

26 考研题源外刊讲义

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科技

Day 1 预习

catch up with 追赶

onstage [ˌɒnˈsteɪdʒ] a. 台上的

flagship [ˈflæɡʃɪp] n. 旗舰

Generative AI 生成式人工智能

profound [prəˈfaʊnd] a. 深远的

proponent [prəˈpəʊnənt] n. 支持者

portend [pɔːˈtend] v. 预示

headset [ˈhedset] n. 戴在头上的耳机或听筒

niche product 针对性、专业性很强的产品,专注于某一特定小众市场

pick up on 注意到、明白

capitalise [ˈkæpɪtəlaɪz] v. 利用

hardware [ˈhɑːdweə(r)] n. 计算机硬件

power [ˈpaʊə(r)] v. 驱动

lexicon [ˈleksɪkən] n. 词典

stake [steɪk] v. 下注

chip [tʃɪp] n. 芯片

长难句 (尝试自主翻译)

The proponents of generative AI say it portends a radical future where our devices

can contextually understand vast amounts of information and offer dynamic, smarter, humanlike responses to our needs.

Day2 语篇讲解

Financial Times 2024.6.12

Can Apple **catch up with** its rivals in the AI race?

In June 2023, Apple chief executive Tim Cook walked **onstage** at the company's **flagship** annual developers conference to announce, in the tradition set by Steve Jobs, "one more thing."

Just six months earlier, OpenAI's ChatGPT had launched, gaining a million users in just five days and triggering a new cycle in the tech industry. **Generative AI**, the technology promising a **profound** new level of machine intelligence, was not new. But the chatbot was the first product based on large language models to truly grab the popular imagination.

The **proponents** of generative AI say it **portends** a radical future where our devices can contextually understand vast amounts of information and offer dynamic, smarter, humanlike responses to our needs.

But the "thing" Cook went on to announce that June day was the Vision Pro, Apple's mixed-reality **headset** which remains a **niche product** limited to the US market. As the dust settled, commentators were quick to **pick up on** something: not once, during a series of presentations from Apple's top executives, had any of them even mentioned the term "generative AI" .

A year on, there are fears that Apple may have missed the boat on a

generational shift. The likes of Google, Microsoft, Meta and Amazon have raced to capitalise on the technology, investing billions of dollars into the hardware required to power generative models.

Google's launch of the Pixel 8 smartphone in October and Samsung's Android-based S24 in January — both powered by Google's Gemini family of AI models — have introduced a new concept into the industry lexicon: "the AI smartphone". In the "AI PC" space, rivals like Microsoft, Qualcomm and AMD have staked a similar claim to early leadership.

Apple, however, is yet to launch an iPhone specifically marketed for the age of AI —although its new line of iPads powered by its M4 chip, launched in May, gave a hint at its ambitions. (341 words)

科技

Day 3 预习

panic ['pænik] v. (使) 恐慌

award [ə'wɔ:d] v. 授予、颁发

honor ['ɒnə] v. 给与荣誉

reaction [ri'ækʃn] n. 反应

whammy ['wæmi] n. 剧烈的打击

Richter scale 里氏震级

moderate ['mɒdəreɪt] a. 温和的

onlooker ['ɒnlʊkə(r)] n. 旁观者

laconic [lə'kɒnɪk] a. 简洁的

anoint [ə'nɔɪnt] v. 选定

laureate ['lɔəriət] n. 获得者

prognostication [prɒg,nɒstri'keɪʃn] n. 预言

fringe [frɪndʒ] n. 边缘

domain [də'meɪn] n. 领域

proponent [prə'pəʊnənt] n. 支持者

traffic ['træfɪk] v. 同行

prophetic [prə'fetɪk] a. 预言的

advent ['ædvent] n. 出现

encroachment [ɪn'krəʊtʃmənt] n. 侵占

prompt [prɒmpt] n. 提示词

spit out 输出

take over 接管

swear [sweə(r)] v. 发誓

fealty ['fi:əlti] n. 忠诚

benevolent [bə'nevələnt] a. 仁慈的

overlord ['əʊvələʊd] n. 霸主

eschew [ɪs'tʃu:] v. 避开

circumspection [ˌsɜ:kəm'spekʃn] n. 慎重

be in order 就绪

analogy [ə'nælədʒi] n. 类比

bumpy ['bʌmpɪ] a. 崎岖的

umbrella [ʌmˈbrelə] n. 保护物

长难句 (尝试自主翻译)

Hinton's work extended Hopfield's model by showing how increasingly complex neural networks with hidden "layers" of artificial neurons can learn better.

Day 4 语篇讲解

Scientific American 2024.10.19

Don't **Panic**. AI Isn't Coming to End Scientific Exploration

On October 8 the Nobel Prize in Physics was **awarded** for the development of machine learning. The next day, the chemistry Nobel **honored** protein structure prediction via artificial intelligence. **Reaction** to this AI-double **whammy** might have registered on the **Richter scale**.

Some argued that the physics prize, in particular, was not physics. "A.I. is coming for science, too," the New York Times concluded. Less **moderate** commenters went further: "Physics is now officially finished," one **onlooker** declared on X (formerly Twitter). Future physics and chemistry prizes, a physicist joked, would inevitably be awarded to advances in machine learning. In a **laconic** email to the AP, newly **anointed** physics **laureate** and AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton issued his own **prognostication**: "Neural networks are the future."

For decades, AI research was a relatively **fringe domain** of computer science. Its **proponents** often **trafficked** in **prophetic** predictions that AI would eventually bring

about the dawn of superhuman intelligence. Suddenly, within the past few years, those visions have become vivid. The **advent** of large language models with powerful generative capabilities has led to speculation about **encroachment** on all branches of human achievement. AIs can receive a **prompt**, **spit out** illustrated pictures, essays, solutions to complex math problems—and now, provide Nobel-winning discoveries. Have AIs **taken over** the science Nobels, and possibly science itself?

Not so fast. Before we either happily **swear fealty** to our future **benevolent** computer **overlords** or **eschew** every technology since the pocket calculator (co-inventor Jack Kilby won part of the 2000 Physics Nobel, by the way), perhaps a bit of **circumspection is in order**.

To begin with, what were the Nobels really awarded for? The physics prize went to Hinton and John Hopfield, a physicist (and former president of the American Physical Society), who discovered how the physical dynamics of a network can encode memory. Hopfield came up with an intuitive **analogy**: a ball, rolling across a **bumpy** landscape, will often “remember” to return to the same lowest valley.

Hinton’ s work extended Hopfield’ s model by showing how increasingly complex neural networks with hidden “layers” of artificial neurons can learn better. In

short, the physics Nobel was awarded for fundamental research about the physical principles of information, not the broad **umbrella** of “AI” and its applications. (390 words)

Day 5 预习

shrinking [ˈrɪŋkɪŋ] a. 收缩的

pandemic [pænˈdemɪk] n. 流行病

shutdown [ˈʃʌtdaʊn] n. 关闭

metro [ˈmetrəʊ] n. 大城市

recurring [rɪˈkɜːrɪŋ] a. 反复出现的

backbone [ˈbækbəʊn] n. 支柱

infrastructure [ˈɪnfəstrʌktʃə(r)] n. 基础设施

along with 除...之外

recreation [ˌriːkriˈeɪʃn] n. 娱乐

hospitality [ˌhɒsprɪˈtæləti] n. 酒店、招待性行业

fabric [ˈfæbrɪk] n. 结构

counter [ˈkaʊntə(r)] v. 抵制

amenity [əˈmiːnəti] n. 便利设施

congestion [kənˈdʒestʃən] n. 拥堵

长难句 (尝试自主翻译)

In fact, along with property tax payments, young families contribute to the economy by spending on housing, groceries, child care, health care, recreation and education.

Day 6 语篇分析

Young families are leaving many large US cities – here's why that matters

Young families with children are a **shrinking** part of the U.S. population in many areas. The decline is especially pronounced in major urban centers, including Boston, San Francisco, New York, Minneapolis, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, Seattle, Philadelphia, San Jose and Washington, D.C.

During the COVID-19 **pandemic shutdown**, many families with children moved to suburban or rural areas in search of more space. From mid-2020 through mid-2022, populations of young children fell by 10% in large urban counties that make up **metro** New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago.

This trend has continued: Americans ages 25 to 44 – the years when people typically start families – are increasingly moving to rural counties and small metro areas.

From my research in economic development and public finance, I have observed unique local factors that influence this trend, but also **recurring** themes. Here are some reasons why major cities are losing young families, and the effects that follow.

What young families contribute to cities

Families form the **backbone** of thriving communities. Their presence positively affects city **infrastructure**, local economies and overall quality of life.

Some people may wonder how this can be true when school districts within cities have to spend money on public schools. In fact, **along with** property tax

payments, young families contribute to the economy by spending on housing, groceries, child care, health care, recreation and education. They create demand for family-oriented goods and services, which helps generate stable jobs in sectors such as education, health care, retail and hospitality.

By participating in local events, volunteering and connecting with their neighbors, young families help create lively communities. This kind of engagement fosters a sense of belonging and helps strengthen cities' social fabric.

Young families help cities maintain or increase their population, which can counter urban shrinkage and decline. They are important advocates for high-quality public services such as schools, parks and libraries, and recreational amenities such as swimming pools and playing fields.

Families often advocate for features that promote healthy living, and for cleaner environments with lower pollution levels and reduced traffic congestion. Neighborhoods with young families tend to have lower crime rates due to parents' investment in their children's safety and well-being. (369 words)

教育

Day 7 预习

crunch [krʌntʃ] v. 削减

threshold [ˈθreʃhəʊld] n. 门槛

cap [kæp] n. 上限

permit [pə'mɪt] n. 许可证

prioritize [praɪ'ɒrətaɪz] v. 优先处理

deficit ['defɪsɪt] n. 赤字

长难句（尝试自主翻译）

Over the past year, the government has, for instance, increased visa fees for students and tightened English-language requirements — measures that some say have reduced foreign student numbers.

Day 8 语篇分析

Science

Limits on foreign students are harming research, universities warn

Immigration rules restricting the number of foreign students in some countries are putting universities under pressure. From the United Kingdom and Canada to Australia, universities say that border restrictions have led to large declines in international-student enrollments, and that these are **crunching** their budgets, global reputations and ability to contribute to global science.

In a survey of 365 universities in 66 countries or regions released this month, 41% of institutions reported a drop in the number of postgraduate enrollments this year compared with last year, and 31% reported declines in undergraduate student numbers. Universities say that restrictive government policies and problems obtaining visas were major factors in the declines.

The largest average drops were in the United Kingdom and Canada, according

to the survey, which was led by the education-choice platform, Studyportals in Eindhoven, Netherlands. In the United Kingdom, postgraduate enrolment dropped by 18% and undergraduate enrolment by 4%. Earlier this year, the UK government tightened its immigration rules, including increasing salary **thresholds** for skilled-worker visas, excluding family members from student visa applications for undergraduate students and raising the costs of visas.

In Canada, postgraduate enrolment declined by 27% and undergraduate enrolment by 30%. That follows the government's introduction in January of a **cap** on the number of international students entering the country. And in September, it announced that the cap would shrink by a further 10% next year, to 437,000 **permits**, and would be broadened to include master's and doctoral students. The Canadian government says that the cap helps to **prioritize** Canadian workers in a softening labour market and ensures that foreign students can be supported.

Gabriel Miller, president of Universities Canada in Ottawa, which represents close to 100 universities, says that the cap on international students has damaged the nation's reputation. This has meant "an explosion in budget **deficits** that are not sustainable" , for universities, he says.

Australia is also imposing restrictions on international students. Over the past year, the government has, for instance, increased visa fees for students and tightened English-language requirements — measures that some say have reduced foreign student numbers. (356 words)

Day 9 预习

a pang of 一阵 (痛苦)

curse [kɜ:s] v. 诅咒

undesirable [ˌʌndɪˈzaɪərəbl] a. 不受欢迎的

undergo [ˌʌndəˈgəʊ] v. 经历、承受

seek out 找出、物色

stand out 突出、超群

in the neighborhood of 近于, 大约

virtue [ˈvɜ:tʃu:] n. 美德

name after 以...名字取名

family tree 家谱

circulation [ˌsɜ:kjəˈleɪʃn] n. 发行量

inherit [ɪnˈherɪt] v. 继承

Puritan [ˈpjʊərɪtən] n. 清教徒

explicit [ɪkˈsplɪsɪt] a. 明确的

heft [heft] 重量、分量

opt for 选择

长难句 (尝试自主翻译)

Immigrants injected some variety by using names from their home countries, but also sometimes opted for (or felt pressured to pick) “whiter-sounding” names in hopes of fitting in.

The Atlantic

The Age of the Unique Baby Name

These days, if you hear about the birth of an Olivia or a Liam, you might feel a pang of sympathy—the poor child has been cursed with the most popular name of their time and might be at risk of sharing it with a kindergarten classmate.

This wasn't always considered an undesirable outcome. The name Mary, for instance, was the most popular girls' name for all but six years from 1880 to 1961, and "if you talk to people from earlier generations, [they'll say] 'Well, of course there were five Marys in the class,'" Laura Wattenberg, the founder of the naming-trends site Namerology, told me. "That didn't matter. There wasn't that kind of fear."

In the past 60 or so years, American parents' approach to naming their kids has undergone a profound shift. Today, many parents seek out less popular names to help their kids stand out. But in the past, parents typically picked common names, consciously or not, so that their kids would fit in.

In 1880, the percentage of babies who got a top-10 most popular name was in the neighborhood of 32 percent, according to Wattenberg's calculations. In 1950, it was about 28 percent. And in 2020, it had fallen to an all-time low of 7 percent.

"We are deep in an era of naming individuality, where parents assume that having a [name] sound distinctive and unique is a virtue," Wattenberg said.

For much of American history, many people just named their kids after

someone on the **family tree**, which helped keep names in **circulation** for a long time.

This was especially true for baby boys, who have historically had less varied names than baby girls in part because they were more likely to **inherit** a family name. For instance, in Raleigh Colony, roughly one in two boys had the name John, William, or Thomas. Those three names remained in or near the top 10 from the 1880s, when the Social Security Administration's records begin, through the 1960s.

Of course, some names from earlier eras did stand out. **Puritan** names like Patience, Temperance, and Standfast had **explicit** moral **heft**. Immigrants injected some variety by using names from their home countries, but also sometimes **opted for** (or felt pressured to pick) "whiter-sounding" names in hopes of fitting in. And there was some charming regional diversity. Early-20th-century Oklahoma produced names like Ovonual and Odelene. In southern Appalachia, there were kids named Meek, Bent, Wild, Whetstone, Speed, and Anvil. (434 words)

历史

Day 11 预习

Democrat ['deməkræt] n. 民主党人

be blamed on 归咎于

hard-line stance 强硬立场

self-deportation 自我遣返

back [bæk] v. 支持

advocacy ['ædvəkəsi] n. 拥护、支持

aftermath ['ɑ:ftəmæθ] n. 后果、余波

conservative [kən'sɜ:vətɪv] n. 保守党

GOP Grand Old Party 大老党 (美国共和党的别称)

amnesty ['æmnəsti] n. 特赦

bipartisan [ˌbaɪpɑ:trɪ'zæn] a. 两党的; 代表两党的; 获得两党支持的

resounding [rɪ'zaʊndɪŋ] a. 响亮的

Republican [rɪ'pʌblɪkən] n. 共和党人

pivot ['pɪvət] v. 随...而转移

executive [ɪg'zekjʊtɪv] a. 行政的

shield [ʃi:ld] v. 保护

attorneys general 司法部长

pro-immigrant 支持移民的

splinter ['splɪntə(r)] v. 使分裂

invasion [ɪn'veɪʒn] n. 入侵

brand [brænd] v. 打标签

tank [tæŋk] v. 打败、否决

tattoo [tə'tu:] v. 刺青

长难句 (尝试自主翻译)

Obama had backed a more popular approach, which balanced strong enforcement at the border and the workplace with a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and an expansion of legal immigration.

Day 12 语篇分析

How Democrats Lost Their Way on Immigration

Not long ago, immigration was a winning issue for Democrats. When Mitt Romney lost to Barack Obama in 2012, his defeat was blamed, in part, on his hard-line stance in favor of “self-deportation” —making life so hard for immigrants that they would choose to return to their home country. Obama had backed a more popular approach, which balanced strong enforcement at the border and the workplace with a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and an expansion of legal immigration. That policy, called comprehensive immigration reform, was supported by the immigrant-advocacy movement and by 77 percent of the public.

In the election’s aftermath, leading conservatives—including Sean Hannity (who said he’d “evolved” on immigration and supported a “pathway to citizenship”), Rupert Murdoch (“Give them a path to citizenship. They pay taxes. They are hard-working people”), and Charles Krauthammer (the GOP “requires but a single policy change: Border fence plus amnesty. Yes, amnesty.”)—announced their support for reform. A bill introduced by a bipartisan group of senators known as the “Gang of Eight” was approved by a resounding 68–32.

In the end, however, the bill was never taken up by House Republicans. Obama pivoted to a series of executive actions to shield some 5 million of the nation’s 11 million undocumented immigrants from deportation, but Republican state

attorneys general sued to stop the largest from going forward. The pro-immigrant movement began to splinter; advocates, frustrated with the failure of a coalition that had included unions, business, law enforcement, and churches, moved swiftly left.

Much has changed since then. This year, Donald Trump ran on the border issue to victory. He blamed housing costs, wage pressures, and crime on a migrant “invasion” ; branded Democrats the party of “open borders” ; and promised extreme deportation measures. Voters didn’ t care that it was Republicans who had tanked another border bill early in 2024, or that, after executive actions on border security, crossings this fall were down from the end of Trump’ s presidency. Few noticed when Harris gave a major policy speech promising more action at the border. According to a post-election Navigator poll, Trump’ s promise “to secure the border and fight illegal immigration” was the top reason to vote for him. Even among voters of color, opposition to immigration drove support for Trump. The GOP had successfully tattooed the “Biden border crisis” on Kamala Harris’ s forehead. (437 words)

文化

Day 13 预习

small talk 闲聊

tricky ['trɪki] a. 棘手的

cringe [krɪndʒ] v. 畏缩

miss out 错过机会

get a bad rap 名声不好

well-intended a. 善意的

rambunctious [ræm'ʌŋkʃəs] a. 喧闹的、顽皮的

fertility [fə'tɪləti] n. 生育力

ends up doing 以...结尾 (意料之外)

offend [ə'fend] v. 冒犯

etiquette ['etɪket] n. 礼仪、礼节

长难句 (尝试自主翻译)

Knowing the proper etiquette for small talk is just as important for maintaining healthy relationships as it is for talking about aging and mental health.

Day 14 语篇分析

Reader's Digest 2023.8.19

13 "Polite" Small-Talk Questions That Are Actually Rude

Small talk can be tricky—and these questions aren't as innocent or as helpful as you think they are.

Love it or hate it, small talk is a necessity.

If you cringe at the idea of making small talk, you're not alone—and you may be missing out.

"Small talk gets a bad rap sometimes as being boring or pointless, but chatting about everyday things with others builds the little connections that keep a community strong," says Jeff Temple, PhD, a licensed psychologist and professor of

community health at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

“We all have a need to feel seen and heard, even if that’ s just by the person at the coffee shop.”

But there are times when even **well-intended** small talk can go really wrong.

An incident that happened a few years ago in a Costco checkout line will live in my mind forever: A kind-looking woman noticed my three **rambunctious** boys and asked if they were brothers.

When I said they were, she replied, “Oh, but they all look so different! Do they have the same dad?”

An awkward silence followed while I tried to figure out how best to answer that question.

I have no doubt that she was just trying to make polite small talk and compliment my kids, but her question implied things about my **fertility**, my relationship history, my sex life and other impolite topics.

And that’ s the problem: Sometimes small talk intended to be polite **ends up being** the opposite—and it can happen to the nicest people!

Worrying about possibly **offending** someone may lead you to avoid small talk altogether, fearing that you’ re “bad” at it, but you don’ t need to stress, says Temple.

“Small talk is a valuable skill, and anyone can learn it by following a few simple guidelines.”

Knowing the proper **etiquette** for small talk is just as important for maintaining

healthy relationships as it is for talking about aging and mental health. (350 words)