【1.20】

**1.20每日一篇|经济学人考研精读**

Sexually transmitted diseases  
**poxy** reasoning  
  
Why **syphilis** isn’t other people’s problem

【1】No one wants **syphilis**. Not **personally**—its **symptoms** include **ulcers** and **insanity**—and not **nationally**. The “French disease” as the English long called it, is an infamously “othered” illness. In 2014 **academics** in Bucharest traced its **linguistic** history and found that, even as the English used to call it the French disease, the French called it the Neapolitan one.  
  
【2】The othering didn’t stop there. The Russians called it Polish, the Poles called it German, the Germans called it French and the Danish called it Spanish. The Turks eschewed nationalism for **sectarianism**, **calling** it the “Christian disease”, while, as the researchers **observed**: “in Northern India, the Muslims **blamed** the Hindu for the outbreak of the **affliction**. However, the Hindu **blamed** the Muslims and in the end everyone **blamed** the Europeans.” Not, **perhaps**, without cause.  
  
【3】**syphilis** also feels like an **antiquated** disease. It is not. Cases have been rising **relentlessly** for 20 years in Britain. As a recent paper in Nature Microbiology **observed**, over the past decade rates have risen by about 150% in some high-**income** countries. In 1999, 415 cases were reported at clinics in England and Wales. In 2019 there were 8,011 in England alone. (The **pandemic** makes later figures unreliable.) The numbers are still low. But the rise is worrying. **ironically**, some of the reasons are probably positive.  
  
【4】In the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain was a **profoundly** **poxy** place. Accurate **antique** **syphilis** rates are hard to come by (doctors avoided mentioning it on death certificates as it upset the relatives), but it is **estimated** that almost 8% of Victorians suffered from it. Rates were lowest among **agricultural** labourers and much higher among the upper classes. Lord Elgin is famous today for defacing the profile of the Parthenon: in his own time he was known for his own defaced profile. His nose was so eaten away by “the pox” (as Byron put it) that he had to retire from public life.  
  
【5】**effective** 20th-century treatments, **particularly** penicillin, changed that and **syphilis** rates tumbled. The **terrifying** arrival of HIV caused rates to collapse as people avoided **sexual** risk. Now, says Michael Marks, a researcher at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and one of the Nature Microbiology paper’s authors, drugs for HIV are highly **effective** at **prolonging** healthy life—and that seems to have led to rises in **risky** **sexual** behaviours, especially sex without condoms. That, in turn, has contributed to a **resurgence** of **syphilis**, especially among men who have sex with men. Such factors have also led to rises in other sexually transmitted infections (stis). In 2018 **diagnoses** of **chlamydia**, the commonest, rose by 2%, despite a drop in testing, while **gonorrhoea** **diagnoses** rose by 26%.  
  
【6】Better **treatment** and waning **terror** are clearly good things. But other reasons for rising cases are less positive. **sexual**-health services have seen their funding slashed in recent years. Shame, moreover, means new infections are less likely to be diagnosed and treated quickly. “It’s an area full of **stigma**,” says Emma Harding-Esch, another researcher at the lshtm. “STIS, **ironically**, are not considered sexy diseases.”  
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【7】And **syphilis** is one of the least sexy. Even now, when its days of **linguistic** othering are over, it is still seen as “something that affects other people,” says Dr Marks. That needs to change: the “French disease” is becoming a British disease again.

**①短语**：

1.原文：In 2014 academics in Bucharest traced its linguistic history and found that, even as the English used to call it the French disease, the French called it the Neapolitan one.

词典：**used to惯于；过去经常**

例句：I'm **used to** having my sleep interrupted.

我习惯了睡觉时被吵醒。

2.原文：The Turks eschewed nationalism for sectarianism, calling it the “Christian disease”, while, as the researchers observed: “in Northern India, the Muslims blamed the Hindu for the outbreak of the affliction.

词典：**blame for责备；因……责备**

例句：There is a sense in which we are all to **blame for** the tragedy.

在某种意义上，对这个悲剧我们大家都有责任。

3.原文：Not, perhaps, without cause.

词典：**without cause无故；毫无原因**

例句：Don't complain **without cause**.

不要无故发牢骚。

4.原文：Rates were lowest among agricultural labourers and much higher among the upper classes.

词典：**upper class上等阶层、上流社会**

例句：All of them came from wealthy, **upper class** families.

他们所有人都来自富裕的上层阶级家庭。

5.原文：The terrifying arrival of HIV caused rates to collapse as people avoided sexual risk.

词典：**avoid risk规避风险**

例句：How to seize opportunities and **avoid risks**?

如何抓住机遇规避风险？

**②长难句**

1.原文：In 2018 diagnoses of chlamydia, the commonest, rose by 2%, despite a drop in testing, while gonorrhoea diagnoses rose by 26%.

2.分析：本句较长，其中有两个关键词需要引起注意，第一个是“despite”，意思是“尽管”，表示让步；第二个是“while”，意思是“然而……”，表示转折。“diagnoses of chlamydia”做主语；“rose”作谓语，后面为宾语；“In 2018”是时间状语；“the commonest”做主语的后置定语。

3.译文：**2018年，最常见的衣原体诊断上升了2%，尽管检测数量下降，但淋病诊断上升了26%。**

**③写作技巧：**

Better treatment and waning terror are clearly good things.

**更好的治疗方案和恐惧的减轻显然是好事。**

生词：wane v. （月亮）缺，亏；衰落，减少；消逝

e.g.: Her popularity has been on the wane for some time.

她的人气一段时间以来江河日下。

扩展：月亮渐满用wax

**④背景知识：**

“埃尔金”是苏格兰东北部一座小城的名字， 17世纪中叶之前的苏格兰是一个独立的王国。1633年6月，这个王国设立"埃尔金伯爵"贵族封号，并将其颁赏给声名显赫的布鲁斯家族。苏格兰于1654年并入英国之后，这一封号保留下来。370多年来，布鲁斯家族承袭这一封号的共有11人，其中广为人知者，一是劫掠希腊帕特农神庙的第七代传人托马斯·布鲁斯，二是火烧中国圆明园的第八代传人詹姆斯·布鲁斯。

**段落大意：**

【1】梅毒既不是个人问题，也不是国家问题。

【2】其他国家之间，仍然存在“他化行为”。

【3】梅毒并不是过时的疾病，至今仍有人感染梅毒。

【4】18、19世纪的英国是一个被梅毒荼毒颇深的地方，尤其在上流社会。

【5】青霉素疗法和艾滋病病毒的到来，曾让梅毒发病率骤降，但迈克尔·马克斯的话似乎导致了梅毒的死灰复燃。

【6】导致梅毒病例增加的其他原因就不那么乐观了。

【7】梅毒是最无法引起性冲动的疾病之一。马克斯博士认为梅毒仍然被视为“影响他人的东西”，这种情况需要改变。