决定。同时，在日渐全球化的工作环境下，理解他国的文化和哲学等方面的知识可以帮助商业人士在生意中做出更明智的决定。此外，在公司里的职员都来自不同种族和文化的状况下，通识教育可以使他们在工作相处得更加和谐。

接受过良好通识教育的人同样可以对生活产生更为广博的人生观，并更能理解事物发生的过程和原因。因此，他将可以更适应生活，更快乐，更受朋友和同事的尊重，并成为更有贡献的社会成员。

因此，对扩大个人专业学习领域，以及确保个人成为理解生活、领悟人生、高效和幸福快乐的社会成员来说，通识教育至关重要。

2007年9月12日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should not be permitted to use mobile phones on public transportation vehicles, such as buses, trains or aeroplanes. Use specific reasons and details to explain your opinion.

In this question, the varying situations must be considered. As a general principle, I believe the use of mobile phones should be allowed on public transportation. But there are situations and locations when they should be restricted or forbidden and when greater common courtesy should be used.

For safety reasons, mobile phones must not be allowed on airplanes during takeoff and landing because it interferes with the communication system. Absent such practical safety considerations there should be no prohibition of cell phone use.

What applies in most situations is the objectionable behavior of the cell phone user. The passenger who absentmindedly stands in the subway doorway reading or writing text messages; the guy talking loudly on his cell phone on the night train when others are trying to sleep; the person who enthusiastically talks on the phone as the bus passes her stop then makes a scene demanding the bus driver to stop right there to let her out—all these have to do with the behavior of the mobile phone user not the fact of the phone itself as on the airplane. These situations make us wish cell phones were banned on public transportation.

But in the case of the friend who has received a suicide threatening call and is rushing to their side while trying to keep them talking on the phone; the nurse who is giving critical instructions to her neighbor whose child just been hurt; the lover who just wants to reassure his sweetheart that he loves her and wants to apologize for something he just said in anger as he left her at the bus stop; the student who is receiving word from his teacher that he has reconsidered his appeal and will allow a re-test—in these situations the cell phone must be allowed.

Thus, except in safety situations, mobile phones should be allowed. We just need improvement in the human behavior issue.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？不应该允许人们在公共交通工具例如公交车、火车或者飞机上使用手机。请用具体理由和事例来说明。

为了回答这个问题，我们需要考虑多种情形。在一般原则下，我认为公共交通工具上应该允许人们使用手机。但是在某些情况和地点，以及需要我们表现出一般礼貌的情况下，需要限制或禁止使用手机。

为了安全目的，飞机起飞和着陆时禁止乘客使用手机，因为手机信号会干扰飞机的通讯系统。但假如排除考虑这一实际的安全因素，则不应该禁止手机使用。

然而，更多的情况是，手机使用者的行为惹人反感。例如乘客堵在地铁出入口阅读或者编写短信；夜班火车上，有人在其他乘客都准备睡觉时大声打电话；太过热情地打电话以至于错过自己站点的乘客，却大吵大闹无礼要求司机在路边停车让她下车。所有这些都与手机干扰飞机飞行的情况不同，是乘客自己造成的，在这些情形下，我们会希望公共交通上禁止使用手机。

但还有其他的情况，例如突然接到朋友声称要自杀的电话，你必须在赶去的同时与对方保持通话；护士必须通过电话给予邻居受伤的孩子关键的急救指导；恋人想要通过电话表达对对方的爱意，并为刚刚在车站离开她时一时的气话而道歉；学生得到老师由于重新考虑了他的表现，允许他进行补考的通知。在这些情况下，手机必须允许使用。

因此，除了安全情形，手机应该被允许使用。我们只是需要关注如何改善人们的行为。

2007年9月15日考试题

Some people prefer to work with others. Others prefer to work alone. Which way would you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

While it often depends on the kind of work at hand and the people with whom it must be done, I generally prefer to work alone. This is the nature of the work I like to do: writing, editing, figuring out solutions to issues, solving problems.

Working alone I can concentrate more deeply on the task at hand. I can control the work environment—either total silence or the background music I enjoy, in the most comfortable chair, in the best lighting, with the room temperature set just as I like, and in the most comfortable clothes—everything conducive to getting the work done without distraction, discomfort or interruptions.

When working with others, there tends to be more or less constant chatter and many other miscellaneous distractions—cell phone calls, attacks of coughing and sneezing, someone starts unconsciously humming off key, someone wants to have their special music playing, someone's stomach growls and all have to make their comic comments, someone wants to open or close a window, offer to make coffee or tea, etc. All this makes it difficult to enjoy sustained periods of the quiet needed for deep concentration to get the work done most expeditiously and correctly.

Though working with others provides more or less interesting opportunities for short relaxing breaks and it is good to have another at hand who knows the answer to some questions for which you can get a ready answer rather than having to look it up online or in a book, for the type of work I like to do, these do not outweigh the long, undisturbed periods of fruitful concentration in a comfortable environment possible when working alone.

译文

有些人喜欢与他人一起工作，而有些人则更愿意独自工作。你更喜欢哪种方式？请用具体的理由和事例来说明你的观点。

这个问题通常取决于我们手头的工作是什么类型的和要合作的是什么样的人，但一般来说，我更愿意独自完成工作。我所喜欢的工作的性质是这样的：写稿，编辑，找出解决方法，解决问题。

独自工作使我更能全神贯注于手边的工作。我可以掌控工作的环境——绝对的安静或者有我喜欢的背景音乐，坐在最舒服的椅子上，最适宜的光线，我最喜欢的室内温度，穿着最舒适的衣服——所有这些都有助于我完成工作，没有令人分心的事物，没有不适或干扰。

和其他人一起工作时，通常会或多或少地有些不时谈话和许多其他混杂的让人分心的事物，例如有人的手机铃响，有人咳嗽打喷嚏，有人无意识地哼曲子，有人想要听自己要求的音乐，有人的肚子叫了然后其他人做出有趣的评论，有人想要开窗或关窗，有人询问你是否需要咖啡或茶，等等。这一切都使你很难拥有一段安静的时间，以集中精力迅速准确地完成工作。

尽管和他人一起工作会给我们一些或多或少有趣的机会来短暂放松一下，并且旁边有个知道某些问题答案的人来随时解答你的问题，免去了上网查询或翻阅书籍的麻烦，这样确实不错。但对于我喜欢的工作类型来说，这些远比不上独自工作时在舒适的环境中长时间全神贯注不被打扰。

2007年9月29日考试题

When relaxing, some people prefer to spend time with friends. Others prefer to stay alone. Which way would you prefer? Use specific reasons and examples to explain your choice.

When relaxing, I prefer to spend time with friends for several simple reasons.

First of all, I like to work alone because "work" mainly involves reading, writing, and studying; so when I relax, I feel a need to be with people in a more exciting, active atmosphere, where I can have fun conversations, dance, sing and generally have a good time. I find it invigorating after being by myself for hours during the day.

I also like to relax with friends because I can learn more about what is going on in the mix of interesting well-informed friends I have. The conversations about personal, national, and international issues spoken from the perspective of my different friends give me many insights into life and prevent me being a bookish out-of-touch recluse.

Another specific reason I like to relax with friends is that they are a really intelligent group and I find it helpful and interesting to relax and discuss with them some issues that I have not completely understood in my bookish solitude. I often am able to see things in a fresh perspective when chatting over the issues with my friends.

Another reason for relaxing with my friends is that they often bring new friends along when we get together and I am hoping that in this way I can find an interesting, intelligent girlfriend who shares common interests and appreciates my personality.

Lastly, relaxing with friends allows me to go to places and do things I could not on my own. Going about, having a fun, relaxed time in places where we share the costs provides me with many opportunities to see and experience new things otherwise out of my reach.

So, for me, relaxing with friends is an important part of my life.

译文

在休息放松时，有些人喜欢与朋友待在一起，而有些人则更愿意独处。你更喜欢那种方式？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在休息放松时，我更喜欢和朋友待在一起，我的理由有如下几点。

首先，我喜欢独自工作，因为我的工作任务主要包括阅读、写作和学习。因此当我在闲暇时，我觉得我需要跟别人在一起享受令人兴奋和活跃的气氛，在这种氛围中，我可以和他人一起愉快地交谈、跳舞、唱歌，度过快乐的时光。这让我在一天工作数小时之后依然精力充沛。

其次，我喜欢和朋友一起放松的理由，是我可以从充满乐趣和见多识广的朋友们那里了解到正在发生的事情。我与朋友的交谈话题可以是有关个人、国家甚至是国际的。而不同朋友的视角观点能够给予我很多关于生活的洞见，使我免于成为一个“与世隔绝”的书呆子。

第三个理由是因为我的朋友们是一群极为聪慧的人，与他们谈论我这个“书呆子”不太了解的事情让我觉得非常有趣并且帮助良多。和他们一起探讨某事，我经常能以全新的视角看问题。

第四个理由是，朋友在聚会时总是带来新的朋友，我希望通过这种方式，找到一个风趣聪明的女朋友，可以与我一起分享共同的兴趣并欣赏我的人品性格。

最后，与朋友一起放松还可以让我去一些不会独自去的地方，做一些自己不能做的事。和朋友一起出去玩乐、放松、分摊费用，使我有更多的机会体验平时接触不到的新事物。

因此，对于我来说，和朋友一起休息放松是我人生中的重要部分。

2007年10月5日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The major purpose of television is to educate, not to entertain. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I would LIKE to say that the main purpose of television is to educate; however, I truly believe that it is not. In fact, neither is it just to entertain! The major purpose of TV is to make money—like any other business. TV is all about making money.

Companies advertise products and services for sale; TV station owners make money selling broadcast time to these companies for advertisements and even for political speech making; and individuals or agencies produce programs which they sell to the TV stations. These programs may be entertaining or educational but that is secondary to the money making issue. There seems to be more money to be made in entertaining because more people watch these programs so the companies have to pay much more for the advertising time. Because most educational programs do not have as wide an audience, TV stations cannot make as much money from advertisers; so, they do not schedule as much educational programming.

Even the news programming has an ulterior, money-making motive. People like to know what is going on in their communities, their countries and the world; they want to know about the weather, their favorite movie stars, sports teams, etc., so the TV companies put this information on at regular times when they know that the most people watch—primetime so they will have the maximum number of watchers; therefore, the advertisers must pay very high prices for their commercials during news programs.

The only exception to the money-making motivation is public service announcements but, of course, this is not because of the TV stations are being generous with their viewing time, it is because, in many countries, public service announcements are required by law!

So, it is crystal clear that the main purpose of television is neither to entertain nor to educate, it is to make money!

译文

你是否同意以下观点？电视节目的主要目的是教育而非娱乐。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

虽然我很想说电视节目的主要目的就是进行教育，然而我却并不这么认为。事实上，电视节目的主要目的也非娱乐，而是像其他商业一样为了赚钱！电视的一切就是为了赚钱。

公司为了销售，为产品和服务做广告，电视台所有者则通过把播放时间销售给公司以发布广告甚至政治演说来赚钱，而那些个人或者机构所制作的、卖给电视台的电视节目，可能是娱乐性的也可能是教育性的，但相对于赚钱，这都是次要的。娱乐节目似乎更能赚钱，原因是娱乐节目有更多的观众，所以公司为了播放广告不得不支付更高昂的广告费。由于大多数教育性的节目观众数量较少，电视台为从广告商那里赚到尽量多的钱，便不会安排播放太多教育节目。

即使是新闻节目也有隐蔽的赚钱的动机。由于人们想要知道他们所居住的社区、他们的国家和世界上所发生的事情，想要知道天气、喜欢的电影明星、体育队等等的情况，因此电视公司将这些信息放置在最多人观看的黄金时间播出，以最大化收视人群，而广告商也因此必须花费高额的费用以在新闻时段播放商业广告。

在这些赚钱的动机中唯一的例外就是公益广告的放送，但这并非是电视台慷慨地贡献播放时间，而是因为很多国家，公益广告是法律规定必须播放的！

因此我们能很清楚地了解到，电视节目的主要目的不是娱乐也不是教育，而是赚钱！

2007年10月17日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Universities should require all their students to learn about foreign cultures as well as their own culture. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Universities should require students to learn about foreign cultures; though what cultures to study is another important issue.

In the first place, it would be difficult to consider ourselves "educated" if we did not have some understanding of other cultures; this simple fact is enough to require courses in other cultures.

But as the economy, art, music, movies, fashion, etc. become more globalized, there is a practical, economic imperative to learn about other cultures in order to understand the "market" and the international trends that eventually become localized. People who understand other cultures, especially those of rising economic powers like India, China and Brazil will have a clearer understanding of the trends in those areas that will become more widespread as those countries' influence widens not only in terms of being able to design products, services, fashion, art etc. that will be marketable there but also to see what are the aspects of those cultures most likely to be "exportable" into the world market. Having studied these cultures makes it much easier to successfully ride the rising tide of globalization to our own economic advantage.

In countries like the U.S. labeled "immigration nations", having studied other cultures in college makes it easier to understand the cultural difference of these immigrants and to become better friends with them and also help the new immigrants adjust more quickly and become better citizens.

In a world too often distressed by religious and cultural differences, it is important for societies to better understand each other and to respect each other's cultural mores and ideals so that serious misunderstandings do not arise. This is especially true for those who are in leadership positions. Having studied other cultures in the course of their career preparation in the university makes this understanding more likely.

Lastly, cultural training in college makes it easier for employees in international corporations to work together more harmoniously.

Without a doubt, cultural training should be a part of university education.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？除学习本国文化之外，大学也应该要求所有学生学习外国文化。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

大学应该要求学生学习外国文化，尽管学习何种文化是另一个重要问题。

首先，如果我们没有对其他文化的了解，就很难称自己是受过教育的人。仅仅是这个简单的事实，就足以成为大学要求学习外国文化课程的理由。

但是，随着经济、艺术、音乐、电影和时尚等方面的全球化发展，为了理解世界市场和国际动态的本土化，学习外国文化逐渐变成了一项具有实用性和经济性的当务之急。了解他国文化，尤其是那些新兴的经济力量例如印度、中国和巴西的文化，人们将会更加清晰地认识到这些地区会变得更流行的发展趋势，因为这些国家的影响力不仅在有能力设计有营销市场的产品、服务、时尚、艺术等方面扩大了，而且在发掘这些文化的哪些方面有可能“出口”国际市场方面也扩大了。学习这些地区的文化能使我们更易于趁着全球化的热潮发展本国经济。

而在如美国一类被冠以“移民国家”的国家，在大学学习其他文化有利于理解他们与这些移民的不同文化差异，与他们成为更好的朋友，并帮助新的移民更快适应生活，成为更好的公民。

在这个被太多宗教和文化差异所困扰的世界，更好地理解 and 尊重对方的文化风俗和价值观念尤为重要，只有这样，严重的误解才不会发生。处于领导地位的人尤其如此。大学里在为职场生涯做准备的课程中学习了其他文化，可以让这种理解更容易。

最后，大学中的文化培养还可以使在跨国公司工作的人更好地融合同事群体。

毫无疑问，文化培养应该成为大学教育的一部分。

2007年10月27日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Observing or studying animals can help us to understand human nature. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

It seems clear that there is something to be learned about human behavior through the observation of animal behavior, especially behavior of our close relatives on the evolution charts. Studies about aggression, sexual behavior, grief, etc. in animals have helped explain such aspects in humans and led to effective treatments and better understanding of the problem. The observational work of the famous scientist Jane Goodall is an example. She has shown that animal behavior is very similar to ours; understanding theirs in their basic animal status with far fewer "intellectual" factors helps us better see the fundamental basis for our own behavior.

The more controversial question of trying to understand human nature by the study of animals in terms of using drugs, chemicals or certain treatments raises questions of ethics and potential cruelty to animals. Nevertheless, the genetic closeness of some animals to humans does, in fact, make these experiments very useful for the study of human behavior. Examples of these studies are the effects of certain chemicals, drugs and treatments, on animals trying to induce or reduce such emotions as depression, a serious problem in many humans. Other animal studies related to human behavior have involved important human behavior issues such as fear, joy, off-spring rejection, etc. The fact that these studies have been so prevalent shows that they are considered by the scientific community as helpful in understanding human behavior.

Can these observations and studies help us understand human behavior? It seems that the answer is "Yes". But this question cannot be fully dealt with without asking the follow-on question—Is it ethical and justified? My own opinion is that, though it may seem cruel to induce fear or off-spring rejection in animals, I think these studies are justified rather than using other humans to study such behavior.

So, in summary—yes; observing and studying animals can help us understand human nature.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？观察和学习动物可以帮助我们理解人类本性。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

很显然，通过观察动物行为，尤其是那些在进化史图上与人类相近的动物的行为，可以了解一些人类行为。对动物进攻和交配以及悲伤情绪等进行研究，已经帮助解释了类似的人类行为，并找出了对此类问题有效的解决方法。以著名科学家珍妮·古道尔的观察工作为例，她向我们证明了动物行为和人类行为是极为相似的。在仅仅包含少量智力因素的情况下，了解动物天性所产生的行为，可以更好地领会人类行为的重要依据。

然而，通过药物、化学品或其他实验研究动物来理解人类天性这个争议性的问题，引起了很多关于伦理道德和虐待动物的质疑。尽管如此，人类和动物基因的相近性确实使这些实验对研究人类行为非常有用。例如人们通过研究某些化学品、药物和实验对动物的作用效果，以产生或者减少某些情绪，例如抑郁这一普遍存在于人类的严重问题。而其他有关人类行为的动物研究则涉及很重要的人类行为问题，例如恐惧、愉悦、绝育等方面。事实上，这些研究如此普遍，说明了科学界认为它们对理解人类行为是有帮助的。

观察研究动物是否能帮助我们了解人类行为？答案是肯定的。但对此，我们无法忽视其引发的后续问题：是符合道德伦理的吗？是合理正当的吗？我个人认为，虽然让动物恐惧或绝育看起来很残忍，但这要比用人类作为实验样本更合理。

因此，结论是——是的，通过观察和研究动物确实能够帮助我们了解人类天性。

2007年10月28日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Teachers should be paid according to how well his or her students perform. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I do not agree that teachers should be paid according to how well their students perform. I've heard a saying: "Education is 90% student and 5% teacher." I pretty much believe this.

I have seen other students I consider lazy; they don't do their homework or participate in class. Despite teacher's encouragement, sometimes even teacher's anger and punishment, they still do not participate in their own education. These students lead privileged lives at home. Their parents have money and position and they know they will get a job based on their parents' "connections" and will someday inherit their parents' wealth. They have no motivation to study, no matter what the teacher does.

In other cases I have seen, the student has a very troubled life at home, parents constantly arguing or divorced and the child lives with one parent who is angry at the other parent and always telling the child how bad the other parent is. This is depressing and distracting to them. In these cases too, the teacher has tried various remedies, even calling in the parent or parents, but it has not helped.

Should the good teacher be held responsible for these situations? Of course not.

Even if the teacher is not a good teacher, the students themselves take a more active role in their education by studying the texts and doing outside reading on their own.

Even in cases where the teachers are considered good, I've seen other students go beyond what the teacher assigns to work harder to learn on their own. In some cases, the parents, too, are very helpful in encouraging better student performance than even the best teachers can do.

Should the bad teacher get credit for this situation? Of course not.

Thus I am convinced that the teacher should not be paid according to how well students do.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？老师薪水的多少应该根据其学生的表现来决定。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我并不认同老师薪水的多少应根据学生表现的好坏来决定这一观点。我曾听过这样的说法：“教育的成功与否90%取决于学生自己，5%取决于老师。”而我也对这一点深信不疑。

我看见过很多被我归类为懒惰的学生，他们不做家庭作业，不参与课堂讨论。他们对老师的鼓励甚至有时的气愤和惩罚置之不理，依然不投入自己的学习。这些学生在家中过着优越的生活，父母富裕并有权势，他们知道自己可以通过父母的关系得到好的工作，将来会继承父母的财产。无论老师怎么做，他们都没有动力学习。

我也见过其他情形的例子，有些学生家庭情况混乱，父母频繁争吵或者离异，孩子与其中一方生活在一起，而这一方对另一方非常不满，于是不断向孩子诉说另一方的恶劣，让学生精神压抑并且分心。在这种情况下，老师无论做出怎样的补救，甚至把家长叫来面谈，都于事无补。

那么，这些好老师应该为这种情形负责吗？当然不。

即使老师不够优秀，学生可以通过独立学习课本知识，进行课外阅读，自己在学习中发挥主动性。甚至在老师都很尽职的情况下，我仍然见过一些超出老师的预期要求，自己更加努力学习的学生。而在一些情形下，父母对学生的学习表现所给予的鼓励比最优秀的老师还要有用得多。

那么，不够尽责的老师难道可以将这些情况归功于自己么？当然不。

因此，我认为老师薪水的多少不应该根据学生的表现来决定。

2007年11月3日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People who do not work because they have enough money are rarely happy. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I have never done the research to prove my opinion but based on what I have heard and seen, I do believe that "rich" people who do not have to work are rarely happy. I have this opinion based on two factors: what I have read/seen and how I personally feel.

I often read in the papers and magazines about "poor little rich girls/boys" who despite their parents' wealth which they have inherited, get into all kinds of trouble: shoplifting, disorderly conduct, multiple divorces, alcohol and drug abuse, and even killing someone due to drunk driving. You also often hear of these folk checking themselves into drug rehabilitation centers again and again. The fact that it does not work the first time is indicative of their underlying unhappiness and, I believe, feelings of being useless members of society. These "poor little rich kids" are obviously not happy people!

My personal feeling is that it is only by our own hard work that we can really feel the happiness that comes from earning our own way, being useful and "making a difference" in society. The satisfaction that comes from a job well done is well deserved and encourages us to continue on to perform even better. Also the joy that comes from setting a good example as a model worker at any level produces another kind of pride in that our own behavior is encouraging others to also be more productive and useful.

I believe that everyone wants to feel that in some way the world is better because they lived and that there has been some purpose for their life. Although rich folk can give money to charities and good causes, unless they themselves worked to earn that money, they can not get the satisfaction that comes from making a contribution based on their own personal labor.

Therefore, I believe that unless people work for their living and wealth, they cannot be truly happy.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？有足够的金钱而不工作的人很难快乐起来。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我从未为证实我的观点进行研究，但根据所见所闻，我确实认为那些富裕而不需要工作的人很难得到快乐。我的观点基于两点：我所读到或看见的以及我的个人感受。

我经常在报纸和杂志上读到关于那些“可怜的富家子女”的报道，尽管已经继承父母的财富，他们仍然让自己陷入各种麻烦：入店行窃，扰乱治安，多次离婚，酗酒吸毒，甚至酒后开车撞死行人，不断反复出入戒毒所。这些事实不止一次地出现反映出他们隐藏着的不快乐，我想是他们认为自己在社会上多余的。这些“可怜的富家子弟”明显不是快乐的人。

而我的个人感受是，只有通过努力工作才能真正体会到自食其力获得回报、对社会有所益处、在社会中起着重要作用的幸福感。这种满足来自一份工作中所受到的认可，这种满足激励着自己更加努力地工作。这种愉悦也来自于自己为他人树立榜样的自豪，这种愉悦带来了另外一种自豪，即我们自身的行为正在激励着他人同样变成高效和有用的人。

我相信，每个人都想要感受到世界因为我而有所不同的感觉，并且每个人都想要感受到生命的目的。尽管富人们也可以为慈善机构捐款和做其他善事，但除非钱是由他们自己赚取的，否则他们不能从中得到基于自己个人努力而作出贡献的满足感。

因此我认为，人们只有为自己的生存和财富努力工作，才能真正感到快乐幸福。

2007年11月17日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The abilities to write and read are now more important than in the past. Use specific reasons or examples or support your ideas.

Although the modern world is much more visual than in the past due to first the radio, then movies, then television and now the computer and cell phones with their images and voice recognition and simulation capabilities, I believe that reading and writing are more important than ever. For purposes of this discussion, when I say "writing", I also include "typing" as when typing messages on a computer or cell phone screen.

One of the reasons I say this is that, even though in the past being able to handwrite or type out a good business letter for mailing was important, the actual volume of business writing is vastly more than in the past as businesses, suppliers, advertising and marketing agencies and customers exchange billions of emails and text messages. Clear, logical, correct, concise and succinct written communication is much more important because we must be able to say more with fewer words and we must do it much more often! The person who cannot write clearly and succinctly will not be successful no more than a person could in the past. Writing is still a basic requirement for success.

As for reading, if, as indicated above, more is being written then, of course, it is essential that we be able to read it more efficiently if we are to be successful. There is much more to be read in modern times because, for instance, with the long distance communication that comes with globalization and doing business electronically in distant places, we do not have the simple local face-to-face verbal communication of past generations. Now, huge number of contracts, proposals, studies, reports are sent via email which must be read quickly and correctly in order to make decisions and do business at any level.

Clearly, reading and writing are even more important than in the past.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？现在写作与阅读的能力比过去更重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管由于广播、电影、电视、电脑和手机的图像和声音识别与仿真能力使现代世界比过去更加视觉化，但我却认为阅读和写作比以往变得更为重要了。为了本文讨论的目的，当我说到“写作”时，我同样把在电脑和手机屏幕上键入信息的“打字”包含在内。

我同意这个观点的理由之一是，尽管在过去，能够手写或者打印出一封好的商业信函就十分重要，但是现在由于企业、供应商、广告商和代理商会与客户通过亿万封的邮件和文字信息进行沟通交流，如今的商业写作量也因而比过去大大增多。因此，逻辑清晰、准确无误和简洁明了的书面交流变得尤为重要，因为我们往往需要以更少的文字表达更丰富的内容，并更为频繁地这么做！一个不能写作出清晰简洁文章的人也许可以在过去获得成功，但如今却不再有此可能。写作依然是人们获得成功的最基本要求之一。

对于阅读，诚如我上面所提到的，由于我们有了更多的文字写作，因而能够更快更高效地阅读，对于取得成功也变得至关重要。如今的摩登时代有了更多需要阅读的材料，例如，随着全球化带来的远程交流和在相距遥远的地方通过电子通讯做生意的发展，我们不再需要过去一代人所使用的面对面口头交流方式。因此在现在，我们必须快速准确地阅读大量通过邮件发送的合同、提案、研究和报告，以在商业的任何方面做出明智的决定。

因此很显然，阅读和写作比以前更为重要。

2007年11月24日考试题

In twenty years, people will spend less time in cooking and preparing for food. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons or examples to support your ideas.

I agree that in the next 20 years people will spend less time cooking and preparing meals.

To forecast the future, we need only observe the past. In the past twenty years, the tremendous increase in the number of fast food restaurants is proof of the continuing trend that will surely go on for the next 20 years. In China for instance, people are becoming financially better off and have more "fun" things to do—movies, shopping, car trips here and there, visits to see friends, etc. They do not want to spend time stuck preparing food in their own boring kitchens.

Also, because of growing, and surely to continue, competition, city people are working longer hours. What is more, because both husband and wife are increasingly caught in traffic, it is difficult for the responsible person to get home in time to do the cooking and even if they do, the other often comes home late to a cold supper that must be reheated with the resulting negative effects. So, "why don't we go out to eat tonight?!" will become the more and more frequently heard suggestive question.

Now much greater varieties of cuisines are available from all parts of the country and the world. Because of this, people who are tired of the "same old thing" at home can go out and have a new dining experience. Those who long for the food of their hometowns or countries can go to a widening variety of eateries to enjoy their favorite dishes of the past.

Lastly, for those who do cook at home, ever new inventions will make it easier and less time consuming to cook at home and as people continue to be able to afford them, the already existing food preparation conveniences will mean less time in the effort.

This is a trend that will continue for the foreseeable future. People will definitely spend less time preparing and cooking meals.

译文

在20年后，人们会花更少的时间来烹饪和准备食物。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我同意在未来20年，人们会花费更少的时间烹饪和准备食物这一观点。

若要预测未来，我们仅仅需要观察过去。在过去的20年间，快餐店急剧增多的事实证明，这一趋势将在未来20年继续下去。就如在中国，人们在经济上变得更加富足，并能够享受更多的娱乐项目，例如看电影、购物、自驾旅行、探望朋友等等。他们不愿待在令人厌倦的厨房里，将时间花费在准备食物上。

同时，由于持续增长的竞争压力，城市人的工作时间越来越长。丈夫和妻子也会更长时间地拥堵在上下班的交通上，即便是富有家庭责任感的人也很难及时赶回家做饭。而即使夫妻其中的一方能够及时到家准备食物，另外一方往往会很晚到家，而那时晚餐已经变凉需要重新加热，负面影响也随之产生。因此，“今晚我们去外面吃饭怎么样？”会变成越来越常听到的建议。

如今，人们在任何国家和地区都可以买到更多种类的现成美食，因此，厌倦了家庭老一套菜肴的人们可以外出用餐，享受新的进餐体验。而那些一直渴望吃到家乡食物的外乡人，也能够去各种类型的餐馆吃到自己以前喜欢的菜肴。

最后，对于那些在家做饭的人来说，新的发明使在家做饭更加简单快捷，并且随着人们在经济上可以负担这些新发明，那些现成食物准备起来非常方便，这就意味着需要更少的时间和精力。

这是一个可以预见未来的趋势，人们肯定会花更少的时间来烹饪和准备食物。

2007年12月1日考试题

People should not pay for the public transportation. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons or examples to support your ideas.

I do not agree; I think the people who use public transportation should pay for it, at least to the amount that covers the expense of public transportation operations. The reasons I believe this are several.

Firstly, public transportation is very expensive, especially those modern means like subways. The cost of building subway lines to take cars off the street is enormous. The land where the above-surface stations and tracks is to be and the underground, highly reinforced tunnels for the trains are very costly. Then there is the cost of the staff involved—drivers, guards, management personnel and expensive maintenance and repair.

These expenses, at least to recover costs, should be borne by the users—not by the general tax payers from the countryside who never use a subway. Most subway users are employed and use it to commute to and from work; it is of most use to them and they should be willing to pay. So a simplistic argument is that, they can afford to pay for it so why not charge them for it!?

Besides the money the government would have to expend if it paid for all expenses, which means less tax funds for general public benefits like education and health care. If people have to pay for health services, essential for life itself for rich and poor, why should people not have to pay for something so much less essential for life and which is of benefit to fewer people and those who can afford to pay for it! It is a matter of simple logic.

There is also the argument that people value most that for which they have to pay. Abuse of public property is a problem, but if people realize they are paying for it and abuse of property simply raises the cost of maintenance, they will be more careful with it.

For these reasons, I believe it is reasonable to ask public transportation users to pay for the service.

译文

人们不应该支付公共交通的费用。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意这一观点。我认为乘坐交通工具的人应该支付费用，所支付的费用至少应该确保公共交通系统的正常运转。我的理由有如下几点。

首先，建立公共交通系统是非常昂贵的，尤其是那些现代化的交通方式例如地铁。为了减少道路车辆而建设地铁线路的花销非常大。建造地面地铁站和轨道所占用的土地以及地下高度坚固的地铁隧道非常昂贵。此外，还有工作人员的开销，例如司机、保安、管理人员及高昂的维护和修理费用。

而这些花销，至少就收回成本来说，应该由交通使用者来承担，而不是让住在乡村从不乘坐地铁的纳税人来承担。大多数地铁乘坐者都是上班族，每天坐地铁上下班。所以对他们来说，地铁的用处是最大的，他们也应该愿意支付地铁乘车费用。因此，我们可以问一个简单的问题：既然他们可以承担这些费用，我们为什么不向他们收费呢？

除了政府的必须开销之外，如果所有费用都通过政府资金来支付，这将意味着可以投入到公共福利例如教育和医疗保健中去的税源会因此减少。如果人们不得不为无论是对富人还是穷人都必不可少的健康服务支付费用，那么对于重要性要远小于健康服务的公共交通，这一仅仅便利较少人群和有能力承担费用的人的服务项目，人们为什么不该支付使用费用呢？这是个简单的逻辑问题。

还有一种说法是，人们总是最珍惜他们为之付出的东西。滥用交通财产已经成为一个问题，如果人们意识到他们将会支付这种滥用所造成的维修费用，那么他们将会更为小心地加以对待。

由于以上原因，我认为向公共交通工具的使用者收取费用是合理的。

2007年12月8日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Advertisements are a waste of company's money and energy because consumers know what they want to buy. Use specific reasons or examples to support your ideas.

Advertisements are not a waste of money and energy for a company. I believe this for the following reasons.

Firstly, advertisements are a way to inform people of a product, its uses, and its qualities that they may not have heard about before. The ads serve as simple but useful attention getters so people will know of the product.

Secondly, even when people have known about a product for a while, the simple good timing or placement of an ad may strike to potential consumers' attention at just the moment when they realize that this is something which they now want or for which they have a particularly timely need.

Thirdly, the ad itself, the artistic effect, the allure of a beautiful lady or a handsome gentleman, the memories or desires that it stirs in the hearts and minds of the public, may motivate the purchases of the product because of these pleasant associations.

Fourthly, impulse buying is an often studied phenomenon. The simple sighting of a product in an ad may arouse the sudden, irrepressible desire to have the product and thus the ad is worthwhile.

Fifthly, advertisements put the product or the company into the mind of the consumers who though may not need it at the moment, will recall the ad at the time they do have a need for it and make the purchase.

Sixthly, skillful advertisements often give a consumer the feeling that this is a popular item that "all" people want, of that the smart, elegant, sophisticated people have or that a particularly famous person has and likes and so, these more gullible people will purchase a product just to "be like" everyone else, a segment of society or a particular person they admire.

Thus, I strongly believe that advertisements are not a waste of a company's time and money.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？广告对公司来说是一种金钱和资源浪费，因为消费者知道自己想要买什么。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我认为广告并非是一种资金和资源浪费，我的理由如下。

第一，广告是向人们宣传一种产品的手段，它的用途和质量人们可能之前没有听说过，广告就是简单而有效地吸引消费者了解产品。

第二，即使人们已经对一种产品有所了解，适宜的广告时机和宣传地点可以吸引潜在消费者的注意，让他们意识到这就是他们此刻想要购买的产品，或者在某一特殊的情形下会需要它。

第三，广告本身、艺术效应、运用美丽女郎和帅气绅士的诱惑力、被激发的公众心中的记忆和渴望，这些令人愉快的联系都可能驱使消费者购买这种产品。

第四，冲动购物是一种经常被人们研究的现象。仅仅是在广告上看见产品就可能使人瞬间产生出一种抑制不住的购买欲望。因此，广告是非常值得的。

第五，广告能够让消费者牢记产品和公司，即使消费者在当下并不需要这种产品，但当需要时，他们会回想起广告，并购买广告中宣传的产品。

第六，巧妙的广告可以为消费者创造出一种感觉：所有人都想拥有这一产品，那些聪明、优雅、高贵的人，或是某位名人都喜欢或是已经购买了这件产品。因此，那些容易受骗的消费者往往会为了向社会上一部分人或者是他们所仰慕的人靠拢而购买此商品。

因此，我坚信发布广告并非是浪费公司的时间和金钱。

2007年12月10日考试题

Do you think life is easier and more comfortable today compared with those days when your grandparents were children? Use specific reasons or examples to support your ideas.

Although in this big world, there are people still living in jungles with no "modern conveniences" to make life easier, in general, life is obviously more comfortable for most people today than it was for our grandparents.

For instance, homes have central heating now; the rooms are uniformly warm. There is no need to hover over a kerosene- or wood-burning stove and stand before the fireplace to get warm as our grandparents did.

Now we have cell phones to make calls anytime night or day from anywhere we may be rather than having to be at home. What is more, instead of just one fixed phone per home, now almost everyone has their own phone for convenient use without having to wait their turn to use the house phone.

Now we have many other conveniences to make life more comfortable such as indoor plumbing, elevators, microwave ovens, color TVs, computers, better public transportation, more shops more conveniently located with a wider range of goods than ever before, more restaurants at which to enjoy a delicious meal, even better made clothes with special fibers to keep us warmer with a less bulky look than just a few years ago.

Medical science and services are much better. Medical staffs are better trained. Drug stores are more widely available with a vast array of remedies. We have preventative measures or cures for many diseases and maladies that were not available to our grandparents.

A brief conversation with our grandparents about their lives when they were children would reveal an even longer list of how much more comfortable our lives are now than theirs were as kids.

译文

你是否认为比起祖父母小时候，我们如今的生活更加简便舒适？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管在这个大千世界中，有些人仍然生活在丛林里，与方便快捷的现代化生活相隔绝。但一般而言，如今人们的生活明显比祖父母那一代要舒适得多。

比如，现在的房屋拥有中央供暖系统，所有房间都可以同样温暖。我们不再需要像祖父母一样，围在燃烧煤油或木头的火炉旁，或者站在壁炉前取暖。

如今，我们有了手机，可以在白天夜晚随时随地拨打电话，而不用局限在家中通话。更重要的是，每家每户不再只有一部固定电话，人人都可以方便地使用个人手机，而不再需要排队等候使用家里的电话。

现在我们拥有了更多使生活更加便利舒适的生活设备，例如室内卫浴、电梯、微波炉、彩色电视、电脑、更为便利的公共交通、地点更加方便种类更多的商店、更多可以享受美食的餐厅和使用特殊纤维制作的更为精美温暖却不厚重的衣物。

医用科学和服务相比过去也有了很大的改善。医疗人员得到了更好的培训。药店提供了各种具有更多疗效的药品。我们还研究出了针对多种疾病的预防措施和治疗方案，而这些都是我们的祖父母辈不曾有过的。

通过与我们的祖父母进行简单的交谈，聊聊他们小时候的生活，我们可以发现更多的例子来说明，我们如今生活比他们小时候生活舒适得多。

2008年3月8日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People today spend too much time on their enjoyment, i.e. what they like to do, rather than what they should do. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

What is meant by "doing what they like to do rather than what they should do"? We tend to think of "doing what we like" as "playing". But, in truth, it can also be one's career or what they do for a living. Doing what one likes should also include the career choice or job that one truly enjoys. In this sense, I definitely do not believe that people spend too much time doing what they like.

In China, most people spend their lives doing what their parents want them to do or what they think they should do to become "rich". Most do not enjoy their working lives and this is a major problem for their happiness, their productivity and even their health as they suffer from stress related illnesses from doing what we do not enjoy. If they did what they enjoyed for a living, they would be basically happier at work and during their free time. They would work with more efficiency and enthusiasm. They would be more productive and pay deeper attention to their work and therefore be much more successful. This is a problem often discussed by human resource managers and management staff.

Too often, even outside the office, people don't spend enough time enjoying themselves. Couples who spend more time taking an enjoyable evening strolling in the park or going out for a meal and a concert, are happier and healthier than those who always sit at home watching TV or bring home office work. People need to take more time to enjoy life and re-energize themselves for facing the irritation of traffic jams, rude drivers, missed appointments, etc.

Those who take the time to "stop and smell the roses" enjoy life more and are more effective, happier human beings. I think we need to spend more time enjoying life!

译文

你是否同意以下观点？如今人们花太多的时间来享受生活，做他们想做的事，而非做他们应该做的事。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

“做喜欢的事而不做应该做的事”是什么意思呢？我们通常倾向于把做喜欢的事当做是玩乐。但事实上，喜欢做的事也可以是一个人的事业和谋生的工作。喜欢做的事也应该包括职业选择或者他所享受的工作。在这种意义上，我确实不认为人们花了太多的时间做他们喜欢做的事情。

在中国，绝大多数人都花费大量的时间做父母希望他们做的事，或是做他们认为可以使自己变得富有的事。大多数人并不喜欢他们的工作生活，而这是影响他们的幸福感、工作成效甚至是健康的主要原因，因为做讨厌做的事情让他们承受着与压力相关的疾病的痛苦。如果他们为了生计做他们喜欢的事情，那他们在工作和空闲中就会感到更加快乐；他们会更有效率和热情地工作；他们会变得更有成效，更加密切关注工作，并因此获得更大的成功。这也是一个人力资源经理和管理人员经常讨论的问题。

然而在太多情况下，即使是在工作之外，人们也没有花费足够的时间来享受生活。那些把更多时间用于在公园夜间漫步，或者是外出用餐观看音乐会的夫妇，要比总是坐在家中看电视，或把工作带到家里来的夫妇幸福健康得多。人们需要花更多的时间享受生活，重新振作自己，以更好地面对生活中的交通堵塞、粗鲁司机以及失约等等恼人的困扰。

而那些懂得在忙碌中“停下脚步，赏闻玫瑰芳香”的人，更加懂得娱乐享受，通常在工作中也更有效率，在生活中更加幸福。因此我认为，人们需要花更多的时间来享受人生！

2008年3月15日考试题

Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I do not agree that human needs for land are more important than saving land for endangered animals. In my personal view, both human needs and protecting endangered animals are equally important. Human needs for land are very important in order to give people good lives and support the development of society. For instance, as the population increases, more homes need to be built and more factories and power stations are required to supply the goods and energy that people need. More farmland is needed to produce food. If we do not convert land use for these purposes, many people will suffer and have bad lives.

On the other hand, saving land to protect endangered animals is also very important, not just because animals add variety and beauty to the world, but because animals make an important contribution to humans' quality of life. Animals are part of the ecosystem that purifies the air, cleans the water, and provides humans with food. If we allow the animals to become extinct, we will damage the ecosystems and lose these vital services. This will have a bad impact on the development of society.

Clearly, it is impossible to say that either aspect is more important as they both have a significant impact on the quality of people's lives. Furthermore, there is no need to choose between providing for humans and protecting animals because, the way I see it, the problem is not a shortage of land. The problem is that people see the short-term benefit of, say, cutting down a rainforest for farmland but they do not see the long-term economic benefit of protecting animals. Governments need to educate people to see the equal value of both and then we can develop society without destroying the natural world.

译文

有些人认为，人类的土地需要例如农田、住房和工厂，要比为濒危动物保留土地更重要。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意把土地用以人类需要比保留土地以挽救濒危动物更重要这一说法。在我看来，人类需要和保护动物是同样重要的。人类对土地的需求的重要性在于土地能够提供人类良好的生活，并帮助社会发展。例如，随着人口增长，更多的住房需要修建，更多的工厂和发电站需要建造去供应人类所需的商品和能源，更多的农田需要开垦去种植食物。如果我们不把土地转换用于这些需求，很多人将会因此受苦，过着糟糕的生活。

而另一方面，为保护濒危动物而保存土地也非常重要，这不仅因为动物为这个世界增添了美丽和多样性，还因为动物为人类生活质量作出了重要贡献。动物是生态系统的一部分，生态系统净化了空气，清洁了水质，为人类提供了食物。如果任由动物灭绝，将会破坏生态系统，失去这些至关重要的生态服务作用。这将会对人类社会的发展产生不良影响。

因此，我们很难说这两者哪个更重要，因为他们同样都能对人类生活质量有重要影响。此外，我们也没有必要去做选择题，在两者之中只取其一。因为在我看来，这其中的问题并非土地短缺，而是人们仅着眼于短期利益例如为开垦农田砍伐热带雨林，而忽视了保护动物的长期经济利益。政府需要教育群众意识到这两者的同等价值，然后我们就可以不以牺牲自然环境为代价来发展社会。

2008年5月4日考试题

Technology has made children less creative than they were in the past. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.

I do not believe that technology has made children less creative than they were in the past. Technology is only a tool but creativity is a way of thinking and, to my mind, if children are less creative than before then it is because of their education. In fact, there is no doubt that technology has greatly expanded not only the creative opportunities that children have, but also the number of children who have access to these opportunities.

Technology expands creative opportunities by offering new expressions of creativity, such as blogs, and new ways to do things in addition to the traditional ways. For example, the development of computers has created new ways of making art and new types of art, but children still have pencils and paper to create art in the traditional way. Furthermore, technology makes these creative opportunities available to much more people, for example through the Internet. Admittedly, technology has created more opportunities for children to waste time; for instance, computers can also be used to play computer games. However, in my mind, we cannot blame technology for the bad choices that children make.

Technology is just a tool and, like any tool, it can be used productively or unproductively. Technology cannot give children a creative and innovative spirit. Creativity comes from parents and teachers; if children are encouraged to think independently and to ask questions, a creative spirit will develop. If children are less creative than they were in the past, it is because they have not received the right guidance and supervision. Children must be encouraged to be creative by the education system and then taught how to use technology effectively to express their creativity. Without proper guidance, it is easy for children to develop bad habits and use technology in an unproductive way.

译文

现代科技使孩子的创造力不如从前了。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不认为现代科技使孩子的创造力不如从前了。科技只是一种工具，而创造力是一种思维方式。我认为如果孩子的创造力不如过去了，那该归咎于他们所接受的教育。而实际上，现代科技不仅极大地增加了孩子拥有的创新的机遇，还让更多的孩子可以得到创新机会。

科技通过提供新的创新方式例如博客和不同于传统的处事方法，扩展了创新的机遇。就如电脑的发展创造了新的艺术制作方法和新的艺术形式，但是孩子依然可以运用传统的纸和笔创造艺术。此外，现代科技使更多的人可以接触到创新的机会，例如通过互联网。必须承认的是，科技也让孩子有了更多机会浪费时间。例如，电脑可以用来玩电脑游戏，然而我认为，我们不能因为孩子所做的错误选择而指责现代科技。

科技仅仅是一项工具，同任何其他工具一样，它也可以被积极利用或消极利用。科技不能给孩子以创新的精神，因为创新来自家长和老师，如果孩子被鼓励去独立思考，勇于发问，创新思想也会因此得以发展。如果孩子不如以前有创造力，那是因为他们没有得到正确的引导和督促。我们必须通过教育系统去鼓励孩子创新，这样他们才能学会如何有效地使用科技表达自己的创意。如果没有恰当的引导，孩子会很容易养成不好的习惯，并利用科技消极行事。

2008年5月10日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Governments should spend more money in sponsoring arts than athletics (like state Olympics team). Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

To my mind, governments should definitely spend more money on arts than on athletics because public money should be spent according to the value it creates for society. I believe that arts offer great benefits to society whereas it is difficult to see any benefit offered by athletics. In fact, the reason governments sponsor athletics is to benefit the government, not society. If a country is successful at the Olympics, for example, its people are proud and they give credit to the government; even when a country is unsuccessful, its people support their country and blame foreigners for cheating.

Some say sponsoring athletics encourages people to do more sport and become healthier because successful athletes inspire people. As far as I am concerned, this may be true of the Olympics but most people pay no attention to other events. It is true some superstars, like Liu Xiang, are role models but I do not think they have changed the unhealthy habits of many people. It is very difficult to measure this benefit and, in my opinion, there are better ways to encourage people to become healthier, like making healthcare cheaper or increasing sports education in schools.

In contrast, I believe sponsoring arts offers unique benefits to everybody. The arts represent a country's culture and culture comes from the people. The arts express the thinking and feeling of a country's people at a particular time. Through arts, we learn about more our own culture and we build bridges between different cultures. Moreover, the arts inspire creativity and critical thinking, which are very important in the modern world. The way I see it, it is the responsibility of governments to provide these necessary skills to the widest population and this can be effectively achieved by investing in access to arts and arts education.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？政府应该投入更多经费用于艺术而不是体育（例如国家奥运队）。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我认为，政府确实应该投入更多经费用于艺术而不是体育，因为公共资金的投入应该由其为社会所创造的价值来决定。我认为艺术可以为社会带来巨大的益处，然而我们却很难发现体育带来的益处。事实上，政府投资体育的理由是使政府受益，而非社会受益。例如，如果一个国家在奥运会上成功了，人民会感到自豪，会赞扬政府。即使这个国家失败了，它的人民依然会支持自己的国家并指责他国作弊。

有人说政府投资体育可以鼓励人们更多地进行体育运动，变得更加健康，因为成功的体育运动员可以激励人们。我认为，这种情况也许适用于奥运会，但是大多数人对其他体育项目毫不关心。虽然刘翔之类的体育明星成为很多人的偶像，但是我不认为他们改变了很多人的不健康习惯。很难去评价这种益处，而我认为有更好的方法去鼓励人们变得健康，例如降低医疗保健的费用，或者在学校中加强体育教育。

相反，我认为投资艺术可以为所有人带来独特的好处。艺术体现着一个国家的文化，而文化来源于人民。艺术表达了一个国家的人民在某一特殊时刻的思想和情感。通过艺术，我们可以了解更多的本国文化，建立不同文化之间沟通的桥梁。此外，艺术还能够激发创造力和批判性思想，这在现代社会中是极其重要的。因此我认为，向最广大的人民群众提供这些必要的技能是政府的职责，而通过投资艺术和艺术教育则可以有效地实现。

2008年6月7日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Playing computer games is a waste of time. Children should not be allowed to do so. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Although most parents and teachers agree with the statement that playing computer games is a waste of time, I strongly disagree. Children should not only be allowed to play computer games but should also be encouraged. As an avid gamer, I have several reasons for my opinion.

Firstly, playing computer games has a recreational function. After spending many hours every day working or studying, playing computer games allows children to relax and enjoy themselves. Children should not spend all their time studying and it is important to relieve stress. In my experience, playing computer games is an effective way to do this.

Secondly, playing computer games is an interactive experience and, unlike watching television, does not encourage children to become "couch potatoes." Perhaps some people will say that television can be educational but actually most television programs nowadays are purely for entertainment and give no useful information. When children play computer games, they have to think independently. They have to solve problems and make plans. These are important skills to learn. When children play multiplayer games, for example World of Warcraft, they learn how to work in a team and how to be a leader.

Although there are other ways to learn these skills, the third benefit of playing computer games is that it is a safe activity. Unlike playing a sport, children do not injure themselves playing computer games. Sometimes the newspapers report that a child has damaged his or her health by playing for too long, but anything can have a bad effect if we do it too much, even drinking water, so I think it is unfair to single out playing computer games. It is important for parents to ensure that their children play computer games responsibly. That way, they can both relax and learn new skills at the same time.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？玩电脑游戏是浪费时间。不应该允许孩子玩电脑游戏。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

尽管大多数家长和老师同意玩电脑是浪费时间，我却强烈反对。我们不仅应该允许孩子们玩电脑游戏，还应该鼓励他们去玩。作为一个游戏热爱者，我有几个理由来支持自己的观点。

第一，玩电脑游戏有娱乐作用。经过每天数小时的工作或学习，电脑游戏可以让孩子放松自己、玩得开心。孩子们不应该把所有时间都花在学习上，减轻压力是十分重要的。以我的经验来说，玩电脑游戏是一个很有效的减压方法。

第二，玩电脑游戏是一项互动式的体验，它不像看电视，不会让孩子们变成“电视迷”。也许有些人会说，电视可以是有教育意义的，但事实上如今的大多数电视节目都是纯娱乐性的，并不能提供有用的信息。当孩子们在玩电脑游戏时，他们必须独立思考。他们必须解决问题并制订计划。这都是需要学习的重要技能。当孩子们玩多人电脑游戏，例如魔兽世界时，他们学习如何进行团队合作以及如何成为领导者。

虽然还有其他的途径来学习这些技能，但玩电脑游戏的第三个优点是，它是一项安全的活动。与体育运动不同，孩子们不会在玩电脑游戏时受伤。虽然有时新闻报道称有的孩子因为长时间玩电脑游戏损害了健康，但过度地做任何事情甚至是多喝水都会产生不良影响，因此仅仅指出玩电脑游戏会损害健康是不公平的。家长需确保孩子负责地玩电脑游戏，这一点很重要，如此一来，孩子们就能在放松自己的同时学到新技能。

2008年6月22日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The most important thing that a government can do to improve health care is to provide a clean environment. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I disagree with this statement because I do not believe that the environment is the main cause of bad health. Firstly, as far as I am concerned, the main cause of bad health is modern lifestyles, with more and more people working in offices. They spend most of the time sitting at desks using computers and they do not get enough exercise. This leads many people to be physically inactive and become overweight. In addition, since modern life is very stressful, many people smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or even take drugs to relieve the stress, and all these things cause bad health. Thirdly, because people are so busy, eating fast food has become more and more popular and this is very unhealthy.

The way I see it, the most important thing that a government can do to improve health care is to change people's lifestyles through education and making laws. Governments should instruct schools to teach children about the dangers of eating too much fast food, smoking cigarettes, and drinking alcohol. On top of that, children should be given more time at school to play sports. Governments should also forbid the advertizing of cigarettes, alcohol, and fast food because advertising influences people to take up unhealthy habits. In addition, new laws could forbid smoking in public and a higher tax on cigarettes and alcohol would reduce people's use of these things.

By taking these measures, it seems to me that a government could most effectively improve health care. It is also a fact that a government's ability to provide a clean environment is limited. Most pollution is caused by factories and cars. If a government closed all factories and banned all cars, it would have a bad effect on the economy. Moreover, people would not accept banning cars. That is why changing lifestyles is the best way.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？对于改善卫生保健，政府能做的最重要的事是提供清洁的环境。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意这一观点，因为我不认为环境是引起不良健康状况的主要原因。第一，在我看来，随着越来越多的人在办公室里工作，引起不良健康状况的主要原因是现代的生活方式。他们大部分时间坐在办公桌前使用电脑，而没有得到充分的身体锻炼。这就造成很多人身体怠惰并引起超重。第二，由于现代生活的巨大压力，很多人以吸烟、饮酒甚至吸毒来减压，而这都会引起健康问题。第三，因为人们太繁忙了，食用快餐食品变得越来越大众，而这也是非常不健康的。

我认为，政府对于改善卫生保健方面所能做的最重要的事，是通过教育和制定法律改变人们的生活方式。政府需要引导学校去教育孩子食用过多快餐食品、吸烟和饮酒的危险性。而最重要的是，应该在学校里给孩子们更多的运动时间。政府还应该禁止烟酒和快餐食品的广告，因为广告将影响人们养成不健康的习惯。除此之外，新法律可以制止大家在公共场所吸烟，更高的烟酒类税费可以减少人们使用它们。

通过采取这些措施，我认为政府能够最有效地改善卫生保健。事实上政府提供清洁环境的能力是有限的。大多数的污染是由工厂和车辆造成的。如果政府关闭所有工厂，禁止所有车辆，这将会对经济产生恶劣影响。此外，人们也不能够接受禁止车辆这一方式。这就是为什么改变生活方式是最好的方法的理由。

2008年6月29日考试题

Getting a university education is an important factor for success. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

As far as I am concerned, a university education is an important factor for success, but I do not consider it the only factor. It is important because modern society is developing from a labor economy into a knowledge economy. More and more jobs are based in offices, not factories, and they require us to use our brains rather than physical strength. In this kind of economy, we need to have a greater thinking capacity and strong analytical skills in order to be successful. A university education can give us these skills.

Another reason a university education is important for success is to keep up with our peers. In the past, a university education made people stand out for their excellence. Nowadays, it is very common to go to university and not having a university education makes people stand out in a bad way. Therefore, a university education is vital for getting a good job. It is the key to the door of opportunity. Without this key, it is much more difficult to achieve a successful life. In fact, a university education is so common that in order to stand out from the crowd people now need to have a postgraduate degree, such as a Master or PhD.

However, while it is an important factor for success, we should not forget about the importance of other factors. Some very successful people did not get a university degree, for example Bill Gates of Microsoft or the founders of Google. Their success was due to their innovative ideas and the technical skills that they taught themselves. From my point of view, the most important factor for success is the ability to think creatively and innovatively, and this comes from a person's character not from university. A university education is an additional benefit.

译文

接受大学教育是成功的重要因素。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

在我看来，大学教育是获得成功的重要因素，但不是唯一因素。它的重要性在于现代社会正在由劳动经济向知识经济发展。越来越多的工作以办公室为基础，而非工厂，需要我们运用大脑而非体力。在这种经济下，我们需要具有更好的思考能力和更强的分析技能以取得成功。大学教育则正好能给予我们这些。

大学教育对于获得成功很重要的另一个原因是，它令我们跟上同伴的步伐。在过去，大学教育让人们脱颖而出。而如今，读大学已成为非常普遍的事情，没有接受大学教育反而会突显人们的平庸。因此，大学教育对于找到一份好的工作至关重要。它是机会的敲门砖。如果没有这块敲门砖，想过上成功的生活将会困难得多。而事实上，现在本科教育是如此的普遍，以至于想要脱颖而出，还需要取得研究生学位，例如硕士或博士学位。

然而，尽管大学教育是获得成功的重要因素，我们不应该忘记其他因素的重要性。一些成功人士，例如微软总裁比尔·盖茨和谷歌的创造者们，都没有取得大学学位，他们的成功归功于他们的创造性思维和自学的专业技能。依我之见，成功的最重要因素是创新能力和独创性地思考的能力，而这源自一个人的特性而非大学。大学教育只是一种附加优势。

2008年8月24日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A rigid teacher is more effective than an easy-going teacher. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

I disagree with this statement. To my mind, an easygoing teacher is more effective than a rigid teacher is because the latter only forces students to obey the regulations whereas the former can inspire students to want to learn. It is sometimes argued that a rigid teacher is more effective for disorganized or lazy students because the teacher's strictness ensures that they study. However, it is obvious that interest is not the reason for this focus on study. In fact, the students are afraid of the consequences of breaking the rules but their basic idea does not change. On the other hand, the hard-working students already focus on study and so a rigid teacher does not motivate them.

In my experience, a severe teacher can actually restrict the development of students. Firstly, this kind of teacher creates an environment of fear. The students fear the teacher's anger if they do something wrong. While this ensures they complete their work and do not misbehave, it does not inspire them to expand their learning outside the classroom. Secondly, as teachers are role models, a rigid teacher influences the students to be rigid, but students need to be creative and "think outside the box" in order to reach their potential and have successful careers.

An easygoing teacher is more effective in my view because the learning environment is relaxed and less fearful. If you ask me, students learn more effectively and willingly when they are happy. They are not afraid to ask questions, disagree with the teacher, and think independently. These conditions can inspire students to open their eyes and seek more knowledge, and they are more likely to be flexible, creative, and adaptable to different situations in their future lives. To summarize, a rigid teacher influences behavior but an easy-going teacher can inspire interest by making learning fun.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？严格的老师比随和的老师更有教学效率。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意这一观点，依我之见，随和的老师比严格的老师更有教学效率，因为后者只会强迫学生服从规章，而前者能激发学生想要去学习。有时会有争辩说严格的老师对于缺乏组织性和懒惰的学生更有教学效率，因为老师的严格可以确保学生去学习。然而很显然，兴趣就不是他们关注学习的原因了。事实上，学生们会因为惧怕违规所产生的后果而去学习，但他们的本质想法并没有改变。而另一方面，努力学习的学生已经很关注学习，严格的老师对于他们起不到促进的作用。

以我的个人经历看来，一个严厉的教师实际上会限制学生的发展。首先，这类老师创造出了一种令人惧怕的氛围。学生一旦做错什么将会害怕老师的怒气。这虽能确保学生完成作业并且不会行为不端，却不能够激励学生在课堂之外拓宽自己的学习。其次，老师是学生的楷模，严格的老师会影响学生成为严厉的人，但学生所需要的是拥有创造力，跳出固有思维模式，发掘自身的潜力，获得成功的事业。

我认为一个随和的老师更有教学效率，是因为他所营造的学习氛围是轻松的而非令人恐惧的。依我之见，学生在快乐的时候能够更欣然、更有效地学习。他们不怕提问，不怕反驳老师，不怕独立思考。这些条件可以激励学生开阔眼界寻找更多新知，而他们也将更有可能变得灵活，更有创造力，更能适应未来生活中不同的状况。总的来说，严格的老师会影响学生的行为，而随和的老师可以让学习充满乐趣，激发学生的学习兴趣。

2008年9月21日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People buy things not because they need them, but because others buy them. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

From my perspective, I cannot agree totally with the statement because clearly we buy some things because we need them. For example, we need food and water in order to live and it is impossible in modern society for everyone to produce their own food or collect their own water. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that people do not need most of the things that they buy. We spend most of our money on consumer products, for example mobile phones, televisions, laptops, etc., and we do not need any of these things since we would not die if we did not buy them.

In my view, there are several reasons why we buy these things. Firstly, these items are convenient and we want to save time and effort. For instance, we buy washing machines because we can wash clothes more quickly, and we buy mobile phones so we can communicate easily with our friends and families. Secondly, we are influenced by advertizing. Through advertizing, companies convince us that we need things that we do not actually need. Thirdly, these consumer goods are status products and we want to show other people that we are successful.

However, to my mind, we spend extra money on famous brands when there is a cheaper alternative because other people buy these brands. We can buy a pair of Li Ning shoes for ¥200 but many people will spend ¥500 on a pair of Nike shoes that are identical. The Nike shoes are not better quality or design, but we want to impress our friends by choosing an expensive product. This influences our friends to buy expensive products because they do not want to be perceived as being less rich or less successful. Therefore, we can say that other people have a strong influence on us buying things but it is not the only reason.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？人们购买商品不是因为需要它们，而是因为其他人购买所以跟风购买。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

从我的观点来看，我不能完全同意，因为我们很明显正是因为需要某些东西，才去购买。例如，我们需要食物和水来生存下去，而在现代社会中，我们不可能都自己生产食物和收集水源，因此我们需要去购买食物和水。不过确实人们购买的大多数东西都是他们不需要的。我们花费大多数金钱购买消费品，例如手机、电视、笔记本电脑等等。我们不需要这些中的任何一种，因为离开这些我们死不了。

我认为我们购买这些消费品的理由有很多。首先，这些东西很便利，我们想节省时间和精力。例如，我们购买洗衣机是因为可以更快地洗涤衣物，购买手机可以更方便地联络到好友和家人。第二，我们受到广告的影响。通过广告，售货公司说服我们相信我们确实需要这些本不需要的东西。第三，这些消费品是地位的象征，我们需要这些来向他人显示我们的成功。

尽管如此，当明明有更便宜的选择时，我们却在名牌上花费了更多的金钱，这是因为其他人也购买这些名牌。一模一样的鞋子，我们可以花200元买一双李宁牌，但很多人却选择花500元购买耐克牌。耐克鞋并非质量更好设计更佳，我们只是想选择昂贵的产品来给予朋友深刻印象。而这又影响我们的朋友去买昂贵的产品，因为他们不想让人感觉自己不如别人富裕和成功。因此，我们可以得出结论：他人可以对我们的购物选择产生很大的影响，但这并非唯一的影响因素。

2008年10月12日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Visiting museums is the best way to learn about a country. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I do not believe that visiting museums is the best way to learn about a country. Although museums can certainly provide an insight, the benefit is limited. For a start, the majority of items in a museum are historical items, so they tell us about a country's history, but we must learn about a country's present in order to understand it. Furthermore, museums rarely tell us about the lives of common people as in history most common people were farmers and did not produce anything that can be displayed in a museum.

The way I see it, museums are used to give people an idea about a country, but perhaps it is not a completely accurate idea; the exhibitions are organized in order to tell a story about the country and some items are chosen for display while others are not. In short, visiting museums can help us learn about how a country sees itself and how it wants other people to see it, but maybe this is not the real country. I strongly believe that the only way to learn about a country is to study the present, not the past. Culture comes from people, not objects, and so I am convinced that the way we can only learn about the real culture is by travelling around a country and talking to the common people, not by looking at items in a building. By talking to common people, we can learn about their lifestyles, habits, values, and ways of thinking. Therefore, I would argue that the best way to learn about a country is to live there for some time and experience the local life. As Confucius said: the only way to understand something deeply is by experiencing it.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？参观博物馆是了解一个国家的最佳方式。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不认为参观博物馆是了解一个国家的最佳方式。博物馆确实能给予我们一些深入的了解，但其益处却是有限的。首先，博物馆中的主要展品都是历史文物，我们可以从中了解到一个国家的历史，但若想要理解一个国家，我们必须了解其现状。其次，博物馆很少展示百姓的生活，因为在过去，大多数平民百姓都是农民，他们并没有创造可以在博物馆中展示的物品。

在我看来，博物馆用来给人们提供一种关于国家的概念，但这种概念往往不是完整精确的。为展示出这个国家所发生的故事，博物馆中的展品都是经过组织的，有些被展示出来，有些则没有被展示。简而言之，参观博物馆可以帮助我们了解一个国家如何审视自己以及这个国家想要别人如何理解它，但这也许并非这个国家的真正面貌。我坚信，想要了解一个国家的唯一方法是考察这个国家的现状，而非过去。

文化源自人民，而非物品。因此，我确信只有游览这个国家，并与百姓交谈才能真正了解这个国家的文化，而不是去参观建筑中的物品。通过与百姓交谈，我们可以了解他们的生活方式、习惯、观念和思维方式。因此我会说，认识一个国家的最好方法是住在那里一段时间，体验一下当地的生活。正如孔子所说：君子躬行。

2008年10月18日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People can benefit more from traveling in their own country than traveling in foreign countries. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Mark Twain once wrote that travelling was fatal to prejudice. He meant that the experience exposes us to new places, people, and ideas with the result that we become more openminded. To me, it is clear that traveling, both in and outside our own country, is beneficial because it expands our knowledge of the world. However, I do not agree that people benefit more from traveling in their own country.

Most things we know about our own countries come from the media and few people have visited every province or city. In big countries like China, there are many regional differences, for example the cuisine, the dialect, and even the religion. If we travel within our own country, we can experience the similarities and differences, and develop a deeper understanding of our own culture.

Despite the regional differences, however, the people in one country will have similar values because they are products of the same national culture. They have received the same education and watch and read the same media. In other words, the degree of difference is limited, which means there are limits to the new things we can discover. We are unlikely to experience a culture shock, for example, and we cannot learn how foreigners see "us."

People in foreign countries are the product of a different system and have different values. If we do not understand their culture, we will judge them according to our values and reach the wrong conclusions, which could lead to conflict. Travelling abroad offers a greater benefit in my view because we can understand how other cultures think and so avoid cultural misunderstanding and conflict.

More importantly, we can learn that different cultures have different values and that our own values are just opinions. This is truly fatal to prejudice and narrow-mindedness.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？人们在国内旅行比在国外旅行收获更多。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

马克·吐温曾经说，旅行是偏见的死敌。他的意思是旅行的经历让我们接触到新的地点、新的人、新的思想，因此我们可以变得心胸宽阔。我认为，无论是国内还是国外旅行，都可以使人受益匪浅，因为旅行可以拓展对世界的认识。然而，我并不认为人们在本国内旅行会受益更多。

我们对自己国家的大多数理解都来自媒体，很少有人去参观过每一个地方。比如在像中国这样的大国，有很多地域差异，比如烹饪、方言甚至宗教。如果在本国内旅行，我们可以体会不同和差异，并对我们的文化有更深入的理解。

除了地域差异外，同一个国家的人会有相同的价值观，因为他们是同一个国家文化的“产物”。他们接受了同样的教育，观看和阅读同样的媒体。换句话说，差异的程度是有限的，也就意味着我们可以发现的新事物是有限的。举个例子来说，如果我们不知道外国人如何看待我们，我们不大可能体会文化冲击。

不同国家的人是不同体系的“产物”，有不同的价值观。如果我们不理解他们的文化，我们会根据我们自己的价值观去做判断，得出错误的结论，可能会引发冲突。我认为到国外旅行有更大的益处，因为我们可以理解其他国家如何思考，因此可以避免文化的误解和冲突。

更重要的是，我们可以学到不同的文化有不同的价值观，而我们自己的价值观仅仅是我们的想法。这确实是偏见和心胸狭隘的死敌。

2008年11月1日考试题

Students should spend a year to travel or to work before they go to college or university. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I agree that students should spend a year traveling or working before they enter college or university. Although it is not common in China, it is very common in many Western countries and it is clear to me that this can benefit students enormously. Firstly, after spending many years in education, there is a danger that students will suffer "burnout." They are exhausted and may lose interest in study. This is a pity because university education is vital to finding a good job and having a successful life. By taking a break for a year, students can renew their enthusiasm and they will enter university feeling fresh and motivated.

Secondly, most students know very little of the real world since they have only focused on study for most of their lives. By travelling or working, students will have new experiences. They will learn about the real world and become more open-minded. Travelling can show them new places and they can meet new people. The students will learn that people in other places have different lifestyles and different views about issues. The students will discover that there are many different ways to view a situation. There is no doubt that this will help their problem-solving skills at university. Working will teach students about managing their own money and organizing their time effectively.

Finally, the students will learn how to be independent. Many students find it difficult to adapt to living apart from their family when they enter university as they have spent their whole lives being protected by their parents. If they have already learned to be independent, they will be able to adapt more quickly to university life. For these reasons, I believe that students who work or travel for a year will be more mature and better prepared for success at university.

译文

学生应该在读大学之前花一年时间旅游或工作。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我同意学生应该在读大学之前花一年时间旅游或工作。尽管这在中国并不普遍，但在很多西方国家却是常事，学生明显可以从中获益良多。首先，在接受多年的学校教育后，学生将会遭受身心透支的危险。他们精疲力竭，可能会对学习失去兴趣。而这无比遗憾，因为大学教育对找到好的工作和成功的生活至关重要。通过一年的休息调整，学生可以恢复热情，更有活力和动力进入大学殿堂。

其次，由于大部分时间精力倾注于学业中，大多数学生对现实社会知之甚少。通过旅行和工作，学生们将会有新的体验。他们能因此认识真正的世界，思想变得更加开放。旅行可以让他们探访新的地方，认识新的人。学生可以了解到其他地区的人有不同的生活方式和思维见解，有许多不一样的看待问题的方式。毫无疑问，这会帮助他们在大学期间得到解决问题的能力。而工作则会教会学生如何有效地管理金钱和时间。

最后，学生将会学会独立。很多学生在进入大学时，很难适应离开家庭的校园生活，因为他们一直都处于家长的保护之下。如果他们已经学会自我独立，他们则可以很快适应大学生活。综上所述，我认为学生工作或旅游一年会变得更成熟，更好地为成功的大学生活做准备。

2008年11月23日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Students are influenced more by their teachers than their friends. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

I do not agree that students are influenced more by their teachers than their friends. Admittedly, teachers can have a big influence on students. Teachers are role models and a great teacher can inspire a student by sharing his passion; this kind of teacher can influence the subjects that students study and they can make students more confident through encouragement and praise. Similarly, a boring teacher can make a student lose interest in study and a mean teacher can cause a student to lose confidence, for example by regularly criticizing him or her in front of other students.

It is clear then that teachers can have a profound influence but, in my experience, most teachers are not inspiring. Rather, most teachers are average; they perform their duties by teaching students the right information and by ensuring that students follow the rules, but teaching is just a job and they are rarely passionate. However, from my perspective, the main reason friends have a bigger influence is time. The influence of teachers is reduced by the time students spend with them. Students only see their teachers in school or university and in that time the teachers must focus on everybody in the class.

On the other hand, students spend the entire school day with their friends, including breaks and lunchtime, and they spend time together outside of school on weekends and during holidays. Friends not only study together but also do many other things together, which means that they influence every aspect of each other's lives, from personal tastes to hobbies to habits, whereas teachers' influence is usually limited to academic matters and therefore only affects part of someone's character. In summary, school friends develop together and they share many different experiences, and this is why their influence is greater than teachers' influence.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？老师比朋友对学生产生的影响更大。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意老师比朋友对学生产生的影响更大这一观点。必须承认的是，老师确实对学生有很大的影响力。老师是学生的楷模，一个好老师可以通过分享他的热情鼓舞学生，这类老师可以影响学生所学的课程，通过表扬和鼓励使学生更加自信；同样，一个乏味的老师会使学生失去学习兴趣；一个苛刻的老师则可能让学生失去信心，例如总是当众批评学生。

因此，老师可以对学生产生深远影响，但以我的个人经验来说，大多数老师并不能启迪鼓舞学生。多数老师都很平常，他们通过教授正确的信息和确保学生遵守规则来履行自己的职责，但是教学仅仅是他们的一份工作，他们基本没有热情。尽管如此，在我看来朋友比老师更具有影响力的主要原因是时间。老师的影响力是随着学生与他们在一起的时间减少而减小的。学生仅仅在学校中与老师见面，而那时老师的注意力却要分散给班级中的每一个人。

而相比之下，学生不仅在学校中，包括课间休息和午餐时间一直和朋友在一起，就连校外的周末和假期也和朋友一起度过。朋友们一起学习，还一起做其他的事，这意味着他们可以影响到学生生活中的各个方面，无论是个人品味、爱好还是习惯。然而，老师的影响则通常仅限于学生的学业，因此只会影响学生的部分性格特性。总之，学校中的朋友一起成长，分享不同的经验，这就是为什么朋友比老师有更大的影响力。

2009年1月18日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important for families to regularly eat their meals together. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I agree that it is important for families to eat their meals together regularly. In my view, eating meals together has a great benefit for the whole family particularly the children. Children need support and guidance from their parents but, since parents work all day and children spend most of the day at school, families spend very little time together. Even in the evenings and on weekends, children are busy with homework and it is common for parents to be busy. Therefore, mealtimes are one of the few opportunities for the family to be together.

In modern society, people are more and more alone. They meet with each other less and rely on emails, mobile phones, and QQ to chat to other people. With the one-child policy in China, children do not have brothers or sisters to play with and so will spend their free time alone, for instance surfing the Internet or playing computer games. As a result, it is easy for people to become isolated from each other and this has bad consequences for a harmonious society. Eating meals together brings family member together so they can chat face-to-face and share their experiences and problems. It encourages family members to remember their duty and not to be selfish.

There are also many negative influences on children nowadays. Advertising encourages children to do unhealthy things, like eating junk food, and to be materialistic. By eating meals together, parents can teach children about the importance of healthy eating and saving money. Parents can notice if their children have any problems, for example with drugs or computer games, and they can prevent the problem becoming more serious. Even if the family does not have children, eating meals together can stop the husband and wife growing apart, which might lead to divorce. For these reasons, families should remember the importance of regularly eating together.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？家庭的定期聚餐十分重要。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我同意家庭的定期聚餐十分重要这一观点。在我看来，聚餐能让全家尤其是孩子们受益匪浅。孩子们需要从父母那里得到支持和引导，但由于白天父母上班孩子上学，全家聚在一起的时间非常少。即使是在晚上和周末，孩子们忙着做功课，父母也通常忙着自己的事。因此，用餐时间是全家为数不多的可以聚集在一起的机会。

在现代社会中，人们变得越来越孤独。人们很少见面，依赖邮件、手机和QQ与人交流。而在中国，由于独生子女政策，孩子们没有兄弟姐妹的陪伴，只能独自靠上网和玩电脑游戏等方式度过闲暇时间。而由此导致的结果是，人与人之间互相孤立，对和谐社会的发展产生了不良影响。一起聚餐能使家庭成员团聚在一起，因此他们能够面对面地交流，分享自己的经历和问题。这能激励家庭成员牢记自己的责任，摒弃自私。

如今社会中，能对孩子产生负面影响的事物非常多。电视广告鼓励孩子去做不健康的事，例如食用快餐食品，并使孩子变得物质化。通过家庭聚餐，父母可以教给孩子健康饮食和节省金钱的重要性，并注意到自己的孩子是否存在一些问题，例如吸毒或电脑游戏成瘾，那么他们可以阻止问题变得更加严重。即使没有孩子，家庭聚餐可以避免丈夫和妻子产生可能导致离婚的隔阂。综上所述，家庭成员需要谨记定期聚餐的重要性。

2009年1月24日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is possible for people with no common interests and personalities to become friends. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I disagree with the statement that it is possible for people with no common interests to become friends. In my view, friends need to have at least one thing in common. If we have nothing in common with someone then we have nothing to talk about. In this situation, I think it is impossible for a friendship to develop. Friendships are created when two people both get pleasure from doing something together and they share that pleasure through communication. If two people have nothing in common then they will not be able to get pleasure from the same thing and thus they will not enjoy spending time together.

I believe it is possible to form a relationship with someone with whom we have nothing in common, for example a colleague or classmate, and we can communicate and work with him or her effectively, but the purpose is not pleasure. The purpose is to complete a specific task. However, to me, friendship is something different. Friendship is a deep relationship that does not have a specific goal. We share our thoughts and feelings with our friends because we know they will understand us; we do activities together because we understand that we both get the same pleasure. Without something in common, this understanding is not possible.

We can still like and respect people with whom we have nothing in common, and we can still spend time with them, but the communication is limited to very basic subjects, for example the weather or television. We can call these people acquaintances but they are not friends. The enjoyment that we get from being with these people is limited because they cannot empathize with us. If we could become friends with people with whom we had nothing in common then we could be friends with everyone, but this is not the case. Most people have a small group of friends that they spend most of their time with and this is due to a common factor.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？兴趣和个性无共同之处的人也可以成为朋友。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意兴趣不相同的人可以成为朋友这一观点。在我看来，朋友之间至少需要一点共同之处。如果我们与某人完全不相似，那么我们就没有交流的话题。而在这种情况下，友情是不可能发展的。两人在一起做同一件事时得到快乐，然后他们通过交流分享此快乐，这样友情就产生了。如果两人毫无共同之处，他们将不能从同一件事中得到乐趣，因此他们将不会享受与彼此待在一起的时光。

我相信，与和自己毫无相同之处的人好好相处是可能的，例如同事和同学，我们可以和他们交谈，一起高效率地工作，但这其中的目的不是乐趣，而是完成某项任务。然而，友情对我来说是与完成任务不同的事。它是一种没有特定目标的深厚感情联系。我们与朋友分享思想和感受，是因为知道朋友能理解我们。我们与朋友一起活动，是因为知道我们可以一起得到同样多的乐趣。如若没有共同之处，这种相互的理解会很难达成。

我们仍然可以去喜爱和尊重那些与我们完全不同的人，花时间与他们待在一起，但他们的交流就会限制在一些基本的话题上，例如天气和电视节目。我们称这类人为熟人而非朋友。由于熟人与我们并不能心意相通，我们从与他们的相处之中所得到的乐趣是有限的。假如我们真能与那些和我们毫无共同之处的人成为朋友，我们就能与所有人都成为朋友了，但事实上这是不可能的。大多数人拥有不大的朋友圈，并且大多时间都和朋友一起度过，这都是因为他们拥有相通之处。

2009年2月14日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? In order to be well-informed, one should get to know all the information from different news sources. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

There is no doubt at all that we must get information from many different news sources in order to be well-informed. A news source, like China Daily or CNN, does not tell people the facts of a situation. Actually, they provide an opinion or an interpretation of a situation that is based on the cultural values and personal goals of the people who control the news source. This means that we cannot rely on a single media source to give us the full picture. The only way to get the full picture is by understanding each side's perspective.

For example, Chinese values are different from Western values and a Western news source like CNN will place great importance on human rights and personal freedom whereas a Chinese news source will emphasize the importance of harmony and social stability. This means that they are likely to come to different conclusions about the same situation, as in the recent bombing of Libya by certain Western countries. We cannot say that a certain opinion is right or wrong. Rather, each opinion can give us a little understanding but we need to know several opinions before we can understand an issue deeply.

Another issue is what the news does not tell us. It is clear to me that the main goal of a news source is not to give people knowledge. The goal of a government-owned news source, like CCTV or the BBC, is to make people support the government, and the goal of a privately-owned news source is to make a profit. Therefore, they will choose what to tell us and what not to tell us according to these goals and they do not report stories that might give them a bad reputation. If we just use one news source, we cannot know all the things that are happening in the world.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？为了变得见多识广，一个人需要了解来自不同新闻渠道的所有信息。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

毫无疑问，我们必须了解各种不同的新闻消息以成为见多识广的人。但是，新闻来源如《中国日报》和美国有线新闻网，并不会告诉人们事件的事实。实际上，这些新闻来源只提供事件的一种观点或一种解释，而这种观点和解释是基于新闻控制者的文化观念和个人目的。这意味着我们不能依赖单一的新闻来源去了解事情的完整情况。而综观全局的唯一方法就是去了解各个方面的观点。

例如，由于中国与西方的价值观有所不同，西方媒体例如美国有线新闻网侧重于人权和个人自由的报道，而中国媒体则侧重强调社会和谐稳定的重要性。这意味着他们在同一事件中可能会得出不同的结论，最近利比亚受西方国家轰炸的新闻事件就是一个很好的例子。我们不能片面地判定某种观点是对是错，恰恰相反，各种观点都能给予我们一些对事件的了解，因此我们在深入了解事件情况之前，必须知晓各方面的观点。

另一个值得注意的是新闻没有告诉我们的信息。我认为新闻的主要目的不是给人们提供知识。受政府管制的新闻媒体例如中央电视台或者英国广播公司，它们的主要目的是支持政府，而私营媒体的目的是为了盈利。因此这些新闻媒体会按照自身的目的选择告诉我们什么，不告诉我们什么，并隐藏那些可能会给它们带来不良声誉的信息。所以，假如我们只运用单一的新闻资源，我们将不能了解世界上正在发生的所有事情。

2009年3月7日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is better to use our personal knowledge and experience to solve problems, rather than asking other people for advice. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

I do not agree that it is better to use our personal knowledge and experience to solve problems rather than asking other people for advice. Our individual knowledge and experience is always limited because it is impossible to know everything. Even Bill Gates, for example, does not know everything about software. When we ask other people for advice, we can overcome this limitation by combining their knowledge and experience with our own, and this makes a successful result more likely. If we do not ask others for advice, we actually limit the possibility of a successful solution.

What is more, advice is free and there is nothing to lose and everything to gain from asking other people for their opinions. The worse outcome is we ignore the advice and nothing has changed, and the best outcome is we learn some new and useful knowledge that helps us solve a problem. In fact, we only lose something when we do not ask for advice because we exclude new ideas. Progress comes from knowing and developing the ideas of others, or standing on the shoulders of giants, as Newton said. We can also learn from the mistakes of others without repeating the mistakes.

We should stand on the shoulders of our friends and family when we face a problem so that we see further than we can see alone. Socrates, the philosopher, commented that a truly wise person is someone who recognizes how little he or she knows. As far as I am concerned, only an ignorant person does not ask others for advice when facing a problem because that person does not recognize his or her limitations. Everyone can teach us something new and that knowledge is power.

译文

你是否同意以下说法？解决问题最好利用自身的知识经验，而非寻求他人的帮助建议。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意解决问题最好利用自身的知识经验而非寻求他人的帮助建议这一说法。每个人的知识和经验是有限的，无法通晓一切。即使是比尔·盖茨，也不可能了解关于软件的所有知识。当向他人寻求帮助建议时，我们可以结合自己和他人的知识经验，克服自身的知识局限，这会增加成功的可能性。而不向他人寻求建议帮助，将会降低取得成功的可能性。

此外，建议是免费的，当我们询问他人建议时，我们只有获益，而不会损失什么。比较坏的结果是我们忽视这些建议，什么都没有改变。而最好的结果是我们从中学到了有用的新知识并解决了问题。事实上，不寻求帮助才会有所损失，因为我们因此拒绝了获得新想法的机会。进步来源于了解和发展别人的想法，或者如牛顿所说的“站在巨人的肩膀上”。我们也可以吸取前车之鉴，避免错误的再次发生。

当面对问题时，我们需要站在朋友和家人的肩膀上以看得更远。哲学家苏格拉底曾说过，一个真正睿智的人了解自己知识的局限。因此我认为，只有无知的人才会遇到问题时拒绝向他人寻求建议，因为他们不了解自身的局限性。所有人都能教与我们新知识，而这些知识就是力量。

2009年3月14日考试题

Do you prefer to spend money on travelling or to save money for future use? Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

Personally, I prefer spending money on travelling to saving money for the future, but I think both are important. Money buys opportunity; we can exchange it for new experiences, such as traveling or participating in new activities. As well as making life fun and interesting, these new experiences have a significant benefit. From them, we not only expand our knowledge of the world but also we come across new ideas and learn how others see the world. This makes us more rational and open-minded and enables us to make better decisions in our own lives. People who do not travel miss these experiences and their horizons do not expand.

Admittedly, saving money creates a more secure future. For instance, we can pay for medical treatment or buy an apartment, but if we save everything then we miss the opportunities of the present. As far as I am concerned, this is a great waste. Life is very short and no one knows when he or she will die, and we cannot afford to give up fun and opportunities to experience new things. Some of these opportunities only come once in a lifetime. By saving all their money, people are limiting their personal development and keeping their minds closed in order to accumulate money.

I am not suggesting that we should spend all our money on travelling and enjoying life and save nothing for the future. The way I see it, we need to find a balance so that these new experiences do not have a negative impact on our future. It is fine to give up some future security but we should not make our futures insecure. We have a responsibility to our families to save some money but we should not make saving for the future our main goal in life. Otherwise, we miss the things that make life worthwhile.

译文

你偏向于花钱出去旅游还是存钱以备后用？列出明确理由，举例说明你的观点。

以我个人来说，我更偏向于花钱旅行而不是存钱以备后用，但这两者都是很重要的。金钱可以买到机会，我们可以用它来交换新的经历，例如旅行或参加新活动。这些新的人生经验不仅让人生充满乐趣，还具有重大的意义。从这些经验中，我们不仅拓宽了对世界的了解，还接受了新的知识，学习他人看世界的方式。这使我们变得更加理性和开明，并帮助我们在人生中做出更佳的决定。不去旅行的人将错过这些经历，他们的视野将得不到开阔。

必须承认的是，存储金钱创造了更有保障的未来。例如，我们可以支付医疗费用或购买一套公寓，但如果存储所有钱，我们会错过很多当下的机遇。而我认为这是一种极大的浪费。人生太短，没人能预测生命终止的时间，我们承担不起放弃体验新事物的乐趣和机会所带来的损失，因为有些机会是千载难逢的。将所有钱都存起来，人们会因此限制自身的发展，为了存钱而封闭了自己的思维。

我并非在此建议大家花费所有的金钱来旅游和享受生活，而不为未来储蓄。在我看来，我们需要找到一个平衡点，在获得新体验的同时不对未来生活造成不良影响。放弃一点未来的保障是可以的，但是我们不能让我们的未来完全没有保障。我们有责任为家庭存钱，但不该把存钱作为今后人生的主要目标。否则，我们将错过很多的人生精彩。

2009年3月22日考试题

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Governments should focus more on natural environment and less on economic development. Use reasons and specific examples to support your answer.

I do not agree with the statement that governments should focus more on the natural environment than economic development. To me, it is clear that both issues are equally important. Economic development is important because so many people are living in poverty; protecting the natural environment is important for people's health and quality of life. Therefore, focusing on either one and neglecting the other will lead to a bad result. As far as I am concerned, the best approach is to focus on both.

Most countries focus on economic development because this enables the population of a country to become richer and have better lives, and it makes the country stronger. The problem is that the current form of economic development is destroying the natural environment. For instance, CO₂ from fossil fuels is causing global warming, factories are polluting the air and the water, and resources, like oil, are running out. If governments continue to focus on economic development, it will soon be too late to save the environment, and future economic development will be impossible without natural resources.

Currently, most governments are pursuing economic growth for short-term gain but they do not see the importance of protecting the environment for long-term economic growth. It is clear then that governments need to focus on both issues equally because they are inextricably linked. The current form of economic development must be changed so that, instead of seeking only short-term profits, governments and corporations look at economic development from a long-term perspective. Governments cannot choose to focus on one or the other because both are vital to future humanity.

译文

你是否同意以下观点？相对于经济发展，政府应该更重视自然环境保护。请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我不同意相对于经济发展，政府应该更重视自然环境保护这一观点。对我来说，这两者很明显是同样重要的。经济发展的重要性在于如今还有那么多人过着贫困的生活，而保护自然环境对人类的健康和生活质量意义重大。因此仅重视一方面而忽视另一方面将会导致不良的后果。我认为同时重视经济发展和环境保护是最佳的方法。

许多国家集中关注经济建设，是因为这使国民变得更加富裕，过上更好的生活，使国家更加强大。问题是如今的经济发展模式正在破坏自然环境。例如矿物燃料燃烧释放的二氧化碳导致了全球温室效应，工厂正污染着空气和水，自然资源例如石油也日益减少。如果政府继续只关注经济发展，不久后便会发现保护环境为时已晚。而没有自然资源，未来的经济也将无法发展。

目前，大多政府盲目追求经济的短期增长而忽视了为经济的长期发展而保护环境的重要性。政府应该平等地重视经济和环境问题，因为这两者是紧紧相连的。现有的经济发展模式必须进行改革，政府和企业需要从长远角度考虑经济的发展而非着眼于短期利益。政府不能只关注一方面，因为两者对人类的未来都是至关重要的。

2009年5月9日考试题

(同2009年5月16日考试题)

It is better for parents to let children manage their pocket money when they are young. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

I agree that it is better for parents to let children manage their pocket money when they are young. This teaches children about both the value of money and how to manage money responsibly. Once children reach the age of 18, they are able to get a job and earn a salary, and they can apply for a credit card or a bank loan. If they are inexperienced with money, they are likely to make bad decisions that cause big problems in their life. By letting children manage their pocket money, parents can ensure that the children are prepared for adulthood.

Young children do not understand the value of money because they do not buy things. They do not realize that their parents work hard every day to provide a home, food, toys, etc. In fact, children take all these things for granted until they have their own money and must decide how to spend it. Managing pocket money helps children understand the value of money. When children have to buy things for themselves, they understand that "money does not grow on trees" and that they cannot have everything they want. Furthermore, the children learn that if they want something expensive then they must save money each week.

In life, we have many choices for how to spend our money. Some choices focus on short-term pleasure while others focus on long-term responsibility, i.e. spending money on a hobby versus saving money to buy an apartment. If children know how to manage money then they can learn how to strike this balance and they will make better choices when they are adults. Even if children want to waste their pocket money, parents should let them go because people learn a lot from mistakes. What is more, it is better to make these mistakes when children are young because the consequences are small.

译文

父母最好让孩子从小管理自己的零用钱。你是否同意这一观点？请用具体的理由和事例来说明。

我同意父母最好让孩子从小管理自己的零用钱这一观点。这能教会孩子懂得金钱的价值和如何负责地管理金钱。当孩子成长至18岁，他们就能找工作赚取薪水，申请信用卡和银行贷款。如果他们对金钱没有经验，他们就有可能做出错误的决定并因此带来大问题。通过让孩子管理自己的零用钱，家长可以让孩子为成年生活做好准备。

年幼的孩子不理解金钱的价值，是因为他们不去买东西。他们意识不到父母为了养家、购买食物和玩具等每天工作的辛苦。实际上，孩子将这些看做是理所当然的，直到他们有了自己的钱并且必须决定何时使用时才会明白。而管理零用钱可以帮助孩子了解金钱的价值。当孩子需要为自己购买东西时，他们就能意识到钱不是长在树上的，他们不可能购买所有想要的东西。此外，孩子还可以认识到，如果想要买一件昂贵的商品，他们必须为此每周都存钱。

在生活中，我们对于金钱的使用有很多选择。有些选择是基于短期的快乐，而有些则是因为长期的责任，例如在一项爱好上花钱和存钱以后购买公寓。如果孩子了解如何管理金钱，那么他们可以学会如何掌握这长期短期的平衡，并在长大成人后在金钱方面做出更好的选择。即使孩子想要浪费他们的零花钱，父母也不应干预，因为人们可以从错误中学习。更何况，最好是让这些错误在他们年龄还小时发生，因为这时产生的不良后果会比较小。