2025 考研英语 Monkey 全心全意班

2022 年题源外刊精读课讲义

边明锐

微博、B 站、微信公众号：Monkey 考研英语

Monkey 题源外刊精讲-导学课

一、 What-什么是题源外刊？

1. 题源外刊的来源

题源范围：
《卫报》、《基督教箴言报》、《大西洋月刊》
《新闻周刊》、《经济学人》、《科学杂志》、《纽约时报》、《华尔街日报》…

时间范围：
上年 11 月至当年 8 月（2021.11-2022.8）

原文长度：
400-2000 词→400-450 词（删、改）

2. 题源外刊的筛选-选材特点与趋势

考研英语母题之“四大”：
政策与民生、企业与社会、社会科学与科技反思、人与自然

两个最新趋势：
① 选材欧洲化（英国为主）
② 企业批判焦点化（脸书、谷歌、亚马逊、微软）

2020 考研阅读文章选材

英语一：
Text-1：英国“文化城”
Text-2：暴利的科研出版业
Text-3：女性高管配额政策
Text-4：法国带头制裁科技巨头

英语二：
Text-1：老鼠行为研究
Text-2：CEO 高薪问题
Text-3：马德里市空气污染问题
Text-4：“Z 世代”的特点

2021 考研阅读文章选材

英语一：
Text-1：英国铁路运费涨价
Text-2：印尼 CCT 项目与环保
Text-3：维多利亚人不笑的原因
Text-4：美国宽带商中立问题

英语二：
Text-1：员工技能再培训
Text-2：英国粮食问题
Text-3：微软等巨头吞并小公司
Text-4：直觉的威力

2022 考研阅读文章选材

英语一：
Text-1：博物馆保存塑料艺术品
Text-2：Z 世代的学历观
Text-3：科学界与艺术界合作
Text-4：员工保护政策

英语二：
Text-1：环保鸡蛋
Text-2：美国人延迟退休Text-3：互联网企业付费套路Text-4：道德课的影响

二、 Why-为什么要学题源外刊？

1. 在不浪费真题的前提下，加强篇章阅读能力

2. 积累与常考阅读题材相关的必要通识知识

3. 提前了解当年考研英语可能出现的话题、论点和主旨

本课程选取21年12月-22年4月的10篇最新外刊文章，字数在425词上下，难度介于英一、英二之间。文章主题分类如下：

企业与社会：亚马逊公司内首次成立公会、幽灵航班及其症结

政策与民生：非国内纳税人与税收公平、助学贷款改革、房价与贫富分化、能源价格上涨问题

社会科学与科技反思：机器学习与黑盒问题

人与自然：北极气温破新高、塑料污染问题

疫情专题：疫苗接济刻不容缓

三、 How-怎样学习题源外刊？

（下述学习规划部分请以 24 全心全意班的导学规划为准！）

1. 完成【基础阅读】后，再开始【题源外刊】的学习！
2. 题源外刊最佳学习时间是【6 月底之前】，没时间则不强求！
3. 外刊阅读以把握主旨、了解常识为主，不要做配套模拟题！

本课程共涉及 10 篇文章，每篇文章需要至少 2 小时的学习时间，具体安排如下：
① 自己初读文章+总结段落主旨、全文主旨 (20min)
② 自己精读文章，查清生词，尝试分析长难句（20min）
③ 听精读赏析课程，适当整理笔记（80min）

请各位同学根据自己的学习进度灵活安排学习节奏，每天学 40 分钟至 2 小时皆可。

第一篇：北极气温破新高

A heatwave in the Arctic and the collapse of the Conger ice shelf in East Antarctica bring warnings that climate breakdown could be accelerating. There are signs of melting at weather stations near the north pole, with temperatures 30C above normal. In Antarctica, temperatures are 40C up. While the Conger ice shelf is too small to cause significant sea-level rises, its collapse points to growing instability. These weather events do more than offer proof of the dangers of global heating. They also risk triggering changes that could accelerate the disruption. If we are to avoid the worst effects of global heating, with around half the world's population said by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be highly vulnerable, it is imperative to make drastic changes to our global energy system.

Of course, extreme weather at the poles doesn't affect people in the same way as in densely populated areas. But the truth is that even when large populations are harmed, dangerous weather events in poorer countries do not reliably catch and keep international attention. Generally it takes a crisis in a rich, developed nation for western audiences to take notice of what runaway warming could mean: the record- smashing heat dome in the northern US and Canada last summer, for example, or fires and heatwaves in California and Europe.

Even then, we are learning all the time how quickly memories fade, and how hard it is to keep climate at the top of the agenda. The world's political and economic systems were not built to conserve the Earth's atmosphere. Whether our human focus on short-term goals is learned or hardwired, and whether we regard governments, corporations or civilisation itself as responsible for the failure to dismantle our fossil-fuel-powered global system, one fact is known. As long as emissions keep rising, we are failing to prioritise our collective long-term survival.

Animals, as well as people, are doing their best to adapt to changing conditions. This week, US scientists revealed research showing that many species of birds are building nests and laying eggs around a month earlier than a century ago. Such adjustments are a vital part of the climate message. Without the hope they offer, that we can find ways to live in changed conditions, the danger is that the prospect becomes too scary, prompting reactions of either avoidance or despair. In April, the IPCC will update its recommendations to governments on how to limit emissions. The shift to green power remains achievable. But time is running out.

北极地区的热浪和南极洲东 部康格冰架的崩解给我们带来了警示，气候崩溃可能正在加速。北极附近的气象站已经出现冰川融化的若干迹象，那里的气温比往常高出30摄氏度。南极的气温则比正常温度高出40摄氏度。虽然康格冰架的大小还不足以造成明显的海平面上升，但它的崩解表明全球气候正变得越发不稳定。这些气候事件不仅提供了全球变暖带来的危害的证据。它们本身也有可能引起加速气候波动的变化。政府间气候变化专门委员会（IPCC）称，全球大约会有一半人口受到气候变暖的严重影响，如果我们不想让这种最糟糕的情况发生，就需 要立即对全球能源系统作出大刀阔斧的改革。

当然，南北极出现的极端天气并不会像人口稠密地区的那样对人们产生巨大的影响。但事实是，即便当大量人口受到伤害时，欠发达国家出现的那些危险的气候状况也未必会引起国际社会的持续关注。通常来说，要想让西方世界的民众注意到发展迅速的气候变暖会带来怎样的恶果，必须得等富裕的发达国家出现一次气候危机：比如去年夏天北美地区和加拿大破纪录的热穹顶，或是加利福尼亚州和欧洲的火灾和酷热期。

即便在那时，我们也会不断发现人类的记忆淡化得有多快，以及想让社会持续重视气候问题有多难。这个世界的政治和经济系统并不是围绕保护地球环境这一目的而创建的。无论我们人类关注短期目标的习性是后天习得的还是先天的，无论我们是否认为政府、企业和人类文明本身应该为未能废除旧有的由化石燃料驱动的全球体系负责，有一个事实是众所周知的。只要碳排放量还在不断上升，就意味着我们没能优先考虑人类集体的长期生存。

和人类一样，动物也在尽其所能去适应不断变化的气候条件。本周，美国科学家发布的研究结果表明，与一个世纪前相比，如今很多种鸟类筑巢和产卵的时间都提早了大概一个月。这种调整是气候信息中至关重要的一部分。多亏动物给了人类希望，告诉我们生物可以在发生改变的环境中找到生存之道，否则未来的前景就太可怕了，这会导致人们产生逃避或绝望情绪。 4 月份，IPCC 将更新它给各国政府的有关如何限制碳排放的建议。我们现在完成向绿色能源的转型还来得及。但时间正在一点点耗尽。

第二篇：机器学习与黑盒问题

Last week an artificial intelligence – called NooK – beat eight world champion players at bridge. That algorithms can outwit humans might not seem newsworthy. IBM's Deep Blue beat world chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997. In 2016, Google's AlphaGo defeated a Go grandmaster. Yet the real-world applications of such technologies have been limited. Stephen Muggleton, a computer scientist, suggests this is because they are "black boxes" that can learn better than people but cannot express, and communicate, that learning.

NooK is different. It won by formulating rules, not just brute-force calculation. Bridge is not the same as chess or Go, which are two-player games based on an entirely known set of facts. Bridge is a game for four players split into two teams, involving collaboration and competition with incomplete information. Each player sees only their cards and needs to gather information about the other players' hands. Unlike poker, which also involves hidden information and bluffing, in bridge a player must disclose to their opponents the information they are passing to their partner.

This feature of bridge meant NooK could explain how its playing decisions were made, and why it represents a leap forward for AI. When confronted with a new game, humans tend to learn the rules and then learn to improve by, for example, reading books. By contrast, "black box" AIs train themselves by deep learning: playing a game billions of times until the algorithm has worked out how to win. It is a mystery how this software comes to its conclusions – or how it will fail.

NooK nods to the work of British AI pioneer Donald Michie, who reasoned that AI's highest state would be to develop new insights and teach these to humans, whose performance would be consequently increased to a level beyond that of a human studying by themselves. Michie considered "weak" machine learning to be just improving AI performance by increasing the amount of data ingested. This often means not enough data for AI is available, and frequently it contains hidden, socially unacceptable biases. The environmental impact is also a growing concern, with computing projected to account for 20% of global electricity demand by 2030.

Technologies build trust if they are understandable. There's always a danger that black box AI solves a problem in the wrong way. And the more powerful a deep-learning system becomes, the more opaque it can become. NooK will be a world-changing technology if it lives up to the promise of solving complex problems and explaining how it does so.

上周，一个名为 NooK 的人工智能在桥牌游戏中击败了八位世界冠军。人工智能算法比人类还聪明这件事听上去或许已经不是什么新鲜事了。 1997 年，美国国际商用机器公司的“深蓝”击败了国际象棋世界冠军加里·卡斯帕罗夫。 2016 年，谷歌的阿尔法围棋击败了一位围棋大师。然而直到目前为止，这类技术在现实中的应用空间仍然很有限。计算机科学家史蒂芬·马格尔顿认为，这是因为这些人工智能都是“黑盒”，它们的学习能力比人类强，但是无法将其所学到的东西进行表达和交流。

NooK 不一样。它通过制定策略而非单纯的暴力计算来获胜。桥牌和国际象棋或围棋不同，后二者都是两位玩家进行的游戏，且信息完全透明。而桥牌是四位玩家分成两队的游戏，需要在信息不完整的情况下进行合作和竞技。每位玩家只能看到他们自己的牌，并且需要收集其他玩家的牌的相关信息。和同样需要隐藏信息以及虚张声势的扑克牌不同，桥牌的玩家在向队友传达信息的同时，也必然会把这些信息暴露给对手。

桥牌的这种特点意味着 NooK能够解释其游戏决策是如何做出的，这也正是其人工智能的先进之处。当面对一个新游戏时，人类往往会先学习其规则，然后再通过读书之类的方式来学习，以提高水平。相比之下，“黑盒”人工智能则通过深度学习来训练自己：把同一个游戏玩几十亿次，直至找到一个能获胜的算法。我们无法知道这个软件是如何得出其致胜策略的——也无从知晓它在什么情况下会失败。

Nook 的理念与英国人工智能先驱唐纳德·米基一致，米基认为人工智能的最高境界应该是能产生全新的领悟并将其传授给人类，后者的水平进而将提升到一个超过人类自身学习能力极限的水平。米基认为，只通过灌输更多的数据来提升人工智能表现的机器学习方法是“低水平的”。这往往意味着人工智能学习所需的数据量不够，且这种人工智能经常会隐含无法被社会接受的偏见。机器学习对环境的影响也越发令人担忧，到 2030 年，其运算所需的电力预计将占全球电力需求的 20%。

能被理解的技术才能被人类信任。黑盒人工智能总会存在用错误的方式解决问题的危险。一个深度学习系统在变得越发强大的同时，也会变得越发难以理解。如果能像它承诺的那样在解决复杂问题的同时解释清楚其行为依据，那么 NooK 一定会成为一项能改变世界的技术。

第三篇：非国内纳税人与税收公平

It is not the legality of what the chancellor of the exchequer and his wife do with their money that matters; it's the message that their choice sends about inequality and unfairness in Britain today. Rishi Sunak lives in Downing Street with his wife and their two children. As chancellor of the exchequer, he is in charge of the UK's tax system and the country's finances at a time when everybody's living costs are soaring and public money is extremely tight. Mr Sunak naturally pays UK taxes on his earnings and assets. His wife, Akshata Murty, does not.

Although she has lived here for much of the past decade, Ms Murty holds non-domiciled tax status in the UK. This means that she pays no UK tax on her overseas earnings, on the basis that her permanent home is not here. Ms Murty is very, very rich indeed. Her stake in her Indian father's technology business alone is worth an estimated £690m. She would have received around £11.5m in dividends from these shares in the last tax year. If she was a UK taxpayer, the Treasury would have taxed that at a rate of 38.1%, bringing in well over £4m a year to the public finances.

Ms Murty has broken no law by shielding that money from the Treasury. Her office stresses that she has also paid overseas taxes on the earnings. The UK's independent adviser on ministerial interests has approved the arrangements. Non-dom tax status, after all, has existed since the colonial era. Regrettably, it remains legal. It is based on the idea that while a person may live here all year round, as Ms Murty does, they regard a foreign country, in this case India, as their true home. At the last count, some 75,700 individuals claimed non-dom status, thus depriving the Treasury of nearly £8bn in taxes and national insurance.

But the overwhelming majority of taxpayers who live in this country do not have this option. That is why the Sunak-Murty finances matter. At a time when personal taxes have just gone up, when the cost of living is rising steeply, when inflation is increasing, and when benefits are falling in value in real terms – and when Mr Sunak is the all-powerful minister responsible for every single one of these issues – the revelation of his rich wife's choice of non-dom status sends a message that there is one law for the rich and another law for the rest of us. This may be legal, but it is, quite simply, unfair.

重要的不是财政大臣和他的妻子处理财产的方式是否合法，而是他们由此传递的当今英国社会不平等和不公正的信号。里希·苏纳克和他的妻子以及两个孩子生活在唐宁街。作为财政大臣，他在这个民众生活成本飙升且公共预算极度紧张的时代掌管着英国的税收系统和国家财政。苏纳克先生理所应当地为他的收入和财产向英国交税。他的妻子阿克莎塔·穆尔蒂则不然。

虽然在过去十年里，她大部分时间都居住在英国，但穆尔蒂女士却拥有非居民纳税人身份。这意味着她无须为其海外收入向英国交税，理由是其永久居所不在此处。穆尔蒂女士确实非常非常富有。仅是她在她印度籍父亲的科技公司的股份就价值约 6.9 亿英镑。在上一个税务年度里，她从这些股份中获得的分红大约会有 1 150 万英镑。如果她的身份是一位英国纳税人的话，财政部将按 38.1% 的税率对这部分收入征税，这样一年将给公共财政带来远超 400万英镑的进账。

穆尔蒂女士没有给英国财政部交这笔钱，但她并未违反任何法律。她的个人办公室强调，她已经在海外为这笔收入缴纳了税款。英国的部长利益独立顾问也已经同意这种安排。毕竟，非居民纳税人身份自从殖民地时代就开始存在了。令人遗憾的是，它如今仍然是合法的。它的理念在于，虽然一个人可能像穆尔蒂女士那样全年生活在英国，却仍然将某个其他国家——在这个例子里是印度——视作他们真正的祖国。根据最近的一次统计，约有 75 700 人拥有非居民纳税人身份，这让财政部失去了近 80 亿英镑的税收和国民保险费。

但是生活在这个国家里的绝大多数纳税人都没有这种选择。这正是苏纳克 - 穆尔蒂的财务状况事关重大的原因所在。时下个人所得税刚刚上调，民众生活成本剧增，通货膨胀率不断增加，而各项福利的实际价值则在下降，苏纳克先生又恰恰是那个应该为上述一切问题负责的位高权重的部长——（在这种情况下）曝出他那有钱的妻子选择非居民纳税人的身份，就等于向社会传递了这样一种信息：只许富人放火，不许百姓点灯。这样做或许合法，但无疑绝不公平。

第四篇：亚马逊公司内首次成立公会

Amazon, notoriously, does not like trade unions very much. In 2021, America's wealthiest corporation spent around $4.3m (£3.3m) hiring consultants to help keep them out of its warehouses. For years, the tech giant has waged scandalous campaigns across the US to discourage its million-strong workforce from seeking formal representation. At mandatory "captive audience" meetings, employees have been required to listen to anti-union lectures from their managers – and draw the right conclusions. Perceived troublemakers have allegedly been harassed and dismissed. And until this month, the bullying strategy had a 100% success rate.

All of which makes the pioneering establishment of the Amazon Labor Union (ALU) in New York a minor miracle, as well as a landmark moment. Defying the usual playbook of scare tactics and dirty tricks – and a lavishly funded "vote no" campaign – Staten Island warehouse workers voted on 1 April to form the first Amazon union outside Europe.

For decades, a decline in union membership in America has been accompanied by a corresponding rise in social inequality. But US public support for unions has risen significantly in recent years, and there are signs that labour shortages are encouraging employees to take greater risks in demanding better pay and working conditions. Under Joe Biden's presidency, the National Labor Relations Board has been become far more proactive in defending the right to organise and following up on cases of employee victimisation.

A tangible effect is beginning to be seen. On the same day as the Staten Island vote, baristas at a New York Starbucks formed the 10th branch of the Starbucks Workers United union. Employees at more than 170 Starbucks stores across the US are now contemplating following suit. Perhaps most significantly of all, a new generation may be on the move; younger workers were at the heart of the ALU campaign, opting to start an independent movement from scratch rather than relying on outside help from traditional unions. Startup energy, creative use of social media, barbecues paid for by GoFundMe and two years of listening to workers' concerns did the trick.

The postwar heyday of the great industrial unions will not come back. But that does not mean that modern workforces must be condemned to the exploitative, controlling tendencies exemplified by Amazon. The ALU's victory has set an inspiring precedent. Having been so unexpectedly humiliated, Amazon last week announced that it would seek to legally overturn the Staten Island vote on technical grounds. Its New York executives should instead resign themselves to sitting down and bargaining with a workforce that it has treated with disdain. Hopefully, there will be many more such negotiations to come.

亚马逊公司非常不喜欢工会，这个坏名声人尽皆知。2021 年，这个美国最有钱的公司花了大约 430 万美元（330 万英镑）雇用顾问团队，目的就是把工会挡在其库房的大门之外。多年以来，这个科技巨头在美国各地发起了多次丑恶的运动来阻止其数百万名员工形成正式的代表。在强制员工参加的“非自愿听众”会议上，员工被要求听取其管理者发表的反公会演说——并得出正确的结论。据说员工中的刺头们一旦被发现，就会被公司找碴并解雇。直到本月为止，这种恐吓套路的成功率高达 100%。

所有这一切都使得亚马逊工会（ALU）在纽约的开创性成立堪称一次小小的奇迹，这也是一个里程碑式的时刻。扛住了公司的种种恐吓策略和肮脏手段——以及疯狂砸钱的“投否定票”运动——斯塔滕岛的库房员工们于 4 月 1 日投票成立了亚马逊在欧洲之外的首个公会。

几十年来，美国工会会员的人数一直在下降，随之而来的是社会不平等程度的加深。但是近几年美国公众对工会的支持已经显著增加，并且有迹象表明，劳动力短缺现象正在让员工们敢于冒更大的风险去要求提高薪资和改善工作条件。在乔·拜登总统的统治下，美国国家劳动关系委员会越发积极地捍卫其组织劳工的权利，并主动地跟进那些侵害员工权益的事件。

这正在产生实打实的效果。就在斯塔滕岛投票事件的同一天，纽约一家星巴克咖啡店的服务员成立了星巴克员工联合工会的第十支部。全美上下 170 多家星巴克的员工们如今正打算效仿他们。或许意义最为重大的是，新一代们可能正在开始行动；相对年轻的员工们构成了ALU运动的中坚力量，他们选择从零开始组织一场独立的运动，而不是依赖于借助传统工会的外部力量。初创公司的参与、对社交媒体的创造性应用、由众筹平台 GoFundMe 买单的烧烤活动、以及两年来不断倾听工人们呼声等做法最终起到了作用。

战后行业工会的那种鼎盛时期已经一去不复返。但这并不意味着当代的劳动力们活该忍受像亚马逊公司这样的剥削和控制。ALU 的成功已经给工人们树立起了一个令人鼓舞的先例。受到如此出乎意料的羞辱后，亚马逊上周宣布它将基于技术层面的理由尝试合法地推翻斯塔滕岛的工会表决。纽约的亚马逊高管们该做的其实是让自己接受现实，然后坐下来与长期以来受亚马逊鄙视的员工们谈判。但愿未来会有更多这样的谈判。

第五篇：助学贷款改革

Sir Philip Augar’s review of post-18 education in England was commissioned by Theresa May in 2018. Four years later, the government’s response is finally in. But the reforms it unveiled last week are mainly about saving the Treasury money, rather than students. They are also shamelessly, and calculatedly, regressive.

Although it talks a good game on adult and further education, the government’s policy priority has always been to slash the amount of university graduate debt that is never paid back – and for which the Treasury is on the hook. It has thus extended from 30 to 40 years the period in which loan repayments must be made, and substantially lowered the salary threshold at which money starts to be paid back. The number of graduates required to pay back their loan in full is expected to rise from under a quarter to more than half.

In partial compensation, high interest rates levied on loans will be cut. But this move will overwhelmingly benefit high-earning graduates. The Institute for Fiscal Studies has estimated that, overall, the changes will save the Treasury £2.3bn. This is money that will be coming from graduates on extremely modest salaries who already have house prices and insufficient pensions to worry about.

The regressive approach is compounded by the government’s apparent aspiration to reintroduce minimum GCSE and A-level entry requirements for university – a move that would further entrench social inequalities in educational attainment. The freezing of tuition fees until 2025 will lead to a sizeable real-terms cut in universities’ income and hit teaching resources. That will further depress staff morale on campuses, where many lecturers have just completed another round of strike action over pensions and working conditions.

It all amounts to a painful Whitehall squeeze on the higher education sector: the net effect of the financial reforms will be to make the prospect of a university education appreciably less attractive to some, and more of a perceived gamble.

This is the intention. The government wants fewer young people to do degrees and more to consider further education colleges, apprenticeships and vocational training as viable alternatives. The Augar review itself called for a rebalancing of this kind. But notwithstanding the welcome proposal of a lifelong loan entitlement for non-graduates from 2025, nothing like enough money is being spent to reverse the impact of a decade of savage cuts to the further education sector. Instead, the government is taking the dismal but cheaper option of upping disincentives to take the academic route. As the financial war of attrition on our universities continues, the only true winner from the government’s response to the Augar review is the Treasury.

特蕾莎·梅在 2018 年委托菲利普·欧格爵士对英国 18 岁以上人群的教育情况进行总结反思。四年后，政府的答卷终于交出来了。但上周提出的各种改革措施主要是在节省财政部的资金而非学生的。这些改革措施是无耻且充满算计的倒行逆施。

虽然政府把成人教育和继续教育说得天花乱坠，但其政策的重点一直是大幅削减大学毕业生贷款，这笔钱总是有借无还，而且背上这笔债务的还是财政部。政府为此把贷款的最高还款年限从 30 年提高到 40 年，并且极大地降低了毕业生需要开始还款的薪资门槛。被要求全额还款的毕业生人数预计将从不到四分之一增至超过半数。

作为补偿的一部分，对毕业生贷款征收的高利率将被削减。但从这一措施中获益的将主要是高收入毕业生。据英国财政研究所估计，总体来讲，上述变化将为财政部节省23 亿英镑的支出。而承担这笔费用的则是那些薪水极其微薄的毕业生，他们原本就已经在为房价和退休金不足的问题而发愁了。

除了上述这种倒退行为，政府明显还想要重新给大学录取设定最低的 GCSE 和 A-level 成绩门槛，这一做法将进一步加剧社会在教育水平方面的不平等。将学生的学费冻结至2025 年的做法将导致大学实际收入的骤减并重创教学资源。这将进一步使得校园里的教职工们士气低落，那里的很多老师刚刚才结束又一轮针对退休金和工作条件的罢工行动。

这一切都是英国政府对高等教育行业的残酷压榨：上述财政改革措施的最终效果将是使大学教育在一些民众心中的吸引力明显降低，并更像是一场赌博。

这正是其目的所在。政府想让年轻人少去攻读大学学位，而多去考虑继续教育学院、学徒制和职业培训等可行的替代选项。欧格爵士的报告本身也呼吁类似的再平衡措施。但是尽管存在 2025 年起向非毕业生提供终身贷款的热门提案，政府从来没有投入足够的财力来逆转十年来对继续教育粗暴的经费削减带来的负面影响。相反，政府选择那个令人心寒但更省钱的选项：进一步抑制人们选择升学路线的欲望。只要这场针对大学的财政削减战争仍在继续，那么能真正从政府对欧格报告的回应措施中受益的唯一赢家就只剩财政部了。

第六篇：幽灵航班及其症结

Between March 2020 and September 2021, airlines flew 15,000 near-empty or empty planes – "ghost flights" – from UK airports, which are usually used to keep hold of their landing and takeoff slots. This absurd and shameful behaviour in the face of a climate emergency cannot continue. These ghost flights put 270,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. The industry might argue that this represents less than 1% of total UK aviation emissions in 2019, but the practice is completely wrong in a world with net zero commitments.

In normal times, airlines could keep their slots from the previous season as long as they used them 80% of the time. This was reduced to zero when Covid struck – as demand for air travel suddenly disappeared and international borders closed – but has gradually increased. Slots run on a "use it or lose it" basis. Because demand is still well below supply of flights, empty planes are being flown to keep slots. Greenpeace says that more than 100,000 ghost flights will have been seen over European skies this winter. The climate damage, says the green pressure group, is equivalent to the yearly emissions of more than 1.4m cars.

Airlines' ghost flights are needed to keep hold of slots because carriers care about financial, rather than the Earth's, assets. This is a symptom of a much bigger problem: in highly financialised societies, the worth of companies listed on stock markets relies on assets, earnings and profits. The way slots are allocated will not change unless politicians grasp that increasing wellbeing is more important than the growth in the value of transactions. Ghost flights contribute to GDP growth in a similar way that an oil spill does. Both devastate the environment, but can generate business.

The orthodox view is that economies should expand by 2% a year to increase national welfare. Yet this means doubling the size of the economy every 35 years. This does not take into account the fact that economic activity begins with the extraction of natural resources; that it does not necessarily increase human enjoyment; that it imposes environmental and social costs; and that it can be damaging in terms of inequality.

Running empty flights to ensure that the runways are busy at the appointed time represents a very high cost to the natural world. There is a need to replace the economic and financial systems that fail to account for the benefits that humanity derives from nature, and to provide incentives to manage nature wisely and maintain its value.

在 2020 年 3 月到 2021 年 9 月之间，航空公司从英国的机场派出了15 000 架几乎没有或没有乘客的“幽灵航班”，这通常是为了保住各航空公司的起降时间段。面对气候危机，这种荒唐且可耻的做法不能再继续下去了。这些幽灵航班向大气中排放了 27 万吨温室气体。航空业可能会辩称其造成的碳排放还不到 2019 年英国航空总排放量的 1%，但在一个以净零排放为目标的世界里，这种做法是完全错误的。

在一般时期，航空公司只要能用掉其 80% 的起降时间段，就可以在下一季度继续保有它们。当新冠来袭时——因为航空旅行的需求突然消失，以及各国边境的关闭——这一使用率曾经降至 0，但此后又逐渐回升。机场时间段的运行基于一种“要么使用它要么失去它”的规则。由于空旅需求现在仍然远低于航班的供给，所以航空公司一直在派出空载飞机来保住其时间段。“绿色和平”组织称，今年冬天欧洲地区上空将会有超过 10 万架次的幽灵航班。按照该环保组织的说法，这对环境造成的损害等于超过140 万辆汽车一年的碳排放量。

航空公司用幽灵航班来保住时间段，背后的原因是航空公司在乎的是金融资产而非地球的环境资产。这其实是一个更大的问题所表现出的症候：在高度金融化的社会里，上市公司的价值取决于其资产、收入和利润。时间段的分配规则不会改变，除非政客们能意识到提升民众的幸福程度远比股票交易价格的上涨重要。幽灵航班对 GDP 产生贡献的方式与石油泄漏是一样的。二者都以破坏环境的方式带来了生意。

在传统观点看来，要想增加国民福祉，经济体的体量每年应该增长2%。然而这意味着每 35 年就要让经济规模翻一倍。这种观点没有考虑到下列事实：经济活动都是以攫取自然资源作为起点的；经济增长未必能增加人类的幸福感；经济活动会带来环境和社会方面的负面影响；从社会不平等的角度来讲，经济增长可能具有破坏性。

派出空载飞机来保证机场跑道在指定时间的繁忙会让自然环境付出非常高昂的代价。我们需要淘汰掉这种无法正确衡量自然给人类带来的价值的经济和金融系统，并引入激励措施以使人们能明智地管控自然环境并维护其价值。

第七篇：塑料污染问题

There is no data on global plastic pollution that is equivalent to the regular measurements of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere. But as with greenhouse gases, the recent news has been nearly all bad. In 1950, worldwide production of plastics stood at 2m tons per year. In 2020, it was 367m tons. An increase this enormous is hard to visualise. But the 8.8m tons of plastic waste that is estimated to enter the world's marine environment each year is the equivalent of a rubbish truck filled with plastic being tipped into the sea every minute.

So the agreement struck by 173 countries at the UN environment assembly in Nairobi last week was a huge relief. At last, something is going to be done multilaterally about a problem that no government can solve on its own. Without the legally binding treaty that will be negotiated over the next two years, it was hard to see where progress would come from.

The announcement was only the beginning of a long and fraught process. The pollution and destruction of nature are material phenomena. As with cutting emissions (or failing to), fine words about plastics are no use unless they are accompanied by strong actions, including mechanisms to ensure reductions in consumption. Plastic pollution is closely linked to economic growth, and changing our way of life will not be simple. But as a statement of intent, and proof that multilateral cooperation to protect our shared environment is still possible, the agreement is more than welcome.

Like global heating, plastic pollution is a matter of social justice issue as well as conservation, with people in poor countries suffering disproportionately. Research for the US federal government last year found that Americans now generate about 42m tonnes of plastic waste a year – more than all European Union member countries combined. Another report found that 20 companies are responsible for producing 55% of the world's plastic waste. Some are the same companies responsible for fossil fuel production, since plastics are made from petrochemicals.

Policymakers' efforts to tackle the plastic problem have been limited to waste management, including the bans on plastic waste imports and restrictions in many countries on the sale of single-use plastic items such as bags. Such measures can have localised effects, and influence attitudes and behaviour. But they have not touched the source of the problem: the total amount of plastic waste in the world is predicted to almost quadruple by 2050 and the oil industry is heavily invested in expansion, partly as a means of coping with reduced demand in other areas, as people switch to greener technologies. The plastics tap must be turned off.

在全球塑料污染方面，目前还没有能和对地球大气中二氧化碳的日常监测相提并论的数据。但塑料污染方面最近几乎全是坏消息，这一点倒是和温室气体的情况相同。 1950年时，全世界塑料产量为每年 200 万吨。到了 2020 年，这一数字则高达3.67 亿吨。我们很难在脑中描摹出如此巨额的增长是什么概念。但目前每年预计有 880 万吨塑料垃圾进入全世界的海洋环境中，这个量就相当于每分钟都在往海里倾倒整整一卡车的塑料垃圾。

在这种情况下，上周内罗毕联合国环境大会上由 173 个国家达成的协议让人颇为欣慰。至少在这个无法由单个国家政府解决的问题上，总算要有一些多边联合行动了。要不是接下来两年里各国将会协商签订有法律效力的条约，我们真的很难看到这一问题得到改善。

这一进程道阻且长，而这次的声明只是一个起点。人类对自然的污染和破坏都是物质现象。和碳减排（以及在该问题上的失败）一样，光说一些有关塑料（污染）问题的场面话毫无用处，除非我们能采取强有力的行动，其中应包括确保能减少塑料消耗的机制。塑料污染与经济增长关系紧密，改变人们的生活方式也绝非易事。但是作为一个意向声明，以及当前仍有可能通过多边合作来保护人类共同家园的证明，这一协议还是非常值得肯定的。

和全球变暖一样，塑料污染既是一个环保问题也是一个社会公正问题，它对贫穷国家人民的影响远大于其他人。去年美国联邦政府的研究发现，美国现在一年产生 4 200 万吨塑料垃圾——超过了所有欧盟成员国的总和。另有报告指出，20 家公司产生了全世界 55% 的塑料垃圾。其中一些就是负责化石燃料生产的公司，因为塑料就是用石油化工品制作出来的。

政策制定者们解决塑料（污染）问题的努力一直以来都局限于垃圾管理，其中包括禁止进口塑料垃圾，很多国家还限制销售诸如塑料袋等一次性塑料制品。上述措施可以产生局部效果，并影响人们的态度和行为。但它们没有触及问题的根源：全世界塑料垃圾总量预计到 2050 年时将会增加到（目前的）四倍，而随着人们转用更加环保的科技，石油行业将会被大力投资并扩张，一定程度上是作为应对需求减少的手段。这个塑料制造的源头必须被控制住。

第八篇：房价与贫富分化

The average wage of the top 1% in Britain rose to £13,770 a month in December, and the very richest saw their incomes rise the fastest during the pandemic. This group were also likely to have been able to save the most while Covid raged. Where do the very wealthiest spend their cash? One place is housing, for which there is a low level of stock being released on to the market. The result is rising house prices. Over the past 12 months, asking prices have gone up by 9.5%.

This has a knock-on effect for renters. UK rents rose by 8.3% in the last three months of 2021. For would-be first-time buyers, the situation is as bad if not worse, with the current average price of £277,000 nearly £25,000 higher than just a year ago. Those looking to have a roof to live under will find little comfort in official figures.

These record an 11% drop in the number of total homes added in 2021 compared with the year before. The number of new affordable houses that began being built dropped 16% year-on-year. Shortages of labour and materials, as well as planning delays, will make it harder for the housing minister to meet government targets for new homes.

Britain's housing stock is being turned into an asset class as a consequence of the excessive financialisation of the UK economy. For those who own their homes, these buildings serve a dual purpose: they provide shelter, and function as investments. For around 2.5 million landlords, who between them accounted for 18% of all property purchases in 2019, they are only investments.

If the underlying problem is a lack of homes, then one solution may be to build more. But if the problem is landlords, and the fact that property owners are incentivised by rising prices, as well as their desire for more space, a desire that may have been augmented by the switch to home working, to buy as much of it as they can, then building more homes won't help.

The form of inequality this has created currently appears to be generational. Older people are more likely to own their homes than younger ones. City firms are investing billions of pension savings in "build-to-rent" developments that could see a transfer of wealth as younger people end up paying the pensions of older people.

The Labour party could be bolder in dealing with the property haves and have-nots. Its housing policy is for first-time buyers to get priority in new housing developments and to ban foreign owners buying up new properties. But the injustice caused by commercial landlords that hurts young renters and many homeowners also needs tackling.

12 月，英国薪资水平前 1%的人群平均工资达到每月 13 770 英镑，而疫情期间收入增长最快的正是这些最富有的人。疫情蔓延期间，这一群体存下的钱也很可能是最多的。这些超级富豪们把钱花在什么地方了？其中一个答案是房地产，当前释放到市场上的房源很少。这就导致了房价的上涨。在过去的 12 个月里，房产的标价已经上涨了 9.5%。

这给租客带来了连锁反应。英国的房租在 2021 年最后三个月里上涨了 8.3%。对于想要购置首套房的买家而言，情况同样糟糕，甚至更差：当前房产的平均价格为 27.7 万英镑，比一年前高出了近 2.5 万英镑。那些正在寻找栖身之所的人们也很难从官方数据中获得什么安慰。

2021 年新增的房源总数比上一年减少了 11%。刚开始新建的经济适用房数量与上年同比下降了 16%。劳动力和材料的短缺，以及建设规划的延期，会使得住建部部长更难实现政府定下的新房增长目标。

由于英国经济的过度金融化，英国的存量住房已经变成了一种资产对于那些有房的人来说，他们的房子具有双重用途：既是住处，也是投资。对于大约 250 万名房东而言，房子只是一种投资：2019 年交易的房产中，有 18% 是被这些人买下的。

如果当前问题的根源是缺少房子，那么我们或许可以通过建更多房子来解决。但如果问题的根源是房东，是拥有房产的人们在不断上涨的房价刺激下，以及他们可能受居家办公的影响而更渴望扩大居住空间的欲望下想去买尽可能多的房子，那么多盖房子就无济于事。

由此产生的不平等是代际性的。年长的人比年轻人更容易拥有自己的房子。城投公司正在将几十亿英镑的养老储蓄金投资到用于“建后出租”的房产开发项目上，这会造成财富的转移，因为最终等于是年轻人在为老年人的养老金买单。

在处理有房和无房人群的问题时，工党可以更大胆一些。其住房政策是让首套房买家可以优先购买新的房地产开发项目，并禁止外国房东大量买入新的房产。但是商业房东给年轻租客和很多自住房房主带来的不公也需要被解决。

第九篇：能源价格上涨问题

It has been clear since at least last autumn that, come April, soaring global energy prices would crash at high speed into the ability of millions of British households to pay their heating bills. Acknowledging this as “the number one issue on people’s minds”, Rishi Sunak went to the Commons on Thursday and unveiled a raft of measures designed to limit the inevitable but still widely underestimated damage.

But the larger truth is that, while the issue may be on people’s minds, the real human and political shock from these price rises will start in April.

On Thursday, the energy regulator, Ofgem, confirmed that the average bill will rise from £1,277 now to £1,971 after 1 April, a hike of 54%. Four-fifths of that is the result of the rise in wholesale prices, up by 104%. Britain’s dependence on gas, which heats 85% of our often poorly insulated homes, makes this country a sitting duck.

With national insurance rises also due to take effect at the same time, inflation moving steadily upwards again and prices continuing to outdistance wages (partly because of energy costs), Mr Sunak will be praying for warm spring weather to take the chill off the bills.

The chancellor’s measures will undoubtedly absorb some of the shock. All domestic customers will receive a £200 government-financed discount from October, but they will then pay it back in five annual instalments. English households in the lowest four council tax bands – some 80% of the total – will also get a £150 rebate. Local authorities will get discretionary funding to help them target other vulnerable and low-income households. The devolved nations will receive equivalent support under the Barnett formula.

None of this can disguise that most households will still be hit extremely hard from April. Energy prices are high even now, and record numbers are already facing unacceptable choices between heating, eating and other forms of household expenditure. All this is before any of the new price increases kick in. The chancellor’s measures may help, but things will still get worse not better for most. Shell’s announcement of quadrupled profits on Thursday makes Mr Sunak’s talk of the government taking action to share the burden seem insulting.

Mr Sunak’s measures are also fragile. The Treasury is gambling that global wholesale gas prices will start coming down next year. Looking at the graph of wholesale prices, many will see the thinking. But analysts are already predicting that the price cap will have to be raised again after the next half-yearly review. That will mean even higher prices for consumers just as the weather turns colder again.

至少从去年秋天开始，人们就已经清楚地意识到，飞涨的全球能源价格将会很快使数百万英国家庭自 4 月起无力支付其供暖账单。里希·苏纳克认为这是“民众心中的头等大事”，他本周四前往众议院并宣布了大量措施，以减轻（由能源价格上涨带来的）不可避免但又被普遍低估的负面影响。但更宏观地来看，虽然这一问题现在可能已经得到了人们的关注，但能源价格上涨带来的真正的人文和政治冲击从 4 月份起才会开始显现。

本周四能源监管机构 Ofgem证实，自 4 月 1 日起，平均供暖费用将会从当前的 1 277 英镑上涨至 1 971 英镑，猛增 54%。其中五分之四的涨幅都是由能源批发价格上涨 104% 导致的。英国 85% 的隔热性能不好的住房是用燃气供暖的，对燃气的依赖使这个国家变成了一只待宰的羔羊。

考虑到国民保险金缴纳金额也将在同一时间开始上涨，通胀水平将进一步提高，且物价涨幅持续高于工资涨幅（这一定程度上是由能源价格上涨导致的），苏纳克先生恐怕只能祈祷天降暖春来化解这场“燃煤之急”了。

财政大臣采取的措施无疑将会减轻一些冲击。从 10 月起所有的国内消费者都将得到由政府资助的200 英镑抵扣额度，但他们需要在接下来 5 年里分期补上这笔钱。处在最低的四个纳税等级的英国家庭——这占到英国家庭总数的约 80%——还会得到一笔 150 英镑的返现。地方政府会获得一笔可自由支配的资金来帮他们针对性解决那些易受影响和低收入家庭的问题。英属的权力下放国（即苏格兰、威尔士和北爱尔兰）则将会基于巴勒特公式获得等额的财政支持。

然而所有这些措施都无法掩盖大部分家庭仍将从 4 月起受到严重影响的事实。即便是眼下，能源价格都很昂贵，而不得不在取暖、果腹和其他家庭支出间进行选择的人数则达到了历史新高。这一切还只是在新一轮的涨价来袭之前。财政大臣的措施可能会起到一些帮助，但对大多数人来说，情况仍会变得更糟而不是更好。周四壳牌公司利润增长至原来的 4 倍的通告使得苏纳克关于政府将采取行动来分担民众负担的发言像是一种侮辱。

苏纳克的措施还很脆弱。财政部正寄希望于全球批发燃气价格将会从明年开始下降。只要看看能源批发价格走势，很多人都能理解其想法。但是已经有分析人士预测，下一次半年度评审后能源价格上限将会再次提高。这将意味着随着天气转冷，对消费者而言（燃气）价格还将进一步上涨。

第十篇：疫苗接济刻不容缓

No one asked for generosity – only justice. Self-interest as well as decency should have encouraged fairer distribution of vaccines: no one is safe until everyone is safe. Yet two years into the pandemic, with 8,400 people dying each day, the prospect of anything approaching vaccine equity remains as remote as ever. In high- income countries more than two in three people have received at least one dose, but in low-income countries only one in nine. As of November, only one in four African healthworkers was fully vaccinated.

Covax, the vaccine-pooling scheme, hoped to deliver 2bn shots by the end of last year. It has only provided half that, and recently warned that it cannot accept more donations of doses, because it lacks the cash.

Wealthier nations should provide funding now. But a deeper rethink is needed. The Omicron wave has highlighted the risk posed to everyone by variants. Richer nations have engaged in vaccine nationalism – stocking doses so that the African Union was unable to buy anything with the $2bn it had in hand. They have taken up vaccine diplomacy: campaigners recently pointed out that Australia had distributed 18m doses to neighbouring countries, but committed not one to Covax. Put under pressure, they have pledged donations but delivered only small portions of them, and dumped nearly expired doses – so developing countries are unable to use them in time.

Covax alone cannot fix this. Médecins Sans Frontières recently warned that, despite all its good intentions, the scheme has fundamental flaws, including a failure to involve governments and civil society from lower-income countries, and its commitment to a global health model that considers protecting the intellectual property of pharmaceutical firms to be essential. It also counted on Indian production for African needs. When the Delta variant hit India, and its government imposed an export ban, Africa was left without even the inadequate supply it had been promised.

The lesson, says Mr Masiyiwa, is that those with production assets are the ones who can vaccinate their people. National leaders will not prioritise another population over their own; realistic plans must treat vaccine nationalism as a given. With discussions beginning on a global pandemic response accord, there is growing demand for a requirement for knowledge to be shared in future outbreaks. That will unquestionably face intense pushback from pharmaceutical businesses and their supporters. But patent waivers – backed by the US, but still opposed by the UK and EU – and technology transfer should begin now. Poorer countries can wait no longer.

没人奢求慷慨大方——人们只盼个公正。自私自利和追求体面的心理本该促使疫苗得到更公平的分配：因为在每个人都安全之前，没有任何一个人是安全的。然而疫情持续两年后，伴随着每天 8 400 人的死亡人数，实现疫苗公平仍然和最初一样遥不可及。在高收入国家里，超过三分之二的人群至少接种过一剂疫苗，但是在低收入国家里这一比例则为九分之一。截至 11 月份，非洲只有四分之一的保健工作者实现了完全接种。

新冠肺炎疫苗实施计划 Covax原本希望到去年年底交付 20 亿支疫苗。但它只完成了目标数额的一半，并且近期还警告称自己无法接受更多的疫苗捐赠请求了，因为缺钱。

富裕国家现在就该提供资助。但是我们还需要更深入的反思。新一波奥密克戎毒株的来袭已经凸显了新冠变种给每个人造成的危险。富裕国家已经实行了疫苗国家主义——囤积疫苗以使非洲联盟无法用手上的 20 亿美元买到任何东西。他们已经开始进行疫苗外交：运动参与者最近指出，澳大利亚给邻国分配了 1 800 万剂疫苗，但一剂都没有给Covax。面对国际压力，他们承诺进行捐赠，但只交付了其中很小一部分，而且送来的全是些即将过期的疫苗——这样发展中国家就无法及时使用它们了。

光靠 Covax 无法解决这一问题。无国界医生组织近期警告称，虽然其意图是好的，但是 Covax 计划存在根本性的缺陷，它没能动员低收入国家的政府和公民社会参与其中，还致力于一个把保护医药公司知识产权放在核心位置的全球医疗系统。该计划还指望印度去生产非洲所需的疫苗。当德尔塔变种袭击印度时，印度政府禁止了疫苗的出口，这使得非洲连当初承诺的最低疫苗供给量都没有得到。

马希伊瓦先生指出，此事的教训在于掌握生产资料的国家才能给自己的民众接种疫苗。国家领导人不会把其他国家民众的利益置于本国民众之上；现实的方案必须把疫苗国家主义当作一个既定事实。随着人们开始就全球疫情响应协议进行讨论，要求在未来疫情暴发时共享知识的声音越来越大。这将毫无疑问地遭到来自药企及其支持者们的强烈抵制。但是放弃专利权——有美国支持，但仍然遭到英国和欧盟的反对——以及技术转让现在就得开始了。贫穷国家真的等不起。