



一超级机经

打造PTE备考的"舒适区"

【写作合辑】





我们的目标:

打造PTE备考的"舒适区"

登登每年都帮助数以千计的同学考到理想的分数,实现了大家去英国、澳洲、美国、加拿大留学及移民的目标。在这个过程中,我们不断的反思,除了优质的教研,专业的教学,用心的咨询,走心的答疑,我们还能够为同学们做什么?

通过追踪每位同学的学习轨迹,我们发现大家在课后练习中使用的必备材料-机经,远远不能满足学生的需求,这其中也包括登登的早版机经。因为目前所有机经的编纂,都是站在机构的视角,追求题目的新和全,但也仅止步于此了。好的备考材料的编纂,一定要经过换位思考,如果我是一名考生,短期提高英语能力对我来说太难,我也没那么多时间学习,但我又想,或者说必须快速考到理想的分数。

(估计你的老师会说:你咋不上天!!)你看这就是老师和学生想法的反差。

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如果你,

不想花那么多时间把本机经从头背到尾, (虽然我知道你就是这么想的)

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(—) Summarize Written Text

SWT 1. Conspicuous consumption/炫耀性消费

Almost 120 years ago, during the first Gilded Age, sociologist Thorstein Veblen coined the term "conspicuous consumption". He used it to refer to rich people flaunting their wealth through wasteful spending. Why buy a thousand-dollar suit when a hundred-dollar one serves the same function? The answer, Veblen said, was power. The rich asserted their dominance by showing how much money they could burn on things they didn't need.

While radical at the time, Veblen's observation seems obvious now. In the intervening decades, conspicuous consumption has become deeply embedded in the texture of American capitalism. Our new Gilded Age is even more Veblenian than the last. Today's captains of industry publicize their social position with private islands and superyachts while the president of the United States covers nearly everything he owns in gold.

But the acquisition of insanely expensive commodities isn't the only way that modern elites project power. More recently, another form of status display has emerged. In the new Gilded Age, identifying oneself as a member of the ruling class doesn't just require conspicuous consumption. It requires conspicuous production.

If conspicuous consumption involves the worship of luxury, conspicuous production involves the worship of labor. It isn't about how much you spend. It's about how hard you work. Nowhere is the cult of conspicuous production more visible than among America's CEOs.

参考答案

Conspicuous consumption refers to rich people flaunting their wealth through wasteful spending in the past, which demonstrated their power by showing how much money they could burn on unnecessary things, and the idea seemed to be radical

炫耀性消费是指过去通过浪费性支出炫耀自己 财富的富人,通过展示他们可以在不必要的事情 上花费多少钱来证明他们的力量,这个想法在当 时似乎是激进的,但现在显而易见;然而,现代 精英不只是用奢侈品来凸显自己,而且通过的超



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at the time, but obvious now; however, modern elites project their power not only by worship of luxury, but also by conspicuous production, which involves the worship of labor. 强的产出来显示他们的实力,这也包括对劳动付出的认可。

(66 words)

SWT 2. Asda/(公司名)

Asda has become the first food retailer in the country to measure how much customers can save by cutting back on food waste, thanks to a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the University of Leeds. The idea behind the KTP was for the University, using Asda's customer insight data, to apply its research to identify, investigate and implement ways of helping customers to reduce their food waste. This was one of the first times that a major retailer had tried to deliver large-scale sustainability changes, with the two-year project seen as a way for Asda to position themselves as true innovators in this area.

The campaign focused on providing customers with advice on everything from food storage and labelling, to creative recipes for leftovers. Meanwhile, in-store events encouraged customers to make changes in their own homes. In fact two million customers have said they will make changes to how they deal with food waste in their own homes, leading to an average saving of 57 pounds per customer, as well as a reduction in waste.

A key aspect of a KTP is that an associate is employed by the University to work in the firm and help deliver the desired outcomes of the KTP. As a part of the collaboration with Asda, Laura Babbs was given the task of driving forward the sustainability changes in the retailer. As a result of the success of her work, Laura eventually became a permanent member of the team at Asda.

参考答案





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Asda is the first food retailer to measure how much customers can save by cutting back food waste, and customers are advised to reduce their food waste and make changes at home, and results show an average saving of fifty-seven per person, as well as reduction in waster; besides, an associate is employed to deliver the changes, who has become a permanent member of Asda due to her success of the work.

Asda 是第一家通过减少食物浪费来衡量客户可以节省多少食品的食品零售商,建议客户减少食物浪费并在家中进行调整,结果显示每人平均节省57美元,并且减少了浪费;此外,还聘请了一名员工来实现这些变革,由于她的成功,她已成为 Asda 的终生会员。

(72 words)

SWT 3. Natural selection/自然选择

Charles Darwin first expounded the idea of natural selection in his 1859 book, Origin of Species. Before Darwin, the idea that evolution had taken place was becoming widely accepted in the scientific establishment. In Origin of Species, he demonstrated two things; that natural selection provided the mechanism needed to drive evolution and that sufficient time had passed for natural selection to have worked. This famous text, along with Darwin's 1871 work The Descent of Man, placed human beings firmly in the animal kingdom for the first time and permanently altered our vision of ourselves.

Darwin's experience of animal husbandry (in particular breeding pigeons) and selective plant breeding informed his idea of natural selection. He noted that bloodlines could be changed fairly quickly through selective breeding and argued that a similar process could take place in nature whereby the attributes of individuals who were more successful at reproducing than others would spread through the population over time. Organisms that were better suited to a particular environment in any generation would have an advantage that would ensure that the next generation contained a high percentage of their offspring.





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Natural selection, then, is the filter which allows only those organisms with the best traits to produce offspring successfully. Although chance always plays a role in deciding the fate of an individual organism, over a number of generations advantages conferred by particular traits make it more likely that organisms who have those traits survive for long enough to reproduce. Over time this leads to organisms which are better adapted to the environment they live in than their predecessors were.

参考答案

Natural selection, which is first expounded in Charles Darwin's book, provided that the mechanism needed to drive evolution and that sufficient time had passed for natural selection to have worked; moreover, Darwin's experience of animal husbandry and selective plant breeding informed his idea of natural selection which is a filter to allow the best organisms to produce offspring successfully.

自然选择,在查尔斯达尔文的书中首次阐述,提供了驱动进化所需的机制,并且有足够的时间使自然选择发挥作用;此外,达尔文的畜牧业和选择性植物育种经验启示他自然选择是一种过滤器,可以让最好的生物成功地产生后代。

(59 words)

SWT 4. Alcoholism/酗酒

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, various factors contributed to an epidemic of alcoholism that went hand-in-hand with spousal abuse, family neglect, and chronic unemployment. Americans used to drink lightly alcoholic beverages like cider "from the crack of dawn to the crack of dawn" began ingesting far more alcohol as they drank more of strong, cheap beverages like rum (in the colonial period) and whiskey (in the post-Revolutionary period). Popular pressure for cheap and plentiful alcohol led to relaxed ordinances on alcohol sales.





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The Temperance movement sparked to life with Benjamin Rush's 1784 tract, an Inquiry into the Effects of Ardent Spirits Upon the Human Body and Mind, which judged the excessive use of alcohol injurious to physical and psychological health. Apparently influenced by Dr. Rush's Inquiry, about 200 farmers in a Connecticut community formed a temperance association in 1789 to ban the making of whiskey. Similar associations were formed in Virginia in 1800, and New York State in 1808. Over the next decade, other temperance organizations were formed in eight states, some being statewide organizations. The young movement advocated temperance or levelness rather than abstinence. Many leaders of the movement expanded their activities and took positions on observance of the a and other moral issues, and by the early 1820s political in-fighting had stalled the movement.

参考答案

Various factors contributed to an epidemic of alcoholism that went hand-in-hand with spousal abuse, family neglect, and chronic unemployment, and popular pressure for cheap alcohol led to relaxed ordinances on alcohol sales; however, the temperance movement sparked to life and judged the excessive use of alcohol injurious to physical and psychological health, which advocated temperance of levelness rather than abstinence.

各种因素导致酗酒流行,进而引发配偶虐待,家庭忽视和长期失业,而民众对廉价酒精饮品的需求导致了酒精销售的宽松条例;然而,节制运动兴起了,并判断过度使用酒精对身心健康有害,这种健康主张控制饮酒量而不是禁欲。

(60 words)

SWT 5. Separate job/区别的工作

Until the early 1960s, newspapers published separate job listings for men and women. The struggle for African American women was even more formidable; until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, jobs specified





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"no Blacks need apply." Although we don't see as much evidence of such blatant discrimination in access to opportunities in the workplace today, they no doubt institutionally exist.

Women still are segregated into "pink-collar" jobs that affect their wages, according to an AAUW report. Women comprise 87 percent of workers in the child care industry and 86 percent of the health aide industry. Women of color have especially endured a disproportionate lack of access to jobs in the wake of the recession, as the Center for Social Inclusion (CSI) reports that unemployment has risen faster for young women of color than for white women in the same age range. Unemployment among young black women has increased by 8.6 percent to 20.4 percent this year.

Equal access is just the tip of the iceberg; those women lucky enough to break the barrier to employment lag behind in equal pay. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the median weekly earnings of female full-time workers in 2009 were \$657, compared with male median weekly earnings of \$819.

参考答案

Although people do not see much evidence of blatant discrimination in access to opportunities in the work place today, they no doubt exist; moreover, woman still are segregated into "pink-collar" jobs that affect their wages, and research shows that median weekly earning for female is much lower than male, while women of colour have especially endured a disproportionate lack of access to jobs.(63 words)

虽然人们没有看到很多证据表明在今天工作场 所获得机会方面存在明显的歧视,但毫无疑问是 存在的;此外,女性仍然被安排到影响收入的"粉 领"工作,研究表明,女性的每周收入中位数远远 低于男性,特别是有色女性经历着不正常的失 业。

SWT 6. Protein/蛋白质

About 120,000 types of protein molecule have yielded up their structures to science. That sounds a lot, but it isn't. The techniques, such as X-ray crystallography and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), which are used





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to elucidate such structures do not work on all proteins. Some types are hard to produce or purify in the volumes required. Others do not seem to crystallize at all—a prerequisite for probing them with X-rays. As a consequence, those structures that have been determined include representatives of less than one third of the 16,000 known protein families. Researchers can build reasonable computer models for around another third because the structures of these resemble ones already known. For the remainder, however, there is nothing to go on.

In addition to this lack of information about protein families, there is a lack of information about those from the species of most interest to researchers: Homo sapiens. Only a quarter of known protein structures are human. A majority of the rest come from bacteria. This paucity is a problem, for in proteins form and function are intimately related. A protein is a chain of smaller molecules, called amino acids, that is often hundreds or thousands of links long. By a process not well understood, this chain folds up, after it has been made, into a specific and complex three-dimensional shape. That shape determines what the protein does: acting as a channel, say, to admit a chemical into a cell; or as an enzyme to accelerate a chemical reaction; or as a receptor, to receive chemical signals and pass them on to a cell's molecular machinery.

参考答案

Some techniques which are used to elucidate protein structures do not work on all proteins, because some protein molecules are hard to produce or purify and others do not seem to crystallize which is a prerequisite for X-rays probing; moreover, there is a lack of information about protein families and homo sapiens, and a protein is a chain of smaller molecules, called amino acids with a complex three-dimensional shape.

一些用于阐明蛋白质结构的技术不适用于所有蛋白质,因为一些蛋白质分子难以产生或净化,而有些蛋白质分子似乎不结晶,这恰是 X射线探测的先决条件;此外,缺乏有关蛋白质家族和智人的信息,蛋白质是一个较小的分子链,是具有复杂三维形状的氨基酸。





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(69 words)

SWT 7. Enzyme/酶

Humans lack the enzyme necessary to digest cellulose. Hay and grasses are particularly abundant in cellulose, and both are indigestible by humans (although humans can digest starch). Animals such as termites and herbivores such as cows, koalas, and horses all digest cellulose, but even these animals do not themselves have an enzyme that digests this material. Instead, these animals harbor microbes that can digest cellulose.

Animals such as cows have anaerobic bacteria in their digestive tracts which digest cellulose. Cows are ruminants, or animals that chew their cud. Ruminants have several stomachs that break down plant materials with the help of enzymes and bacteria. The partially digested material is then regurgitated into the mouth, which is then chewed to break the material down even further. The bacterial digestion of cellulose by bacteria in the stomachs of ruminants is anaerobic, meaning that the process does not use oxygen. One of the byproducts of anaerobic metabolism is methane, a notoriously foul-smelling gas. Ruminants give off large amounts of methane daily. In fact, many environmentalists are concerned about the production of methane by cows, because methane may contribute to the destruction of ozone in Earth's stratosphere.

Although cellulose is indigestible by humans, it does form a part of the human diet in the form of plant foods. Small amounts of cellulose found in vegetables and fruits pass through the human digestive system intact. Cellulose is part of the material called "fiber" that dieticians and nutritionists have identified as useful in moving food through the digestive tract quickly and efficiently. Diets high in fiber are thought to lower the risk of colon cancer because fiber reduces the time that waste products stay in contact with the walls of the colon (the terminal part of the digestive tract).

参考答案





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Cellulose is indigestible by humans because humans lack the enzyme, while some animals can digest cellulose but they do not have enzyme either; moreover, animals have anaerobic bacteria in their digestive tracts and the by-product of anaerobic metabolism is methane which may contribute to the destruction of ozone, and nutritionists suggest that diets high in fiber lower the risk of colon cancer.

纤维素是人类难以消化的,因为人类缺乏酶,而一些动物可以消化纤维素,但它们也没有酶;此外,动物的消化道中含有厌氧细菌,无氧代谢的副产物是甲烷,这可能有助于破坏臭氧,营养学家认为高纤维饮食可以降低患结肠癌的风险。

(62 words)

SWT 8. Bully/霸凌

Despite the growth of social media, the internet and their central role in modern childhood, traditional bullying — such as name-calling or being excluded by others — remains considerably more common than cyberbullying, according to the largest study of its kind published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health journal.

The study estimates that less than 1% of 15-year-olds in England report only being bullied online regularly, while more than one in four (27%) experience only face-to-face bullying methods.

With nine out of 10 of the teenagers who are bullied online also facing regular traditional bullying, the researchers suggest that cyberbullying is an additional tactic in the bullies' arsenal, and that both forms must be tackled together to prevent bullying and improve teenagers' resilience.

Concerns have been raised that cyberbullying has the potential to cause more harm than traditional bullying due to the relative anonymity of perpetrators in many cases, larger audiences, increasing prevalence, and permanence of posted messages. However, in the study, the experience of only cyberbullying was found to





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have a very small association with well-being and life satisfaction when compared with traditional bullying alone.

参考答案

A study has found that traditional bullying is still more regular than cyberbullying, and both forms must be tackled together to prevent bullying and improve teenagers' resilience; furthermore, people concern that online bullying may cause more harm than traditional bullying, but it is found that the experience of only cyberbullying has a very small association with well-being and life satisfaction when compared with traditional bullying alone.

一项研究发现,传统的欺凌行为仍然比网络欺凌 更为常见,两种形式必须一起解决,以防止欺凌 和提高青少年的适应能力;此外,人们担心在线 欺凌可能比传统的欺凌行为造成更大的伤害,但 人们发现,与传统的欺凌行为相比,单一的网络 欺凌的经历与幸福感和生活满意度的关系非常 小。

(66 words)

SWT 9. Brown dwarf/褐矮星

Our galaxy could have 100 billion brown dwarfs or more, according to work by an international team of astronomers, led by Koraljka Music from the University of Lisbon and Aleks Scholz from the University of St Andrews.

Brown dwarfs are objects intermediate in mass between stars and planets, with masses too low to sustain stable hydrogen fusion in their core, the hallmark of stars like the Sun. After the initial discovery of brown dwarfs





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in 1995, scientists quickly realized that they are a natural by-product of processes that primarily lead to the formation of stars and planets.

All of the thousands of brown dwarfs found so far are relatively close to the Sun, the overwhelming majority within 1500 light years, simply because these objects are faint and therefore difficult to observe. Most of those detected are located in nearby star-forming regions, which are all fairly small and have a low density of stars.

参考答案

Our galaxy may have 100 billion brown dwarfs, objects intermediate in mass between stars and planets, which are a natural by-product of processes that primarily lead to the formation of stars and planets, and brown dwarfs found so far are relatively close to the Sun; besides, most of those detected are located in nearby star-forming regions.

我们的星系可能有 1000 亿个褐矮星,它们是恒星和行星之间的质量中间物质,是恒星和行星形成的过程的自然副产物,到目前为止发现的褐矮星相对接近太阳;此外,大多数被检测到的位于临近的恒星形成区域。

(59 words)

SWT 10. Hypothemia/低温效应

Hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature falls below 35 °C. The human body has a number of systems that maintain a constant core temperature of around 37 °C. A person doesn't have to be in sub-zero temperatures to risk hypothermia – it only requires the environmental temperature to be less than the body temperature and a person will "donate" heat to the atmosphere.

If the heat generated by the body – and people are constantly generating heat through metabolic processes and muscle movements – is less than that lost to the environment, then their temperature will begin to fall.

The four ways that the human body loses heat include:





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conduction – by direct transfer from the body to an object that is cooler than the body (for example, lying on a cold surface will pass body warmth to the surface away from the body);

convection – air or liquid flow across the skin drawing off heat (for example, the wind will increase heat loss, as will water that is cooler than body temperature);

radiation – electromagnetic waves distribute heat into the ambient environment (for example, exposed skin will allow heat to be drawn off if the air temperature is less than the body – the exposed head of a person is a strong source of heat loss, particularly in children);

evaporation – fluid on the skin turns to vapor, drawing off heat (moist skin will lose heat more rapidly, such as in someone who is wet, clammy or has exposed moist skin, such as burns).

参考答案

Human's body has many systems to maintain relatively constant temperature around 37 degree, but hypothermia occurs when the body's temperature falls below 35 degree, and human body loses heat in four ways, including conduction, convection, radiation and evaporation.

人体有许多系统可以在 37 度左右保持相对恒定的温度,但当身体温度低于 35 度时会发生低温效应,人体会以四种方式失去热量,包括传导,对流,辐射和蒸发。

(38 words)

SWT 11. Hyper growth/超级增长

Hyper growth. If you have not yet heard of the term, it means company growth accelerated far beyond normal expectations. There are companies that grow quickly, but a company undergoing hyper growth will see rapid increases in demand for products and services. This is very common in Chinese markets because of their global economic power and the massive size of their population.





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While hyper growth may seem both profitable and exciting, such rapid growth causes a number of problems that are not easily managed. The first is customer satisfaction and responsiveness. With skyrocketing growth, the pressure not only to deliver but to address legitimate customer concerns greatly increases. A company may gain customers, but if it loses them through subpar service or product quality, the momentum can quickly be lost.

Unexpected growth also places extreme pressure on hiring enough people to do the essential tasks. It is not just a numbers game. The quality must be there as well, as the hiring of employees who fail to meet company and product standards will cause system wide problems. If new hires are found to be substandard, then they will have to be replaced, which requires more time and reduced short-term productivity.

The new hire problem is an issue, but an equally important issue is retaining key people. There will be enormous expectations placed on managers and employees alike during rapid expansion, but the rewards will normally be down the road. This means that your best talent will be strained, yet the company will be depending on these key people to adjust to the hyper growth. It is likely you will have some turnover, and replacing their experience and knowledge will not be easy.

参考答案

Hyper growth, companies' growth accelerating far beyond normal expectations, is very common in Chinese markets and is both profitable and exciting, but it also causes a number of problems, such as customer satisfaction and responsiveness, pressure on hiring new people and retaining key people, so there will be enormous expectations placed on managers and employees, but rewards will be down the road during the rapid expansion.

超级增长,公司的增长速度远远超出正常预期,在中国市场非常普遍,既有利可图又令人兴奋,但也会带来许多问题,例如客户满意度和响应能力,雇用新员工以及留住关键人物的压力 因此,在快速扩张期间,对管理层和雇员都抱有很大的期望,但奖励将会滞后。





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(66 words)

SWT 12. Giant panda/大熊猫

The worldwide population of wild giant pandas increased by 268 over the last decade according to a new survey conducted by the government of China. The increase in population brings the total number of wild giant pandas to 1,864.

The population increase represents a 16.8% rise compared to the last panda survey in 2003. Wild giant pandas, a global symbol of wildlife conservation, are found only in China's Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. According to the report, formally known as the *Fourth National Giant Panda Survey*, the geographic range of pandas throughout China also increased. The total area inhabited by wild giant pandas in China now equals 2,577,000 hectares, an expansion of 11.8% since 2003.

"These results are a testament to the conservation achievements of the Chinese government," said Xiaohai Liu, executive director of programs, WWF-China. "A lot of good work is being done around wild giant panda conservation, and the government has done well to integrate these efforts and partner with conservation organizations including WWF."

The report, the fourth in a series of decadal surveys conducted by the State Forestry Administration of China, began in 2011 with financial and technical support from WWF.

Much of the success in increasing the panda population comes as a result of conservation policies implemented by the Chinese government, including the Natural Forest Protection Project and Grain for Green.

题源: http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?240270/Chinas-panda-population-on-the-rise-as-habitat-preservation-efforts-continue

参考答案





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The population of wild giant pandas, which are only found in three provinces of China, has increased by 268, representing a 16.8% rise compared to the last panda survey, and the geographic range of pandas throughout China has also increased, which are results of conservation policies implemented by the Chinese government.

仅在中国三省发现的野生大熊猫数量增加了 268 只,比上一次大熊猫调查增加了 16.8%,中国 大熊猫的地理范围也有所增加,这是中国政府 实施的保护政策的结果。

(51 words)

SWT 13. Continental drift/大陆漂移说

According to the theory of continental drift, the world was made up of a single continent through most of geologic time. That continent eventually separated and drifted apart, forming into the seven continents we have today. The first comprehensive theory of continental drift was suggested by the German meteorologist Alfred Wegener in 1912. The hypothesis asserts that the continents consist of lighter rocks that rest on heavier crustal material—similar to the manner in which icebergs float on water. Wegener contended that the relative positions of the continents are not rigidly fixed but are slowly moving—at a rate of about one yard per century.

According to the generally accepted plate-tectonics theory, scientists believe that Earth's surface is broken into a number of shifting slabs or plates, which average about 50 miles in thickness. These plates move relative to one another above a hotter, deeper, more mobile zone at average rates as great as a few inches per year. Most of the world's active volcanoes are located along or near the boundaries between shifting plates and are called plate-boundary volcanoes.

The peripheral areas of the Pacific Ocean Basin, containing the boundaries of several plates, are dotted with many active volcanoes that form the so-called Ring of Fire. The Ring provides excellent examples of plate-boundary volcanoes, including Mount St. Helens.





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However, some active volcanoes are not associated with plate boundaries, and many of these so-called intraplate volcanoes form roughly linear chains in the interior of some oceanic plates. The Hawaiian Islands provide perhaps the best example of an intra-plate volcanic chain, developed by the northwest-moving Pacific plate passing over an inferred "hot spot" that initiates the magma-generation and volcano-formation process.

题源: https://www.infoplease.com/world/world-geography/continental-drift-and-plate-tectonics-theory

参考答案

First proposed by Wegener in 1912, the theory of continental drift claims that the Earth's surface is broken into a number of shifting plates, which move towards each other, and most of the world's active volcanoes are located along or near the boundaries between shifting plates; however, some active volcanoes, such as those near Hawaiian Island, are not associated with plate boundaries, and they are called intra-plate volcanoes.

韦格纳于 1912 年首次提出大陆漂移理论,声称 地球表面被分解为许多移动板,这些板块相互移 动,世界上大多数活火山都位于移动板之间或附 近的边界处;然而,一些活火山,例如夏威夷岛 附近的火山,与板块边界无关,它们被称为板内 火山。

(68 words)

SWT 14. Cloak illusion/斗篷幻觉

According to researchers, the invisibility cloak illusion stems from the belief that we are much more socially observant than the people around us. This means that, while we watch and wonder about other people as much as possible, we often think that people around us are less aware. This illusion occurs because, while we are fully aware of our own impressions and speculations about other people, we have no idea about what those other people are thinking unless they choose to share with us, something that rarely happens except in exceptional circumstances.





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To better understand what is happening, it is important to consider the groundbreaking research by Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman on cognitive biases. When people make judgments about other people in social situations, they often depend on specific biases such as the availability heuristic, i.e., that we attach more significance to thoughts that come to mind easily. This is why we consider thoughts about other people as being more important than thoughts about inanimate objects. And so, as we look around us, we tend to focus our thoughts on the people we see and what they happen to be doing, which is why people-watching can be so addictive.

What adds to the sense that we are relatively invisible to others is that people tend to be as discreet as possible about their people-watching. Just because other people aren't sharing their observations with us, it's easy to pretend that they are not as observant as we are. Of course, people may share their people-watching observations with anyone they happen to be with but, for the most part, that only applies to something remarkable enough to comment on. For most of us, what we are seeing tends to be extremely private and not to be shared with others.

题源: https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/media-spotlight/201705/people-wrongly-gauge-how-much-theyre-observed-others

参考答案

The invisibility cloak illusion stems from the belief that people are much more socially observant than others around them, because they have no idea about what other people are thinking, but when they make judgments about other people in social situations, they often depend on specific biases; furthermore, people tend to be as discreet as possible about their 隐形斗篷幻觉源于这样的信念,即人们比周围的 人更加注重社交,因为他们不知道其他人在想什 么,但当他们在社交场合对其他人做出判断时, 他们往往依赖于特定的偏见;此外,人们倾向于 尽可能谨慎地观察,因此他们更容易被别人看不 透。



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people-watching,	so	they	get	more	sense	of	being
invisible to others							

(69 words)

SWT 15. Microorganism/微生物

With a good system of crop rotation, and especially with the addition of any sort of fertilizer you may be able to come up with, it's possible to grow crops on a plot of land for upwards of 2-3 years at a time with good results. Ultimately, though, you must let the land rest if you hope to continue farming there in the long-run. Allowing a plot of land to rest for a period of time is known as letting the field go fallow, and there are several reasons for this.

Allowing a field or plot to lie fallow means that you don't grow anything new on it, don't harvest anything and don't graze any animals on the land for at least a year. Sometimes a field will lay fallow for two, three or even four years, but the traditional standard on many farms was to let a field lie fallow once every 2-3 years.

This fallow period allows the land to replenish many of its nutrients. The root networks of various grasses or groundcovers (like clover) have a chance to expand and grow, which further strengthens the soil and protects it from erosion.

During the fallow period, there are many beneficial flora and micro-fauna, including cyanobacteria, which live in the soil. These microorganisms continue to be active at the root level, steadily improving the quality of the soil so that when you come back in a year or two, you can begin planting food or cash crops anew.

题源: https://www.survivopedia.com/maintaining-fertile-cropland/





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参考答案

Letting a field go fallow means not growing anything new, not harvesting anything and not grazing any animals on it for at least a year, once every 2-3 years, which allows the land to replenish many of its nutrients and there are many beneficial flora and micro-fauna that continue to be active at the root level, steadily improving the quality of the soil.

让田地休耕意味着不再种植任何新鲜东西,不收割任何东西,不放牧任何动物至少一年,每2至3年一次,这使得土地能够补充许多营养物质并且有许多有益的植物群和微型动物群继续在根部活跃,稳定地提高土壤质量。

(64 words)

SWT 16. Biomimicry/仿生学

Biomimicry (from bios, meaning life, and mimesis, meaning to imitate) is a new science that studies nature's best ideas and then imitates these designs and processes to solve human problems. Studying a leaf to invent a better solar cell is an example. I think of it as 'innovation inspired by nature.'

The core idea is that nature, imaginative by necessity, has already solved many of the problems we are grappling with. Animals, plants, and microbes are the consummate engineers. They have found what works, what is appropriate, and most important, what lasts here on Earth. This is the real news of biomimicry: After 3.8 billion years of research and development, failures are fossils, and what surrounds us is the secret to survival.

Like the viceroy butterfly imitating the monarch, we humans are imitating the best and brightest organisms in our habitat. We are learning, for instance, how to harness energy like a leaf, grow food like a prairie, build ceramics like an abalone, self-medicate like a chimp, compute like a cell, and run a business like a hickory forest. The conscious emulation of life's genius is a survival strategy for the human race, a path to a sustainable





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future. The more our world looks and functions like the natural world, the more likely we are to endure on this home that is ours, but not ours alone.

参考答案

Biomimicry, a new science that studies nature's best ideas and imitates these designs to solve human's problems, provides a survival strategy and a path to sustainable future for human race, because human can imitate the best and brightest organisms, and the more human looks like natural world, the more likely human can endure. (53 words)

仿生学是一门研究自然界最佳创意并模仿这些设计来解决人类问题的新科学,为人类提供了生存策略和可持续未来之路,因为人类可以模仿最好和最聪明的生物,人类看起来越像自然世界,人类可以忍受延续的可能性越大。

SWT 17. Mini war/迷你战争

In such an environment, warfare is no longer purely directed against the military potential of adversarial states. It is rather directed at infiltrating all areas of their societies and to threaten their existences. The comparatively easy access to weapons of mass destruction, in particular relatively and low-cost biological agents, is of key concern. Both governmental and non-governmental actors prefer to use force in a wat that can be characterized as "unconventional" or also as "small wars." War waged according to conventions is an interstate phenomenon. The "small war" is the archetype of war, in which the protagonists acknowledge no rules and permanently try to violate what conventions do exist. The protagonists of the "small war" observe neither international standards nor arms control agreements. They make use of territories where they do not have to fear any sanctions because there is no functioning state to assume charge of such sanctions or because the state in question is too weak to impose such sanctions. This type of war does not provide for any warning time. It challenges not only the external security of the nation states and international community, but also their internal safety.





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参考答案

In such an environment, warfare infiltrates all areas of societies, and governmental and non-governmental actors prefer to use "small wars", the protagonists of which observe neither international standards nor arms control agreements, but they make use of territories; moreover, the small wars do not provide any warning time and it challenges both external security and internal safety of nations.

在这样的环境中,战争渗透到社会的所有领域,政府和非政府行为者更愿意使用"小战争",其主角既不遵守国际标准也不遵守军备控制协议,但他们利用领土;此外,小型战争不提供任何警告时间,它对国家的外部安全和内部安全构成挑战。

(59 words)

SWT 18. The future of manufacturing/制造业的未来

Manufacturing is no longer simply about making physical products. Changes in consumer demand, the nature of products, the economics of production, and the economics of the supply chain have led to a fundamental shift in the way companies do business. Customers demand personalization and customization as the line between consumer and creator continues to blur. Added sensors and connectivity turn "dumb" products into "smart" ones, while products increasingly become platforms—and even move into the realm of services. As technology continues to advance exponentially, barriers to entry, commercialization, and learning are eroding. New market entrants with access to new tools can operate at much smaller scale, enabling them to create offerings once the sole province of major incumbents. While large-scale production will always dominate some segments of the value chain, innovative manufacturing models—distributed small-scale local manufacturing, loosely coupled manufacturing ecosystems, and agile manufacturing—are arising to take advantage of these new opportunities.





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Meanwhile, the boundary separating product makers from product sellers is increasingly permeable. Manufacturers are feeling the pressure—and gaining the ability—to increase both speed to market and customer engagement. And numerous factors are leading manufacturers to build to order rather than building to stock. In this environment, intermediaries that create value by holding inventory are becoming less and less necessary.

Together, these shifts have made it more difficult to create value in traditional ways. At the same time, as products become less objects of value in their own right and more the means for accessing information and experiences, creating and capturing value has moved from delivering physical objects to enabling that access.

参考答案

Changes such as customers demand personalization and customization, the economics of production and the supply chain, have led to a fundamental shift of manufacturing industry, and distributed small-scale local manufacturing are arising; meanwhile, creating and capturing value has moved from delivering physical objects to enabling that access.

客户要求个性化和定制化,生产经济学和供应链等变化导致制造业发生根本转变,而分布式小规模本地制造业正在兴起;同时,创造和捕获价值已经从提供物理对象转变为资源触达。

(47 words)

SWT 19. Visualization skills/可视化技术

In a study conducted in Tubingen, Germany, chess experts and novices were shown geometric objects and chess positions, and were later asked to identify each one of them. Their reaction times and brain activity were closely monitored with the use of functional MRI scans. On the first part, which was recognizing the geometric objects, results reveal that the subjects' performance didn't show any dissimilarities, which implied that the





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experts' visualization skills are no better than the amateurs'. However, during the identification of the chess positions, the experts were seen to have performed significantly faster and better.

As the researchers geared toward an element of a study previously conducted on pattern and object recognition by the chess experts, they had anticipated to notice areas of the left hemisphere of the experts' brains (involved in object recognition) to be more reactive when they performed the tasks. However, the reaction times of the subjects were virtually identical. The very thing that sets the experts apart from the amateurs is that the former's right brain hemispheres (involved in pattern recognition) were to seen to have also lit up during the activity. Therefore, both sides of the experts' brains were active, processing information in two places simultaneously. The researchers added that when they showed the chess diagrams to the subjects, they observed that the amateurs relied on looking at the pieces intently to be able to recognize them, whereas the experts merely relied on their peripheral vision and looked across the boards.

参考答案

Researchers conducted a series of study, in which they asked chess experts and novices to identify different patterns, and monitored their reaction times and brain activities, and they found differences between the two group; furthermore, amateurs relied on looking at the pieces to recognize patterns, but the experts relied on their peripheral vision and looked across the boards.

研究人员进行了一系列研究,他们要求国际象棋 专家和新手识别不同的模式,并监测他们的反应 时间和大脑活动,最终他们发现两组之间的差异; 此外,业余爱好者依靠观察片断来识别图案,但 专家依靠他们的周边视觉和从各个方面看问题。

(58 words)





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SWT 20. Oil price/油价

A plunging oil price has dragged UK inflation to zero over recent months. But analysts say the fall in retail prices cannot solely be attributed to oil.

Discount retailers continue to steal market share from established industry giants, taking an increased chunk of both food and non-food markets. And, as retail "the big supermarkets have had to respond to this by bringing down their own 'rip off' prices". The result is a sector-wide fall in prices paid at the till.

The growth of online retailers has also brought prices down, in part due to the case with which customers can compare prices and purchase goods elsewhere if they find an item cheaper on a competitor's site. Retailers are also reluctant to offer different prices in their physical and online stores, according to retail analyst Richard Hyman, which means shops are forces to cut pieces on the high street.

An ever-expanding range of shops is also to blame, according to Mr. Hyman. "Overcapacity is the biggest of the issues affecting prices," he says. "In the last 10 years, online alone has added the equivalent of 110m square feet of trading space- that's roughly equal to 65 additional Westfield London shopping malls. An increasing in supply of retailers, with no increase in demand, has left the industry massively oversupplied."

参考答案

A plunging oil price has dragged UK inflation to zero and many reasons accounting for this, the first of which is the fall in retail prices, but the growth of online retailers and ever-expanding range of shops are also to blame, because they have made the industry massively oversupplied.

油价暴跌已将英国通胀率拉至零,造成这一现象的原因有很多,首先是零售价格下跌,但在线零售商的增长和商店种类的不断扩大也是原因之一,因为它们使该行业供应严重过剩。

(49 words)





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SWT 21. 3D printing/3D 打印

Madeline Gannon is a researcher, teacher at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture and Ph.D. candidate in Computational Design — but that's not all. She is on a mission to open up the infinite design possibilities of 3D printing to the world.

"Currently you have to have a lot of technical background in order to participate in creating things for 3D printers," Gannon says. "There is still a huge knowledge barrier for how we create digital models."

As the technology has advanced, prices have plummeted, and now anyone can buy a 3D printer for a few hundred dollars, Gannon notes. However, not just anyone can create original designs for 3D-printed artifacts.

To put true creative power into the hands of any ordinary 3D printer owner, Gannon has developed an innovative new system called "Tactum."

Tactum is a new type of software that lets users create their own unique designs for 3D printers by simply touching a projected image. Using their innate hand gestures, someone using Tactum can poke, rub and otherwise manipulate the projected image that will become their 3D printed object, and see it instantly change shape in response. In keeping with the goal of democratizing the process, Gannon designed her first series of Tactum artifacts on a surface that everyone can access freely and manipulate instinctively, that being the human body.

"My goal was to bring the digital out to the physical world and out onto your body," says Gannon.

Along with a companion project called Reverb — which translates these user-created designs into printable meshes — that impulse has resulted in a spectacular diversity of bracelet and necklace designs, ranging from smooth landscapes, intricate textures and chaotic free forms to delicate geometries derived from the 19th century art of chronography.

题源: https://pharmaceuticalintelligence.com/tag/3-d-models/





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参考答案

Researcher Madeline Gannon is trying to open up the infinite design possibilities of 3D printing to the world, and she has developed an innovative system called "Tactum", a new type of software that lets users create their own unique designs for 3D printers; furthermore, she designed her first series of Tactum artifacts that everyone can access freely and manipulate instinctively.(60 words)

研究人员 Madeline Gannon 正在努力向世界打开 3D 打印的无限设计可能性,她开发了一种名为 Tactum 的创新系统,一种新型的软件,可以让用户为 3D 打印机创建自己独特的设计;此外,她还设计了她的第一批塔克顿手工艺品,每个人都可以自由地接触和凭直觉地操纵它们。

SWT 22. Australia-US Alliance/澳大利亚-美国联盟

Some "moments" seem more important in hindsight than they were at the time. David Day, for example, looks at John Curtin's famous "Australia looks to America" statement of December 1941, a moment remembered as embodying a fundamental shift in Australia's strategic alliance away from Britain towards the US. As Day points out, the shift to the US as our primary ally was a long, drawn-out process which occurred over half a century. Curtin's statement is iconic - it represents and symbolizes the shift - but in and of itself it made almost no difference. Russell McGregor makes similar arguments with regard to the 1967 referendum, falsely hailed in our memories as a huge advance in Aboriginal rights.

There are many other important events which our contributors examine - the campaign to save the Franklin River; the landings at Gallipoli, the discovery of gold in 1851, the disastrous Premiers' Plan designed to cope with the Great Depression, to name just a few.

Taken together, our contributors show that narrative approaches to Australian history are not as simple as might be imagined. There is of course the issue of what should be included and what should not be - what, after all, makes a moment or an event sufficiently important to be included in an official narrative? Just as





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importantly, the moments and events that are included in narrative histories are open to multiple interpretations.

We hope this collection will provide an important reminder to those wanting to impose a universal history curriculum for our schoolchildren, and indeed a lesson to all Australians wishing to understand their nation's past; History is never simple or straightforward, and it always resists attempts to make it so.

题源: http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/archived/perspective/turning-points/3168266

参考答案

The moment that embodied a fundamental shift in Australia's strategic alliance away from Britain towards the US was more important in hindsight than they were at the time, and there are many other important events that contributors examine, which shows that narrative approaches to Australian history are not as simple as might be imagined and are open to multiple interpretations.

澳大利亚战略联盟从英国走向美国的根本转变的时刻在事后看来比当时更为重要,而且还有许多其他重要事件由贡献者认证,这表明对澳大利亚历史的描述并非如此简单,而是可以进行多样式的解释。

(60 words)

SWT 23. Farmland/农田

A farming technique practiced for centuries by villagers in West Africa, which converts nutrient-poor rainforest soil into fertile farmland, could be the answer to mitigating climate change and revolutionizing farming across Africa.

A global study by researchers has for the first-time identified and analyzed rich fertile soils found in Liberia and Ghana. They discovered that the ancient West African method of adding charcoal and kitchen waste to



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highly weathered, nutrient poor tropical soils can transform the land into enduringly fertile, carbon-rich black soils which the researchers dub 'African Dark Earths'.

Similar soils created by Amazonian people in pre-Columbian eras have recently been discovered in South America — but the techniques people used to create these soils are unknown. Moreover, the activities which led to the creation of these anthropogenic soils were largely disrupted after the European conquest.

Encouragingly researchers in the West Africa study were able to live within communities as they created their fertile soils. This enabled them to learn the techniques used by the women from the indigenous communities who disposed of ash, bones and other organic waste to create the African Dark Earths.

参考答案

A traditional farming technique of adding charcoal and kitchen waste to highly weathered soils could transform the nutrient-poor rainforest soil into fertile farmland, and could be the answer to mitigating climate change and revolutionizing farming across Africa, according to a global study, which enabled researchers to live within communities and learn from indigenous women to create the African Dark Earths.

根据一项全球研究表明,传统的农业技术将木炭和厨余垃圾添加到高度风化的土壤中,可以将营养贫乏的雨林土壤转变为肥沃的农田,可以成为缓解气候变化和改变整个非洲农业的办法,这也是研究者们能生活在社区内,向土著妇女学习,去创造非洲黑土。

(60 words)

SWT 24. The origins of writing/书写的起源

The origins of writing are largely unclear. Writing systems were created independently all over the world. The earliest we know of were developed in the Middle East around 5,000 years ago. But other scripts were invented





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in India, Egypt, China and Central America. It has been suggested that some of these systems may have influenced others, but this has not been proved.

These forms of writing look completely different, follow different rules and are often read in completely different ways. But they all perform the same basic function. They are all a visual means of recording language.

Knowledge of some early scripts invented in certain regions was picked up by peoples living in surrounding areas. They would then adopt and adapt them to their own needs and language. Chinese, for example, was adopted in Japan and Korea, though it had to be altered to apply to the languages spoken there.

Methods of recording information have varied over time and place. Not all sophisticated societies have developed writing systems and not all methods of recording information require writing.

The Inca empire of South America was at its height in the sixteenth century AD and held power over a huge area that stretched from modern Ecuador and Peru, to areas of Bolivia and Chile. It was a complex civilization, but did not develop a writing system.

题源: http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/themes/writing/what_is_writing.aspx

参考答案

The origin of writing system is unclear, and writing systems originate around the world independently with different rules, but they all perform the same basic function as a visual means of recording language; however, not all sophisticated societies have developed writing systems and not all methods of recording information require writing.

书写系统的起源尚不清楚,书写系统以独立的规则独立于世界各地,但它们都具有与记录语言的视觉手段相同的基本功能;然而,并非所有复杂的社会都开发了书写系统,并非所有记录信息的方法都需要写作。

(51 words)



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SWT 25. Nutritional science/营养科学

Most of the time when I embark on such an investigation, it quickly becomes clear that matters are much more complicated and ambiguous several shades grayer than I thought going in. Not this time. The deeper I delved into the confused and confusing thicket of nutritional science, sorting through the long-running fats versus carb wars, the fiber skirmishes and the raging dietary supplement debates, the simpler the picture gradually became. I learned that in fact, science knows a lot less about nutrition than you would expect - that in fact, nutrition science is, to put it charitably, a very young science. It's still trying to figure out exactly what happens in your body when you sip a soda, or what is going on deep in the soul of a carrot to make it so good for you, or why in the world you have so many neurons - brain cells! - in your stomach, of all places. It's a fascinating subject, and someday the field may produce definitive answers to the nutritional questions that concern us, but — as nutritionists themselves will tell you - they're not there yet. Not even close. Nutrition science, which after all only got started less than two hundred years ago, is today approximately where surgery was in the year 1650 every promising, and very interesting to watch, but are you ready to let them operate on you? I think I'll wait awhile.

参考答案

The deeper the author delved into nutritional science, the clearer she realized that it is still a very young science started less than two hundred years ago, but it is a fascinating subject with lots of unanswered questions, which are very interesting to study.

越深入研究营养科学,作者就越清楚地意识到它仍然是一个非常年轻的科学,出现不到两百年,但它是一个迷人的主题,有许多未解答的问题,这是非常有趣的研究。

(44 words)



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SWT 26. The infant's imitation/婴儿的模仿

Contrary to popular belief, babies under a few months don't grin at you because they're copying your own

smile, according to new research.

Many studies have indicated that from birth, infants imitate the behaviors and facial expressions of the adults

around them. However, a team of Australian, South African and British researchers have released a study this

week that refutes this widespread belief.

"Numerous studies from the 1980s and 90s indicated no imitation by newborns, while others claimed it was

there," says Virginia Slaughter, a biologist at the University of Queensland and co-author of the study.

"We wanted to clear up the confusion because the 'fact' that newborns imitate is widely cited, not just in the

fields of psychology, neuroscience and pediatrics, but also in popular sources for parents."

The international research team, led by Janine Oostenbroek, a psychologist at the University of York in the

UK, exposed more than 100 infants to a broad range of gestures and recorded their responses at one, two, six

and nine weeks of age.

The gestures included social cues like adults poking their tongues out, frowning or grinning, as well as non-

social cues such as pointing or opening a box.

The findings showed no link between behaviors exhibited by babies in their first few months and the gestures

they were exposed to. The babies were just as likely to exhibit gestures they had never seen before as repeat

ones they had.

For instance, babies stuck their tongues out just as frequently if they were being exposed to pointing or opening

a box, rather than anything to do with mouths or tongues.

题源: https://cosmosmagazine.com/social-sciences/newborns-dont-imitate-adults-study

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参考答案

Researchers from Australia have conducted some experiments and proved that infants under a few months do not imitate adults' expression or behavior, which is contrary to the popular belief that newborns will copy gestures they were exposed to.

来自澳大利亚的研究人员进行了一些实验,并证明几个月内的婴儿不会模仿成年人的表情或行为,这与普遍认为新生儿会复制他们所接触的动作相反。

(38 words)

SWT 27. Modern Art/现代艺术

Broadly speaking, there are two different ways of thinking about modern art, or two different versions of the story. One way is to view art as something that can be practiced (And though of) as an activity radically separate from everyday life or worldly concerns. From this point of view, art is said to be "autonomous" from society – that is, it is believed to be self-sustaining and self- referring. One particularly influential versions of this story suggest that modern art should be viewed as process by which features extraneous to a particular branch of art would be progressively eliminated, and painters or sculptors would come to concentrate on problems specific to their domain. Another way of thinking about modern art is to view it as responding to the modern world, and to see modern artists immersing themselves in the conflicts and challenges of society. That is to say, some modern artists sought ways of conveying the changing experiences generated in European by the twin processes of commercialization (the commodification of everyday life) and urbanization. From this point of view, modern art is a way of reflecting on the transformation that created what we call, in a sort of shorthand, "modernity".

参考答案





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There are ways of thinking of modern art, the first of which views art as an activity radically separate from everyday life or worldly concerns; however, the second way sees art as responding to the modern world, a way of reflecting on the transformation that created modernity, and modern artists seek ways of conveying the changing experiences generated in the processes of commercialization and urbanization.

现代艺术有多种思维方式,第一种将艺术视为一种与日常生活或世俗关注完全分开的活动;然而,第二种方式将艺术看作是对现代世界的回应,一种反映创造现代性的转变的方式,而现代艺术家则寻求传达商业化和城市化过程中产生的不断变化的体验的方式。

(65 words)

SWT 28. Academic Networking/学术人脉网

Getting to know fellow academics, especially more senior ones, can be very daunting. Lecturers and researchers are used to spending a lot of time in isolation working independently. The thought of going public and 'selling yourself' does not seem enticing. However, it is easier than you think to begin to develop your own career-enhancing networks. Your PhD supervisor and examiners or if you are already in post, your mentor, are a great place to start. They will have been chosen to guide you because they are more experienced and in most cases, they will work close to your field of interest. Ask their advice for ways of building up your own network of contacts. Also, it is easier to approach someone unknown to you if you can mention the name of a mutual acquaintance.

If you are a postgraduate who is serious about a career in academia, or a more senior scholar wanting to develop one, you will surely be attending conferences on a fairly regular basis. There is no right or wrong number of these, some scholars stick to one or two a year, others seem to attend one a month! Conferences are the main way that academics network with each other, so do not miss out on these opportunities. If you are presenting a paper it gives others a chance to see what you are working on, and the informal sections of





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the program (such as food and drink breaks) encourage mingling and further discussion.

参考答案

Although getting to know fellow academics can be daunting, it is very important to develop career-enhancing networks, and there are many ways to do so, and PhD supervisor, examiners, and mentors are a great place to start; besides, mentioning the name of a mutual acquaintance when approaching to someone unknown, attending conferences on a regular basis, and participating in informal sections of the conferences are also useful tips.

虽然了解其他学者可能是令人生畏的,但开发职业提升人脉网非常重要,而且有很多方法可以做到这一点,博士生导师,考官和导师是一个很好的起点;此外,在接触未知的人,定期参加会议以及参加会议的非正式部分时,提及相互认识的名字也是有用的窍门。

(68 words)

SWT 29. Logged Forest/被砍伐的森林

Mammals can be one of the hardest-hit groups by habitat loss, and a lot of research has been carried out to find the best ways to conserve mammal diversity.

Much of this research has focused on very large-scale changes in land use and the impacts this will have on overall mammal diversity. However, many important decisions about land use are made at much more local scales, for example at the level of individual landowners.

Now, in a detailed study led by Imperial College London that looked at mammal diversity across different small-scale landscapes in Borneo, researchers have identified previously logged forests as an overlooked source of refuge for mammals.





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These 'selectively logged' forests, where only certain tree species are removed, are often considered to be degraded and are frequently cleared to make way for plantations. The new results, published in the journal Ecological Applications, suggest they should be better protected.

The team recorded mammals using trap-and-release techniques and motion-sensing cameras over three years, creating an unprecedented 20,000 records of species in three land-use types: old-growth forest, logged forest and oil palm plantation. This is one of the most intensive studies of rainforest mammal diversity ever undertaken.

To their surprise, they found that mammal diversity for large mammals, like the clouded leopard and civets, was similar for both old-growth forests and logged forests. For small mammals, such as squirrels and rodents, the diversity was actually higher in logged forests.

参考答案

Although a lot of research about conserving mammal diversity has focused on large-scale of land use, some researchers have identified logged forests as an overlooked source of refuge for mammals and suggested 'selectively logged' forests should be better protected; besides, they have surprisingly found that large mammal's diversity was similar for both old-growth forests and logged forests, but the diversity of small mammals was actually higher in logged forests.

虽然许多关于保护哺乳动物多样性的研究都集中在大规模的土地利用上,但一些研究人员已经将伐木森林确定为哺乳动物的一个被忽视的避难所来源,并建议应该更好地保护"选择性砍伐"的森林;此外,他们惊奇地发现,大型哺乳动物的多样性对于古老的森林和伐木林都是相似的,但是小型哺乳动物的多样性实际上在伐木林中更高。

(69 words)



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SWT 30. Fish/鱼类

Fish are being killed, and prevented from reaching maturity, by the litter of plastic particles finding their way into the world's oceans, new research has proved.

Some young fish have been found to prefer tiny particles of plastic to their natural food sources, effectively starving them before they can reproduce.

The growing problem of micro plastics – tiny particles of polymer-type materials from modern industry – has been thought for several years to be a peril for fish, but the study published on Thursday is the first to prove the damage in trials.

Micro plastics are near-indestructible in natural environments. They enter the oceans through litter, when waste such as plastic bags, packaging and other convenience materials are discarded. Vast amounts of these end up in the sea, through inadequate waste disposal systems and sewage outfall.

Another growing source is microbeads, tiny particles of hard plastics that are used in cosmetics, for instance as an abrasive in modern skin cleaners. These easily enter waterways as they are washed off as they are used, flushed down drains and forgotten, but can last for decades in our oceans.

The impact of these materials has been hard to measure, despite being a growing source of concern. Small particles of plastics have been found in seabirds, fish and whales, which swallow the materials but cannot digest them, leading to a build-up in their digestive tracts.

For the first time, scientists have demonstrated that fish exposed to such materials during their development show stunted growth and increased mortality rates, as well as changed behavior that could endanger their survival.

参考答案

The growing problem of micro plastics entering oceans through litter, such as plastic bags and

越来越多的微塑料通过垫料进入海洋,例如塑料袋和包装,微珠和硬塑料的微小颗粒,这已被证





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packaging, microbeads and tiny particles of hard plastics, has been proved to be a peril for fish, which are being killed, and prevented from reaching maturity, show stunted growth and increased mortality rates. (48 words)

明是鱼类的危险,这些鱼类正在被杀死,无法成熟,生长迟缓,死亡率上升。

SWT 31. Sunshine revolution/阳光革命

The suburbs of Las Vegas do not look like the cradle of a revolution. Golden stucco-clad houses stretch for street after identical street, interspersed with gated communities with names such as Spanish Oaks and Rancho Bel Air. The sky is the deepest blue, the desert air is clear and the distant mountains are beautiful. The only sounds are the buzz of a gardener's hedge trimmer and a squeaking baby buggy pushed by a power-walking mother. The bright lights of Sin City seem a very long way away.

Yet these quiet streets are being changed by a movement that is gathering momentum across America and around the world, challenging one of the most fundamental of economic relationships: the way we use and pay for energy. There are now more than 7,000 homes in Nevada fitted with solar panels to generate their own electricity, and the number is rising fast. Just five years ago, residential solar power was still a niche product for the homeowner with a fat wallet and a bleeding heart. Not anymore. Technology, politics and finance have aligned to move it into the mainstream. Solar power has become the fastest-growing energy source in the US.

参考答案

Because of the city layout and natural sceneries, Las Vegas does not look like a source of revolution, but the way people use and pay for energy has been changed here, meaning more people use solar power 因为城市的布局和自然风光,拉斯维加斯看上去不像一种革命,但人们使用和支付能源的方式已经改变,这意味着相比 5 年前,更多的人使用太阳能,由于技术,政治和金融的原因。





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than they did five years ago because of the technology, politics and finance.

(50 words)

SWT 32. Take-all disease/小麦全蚀病

The soil dwelling fungus 'take-all' inflicts devastating stress to the roots of cereals crops worldwide and is a major disease problem in UK wheat crops.

However, recent field trial data from Rothamsted Research, an institute of the BBSRC, has demonstrated that farmers could control this devastating disease by selecting wheat cultivars that reduce take-all build up in the soil when grown as first wheat.

Wheat is an important staple crop worth 1.6 Billion a year to the UK economy alone. This work funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the HGCA will help farmers to increase yields, combating global food security and contributing to UK economic growth.

Take-all disease, caused by the fungus, Gaeumannomyces graminis var. tritici, reduces grain yield and quality and results in an increased amount of residual applied nitrogen fertilizer left in the soil post-harvest. Despite the use of chemical, biological and cultural control methods the take-all fungus is still one of the most difficult pathogens of wheat to control. The risk of take-all infection in second and third wheat crops is directly linked to the amount of fungus remaining in the soil after the first wheat is harvested.

The Rothamsted Research study, published in Plant Pathology, has demonstrated that wheat cultivars differ in their ability to build-up the take-all fungus.





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Growing a low building cultivar, such as Cadenza, as a first wheat crop can be used to manipulate take-all inoculum levels in the soil resulting in better yields from the second and third wheat crops. Yield increases of up to 2 tonnes per hectare in 2nd wheats have been observed.

参考答案

Soil dwelling fungus named 'take-all' can reduce the yield and quality of wheat crops, which is a major kind of crop in the UK, but farmers can control it by selecting wheat cultivars with different ability to build-up the take-all fungus, which can result in better yields.

土壤寄生菌"全蚀"可以降低小麦作物的产量和品质,而小麦作物是英国的一种主要作物,但农民可以根据不同的小麦品种对全蚀真菌构建的能力来做选择,从而带来产量的提升。

(47 words)

SWT 33. Skip breakfast/不吃早餐

Skipping breakfast seems a simple way of losing weight or saving time while getting the children ready for school or rushing off to work. But it can also be a sign of an unhealthy lifestyle with potentially dangerous consequences, including a higher risk of premature death. According to a study, adults and teenagers who miss the first meal of the day are less likely to look after their health. They tend to smoke more, drink more alcohol and take less exercise than those who do eat. Those who skip food in the morning are also more likely to be fatter and less well- educated, meaning they find it harder to get a job.

Researcher Dr. Anna Keski-Rahkonen said: 'Smoking, infrequent exercise, a low level of education, frequent alcohol use and a high body mass index were all associated with skipping breakfast in adults and adolescents. 'Our findings suggest this association exists throughout adulthood. 'Individuals who skip breakfast may care less about their health than those who eat breakfast.'





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Previously, experts assumed that missing breakfast - often called 'the most important meal of the day' - was simply the marker of a hectic life or a way to try to lose weight. But Dr. Keski-Rahkonen, who led the study at Helsinki University, said the results revealed starting the day without food suggests an unhealthy lifestyle.

参考答案

Unlike the previous assumption that skipping breakfast is merely a way of a hectic life and losing weight, it is now deemed as an unhealthy lifestyle, which means that people who skip their breakfast are more likely to smoke but do not care about themselves and are less likely to find a job.

不同于之前的假设,即不吃早餐仅仅是忙碌生活 和减肥的一种方式,现在它被认为是一种不健康 的生活方式,这意味着不吃早餐的人更容易吸烟 而不关心自己而且更少很可能找到一份工作。

(53 words)

SWT 34. Electric eel/电鳗

On a field trip to the Amazon in 1807, 19th-century explorer Alexander Von Humboldt witnessed a group of horses lead through a muddy pool filled with electric eels, which he described as dramatically leaping up to attack the intruders. But scientists have doubted the story. An illustration of Alexander Von Humboldt's story of the battle between the horses and electric eels.

The first time I read Von Humboldt's tale, I thought it was completely bizarre, Catania says. Why would the eels attack the horses instead of swimming away? But then he observed the same behavior by accident as he transferred the eels in his lab from one tank to another using a metal-rimmed net. Instead of swimming away, larger eels attacked the net by leaping out of the water.

Catania tracked the strength of the eels' electric shock by attaching a voltmeter to an aluminum plate, or conductive metal strips to predator objects such as a crocodile head replica. The zap a submerged eel





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distributes through the water is relatively weak when it reaches the target. But when an eel touches it with its electricity-generating chin, the current travels directly to the target and has to travel through its body before it gets back to the water, Catania reported in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

This allows the eels to deliver shocks with a maximum amount of power to partially submerged land animals that invade their territory, Catania explains. It also allows them to electrify a much larger portion of the invader's body. Catania found the eels leapt to attack, rather than receded, more often when the water in the aquarium was lower. He argues the attack lets electric eels better defend themselves during the Amazon dry season. When they're cornered in small pools, and make easy prey.

参考答案

The story that some electric eels were witnessed to attack a group of horses in a muddy pool was initially doubted by Catania, until he observed the similar scene in the lab; moreover, he then tracked the strength of the eel's electric shock, and found that the shock could be very strong, which allowed electric eels to electrify the invaders' body to defend themselves.

Catania 最初怀疑一些电鳗在一个泥泞的水池中袭击一群马的故事,直到他观察到实验室中的类似场景;此外,他随后追踪了鳗鱼电击的强度,发现强度可以非常强烈,这使得电鳗能够使入侵者的身体通电以保护自己。

(64 words)

SWT 35. Government and democracy/政府和民主

A government is the organization, machinery, or agency, through which a political unit exercises its authority, controls and administers public policy, and directs and controls the actions of its members or subjects. The government makes laws, regulate economies, conduct relations with other countries, provide infrastructure



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and services, and maintain an army and a police force amongst others on behalf of the people of the country.

Democracy is a system of government in which the people have the rule. The ancient Greeks used the word democracy to mean government by the many in contrast to government by the few. The key of democracy is that the people hold ultimate power. Abraham Lincoln best captured this spirit by describing democracy as a government of the people, by the people, for the people. Democratic government is opposed to an authoritative government, where the participation of its citizenry is limited or prohibited, and a state of anarchy where no form of government exists.

参考答案

A government is an organization used by a political unit to perform its political actions on behalf of its people, such as making laws and maintaining army, and democracy is one of the governmental systems, which means the people have the rule and an authoritative government is opposed.

政府是政治单位代表人民进行政治活动,如制定法律、维持军队等的组织,民主是政府制度之一,人民当家作主,是反对集权政府的。

(48 words)

SWT 36. Marketing/市场

The world is shrinking rapidly with the advent of faster communication, transportation, and financial flows. Products developed in one country—Gucci purses, Sony electronics, McDonald's hamburgers, Japanese sushi, German BMWs—have found enthusiastic acceptance in other countries. It would not be surprising to hear about a German businessman wearing an Italian suit meeting an English friend at a Japanese restaurant who later returns home to drink Russian vodka and watch Dancing with the Stars on TV.





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International trade has boomed over the past three decades. Since 1990, the number of multinational corporations in the world has grown from 30,000 to more than 63,000. Some of these multinationals are true giants. In fact, of the largest 150 "economies" in the world, only 81 are countries. The remaining 69 are multinational corporations. Walmart, the world's largest company, has annual revenues greater than the GDP of all but the world's 21 largest countries.

Between 2000 and 2008, total world trade grew more than 7 percent per year, easily outstripping GDP output, which was about 3 percent. Despite a dip in world trade caused by the recent worldwide recession, the world trade of products and services last year was valued at more than \$12 trillion, about 17 percent of GDP worldwide.

Many U.S. companies have long been successful at international marketing: McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Starbucks, GE, IBM, Colgate, Caterpillar, Boeing, and dozens of other American firms have made the world their market. In the United States, names such as Sony, Toyota, Nestlé, IKEA, Canon, and Nokia have become household words. Other products and services that appear to be American are, in fact, produced or owned by foreign companies.

参考答案

As international trade has boomed over the past three decades, the world is shrinking rapidly with the advent of faster communication, transportation and financial flows, despite a dip in world trade caused by the recent worldwide recession, so many U.S. brands have long been successful at international marketing but some products and services produced or owned by foreign companies have also become household words in the United States. (68 words)

国际贸易在过去蓬勃发展了三十年,世界正在变小,是由于沟通更便捷,交通运输和金融流通速度加快,近期全球经济衰退导致世界贸易下滑,尽管许多美国品牌长期以来在国际营销上很成功,但外国公司生产或拥有的一些产品和服务在美国也已变的家喻户晓。





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SWT 37. Delivering packages/提供包裹

Delivering packages with drones can reduce carbon dioxide emissions in certain circumstances as compared to truck deliveries, a new study from University of Washington transportation engineers finds.

In a paper to be published in an upcoming issue of Transportation Research Part D, researchers found that drones tend to have carbon dioxide emissions advantages over trucks when the drones don't have to fly very far to their destinations or when a delivery route has few recipients.

Trucks — which can offer environmental benefits by carrying everything from clothes to appliances to furniture in a single trip — become a more climate-friendly alternative when a delivery route has many stops or is farther away from a central warehouse.

For small, light packages — a bottle of medicine or a kid's bathing suit — drones compete especially well. But the carbon benefits erode as the weight of a package increase since these unmanned aerial vehicles have to use additional energy to stay aloft with a heavy load.

参考答案

Delivering packages with drones tends to be more environmentally friendly when the trip is short and the number of recipients is small, while trucks are better when the deliver route has many stops, because drones need extra energy to stay aloft with heavy loads.

在行程短、收件人少的情况下,用无人机递送包裹往往更环保;而在运送路线站点多的情况下,用卡车递送包裹则更好,因为无人机需要额外的能量才能承载重物在空中飞行。

(44 words)





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SWT 38. Orbital Debris/轨道碎片

For decades, space experts have worried that a speeding bit of orbital debris might one day smash a large spacecraft into hundreds of pieces and start a chain reaction, a slow cascade of collisions that would expand for centuries, spreading chaos through the heavens. In the last decade or so, as scientists came to agree that the number of objects in orbit had surpassed a critical mass or, in their terms, the critical spatial density, the point at which a chain reaction becomes inevitable they grew more anxious.

Early this year, after a half-century of growth, the federal list of detectable objects (four inches wide or larger) reached 10,000, including dead satellites, spent rocket stages, a camera, a hand tool and junkyards of whirling debris left over from chance explosions and destructive tests. So our billion dollars of satellites are at risk.

As space experts have worried that orbital debris might one day smash a large spacecraft into pieces and start a chain reaction, the scientist recently came to agree that the number of orbital debris had surpassed the critical spatial density, which will inevitably lead to a chain reaction that puts our billion dollars of satellites at risk.

参考答案

In the past decade or so, scientists came to agree that the number of objects in orbit had surpassed a critical mass and a chain reaction becomes inevitable; moreover, early this year, the federal list of detectable objects reached 10,000, which means orbital debris might one day smash a large spacecraft into pieces and start a chain reaction, and our billion dollars of satellites will be at risk.

在过去十年左右的时间里,科学家们一致认为, 天体轨道上的物体数量已经超过了临界值,连锁 反应是不可避免的;此外,今年早些时候,联邦政 府的可探测物体名单达到了1万个,这意味着有 一天轨道碎片可能会把一艘大型航天器撞成碎 片,引发连锁反应,我们数十亿美元的卫星将面 临危险。

(68 words)





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SWT 39. Experimental treatment/实验性治疗

Four years ago, Darek Fidyka was stabbed in the back, leaving his spinal cord severed, and his body from the chest down paralyzed. Now, after an experimental treatment, Fidyka has regained some feeling in his lower body and is learning to walk again.

The researchers are looking to use less invasive techniques in the future, because undergoing brain surgery to extract the olfactory tissue isn't anyone's idea of a good time, much less someone who is paralyzed.

The BBC reports that over 100 micro injections of olfactory unsheathing cells were injected into the injury site, and strips of nerve tissue from Fidyka ankle were laid across the gap in the spinal cord, in the hopes that the cells from the olfactory bulbs would encourage regrowth. A similar procedure had been successfully tested on dogs in 2012.

Now, 19 months after the operation, Fidyka has regained sensation in parts of his lower body, and after intense physical therapy is able to walk using a walker. As an added bonus, even with one olfactory bulb removed, Fidyka retained his sense of smell.

He told the BBC:"I think it's realistic that one day I will become independent. What I have learned is that you must never give up but keep fighting, because some door will open in life." The story is the subject of an episode of the BBC television program Panorama airing today at 10:35 pm in the UK. The study itself will be published in the journal Cell Transplantation at a later date, but the researchers acknowledge that as exciting as this result is, there is still a lot more work to be done.

"Our results are very encouraging," the medical team is quoted as saying in a statement. "However, our results need to be confirmed in a larger group of patients with a similar injury. In the meantime, we are investigating surgical techniques for more minimally invasive access to the olfactory bulb."





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参考答案

Fidyka has regained some feeling in his lower body and is learning to walk again after he was stabbed in the back four years ago, and researchers are looking to use less invasive techniques in the future, because a similar procedure had been successfully tested on dogs in 2012; however, the researchers acknowledge that as exciting as this result is, there is still a lot more work to be done.

Fidyka 的下半身已经恢复了一些知觉,四年前背部被刺后,他正在学习走路,研究人员希望在未来使用侵入性更小的技术,因为 2012 年在狗身上成功进行了类似的测试;然而,研究人员承认,尽管这一结果令人兴奋,但还有很多工作要做。

(70 words)

SWT 40. Water/7K

Water is at the core of sustainable development. Water resources, and the range of services they provide, underpin poverty reduction, economic growth and environmental sustainability. From food and energy security to human and environmental health, water contributes to improvements in social well-being and inclusive growth, affecting the livelihoods of billions.

In a sustainable world that is achievable in the near future, water and related resources are managed in support of human well-being and ecosystem integrity in a robust economy. Sufficient and safe water is made available to meet every person's basic needs, with healthy lifestyles and behaviors easily upheld through reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation services, in turn supported by equitably extended and efficiently managed infrastructure. Water resources management, infrastructure and service delivery are sustainably financed. Water is duly valued in all its forms, with waste water treated as a resource that avails energy, nutrients and freshwater for reuse. Human settlements develop in harmony with the natural water cycle and the ecosystems that support it, with measures in place that reduce vulnerability and improve resilience to





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water-related disasters. Integrated approaches to water resources development, management and use and to human rights are the norm. Water is governed in a participatory way that draws on the full potential of women and men as professionals and citizens, guided by a number of able and knowledgeable organizations, within a just and transparent institutional framework.

参考答案

Water is at the core of sustainable development, which contributes to improvements in social well-being and inclusive growth, and equitably extended and efficiently managed infrastructure can make sufficient and safe water that is available to meet everyone's basic needs; moreover, water resources management, infrastructure and service delivery are sustainably financed, and integrated approaches to water resources development, management and use and to human rights are the norm.

水是可持续发展的核心,它有助于改善社会福祉 和包容性增长,公平扩大和有效管理的基础设施 可以提供充足和安全的水,满足每个人的基本需 求;此外,水资源管理、基础设施和服务提供是可 持续筹资的,水资源开发、管理和使用以及人权 的综合办法是方向。

(68 words)

SWT 41. Electric cars/电动汽车

Although we tend to think of electric cars as being something completely modern, they were in fact some of the earliest types of motorized vehicle. At the beginning of the twentieth-century electric cars were actually more popular than cars with an internal combustion engine as they were more comfortable to ride in. However, as cars fueled by petrol increased in importance. Electric cars declined. The situation became such that electric vehicles were only used for certain specific purposes — as fork-lift trucks, ambulances and urban delivery vehicles, for example.





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Although electricity declined in use in road vehicles, it steadily grew in importance as a means of powering trains. Switzerland, for example, was quick to develop an electrified train system, encouraged in this no doubt by the fact that it had no coal or oil resources of its own.

Nowadays there is renewed interest in Electricity as a means of powering road vehicles. Why is this case? Well, undoubtedly economic reasons are of considerable importance. The cost of oil has risen so sharply that there is a strong financial imperative to look for an alternative. However, there are also environmental motivations. Emissions from cars re-blamed in large part for – among other things – the destruction of the ozone layer and the resultant rise in temperatures in the Polar Regions. A desire not to let things get any worse is also encouraging research into designing effective electric transport.

参考答案

Electric cars are in fact some of the earliest types of motorized vehicle; however, as cars fueled by petrol increased in importance, electric cars declined, which were only used for certain specific purposes, but electricity steadily grew in importance as a means of powering trains, and nowadays there is renewed interest in Electricity as a means of powering road vehicles because of the economic reasons and environmental motivations.

电动汽车实际上是最早的几种机动车之一;然而,由于汽油型汽车重要性的增加,电动汽车不用油,所以只用于某些特定的目的,但电力重要性的稳步增长,例如驱动列车,和因为经济原因和环境的原因,人们现在又把电力作为一种推动公路交通的手段。

(68 words)





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SWT 42. Online learning/网上学习

What makes teaching online unique is that it uses the Internet, especially the World Wide Web, as the primary means of communication. Thus, when you teach online, you don't have to be someplace to teach. You don't have to lug your briefcase full of papers or your laptop to a classroom, stand at a lectern, scribble on a chalkboard, or grade papers in a stuffy room while your students take a test. You don't even have to sit in your office waiting for students to show up for conferences. You can hold "office hours" on weekends or at night after dinner.

You can do all this while living in a small town in Wyoming or a big city like Bangkok, even if you're working for a college whose administrative offices are located in Florida or Dubai. You can attend an important conference in Hawaii on the same day that you teach your class in New Jersey, longing on from your laptop via the local cafe's wireless hot sport or your hotel room's high-speed network.

Online learning offers more freedom for students as well. They can search for courses using the Web, scouring their institution or even the world for programs, classes and instructors that fit their needs. Having found an appropriate course, they can enroll and register, shop for their books, read articles, listen to lectures, submit their homework assignments, confer with their instructors, and receive their final grades — all online. They can assemble in virtual classrooms, joining other students from diverse geographical locales, forging bond and friendships not possible in conventional classrooms, which are usually limited to students from a specific geographical area.

参考答案

Teaching online is unique because it uses the Internet as the primary means of communication, so people don't have to be someplace to teach; moreover, online learning offers more freedom for students as well, because they can search for courses using the 网上教学是特别的,因为它把互联网作为主要的 交流方式,所以人们不必去任何地方上课;此外, 在线学习也为学生提供了更多的自由,因为他们 可以使用网络搜索课程,搜索他们所在的机构,





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Web, scouring their institution or even the world for programs, classes and instructors that fit their needs. (59 words)

甚至世界各地适合他们需要的课程、班级和导师。

SWT 43. TV-viewing habits/收看电视的习惯

Kids mimic what their parents do — and a new study on TV-viewing habits proves just that.

Research published July 15 in Pediatrics shows that the amount of time parents watch TV is connected to how much TV their children watch, even more so than the location of the TV in the home or the family's rules for television watching. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that children and teens should only be allowed to use "high-quality" entertainment media for one to two hours per day. In addition, the house should have "screen-free" zones like the children's bedroom, where there are no TVs, computer games or video games. The TV should be turned off during dinner, the academy adds.

Each hour of TV viewed by the parents was linked to an additional half hour of viewing time for children. Children whose parents watched more than the average also watched more compared to kids whose parents stuck to the four hours daily.

Parents' TV time had a stronger association to how much time children watched television compared to house rules on time limits, whether the children had a TV in the bedroom and whether the family was watching together. Parents who restricted television time only were able to cut down viewing times for children who were in the 6 to 11-year-old age group. Adolescents watched about one more hour of TV than their parents thought they did, the results also showed.





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参考答案

Research shows that the amount of time parents watch TV is connected to how much TV their children watch, which means Kids mimic what their parents do, so The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that children should only be allowed to use "high-quality" entertainment media for one to two hours per day and the house should have "screenfree" zones; moreover, children normally watch TV longer than parents thought they did.

研究表明,父母看电视的时间与孩子看多长时间 电视有关,这意味着孩子们模仿他们的父母做什 么,因此,美国儿科学会建议儿童应该只被允许使 用"高质量"娱乐媒体一到两个小时每天,房子应 该有"一系列远离屏幕"区域;此外,孩子们看电视 的时间通常比父母想象的要长。

(70 words)

SWT 44. Greatest climate change/最剧烈的气候变化

The greatest climate change the world has seen in the last 100,000 years was the transition from the ice age to the warm interglacial period. New research from the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen indicates that, contrary to the previous opinion, the rise in temperature and the rise in the atmospheric CO2 follow each other closely in terms of time. The results have been published in the scientific journal, Climate of the Past.

In the warmer climate, the atmospheric content of CO2 is naturally higher. The gas CO2 (carbon dioxide) is a greenhouse gas that absorbs heat radiation from Earth and thus keeps Earth warm. In the shift between ice ages and interglacial periods, the atmospheric content of CO2 helps to intensify the natural climate variations.

It had previously been thought that as the temperature began to rise at the end of the ice age approximately 19,000 years ago, an increase in the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere followed with a delay of up to 1,000 years.





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"Our analysis of ice cores from the ice sheet in Antarctica shows that the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere follows the rise in Antarctic temperatures very closely and is staggered by a few hundred years at most," explains Sune Olander Rasmussen, Associate Professor and centre coordinator at the Centre for Ice and Climate at the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen.

参考答案

Contrary to the previous opinion, new research indicates that the rise in temperature and in the atmospheric CO2 follow each other closely in terms of time, which is due to the fact that in the warmer climate, the atmospheric content of CO2 is naturally higher, which keeps Earth warm, and the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere follows the rise in Antarctic temperatures very closely and is staggered by a few hundred years at most.

与之前的意见相反,新的研究表明,温度上升和大 气中的二氧化碳在时间上紧密相关,这是由于气 候变暖,自然大气二氧化碳含量较高,使得地球保 持温暖,大气中二氧化碳的浓度密切遵循南极气 温的上升,趋势交错了好几百年。

(75 words)

SWT 45. Storytelling skills/讲故事的技能

The oral storytelling skills of African American preschoolers make a difference in how quickly their reading skills develop, according to a new study from the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Researchers say the effect is much different for girls and boys.

"Knowing how to tell a clear and coherent story is an important skill for helping young children to develop strong reading skills, which, in turn, can help them to be successful across a number of different subjects in school," said FPG advanced research scientist Nicole Gardner-Neblett. "Prior research suggests that historical

and





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cultural factors foster strong storytelling skills among African American children, which has implications for their development as readers."

Two years ago, Gardner-Neblett's own research was the first to demonstrate the connection between African American preschoolers' storytelling abilities and their early reading skills in kindergarten. That study found a link between storytelling and reading only for the African American children, from households across income levels, but not for any other demographic group.

Stark differences in reading achievement exist between Black and White elementary schoolchildren, as does a gender gap in reading outcomes, with girls outperforming boys. Because of both disparities in achievement, Gardner-Neblett and FPG advanced research scientist John Sideris wanted to better understand if and how gender plays a role in the link between African American children's storytelling skills and reading development.

参考答案

The storytelling skills of African American preschoolers are different between boys and girls, and a study found a link between storytelling and reading only for them, from households across income levels; moreover, stark differences are existing between Black and White elementary schoolchildren, with girls outperforming boys.

非裔美国学龄前儿童的讲故事能力在男孩和女孩之间是不同的,一项研究发现,讲故事和阅读能力有联系只在非裔美国学龄前儿童中存在,不论家庭收入水平;此外,黑人和白人小学生之间存在着明显的差异,女生的表现优于男生。

(46 words)





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SWT 46. The smallest star/最小的恒星

The smallest star yet measured has been discovered by a team of astronomers led by the University of Cambridge. With a size just a sliver larger than that of Saturn, the gravitational pull at its stellar surface is about 300 times stronger than what humans feel on Earth.

The star is likely as small as stars can possibly become, as it has just enough mass to enable the fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium. If it were any smaller, the pressure at the center of the star would no longer be sufficient to enable this process to take place. Hydrogen fusion is also what powers the Sun, and scientists are attempting to replicate it as a powerful energy source here on Earth.

These very small and dim stars are also the best possible candidates for detecting Earth-sized planets which can have liquid water on their surfaces, such as TRAPPIST-1, an ultra-cool dwarf surrounded by seven temperate Earth-sized worlds.

The newly-measured star, called EBLM J0555-57Ab, is located about six hundred light years away. It is part of a binary system and was identified as it passed in front of its much larger companion, a method which is usually used to detect planets, not stars. Details will be published in the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics.

参考答案

The smallest star was discovered by a team of astronomers from the University of Cambridge, and its size is a little larger than Saturn, and the gravitational pull is much stronger, but the star couldn't be smaller; moreover, the small stars are best for detecting Earth-sized planets, and the newly-measured star is located about six hundred light years away. (59 words)

最小的恒星是由剑桥大学的一组天文学家发现的,它的大小比土星稍大一点,引力要大得多,但这颗恒星已经不能再小了;此外,这些小恒星最适合探测地球大小的行星,而最新通过它测量的恒星距离地球约600光年。



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SWT 47. The dominance of English/英语的统治地位

Firstly, from the macroscopic view, the dominance of English is not precipitated by the language itself, so the arising of English dominance in international communication is not solely the dominance of language itself. Just as the professor Jean Aitchison in Oxford pointed out, the success of a language has much to do with the power of the people who use it but has little to do with internal features of the language. It is very obvious in consideration to English. During the 18th century and 19th century, the influence of the British Empire began to spread around the world for the sake of industrial revolution, so English began to become popular. English was used not only in the British colonies but also in the diplomatic negotiations of non-English-speaking countries.

However, no matter how powerful the adaptively is and how large the area that the power of English covers, currently, the international status of English mainly springs from the status of America as a superpower after World War Two.

Besides, with the development of the economic globalization and new political structure, there is a great need of an international language. As result, English became the first choice.

参考答案

Many factors contribute to the dominance of English: in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, it was because of the industrial revolution; however, the international status of English mainly comes from the status of America as a superpower after World War Two, and there is a great need of international language due to the development of the economic globalization and new political structure. (62 words)

许多因素促成了英语的统治地位:在 18 和 19 世纪,是由于工业革命的兴起;然而,英语的国际地位主要来源于二战后美国作为超级大国的地位,经济全球化的发展和新的政治结构使得对国际语言的需求很大。





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SWT 48. Research on Birds- Climate Change/对鸟类的研究-气候变化

As warmer winter temperatures become more common, one way for some animals to adjust is to shift their ranges northward. But a new study of 59 North American bird species indicates that doing so is not easy or quick — it took about 35 years for many birds to move far enough north for winter temperatures to match where they historically lived.

For example, black vultures have spread northward in the last 35 years and now winter as far north as Massachusetts, where the minimum winter temperature is similar to what it was in Maryland in 1975. On the other hand, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker did not alter its range at all despite the warming trend, possibly because its very specific habitat requirements precluded a range shift.

Both of these scenarios could represent problems for birds, La Sorte said. Species that do not track changes in climate may wind up at the limits of their physiological tolerance, or they may lose important habitat qualities, such as favored food types, as those species pass them by. But they also can't move their ranges too fast if the habitat conditions they depend on also tend to lag behind climate.

参考答案

Some animals shift their ranges northward because the warmer winter temperatures are more common, but a new study suggests doing so is not easy or quick, which could lead to problems for birds; as a result, species may wind up at the limits of their physiological tolerance, or they may lose essential habitat qualities, but they cannot move their ranges too fast. 有些动物将其范围向北移动,因为温暖的冬季气温更为常见,但一项新的研究表明这并不容易或者不会很快,因为这可能导致鸟类出现问题;因此,物种可能会在其生理耐受极限的情况下停止,或者它们可能失去必要的栖息地质量,但它们不能过快地移动它们的生活范围。

(62 words)





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SWT 49. Language decay/语言退化

Let us begin by asking why the conviction that our language is decaying is so much more widespread than the belief that it is progressing. In an intellectual climate where the notion of the survival of the fittest is at least as strong as the belief in inevitable decay, it is strange that so many people are convinced of the decline in the quality of English, a language which is now spoken by an estimated half billion people – a possible hundredfold increase in the number of speakers during the past millennium. One's first reaction is to wonder whether the members of the anti-slovenliness brigade, as we may call them, are subconsciously reacting to the fast-moving world we live in, and consequently resenting change in any area of life. To some extent this is likely to be true. A feeling that 'fings ain't wot they used to be' and an attempt to preserve life unchanged seem to be natural reactions to insecurity, symptoms of growing old.

Every generation inevitably believes that the clothes, manners and speech of the following one have deteriorated. We would therefore expect to find a respect for conservative language in every century and every culture and, in literate societies, a reverence for the language of the 'best authors' of the past.

参考答案

People today believe the language is decaying instead of progressing, and the reason may be every generation inevitably believes that the clothes, manners and speech of the following one have deteriorated; therefore, it is necessary to find a respect for conservative language in every century and every culture.

今天的人们认为语言正在腐朽而不是进步,原因 可能是每一代人都不可避免地认为下一代的衣 服,举止和言论都在恶化;因此,有必要在每个 世纪和每个文化中找到对保守语言的尊重。

(48 words)





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SWT 50. Phoenicians/腓尼基人

Their trade networks made the Phoenicians rich but also enabled cultural exchange and transfer between East and West in an unprecedented way: the most significant was the spread of the alphabetic script which was adopted all over the Mediterranean.

The Phoenician alphabet is a writing system consisting of only 22 signs representing exactly one sound (phoneme) each. The term "alphabet" derives from the names of the first two signs in the sequence, aleph ("cattle") and beit ("house"): these names also reflect the letters' shapes, each derived from the picture of an object whose name starts with the relevant sound.

The alphabetic script is simple enough to learn quickly, without the years of dedicated training required to master writing systems such as cuneiform or Egyptian hieroglyphs. Specialized schooling was unnecessary, and literacy was therefore disengaged from the institutional context of palaces and temples where the traditional scripts continued to be used. The alphabet suited the needs of long-distance merchants who needed to be able to record their business affairs on the go and who, for reasons of confidentiality and money, often preferred to write themselves rather than employ a specialist scribe. As the script could easily be used to record any language, it was, in the course of the first millennium BC, adapted for Aramaic, Hebrew, Greek, Phrygian, Lydian, Etruscan and Latin, to name but a few.

参考答案

The Phoenician alphabet is a writing system which is simple enough to learn quickly without years of dedicated training, and the alphabet suited the needs of long-distance merchants who needed to record their business affairs; moreover, the script could easily be used to record many languages. (46 words)

腓尼基字母是一种书写系统,简单易学,无需多年的专门训练,适合长途商人记录商业事务的需要;此外,该脚本可以很容易地用来记录许多语言。





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SWT 51. Active lifestyles/积极的生活方式

Promoting active lifestyles can help us address some of the important challenges facing the UK today. Increasing physical activity has the potential to improve the physical and mental health of the nation, reduce all-cause mortality and improve life expectancy. It can also save money by significantly easing the burden of chronic disease on the health and social care services. Increasing cycling and walking will reduce transport costs, save money and help the environment. Fewer car journeys can reduce traffic, congestion and pollution, improving the health of communities. Other potential benefits linked to physical activity in children and young people include the acquisition of social skills through active play (leadership, teamwork and co-operation), better concentration in school and displacement of antisocial and criminal behavior. The importance of physical activity for health was identified over 50 years ago. During the 1950s, comparisons of bus drivers with more physically active bus conductors and office-based telephonists with more physically active postmen demonstrated lower rates of coronary heart disease and smaller uniform sizes in the more physically active occupations.

This research led the way for further investigation, and evidence now clearly shows the importance of physical activity in preventing ill health. It is important for us to be active throughout our lives. Physical activity is central to a baby's normal growth and development. This continues through school, and into adulthood and older years. Being physically active can bring substantial benefits and there is consistent evidence of a dose–response relationship, i.e. the greater the volume of physical activity undertaken, the greater the health benefits that are obtained.

参考答案

Research in the UK found the importance of physical activity in preventing ill health, such as easing the burden of chronic disease, improving life expectancy and better concentration for children in school, and

英国的研究发现了身体活动在预防疾病方面的 重要性,例如减轻慢性疾病的负担,提高预期寿命和提高学校儿童的注意力,并且有一致的证据





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there is consistent evidence of a dose-response relationship, so it is important for people to be active throughout their lives. 表明和活动量存在关系,因此 对于人们一直保持运动量是很重要的。

(53 words)

SWT 52. Coffee/咖啡

Coffee is enjoyed by millions of people every day and the 'coffee experience' has become a staple of our modern life and culture. While the current body of research related to the effects of coffee consumption on human health has been contradictory, a study in the June issue of Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety, which is published by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), found that the potential benefits of moderate coffee drinking outweigh the risks in adult consumers for the majority of major health outcomes considered.

Researchers at Ulster University systematically reviewed 1,277 studies from 1970 to-date on coffee's effect on human health and found the general scientific consensus is that regular, moderate coffee drinking (defined as 3-4 cups per day) essentially has a neutral effect on health, or can be mildly beneficial.

The authors noted causality of risks and benefits cannot be established for either with the research currently available as they are largely based on observational data. Further research is needed to quantify the risk-benefit balance for coffee consumption, as well as identify which of coffee's many active ingredients, or indeed the combination of such, that could be inducing these health benefits.





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参考答案

Coffee is consumed by millions of people as a staple of modern life, but research related to its effects on human's health has contradictory results, and a recent study has found coffee's potential benefits outweigh its risk, although further research is needed to quantify the risk-benefit balance.

作为现代生活的主要饮品,咖啡被数以百万计的 人所消费,但有关咖啡对人体健康影响的研究却 得出了相互矛盾的结果,最近的一项研究发现, 咖啡的潜在好处大于风险,尽管还需要进一步的 研究来量化风险-益处平衡。

(47 words)

SWT 53. Sphinx/狮身人面像

The face, though better preserved than most of the statue, has been battered by centuries of weathering and vandalism. In 1402, an Arab historian reported that a Sufi zealot had disfigured it "to remedy some religious errors." Yet there are clues to what the face looked like in its prime. Archaeological excavations in the early 19th century found pieces of its carved stone beard and a royal cobra emblem from its headdress. Residues of red pigment are still visible on the face, leading researchers to conclude that at some point, the Sphinx's entire visage was painted red. Traces of blue and yellow paint elsewhere suggest to Lehner that the Sphinx was once decked out in gaudy comic book colors.

For thousands of years, sand buried the colossus up to its shoulders, creating a vast disembodied head atop the eastern edge of the Sahara. Then, in 1817, a Genoese adventurer, Capt. Giovanni Battista Caviglia, led 160 men in the first modern attempt to dig out the Sphinx. They could not hold back the sand, which poured into their excavation pits nearly as fast as they could dig it out. The Egyptian archaeologist Selim Hassan finally freed the statue from the sand in the late 1930s. "The Sphinx has thus emerged into the landscape out of shadows of what seemed to be an impenetrable oblivion," the New York Times declared.





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参考答案

Sphinx's face has been battered during the past centuries, and the residue of red pigment suggested it was painted red, but traces of blue and yellow paint elsewhere revealed that it was once decked out in gaudy comic book colors; however, the excavation of this statue took a lot of time because it had been buried in sand for thousands of years.

在过去的几个世纪里,狮身人面像的脸一直受到重创,,残留的红色颜料表明它被涂成了红色,但从其他地方的蓝色和黄色颜料痕迹可以看出,它曾经被涂上了漫画书中花哨的色彩;然而,这座雕像的挖掘花了很多时间,因为它已经被埋在沙子里几千年了。

(62 words)

SWT 54. Free Labor system/自由劳动制度

Americans in the mid-nineteenth century could point to plenty of examples, real as well as mythical, of self-made men who by dint of "industry, prudence, perseverance, and good economy" had risen " to competence, and then to affluence." With the election of Abraham Lincoln, they could point to one who had risen from a log cabin to the White House. "I am not ashamed to confess that twenty-five years ago | was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on a flat-boat-just what might happen to any poor man's son!" Lincoln told an audience at New Haven in 1860.

But in the free states, a man knew that "he can better his condition.". there is no such thing as a freeman being fatally fixed for life, in the condition of a hired laborer." "Wage slave" was a contradiction in terms, said Lincoln." The man who labored for another last year, this year labors for himself, and next year he will hire others to labor for him." If a man "continue through life in the condition of the hired laborer, it is not the fault of the system, but because of either a dependent nature which prefers it, or improvidence, folly, or singular misfortune." The "free labor system", concluded Lincoln, "opens the way for all -- gives hope to all, and energy, and progress, and improvement of condition to all."



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参考答案

Lincoln was one of the examples of self-made men in the mid-nineteenth century in American, who used to be a hired labor and then improved his condition and became president, so he pointed out that free labor system provided hope, energy and progress for all people. 在林肯是 19 世纪中期美国白手起家的例子之一, 他曾经是一名雇工,后来改善了自己的条件成为 了总统,所以他指出,自由劳动制度为所有人提 供了希望、能量和进步。

(46 words)

SWT 55. World-wide web/万维网

Tim Berners-Lee believes the internet can foster human understanding and even world peace. He is the man who has changed the world more than anyone else in the past hundred years. Sir Tim Berners-Lee may be a mild-mannered academic who lives modestly in Boston, but as the inventor of the world-wide web he is also a revolutionary. Along with Galileo, William Caxton and Sir Isaac Newton, he is a scientist who has altered the way people think as well as the way they live.

Since the web went global 20 years ago, the way we shop, listen to music and communicate has been transformed. There are implications for politics, literature, economics — even terrorism — because an individual can now have the same access to information as the elite. Society will never be the same.

The computer scientist from Oxford, who built his own computer from a television screen and spare parts after he was banned from one of the university computers, is a cultural guru as much as a technological one.

"It is amazing how far we've come," he says. "But you're always wondering what's the next crazy idea, and working to make sure the web stays one web and that the internet stays open. There isn't much time to sit back and reflect."





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We speak for more than an hour about everything from Facebook to fatwas, Wikipedia to Google. He invented the web, he says, because he was frustrated that he couldn't find all the information he wanted in one place. It was an imaginary concept that he realized.

参考答案

Tim Berners Lee, the inventor of the world-wide web and also a revolutionary person, who was frustrated that he couldn't find all the information in one place and was always working to ensure the Internet stays open, which has changed the world more than anyone in the past hundred years; moreover, since the web went global 20 years ago, there have been implications for politics, literature, economics and even terrorism. (70 words)

蒂姆·伯纳斯·李(Tim Berners Lee)是全球网络的发明者,也是一位革命者,他很沮丧,因为他无法在一个地方找到所有信息而且总是努力确保互联网保持开放。他的发明已经改变了世界,比过去一百年的任何人都要多;此外,自20年前网络走向全球化以来,对政治,文学,经济甚至恐怖主义产生了影响。

SWT 56. Books and television/书和电视

To understand the final reason why the news marketplace of ideas dominated by television is so different from the one that emerged in the world dominated by the printing press, it is important to distinguish the quality of vividness experienced by television viewers from the "vividness" experienced by readers. I believe that the vividness experienced in the reading of words is automatically modulated by the constant activation of the reasoning centers of the brain that are used in the process of cocreating the representation of reality the author has intended. By contrast, the visceral vividness portrayed on television has the capacity to trigger instinctual responses similar to those triggered by reality itself – and without being modulated by logic, reason, and reflective thought.





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The simulation of reality accomplished in the television medium is so astonishingly vivid and compelling compared with the representations of reality conveyed by printed words that it signifies much more than an incremental change in the way people consume information. Books also convey compelling and vivid representation of reality, of course. But the reader actively participates in the conjuring of the reality the book's author is attempting to depict. Moreover, the parts of the human brain that are central to the reasoning process are continually activated by the very act of reading printed words: Words are composed of abstract symbols – letters – that have no intrinsic meaning themselves until they are strung together into recognizable sequences. Television, by contrast, present to its viewers a much more fully formed representation of reality – without requiring the creative collaboration that words have always demanded.

参考答案

Unlike printing press, of which the vividness experienced in the reading of words is automatically modulated by the constant activation of the reasoning centers of the brain, the visceral vividness portrayed on television has the capacity to trigger instinctual responses which are similar to those triggered by reality.

与印刷机不同,通过大脑推理中心的不断激活,其在文字阅读中的生动性得到了自动调节,电视上描绘的内脏生动性有能力触发与现实触发的本能反应相似的本能反应。

(48 words)

SWT 57. The Story of Columbus/哥伦布的故事

When Christopher Columbus arrived at Hispaniola during his first transatlantic voyage in the year A.D. 1492, the island had already been settled by Native Americans for about 5,000 years. The occupants in Columbus's time were a group of Arawak Indians called Tainos who lived by farming, were organized into five chiefdoms,





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and numbered around half a million (the estimates range from 100,000 to 2,000,000). Columbus initially found them peaceful and friendly, until he and his Spaniards began mistreating them.

Unfortunately for the Tainos, they had gold, which the Spanish coveted but didn't want to go to the work of mining themselves. Hence the conquerors divided up the island and its Indian population among individual Spaniards, who put the Indians to work as virtual slaves, accidentally infected them with Eurasian diseases, and murdered them. By the year 1519, 27 years after Columbus's arrival, that original population of half a million had been reduced to about 11,000, most of whom died that year of smallpox to bring the population down to 3,000.

参考答案

V1

Before Columbus arrived in 1492, the Hispaniola island had been occupied by Native Americans called Tainos, who had a population of around half a million, but Columbus mistreated them by forcing them into mining work as virtual slaves, and accidentally infected them with Eurasian diseases; consequently, by 1519, the Tainos's population had been brought down to only 3,000.

在哥伦布于 1492 年到达之前,伊斯帕尼奥拉岛被美洲原住民称为 Tainos,他们拥有大约 50 万人口,但哥伦布通过强迫他们作为奴隶进行采矿工作而虐待他们,并意外地感染了他们的欧亚疾病;因此,到 1519 年,泰诺人的人口减少到只有 3000 人。

(58 words)

V2

Before Christopher Columbus' arrival in 1492, the island had already been settled by Native Americans, who were a group of Arawak Indians called Tainos, for about 5,000 years; however, due to mistreating as virtual salves from the work of mining and the Eurasian diseases, the original population of the Taino, which was



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half a million, was reduced to about 11,000 27 years after Columbus's arrival, and most of them died later because of smallpox.

SWT 58. Benefits of Honey/蜂蜜的益处

If you've been buying sports gels to keep you going during your workout, you might want to try honey instead. According to findings presented today at the annual Experimental Biology conference, honey delivers a significant performance boost to athletes during strenuous exercise.

"Numerous studies have singled out carbohydrates as a critical nutrient in endurance exercise," says principal investigator Richard Kreider of the University of Memphis Exercise and Sport Nutrition Laboratory. "Most of the studies to date have shown supplementation with glucose to provide the extra staying power. We were pleased to find that honey, a 'cocktail' of various natural sugars, performed just as well."

The team let nine competitive male cyclists cycle for 64 kilometers each week for three weeks, feeding them honey, dextrose gel or a flavored, calorie-free placebo. Participants received 15 grams of that supplement along with 250 milliliters of water before they raced and then every 16 kilometers while cycling. Both the honey and the dextrose gel led to better times and more cycling power among the athletes, as compared with the placebo's effects. While the dextrose gel slightly outperformed honey, the difference was negligible, leading the researchers to conclude that honey can be a natural and effective carbohydrate source for endurance athletes.

参考答案

Honey, a 'cocktail' of various natural sugars, provides the extra staying power and delivers a significant performance boost to athletes during strenuous exercise, in which carbohydrates is a

蜂蜜是各种天然糖的"混合物",提供额外的持久力,并在剧烈运动中为运动员提供显着的性能提升,其中碳水化合物是一种关键营养素;此外,与安慰剂的效果相比,蜂蜜和葡萄糖凝胶





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critical nutrient; moreover, compared with the placebo's effects, both the honey and the dextrose gel led to better times and more cycling power among the athletes, but the dextrose gel slightly outperformed honey.

均可使运动员获得更好的时间和更多的骑行能力,但葡萄糖凝胶稍微优于蜂蜜。

(61 words)

SWT 59. Plug-in vehicle/插电式车辆

Here's a term you're going to hear much more often: plug-in vehicle, and the acronym PEV. It's what you and many other people will drive to work in, ten years and more from now.

At that time, before you drive off in the morning you will first unplug your car - your plug-in vehicle. Its big on board batteries will have been fully charged overnight, with enough power for you to drive 50-100 kilometers through city traffic.

When you arrive at work you'll plug in your car once again, this time into a socket 插座 that allows power to flow form your car's batteries to the electricity grid. One of the things you did when you bought your car was to sign a contract with your favorite electricity supplier, allowing them to draw a limited amount of power from your car's batteries should they need to, perhaps because of a blackout, or very high wholesale spot power prices. The price you get for the power the distributor buys form your car would not only be most attractive to you, it would be a good deal for them too, their alternative being very expensive power form peaking stations.

If, driving home or for some other reason your batteries looked like running flat, a relatively small, but quiet and efficient engine running on petrol, diesel or compressed natural gas, even biofuel, would automatically cut in, driving a generator that supplied the batteries so you could complete your journey.





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Concerns over 'peak oil', increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and the likelihood that by the middle of this century there could be five times as many motor vehicles registered world-wide as there are now, mean that the world's almost total dependence on petroleum-based fuels for transport is, in every sense of the word, unsustainable.

参考答案 V1

Due to the increasing gas emissions, the plug-in vehicle is what you will drive ten years from now, which has batteries with power for you to drive fifty to a hundred kilometers, but you will sign a contract with an electricity supplier who will draw power from your car's batteries should they need to.

参考答案 V2

PEV, the plug-in vehicle, will be heard more in next ten years, which can be fully charged overnight at home, and can also be plugged into a socket at workplace, allowing electricity suppliers to use some power from its battery at a reasonable price; furthermore, a fuel-based engine will automatically cut in when the battery runs flat, but the world's total dependence on petroleum-based fuels is unsustainable.

插电式车辆(PEV)将在未来十年内更多地被听到,可以在家里过夜充电,也可以插入工作场所的插座,让电力供应商可以通过支付合理的价格使用电池的电量;此外,当电池电量不足时,基于燃料的发动机将自动切入,但世界对石油基燃料的完全依赖是不可持续的。

(67 words)





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SWT 60. Multi-life/多阶段生活

Life expectancies have been rising by up to three months a year since 1840, and there is no sign of that flattening. Gratton and Scott draw on a 2009 study to show that if the trend continues, more than half the babies born in wealthier countries since 2000 may reach their 100th birthdays.

With a few simple, devastating strokes, Gratton and Scott show that under the current system it is almost certain you won't be able to save enough to fund several decades of decent retirement. For example, if your life expectancy is 100, you want a pension that is 50 percent of your final salary, and you save 10 percent of your earnings each year, they calculate that you won't be able to retire till your 80s. People with 100-year life expectancies must recognize they are **in for the long haul** (坚持到最后) and make an early start arranging their lives accordingly.

But how to go about this? Gratton and Scott advance the idea of a multistage life, with repeated changes of direction and attention. Material and intangible assets will need upkeep, renewal or replacement. Skills will need updating, augmenting or discarding, as will networks of friends and acquaintances. Earning will be interspersed with learning or self-reflection. As the authors warn, recreation will have to become "recreation".

参考答案

Life expectancies have been rising since 1840, so you won't be able to save enough to fund several decades of decent retirement; therefore, two researchers advance the idea of a multistage life with repeated changes of direction and attention, which includes material and intangible assets, skills, networks of friends and acquaintances, and earning.

自 1840 年以来,人们的预期寿命一直在上升,所以你将很难存够的钱来维持几十年体面的退休生活;因此,两位研究人员提出了多阶段生活的概念,不断改变方向和注意力,包括物质和无形资产,技能,朋友和熟人的网络,以及收入。

(53 words)



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SWT 61. Cities/都市

How can we design great cities from scratch if we cannot agree on what makes them great? None of the cities where people most want to live-- such as London, New York, Paris and Hong Kong -- comes near to being at the top of surveys asking which are best to live in.

The top three in the most recent Economist Intelligence Unit's livability ranking, for example, were Melbourne, Vancouver and Vienna. They are all perfectly pleasant, but great? The first question to tackle is the difference between livability and greatness. Perhaps we cannot aspire to make a great city, but if we attempt to make a livable one, can it in time become great?

There are some fundamental elements that you need. The first is public space. Whether it is Vienna's Ringstrasse and Prater park, or the beaches of Melbourne and Vancouver, these are places that allow the city to pause and the citizens to mingle and to breathe, regardless of class or wealth. Good cities also seem to be close to nature, and all three have easy access to varied, wonderful landscapes and topographies.

A second crucial factor, says Ricky Burdett, a professor of urban studies at the London School of Economics, is a good transport system. "Affordable public transport is the one thing which cuts across all successful cities," he says.

参考答案

The difference between liveability and greatness should be taken into consideration when designing great cities, and there are some fundamental elements, the first of which is public space, good cities should also be close to nature, and a good transport system is also a crucial factor.

在设计大城市的时候应该考虑宜居性和伟大之间的区别,有一些基本要素,首先是公共空间,好的城市也应该接近自然,好的交通系统也是一个关键因素。

(46 words)





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SWT 62. Great Managers/伟大的管理者

What do great managers actually do?

In my research, beginning with a survey of 80,000 managers conducted by the Gallup Organization and continuing during the past two years with in-depth studies of a few top performers, I've found that while there are as many styles of management as there are managers, there is one quality that sets truly great managers apart from the rest: They discover what is unique about each person and then capitalize on it. Average managers play checkers, while great managers play chess. The difference? In checkers, all the pieces are uniform and move in the same way; they are interchangeable. You need to plan and coordinate their movements, certainly, but they all move at the same pace, on parallel paths. In chess, each type of piece moves in a different way, and you can't play if you don't know how each piece moves. More important, you won't win if you don't think carefully about how you move the pieces. Great managers know and value the unique abilities and even the eccentricities of their employees, and they learn how best to integrate them into a coordinated plan of attack.

This is the exact opposite of what great leaders do. Great leaders discover what is universal and capitalize on it. Their job is to rally people toward a better future. Leaders can succeed in this only when they can cut through differences of race, sex, age, nationality, and personality and, using stories and celebrating heroes, tap into those very few needs we all share. The job of a manager, meanwhile, is to turn one person's particular talent into performance.

Managers will succeed only when they can identify and deploy the differences among people, challenging each employee to excel in his or her own way. This doesn't mean a leader can't be a manager or vice versa. But to excel at one or both, you must be aware of the very different skills each role requires.





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参考答案

Great managers discover what is unique about each person and capitalize on it, so their job is to turn one person's talent into performance; while great leaders discover what is universal and capitalize on it, thus their job is to rally people toward a better future. (46 words)

在设计大城市的时候应该考虑宜居性和伟大之间 的区别,有一些基本要素,首先是公共空间,好的 城市也应该接近自然,好的交通系统也是一个关键 因素。

SWT 63. Children's allowance/孩子的零花钱

Many people who have written on the subject of allowances say it is not a good idea to pay your child for work around the home. These jobs are a normal part of family life. Paying children to do extra work around the house, however, can be useful. It can even provide an understanding of how a business works.

Allowances give children a chance to experience the things they can do with money. They can share it in the form of gifts or giving to a good cause. They can spend it by buying things they want. Or they can save and maybe even invest it. Saving helps children understand that costly goals require sacrifice: you have to cut costs and plan for the future.

Requiring children to save part of their allowance can also open the door to future saving and investing. Many banks offer services to help children and teenagers learn about personal finance.

A savings account is an excellent way to learn about the power of compound interest.

Compounding works by paying interest on interest. So, for example, one dollar invested at two percent interest for two years will earn two cents in the first year. The second year, the money will earn two percent of one dollar and two cents, and so on. That may not seem like a lot. But over time it adds up.





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参考答案

It is believed that paying children to do house work is not a wise choice but to pay them to do extra work will help them to learn how to use money and save money for future investing; moreover, having a saving account gives children a way to learn about the power of compound interest, which may seem a little but add up in the long run. (67 words)

有人相信支付孩子做家务并不是明智的选择,但付钱给他们做额外的工作将有助于他们学习如何使用钱并为未来的投资省钱;此外,拥有一个储蓄账户可以让孩子们了解复利的力量,从长远来看,这可能效力比较小,但从长远看有更多效果。

SWT 64. Nurse sharks/护士鲨

Nurse sharks are nocturnal animals, spending the day in large inactive groups of up to 40 individuals. Hidden under submerged ledges or in crevices within the reef, the nurse sharks seem to prefer specific haunts and will return to them every day. By night, the sharks are largely solitary; they spend most of their time rifling through the bottom sediments in search of food. Their diet consists primarily of crustaceans, molluscs, tunicates, and other fish, particularly stingrays.

Nurse sharks are thought to take advantage of dormant fish which would otherwise be too fast for the sharks to catch; although their small mouths limit the size of prey items, the sharks have large throat cavities which are used as a sort of bellows valve. In this way nurse sharks are able to suck in their prey. Nurse sharks are also known to graze algae and coral.





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参考答案

Nurse sharks are nocturnal animals, and they stay in groups during the day but hunt for food as individuals in the bottom sediments during the night; moreover, they mainly hunt on coral or fish that move slowly, and use their large throat cavities to suck in their preys.

护士鲨是夜间活动的动物,它们白天成群活动, 但晚上则作为个体在海底沉淀物中寻找食物;此 外,它们主要捕食行动缓慢的珊瑚或鱼类,并利 用它们巨大的喉咙腔来吸取猎物。

(48 words)

SWT 65. United States president/美国总统

According to the United States Constitution, a presidential election is to be held once every fourth year. The process of electing a President and Vice-President begins long before Election Day. Candidates from both major and minor political parties and independent candidates begin to raise money and campaign at least one year in advance of the general presidential election. In order to officially represent a political party, a candidate must be nominated by that party.

The nominating process officially begins with the first state primaries and caucuses, which usually occur in the month of February of the election year. It is at these local events that voters are given their first chance to participate in electing the nation's next President.

There are many factors that influence who will ultimately become the candidate for a party. The public's perception of the candidates is influenced by such things as media reports, public opinion polls, candidate preference surveys, and advertising. These factors will help determine the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the candidates in the months leading up to the caucuses and primaries.





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参考答案

The presidential election of the United States is held once every four years, but the candidates, who are nominated by their parties, begin the process at least one year ago, including money raising and campaigning; Moreover, who will become the candidate for a party is influenced by many factors, which will help to perceive the strengths and weaknesses of the candidate.

美国总统选举每四年举行一次,但是由两党提名的候选人至少在一年前就开始了这个过程,包括筹集资金和竞选活动;此外,谁将成为一个政党的候选人受到许多因素的影响,这将有助于了解候选人的优点和缺点。

(61 words)

SWT 66. Over-qualified workers 资历过高的工人

If your recruiting efforts attract job applicants with too much experience—a near certainty in this weak labor market—you should consider a response that runs counter to most hiring managers' MO: Don't reject those applicants out of hand. Instead, take a closer look.

New research shows that overqualified workers tend to perform better than other employees, and they don't quit any sooner. Furthermore, a simple managerial tactic—empowerment—can mitigate any dissatisfaction they may feel.

The prejudice against too-good employees is pervasive. Companies tend to prefer an applicant who is a "perfect fit" over someone who brings more intelligence, education, or experience than needed. On the surface, this bias makes sense: Studies have consistently shown that employees who consider themselves overqualified exhibit higher levels of discontent. For example, over qualification correlated well with job dissatisfaction in a 2008 study of 156 call-center reps by Israeli researchers Saul Fine and Baruch Nevo. And unlike discrimination based on age or gender, declining to hire overqualified workers is perfectly legal.





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But even before the economic downturn, a surplus of overqualified candidates was a global problem, particularly in developing economies, where rising education levels are giving workers more skills than are needed to supply the growing service sectors.

参考答案

Researches have shown that overqualified workers have better work performance, but they are less preferred because they can easily get dissatisfied; moreover, the surplus of overqualified labors has become a global problem, especially in developing countries. (36 words)

研究表明,资历过高的工人有较好的工作表现,但他们不太被喜欢,因为他们很容易不满意;此外,过度合格劳动力的过剩已经成为一个全球问题,特别是在发展中国家。

SWT 67. Extinct dinosaurs/灭绝的恐龙

What killed off the dinosaurs? The end of the Cretaceous Period saw one of the most dramatic mass extinctions the Earth has ever seen.

The fossil record shows that throughout their 160-million-year existence, dinosaurs took on a huge variety of forms as the environment changed and new species evolved that were suited to these new conditions. Others that failed to adapt went extinct.

But then 66 million years ago, over a relatively short time, dinosaurs disappeared completely (except for birds). Many other animals also died out, including pterosaurs, large marine reptiles, and other sea creatures such as ammonites.

Although the number of dinosaur species was already declining, this suggests a sudden catastrophic event sealed their fate, causing unfavorable changes to the environment more quickly than dinosaurs and other creatures could adapt.





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The exact nature of this catastrophic event is still open to scientific debate. The catastrophe could have been an asteroid impact, volcanic eruptions or the effect of both, together with more gradual changes in the Earth's climate over millions of years.

Whatever the causes, the huge extinction that ended the age of the dinosaur left gaps in the ecosystem that were subsequently filled by mammals and birds, allowing them to evolve rapidly.

参考答案

The most dramatic mass extinctions which ended the age of the dinosaur show that there were a huge variety of environment changes, and the unfavorable changes to the environments were quicker than creatures could adapt; however, the exact nature of this catastrophic event is still a debate to scientists and it left gaps in the ecosystem for mammals and birds to evolve rapidly.

结束恐龙时代的最戏剧性的大灭绝表明环境发生了巨大的变化,环境不利的变化比生物适应环境的速度要快得多;然而,这一灾难性事件的确切性质仍是科学家们争论的焦点,它在哺乳动物和鸟类快速进化的生态系统中留下了空白。

(63 words)

SWT 68. Food and eating in Australia/澳大利亚的食物和饮食

In the past two centuries, there has been a dramatic change in the role of food and eating in Australian public consciousness. Public discussion of food was largely confined to matters of supply, distribution and price. Towards the end of the nineteenth century some newspapers were offering regular columns of advice on housekeeping topics, including menu planning and recipes. However, eating remained essentially a private activity, even when undertaken in company.





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By the late twentieth century, food and eating had become prominent public preoccupations. Evidence of this dramatic cultural revaluation abounds. In bookstores, for example, cookery and all things related to it are often among the larger displays. There are specialty stores selling all manner of cookware, tableware and other paraphernalia associated with food, eating and drinking.

Perhaps most telling is the extension of the phenomenon of mass media celebrity to include culinary personalities. Scholars, too, have jumped on the commodification bandwagon.

Now degrees in gastronomy seem set to emulate the MBA phenomenon of the 1980s and food has become a respectable subject for investigation with philosophers, sociologists, historians, cultural theorists, ecologists and many others all having a go at it.

However, surprisingly, the question seems to have held little fascination for most historians. For the best part of two centuries they have managed to write their accounts of colonization and nationhood with only scant reference to how the settlers and their descendants fed themselves.

参考答案

(68 words)

The role of food and eating in Australia had changed dramatically in the past two centuries, but still remained essentially private, and by the late twentieth century, food and eating had become prominent public preoccupations, involving bookstores displaying cookery, specialty stores selling cookware, mass media celebrities and scholars jumping on the modification bandwagon; however, most historians have only scant reference to how settlers and their descendants fed themselves.

在过去的两个世纪里,食物和饮食在澳大利亚的作用发生了巨大的变化,但仍然基本上是个人的行为,到了二十世纪后期,食品和饮食已经成为公众关注的焦点,涉及展示烹饪的书店,出售炊具的专卖店,大众媒体名人和学者跳上改装潮流;然而,大多数历史学家都很少提及殖民定居者及其后代如何养活自己。





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SWT 69. Extinct dinosaurs/灭绝的恐龙

What killed off the dinosaurs?

The end of the Cretaceous Period saw one of the most dramatic mass extinctions the Earth has ever seen.

The fossil record shows that throughout their 160-million-year existence, dinosaurs took on a huge variety of forms as the environment changed and new species evolved that were suited to these new conditions. Others that failed to adapt went extinct.

But then 66 million years ago, over a relatively short time, dinosaurs disappeared completely (except for birds). Many other animals also died out, including pterosaurs, large marine reptiles, and other sea creatures such as ammonites.

Although the number of dinosaur species was already declining, this suggests a sudden catastrophic event sealed their fate, causing unfavorable changes to the environment more quickly than dinosaurs and other creatures could adapt.

The exact nature of this catastrophic event is still open to scientific debate. The catastrophe could have been an asteroid impact, volcanic eruptions or the effect of both, together with more gradual changes in the Earth's climate over millions of years.

Whatever the causes, the huge extinction that ended the age of the dinosaur left gaps in the ecosystem that were subsequently filled by mammals and birds, allowing them to evolve rapidly.

参考答案

The end of the Cretaceous Period saw a mass extinction on the earth and dinosaurs disappeared completely 66 million years ago when a sudden catastrophic event sealed their fate; however, the nature of this event is still open to debate and it can

白垩纪末期,地球上发生了大规模的物种灭绝,恐龙在 6600 万年前彻底灭绝,一场突如其来的灾难性事件决定了它们的命运;然而,这一事件的性质仍有待讨论,它可能是小行星撞





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be asteroid impact, volcanic eruptions or the effect of both, but the extinction allowed mammals and birds to evolve rapidly. 击、火山爆发或两者的影响,但恐龙灭绝让哺 乳动物和鸟类得以迅速进化。

(63 words)

SWT 70. Tiny Frog in Amber/琥珀小青蛙

A miner in the state of Chiapas found a tiny tree frog that has been preserved in amber for 25 million years, a researcher said. If authenticated, the preserved frog would be the first of its kind found in Mexico, according to David Grimaldi, a biologist and curator at the American Museum of Natural History, who was not involved in the find.

The chunk of amber containing the frog, less than half an inch long, was uncovered by a miner in Mexico's southern Chiapas state in 2005 and was bought by a private collector, who lent it to scientists for study.

A few other preserved frogs have been found in chunks of amber -- a stone formed by ancient tree sap -- mostly in the Dominican Republic. Like those, the frog found in Chiapas appears to be of the genus Craugastor, whose descendants still inhabit the region, said biologist Gerardo Carbot of the Chiapas Natural History and Ecology Institute. Carbot announced the discovery this week.

The scientist said the frog lived about 25 million years ago, based on the geological strata where the amber was found.

Carbot would like to extract a sample from the frog's remains in hopes of finding DNA that could identify the particular species, but doubts the owner would let him drill into the stone.





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参考答案

Preserved in private-owned amber for 25 million years, a tiny tree frog has been found and may be the first of its kind in Mexico, and scientists announced it appears to be the genus Graugastor, whose descendants still inhabit the region; however, when researchers tried to extract a sample from the frog's remains and use its DNA to identify its particular species, the owner of the amber did not agree.

在私人拥有的琥珀中保存了 2500 万年,已经发现了一种小型的树蛙,可能是墨西哥的第一只此类树蛙,科学家们宣布它似乎是 Graugastor属,其后代仍居住在该地区;然而,当研究人员试图从青蛙的遗骸中提取样本并使用其 DNA 来识别其特定物种时,琥珀的主人并不同意。

(70 words)

SWT 71. Autism/孤独症

Autism is a disorder characterized by impairments in communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors. Over the past 40 years, the measured prevalence of autism has multiplied roughly 10-fold. While progress has been made in understanding some of the factors associated with increased risk and rising prevalence, no one knows with certainty what causes autism or what caused autism prevalence to rise so precipitously. There is, however, a growing awareness among scholars that focusing solely on individual risk factors such as exposure toxicants, prenatal complications, or parental education is insufficient to explain why autism prevalence rates have increased so stunningly. Social and institutional processes likely play an important role. For example, changes in diagnostic criteria and an influx of resources dedicated to autism diagnosis may be critical to understanding why prevalence rates have risen. Increased awareness and social influence have been implicated in the rise of autism and a variety of comparable disorders, where social processes mimic the effects of contagion. Studies have examined the contribution of changes in diagnostic criteria and diagnostic substitution to rising autism prevalence rates, but the importance of institutional factors,





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resources for diagnosis, and greater awareness have not been systematically assessed. The sociological literature on health and inequality, however, provides substantial motivation for exploring how individual-and community-level effects operate to shape the likelihood of an autism diagnosis.

参考答案

Autism, a disorder in communication and social interaction, has multiplied its prevalence by roughly ten-fold, but no one knows its cause with certainty; however, scholars have realized it is insufficient to focus on individual factors, and social and institutional processes probably play an important role, which has not been systematically assessed, but the literature does provide substantial motivation about autism diagnosis exploration.

在私人拥有的琥珀中保存了 2500 万年,已经发现了一种小型的树蛙,可能是墨西哥的第一只此类树蛙,科学家们宣布它似乎是 Graugastor属,其后代仍居住在该地区;然而,当研究人员试图从青蛙的遗骸中提取样本并使用其 DNA 来识别其特定物种时,琥珀的主人并不同意。

(62 words)

SWT 72. American English/美式英语

American English is, without doubt, the most influential and powerful variety of English in the world today. There are many reasons for this. First, the United States is, at present, the most powerful nation on earth and such power always brings with it influence. Indeed, the distinction between a dialect and a language has frequently been made by reference to power. As has been said, A language is a dialect with an army. Second, America's political influence is extended through American popular culture, in particular through the international reach of American films (movies, of course) and music. As Kahane has pointed out, The internationally dominant position of a culture results in a forceful expansion of its language.... the expansion of language contributes... to the prestige of the culture behind it. Third, the international prominence of





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American English is closely associated with the extraordinarily quick development of communications technology. Microsoft is owned by an American, Bill Gates. This means a computer s default setting for language is American English, although of course this can be changed to suit one's own circumstances. In short, the increased influence of American English is caused by political power and the resultant diffusion of American culture and media, technological advance and the rapid development of communications technology.

参考答案

Being the most powerful language, American English gains its influence by many reasons, two of which are due to the political power of the United States and American popular culture and media; moreover, the quick development of communications technology also increases the influence of American English.

作为最强大的语言,美国英语的影响力有很多原因,其中两个原因是由于美国的政治力量和 美国的流行文化和媒体;而且,通信技术的快速 发展也增加了美国英语的影响力。

(46 words)

SWT 73. Malaysia/马来西亚

Malaysia is one of the most pleasant, hassle-free countries to visit in Southeast Asia. Aside from its gleaming 21st century glass towers, it boasts some of the most superb beaches, mountains and national parks in the region. Malaysia is also launching its biggest-ever tourism campaign in effort to lure 20 million visitors here this year.

Any tourist itinerary would have to begin in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, where you will find the Petronas Twin Towers, which once comprised the world's tallest buildings and now hold the title of second-tallest. Both the 88-story towers soar 1,480 feet high and are connected by a sky-bridge on the 41st floor. The limestone temple



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Batu Caves, located 9 miles north of the city, have a 328-foot-high ceiling and feature ornate Hindu shrines, including a 141-foot-tall gold-painted statue of a Hindu deity. To reach the caves, visitors have to climb a steep flight of 272 steps. In Sabah state on Borneo island not to be confused with Indonesia's Borneo you'll find the small mushroom-shaped Sipadan island, off the coast of Sabah, rated as one of the top five diving sites in the world. Sipadan is the only oceanic island in Malaysia, rising from a 2,300-foot abyss in the Celebes Sea.

You can also climb Mount Kinabalu, the tallest peak in Southeast Asia, visit the Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary, go white-water rafting and catch a glimpse of the bizarre Proboscis monkey, a primate found only in Borneo with a huge pendulous nose, a characteristic pot belly and strange honking sounds. While you're in Malaysia, consider a trip to Malacca. In its heyday, this southern state was a powerful Malay sultanate and a booming trading port in the region. Facing the Straits of Malacca, this historical state is now a place of intriguing Chinese streets, antique shops, old temples and reminders of European colonial powers. Another interesting destination is Penang, known as the Pearl of the Orient. This island off the northwest coast of Malaysia boasts of a rich Chinese cultural heritage, good food and beautiful beaches.

参考答案

As the most pleasant and hassle-free countries to visit in Southeast Asia, Malaysia boasts some of the best natural scenery, including beaches, mountains and national parks, and large number of cultural and historical heritage, such as the twin tower and limestone temple; therefore, Malaysia is now launching its biggest-ever tourism campaign this year.

马来西亚是东南亚最令人愉快、最省心的旅游国家,拥有很多美丽的自然风光,包括海滩、山脉和国家公园,以及大量的文化和历史遗产,如双子塔和石灰岩寺庙;马来西亚正在发起今年有史以来最大的旅游推广活动。

(53 words)





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SWT 74. Blindness/失明

Scientists believe they may have found a way to prevent complications that can arise following cataract surgery, the world's leading cause of blindness.

Detailing why complications can occur after surgery, researchers from the University of East Anglia (UEA) explained that while cataract surgery works well to restore vision, a few natural lens cells always remain after the procedure. Over time, the eye's wound-healing response leads these cells to spread across the underside of the artificial lens, which interferes with vision, causing what's known as 'posterior capsule opacification' or secondary cataract.

UEA's School of Biological Sciences academic, Dr Michael Wormstone, who led the study, said: "Secondary visual loss responds well to treatment with laser surgery. But as life expectancy increases, the problems of cataract and posterior capsule opacification will become even greater in terms of both patient well-being and economic burden. It's essential that we find better ways to manage the condition in future."

As a result, researchers are designing new artificial lenses that can be placed into a capsular bag that stays open, instead of shrink-wrapping closed, which currently occurs. It is believed that, through the new approach, fluid in the eye can flow around the artificial lens, therefore diluting and washing away the cell-signalling molecules that encourage cell re-growth.

参考答案

Natural lens cells always remain and spread across the underside of the artificial lens after cataract procedure, interfering with vison and leading to secondary cataract, and laser surgery can treat this complication, but it will not only affect patients' well-being but bring them great economic burden; consequently, new artificial lens have been designed, 白内障手术后,天然晶状体细胞一直存在并扩散 到人工晶状体下方,干扰视力,导致继发性白内 障,激光手术可以治疗这种并发症,但它不仅会 影响患者的健康,而且会给患者带来巨大的经济 负担;因此,新的人工晶状体被设计出来,这意味 着眼睛中的液体可以稀释和冲走信号分子,从而 阻止细胞的再生。





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which means fluid in the eye can dilute and washing away the signaling molecules and prevent the cell's re-growth.

(72 words)

SWT 75. Indonesia mountain/印度尼西亚山脉

In 1815 on the island of Sumbawa in Indonesia, a handsome and long-quiescent mountain named Tambora exploded spectacularly, killing a hundred thousand people with its blast and associated tsunamis. It was the biggest volcanic explosion in ten thousand years-150 times the size of Mount St. Helens, equivalent to sixty thousand Hiroshima-sized atom bombs.

News didn't travel terribly fast in those days. In London, The Times ran a small story-actually a letter from a merchant- seven month after the event. But by this time Tambora's effects were already being felt. Thirty-six cubic miles of smoky ash, dust, and grit had diffused through the atmosphere, obscuring the Sun's rays and causing the Earth to cool. Sunsets were unusually but blearily colorful, an effect memorably captured by the artist J. M. W. Turner, who could not have been happier, but mostly the world existed under an oppressive, dusky pall. It was this deathly dimness that inspired the Byron lines above.

Spring never came and summer never warmed: 1816 became known as the year without summer. Crops everywhere failed to grow. In Ireland, a famine and associated typhoid epidemic killed sixty-five thousand people. In New England, the year became popularly known as Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death. Morning frosts continued until June and almost no planted seed would grow. Short of fodder, livestock died or had to be prematurely slaughtered. In every way, it was a dreadful year-almost certainly the worst for farmers in modern times. Yet globally the temperature fell by only about 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Earth's natural thermostat, as scientists would learn, is an exceedingly delicate instrument.





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参考答案

Due to the slow travelling of news, the volcanic explosion of Mountain Tambpra of Indonesia in 1815 did not spread to London until seven months later, when the effects were already being felt, and the ash and dust had obscured the sun's rays, which cooled the earth, and made 1816 a dreadful year, almost the worst for farmers in modern times, which means the earth's natural thermostat is an exceedingly delicate instrument.

由于新闻传播较慢,1815 年印度尼西亚山 Tambpra 的火山爆发直到七个月后才传播到伦 敦,而当时已经感受到效果,灰尘和灰尘掩盖了 太阳的光线,这使得地球气温下降,并使1816 年 成为可怕的一年,几乎是在现代,农民经历最糟 糕的一年,这意味着地球的自然恒温器是一种极 其微妙的工具。

(72 words)

SWT 76. Rosetta Stone/罗塞达石

When the Rosetta Stone was discovered in 1799, the carved characters that covered its surface were quickly copied. Printers ink was applied to the Stone and white paper was laid over it. When the paper was removed, it revealed an exact copy of the text but in reverse. Since then, many copies or facsimiles have been made using a variety of materials. Inevitably, the surface of the Stone accumulated many layers of material left over from these activities, despite attempts to remove any residue. Once on display, the grease from many thousands of human hands eager to touch the Stone added to the problem.

An opportunity for investigation and cleaning the Rosetta Stone arose when this famous object was made the centerpiece of the Cracking Codes exhibition at The British Museum in 1999. When work commenced to remove all but the original, ancient material, the stone was black with white lettering. As treatment progressed, the different substances uncovered were analyzed. Grease from human handling, a coating of carnauba wax from the early 1800s and printers ink from 1799 were cleaned away using cotton wool swabs and liniment of



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soap, white spirit, acetone and purified water. Finally, white paint in the text, applied in 1981, which had been left in place until now as a protective coating, was removed with cotton swabs and purified water. A small square at the bottom left corner of the face of the Stone was left untouched to show the darkened wax and the white infill.

参考答案

After being discovered in 1799, the carved characters on Rosette Stone were copied by using various materials, and thousands of human hands' touching on display left grease on its surface, both of which made the stone's surface accumulate layers of material; however, people began to try to clean it in 1999, using different methods and substances, but a small area was left untouched to show the white infill.

在 1799 年被发现之后,罗赛塔石碑上的雕刻字符被各种材料复制,成千上万的人手触摸并在其表面留下油脂,这两者都使石头表面积聚了材料层;然而,人们开始尝试使用不同的方法和物质在 1999 年清洁它,但是一小块区域未被触及以显示白色填充物。

(68 words)

SWT 77. Twins/双胞胎

UCLA neurology professor Paul Thompson and colleagues scanned the brains of 23 sets of identical twins and 23 sets of fraternal twins. Since identical twins share the same genes while fraternal twins share about half their genes, the researchers were able to compare each group to show that myelin integrity was determined genetically in many parts of the brain that are key for intelligence. These include the parietal lobes, which are responsible for spatial reasoning, visual processing and logic, and the corpus callosum, which pulls together information from both sides of the body.





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The researchers used a faster version of a type of scanner called a HARDI (high-angular resolution diffusion imaging) - think of an MRI machine on steroids - that takes scans of the brain at a much higher resolution than a standard MRI. While an MRI scan shows the volume of different tissues in the brain by measuring the amount of water present, HARDI tracks how water diffuses through the brain's white matter - a way to measure the quality of its myelin.

"HARDI measures water diffusion," said Thompson, who is also a member of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro-Imaging. "If the water diffuses rapidly in a specific direction, it tells us that the brain has very fast connections. If it diffuses more broadly, that's an indication of slower signalling, and lower intelligence."

参考答案

Using a faster version of scanner called a HARDI, researchers scanned brains of identical twins and fraternal twins to show that myelin was determined genetically in many parts of the brain that are key for intelligence, and they tracked how water diffuse through the brain's white matter to measure the quality of myelin, which proves that water diffusing in a specific direction means connections, while diffusing more broadly indicates low intelligence.

研究人员使用一种叫做 HARDI 的更快版本的扫描仪扫描同卵双胞胎和异卵双胞胎的大脑,以证明髓鞘在大脑的许多部位是遗传决定的,这是智力的关键,他们追踪水是如何通过大脑的白质扩散的,测量髓鞘质量的问题,证明水在特定方向上扩散意味着连接,而更扩散地分散则表明低智力。

(72 words)





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SWT 78. Bookseller/图书销售商

THE BOOKSELLERS OF HOOKHAM AND CARPENTER (hereafter referred to only as 'Hookham') were located on New Bond Street in London, and their records span the most politically turbulent decade of the eighteenth-century—the 1790s. Clients who frequented Hookham were primarily from the aristocratic or gentry classes. In fact, of Hookham's total buyers, 22% were aristocracy and 35% (24 customers) of the aristocracy purchased novels. We can also confidently assume that untitled female customers were of gentry income, because their addresses were primarily in London's fashionable 'West End'. Hookham's ledgers not only reveal a dramatic increase in the proportion of female purchasers of novels by comparison to earlier studies of provincial women, but they also reveal a remarkable increase in the proportion of female purchases of novels authored by females. Such a marked increase illustrates that Hookham's leisured female customers were able to buy more novels.

Furthermore, the fact that these female aristocrats and gentry have accounts under their own name, not their husbands', demonstrates the greater degree of agency and independence that these urban, moneyed women had relative to provincial women. However, because our study does not include an examination of male customers, we are very limited in what claims we can make about whether or not these women behaved according to the cliché that women were the predominant consumers of novels in the eighteenth-century. Moreover, while more disposable income and leisure time certainly accounts for the significant increase in female purchases of novels authored by women in the 790s, this increase also strongly suggests a desire on the part of women readers to engage in this politically charged decade. Thus, novel-reading provided women readers with the means through which they were able to participate in the male-dominated world of politics. The latter part of our paper will more fully explore this hypothesis in the context of certain recent literary scholars' claims that both Gothic and sentimental novels are actively engaged in political debate and discussion.





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参考答案

The clients of the bookseller Hookham were primarily from the aristocratic or gentry classes, and there was a dramatic increase of female purchasers of novels, which illustrated that females had more disposable income and leisure time, and they purchased more novels authored by women in the 1790s; furthermore, novel-reading provided women readers with the means to participate in the maledominated world of politics.

图书销售商 Hookham 的客户主要来自贵族或士 绅阶层,而小说女性读者购买量大幅增加,说明 女性拥有更多的可支配收入和休闲时间,她们在 18 世纪 90 年代购买了更多女性作家的小说;此 外,小说阅读为女性读者提供了参与男性主导的 政治世界的手段。

(63 words)

SWT 79. Population of Australia/澳大利亚的人口

In 2005 Japan had the highest median age of all countries in the world, while Australia's population was only moderately aged. Some 50 years ago the demographic situation was quite different, with the median age of Australia's population being seven years older than Japan's. The ageing of the population is a major issue for Australian policy makers, particularly in regard to the long-term implications for reduced economic growth and the increasing demand for Age Pensions, and health and aged care services.

As the population ages, growth in the number of people of working age will slow, while the proportion of people of retirement age will increase. Sustained population ageing also leads to slowing or negative population growth. While declining population growth in developed countries is welcomed by some environmentalist and social scientists, economists tend to agree that population decline brings gloomy economic prospects. In addition to the decrease in the labor supply, the demand side of the economy may be affected through shrinking markets for goods and services. How quickly this occurs depends on the dynamics





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of fertility, mortality and overseas migration. While a moderate pace of demographic change allows for gradual adjustment of the economy and policies to the changing population demographics, rapid changes are more difficult to manage. As a result, governments and society as a whole may need to take actions to address these issues. But how severe is the ageing of Australia's population, relative to other countries? One way of applying a degree of perspective to the ageing debate is to compare ageing in Australia with that of other countries. This article examines the population structures in Australia and Japan and the demographic forces that shape the respective populations, both historically and projections for the future. In 2005 Japan's population was ranked the oldest in the world, with half the people aged over 42.9 years. In comparison, Australia's median age is not projected to reach this level until 2032. Japan's population is projected to decline by 21% between 2005 and 2050 (from 128 million to 101 million). Over the same period, Australia's population is projected to increase by 38% from 20 million to 28 million people. Fifty years ago the demographic situation of these countries was the reverse, with Australia's median age (30.1 years) being almost 7 years older than that of Japan (23.7 years).

参考答案

The ageing of the population is a major issue for Australian policy makers, which leads to slowing or negative population growth, gloomy economic prospects, short labor supply and shrinking markets for goods and service, so governments and society as a whole may need to take actions to address these issues, and one way of applying a degree of perspective to the ageing debate is to compare ageing in Australia with that of other countries. (74 words)

人口老龄化是澳大利亚决策者的一个主要问题,导致人口增长放缓或负面,经济前景黯淡,劳动力供应短缺,商品和服务市场萎缩,因此政府和整个社会可能需要采取行动解决这些问题,并将某种程度的观点应用于老龄化辩论的一种方法是将澳大利亚的老龄化与其他国家的老龄化进行比较。





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SWT 80. Double blind/双盲

The feature of being double blind, where neither patients nor physicians are aware of who receives the experimental treatment, is almost universally trumpeted as being a virtue of clinical trials. Hence, trials that fail to remain successfully double blind are regarded as providing inferior evidential support. The rationale for this view is unobjectionable: double blinding rules out the potential confounding influences of patient and physician beliefs. Nonetheless, viewing double blind trial as necessarily superior is problematic. For one, it leads to the paradox that very effective experimental treatments will not be supportable by best evidence. If a new drug were to make even the most severe symptoms of the common cold disappear within seconds, most participants and investigators would correctly identify it as the latest wonder drug and not the control (i.e. placebo) treatment. Any trial testing the effectiveness of this wonder drug will therefore fail to remain double blind. Similar problems arise for treatments, such as exercise and most surgical techniques, whose nature makes them resistant to being tested in double blind conditions. It seems strange that an account of evidence should make priori judgments that certain claims can never be supported by best evidence. It would be different if the claims at issue were pseudo-scientific untestable. But so far as treatments with large effects go, the claim that they are effective is highly testable and intuitively they should receive greater support from the evidence than do claims about treatments with moderate effects.

参考答案1

The feature of being double blind is almost universally trumpeted as being a virtue of clinical trials, which fail to remain successfully because of the inferior evidential support provided; however, viewing double blind trial as necessarily superior is problematic, because certain claims can never be supported by best evidence, but so far as treatments with large effects go, they should receive greater

"双盲"的特征几乎被普遍认为是临床试验的一种 优点,但由于提供的证据不足而未能保持成功;然 而,将双盲试验视为必然的优势是有问题的,因 为某些主张永远无法得到最佳证据的支持,但就 疗效大的治疗而言,它们应该比疗效中等的治疗 得到更多证据的支持。





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support from the evidence than do claims about treatments with moderate effects.

(74 words)

参考答案 2

Although double blind may help remove the potential confounding influence caused by patients' and physicians' beliefs in order to guarantee the objectivity of the experiments, it might be problematic to view double blind as necessarily superior, since it may lead to the fact that very effective experimental treatments are not supported by the best evidence, so greater support should be provided to treatments with larger effects.

SWT 81. RAS (Royal Agricultural Society) /皇家农业学会

The evolution of the RAS (Royal Agricultural Society) fits into the wider Western trend of promoting nationalism, progress and technology through exhibitory venues, which first became popular in the 1850s. Various types of fairs, from local agricultural shows to Worlds Fairs, were used as instruments of hegemony to support imperialism, to promote burgeoning capitalist endeavors, and to shape class identities, social spaces and public spaces Visual culture and the art of display became essential in defining aspects of national distinction. Colonial nations in particular, such as Canada and Australia, were attempting to develop distinct national identities to differentiate themselves from British imperial power. Agricultural fairs in North America originated at the beginning of the nineteenth century and were devoted to educating practicing farmers in ways of improving their cultivation of livestock and crops through the use of various technologies.

Symbolically, this cultivation was linked to the colonial project of civilizing wilderness frontiers. By the midtwentieth century, advertisement in various forms was common and included programs or brochures, which were handed out to fair-goers as they entered. These were seen as opportunities for educating the public. Often comments promoting the importance of the fair were based on ideas about patriotism and nationalism. The





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Royal Easter Show is a good example of an exhibitory context which grew from a small fair, based on local agricultural competition, to a larger venue that incorporated the mandates of national development and the cultivation of colonial character.

In 1822, the RAS was created on the premise that was a dire need in Australia for the development of improved farming skills to better support growing urban populations and export markets. Organizations based on agricultural improvement which played an integral part in converting and organizing land for colonial purpose.

参考答案

In 1822, RAS was created in Australia for the development of improved farming skills, which first became popular in the 1850s of promoting nationalism, progress and technology through exhibitory venues, and the art of display became essential in defining aspects of national distinction; furthermore, colonial nations in particular were attempting to develop distinct national identities by promoting the importance of the fair through ideas about patriotism and nationalism to differentiate themselves from British imperial power.

1822年,RAS 在澳大利亚创建,用于发展改良农业技能,这种技能在19世纪50年代首次通过展览场地促进民族主义,进步和技术,艺术展览在界定国家区别方面变得至关重要;此外,殖民地国家尤其试图通过爱国主义和民族主义的思想来促进公平的重要性,从而发展其独特的民族特性,以便区别于大英帝国的权力。

(75 words)





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SWT 82. Primary carer/第一抚养人

Slightly less than one in five carers (19%) were primary carers (475,000 people). That is, they were the main carer of a person who was limited in carrying out the core everyday activities of mobility, communication or self-care. Both primary carers and the larger group of other carers (close to 2 million) contribute to the wellbeing of older people and people with disabilities. However, because they care for people who otherwise would have difficulty carrying out basic everyday activities, there is particular interest in primary carers: in the contribution they make, their wellbeing, labour force experiences, motivations and the support they receive in caring.

Primary carers were more likely than other carers to be assisting someone who lived in the same household (81% compared with 76%). As with caring as a whole, the likelihood of being a primary carer increased with age to peak at age 55-64 years, where one in twenty people were primary carers. However, rather than then declining, the likelihood of being a primary carer remained at around this level among the older age groups. Consequently, primary carers had a somewhat older age profile than other carers. The median age of primary carers was 52 years, compared with 47 years for other carers.

Primary carers were more likely than other carers to be female (71% compared with 50%) and less likely to be in the labour force (39% compared with 60%). Women not in the labor force were by far the largest single group among primary carers (44%). In contrast, men employed full-time were the largest single group among other carers (25%). Consistent with their lower labour force participation, primary carers had lower personal incomes than other carers (a median gross income of \$237 per week compared with \$327 per week) and were more likely to have a government pension or allowance as their main source of income (55% compared with 35%).





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参考答案

Because primary carers, slightly less than one in five carers, were the main carer of a person who was limited in carrying out the core everyday activities, there is particular interest in them, who had an older age profile and were more likely to be assisting someone who lived in the same household than other carers; furthermore, most primary carers were female, who have a government pension or allowance as their main source of income.

由于初级护理人员(略少于五分之一的护理人员) 是主要照顾者,他们的照顾对象在进行核心日常 活动方面受到限制,因此他们也有特定的利益需 求,他们年龄较大,相比其他照顾者更有可能协 助住在同一个家庭的人;此外,大多数初级照顾 者是女性,她们以政府养老金或津贴为主要收入 来源。

(75 words)

SWT 83. Writing/书写

It might seem a little eccentric, but reviewing your work by reading it aloud can help to identify the woolliest areas. This works best if you perform your reading in a theatrical way, pausing at the commas and ends of sentences. If you run out of breath during a sentence, it is probably too long. You ought to be able to convert your writing into a speech in this way if it sounds too stilted and convoluted, perhaps you could rework these parts until they sound fluid.

It's unlikely that your reader will be fooled by the idea that long words make you sound clever. Cluttering a sentence with too many complicated words can prevent its meaning from being understood at all. A short word is always preferable to a long one. Why should anyone choose the word erroneous over the word wrong in an essay? Usually writers who employ more obscure words are trying to sound impressive, but can appear pretentious. Direct words enable you to control what you are saying, and are not necessarily babyish, but the most appropriate ones for the job.





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When you read your writing aloud, you will notice that the key stress comes at the end of your sentence. It is therefore most effective to end with a short and emphatic word to secure your point. Try to resist the impulse to waffle at the end of your sentence by trailing off into qualifying clauses. It might be worth relocating the clause to the beginning of the sentence or losing it altogether if you feel that it adds little to its meaning.

Your sentences might be the most grammatically perfect in the world, but still cause your writing to sound wrong if you have misjudged its tone. A colloquial style, which uses slang and exclamations, is an inappropriately chatty tone for an essay. However, style can be equally jarring if your vocabulary is too formal or ambitious for its context. It is much more impressive to make complicated points using simple language and grammar.

参考答案

Reviewing your work by reading it aloud can help to identify the woolliest areas, especially when perform your reading in a theatrical way; moreover, short words are always preferable, which are the most appropriate ones for the job and are most effective to secure your point at the end, so it is much more impressive to make complicated points using simple language and grammar in writing.

大声朗读来回顾你的作品可以帮助你识别出最 模糊的部分,尤其是当你以戏剧的方式朗读时; 此外,简短的单词总是更可取,这对工作是最适 合的,并且最有效地确保你的观点,所以使用简 单的语言和语法写出复杂的点更令人印象深刻。

(66 words)





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SWT 84. Written Language/书面语言

The world engages in improving literacy of reading and writing, but it is not that important now. What is text written language anyway? It is an accident IT for storing and retrieving information. We store information by writing it, and we retrieve it by reading it. 6000 to 10,000 years ago, many of our ancestor's hunter-gatherer societies settled on the land and began what's known as the agricultural revolution. That new land settlement led to private property and increased production and trade of goods, generating a huge new influx of information. Unable to keep all this in their memories, our ancestors created systems of written records that evolved over millennia into today's written language. But this ancient IT is already becoming obsolete. Text has run its historic course and is now rapidly getting replaced in every area of our lives by the ever-increasing of emerging IT driven by voice, video, and body movement rather than the written word.

In my view, this is a positive step forward in the evolution of human technology, and it carries great potential for a total positive redesign of education. Written language is an ancient IT for storing and retrieving information, however, written word is becoming obsolete and is now rapidly getting replaced by voice, video and body movement, which is believed a positive step forward in the evolution of human technology and redesign of education.

参考答案

Written language, evolved from the systems of written records created by our ancestors for keeping all relevant information, is becoming obsolete and being rapidly replaced by voice, video, and body movement, which is due to the increasing array of emerging IT driven by other media and channels; furthermore, it is a positive step forward in the evolution of human technology and redesign of education. (64 words)

书面语言是由我们祖先为保存所有相关信息而 创造的书面记录系统演化而来的,由于其他媒体 和渠道推动的信息技术不断涌现,它正变得过 时,并迅速被语音、视频和身体运动所取代;这是 人类技术进步和教育再设计的积极一步。





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SWT 85. Compulsory voting in the UK/英国的强制投票

Compulsory voting is often suggested as a solution to the problem of declining turnout. But how are individuals and countries affected by compulsory voting beyond boosting electoral participation? Shane Singh investigates the social, economic, and political consequences of compelling citizens to vote.

There has been a lot of discussion about compulsory voting these days. In the United Kingdom, in particular, as voter turnout rates have declined, many commentators and politicians have begun advocating for mandatory electoral participation. Those in favor of compulsory voting often adduce the importance of participation among all segments of society. Citizens of democracies are forced to do many things in the interest of the public good, they maintain, including serving on juries and educating their children, and full participation serves the country as whole. Those opposed to compulsory voting often argue that, from a democratic theory perspective, the right to vote implicitly includes a right not to vote. Such a right of abstention, they argue, is more important than any societal good that might accompany high turnout. In fact, opponents of compulsory voting often contend that the country may be better off if those who are disinclined to vote are not pushed to participate in public affairs.

Regardless of whether one of these sets of arguments is more persuasive than the other, compulsory voting is commonly used around the world. Several European democracies mandate voting, as do Australia and most of the countries in Latin America. By evaluating results from these countries, it is possible to assess the mechanics and effects of compulsory voting.

参考答案

As a solution to the problem of declining turnout, compulsory voting has aroused heated discussion, and proponents claim that citizens of democracies are forced to do many things for public good, which should include compulsory voting, but opponents

作为投票率下降问题的解决方案,强制投票引起 了激烈的讨论,支持者声称民主国家的公民被迫 为公众利益做很多事情,其中应该包括强制投 票,但反对者认为人们有权同样不投票;然而,强





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argue people are entitled to the same right not to vote; nevertheless, compulsory is commonly used globally, so assessing the mechanics and effects in these countries is possibly helpful.

制措施在全球普遍使用,因此评估这些国家的机制和效果可能会有所帮助。

(67 words)

SWT 86. Living in countryside/在农村生活

Half a lifetime ago I made a lifestyle choice to exchange a city terrace for a farm cottage. I knew it was a good idea because I had been there before. Born and reared on a farm, I had been seduced for a few years by the idea of being a big shot who lived and worked in a city rather than only going for the day to wave at the buses.

That also meant I was familiar with some of the minor disadvantage of country living, such as an uncertain water supply, the absence of central heating in most farm houses, and a single-track farm road, easily blocked by snow, broken-down machinery or escaped livestock.

But there were many advantages as I told my wife back in the mid-Seventies. She might have been hard to persuade as she was town born and bred and eight months pregnant, I was trying to persuade her that exchanging a warm large town house for a windswept farm cottage on a much lower income was a good idea.

参考答案

Born and raised on a farm, the author claimed that although there were some minor disadvantages of living in countryside, such as iffy water supplies and the absence of central heating, there were still many advantages; however, it might be difficult to persuade Liz who was born and bred in town to live

作者在农场出生和长大,声称尽管在农村生活 有一些小的弊端,例如供水不足和没有中央供 暖,但仍有许多优点;然而,可能很难说服在城 里出生和长大的 Liz 生活在农村。





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in the countryside.	
(56 words)	

SWT 87. Demand of talent/对人才的需求

Some of this panic is overdone—and linked to the business cycle: there was much ado about "a war for talent" in America in the 1990s, until the dotcom bubble burst. People often talk about shortages when they should really be discussing price. Eventually, supply will rise to meet demand and the market will adjust. But, while you wait, your firm might go bust. For the evidence is that the talent shortage is likely to get worse.

Nobody really disputes the idea that the demand for talent-intensive skills is rising. The value of "intangible" assets—everything from skilled workers to patents to know-how—has ballooned from 20% of the value of companies in the S&P 500 to 70% today. The proportion of American workers doing jobs that call for complex skills has grown three times as fast as employment in general. As other economies move in the same direction, the global demand is rising quickly.

As for supply, the picture in much of the developed world is haunted by demography. By 2025 the number of people aged 15-64 is projected to fall by 7% in Germany, 9% in Italy and 14% in Japan. Even in still growing America, the imminent retirement of the baby-boomers means that companies will lose large numbers of experienced workers in a short space of time (by one count half the top people at America's 500 leading companies will go in the next five years). Meanwhile, two things are making it much harder for companies to adjust.

The first is the collapse of loyalty. Companies happily chopped out layers of managers during the 1990s; now people are likely to repay them by moving to the highest bidder. The second is the mismatch between what





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schools are producing and what companies need. In most Western countries schools are churning out too few scientists and engineers—and far too many people who lack the skills to work in a modern economy (that's why there are talent shortages at the top alongside structural unemployment for the low-skilled).

参考答案

The shortage of talent is getting worse with the demand for talent-intensive skills rising, which means the value of intangible assets has increased greatly; besides, the talent supply is haunted by demography in developed countries, because the proportion of young people is declining and babyboomer are retiring, and collapse of employees' loyalty together with the mismatch between schools' education and companies' need make things harder.

随着对人才密集型技能需求的增加,人才短缺问题日益严重,这意味着无形资产的价值大幅增加;此外,发达国家的人口结构一直困扰着人才供应,因为年轻人的比例在下降,婴儿潮一代正在退休,而员工忠诚度的下降,以及学校教育和企业需求之间的不匹配,使事情变得更加困难。

(65 words)

SWT 88. Greenhouse gas/温室气体

When an individual drives a car, heats a house, or uses an aerosol hair spray, greenhouse gases are produced. In economic terms, this creates a classic negative externality. Most of the cost are borne by individuals other than the one making the decision about how many miles to drive or how much hair spray to use. Because the driver or sprayer enjoys all the benefits of the activities but suffers only part of the cost, that individual engages in more than the economically efficient amount of the activity. In this sense, the problem of greenhouse gases parallels the problem that occurs when someone smokes a cigarette in an enclosed space or litters the countryside with fast-food wrappers. If we are to get individuals to reduce production of greenhouse gases to the efficient rate, we must somehow induce them to act as though they bear all the costs of their actions. The





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two most widely accepted means of doing this are government regulation and taxation, both of which have been proposed to deal with greenhouse gases.

参考答案

Greenhouse gases are produced by individuals, because they enjoy all the benefits of products but only bear part of the cost, which means the problem of greenhouse gases production is as serious as smoking or littering; consequently, in order to reduce the production of greenhouse gases, government should make individuals bear all the costs of their actions by means of issuing regulation and taxation.

温室气体是由个人产生的,因为他们享受商品的所有好处,但只承担部分成本,这意味着温室气体的产生问题与吸烟或乱扔垃圾一样严重;因此,为了减少温室气体的产生,政府应该通过颁布法规和征税的方式,让个人承担他们行为的所有成本。

(64 words)

SWT 89. Midday napping/中午午睡

Could midday napping save your life? If the experience of Greek men is any guide, the answer just may be yes.

In a study released yesterday, researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and in Athens reported that Greeks who took regular 30-minute siestas were 37 percent less likely to die of heart disease over a six-year period than those who never napped. The scientists tracked more than 23,000 adults, finding that the benefits of napping were most pronounced for working men.

Researchers have long recognized that Mediterranean adults die of heart disease at a rate lower than Americans and Northern Europeans. Diets rich in olive oil and other heart-healthy foods have received some of the credit, but scientists have been intrigued by the potential role of napping.





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The study, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, concluded that napping was more likely than diet or physical activity to lower the incidence of heart attacks and other life-ending heart ailments.

Still, the authors cautioned that further research is needed to confirm their findings. Specialists not involved with the study said there are sound biochemical reasons to believe that a nap may help protect against heart disease. Essentially, they said, sleep at any time of day acts like a valve to release the stress of everyday life. Blood pressure is reduced and heart rates slow. At the same time, the immune system shores itself up. Increasingly, researchers are recognizing the role the immune system plays in heart disease.

参考答案

A recent study shows that Greeks and Mediterranean who have habit to take regular midday napping are less likely to die of heart disease than Americans and Europeans, and napping are more important than diet and physical activity to reduce the risk of heart attacks although more and deeper research is required to prove that nap is beneficial for against heart disease.

最近的一项研究表明,习惯于正常午睡的希腊 人和地中海人比美国人和欧洲人更不容易死于 心脏病,而且午睡比饮食和身体活动更重要, 以减少心脏病发作的风险,尽管需要越来越深 地进行研究以证明午睡有益于预防心脏病。

(62 words)





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SWT 90. Tree rings (dendrochronology)/年轮(数目年代学)

Here's how tree ring dating, known to scientists as dendrochronology works. If you cut a tree down today, it's straightforward to count the rings inwards, starting from the tree's outside (corresponding to this year's growth ring), and thereby to state that the 177th ring from the outermost one towards the center was laid down in the year 2005 minus 177, or 1828. However, the widths of tree growth rings vary from year to year, depending on the rain or drought conditions in each year.

Hence the sequence of the rings in a tree cross-section is like a message in Morse code formerly used for sending telegraph messages; dot-dot-dash-dot-dash in the Morse code, wide-wide-narrow-wide narrow in the tree ring sequence. Actually the tree ring sequence is even more diagnostic and richer in information than the Morse code, because trees actually contain rings spanning many different widths, rather than the Morse code choice between dot and dash.

Tree ring specialists (known as dendrochronologists) proceed by noting the sequence of wider and narrower rings in a tree cut down in a known recent year, and also noting the sequences in beams from trees cut down at various times in the past. They then match up and align the tree ring sequences with the same diagnostic wide/narrow patterns from different beams. In that way, dendrochronologists have constructed tree ring records extending back for thousands of years in some parts of the world. Each record is valid for a geographic area whose extent depends on local weather patterns, because weather and hence tree growth patterns vary with location.

A bonus of dendrochronology is that the width and substructure of each ring reflects the amount of rain and the season at which the rain fell during that particular year. Thus, tree ring studies also allow one to reconstruct the past climate, e.g., a series of wide rings means a very wet period, and a series of narrow rings means a drought. Tree rings thereby provide southwestern archaeologists with uniquely detailed year-to-year environmental information.





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参考答案

Tree ring dating, known as dendrochronology and similar to Morse code, are very diagnostic, demonstrating the age of trees and the rain or drought conditions in each year, and dendrochronologists constructed the tree ring records based on the sequence of wide or narrow patterns form different beam, which can reflect the rainfall in a particular year.

树木年轮测年,称为树木年代学,类似摩尔斯电码,非常具有诊断性,可以证明树木的年龄和每年的雨水或干旱条件,树木年代学家根据不同的宽或窄图案序列构建树木年轮记录。梁,可以反映特定年份的降雨量。

(56 words)

SWT 91. Female birds singing/雌鸟唱歌

Males do the singing and females do the listening. This has been the established, even cherished view of courtship in birds, but now some ornithologists are changing tune. László Garamszegi of the University of Antwerp, Belgium, and colleagues studied the literature on 233 European songbird species. Of the 109 for which information on females was available, they found evidence for singing in 101 species. In only eight species could the team conclude that females did not sing.

Females that sing have been overlooked, the team say, because either their songs are quiet, they are mistaken for males from their similar plumage or they live in less well-studied areas such as the tropics. Garamszegi blames Charles Darwin for the oversight. "He emphasized the importance of male sexual display, and this is what everyone has been looking at."

The findings go beyond modern species. After carefully tracing back an evolutionary family tree for their songbirds, Garamszegi's team discovered that, in at least two bird families, singing evolved in females first. They suggest these ancient females may have been using their songs to deter other females from their



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territories, to coordinate breeding activities with males, or possibly to attract mates.

"It leaves us with a perplexing question," says Garamszegi. "What evolutionary forces drove some females to give up singing?"

参考答案

Ornithologists changed their pervious view and claim that females that sing have been overlooked, and it is because that either their songs are quiet or they live in tropics; however, after tracing back an evolutionary family tree for songbirds, there is no answer for why some females to give up singing.

鸟类学家改变了他们以前的观点,声称会唱歌的 雌鸟被忽视了,这是因为它们的歌声很安静或者 它们生活在热带;然而,在追溯鸣禽进化系谱之 后,对于为什么有些雌鸟会放弃鸣叫还没有答 案。

(51 words)

SWT 92. Wright brothers- V1/莱特兄弟

Orville and Wilbur Wright were brothers living in Dayton, Ohio. The two had started making bicycles during the 1890s and had a successful small business selling their Wright Specials for \$18 each (\$475 in today's green). This experience with building light, strong machines would prove valuable in the coming years after the brothers' interest turned to flight. Others in the United States were also developing aircraft at the time the Wright brothers started turning their curiosity skyward. Samuel Langley had flown an unmanned steam-powered aircraft in 1896. Octave Chanute and others were flying gliders near Chicago late in the decade as well. But it wasn't until the Wright brothers started working on the matter that the "flying problem" would finally be solved. Beginning in 1899, the brothers designed and built a series of gliders to test their various ideas on a flying machine. They constructed a wind tunnel that allowed them to test designs without having to build a full-size model. They even built their own gasoline-powered motor for their aircraft. (169 words)





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参考答案

Orville and Wilbur Wright, used to run a successful business selling bicycles, turned their curiosity to develop aircraft when others were also interested in making airplanes and finally solved the "flying problem", and they designed and constructed a wind tunnel which allowed them to test their ideas on a flying machine without having to build a full-size model. (58 words)

Orville 和 Wilbur Wright,曾经经营一家成功的销售自行车的企业,当大家都有兴趣制造飞机时,他们也开始开发飞机,并最终解决了"飞行问题",他们设计并建造了一个风洞,这允许测试他们在飞行器上的想法,而无需建立一个全尺寸的模型。

SWT 93. Wright brothers-V2/莱特兄弟

After the 1905 flying season, the Wrights contacted the United States War Department, as well as governments and machine. They were turned down time and time again -- government bureaucrats thought they were crackpots; others thought that if two bicycle mechanics could build a successful airplane, they could do it themselves. But the Wright persisted, and in late 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps asked for an aircraft. Just a few months later, in early 1908, a French syndicate of businessmen agreed to purchase another.

Both the U.S. Army and the French asked for an airplane capable of carrying a passenger. The Wright brothers hastily adapted their 1905 Flyer with two seats and a more powerful engine. They tested these modifications in secret, back at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina for the first time in several years. Then the brothers parted temporarily -- Wilbur to France and Orville to Virginia.

In 1908 and 1909, Wilbur demonstrated Wright aircraft in Europe, and Orville flew in Fort Meyer, Virginia. The flights went well until Orville lost a propeller and crashed, breaking his leg and killing his passenger Lt. Thomas Selfridge. While Orville recuperated, Wilbur kept flying in France, breaking record after record. Orville and his sister Kate eventually joined Wilbur in France, and the three returned home to Dayton to an





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elaborate homecoming celebration. Together, Orville and Wilbur returned to Fort Meyer with a new Military Flyer and completed the U.S. Army trials. A few months later, Wilbur flew before over a million spectators in New York Harbor -- his first public flight in his native land. All of these flights stunned and captivated the world. The Wright Brothers became the first great celebrities of the twentieth century. (285 words)

参考答案

Wright Brothers, the first great celebrities of the twentieth century, contacted governments and individuals to try to sell their flying machines but were turn down for several times until U.S. Army and a French syndicate agreed to purchase one, and after adapting their airplanes, the flights finally past the Army trials and flew over a million spectators, which stunned and captivated the world.

莱特兄弟,二十世纪的第一批伟大的名人,曾联 系政府和个人试图出售他们的飞行器,但被拒绝 了多次,直到美国陆军和一个法国集团同意购买 一个,并在调整他们的飞机后,飞行终于通过了 陆军的测试,一百多万观众见证了飞行,这震惊 了这个世界。

(63 words)

SWT 94. Children's TV watching/儿童观看电视

Why and to what extent should parents control their children's TV watching? There is certainly nothing inherently wrong with TV. The problem is how much television a child watches and what effect it has on his life. Research has shown that as the amount of time spent watching TV goes up, the amount of time devoted not only to homework and study but other important aspects of life such as social development and physical activities decreases.

Television is bound to have its tremendous impact on a child, both in terms of how many hours a week he watches TV and of what he sees. When a parent is concerned about the effects of television, he should consider a number of things: what TV offers the child in terms of information and knowledge, how many hours a week





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a youngster his age should watch television, the impact of violence and sex, and the influence of commercials.

What about the family as a whole? Is the TV set a central piece of furniture in your home? Is it flicked on the moment someone enters the empty house? Is it on during the daytime? Is it part of the background noise of your family life? Do you demonstrate by your own viewing that television should be watched selectively?

Since television is clearly here to stay, it is important that parents manage their children's TV viewing so that it can be a plus rather than a minus in the family situation.

参考答案

How much television a child watches and its content both impact on a child's social and physical development, and parents need to be concerned about the information and knowledge that TV offers and the impact of violence, sex and commercials, as well as the role of TV in the family.

儿童观看的电视节目及其内容是否会影响儿童 的社会和身体发育,父母需要关注电视提供的 信息和知识以及暴力,性和广告的影响,以及 电视在家里的作用。

(50 words)

SWT 95. Cow and grass/奶牛和草

The co-evolutionary relationship between cows and grass is one of nature's under-appreciated wonders; it also happens to be the key to understanding just about everything about modern meat.

For the grasses, which have evolved to withstand the grazing of ruminants, the cow maintains and expands their habitat by preventing trees and shrubs from gaining a foothold and hogging the sunlight; the animal also spreads grass seed, plants it with his hooves, and then fertilizes it with his manure.

In exchange for these services the grasses offer ruminants a plentiful and exclusive supply of lunch. For cows (like sheep, bison, and other ruminants) have evolved the special ability to convert grass—which single-



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stomached creatures like us can't digest—into high-quality protein. They can do this because they possess what is surely the most highly evolved digestive organ in nature: the rumen. About the size of a medicine ball, the organ is essentially a forty-five-gallon fermentation tank in which a resident population of bacteria dines on grass.

Living their unseen lives at the far end of the food chain that culminates in a hamburger, these bacteria have, just like the grasses, coevolved with the cow, whom they feed. Truly this is an excellent system for all concerned: for the grasses, for the bacteria, for the animals, and for us, the animals' eaters.

参考答案

The relationship between cows and grass is one of the nature's underappreciated wonders, which is the main factor to understand about modern meat, and the cow can maintain and expand grass's habitat, and spread grass seed; however, grass offers cows with food supply, because cows have a digestive organ called rumen in which bacteria can convert grass into high-quality protein. 奶牛和草之间的关系是大自然未被充分认识的 奇观之一,这是了解现代肉类的主要因素,牛 可以保持和扩大草的栖息地,并传播草种;而草 为奶牛提供食物供应,因为奶牛有一个叫做瘤 胃的消化器官,其中细菌可以将草转化为优质 蛋白质。

(60 words)

SWT 96. Beauty contest/选美比赛

Since Australians Jennifer Hawkins and Lauryn Eagle were crowned Miss Universe and Miss Teen International respectively, there has been a dramatic increase in interest in beauty pageants in this country. These wins have also sparked a debate as to whether beauty pageants are just harmless reminders of old fashioned values or a throwback to the days when women were respected for how good they looked. Opponents argue that beauty pageants, whether its Miss Universe or Miss Teen International, are demeaning





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to women and out of sync with the times. They say they are nothing more than symbols of decline.

In the past few decades Australia has taken more than a few faltering steps toward treating women with dignity and respect. Young women are being brought up knowing that they can do anything, as shown by inspiring role models in medicine such as 2003 Australian of the Year Professor Fiona Stanley.

In the 1960s and 70s, one of the first acts of the feminist movement was to picket beauty pageants on the premise that the industry promoted the view that it was acceptable to judge women on their appearance. Today many young Australian women are still profoundly uncomfortable with their body image, feeling under all kinds of pressures because they are judged by how they look.

Almost all of the pageant victors are wafer thin, reinforcing the message that thin equals beautiful. This ignores the fact that men and women come in all sizes and shapes. In a country where up to 60% of young women are on a diet at any one time and 70% of school girls say they want to lose weight, despite the fact that most have a normal BMI, such messages are profoundly hazardous to the mental health of young Australians.

参考答案

There has been an intensive discussion regarding the disadvantages to beauty pageants, as opponents argue that such events are demeaning to women, promoting the archaic view that it was acceptable to judge women on their appearance. (36 words)

人们对于选美比赛的不利因素进行了深入的讨论,因为反对者认为此类事件对女性有贬低,促使人们认为通过外表判断女性是可以被接受的。

SWT 97. Parents' birth order/父母的出生次序

Parents' own birth order can become an issue when dynamics in the family they are raising replicate the family in which they were raised. Agati notes common examples, such as a firstborn parent getting into "raging battles" with a firstborn child. "Both are used to getting the last word. Each has to be right. But the parent has to be the grown-up and step out of that battle," he advises.





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When youngest children become parents, Agati cautions that because they "may not have had high expectations placed on them, they in turn may not see their kids for their abilities." But he also notes that since youngest children tend to be more social, "youngest parents can be helpful to their firstborn, who may have a harder time with social situations." These parents can help their eldest kids loosen up and not be so hard on themselves.

Mom Susan Ritz says her own birth order didn't seem to affect her parenting until the youngest of her three children, Julie, was born. Julie was nine years younger than Ritz's oldest, Joshua, mirroring the age difference between Susan and her own older brother. "I would see Joshua do to Julie what my brother did to me," she says of the taunting and teasing by a much older sibling.

"I had to try not to always take Julie's side." Biases can surface no matter what your own birth position was, as Lori Silverstone points out. "As a middle myself, I can be harder on my older daughter. I recall my older sister hitting me," she says of her reactions to her daughters' tussle.

"My husband is a firstborn. He's always sticking up for the oldest. He feels bad for her that the others came so fast. He helps me to see what that feels like, to have that attention and then lose it." Silverstone sees birth-order triggers as "an opportunity to heal parts of ourselves. I've learned to teach my middle daughter to stand up for herself. My mother didn't teach me that. I'm conscious of giving my middle daughter tools so she has a nice way to protect herself."

Whether or not you subscribe to theories that birth order can affect your child's personality, ultimately, "we all have free will," Agati notes. It's important for both parents and kids to realize that, despite the characteristics often associated with birth order, "you're not locked into any role."





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参考答案

Parents' birth order can affect their parenting and they usually replicate the family in which they were raised, which means when the youngest children become parents, they often show more preference towards their youngest kids; however, both parents and children should realize that they have free will to build up their own roles.

父母的出生顺序可能影响他们的子女养育,他们通常会复制养育他们的家庭,这意味着当最小的孩子成为父母时,他们往往对最小的孩子表现出更多的偏好;然而,父母和孩子都应该意识到他们有自由意志来建立自己的角色。

(53 words)

SWT 98. IBM Technology/IBM 技术

As far as prediction is concerned, remember that the chairman of IBM predicted in the fifties that the world would need a maximum of around half a dozen computers, that the British Department for Education seemed to think in the eighties that we would all need to be able to code in BASIC and that in the nineties Microsoft failed to foresee the rapid growth of the Internet. Who could have predicted that one major effect of the automobile would be to bankrupt small shops across the nation? Could the early developers of the telephone have foreseen its development as a medium for person-to-person communication, rather than as a form of broadcasting medium?

We all, including the 'experts', seem to be peculiarly inept at predicting the likely development of our technologies, even as far as the next year. We can, of course, try to extrapolate from experience of previous technologies, as I do below by comparing the technology of the Internet with the development of other information and communication technologies and by examining the earlier development of radio and print. But how justified I might be in doing so remains an open question. You might conceivably find the history of the British and French videotext systems, Prestel and Minitel, instructive. However, I am not entirely





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convinced that they are very relevant, nor do I know where you can find information about them on-line, so, rather than take up space here, I've briefly described them in a separate article

参考答案

It seems extremely difficult for people, including the 'experts' such as IBM, the British Department for Education and Microsoft, to predict the likely development of high technology, and people could make efforts to deduce from the experience of previous technologies, by comparing the technology of Internet with the development of other information technologies, but how justified it can be is still problematic.

对于包括 IBM, 英国教育部和微软等"专家"在 内的人来说, 预测高科技的可能发展似乎非常 困难, 人们可以通过以前技术的发展经验来推 断, 就是对比互联网技术和其他信息技术的发 展, 但如何评判它仍然是个问题。

(62 words)

SWT 99. Functions of plants/植物的功能

Plants serve as the conduit of energy into the biosphere, provide food and materials used by humans, and they shape our environment. According to Ehrhardt and Frommer, the three major challenges facing humanity in our time are food, energy, and environmental degradation. All three are plant related.

All of our food is produced by plants, either directly or indirectly via animals that eat them. Plants are a source of energy production. And they are intimately involved in climate change and a major factor in a variety of environmental concerns, including agricultural expansion and its impact on habitat destruction and waterway pollution. What's more, none of these issues are independent of each other. Climate change places additional stresses on the food supply and on various habitats. So plant research is instrumental in addressing all of these problems and moving into the future.





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For plant research to move significantly forward, Ehrhardt and Frommer say technological development is critical, both to test existing hypotheses and to gain new information and generate fresh hypotheses. If we are to make headway in understanding how these essential organisms function and build the foundation for a sustainable future, then we need to apply the most advanced technologies available to the study of plant life, they say.

参考答案

Plants, which provide food and materials for humans, are closely related to three major challenges of humanity and involved in climate change and a variety of environmental concerns, including agricultural expansion and waterway pollution, and plant research is necessary for solving those problems, which requires technological development to test existing hypotheses and to gain new information and generate fresh hypotheses.

植物为人类提供食物和材料,与人类所面临的三个主要挑战紧密相关,而且也与气候变化和各种环境问题有关,包括农业扩张和水道污染,植物研究对解决这些问题是必须得,这需要技术开发及测试现有的假设和获得新信息并产生新的假设。

(60 words)

SWT 100. Upper Paleolithic people/旧石器时代晚期的人

The ways of life of Upper Paleolithic people are known through the remains of meals scattered around their hearths, together with many tools and weapons and the debris left over from their making. The people were hunter-gatherers who lived exclusively from what they could find in nature without practicing either agriculture or herding. They hunted the bigger herbivores, while berries, leaves, roots, wild fruit and mushrooms probably played a major role in their diet. Their hunting was indiscriminate, perhaps because so many animals were about that they did not need to spare pregnant females or the young. In the cave of Enlene,





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for example, many bones of reindeer and bison fetuses were found. Apparently, Upper Paleolithic people hunted like other predators and killed the weakest prey first. They did, however, sometimes concentrate on salmon runs and migrating herds of reindeer.

Contrary to popular beliefs about 'cave men', Upper Paleolithic people did not live deep inside caves. They rather chose the foot of cliffs, especially when an overhang provided good shelter. On the plains and in the valleys, they used tents made from hides of the animals they killed. At times, on the great Russian plains, they built huts with huge bones and tusks collected from the skeletons of mammoths.

Men hunted mostly with spears; the bow and arrow was probably not invented until the Magdalenian period that came at the end of the Upper Paleolithic. Tools and weapons, made out of wood or reindeer antlers, often had flint cutting edges. Flint knapping were pursued for thousands of years. This continuity means that they must have been carefully taught how to find good flint nodules and how to knap them in order to make knives, burins (chisel-like tools) or scrapers, which could be used for various purposes. (296 words)

参考答案

Upper Paleolithic people, known through the remains of meals scattered around their heaths, tools, weapons and debris, were hunter-gathers who lived exclusively from what they could find in nature without practicing either agriculture or herding, and their tools for hunting were often made of wood and had flint cutting edges, which shows that they must have been carefully thought how to find good flint modules.

旧石器时代的上层居民,通过散落在他们的荒地,工具,武器和碎片周围的遗骸而闻名,他们是狩猎者聚集在一起,他们完全依靠自然界中所能找到的东西而不从事农业或放牧,他们的狩猎工具常常是木制的,和燧石切割的边缘,这表明他们必须仔细考虑如何找到合适形状的燧石。

(65 words)





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SWT 101. Environment Program/环境工程

Major athletic events around the globe – from the 2014 Sochi Olympics to an annual powerboat race in Norwegian fjords – are striving to neutralize their carbon footprint as part of a world-wide climate network, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) says today.

The sporting events are the latest participants to join the network, and are particularly important for inspiring further global action on the environment, said Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director.

Organizers of the 2014 Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games – to be held in a unique natural setting between the shores of the Black Sea and the soaring snow-capped Caucasus Mountains – say they will put an estimated \$1.75 billion into energy conservation and renewable energy.

That investment will be dedicated to improving transport infrastructure, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from the use of electricity, air travel and ground transportation, the reforestation of Sochi National Park and the development of green belts in the city.

参考答案

Major athletic events around the globe are striving to neutralize their carbon footprint as part of a world-wide climate network which has close to 100 participants worldwide, and the organizers of 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will invest billion dollars into energy conservation and renewable energy, which will boost the transport infrastructure, offset greenhouse gas emission and develop the green belts in the city.

全球主要的体育赛事正在努力地减碳,作为全球气候网络的一部分,全球有近 100 个参与组织,2014 年冬季奥运会和残奥会的组织者将投入数十亿美元用于节能和可再生能源,这将提升交通基础设施,减少温室气体排放,并发展城市绿化带。

(65 words)





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SWT 102. Aging world/老龄化的世界

We live in an ageing world. While this has been recognized for some time in developed countries, it is only recently that this phenomenon has been fully acknowledged. Global communication is "shrinking" the world, and global ageing is "maturing" it. The increasing presence of older persons in the world is making people of all ages more aware that we live in a diverse and multigenerational society. It is no longer possible to ignore ageing, regardless of whether one views it positively or negatively.

Demographers note that if current trends in ageing continue as predicted, a demographic revolution, where in the proportions of the young and the old will undergo a historic crossover, will be felt in just three generations. This portrait of change in the world's population parallels the magnitude of the industrial revolution - traditionally considered the most significant social and economic breakthrough in the history of humankind since the Neolithic period. It marked the beginning of a sustained movement towards modern economic growth in much the same way that globalization is today marking an unprecedented and sustained movement toward a "global culture". The demographic revolution, it is envisaged, will be at least as powerful.

While the future effects are not known, a likely scenario is one where both the challenges as well as the opportunities will emerge from a vessel into which exploration and research, dialogue and debate are poured. Challenges arise as social and economic structures try to adjust to the simultaneous phenomenon of diminishing young cohorts with rising older ones, and opportunities present themselves in the sheer number of older individuals and the vast resources societies stand to gain from their contribution.

This ageing of the population permeates all social, economic and cultural spheres. Revolutionary change calls for new, revolutionary thinking, which can position policy formulation and implementation on sounder footing. In our ageing world, new thinking requires that we view ageing as a lifelong and society-wide phenomenon, not a phenomenon exclusively pertaining to older persons. (330 words)





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参考答案

Recently acknowledged as a global phenomenon possibly as powerful as the industrial revolution, the aging of population, can result in revolutionary changes that permeate all social, economic and cultural spheres, potentially bringing about an array of unpredictable changes, and hence requiring novel ways of thinking to assist sounder policy formulation and implementation.

最近公认的可能与工业革命一样重要的全球现象,导致了革命性的变革,人口老龄化,渗透到所有社会,经济和文化领域,潜在的带来一系列不可预测的变化,因此需要新颖的思维方式去协助更健全的政策制定和实施。

(52 words)

SWT 103. Tourism industry/旅游业

Jobs generated by Travel & Tourism are spread across the economy - in retail, construction, manufacturing and telecommunications, as well as directly in Travel & Tourism companies. These jobs employ a large proportion of women, minorities and young people; are predominantly in small and medium sized companies; and offer good training and transferability. Tourism can also be one of the most effective drivers for the development of regional economies. These patterns apply to both developed and emerging economies. There are numerous good examples of where travel and tourism is acting as a catalyst for conservation and improvement of the environment and maintenance of local diversity and culture. Travel & Tourism creates jobs and wealth and has tremendous potential to contribute to economically, environmentally and socially sustainable development in both developed countries and emerging nations. It has a comparative advantage in that its start up and running costs can be low compared to many other forms of industry development. It is also often one of the few realistic options for development in many areas. Therefore, there is a strong likelihood that the Travel & Tourism industry will continue to grow globally over the short to medium term.





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参考答案

The tourism industry, whose positive influences are spreading across the economy, is creating job opportunities and transferable training for women, minorities and young people in retail, construction and manufacturing, and hence can act as a catalyst for conservation tourism, which may have tremendous potential to contribute to economically and socially sustainable development in both developed countries and emerging countries.

旅游业的积极影响正在经济中蔓延,为妇女,少数族裔和年轻人在零售,建筑和制造业中创造就业机会和可通用的培训,因此可以作为保护旅游的催化剂,这可能具有巨大的潜力为发达国家和新兴国家的经济和社会可持续发展做出贡献。

(59 words)

SWT 104. Animal and human/动物和人类

All non-human animals are constrained by the tools that nature has bequeathed them through natural selection. They are not capable of striving towards truth; they simply absorb information, and behave in ways useful for their survival. The kinds of knowledge they require of the world have been largely pre-selected by evolution. No animal is capable of asking questions or generating problems that are irrelevant to its immediate circumstances or its evolutionarily designed needs. When a beaver builds a dam, it doesn't ask itself why it does so, or whether there is a better way of doing it. When a swallow flies south, it doesn't wonder why it is hotter in Africa or what would happen if it flew still further south.

Humans do ask themselves these and many other kinds of questions, questions that have no relevance, indeed make little sense, in the context of evolved needs and goals. What marks out humans is our capacity to go beyond our naturally defined goals such as the need to find food, shelter or a mate and to establish human created goals.





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Some contemporary thinkers believe that there are indeed certain questions that humans are incapable of answering because of our evolved nature. Steven Pinker, for instance, argues that "Our minds evolved by natural selection to solve problems that were life-and-death matters to our ancestors, not to commune with correctness or to answer any question we are capable of asking. We cannot hold ten thousand words in our short-term memory. We cannot see the ultra-violet light. We cannot mentally rotate an object in the fourth dimension. And perhaps we cannot solve conundrums like free will and sentience."

参考答案

Unlike animals which may not be able to go beyond their physiological needs such as food, shelter and mates, human beings are capable of distinguishing themselves from animals and continually challenging themselves by setting self-created goals, and these goals, more often than not, seem irrational or irrelevant.

不像动物,它们可能无法超越自己的生理需求,比如食物、住所和配偶,人类能够把自己与动物区分开来,通过设定自己创造的目标不断挑战自己,而这些目标往往看起来不理性或无关紧要。

(47 words)

SWT 105. Armed police in NSW school 新南威尔士学校的武装警察

Armed police have been brought into NSW schools to reduce crime rates and educate students. The 40 School Liaison Police (SLP) officers have been allocated to public and private high schools across the state.

Organizers say the officers, who began work last week, will build positive relationships between police and students. But parent groups waned of potential dangers of armed police working at schools in communities where police relations were already under strain.

Among their duties, the SLPs will conduct crime prevention workshops, talking to students about issues





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principals. One SLP, Constable Ben Purvis, began work in the inner Sydney region last week, including at Alexandria Park Community School's senior campus. Previously stationed as a crime prevention officer at The Rocks, he now has 27 schools under his jurisdiction in areas including The Rocks, Redfern and Kings Cross.

Constable Purvis said the full-time position would see him working on the broader issues of crime prevention. "I am not a security guard," he said. "I am not there to patrol the school."

We want to improve relationships between police and schoolchildren, to have positive interaction. We are coming to the school and giving them knowledge to improve their own safety. The use of fake ID among older students is among the issues he has already discussed with principals. Parents' groups responded to the program positively, but said it may spark a range of community reactions. "It is a good thing and an innovative idea and there could be some positive benefits." Council of Catholic School Parents executive officer Danielle Cronin said. "Different communities will respond to this kind of presence in different ways. (286 words)

参考答案

Armed Police, who have been brought into NSW schools to reduce crime rates and educate students, will build positive relationships with students and will conduct crime prevention workshops, including advising school principals and talking to students about issues such as shoplifting, drugs and alcohol, offensive behavior, and graffiti, for which, parents' groups responded positively while different communities will react in different ways.

武装警察,被带进新南威尔士学校降低犯罪率和 教育学生,与学生建立积极的关系,并将进行预防 犯罪研讨会,包括建议学校校长和学生谈论诸如 入店行窃、毒品和酒精,攻击性行为,和涂鸦,对这 一计划,父母们持积极的态度,而不同的社区又 有不同的反应。

(62 words)





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SWT 106. Teenager Pascolena/少年帕斯科莱娜

When Namibia gained independence in 1990, teenager Pascolena Florry was herding goats in the country's dry, desolate northern savannah. Her job, unpaid and dangerous, was to protect her parents' livestock from preying jackals and leopards. She saw wildlife as the enemy, and many of the other indigenous inhabitants of Namibia's rural communal lands shared her view. Wildlife poaching was commonplace. Fifteen years later, 31-year-old Pascolena's life and outlook are very different. She has built a previously undreamed-of career in tourism and is the first black Namibian to be appointed manager of a guest lodge. Her village, and hundreds of others, have directly benefited from government efforts to devolve wildlife management and tourism development on communal lands to conservancies run by indigenous peoples. "Now we see the wildlife as our way of creating jobs and opportunities as the tourism industry grows," she says. "The future is better with wildlife around, not only for jobs but also for the environment".

参考答案

Pascolena Florry, whose job was to protect her family's livestock from predators, regarded wild animals as enemies with other local inhabitants in her area, but now she has found her dream job in tourism and become the first black Namibian to work as a manager for a motel, which is totally due to the governments endeavor, and she sees wild animals not only as the way of creating jobs but also for the environment.

帕斯科莱娜·弗洛里(Pascolena Florry)原来的工作 是保护家人的牲畜免受掠食者的攻击,她认为 野生动物是当地居民的敌人,但现在她在旅游 业已经找到了自己梦寐以求的工作,并成为第 一个担任经理的黑人纳米比亚人,这完全取决 于政府的努力,她认为野生动物不仅是创造就 业机会的方式,也是维护环境的方式。

(74 words)





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SWT 107. Australian indigenous food/澳大利亚本土食物

In its periodic quest for culinary identity, Australia automatically looks to its indigenous ingredients, the foods that are native to this country. There can be little doubt that using an indigenous product must qualify a dish as Australian, notes Stephanie Alexander. Similarly, and without qualification, Cherikoff states that 'A uniquely Australian food culture can only be based upon foods indigenous to this country', although, as Craw remarks, proposing Australian native foods as national symbols rely more upon their association with 'nature' and geographic origin than on common usage. Notwithstanding the lack of justification for the premise that national dishes are, of necessity, founded on ingredients native to the country—after all, Italy's gastronomic identity is tied to the non-indigenous tomato, Thailand's to the non-indigenous chili—the reality is that Australians do not eat indigenous foods in significant quantities. The exceptions are fish, crustaceans, and shellfish from oceans, rivers and lakes, most of which are unarguably unique to this country. Despite valiant and well-intentioned efforts today at promoting and encouraging the consumption of native resources, bush foods are not harvested or produced in sufficient quantities for them to be a standard component of Australian diets, nor are they generally accessible. Indigenous foods are less relevant to Australian identity today than lamb and passionfruit, both initially imported and now naturalized.

参考答案

Although using a uniquely Australian ingredient must qualify a dish as Australian, in its periodic quest for culinary identity, Australia found that, for a dish to serve as a national symbol, it is unnecessary for the dish to contain ingredient native to the country, since bush foods are not harvested or produced in sufficient quantities for them to be standard components of Australian diet, nor are the generally accessible. (69 words)

虽然使用独特的澳大利亚成分必须将菜肴定为 澳大利亚菜,但在其定期寻求烹饪特色的过程 中,澳大利亚发现,对于菜肴作为国家标志, 该菜肴不必含有该国原产的成分,因为澳洲特 有的灌木食品很难丰收或产量不足以使它们成 为澳大利亚饮食的标准成分,通常它们也很难 获得。





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SWT 108. Wine prohibition/红酒禁令

In 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution created yet another setback for the American wine industry. The National Prohibition Act, also known as the Volstead Act, prohibited the manufacture, sale, transportation, importation, exportation, delivery, or possession of intoxicating liquors for beverage purpose. Prohibition, which continued for thirteen years, nearly destroyed what had become a thriving and national industry.

One of the loopholes in the Volstead Act allowed for the manufacture and sale of sacramental wine, medicinal wines for sale by pharmacists with a doctors' prescription, and medicinal wine tonics (fortified wines) sold without prescription. Perhaps more important, Prohibition allowed anyone to produce up to two hundred gallons yearly of fruit juice or cider. The fruit juice, which was sometimes made into concentrate, was ideal for making wine. People would buy grape concentrate from California and have it shipped to the East Coast. The top of the container was stamped in big, bold letters: caution: do not add sugar or yeast or else fermentation will take place! Some of this yield found its way to bootleggers throughout America who did just that. But not for long, because the government stepped in and banned the sale of grape juice, preventing illegal wine production. Vineyards stopped being planted, and the American wine industry came to a halt.

参考答案

Alcohol prohibition, implemented by the National Prohibition Act in 1920, prohibited the manufacture, sale, transportation, importation, exportation, delivery or possession of alcohol for beverage purposes, which almost destroyed the national wine industry, and people used loopholes to produce wine, by selling grape juice which is ideal for making wine, but the government stepped in and

1920年实施的《国家禁止法》实施的禁酒令禁止制造,销售,运输,进口,出口,交付或拥有饮料用酒,这几乎摧毁了国家葡萄酒行业,人们利用漏洞通过出售葡萄汁来生产葡萄酒,但政府介入并阻止非法葡萄酒生产。





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prevented illegal wine production.	
(59 words)	

SWT 109. City of London/伦敦市

Who would have thought back in 1698, as they downed their espressos, that the little band of stockbrokers from Jonathan's Coffee House in Change Alley EC3 would be the founder – members of what would become the world's mighty money capital?

Progress was not entirely smooth. The South Sea Bubble burst in 1720 and the coffee house exchanges burned down in 1748. As late as Big Bang in 1986, when bowler hats were finally hung up, you wouldn't have bet the farm on London surpassing New York, Frankfurt and Tokyo as Mammon's international nexus. Yet the 325,000 souls who operate in the UK capital's financial hub have now overtaken their New York rivals in size of the funds managed (including offshore business); they hold 70% of the global secondary bond market and the City dominates foreign exchange trading.

And its institutions paid out £9 billion in bonuses in December. The Square Mile has now spread both eastwards from EC3 to Canary Wharf and westwards into Mayfair, where many of the private-equity 'locusts' and their hedge-fund pals now hang out. For foreigners in finance, London is the place to be. It has no Sarbanes-Oxley and no euro to hold it back, yet the fact that it still flies so high is against the odds. London is one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in, transport systems groan and there's an ever-present threat of terrorist attack. But, for the time being, the deals just keep on getting bigger.





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参考答案

London, the world's mighty money capital, has now overtaken its rivals in the size of the funds managed and become the global secondary bond market, surpassing New York, Frankfurt and Tokyo, and it is a great place to be for foreigners working in finance, but it is one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in, especially transport costs.

伦敦是世界上最强大的金融中心,现在已经超过其竞争对手的规模,成为全球二级债券市场,超过纽约,法兰克福和东京,对于在金融领域工作的外国人来说,这是一个很好的选择。但它是世界上生活成本最高的城市之一,尤其是交通费用。

(62 words)

SWT 110. Diasporas/侨民

Diasporas – communities which live outside, but maintain links with, their homelands – are getting larger, thicker and stronger. They are the human face of globalization. Diaspora consciousness is on the rise; diasporans are becoming more interested in their origins, and organizing themselves more effectively; homelands are revising their opinions of their diasporas are the stigma attached to emigration decline, and stepping up their engagement efforts; meanwhile, host countries are witnessing more assertive diasporic groups within their own national communities, worrying about fifth columns and foreign lobbies, and suffering outbreaks of 'diaspora phobia'.

This trend is the result of five factors, all of them connected with globalization: the growth in international migration; the revolution in transport and communications technology, which is quickening the pace of 'diasporans' interactions with their homelands; a reaction against global homogenized culture, which is leading people to rethink their identities; the end of the Cold War, which increased the salience of ethnicity and nationalism and created new space in which diasporas can operate; and policy changes by national governments on issues such as dual citizenship and multiculturalism, which are enabling people to lead





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transnational lives. Diasporas such as those attaching to China, India, Russia and Mexico are already big, but they will continue to grow; the migration flows which feed them are likely to widen and quicken in the future.

参考答案

Diasporas, who live overseas but have strong connection with their homelands, are becoming larger and they are the consequence of globalization, and this trend is caused by five factors, including the growth in international migration, the revolution in transport and communications technology, a reaction against global homogenized culture, the end of the Cold War and the policy changes by national governments.

居住在海外但与家乡关系密切的侨民正在变得越来越强大,他们是全球化的结果,这种趋势是由五个因素造成的,包括国际移民的增长,交通和通讯技术的革命,反对全球均质文化,冷战的结束和国家政府的政策变化。

(61 words)

SWT 111. Nobel Peace Prize/诺贝尔和平奖

This year's Nobel Peace Prize justly rewards the thousands of scientists of the United Nations Climate Change Panel (the IPCC). These scientists are engaged in excellent, painstaking work that establishes exactly what the world should expect from climate change.

The other award winner, former US Vice President Al Gore, has spent much more time telling us what to fear. While the IPCC's estimates and conclusions are grounded in careful study, Gore doesn't seem to be similarly restrained. Gore told the world in his Academy Award-winning movie (recently labeled "one-sided" and containing "scientific errors" by a British judge) to expect 20-foot sea-level rises over this century. He ignores the findings of his Nobel co-winners, the IPCC, who conclude that sea levels will rise between only a half-foot and two feet over this century, with their best expectation being about one foot. That's similar to what





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the world experienced over the past 150 years. Likewise, Gore agonizes over the accelerated melting of ice in Greenland and what it means for the planet, but overlooks the IPCC's conclusion that, if sustained, the current rate of melting would add just three inches to the sea level rise by the end of the century. Gore also takes no notice of research showing that Greenland's temperatures were higher in 1941 than they are today.

Gore also frets about the future of polar bears. He claims they are drowning as their icy habitat disappears. However, the only scientific study showing any such thing indicates that four polar bears drowned because of a storm. The politician-turned-movie maker loses sleep over a predicted rise in heat-related deaths. There's another side of the story that's inconvenient to mention: rising temperatures will reduce the number of cold spells, which are a much bigger killer than heat. The best study shows that by 2050, heat will claim 400,000 more lives, but 1.8 million fewer will die because of cold. Indeed, according to the first complete survey of the economic effects of climate change for the world, global warming will actually save lives.

参考答案

Al Gore exaggerated the sea-level rise and over emphasized the accelerated melting of ice with no notice of research, while IPCC, Gore's co-winner, concluded that Greenland melting ice would cause adding just three inches to the sea level rise, and the rising temperatures will reduce the number of cold spells, which are a much bigger killer than heat.

Al Gore 夸大了海平面上升,并过度强调冰的加速融化,而没有关注研究,而 IPCC,戈尔的共同获胜者得出结论,格陵兰冰川融化仅使海平面上升增加3英寸,并且温度上升将减少因为寒冷而带来的死亡的数量,寒冷是一个比炎热更大的杀手。

(58 words)





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SWT 112. Kenya's geothermal energy/肯尼亚的地热能

What is the solution for nations with increasing energy demands, hindered by frequent power cuts and an inability to compete in the international oil market? For East Africa, at least, experts think geothermal energy is the answer. More promising still, the Kenyan government and international investors seem to be listening. This is just in time according to many, as claims of an acute energy crisis are afoot due to high oil prices, population spikes and droughts. geothermal energy works by pumping water into bedrock, where it is heated and returns to the surface as steam which is used directly as a heat source or to drive electricity production. Source Energy Information Administration, geothermal Energy in the Western United States and Hawaii.

Currently over 60% of Kenya's power comes from hydroelectric sources but these are proving increasingly unreliable as the issue of seasonal variation is intensified by erratic rain patterns. Alternative energy sources are needed; and the leading energy supplier in Kenya, Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), hopes to expand its geothermal energy supply from 13% to 25 % of its total usage by 2020. The potential of geothermal energy in the region was first realized internationally by the United Nations Development Program, when geologists observed thermal anomalies below the East African Rift system. Locals have been utilizing this resource for centuries; using steam vents to create the perfect humidity for greenhouses, or simply to enjoy a swim in the many natural hot lakes.

Along the 6000 km of the rift from the Red Sea to Mozambique, geochemical, geophysical and heat flow measurements were made to identify areas suitable for geothermal wells. One area lies next to the extinct Olkaria volcano, within the Hell's Gate National Park, and sits over some of the thinnest continental crust on Earth. This is a result of the thinning of the crust by tectonic stretching, causing hotter material below the Earth's surface to rise, resulting in higher temperatures. This thin crust was ideal for the drilling of geothermal wells, reaching depths of around 3000 m, where temperatures get up to 342°C, far higher than the usual temperature of 90°C at this depth. Water in the surrounding rocks is converted to steam by the heat. The steam can be used to drive turbines and produce electricity.





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参考答案

Kenya, which is an East African nation experiencing energy crisis, is now trying to expand its geothermal energy supply from 13% to 25% of its total usage by 2020, attempting to find more geographical locations suitable for drilling geothermal wells.

肯尼亚是一个正在经历能源危机的东非国家,目前正试图将其地热能源供应量从 2020 年的总使用量的 13%扩大到 25%,试图寻找更适合钻探地热井的地理位置。

(40 words)

SWT 113. Australian educational quality and equity/澳大利亚的教育质量和公平性

When Australians engage in debate about educational quality or equity, they often seem to accept that a country cannot achieve both at the same time. The lecture will present compelling international evidence that there are countries which do, though Australia is not among them.

Curriculum reforms intended to improve equity often fail to do so because they increase breadth or differentiation in offerings in a way that increases differences in quality. Further, these differences in quality often reflect differences in students' social backgrounds because the 'new' offerings are typically taken up by relatively disadvantaged students who are not served well them. Evidence from New South Wales will be used to illustrate this point.

The need to improve the quality of education is well accepted across OECD and other countries as they seek to strengthen their human capital to underpin their modern, knowledge economies. Improved equity is also important for this purpose, since the demand for high-level skills is widespread and the opportunities for the low-skilled are diminishing.

Improved equity in education is also important for social cohesion. There are countries in which the education system seems primarily to reproduce existing social arrangements, conferring privilege where it already exists

and





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denying it where it does not. Even in countries where the diagnosis might be less extreme, the capacity of schooling to build social cohesion is often diminished by the way in which schools separate individuals and groups.

参考答案

Although the quality and equity in education are generally considered important for the strengthening of human capital and social cohesion for a country, Australians, when engaging debates about educational quality and equity, seem to accept that the two cannot be achieved in the same time, since curriculum reforms intended to improve equity often induces differences in quality at the same time.

虽然教育的质量和公平性通常被认为对于加强 一个国家的人力资本和社会凝聚力很重要,但澳 大利亚人在参与有关教育质量和公平的辩论时, 似乎认为这两者无法在同一时间实现, 旨在改 善公平的课程改革往往会导致质量上的差异。

(61 words)

SWT 114. Electric trolley cars / trams/电动无轨电车/有轨电车

Electric trolley cars or trams were once the chief mode of public transportation in the United States.

Though they required tracks and electric cables to run, these trolley cars were clean and comfortable. In 1922, auto manufacturer General Motors created a special unit to replace electric trolleys with cars, trucks, and buses. Over the next decade, this group successfully lobbied for laws and regulations that made operating trams more difficult and less profitable. In 1936 General Motors created several front companies for the purpose of purchasing and dismantling the trolley car system. They received substantial investments from Firestone Tire, Standard Oil of California,

Phillips Petroleum, and other parties invested in the automotive industry. Some people suspect that these parties wanted to replace trolley cars with buses to make public transportation less desirable, which would





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then increase automobile sales. The decline of the tram system in North America could be attributed to many things—labor strikes, the Great Depression, regulations that were unfavorable to operators—but perhaps the primary cause was having a group of powerful men from rival sectors of the auto industry working together to ensure its destruction.

参考答案

The relatively clean and comfortable electric trolley cars or trams were once the chief mode of public transportation in the United States, however, their popularity started to decline when the auto manufacturer General Motor, a group of powerful men from the rival sector, attempted to replace them with buses, trucks and cars in 1922, in order to boost automobile sales, which ultimately resulted in the tram's complete destruction.

相对干净舒适的电动无轨电车或有轨电车曾经 是美国公共交通的主要模式,然而,在 1922 年, 当竞争对手,一群强大的汽车制造商通用汽车为 了促进汽车销售,试图使用公共汽车,卡车和汽 车取代时,它们的受欢迎程度开始下降 他们在, 最终导致有轨电车的没落。

(68 words)

SWT 115. House mice/家鼠

According to new research, house mice (Mus musculus) are ideal biomarkers of human settlement as they tend to stow away in crates or on ships that end up going where people go. Using mice as a proxy for human movement can add to what is already known through archaeological data and answer important questions in areas where there is a lack of artifacts, Searle said. Where people go, so do mice, often stowing away in carts of hay or on ships. Despite a natural range of just 100 meters (109 yards) and an evolutionary base near Pakistan, the house mouse has managed to colonize every continent, which makes it a useful tool for researchers like Searle.





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Previous research conducted by Searle at the University of York supported the theory that Australian mice originated in the British Isles and probably came over with convicts shipped there to colonize the continent in the late 18th and 19th centuries. In the Viking study, he and his fellow researchers in Iceland, Denmark and Sweden took it a step further, using ancient mouse DNA collected from archaeological sites dating from the 10th to 12th centuries, as well as modern mice.

He is hoping to do just that in his next project, which involves tracking the migration of mice and other species, including plants, across the Indian Ocean, from South Asia to East Africa.

参考答案

As an ideal biomarker of human habitant, house mice travels with human through transportations all over the world, according to biologists' research, and they stow away along with colonists, such as settlers from Britain to Australia, and the DNA step is traceable, which contributes to archaeologists' study on migration in the past centuries.

根据生物学家的研究,作为人类居住者的理想生物标志物,家鼠通过运输方式与人类一起在世界各地穿行,并且它们偷偷地与殖民者一起旅行,例如从英国到澳大利亚的定居,并且 DNA 足迹是可追溯的,并在过去的几个世纪里,为考古学家对移民的研究做出了贡献。

(53 words)

SWT 116. Theory of resonance/共振原理

The history of marketers seeking the advice of physicists is a short one, but an understanding of the Theory of Resonance may give communications experts the edge. Resonance Theory explains the curious phenomenon of how very small pebbles dropped into a pond can create bigger waves than a large brick. The brick makes a decent splash but its ripples peter out quickly. A tiny pebble dropped into the same pond, followed by another, then another, then another, all timed carefully, will create ripples that build into small waves. As Dr. Carlo Contaldi, a physicist at Imperial College London, explains, a small amount of energy





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committed at just the right intervals - the 'natural frequency' - creates a cumulatively large effect.

Media consultant Paul Bay believes that just as with the pebbles in a pond, a carefully choreographed and meticulously timed stream of communication (a monthly ad in MT, for example) will have a more lasting effect than a sporadic big splash during prime time ad breaks.

Innocent is testament to the power of pebbles. Until last year, the maker of smoothies had never advertised on TV, instead drip-feeding the market with endless ingenious marketing ploys - from annotating its drinks labels with quirky messages to hosting its own music festival, Fruit stock. The company sent a constant stream of messages rather than communicating through the occasional big and expensive noise.

参考答案

The Theory of Resonance explains the phenomenon of how small pebbles dropped into a pond can create bigger waves than a large brick, which can be applied in business, including sending a constant stream of messages, and a company will have a more lasting effect than communicating through the occasional big and expensive noise.

共振的理论解释的现象,就好比小石子扔进池塘,可以创造比砖头扔进池塘里更大的波动,这个发现可以应用在商业领域,包括发送信息,公司应该发送连续不断的信息而不是偶尔大而昂贵的那种交流。

(54 words)

SWT 117. School resource officer(SRO)/驻校治安警

Spurred by the sense that disorderly behavior among students in South Euclid was increasing, the school resource officer (SRO) reviewed data regarding referrals to the principal's office. He found that the high school reported thousands of referrals a year for bullying and that the junior high school had recently experienced a 30 percent increase in bullying referrals. Police data showed that juvenile complaints about disturbances,





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bullying, and assaults after school hours had increased 90 percent in the past 10 years.

A researcher from Kent State University (Ohio) conducted a survey of all students attending the junior high and high school. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with students—identified as victims or offenders— teachers, and guidance counselors. Finally, the South Euclid Police Department purchased a Geographic Information System to conduct crime incident mapping of hotspots within the schools. The main findings pointed to four primary areas of concern: the environmental design of the school; teacher knowledge of and response to the problem; parental attitudes and responses; and student perspectives and behaviors.

The SRO worked in close collaboration with a social worker and the university researcher. They coordinated a Response Planning Team comprising many stakeholders that was intended to respond to each of the areas identified in the initial analysis. Environmental changes included modifying the school schedule and increasing teacher supervision of hotspots. Counselors and social workers conducted teacher training courses in conflict resolution and bullying prevention. Parent education included mailings with information about bullying, an explanation of the new school policy, and a discussion about what could be done at home to address the problems. Finally, student education included classroom discussions between homeroom teachers and students, as well as assemblies conducted by the SRO. The SRO also opened a substation next to a primary hotspot. The Ohio Department of Education contributed by opening a new training center to provide a nontraditional setting for specialized help.

The results from the various responses were dramatic. School suspensions decreased 40 percent. Bullying incidents dropped 60 percent in the hallways and 80 percent in the gym area. Follow-up surveys indicated that there were positive attitudinal changes among students about bullying and that more students felt confident that teachers would take action when a problem arose. Teachers indicated that training sessions were helpful and that they were more likely to talk about bullying as a serious issue. Parents responded positively, asking for more information about the problem in future mailings. The overall results suggest that the school environments were not only safer, but that early intervention was helping at-risk students succeed in school (South Euclid (Ohio) Police Department, 2001).





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参考答案

In South Euclid the disorderly behavior among students was increasing, and a survey conducted by Geographic Information System found four primary areas of concern which had been responded by the Response Planning Team, then school suspensions decreased 40%, and students, teachers and parents are responded positively after SRO.

在南欧几里得,学生的无序行为呈上升趋势,地理信息系统进行的一项调查发现了四个主要关注领域,并由反应计划小组做出了行动,然后停课率下降了40%,学生、教师和家长在SRO后的反应都是积极的。

(48 words)

SWT 118. The study of human remains/人体遗骸研究

Human remains are a fundamental part of the archaeological record, offering unique insights into the lives of individuals and populations in the past. Like many archaeological materials human remains require distinctive and specialized methods of recovery, analysis and interpretation, while technological innovations and the accumulation of expertise have enabled archaeologists to extract ever greater amounts of information from assemblages of skeletal material. Alongside analyses of new finds, these advances have consistently thrown new light on existing collections of human remains in museums, universities and other institutions. Given the powerful emotional, social and religious meanings attached to the dead body, it is perhaps unsurprising that human remains pose a distinctive set of ethical questions for archaeologists.

With the rise of indigenous rights movements and the emergence of post-colonial nations the acquisition and ownership of human remains became a divisive and politically loaded issue. It became increasingly clear that many human remains in museum collections around the world represented the traces of colonial exploitation and discredited pseudo-scientific theories of race. In the light of these debates and changing attitudes, some human remains were returned or repatriated to their communities of origin, a process which continues to this





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day. Recently a new set of challenges to the study of human remains has emerged from a rather unexpected direction: the British government revised its interpretation of nineteenth-century burial legislation in a way that would drastically curtail the ability of archaeologists to study human remains of any age excavated in England and Wales. This paper examines these extraordinary events and the legal, political and ethical questions that they raise.

参考答案

In the light of the rise of indigenous rights movements and the emergence of post-colonial nations, the British government, after revising its interpretation of nineteenth-century burial legislation, has recently changed its stance over the ethical issues regarding the acquisition and ownership of human remains for archaeological purposes.

鉴于土著权利运动的兴起和后殖民国家的出现, 英国政府在修订了对 19 世纪墓葬的司法解释后, 最近改变了其关于为考古目的获取和拥有人类 遗骸的伦理问题的立场。

(47 words)

SWT 119. Labor comparative advantage/劳动力比较优势

With an abundance of low-priced labor relative to the United States, it is no surprise that China, India and other developing countries specialize in the production of labor-intensive products. For similar reasons, the United States will specialize in the production of goods that are human and physical-capital intensive because of the relative abundance of a highly-educated labor force and technically sophisticated equipment in the United States.

The division of global production should yield higher global output of both types of goods than would be the





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case if each country attempted to produce both of these goods itself. For example, the United States would produce more expensive labor-intensive goods because of its more expensive labor and the developing countries would produce more expensive human and physical capital-intensive goods because of their relative scarcity of these inputs. This logic implies that the United States is unlikely to be a significant global competitor in the production green technologies that are not relatively intensive in human and physical capital.

Nevertheless, during the early stages of the development of a new technology, the United States has a comparative advantage in the production of the products enable by this innovation. However, once these technologies become well-understood and production processes are designed that can make use of less-skilled labor; production will migrate to countries with less expensive labor.

参考答案

The United States specialized in the production of human and physical- capital intensive goods while developing countries more likely produce—labor intensive goods, and it is not a wise idea that each country attempted to produce both of these goods by itself, so the United States is unlikely to be a global competitor in the production green technologies, but it still has an advantage in the production which based on high technologies.

美国专门生产人力和物质资本密集型产品,而发展中国家更有可能生产劳动密集型产品,每个国家都试图自己生产这两种产品并不是一个明智的想法,所以美国是不太可能成为生产绿色技术的全球竞争者,但它仍然在基于高科技的生产中具有优势。

(72 words)

SWT 120. Indian Engineer/印度工程师

To better understand comparative advantage, consider the current situation: Just as is the case for their counterparts in the United States, engineers and technicians in India have the capacity to provide both



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computer programming and to create innovative new technologies. Indian programmers and high-tech engineers earn one -fifth of what their counterparts earn in the United States.

Consequently, India is able to do both jobs at a lower dollar cost than in the United States: India has an absolute advantage in both. In other words, it can produce a unit of programming for fewer dollars than in the United States, and it can also produce a unit of technology innovation for fewer dollars. Does that mean that the United States will lose not only programming jobs but technology-innovation jobs too? Does that mean that our standard of living will fall if the United States and India engage in international trade?

Economist David Ricardo would have answered no to both questions-as do your authors today. While India may have an absolute advantage in both activities, that fact is irrelevant in determining what India or the United States will produce. India has comparative advantage in doing programming in part because such activity requires little capital. The flip side is that the United States has a comparative advantage in technology innovation partly because it is relatively easy to obtain capital in this country to undertake such long-run projects. The result is that Indian programmers will do more and more of what U.S programmers have been doing in the past. In contrast, American firms will shift to more and more innovation; India will specialize in programming. The business people in each country will specialize in those activities in which they have a comparative advantage. As in the past, the U.S economy will continue to concentrate on what are called the 'most best' activities.

参考答案

V1

Engineers and technicians in India are capable of providing computer programming and creating innovative technologies, while earning only twenty percent of their counterparts in the United States, but this does not mean the standard of living will fall because Indian programmers will do more in programming while American can shift to do more innovation, which is so called the best activity.





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V2

Although Indian engineers can do both the programming and innovative jobs but earn only one fifth of their American counterparts, it does not mean the United States will lose their jobs in both fields, and in the future, Indians will do more programming which requires little capital, but American firms will shift more to innovation due to their advantages on capital.

虽然印度工程师可以同时完成编程和创新工作,但只能获得美国同行的五分之一,但这并不意味着美国将在这两个领域失去工作,而且在未来,印度人将会做更多需要少量资本的项目,但是,由于资本优势,美国公司将更多地转向创新。

(61 words)

SWT 121. South African/南非人

In around 2300 BP (Before Present), hunter-gatherers called the San acquired domestic stock in what is now modern day Botswana. Their population grew, and spread throughout the Western half of South Africa. They were the first pastoralists in southern Africa, and called themselves Khoikhoi (or Khoe), which means 'men of men' or 'the real people'. This name was chosen to show pride in their past and culture. The Khoikhoi brought a new way of life to South Africa and to the San, who were hunter-gatherers as opposed to herders. This led to misunderstandings and subsequent conflict between the two groups.

The Khoikhoi were the first native people to come into contact with the Dutch settlers in the mid-17th century. As the Dutch took over land for farms, the Khoikhoi were dispossessed, exterminated, or enslaved and therefore their numbers dwindled.

The Khoikhoi used a word while dancing that sounded like 'Hottentots' and therefore settlers referred to the Khoikhoi by this name – however today this term is considered derogatory. The settlers used the term



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'Bushmen' for the San, a term also considered derogatory today. Many of those whom the colonists called 'Bushmen' were in fact Khoikhoi or former Khoikhoi. For this reason, scholars sometimes find it convenient to refer to hunters and herders together as 'Khoisan'.

When European settlement began, Khoikhoi groups called the Namaqua were settled in modern day Namibia and the northeastern Cape; others, including the Korana, along the Orange River; and the Gonaqua, interspersed among the Xhosa in the Eastern Cape. But the largest concentration of Khoikhoi, numbering in the tens of thousands inhabited the well-watered pasture lands of the south-western Cape. These 'Cape' Khoikhoi would be the first African population to bear the brunt of White settlement.

The Khoikhoi kept herds of animals such as goat, cattle and sheep and had to move around to find enough grazing land for their animals. They moved according to the seasons and only stayed in one place for a few weeks. This meant that they had to be able to carry all their belongings themselves, or load them onto the backs of their animals.

Houses had to be very light and easy to erect and take apart. For this reason, they were made of thin poles covered with reed mats. Even pots and buckets were made of wood with small handles to make them easier to tie to animals' backs. They also wore clothes made of leather, like the San.

参考答案

Often referred to as San due to historical reasons, Khoikhoi, who first settled in modern-day Botswana in 2300 BP, were the first pastoralists in Southern Africa, keeping herds of animals that required them to move according to seasons with all their belongings in order to find enough grazing land.

由于历史原因,科伊科伊(Khoikhoi)常被称为"桑"(San)。距今2300年,科伊科伊(Khoikhoi)首次定居在今天的博茨瓦纳,是非洲南部的第一批牧民,他们饲养着成群的动物,为了找到足够的放牧地,他们需要带着所有的物品,按季节迁徙。

(49 words)





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SWT 122. Museology/博物馆学

What is museology? A simple definition might be that it is the study of museums, their history and underlying philosophy, the various ways in which they have, in the course of time, been established and developed, their avowed or unspoken aims and policies, their educative or political or social role. More broadly conceived, such a study might also embrace the bewildering variety of audiences — visitors, scholars, art lovers, children –at whom the efforts of museum staff are supposedly directed, as well as related topics such as the legal duties and responsibilities placed upon (or incurred by) museums, perhaps even some thought as to their future. Seen in this light, museology might appear at first sight a subject so specialized as to concern only museum professionals, who by virtue of their occupation are more or less obliged to take an interest in it. In reality, since museums are almost, if not quite as old as civilization itself, and since the plethora of present-day museums embraces virtually every field of human endeavor – not just art, or craft, or science, but entertainment, agriculture, rural life, childhood, fisheries, antiquities, automobiles: the list is endless – it is a field of enquiry so broad as to be a matter of concern to almost everybody.

参考答案

Museology, simply defined as the study of museums including history, philosophy, aims, political and social role, might embrace the bewildering variety of audiences and topics such as the legal duties and responsibilities upon museums, and, it is a field of enquiry so broad as to be a matter of concern to every field of human endeavor and matters to everybody.

博物馆学,简单地定义为博物馆的研究,包括历史,哲学,目标,政治和社会角色,可能包含令人眼花缭乱的各种受众和主题,如博物馆的法律义务和责任,它是一个广泛的探究领域,广泛到人类努力的所有领域和现实中关系到每个人的问题。

(60 words)





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SWT 123. Office environment/办公环境

The notion that office space has a role in promoting or inhibiting performance is backed up by solid research. A recent study conducted by Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital showed that improvements to the physical surroundings of workers impacted on productivity not just because the working environment was more attractive, but because the changes made employees feel cared for. A Swedish research paper revealed a strong link between the type of office an employee worked in and their overall job satisfaction and health. Various findings have emerged as a result of studies such as this. Pot plants and greenery can apparently have a real impact on psychological well-being. Those who work in a private room tend to be in better health than workers based in open- plan offices.

Sufficient light can reduce sickness among workers and increase productivity, and an attractive office can make workers feel more cared for and therefore more loyal to their company. Most of these points make good rational sense. But some companies aren't content simply to increase the health, productivity and contentment of their employees. Pioneers such as Google, Walt Disney and Dyson have tried to create offices that will do everything from promoting collaboration between workers to stimulating their creative juices. "Environment, both physical and cultural, can make or break creativity." says Kursty Groves, author of I Wish I Worked There! A look inside the most creative spaces in business. Stimulating spaces expose the mind to a variety of stimuli - planned or random - In order to encourage people to think differently. Reflective spaces promote the filtering of information into the brain slowing it to make connections. An environment which encourages a team to build trust and to play freely is an essential ingredient for innovation.

参考答案

The benefit of improving office environment is that a better office environment, such as a pot of plants in the office, private office and lighter light, can improve employee satisfaction and would motivate staff in terms of creativity and innovation, found by 改善办公环境的好处是,更好的办公环境,如办公室里的一盆植物、私人办公室和较轻的灯光,可以提高员工的满意度,激发员工的创造力和创新精神,这是商界同行发现的。





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peers in business.	
(45 words)	

SWT 124. Crime rate/犯罪率

The Home Office's periodic British Crime Survey estimates that the true level of crime (the sorts, anyway, which inform the official figures) is about four times that which is registered in the annual statistics. Quite often, especially in the financial services sector, businesses do not report crimes against themselves for fear of lowering their public image. Many citizens today are not insured against car theft or property loss (because they cannot afford the premiums) so they have no incentive to tell the police if they become victims.

A steep statistical rise in crime can sometimes arise not from a real growth in a particular type of conduct but from a new policing policy - offences of "lewd dancing" rose by about 300 per cent during 12 months in the 1980s in Manchester, but only because the zealous Chief Constable James Anderton had deployed a great many officers in gay night clubs.

Sometimes the enactment of a new range of offences or the possibility of committing old offences in a new way (like computer offences involving fraud and deception) can cause an upward jolt in crime levels. The figures just released show a startling jump in street robbery but much of this seems to be a very particular crime: the theft of the now ubiquitous mobile phones.

Conversely, if crimes like joyriding and some assaults are kept out of the categories measured in the annual statistics, as is the case, the official figures do not reflect even what is reported to the police as criminal. The way that criminal statistics are compiled by the Home Office is also relevant. From April 1998, police forces started to count crime in a way which, according to the government, will give "a more robust statistical measure". Under the new rules, crime is recorded as one crime per victim. Some crimes, like assaults, have always been recorded in this way, so the main impact of the change will be in the area of property offences.

Shop





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thefts, for example, were the old rules counted offenders, will now count victims. Multiple thefts from cars in a car park with a barrier were previously counted as one offence but are now counted as separate offences.

参考答案

V1

The real crime rates in Britain are four times than those in statistics because much crime is unreported; besides, the statistical rise in crime rate may be because of a new policing policy rather than real growth of certain type of crime, and the enactment of a new range of offences, the categories measured in the statistics, and the way that criminal statistics are compiled, can all influence the statistical figure.

英国的实际犯罪率是统计数字的四倍,因为很多犯罪没有被报道;此外,统计犯罪率的上升可能是因为新的监管政策而不是实际增长的某些类型的犯罪,制定一系列新的罪行,类别统计测量,和犯罪统计数据编译的方式,都可以影响统计数据。

(45 words)

V2

The crime rate in British has increased dramatically for many reasons, including people do not claim their losses as their financial issues and lowering their public images, but the crime which is reported to the police will not be reflected, so the police forces started the new rules as one crime per victim.

SWT 125. Competence and performance/能力和绩效

In language learning, there is a distinction between competence and performance. Competence is a state of the speaker's mind. What does he or she know?

Separate from actual performance- what he or she does while producing or comprehending language. In other





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words, competence is put to use through performance.

An analogy can be made to the Highway Code for driving. Drivers know the Code and have indeed been tested on it to obtain a driving license.

In actual driving, however, the driver has to relate the Code to a continuous flow of changing circumstances and may even break it from time to time.

Knowing the Highway Code is not the same as driving.

参考答案

In language learning, the relationship between competence and performance is that competence is put to use through performance, and competence is a state of the speaker's mind; moreover, if we take driving as an example, knowing the Highway Code is not the same as driving.(45 words)

在语言学习中,能力与表现的关系是通过表现来运用能力,能力是说话人的一种心理状态;此外,如果我们以驾驶为例,知道公路代码是不一样的驾驶。





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(二) Write Essay

WE 1. Experimental learning/体验式学习

Some people think experience is best teacher. Do you agree that people think life experience is more efficient rather than books or formal school teaching? Give your opinion and provide your personal example.

有些人认为经验是最好的老师。你同意人们认为生活经验比书本或正规的学校教学更有效吗? 给出你的观点并给出你的个人例子。

In recent times, the issue of learning through experience has aroused a wide-spread attention among our society. While it is reasonable to claim that experience is more practical in life, my view is that nothing is solid without its foundation which, in this case, is theoretical knowledge. Therefore, in this essay, I will articulate my reasoning by analysing both sides of the argument while presenting personal and objective examples.

To begin with, I do admit that learning by own experiences is efficient and long-lasting. The possible reason might be that it is a vivid and direct way of applying the knowledge learnt. However, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is that individuals can only engage in a small number of fields of work at the same time, which means they can only gain limited experience within a certain time period.

Therefore, there are many reasons why I strongly believe that formal education is the best source of knowledge. For one thing, formal education offers us a wide scope of knowledge that allows us to grow in various aspects. Furthermore, books or formal schools provide the necessary level of knowledge and theories to guide our actions, without which it is almost impossible or not safe sometimes to do practical things. For instance, medical students need to complete a doctoral degree to be qualified in performing doctor duties.

Based on what has been discussed above, despite the fact that some people support the merits of learning by doing, it is safe to draw the conclusion that there is no alternative to the necessity of formal education because it is advantageous in building a solid ground of one's knowledge system.

(280 words)





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WE 2. Less sport/运动变少

School children are doing less sport and exercise than their parents when they were young. How far do you agree this statement? Give some examples from your personal experience.

小学生比他们的父母年轻时做的运动和锻炼要少。你在多大程度上同意这种说法?给出一些你 个人经历的例子。

There has been a heated debate on whether school children are doing less sport and exercise than their parents when they were young. Although some argue that juveniles still engage in lots of exercise, I am convinced that the younger generation has become less sporty.

The probable reason for some people believing that children are still sporty is the government and education institutions are paying more attention to sports constitution of students. Besides, children are given more time to do sports and exercise at school now due to the relevant policies have been reinforced for youth health. With such reinforcement, people may believe that school children are more likely to do exercise.

However, there are many reasons why students in schools are doing much less exercise, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that there are more public and private transportation tools nowadays, so children do not need to walk as their parents did in the past. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that with the development of internet and communication technology, children spend more leisure time on playing electronic games. Furthermore, according to New York times, it has been reported that parents are usually too busy to accompany their children. Take myself as an example, my parents had no much time to keep me company when I was a kid.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people support that children are doing more exercise, it is safe to draw the conclusion that school children participate much less physical activities nowadays.

(265 words)





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WE 3. Public transportation/公共交通

Should governments build more roads for vehicle owner or improve the network of public transport?

Discuss and give examples.

政府应该为车主修建更多道路还是改善公共交通网络?讨论并举例说明。

The controversial issue in respect with the improvement of public transportation, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether future government funds should be invested into public or private transportation infrastructure, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that private transportation brings convenience due to the facts that private car owners can utilize their time in accordance with their needs as well as travelling is more comfortable using personal vehicles. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that public transportation can help to reduce traffic congestions largely. That is to say, if more people choose to travel by public transportation, there will be fewer congestions which are caused by overuse of private vehicles.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that public transportation significantly reduces the number of cars on the road which means less pollution from motor vehicle emissions. We may cite a convincing correlation of such pollution to respiratory diseases, a severe example is lung cancer due to long-term exposure to polluted air. As a result, few cars on the road mean reduction of the possibility of getting these dangerous diseases.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that public transportation infrastructures need more funds. Despite the fact that private transportation is convenient, using public transportation to commute bears more societal merits.

(257 words)





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WE 4. Large shopping mall/大型购物中心

Large shopping malls are replacing small shops.

What is your opinion about this? Discuss with appropriate examples.

大型购物中心正在取代小商店。你对此有什么看 法?用适当的例子讨论。

These days, the matter of large shopping malls replacing small corner shops has generated wide-spread attention among our society. While it is reasonable to claim that these large malls are coming at the cost of small shops, my view is that the establishment of the large shopping malls suits people's changing lifestyle in pursuing efficiency and convenience.

To start, it is undeniable that there may be some downsides of large shopping malls, the closure of small shops due to the opening of more shopping malls lead to a rise of the unemployment rate in such areas. In addition, there have been concerns that without competition, the market will be monopolised which will cause a price increase in the future.

However, those who argue for the favourite side have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that large shopping malls bring tremendous convenience into people's daily life. For example, people can finish grocery shopping along with purchasing clothes and watching movies under one roof. According to a report on Sydney Morning Herald, consumers save a lot of time from bargaining as the products are all at fixed prices. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that there are usually more than one large firms competing in the market. From my own experience, I can save more money shopping in the mall from the weekly sales items offered by a different company.

To conclude, although some believe that small shops are closer to communities, I am strongly convinced that large shopping malls make people's life easier because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(274 words)





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WE 5. Science and art/科学和艺术

Is science more important than art to the society?

对社会来说,科学比艺术更重要吗?

The importance of science and art, which was always debatable, has now become more controversial. Some people hold the view that science should be considered as a more useful area, while in my opinion, art is more important than science. This essay will further elaborate on both the sides by providing necessary arguments while presenting personal and objective examples.

While it is reasonable to believe that science has a vital influence on society because science raises people's awareness of problems and provides possible solutions to overcome such situations. However, it should be pointed out that the convenience brought by science has changed the world into a unified style that eventually, all countries in the world will look similar. On the contrary, art and culture co-exist in the society that one cannot survive without the other. That is to say, what distinguishes one culture from another is strongly related to art.

Moreover, it is conspicuous that art is a subject related to the traditional values, beliefs, and customs that help the nation and its people to form uniqueness. For example, it has been published on The Times that in the result of emphasising more important to the field of art, Indian people are more connected to their roots and traditions. Additionally, art can inspire people's creativity and imagination which is especially important to explore children's potentials.

In summary, despite having some benefits linked with the contribution of science, the role of art society in passing the cultural awareness from one generation to another is instrumental indeed.

(255 words)





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WE 6. A good listener/好的倾听者

A good listener is better than a good talker in a social 在社交场合,一个好的倾听者胜过一个健谈的 situation. Do you agree or disagree? 人。你同意还是不同意?

It is generally true that both talking and listening are essential aspects of social communication. In recent times, the discussion of which one is better has attracted widespread attention among the public. Some people believe it is more important to express their mind, while others hold the opposite opinion. I tend to agree more with the latter and will try to elaborate below.

The probable reason for some people in favour of talking skills is that good speakers always break the ice in a social situation, especially for a first-time meeting, so it is easier for them to make connections in social events. Moreover, they have the abilities to express their ideas in an effective way. Therefore, they may stand a better chance of leading to greater potential to succeed in the workplace.

However, there are many reasons why I believe being a good listener outweighs, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that authentic listening can generate respect and trust between talker and listener. In addition, recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that participants who are better at listening tend to be responded with more authenticity, thus good listening skills can lead to fewer mistakes being made and help people to avoid misunderstanding. Take myself as an example, I enjoyed being the listener of any conversation as it provides me with new perspectives and insights.

To conclude, it is reasonable to say that despite the fact that being a good talker is important in communication, I feel affirmative on the advantages of being a good listener, as attentive listening can give support to effective talking.

(270 words)





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WE 7. Journalist/新闻工作者

Being a journalist is one of the most difficult jobs in the world. To what extent, you agree with it.

记者是世界上最困难的工作之一。在何种程度上,你同意它。

In recent days, the problem of whether journalism counted as one of the most difficult careers in the world has aroused a heated discussion. Some people claim that it is nothing but one of the countless jobs like others, while I hold the opinion that being a journalist is one of the toughest jobs to pursue.

To start, I do admit that journalism is sometimes considered arduous. The possible reasons may be journalists are always working on never-ending deadlines and unconditional long-working-hour circumstances. Furthermore, people also believe that those who join the workforce are the ones with eager and motivation to pursue such a career which they are passionate at. Therefore, they will not find it as hard as people who have no interest in it.

However, there are many reasons why I think journalism is an underestimated job. For one thing, all journalists are under great pressure because they need to finish their tasks before countless deadlines, and society expects them to present every aspect of an issue which can be extremely difficult. Furthermore, recent research released on New York Times has demonstrated that more than 60% of the news involves great danger in regards to the destinations of the news source as well as the process of getting them. Besides, take myself as an example, I have seen a journalist being chased and hit while trying to cover news about local illegal food processing factory.

To conclude, although some believe that journalism is no different to any other jobs, I am strongly convinced that it is one of the toughest because it not only under great pressure from the industry itself but also confronts various dangerous conditions.

(279 words)





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WE 8. City growing/城市发展

City population has been growing rapidly. To cope with this problem, should we rely on city planners or new policies?

城市人口一直在迅速增长。为了应对这个问题,我们应该依靠城市规划者还是新政策?

In recent years, the rapid increase in the number of population and vehicles has posed serious challenges for the governments across the world. Whether to depend on city planning or new policies has raised heated discussion among the public. People's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent for city planner in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that new policies are made in response to the different situations in different cities due to the fact that the extent of rural to urban migration and international migration are varied in different places. However, one most pressing problem associated is that new immigrants may face compulsory requirements such as staying in rural areas for a certain period of time. That is to say, their work and life can be largely affected if they choose to settle.

On the other hand, one of the main reason causing rural to urban migration is that imbalanced planning was conduction in history. To be more specific, people live in the rural areas have less access to services and public infrastructures such as education, training centre, shopping malls etc. therefore, it is imperative that city planners should include adequate service and public facilities into the planning to adapt to the growing population, for instance, fast commute and large shopping malls, to make rural areas feasible to live.

In conclusion, I personally believe that in this era, most of the countries development are mainly concentrated in their cities, thus it is more advantageous to have scientific planning as the strategy for cities' growth. (268 words)





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WE 9. Internet or media/因特网或媒体

Internet or media is bad for young people because they make the young generation poor in communication and forming relationships. Do you agree with this opinion? Please use examples or your personal experience to support your idea. 互联网或媒体对年轻人是有害的,因为他们使年轻一代在沟通和建立关系方面不尽人意。你同意这个观点吗?请用例子或你的个人经验来支持你的想法。

Recently, with the digital landscape widely spread all over the world, a heated debate has been sparked relating to whether internet or media poses pressure on young generation's relationship formation. While some people hold the view that such digital method has a detrimental effect on how young generation communicate, I am convinced that the mass media brings more benefits in regard to its variety as well as convenience.

It is undeniable that both internet and media cannot provide the liveliness of face to face communication, due to its lack of assistance from facial expressions and body languages, which are important in reinforcing messages and clarifying concepts. As a result, it is regarded that the internet and media deteriorate young people's social skills.

However, on the contrary, one obvious advantage of the internet is that it offers young people with various means of communication. In such a way, young people can connect with each other easily and timely. In my own experience, when I was at a university abroad, video chatting through the internet with my family brought tremendous convenience to our bonding. In addition, it is beneficial to use internet for information sharing. People can get access anytime anywhere. More specifically, young people can arrange meetings based on their needs. Online conference frees up their time and efforts from the physical meeting. Thus, it is a more efficient way to develop relationships.

To conclude, while there are several compelling arguments on both sides, I profoundly believe that using the internet among younger adults far outweigh its drawbacks. Not only do the advantages of communication skills prove the significance of the close relationship, but also pinpoint social interaction implications. (278 words)





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WE 10. English/英语

The use of English seems to be growing as the world interconnected, what reasons cause this phenomenon and what are the disadvantages and advantages of this?

由于世界的紧密联系,英语的使用日益增多,是什么原因导致这一现象,这个现象的缺点和优点是什么?

These days, the matter of English being recognised as the key for international understanding and world regulation has generated widespread attention among our society. While some people claim that it provides a platform for the whole world to communicate, others are convinced that the spread of English poses a threat to other languages to extinct. In this essay, I will analyse the underlying reason for this phenomenon and its pros and cons by presenting both personal and objective examples.

First and foremost, I believe the promotion of English is indivisible from the fast pace of globalisation. English is chosen as an intermediate language due to the fact that 67 nations in the world have English as the primary language, and there are also 27 countries where English is spoken as a secondary official language.

It is worth noting that there exist several drawbacks to widely use English. To begin with, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is that it accelerates the extinction of some minor languages which are spoken by only a small number of people. According to a study carried out by Sydney University, 42 languages including dialects have disappeared due to globalisation.

However, on the contrary, English has improved the communication of people from different countries. In other words, in order to better connect with others, more people will begin to learn English. Additionally, modern technology has deployed English as a common language, knowing English has increased the opportunity for people to reach out for other products and services.

In summary, while there are people worried about the dangerous of English to other languages, I personally believe its advantage outweighs the threat it presents.

(279 words)





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WE 11. Environmental challenges/环境挑战

Business and commercial organizations should help to solve environmental challenges. To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

商业活动和企业应该帮助解决环境问题带来的挑战。在多大程度上你同意这个观点吗?

In recent years, there is an ongoing debate on whether business or government should be responsible for ensuring its sustenance for the future generation. While it is possible to claim that commercial organisations play an important part in regard to their social responsibilities, I hold the opinion that the government is more pivotal in preventing and solving environmental problems.

It is admittedly that there are several ways a business can assist. One most commonly acknowledged method is that the business process can be switched to an eco-friendlier way that produces less emission. Moreover, organisations can purchase materials which are conducive to our environment. However, it needs to be pointed out that this is mostly the choice of the business. Therefore, the government should establish regulations, for instance, introducing 'green tax' on automobile and airline companies.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that the government should have a long-term plan to invest in sustainable energy, such as wind, solar power etc. in that level of total air pollution amount would decrease. We may cite a convincing finding from UNSW that the public awareness to protect the environment can raise up to 68% with appropriate government campaigns. Furthermore, the government can cooperate with international bodies to introduce stringent laws to regulate the organisations in the market on their waste and emission level. As a result, business will not only follow the regulations in pollution minimisation but also invest more in corporate social responsibility to protect the environment.

In summary, even though commercial organisations should take a necessary part in solving environmental problems, we may safely draw the conclusion that government is in the leading position of the action. (277 words)





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WE 12. Share wealth/分享财富

Wealthy nations are required to share their wealth with poorer countries. What is your opinion?

富裕国家被要求与较贫穷的国家分享财富。你有什么意见?

The controversial issue in respect of wealth sharing in today's society has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether should nations of more wealth help poorer countries financially, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly believed that helping countries that suffer from poverty is a moral duty due to the fact that poor countries have very limited access to education, health and trade comparing to wealthy nations. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that by giving poor countries food, resources or money without getting anything in return, is bound to remove any motivation for them to improve their situation. That is to say, poor nations may become increasingly dependent on other countries' aid.

Additionally, it is an indisputable fact that the root cause of poverty is lack of knowledge on how to generate wealth. Therefore, it is more important that developed countries need to take active interests in improving education in such poor. Take my friend John as an example, he received educational financial aids which helped him landed on a good job after university graduation. Therefore, there is no doubt that local government should prioritise their development tasks to help the country free from poverty in the future.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that it is not feasible for wealthy countries to simply share their wealth. Despite the fact that helping poorer countries has a humanitarian ground, it will be more beneficial to assist the less wealthy countries to stand on their own feet. (279 words)





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WE 13. Tuition fees/学费

University tuition fees are increasing. Some argue that higher education should be made free. To what extend do you agree?

大学的学费越来越高。一些人认为高等教育应该是免费的。你在多大程度上同意这个观点?

There has been a heated discussion on whether university education should be free to all students. Although some argue that university should be self-funded because it is a personal choice, others disagree. In my view, I am convinced that university education should be free and supported by governments for many reasons illustrated below.

The probable reason for some people believing that the cost of higher studies should be borne by the students themselves is that university graduates generally earn more than their counterparts. Therefore, people consider it is fair due to its high-cost-high-return nature.

However, there are many reasons why the university should be free, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that no one should be left deprived of education. In addition, recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that the percentage of people who passed the university admission tests has increased from 47% to 67% indicating an improvement in education quality. Furthermore, according to New York Times, it has been reported that highly skilled population is essential to any country's economic growth in the long run, and a better-educated population ensures a higher level of innovation and productivity in that society.

To sum up, because free education allows students to learn what they enjoy most and are best at, it can ensure better allocation of human resource. In addition, free education can reduce unemployment cost in the economic downturn and increase economic growth in the long run. Thus, I am fully agreed that tertiary education should be provided free.

(254 words)





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WE 14. Handwriting/书法

Some Universities believe that students should learn typing rather than a good handwriting. How far do you agree with that? Show reasons with your experience.

一些大学认为学生应该学习打字而不是好的书写。你在多大程度上同意这个观点?用你的经验证明你的理由。

Nowadays, there is a trending thought that handwriting skills are no longer important in the technology era. While some people claim that students should invest time into handwriting skills, I believe students are more likely to use typing most of the time. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that handwriting may have some downsides. Firstly, it is commonly acknowledged that neat and speedy handwriting was a criterion for academic success in the past. However, it is time-consuming to achieve a good level of handwriting skills. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that people have different writing styles which requires more time for teachers to fully comprehend what students wish to express.

However, those who argue for the supportive side of typing have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that assignments, classwork, tests and other school activities are mostly done on computers, therefore students need to grasp the skills of computing and typing more than presenting immaculate letter formation on a paper. To illustrate with my own experience, I have submitted around three assignments during my last term and all of them were submitted to my teachers' email addresses. Moreover, considering the future where computers would be more predominant, time invested in honing excellent handwriting can be better utilised in mastering technologies.

To conclude, although some people still believe handwriting is a beautiful ritual, academic activities and professional needs in this era or technology bound students to have skills in computers. Therefore, I would strongly recommend investing time in learning how to type.

(278 words)





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WE 15. Happiness index/幸福指数

More people consider 'national happiness index' as a better measurement for a country's success than the country's economic growth. What do you think about the idea? What can be used to measure 'national happiness'?

更多的人认为"国民幸福指数"比经济增长更能 衡量一个国家的成功。你觉得这个观点如何?什 么可以用来衡量"国民幸福"?

In recent times, the concept of using the happiness level of citizens in a country as a measurement of success attracts heated attention. Some people claim that only economic growth can represent the success of one country. While others believe that this new idea is more comprehensive in turns of different aspects of success. And I tend to be the proponent of the latter.

To begin with, the probable reason for people insisted in using economic growth is primarily focusing on the idea that money is fundamental. This is to say, without decent amount incumbent, the government will not have enough resources for the infrastructure of cities. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. This is because every individual is the essential components of a country instead of money. Therefore, a government's ultimate goal is to increase every citizen's quality of life.

The happiness index is a comprehensive concept that includes the mental, physical and economic growth of one country. To be more specific, the healthier the citizens, the more productive they are in doing their activities and the more money contributing to social development. A recent study from Yale University has revealed that when one's financial capability reached a certain point, happiness only shows little correlation to money. Additionally, education can influence people's ability to compete and maintain their jobs, which will lead to a lower unemployment rate.

In a nutshell, we can safely reach the conclusion that making everyone happier should be the ultimate goal and therefore we should pay more attention to it, despite the fact that economic growth is also extremely crucial in terms of achieving this goal.

(274 words)





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WE 16. University/大学

Some students choose university near where they live and continue stay at home with families, other students choose university away from family, what is the advantages and disadvantages for both sides?

一些学生选择离家近的大学继续和家人一同生活,另一些学生选择离家远的大学,这两种选择都有什么好处和坏处?

In the modern days, people consider attending university as a path to gain success in life. While some students tend to stay at home when studying in a university. In contrast, other students like to attend universities far away from home. In this essay, I will analyse the advantages and disadvantages of both.

There are indeed numerous benefits and advantages of studying in hometown universities. Students can enjoy the comfort and support from their families such as preparing meals, sanitation and other aspects. Furthermore, students who are living with the parents have a tremendous amount of support to succeed in university. For instance, the first-year university is very crucial in term of the adjusting, during this period students need help and support of their elders. However, it is less likely for these students to develop a sense of independence. Additionally, their chances of interacting with other new students will decrease considering time spent with family and old friends.

On the other hand, students studying outside can gain confidence and become more responsible. For example, one learns to deal with domestic daily chores like making food, cleaning and paying rent and bills. Secondly, students develop various types of qualities and skills while learns how to solve problems and make decisions on their own. However, it cannot be ignored that the costs associated with accommodation and commute are high. Moreover, their time spent with family is much less comparing to staying close to home students.

To sum up, in my perspective both aspects have advantages and disadvantages. Some people like to live in freedom while others believe that family support is very important in life.

(273 words)





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WE 17. Assessment/评估

People put more emphasis on assessment not on learning in our school today. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use examples to support your idea.

在如今的学校教育中,人们越来越看重评估结果 而非学习过程。你在多大程度上同意这种说法? 用例子来支持你的观点。

These days, whether students should pay more attention to assessments instead of learning has launched a heated debate. While it is reasonable to claim that this will lead to excessive pressure, my view is that the assessment is still a good way to improve academic performance.

It is worth noting that there exist a number of drawbacks to put more emphasis on exams and tests. To begin with, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is that it might be harmful to children's mental health. This is to say, more assessments result in more anxiety and stress which will inhibit students' positive attitude towards learning.

However, in my opinion, obvious advantages easily surpass all the possible problems it could pose, and thus must not be neglected. On the one hand, assessments and exams are the most popular ways to evaluate the study in most schools and universities, especially schools in China. E.g. National Entrance Examination (Gaokao). More specifically, this is an effective education system that could give a fair-minded result based on Individual performance. On the other hand, most curriculums are not designed for practical uses in future, but more in theory, which will be easier to be assessed through exams. E.g. mathematics and history.

In conclusion, while many people are worried about the negative impacts on students' healthy development, I personally believe that exams offer more opportunities for students to find their missing pieces and solve the problem. Moreover, a reasonable exam arrangement would make school life more efficient and vibrant. (253 words)





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WE 18. Geography/地理

The geography of a country has a powerful influence on characters of the people who lives there. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Give reasons and examples.

一个国家的地理位置对居住在那里的人们的性格具有很大的影响。你在多大程度上同意这种说法?给出理由和例子。

The controversial issue in respect to the relationship between a country's geography and people's characters, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that people's characters are mainly affected by the family and the people around them. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that the geography of a country contributes significantly to people's characters. That is to say, countries that have long coastal lines are more likely to develop a stronger maritime power, such as sea transportation. Therefore, people who live in these countries are more likely to be more adventurous and better in water sports. E.g. Age of Discovery. Olympic winners in swimming are mostly from countries coastal states such as the UK and the US.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that the geography of a country will also have an influence on its people's physical traits. People are evolved to get adapted to the local geographical features. We may cite a convincing example from the "National Geographic Magazine". People who are from a tundra ecology are more likely to develop traits that will help them to survive from extreme cold weather, such as thick body hair and longer nasal passages. Whereas people who are from tropical areas are more often to have less body hair.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that the country's geography has a powerful influence on people's mental and physical characters.

(270 words)





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WE 19. College degree/大学学位

University students tend to earn higher than those without a college degree, so some people think they should pay full cost of the education. What is your opinion?

大学生往往比没有大学学位的人赚钱更多,所以 一些人认为他们应该支付其全部的教育费用。你 的意见是什么?

The controversial issue in respect of the cost of higher education, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether university students should bear all expenses, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, people without a college degree would normally think it is not fair that their tax pays a part of the cost of the tertiary education due to the fact that they earn lower than those who have a college degree. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that higher education should be an important constituent of a country's social welfare, so the government should make the most use of the tax and take the responsibility to lower the tuition fee and to make the university education more accessible to its citizens.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that the university tuition could be really high at all times. If university students are to pay their university fees themselves, those who do not have a strong financial background will miss the chance to get into a university and which in a long-term, is bad for a country's development. We may cite a convincing example from the government report. The statistics showed that more than 15% of high school graduates could not afford the university tuition fees in China last year. As a result, they can only do some manual labour which has a lower salary.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that individuals and the government should all make an effort to pay the cost of the education.

(290 words)





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WE 20. Education system/教育系统

What do you think are the strengths and weakness of the education system in your country? Use your own experience to support your idea. 你认为你们国家教育制度的优点和缺点是什么? 用你自己的经验来支持你的想法。

In recent times, the matter of the education system in China has aroused wide-spread attention among our society. While some people claim that Chinese students generally learn better, others are convinced that our education system put too much emphasis on academic performance and ignore the other important aspects. In this essay, I will analyse the advantages together with the disadvantages of the educational status in China by presenting both personal and objective examples.

It is worth noting that there exist a number of drawbacks to the education system. To begin with, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is that it is score-oriented, not paying enough attention to students' versatile capabilities. To put it differently, the rigid teaching method and rote learning are not fully exploring students' potential. For instance, teachers are giving lectures all the time instead of asking questions and provoking thinking. According to the saying "The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking" by Albert Einstein, this teaching style contradicts the rules in the field of philosophy.

However, obvious advantages of our education system are equally significant. On the one hand, this system highlights primary education, laying a solid foundation for future study. To be more specific, almost every school-age child has the right to access to education. On the other hand, low-cost for high education makes it easier for poor students to afford university and college. For example, my university tuition fee was only 4000 Chinese yuan per year and students from poor families can also apply for loans.

In conclusion, while many people are worried about downsides of our system, I personally believe that it will still enable graduates to gain more opportunities in the future.

(288 words)





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WE 21. Emigration/移民

Many people choose to emigrate to other countries. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a foreign country? Discuss with your own experience.

许多人选择移民到其他国家。在国外生活的优点和缺点是什么?用你自己的经历来讨论。

In recent times, the matter of emigrating to other countries has aroused wide-spread attention among our society. While some people claim that it will broaden our horizons, others are convinced that living in a foreign country is pretty arduous. In this essay, I will analyse the advantages together with the disadvantages of leaving one's country to live in another by presenting both personal and objective examples.

It is worth noting that there exist a number of drawbacks to live in another country. To begin with, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is the language barrier. More specifically, it is difficult to communicate with native speakers, which brings pressure to life. For example, when I first arrived in Australia, I felt nervous to talk to local people. And it was hard to emerge in different cultural backgrounds because of the culture shocks. Additionally, the new business environment also poses problems in finding new jobs and getting employed.

However, on the contrary, the obvious advantages of moving to a new country are equally significant, and thus must not be neglected. On the one hand, this brings more abundant experiences, possibilities and opportunities to us. This is to say, the greatest challenge is the greatest chance. For example, new social relationships and more friends can enrich people's life and introduce the various aspects of the world. On the other hand, there goes a saying "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing" by Helen Keller, which further proves that it is worthwhile and meaningful to discover a new community.

To conclude, while many people are worried about the emigration, I personally believe that it is more beneficial comes down to the matter of life experience.

(285 words)





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WE 22. Subject choosing/学科选择

Rather than choose a subject that is suitable for future employment possibilities, you should choose a subject that you are interested in or could get good grades. Agree or disagree?

与其选择一门适合未来就业可能的学科,你更应该选择一门你感兴趣的或者可以取得好成绩的 学科。同意或不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether choosing a subject that students are passionate about should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on them. While it is possible to claim that some subjects are not promising for future employment possibilities, I am of the opinion that success comes to those who dedicate everything to their passion in life.

To start with, it is undeniable that choosing the subject based on personal preference may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that the competition in the job market is fierce and students should be well prepared by studying appropriate subjects. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that students may be too young to conclude what they are really enthusiastic about and sometimes interest will change over time.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of choosing subjects that they are good at have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it will be easier for students to pass exams and obtain their degree, which is necessary for a future career. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that most Chinese students are doing business subjects since mathematics is their area of expertise. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that future employment requirements are constantly changing, which makes it impossible to predict what subjects are suitable.

To conclude, although some believe that what we are learning should be the best for our future employment, I am strongly convinced that enthusiasm is the key to choose subjects because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(277 words)



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WE 23. Medical technology/医疗技术

Medical technology can increase life expectancy. Is 医疗技术可以延长寿命。这是福还是祸? it a blessing or curse?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether longer life expectancy should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that it is a burden to society, I am of the opinion that it is a blessing that modern medical technology allows us to live longer.

To start with, it is undeniable that longevity may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that living longer does not necessarily mean health because the rate of getting illness increases with the growth of old age. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that longer life expectancy and lower fertility rate may lead to a lack of young working forces.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of a longer life have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it means one can stay with his or her family longer and enjoy a happy later life. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that people spend most of their life working and taking care of their family. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that people live longer provides an opportunity for their children to return the care they have received from parents. From my own experience, I would be really grateful that I can have more time to stay with and show filial respect to my parents.

To conclude, although some believe that longevity would leave the great burden to families as well as the society, I am strongly convinced that it allows people to contribute more to the world with their talent and wisdom.

(275 words)





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WE 24. Restriction/限制

Do you think that young people should be restricted on certain things that they can do such as driving or smoking until they reach the age of 25? What are your views on this? 你是否认为年轻人应该被限制他们可以做的某些事情,比如开车或吸烟,直到他们年满 25 岁? 你对此有何看法?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether the restriction on certain things until the age of 25 should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on young people. While it is possible to claim that people are already adults when they reach 18 years old, I am of the opinion that moderate restrictions are not only beneficial to young people themselves but also to the society.

To start with, it is undeniable that putting an age limit may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that people who reach 18 years old are defined as adults, which means they are able to take care of themselves. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that too much restriction will lead to rebel and will break the rules more often based on human natures, which is dangerous to the whole community.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of limitations have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that people are not mentally mature when they are under the age of 25 because they have not experienced enough and so probably are not aware of the consequences of some actions. For instance, disastrous outcomes of driving will be caused if they fail to comply with the traffic laws. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that people who are younger than 25 years old are not physically prepared for some acts either, such as drinking and smoking.

To conclude, although some believe that 25-years-old grown-ups are mature enough to take responsibilities for their actions, I am strongly convinced that youth should be restricted on certain things based on what has been discussed above.

(283 words)





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WE 25. Personal life/个人生活

The time people devote in job leaves very little time for personal life. How widespread is the problem? What problems will this shortage of time causes? 人们在工作中投入的时间导致他们几乎没有时间用于个人生活。这个问题有多普遍?时间的短缺会导致什么问题?

The controversial issue in respect of insufficient leisure time, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. The causes of this are various, and there are a number of measures need to be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that the excessive workload is the first and most important reason. This is because contemporary employees usually work over eight hours per day. We may cite a convincing example of the research published by the University of Chicago that over 37% of employees from companies are working over-time on a daily basis.

Additionally, social values also play a significant role in work-life imbalance. People are likely to put more emphasis on earning money instead of enjoying life because of the main values in this society. For example, a recent research conducted by New York Times has revealed that the mainstream society advocates wealth and power.

As a result, working with low motivations together with poor health conditions are two mean problems in today's workplace. That is to say, employees cannot get enough rest with decreased personal time. Working continuously for a long period also make them fatigue and less interested in their work. Additionally, a sedentary lifestyle may cause serious health problems such as diabetes. Therefore, governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will protect the legitimate rights and interests of employees.

To put it in a nutshell, despite the fact there might be diverse causes of the little time for personal life, it is imperative that both governments and companies work together to combat these problems.

(268 words)





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WE 26. Balance/平衡

Right balance between work and other aspects of life. How it is important and why it is hard to achieve?

正确平衡工作和生活的其他方面。它有多重要,这中平衡为什么很难实现?

The controversial issue in respect of work-life balance, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. The reasons why this is so important are various, and there are also a number of reasons why it is difficult to achieve.

To begin with, it is important to achieve because it affects the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. After all, people need time and energy to participate in family life, democracy, and community activities. They also need time outside of work for rejuvenation, and to develop and nurture friendships and their "non-work selves." As the old adage says: healthy body, healthy mind, so a great way to maintain your mental health is to ensure that you are physically healthy too. Additionally, it can also improve people's productivity, and ultimately performance. If people don't view work as a chore, then they will work harder, make fewer mistakes and are more likely to achieve their work goals.

The reasons why it is hard to achieve a work and life balance might be various. The most commonly cited reasons had to do with fundamental work and life realities, which cause increased stress levels. People at work have static salaries but increasing responsibilities and longer working hours; while at home, they might also have increased responsibilities because of having children. As a result, it is rarely possible for people in this age to achieve a balance between work and life.

To put it in a nutshell, despite the fact that there might be diverse reasons of how important the life-work balance is, it cannot be denied that the actual achievement is very arduous for modern people. (271 words)





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WE 27. Adverting/广告

Some people think the advertising is bad because it encouraged people to buy things they do not need or cannot afford, while others believe that advertisement is good because it can improve people's lives. What's your opinion? Explain the answer with examples.

一些人认为广告是不好的,因为它鼓励人们买他们不需要或负担不起的东西,而有些人认为广告是好的,因为它可以改善人们的生活。你的意见是什么?用例子解释你的观点。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether advertising should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that it is stimulating people to want things constantly, I am of the opinion that we can learn about new products through advertising.

To start with, it is undeniable that advertisements may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that many consumers are convinced to spend money they do not have for things they do not need. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that the high sales of popular consumer goods are a reflection of the power of advertising rather than the real needs of the society in which they are sold.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of commercials have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it can advertise new products. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that many grocery stores now sell pre-packaged lunches. These are very convenient for busy parents who can give these lunches to their children to take to school. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that advertisements keep us informed about prices and sales. From my own experience, I can look at the ads in the newspaper and see what the latest prices are and what products are on sale.

To conclude, although some believe that advertising misleads people to desire something not necessary, I am strongly convinced that advertisements improve our lives by keeping us informed about the latest products developments and the best prices, and they serve a useful purpose.

(273 words)





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WE 28. Online content/在线内容

Online content such as music, videos, consumergenerated contents or blogs are accessible to all users at no cost in technically advanced society today. To what extent do you agree people should pay for online content of not? 在当今技术发达的社会中,所有用户都可以免费访问音乐、视频、消费者生成的内容或博客等在线内容。你在多大程度上同意人们要为在线内容付费?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether free online content should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that people should not pay for what is on the internet, I am of the opinion that every content has its value no matter where it is.

To start with, it is undeniable that accessing the online content at no cost may have some supporters. Firstly, it is claimed that free content has worked handily before. For example, traditional media such as radio and television are giving away content without charging any money. Moreover, instead of subscription revenue, content providers should balance the trade-off between subscription and advertising revenues.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of paid content have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that there is no such thing as a free lunch. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that someone needs to conceptualize, spend time creating, editing and publishing the content, as well as promote it and pay for hosting costs. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that consumers get to enjoy the content and be informed, educated, entertained, or pleasantly distracted by it. From my own experience, I would like to pay for what I get and also enable the creativity of the future.

To conclude, although some believe that free content is beneficial to most people, I am strongly convinced that we should definitely pay for whatever we get from the internet because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(275 words)



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WE 29. Creativity/创造力

Creativity is something that a person is born with.

Other people think that creativity can be taught or developed. To what aspect you agree or disagree?

创造力是一个人与生俱来的东西。另一些人认 为创造力是可以培养的。你同意或不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether creativity is intrinsic or it can be developed. While it is possible to claim that it is something that can be obtained later when growing up, I am of the opinion that it is a born gift. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analyzing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that creative education may have some supporters. Firstly, it is claimed that when people are presented problems consistently and choose to solve those problems with relevance and novelty, they can improve creatively. Moreover, there are also arguments that quality and strong education supports students' creativity and develops innovation. For example, Google and Facebook talk about their "campuses" to create that atmosphere of innovation, thought, and knowledge.

However, those who argue for the opposite have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that creativity is a natural talent. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that you can teach someone music but you cannot teach them how to compose brilliant original tunes. You can teach someone art but you cannot teach them how to paint stunning original pictures. You can teach people about engineering but that does not make them an inventor. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that teaching can give the tools to be creative, but if there is no natural talent, then nothing will come out of it.

To conclude, although some believe that creativity can be learned and taught, I am strongly convinced that it is our innate ability based on what has been discussed above.

(279 words)





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WE 30. Digital media/数字媒体

Whether digital age has made us lazier or improved our knowledge?

数字时代是否让我们更加懒惰了,或是它其实增加了我们的知识?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether the digital age should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that the more technology improves, the more we get lazy, I am of the opinion that it has made our life more convenient.

To start with, it is undeniable that the new media age may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that technology has allowed humans to work less, enjoy leisure time and take up hobbies. Technology has also meant that many have become lazy. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that obesity is common now. it might be the biggest medical condition that we have now and it keeps getting worse.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of the epoch of technology have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that technology has allowed us to achieve things that were once seen as impossible. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that hospitals and doctors have used digital medical equipment to save countless lives. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that it depends on how you use and manipulate technology. From my own experience, I can use technology to avoid doing energy-requiring activities. I do not have to go out as much now as I prefer to talk and interact with their friends online.

To conclude, although some believe that a lot of people have become lazy as technology has developed, I am strongly convinced that other people have used this to enhance their lives in ways that make them more active and healthy.

(280 words)



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WE 31. Digital media/数字媒体

University should only use digital media rather than continuously upgrading textbook. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

大学应该只使用数字媒体,而不是不断地更新 教科书。你在多大程度上同意或不同意这个观 点?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether digital media used in universities should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on students. While it is possible to claim that it makes learning more convenient, I am of the opinion that it should not totally replace textbooks. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analyzing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that electronic media may have some supporters. Firstly, it is claimed that digital media can provide much more vivid and abundant study material than traditional books, which can make the study experience more interesting and efficient. Moreover, there are also arguments that digital media is based on information technology, which is much more environment-friendly than paper books.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of using traditional textbook have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that students are easily distracted by the fancy form of digital education resources, making them remember little about the contents. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that textbook is plain but concise enough to help students focus on what they are learning. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that digital media is harmful to student's eyesight if students stare at the screen for a long time. From my own experience, my eyes will be sore after a long period of screen time.

To conclude, although some believe that modern teaching technologies are more suitable for today's university, I am strongly convinced that the textbook still plays an important role in giving lessons. (273 words)





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WE 32. Degree course/学位课程

Some universities now offer degree course related to popular culture such as pop music and video gaming.

Some people believe these subjects are valid.

Discuss this opinion and give examples.

一些大学现在开设了与流行文化相关的学位课程,如流行音乐和视频游戏。有些人相信这些课程是有效的。讨论这个观点并举例说明。

The controversial issue in respect of curriculum structure in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether universities should offer degree courses related to popular culture such as pop music and video gaming, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

To start with, it is commonly acknowledged that a key role of education is encouraging young people to make sense of their world and ignoring the culture in which they live will do little to support that. There is something to be learned from everything that goes on around us, and using it to support theory and understanding in examinations and in learning in general makes complete sense.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that teachers cannot sit back and let students passively digest this material. Instead, teachers should actively engage their students in discussions about the controversial materials bombarding them. Also, the benefits of teaching using popular media are substantial, such as helping engage students, bringing lessons off the page and addressing controversial topics. Furthermore, it could be a fun lesson for the end of semester or a light distraction during the tense academic periods. Take myself as an example, the introduction of popular media in the class has been interesting for me.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that introducing courses associated with popular culture is beneficial to students. Despite the fact that some are reluctant to accept it.

(263 words)





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WE 33. Rural areas/农村地区

More people move from rural areas to live in big cities for work and education. Do you think it is a positive development?

越来越多的人从农村搬到大城市工作和学习。 你认为这是一个积极的发展吗?

There has been a heated debate on whether moving from rural areas to big cities shows a positive sign. Although some argue that people enjoy better life in cities, I am convinced that there are more disadvantages to this trend.

The probable reason for some people believing that living in huge cities is favourable is large cities could provide a better quality of life and more job opportunities. For example, people can enjoy better medical services, and their children can have a better education. Besides, living in cities is much more convenient than rural areas due to better transportation systems. As a result, people can spend less time on traveling and use their time to focus on study or work.

However, there are many reasons why moving to cities can be a bad choice, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that with an increasing number of people moving to big cities, the cities will become overcrowded, which will lead to the housing problems and more pollutions. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that if a large number of people migrate to the city, the rural areas will always remain underdeveloped due to the lack of talents. Furthermore, according to New York times, it has been reported if people cannot find a suitable job to earn a living, they might commit crimes, which will directly lead to the increase of the crime rate.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people support migrating to cities, it is safe to draw the conclusion that the trend of moving to cities is leading more problems than improving life quality.

(280 words)





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WE 34. Idol/偶像

Cinema, music and sports idols can provide positive role model for teenagers. What is your opinion? Use your own experience to explain. 电影、音乐和体育偶像可以为青少年提供积极的榜样。你的意见是什么?用你自己的经历来解释你的观点。

There has been a heated debate on whether cinema, music and sports idols can provide positive role model for teenagers. Although some argue that celebrities are often exposed with scandals, I am convinced that they could lead young people to bright paths.

The probable reason for some people believing that idolizing entertainment stars is harmful for children is some celebrities always post pictures of luxury bags and clothes on the social media as they want to get more attention from the public, but when young people see these pictures, their values might be affected. This is to say, teenagers are likely to be affected by stars with improper behaviours.

However, there are many reasons why idols can be great models for young people, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that idols can have a positive effect in teenagers' lives when they promote education and cultural awareness. Celebrities who have an interest in education teach teenagers that it is what is on the inside that really matters. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that Celebrities can have a positive effect on teenagers by setting a good example of how to live and act.

Furthermore, according to New York times, it has been reported celebrities who show integrity in their personal and professional lives, such as obeying the laws and keeping their relationships, are positive role models for teenagers.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people support no star idolizing, it is safe to draw the conclusion that it has more positive effects on teenagers.

(268 words)





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WE 35. Birth rate/出生率

In some countries, the birth rate is slowing down and problem of an ageing population is more serious. What is the causes and effects of this issue? How to solve this problem?

在一些国家,出生率正在下降,人口老龄化问题更加严重。这个问题的原因和影响是什么?如何解决这个问题?

The controversial issue in respect of reducing birth rate and aging population, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. The causes of this are various, and there are a number of measures need to be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that the struggling economy is the first and most important reason. This is because birth rates tend to rise and fall based on how optimistic or pessimistic people feel. When the economy was booming and the unemployment rate was low, the birth rate tends to be high. However, in a recession, people wait longer to have kids, or have fewer kids. As a result, governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent dropping birth rate, such as raising the retirement age.

Additionally, improved nutrition and the reductions of disease and injuries also play a significant role in aging population. People nowadays can have a longer life expectancy, which leads to the problem of the ageing population. An ageing population could lead to a shortage of workers and hence push up wages causing wage inflation. Alternatively, firms may have to respond by encouraging more people to enter the workforce, through offering flexible working practices. Therefore, firms also have a part to play. Therefore, it is advisable that governments can encourage immigration to attract more people of working age.

To put it in a nutshell, despite the fact there might be diverse causes of low birth rate and aging population, it is imperative that both firms and the government work together to combat these problems.

(268 words)





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WE 36. E-reader/电子阅读器

E-reader will replace real page books. What is your 电子阅读器将取代纸质书。你的意见是什么? opinion?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether E-readers replacing real page books should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that E-readers have some downsides to human health, I am of the opinion that E-readers have the edge to beat traditional books. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that E-readers may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that E-readers require battery to work, so if we are traveling, we might not have power sources along the way. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that E-readers are harmful for people's eyesight, and are not encouraged for young people.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of E-readers have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that with E-readers we can carry much more books with us at the same time, as long as we have downloaded them. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that E-readers are lighter in weight than paper books. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that we have to cut down trees to make paper, so using E-readers is more environmentally friendly. From my own experience E-readers release me from carrying heavy books during daily commuting, and provided more useful functions when searching and browsing.

To conclude, although some believe that E-readers have certain disadvantages, I am strongly convinced that E-readers will replace real page books, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(276 words)





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WE 37. Obtain information/获取信息

Students obtain academic information from internet, teachers, printed books, articles and their peers. Which is the most reliable source?

学生从互联网、教师、印刷书籍、文章和他们 的同龄人那里获取学术信息。哪一个来源最可 靠?

In recent days, the problem of academic information from multiple resources has aroused a heated discussion. Some people claim that college students can obtain the latest information from Internet, while I hold the opinion that teachers are the most reliable and useful sources.

To start, I do admit that internet provides us a more interacting way to acquire academic knowledge. We can search Google Scholarship online to verify the usability or authenticity of the resources. In addition, the possible reasons may be the infinite information storage, because resources online are edited and posted by qualified academics.

However, there are many reasons why the traditional approach of obtaining information is more reliable and efficient. For one thing, teachers usually have accumulated much theoretical knowledge and understand academic guidance during their academic careers. Furthermore, a recent research released on New York Times has demonstrated that they have already put over eighty percent of academic information into practice to get verified results. That is to say, they may evaluate the importance of these information, and help you to select more updated and practical context according to their own experience. Besides, take myself as an example my puzzles and questions about particular field or content can be easily addressed by asking supervisors or lecturers.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people support the online approach, it is safe to draw the conclusion that teachers are the most reliable sources of information for student as they only teach students things that have been verified.

(256 words)





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WE 38. Doctors and patients/医生和患者

The new development of Internet-based communication between doctors and patients is a technology. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.

医生和患者之间基于互联网交流这一发展已是 一项技术。讨论它的优点和缺点。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether Internet-based communication between doctors and patients should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that this new technology has some downsides, I am of the opinion that it provides great benefits regarding accessibility and efficiency.

To start with, it is undeniable that Internet based communication may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that without the face-to-face examination, doctors may not be able to wholly check the patient's body condition so it is hard to give an accurate diagnosis. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of remote communication technology in the context of medical practice have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it fills the gap of the distance, so people living in rural areas can have the same access to medical treatments as those who live in big cities. Furthermore, according to the research conducted by China Daily that the accessibility of medical services in rural areas has increased 10% compared to the last decade. From my own experience, I was able to see a famous doctor in Beijing via video call when I was in Sydney.

To conclude, although some believe that internet-based communication will do little support to medical practice, I am strongly convinced that it will greatly improve the wellbeing of patients, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(257 words)





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WE 39. Healthy body/健康的身体

Healthy body is more reliant on healthy diet than exercise. Do you agree? Share your personal experience to support the statement.

健康的身体相比锻炼它更依赖于健康的饮食。你同意吗?分享你的个人经历来支持你的观点。

The controversial issue in respect of what makes a healthy body, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether healthy body is more reliant on healthy diet than exercise, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that a healthy diet plays an important role in remaining healthy, due to the fact that eating on an unbalanced diet can lead to various diseases. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that exercising regularly decreases a person's risk of developing certain diseases, including obesity, type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. That is to say, doing exercise speeds up metabolism of a human body and prevents many diseases from developing.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that doing exercise can also help some people who have mild depression and low self-esteem in that doing exercise provides a lot of opportunities of socializing. Furthermore, according to New York times, it has been reported that people engage in exercise and sports on a regular basis are likely to be more confident than those who tend to not to exercise. As a result, exercise helps people remain mentally healthy.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that exercise is more important than healthy diet for staying healthy. Despite the fact that healthy diet does contribute to human health.

(258 words)





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WE 40. Personal finance/个人财务

Teenagers should receive lessons on principles of personal finance, such as investing and debt. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

青少年应该接受有关个人理财原则的课程,例如 投资和债务。你在多大程度上同意这种说法?

The controversial issue in respect of personal finance, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether schools should offer courses relating personal finance to teenagers, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that opening courses about individual wealth might increase students' pressure from heavy study loads due to the fact that current school courses are already intensive for students. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that financial lesson can help teenagers learn to save at early age, and avoid being push into debts when they are financially on their own. That is to say, receiving financial courses is beneficial to teenagers.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that receiving such lessons helps children cultivate a good sense of money management, as well as fostering their ability of making budget, which is helpful for their future. As a result, by the time they leave the nest for college, they'll be well informed and prepared to make important financial decisions on their own. From my own experience, my parents taught how to manage my spending with plans and budgets, and I still benefit from it.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that personal finance is better to be taught as lessons at early age. Despite the fact that most middle schools do not have it in place.

(261 words)





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WE 41. Nurses and doctors/护士和医生

Workers like nurses and teachers should be paid more. Especially in recent years when film actors and company leaders were paid a larger amount of sum. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement, and what's your opinion? 像护士和教师这样的工作者应该得到更多的报酬。特别是近年来,电影演员和公司领导的薪酬越来越高。你在多大程度上同意或不同意上述说法,你的观点是什么?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether ordinary workers like nurses and teachers should be paid more while film actors and company leaders are being paid a great amount of money. While it is possible to claim that actors and company leaders contribute more in an economic sense. I am of the opinion that workers should be paid more. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that workers are being paid with enough money due to the fact that nurses and teachers are usually paid by government. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that government has limited budget. That is to say, when government budget shrinks, workers will be paid less, and they will have to face financial issues due to decrease in wages.

Besides, there are many reasons why workers should be paid more, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that their work are saving human's life or educating children, which are extremely important for society, and deserve higher pay. On the other hand, film actors just entertain people but earn large sums of money, which is unfair. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that unsatisfied salary is one of major reasons for strikes. Furthermore, nurses often work overtime or within irregular time, leaving them little time for family or personal life, and they should be compensated with higher salary.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that paying more to workers will make a better world.

(279 words)





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WE 42. Study or exams/学习和考试

Nowadays students have too much exam that they do not have time to study. What is your opinion?

现在学生面临太多的考试,以至于他们没有时间学习。你的意见是什么?

There has been a heated debate on whether students are having too much exam and this is taking up their time for study. Although some argue that exam is the most fair and efficient way to examine and direct students learning, I am convinced that today's students are burdened with too much exam.

The probable reason for some people believing that exam cannot be reduced is the purpose of exam is to enhance what students have learned, so when students are preparing for exams, they are studying. In addition, most students are lazy and have less self-control, so exam is a good way to push them to study, without which students probably spend even less time in learning.

However, there are many reasons why too much exam has negative effects on students, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that students have to cram for numerous exams and due days, which brings them great pressure, physically and mentally. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that exams are usually restricted within the range of textbooks, which is far from enough for students' learning, but it takes too much time and leaves them little time for individual study. Furthermore, according to New York times, it has been reported students with lighter study loads are likely to achieve professional success in the future.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe that exam is never too much, it is safe to draw the conclusion that too much exam have more negative impacts than positive ones on students.

(268 words)





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WE 43. Traditional subjects/传统学科

The traditional subjects are soon moving off in last years. Kindly provide the solutions and ideas to save such subjects. 在过去的几年来,传统学科消失的很快。请提供 解决方案和想法,以保存这些主题。

The controversial issue in respect of the vanishing of traditional subjects, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. The causes of this are various, and there are a number of measures need to be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that the lack of government intervention is the first and most important reason. This is because traditionally, the government often stays outside of the setting of course structure in school. As a result, governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent conventional subjects from disappearing, such as coming up with policy that should make traditional subjects mandatory in every school. Schools should also be told to devote more time to redesign the traditional subjects such as math, English, history and geography to arouse student's interests.

Additionally, financial difficulties also play a significant role in that traditional subjects are going downhills. Therefore, it is advisable that not only schools need funds to train teachers and design the new curriculums which are more attractive to students, but also the government has to organize competitions such as mathematics competitions and English writing competitions to draw public attention in order to encourage students and schools as these subjects provide the rigorous academic training that enables children to succeed across a number of fields later in life.

To put it in a nutshell, despite the fact there might be diverse causes of the trend of disappearing traditional courses, it is imperative that both schools and the government work together to combat these problems. (262 words)





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WE 44. Group education/集体教育

The controversial issue in respect of teaching group students, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether teaching students with different abilities is better than teaching ones with same abilities, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

The probable reason for some people believing that students with same abilities should be assigned to together is same ability grouping increases student achievement by allowing teachers to focus on instruction. This is to say, teaching a group of like-ability students allows teachers to adjust the pace of instruction to students' needs, so students can attain higher scores.

However, there are many reasons why students with different abilities should be assigned together, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that it provides the opportunity to learn interacting and communicating with different people. People in the real world always have to learn to interact with others of differing abilities. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that students all learn at different rates and they all learn in different styles or manners. However, they all can learn something important from each other under this policy no matter what students' various IQs or abilities are. That is one of the benefits of interacting in a classroom environment - students learn from each other as well as from the teacher.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe same ability grouping is better, it is safe to draw the conclusion that different ability grouping represents more advantages in a context of learning.

(280 words)





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WE 45. Deduct marks/扣分

Some universities deduct marks from students' works if given in late, what are your views and what action will you recommend to take?

如果迟交作业,一些大学会从学生的作业中扣分,你的观点是什么?你会建议采取什么行动处理迟交作业?

There has been a heated debate on whether universities should deduct marks for late submission. Although some argue that this punitive measure ensures teaching efficiency, I am convinced that it represents more downsides in regard to learning outcomes.

The probable reason for some people believing that punishing late submission is helpful is if some students hand in their assignments late, they will have more time to finish their work, which is unfair to other punctual students, so their marks should be deducted proportionately. In addition, handing in assignments in time is the basic obligation that students should fulfil, and beating the deadline is a beneficial habit for their future life.

However, there are many reasons why such punishment can be unfavourable, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that to improve the quality of the assignment, students may need to spend more time on researching and structuring the texts, which means that there will be possibility of late submitting, meaning setting up dead line may decrease the quality of the assignment. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that if students have a fear of penalties, they will not deliver quality in their work. Instead of doing it themselves, they will commit serious offenses such as plagiarism. Therefore, it is advisable that students must give explanations to why they have given in the assignment late.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe punishment for late given works is useful, it is safe to draw the conclusion that it discourages students from quality learning. (267 words)





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WE 46. Cashless society/无现金的社会

In a cashless society, people use more credit cards, what are the advantages and disadvantages of this phenomenon?

在无现金的社会,人们使用更多的信用卡,这一现象的优点和缺点是什么?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether using credit cards should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that cashless payment method comes with the risk of fraud, I am of the opinion that t provides more benefits for daily transactions. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that paying by credit cards may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that it is common for credit card frauds to take place. Normally credit cards do not require codes while doing transactions, which allows frauds to happen. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that there are still many shops and stores not accepting credit cards.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of cashless payments have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that cash or banknotes are made from paper and metals. We can save the natural resources if we do not use cash anymore. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that banks usually provide transaction records for credit cards, so it is easier to trace the transaction history using credit card. From my own experience, being different from cash, credit cards are more convenient to carry with.

To conclude, although some believe that credit cards have risk issues, I am strongly convinced that credit cards will become the most common paying method, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(266 words)





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WE 47. Children education/儿童教育

Children should take large number of exams or learn more in schools. Agree or disagree?

孩子们在学校是应该参加大量的考试还是学习更多的知识。你同意或不同意?

There has been a heated debate on whether children should take huge number of exams or learn more before graduate. Although some argue that more exams and assignments should be encouraged, I am convinced that children now have already been burdened with too much study load.

The probable reason for some people believing that there is a need for increasing number of exams is it improves students' academic skills and forms a strong foundation for future study and employment. In addition, students who work harder than peers are more likely to have better academic performances, and they are more capable of handling pressure because they have accustomed to it.

However, there are many reasons why school learners should be relieved from numerous exams, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that schools are not all about grades and academic skills. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that additional exams and assignments to young children may make them study with low motivation. Furthermore, students who study under great pressure are more likely to lose patience and focus, which comes with lower efficiency. Take myself as an example, it is better to balance the time for study and leisure for the concern of learning efficiency.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe exams help students with academic skills and career prospects, it is safe to draw the conclusion that it is better for children to study with fewer exams.

(252 words)





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WE 48. Studying films/学习电影

Whether studying films at school is as important as 在学校学习电影是否和学习文学一样重要? studying literature?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether learning films at school is as important as studying literature. While it is possible to claim that studying film at schools does not help most students with their future career, I am of the opinion that it provides great opportunities for students nowadays. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that traditional subjects are commonly acknowledged as standardized for educational purposes. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that traditional course structure has not been updated since the come of modern age. That is to say, with filming industry being a mature industry in today's society, films should be added into syllabus as an independent subject.

Besides, there are many reasons why films should be taught in schools, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that film industry is prosperous in modern times, which means there are more jobs opportunities in this field, and students are more likely to get employed in this field with relevant knowledge from school. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that most workers in film industry was educated with relevant knowledge at early age. Furthermore, films and movies are more popular and accepted among the general public. Students may be more interested in films than literature, and they might find it easier to study films than literature.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that films should be taken as a necessary subject in educational context.

(277 words)





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WE 49. Drama curriculum/戏剧课程

Do you think school should have curriculum asking students to play old drama and work for theater centuries ago?

你认为学校应该开设戏剧课程,让学生表演古老的戏剧,并学习几个世纪前的戏剧知识吗?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether drama should be added as a course at school. While it is possible to claim that drama was a great form of art, I am of the opinion that it is not suitable for today's students to study it at schools.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that drama is another form of art. It has its own unique features and is very fascinating. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that students go to schools to receive important courses that can help them with their future prospects. That is to say, drama should be taken as an entertainment rather than being added as a course for students.

Besides, there are many reasons why drama should be kept outside of class, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that not all students are interested in films or old drama. Studying things that are not in one's interest can cause anxiety and burdens. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that most students with academic failure have experience of learning subjects that they dislike too much. Furthermore, students have other subjects that are more important to study, such as English or Math. Having compulsory curriculum on drama may be a distraction to them.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite the fact that drama is a classic and interesting form of art, it is safe to draw the conclusion that students should be taught with subjects that are more likely to lead a successful career later.

(268 words)





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WE 50. Cars and airplane/汽车和飞机

The Importance of cars and airplane in modern life.	汽车和飞机在现代生活中非常重要。请举例证
Give examples.	明。

The importance of cars and airplanes, in today's society, has launched a heated discussion. When it comes to what makes them so important in our life, people's notions vary from one another. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by providing examples on both cars and airplanes.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that cars have a better maneuverability and are easier to be mobilized, they can help people to move from place to place more quickly and conveniently. Therefore, they are more often used for middle and short distances, such as ambulance or taxes. We may cite a convincing example of daily commuting. People travel back and forth with cars from homes to work places on a daily basis. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that most people living in cities rely on cars for travelling purposes. Without cars, it would be a disaster.

Additionally, airplanes also play a significant role in modern life. airplanes are faster and can cover much longer distances than cars and trains. They are irreplaceable when people want to travel or transport goods from one place to another in a short period of time. For example, to travel around the world or to transport fruits and vegetables which can easily get withered, airplanes are often the most reliable transportation tools to choose.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that cars and airplanes play irreplaceable roles in modern society, and they provide great convenience for people. (262 words)





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WE 51. Cardless society/无卡社会

Do you think cardless society is realistic and why? 你认为无卡式社会现实吗,为什么?有什么优点 What are the advantages and disadvantages? 和缺点?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether cardless society should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that cardless society is unrealistic, I am of the opinion that it is realistic. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analyzing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that cardless and cashless society may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that there are still many shops and stores only accepting cash, especially in developing areas. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that people using cash cannot easily suffer from online frauds or attack from hackers, while It is common for credit card frauds to take place as credit cards do not require codes while doing transactions.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of mobile payment have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that there are more platforms allowing people to pay online, such as Apple Pay or Alipay. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that with the increasing technologies, almost everyone got used to pay by cards or smartphones. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that online payment is economic or environmentally friendly. From my own experience, banknotes and credit cards are made from paper and metals, while electronic transactions are energy efficient.

To conclude, although some believe that cardless society is an unrealistic expectation, I am strongly convinced that it is practical because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above. (274 words)





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WE 52. Design of buildings/建筑设计

Whether design of buildings will have a positive or negative impact on people's life and work?

建筑设计是否会对人们的生活和工作产生积极或消极的影响?

The controversial issue in respect of building designs, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether building designs place a positive impact on our life and work or not, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that the proposed development of a "Sky City" – which has incorporated restaurants, shops, homes, offices, is an attempt to create a living environment that both encourages tenant wellbeing as well as improving sustainability and providing efficient use of space.

Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that such designs create too much traffic and too many population movements. That is to say, it comes with physical problems.

Besides, there are many reasons why building designs can be discouraging for social activities, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that high-floor dwellers were most at risk when it came to the negative impacts of such living environments because rapid turnover of acquaintances, the lack of involvement with others, and the total self-sufficiency of lives would allow "the psychotics" to take over. For example, co-housing is often promoted as a way of encouraging community spirit. Many people who live in these communities — usually private bedrooms with communal kitchens or social areas and shared maintenance responsibility—have reported increased happiness and connection with other residents.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that building designs have disadvantages on both social and physical aspects for our life and work.

(273 words)





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WE 53. Effective learning/有效学习

Effective learning requires time, comfort and peace so it is impossible to combine study and employment. Study and employment distract one from another. To what extent do you think the statements are realistic? Support your opinion with examples.

有效的学习需要时间、舒适和平静,所以基本不可能把学习和工作结合起来。学习和工作同时进行会使人分心。你认为这些说法在多大程度上是现实的?用例子支持你的观点。

The controversial issue in respect of learning effectiveness, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether it is possible to study while working, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that learning and working both take one's a lot of time and efforts, and it is difficult to balance between these two things. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that there are a lot of people in western countries, who do a part-time study and work full-time or vice-versa. It all depends on the preference of the individuals. That is to say, it is difficult to combine study and employment, but not impossible.

Besides, there are many reasons why people should work while there are involved in academic study, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that there are a few parents who cannot bear the expenses of their child's education, but their children can continue their education and work to feed their family as well with firm determination. Furthermore, sometimes people think they have completed their education, but when they get a full-time job, they realize that diploma or degree can increase their chances of promotion. Hence, studying and working side by side helps candidates to grow professionally.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that working and learning side by side provides a number of benefits and is totally feasible.

(265 words)





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WE 54. Part-time job/兼职

Students do some part-time jobs, what are the 学生做一些兼职工作,有什么优点和缺点? advantages and disadvantages?

The controversial issue in respect of students doing part-time jobs, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to what advantages and disadvantages it has, people's notions vary from one another.

The probable reason for some people believing that casual jobs can be burdensome to students is having a job while you are still in college means the need to reject the invitations from your friends because there is no time left for fun. That is not entirely true, but you may meet up with friends less often than you did before. In addition, students may face the unwelcoming reality of sleep deprivation. Putting too much on your shoulders has its drawbacks and exhaustion is one of them.

However, there are many reasons why doing a part-time job is beneficial, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that no matter what kind of job students can find, there is always an opportunity to get useful experience for their future career. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that having a part-time job teaches students not only to earn, but to spend money as well. Furthermore, the people you get to know while working might have a tremendous impact on your future professional development. Take myself as an example, my experience of doing part-time jobs was really helpful when I was looking for my first full-time job.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that doing part-time jobs has a positive impact on students' future prospects, although students may find it difficult before they graduate. (270 words)





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WE 55. Activity after class/课后活动

School should organize activity after class.

学校应该组织课后活动。

The controversial issue in respect of activities after class, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether schools should organize extracurricular activities, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that organized activities can be burdensome to students. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that piano lessons, violin lessons, singing, western style dancing, classical dancing, skating, ice skating are some of the extracurricular activities that high schoolers opt for. The amount of variety provides options that are more diverse. That is to say, this gives the perfect platform to the high schoolers to understand and explore themselves.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that student should engage in social activities in that enrollment in extracurricular activities means that the children will have a certain group that shares similar talent as them. As a result, children will find someone to confide in and talk. We may cite a convincing example of personal growth and development. In extracurricular activities, they get a chance to be involved in the group with the peers. As a result, extracurricular activities help students improve their social skills, they learn sharing and caring, all at once.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that organizing extracurricular activities provides more benefits than drawbacks, despite the fact that students are already burdened with heavy study load.

(258 words)





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WE 56. Music/音乐

Certain types of music promote learning in young children, but some research has different results. Discuss your opinion. Use your own experience and observation.

某些类型的音乐可以促进幼儿的学习,但一些研究有不同的结论。讨论你的观点。运用你自己的经验和观察。

The controversial issue in respect of youth learning, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether some types of music help learning in young children, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that playing music for learning children may distract them from what they are learning. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that musical experiences in childhood can accelerate brain development, particularly in the areas of language acquisition and reading skills. That is to say, when children are listening to music, they would react to the lyrics and connect them to words they have learned.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that music helps toddlers build coordination in that if children do not understand the lyrics of a song yet, they can move to the rhythm of the music. Children may dance to certain songs or like certain pieces of music more than others. We may cite a convincing example of motor skills. Music encourages children's inclination to move, developing their fine motor skills and gross motor skills. As a result, if the rhythm is very entertaining, toddler may start to jump up and down, which helps with their muscle development, strength and balance.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that certain types of music will encourage children to do both body and mind exercises, despite the fact that it is not official acknowledged by most schools yet.

(271 words)





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WE 57. Health or education/健康还是教育

Which should require more financial support from the government: health or education? Use your experience. 哪个需要政府更多的财政支持:健康还是教育?用你的经历论证。

There has been a heated debate on whether the government should spend more of its budget in support health than education. Although some argue that health is the most basic need of human beings, I am convinced that in today's society, education needs more financial aids from the government for personal and economic growth.

The probable reason for some people believing that health system requires more money from the government is a person of perfect health does not shirk his duties. He can work properly and leaves nothing undone. As a student, he shines in his examinations. As a public worker, he renders valuable service and is duly rewarded. The government should include integrated health programs into their public policies and control specific health problems.

However, there are many reasons why education deserves more funds and the most obvious one lies in the fact that education is the backbone of developing countries. Sustainable development of economy and society is closely related to education. The most important resource of a nation is its human-capital. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that educated people are more likely to become entrepreneurs, scientists and agriculturists. Furthermore, education enables a boy or a girl to earn his or her living. An educated person will get a good job with income sufficient to earn his livelihood. An educated person can easily meet the basic material needs of life.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe health system consumes more money, it is safe to draw the conclusion that more funds should be granted from the government budget in educational development.

(277 words)





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WE 58. Teach ethics/伦理教育

Education is as important for ethics and moral values as it teaches us practical things for future employment. What is your opinion?

教育对于伦理和道德价值的重要性不亚于它教授我们解决未来就业这种实际问题。你对此的意见是什么?

The controversial issue in respect of the importance of education, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether ethical guidance is just as important as practical stuff, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that moral values do not contribute to one's professional development. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that young adults can learn ethics and life value at school. This is because students are too young to distinguish between the right and the wrong, they need to be guided with the right direction. As a result, the role of education to teach children ethics and life value is extremely essential.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that practical study is also indispensable in that providing students with the practical things for future employment. We may cite a convincing example of fast-paced society. Those who have acquired the practical skills can stand out from the crowd because the society now needs efficiency, and if you wait to learn until you are in a workplace, you will be eliminated by the society in no time. As a result, in order to get off to a fast start at work, the best way is to learn the useful skills through education.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that moral values and practical things are two equal factors in education.

(260 words)





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WE 59. Role of library/图书馆的角色

Increase in information in media, the role of a library to updating textbooks is obsolete. Agree or disagree?

随着媒体信息的增加,图书馆在更新教科书中的作用已经过时。你同意或不同意?

The controversial issue in respect of the role of libraries, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether libraries are becoming obsolete due to the information explosion in media, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

The probable reason for some people believing that libraries are necessary is the majority of people prefer to read the printed books instead of electronic books. According to a survey, more than 80% of those who buy books online said they like buying paper books over the internet, but not reading them on the web.

However, there are many reasons why media will replace libraries' role in information provision, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that the information on the media is instant and much more convenient. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that even though libraries are useful to have for some reasons, their primary purpose as repositories of books can be largely filled by computers and the internet now. Furthermore, maintaining a brick-and-mortar library costs a lot more than just maintaining a server with digital books. And people choose to search information far more often on the internet than they do in the library.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe libraries are irreplaceable, it is safe to draw the conclusion that media has become more up-to-date for information storage and use.

(257 words)





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WE 60. Art/艺术

Government should reduce their investment in arts, music and painting, but in. Agree or disagree?

政府应该减少他们在艺术、音乐和绘画上的投资。你同意或不同意?

The controversial issue in respect of government funding, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether government should spend less on investments in arts, music and painting, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

The probable reason for some people believing that the government should reduce funding in arts, music and painting is they are only the minority of people's interests. As a result, it would be a waste of money and resources to invest in these areas as most people don't concern about it. This is to say, that the government budget should be spent more on infrastructure for utility purposes.

However, there are many reasons why arts, music and painting deserve financial inputs from the government, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that with the improvement of living standards in the modern society, people tend to have more time and disposable income for hobbies than before. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that this is the time when arts, music, and painting will become people's choices, thus investments in arts, music and painting are necessary in today's world.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people believe investments in arts from the government should be reduced, it is safe to draw the conclusion that it has come to an age that arts, music and painting play vital roles in our society and require government funding more and more. (265 words)





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WE 61. Examination/考试

Put the examination at the end of the semester or separated small tests throughout the entire semester, which one is better? 把考试安排在学期末还是分开进行小测试贯穿 在整个学期中,哪一个比较好?

The controversial issue in respect of examination schedules, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether single examination at the end of the semester is better than separated tests throughout the whole semester, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that an exam at the end of the semester is better due to the fact that it can test the students' comprehensive abilities. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that there are usually several different topics in one subject throughout one semester, and students may acquire some knowledge better than others, thus it is fairer to test students based on separated topics. This is to say, if students fail to achieve a good score on one test, they can work hard to make it up in other tests which they do better.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that separated tests provide more benefits in that grades will prove the area of weakness and separated exams gear students to focus on the area of weakness, because the grades of separated tests will show which areas the students performed well and the areas of poor performance. As a result, this will set a guideline for students to study more precisely to sharpen his or her weak area.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that separated small tests facilitate learning outcomes better than one exam at the end of semester.

(271 words)





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WE 62. Climate change/气候变化

题目 1: You need to study climate change. Which aspect of climate change will you choose and why? Use examples.

如果你需要研究气候变化,你会选择气候变化的哪一方面?为什么?请使用的例子。

题目2: You are given climate as the field of study. Which area would you prefer? Explain why you picked up the particular area for your study?

如果你的研究领域是气候,你更喜欢哪个领域? 解释一下你为什么选择这个特定的研究领域?

The controversial issue in respect to climate change, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. If I am given climate change as my field of study, I would like to study the underlying causes of the devastating global warming phenomenon and try to find possible solutions to tackle it.

Taking the first point into consideration, there are numerous reasons why I choose this particular area to study, but the obvious one lies in the fact that we have been experiencing the hottest 15 years on record in the last two decades. Linked to this is the fact that millions are at the risk of drought, chronic water shortage, bushfire, coastal flooding and hazardous air pollution. Taking Australia as an example, it suffered from a severe drought in 150 years last winter, causing wild animals and farming in danger. Therefore, by knowing the causes, we can take some measurements to prevent the deteriorating of the situation.

Turning to the other perspectives, it is hard to deny that the issues of climate change must be addressed with a sense of urgency. As individuals, we can help by taking actions to reduce our personal carbon emissions. For instance, taking public transportation or carpool rather than private vehicles, which can effectively reduce the release of the greenhouse gases that committed to global warming. Last but not least, it is advisable that the government should also implement a comprehensive set of climate solutions to fully address the threat.

In conclusion, it is my considered opinion that once we understand the factors that contribute to the changes in the climate, people can effectively take some considerable measurements to deal with the issues. (277 words)





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WE 63. Climate change/气候变化

Write about Climate change. Who is responsible	关于气候变化,政府和行业谁该为此负责?为什
whether Government or industries? Why?	么?

Last decade has witnessed a dramatic increase in the global temperature, which leads to detrimental effects of climate change. While some are blaming governments for their slow and not so significant steps, others, have opposite views stating that industries are responsible for the mess of atmosphere for neglecting laws over profitability. In this essay, I will discuss the role and responsibility of both sides in fighting against environmental problems.

To begin with, there are a variety of dramatic steps needs to be taken by law enforcement. Firstly, they need to form stricter regulations with a heavy penalty on the market which are most likely to break the green laws. Furthermore, legislators can impose green taxes on companies emitting toxic gases. For instance, recently such law has been implemented in the USA and measured lower pollution levels. Moreover, they should promote more tree plantation and restrict massive deforestation.

On the other hand, Industries also plays a significant role in supporting the government by following laws, they should also increase research and development in the area of the sustainable and alternate source of energy like wind and solar power. For example, a recent incentive given to Indian households has increased the widespread use of solar panels. Therefore, it is advisable that government establish strict supervision on industries in turns of the implementation of the regulations.

In conclusion, it is evident that all parties are equally responsible against the fight of global climate change including the government, industries, and society, thus, all parties should work together to combat these problems.

(257 words)





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WE 64. Climate change/气候变化

What roles should governments, companies and 政府 individuals play to combat climate change?

政府、企业和个人在应对气候变化方面应发挥什么作用?

In recent decades, there is an ongoing debate on solving the problem of climate change, which attracted numerous controversies and drawn the attention of the public. It can be said that governments, companies, and individuals can contribute to a great amount to eradicate this problem from the roots. This essay will further elaborate on the roles that each party can play to make our environment better and thus will lead to a logical conclusion.

To start with, the government has a key role in protecting the environment as it is a creator of legislation in society. The Government should enact stringent rules on those who deteriorating the environment. In addition to, educational programs for awareness among public should be promoted regularly. Moreover, there should be some regulatory authorities who regularly check the emission of gases from vehicles and factories and take immediate actions to reduce it.

On the other hand, industrialists have responsibilities and roles to alleviate the effect of climate change. They should discard properly toxic materials from the factories. Furthermore, Companies should follow sustainable environment in their location.

Finally, as an individual, a person should reduce using private vehicles and follow only public transport to reduce carbon footprints. Moreover, a recent study conducted by Melbourne University revealed a positive relation of people's self-awareness with their carbon emission levels.

To conclude, as discussed above, climate change is a big topic that affects every aspect of people's life. Therefore no one party can take over all the responsibility in fighting it. Furthermore, I would like to point out that only by cooperating with all parties, we stand a chance to prevent it from worsening. (274 words)





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WE 65. Environment pollution/环境污染

Write about environment pollution. Who is responsible for whether government, companies or industries?

关于环境污染, 政府、企业或行业谁该对此负责?

Last decade has witnessed a dramatic increase in the environment pollution level, which leads to detrimental effects of all aspect of people's life. While some are blaming governments for their slow and not so significant steps, others, have opposite views stating that industries and companies are responsible for neglecting laws over profitability. In this essay, I will discuss the role and responsibility of both sides in fighting against environmental problems.

To begin with, there are a variety of dramatic steps needs to be taken by law enforcement. Firstly, they need to form stricter regulations with a heavy penalty on the industries which are most likely to break the green laws. Furthermore, legislators can impose green taxes on companies emitting toxic gases. For instance, recently such law has been implemented in the USA and in return measured lower pollution levels. Moreover, they should promote more tree plantation and restrict massive deforestation.

On the other hand, Industries and companies also play a significant role in supporting the government by following laws, they should also increase research and development in the area of the sustainable and alternate source of energy like wind and solar power. For example, a recent incentive given to Indian households has increased the widespread use of solar panels. Therefore, it is advisable that government establish strict supervision on industries in turns of the implementation of the regulations.

In conclusion, it is evident that all parties are equally responsible against the fight of pollutions including the government, industries, and companies, thus, all parties should work together to combat these problems. (260 words)





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WE 66. Environment problem/环境问题

The environment we live in is in danger due to various problems. What are the underlying causes? Who is responsible to combat this? What measures?

由于各种各样的问题,我们的生活环境处于危险之中。根本原因是什么?谁应该对此负责?应该什么措施?

Over the last few decades, it is an irrefutable point that the environment is exposed to many dangers. There are heated discussions on the issue in regard to the underlying causes and responsible parties. In this essay, I will discuss the causes that are harming the environment, allocation of responsibilities and solutions of the issue.

To begin with, it is undeniable that during the past, people have been overly emphasised on economic growth while ignoring the destructive influences on the environment. In addition, in many counties, they are lacking mechanisms protecting the environment. To put it differently, the incompletion of the law and regulations also provide loopholes for companies to use.

Therefore, steps should be taken by the government, organisations and individuals. Most importantly that authorities should make strict laws for companies to work within those guidelines and also educate the public regarding the severity of the environmental problems. Moreover, companies should not only comply with the norms and regulations but also move towards producing recyclable and eco-friendly products. Furthermore, as an individual, we have the power to make a conscious choice towards organic lifestyle, for instance, switching to LED light bulbs and use public transportation rather than private ones. It should be emphasised that it is the responsibility of each person to protect our environment.

In a nutshell, we have created this problem and we are responsible for it together. So, I would strongly recommend the collective measures towards living in harmony with nature to solve our problems. It should be pointed out that individuals, corporates, and lawmakers need to work hand in hand to combat this problem. (270 words)





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WE 67. Vehicle usage with environment/车辆与环境的配合使用

Some people suggest that each family should only have one car and encourage alternative vehicle. Should individual limit the use of car and use alternative things instead to protect environment.

一些人建议每个家庭应该只有一辆车,并鼓励其 它交通方式替代汽车。个人是否应该被限制使用 汽车,而去使用其他交通替代品来保护环境。

In recent years, with the increase in private transportation on roads, there are traffic congestion and air pollution problem around the globe. A heated discussion on whether individual use of car should be limited has attracted the public's attention. In this essay, I will analyse the if it is a viable solution to protect the environment.

It is undeniable that private use of car has brought people great convenience. However, the disadvantages are obvious. Firstly, overly use of the private car would rise the pollution level. By restricting a family to one car, carbon emission can be controlled and it can also reduce the congestion on the road which will save fuels. For example, to curb the pollution car owners were allowed to take their car out on certain days. Therefore, by implementing this rule not only the environment will be protected, but the strain on fossil fuels will be reduced.

Secondly, if government implement such rule, it might encourage people to restore to another eco-friendly way of transportation like cycling which would not only improve their health but also benefit them financially. To put it differently, as a complete ban is not a people friendly solution so allowing one car per family can provide a good solution indeed. In addition, car creates noise not only by itself but also with the road. That is to say, excess car use can bring harm to people who live close to traffic infrastructures.

To conclude, although private cars provide people with convenience and mobility, what is important is that limited private use of cars is in favour of the society and pristine environment in which we all live in.

(277 words)





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WE 68. Environment with rubbish/充满垃圾的环境

We have entered a throw-away society and fill the environment with rubbish. What are the causes and what are your solutions?

我们进入了一个用完即弃的社会,生活环境中充满了垃圾。这个原因是什么?你的解决方案是什么?

Recently, the modern pace of life is accelerated much faster than before. The concept of throw-away has around a heated discussion among people. While many people claim that the environment is consumed by our throw-away society and filled with rubbish, others tend to believe it is the process of the modernised world. In this essay, I will elaborate on both causes and solutions.

To start, the most obvious reason why throw-away exists is that nowadays many products are not made to last, and once they break, people choose to discard them rather than fix. It is an immediate result of today's trending concept in design and modelling. For example, furniture from Ikea is a mostly one-off product that cannot be fixed or replaced if broken. Furthermore, people only consider the benefit for themselves which in turn has caused many issues today. For instance, the global temperature is getting increased as a result of industrialisation. Almost all the industries released their flue gases just to the atmosphere without any treatment.

Hence, to solve these problems caused the throw-away habit, people should use resources in a sustainable way while thinking about the future generation. One essential solution is that the governments need to take necessary actions to control environmental pollution. Furthermore, the public must be informed about the importance of protecting the environment such as recycling. Another feasible solution is that companies taking more social responsibility by treating waste properly before dumping.

To conclude, there is no doubt our ignorance and desire to have more create a throwaway society. But the time has come for us to think about the future this planet and take steps to revert the damage. (278 words)





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WE 69. Education system - written exam/教育系统-笔试

题目1: Education system that assesses the student's

learning by written exam is correct? Discuss your

view?

题目2: Using formal written assessment is still a

valid task. To which extent you agree?

以笔试考核学生学习的教育制度是否正确? 讨

论你的观点吗?

用正式的笔试考试评估仍然是一项有效的考验。

你在多大程度上同意它?

Over the period, we have witnessed the learning methods and assessments have changed enormously. Debates around the massive transformation of the education sector in terms of written exams has attracted the public's attention. Many argue that it has a positive influence on students learning, however, others hold opposite views, stating that it promotes rote learning. In this article, I will analyse both the views before arriving at an appropriate conclusion.

To begin with, admittedly written exams have many benefits to offer over the practical exams. First, writing requires significant cognitive language skills, this is to say, by this assessment students' language and subject knowledge will increase simultaneously. This will also be preparing for certain professional careers later. For instance, improved writing skills will help them grab certain niche' jobs in the domains of media and news as an editor and content writer. Moreover, this is an old and proven method of assessment that teachers can evaluate efficiently.

On the other hand, written exams have minor downsides. It is commonly acknowledged that certain fields of engineering and medicine require practical tests so that students can comprehend the subject better. For example, if students are exposed to a laboratory for shop floor experiments, they will perceive it faster as compared to merely reading the books. Additionally, assessing students only by written exam tends to lead students, parents and teachers to become score-oriented irrespective to other qualities.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that it is suggested to maintain the right mix of written and practical exams for the holistic development of the students, which will make them future ready.

(278 words)





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WE 70. Einstein/爱因斯坦

"The only thing that interfere with my learning is my education" Einstein. What does he mean by that?

And do you think he is correct?

"唯一妨碍我学习的是我所受的教育"

--- 爱因斯坦。

他想表达的意思是什么? 你认为他是对的吗?

In recent days, the idea regarding the relationship between learning and education has sparked a heated debate. According to Albert Einstein, formal and structured education means people can only learn what is within the education system, limiting the possibility of other infinite knowledge areas. While others argue that learning paves the way for higher education. Both arguments will be analysed before a reasoned conclusion is drawn.

On one hand, many hold true the notion that learning may impede one's progress in educational achievements. To put it differently, learning may confine the intellectual ability and creativity which are indispensable elements of success. Take Bill Gates or Steve Jobs as the example, none of them undertook academic studies, yet they managed to build the biggest of economic empires. Therefore, it is obvious that formal education creates boundaries for people to think 'out-of-the-box'.

On the other hand, it is argued that education provides us with fundamental knowledge to excel in one field. To take this into consideration, a recent article in the Journal of Modern Education Techniques conducted by researchers in Michigan State University has revealed that youngsters who hold a university degree and foster their technical skills are 32.5% more likely to be successful in their career compared to those who do not undertake any academic study. Hence, it is evident that students need school to comprehend principles to cultivate their interests and capabilities.

To sum up, following this look at the varying opinions regarding this debate, it is prominent that one should take advantage of both sides. Personally, I am highly inclined to believe that learning as well as enhancing intellectual ability make contributions to one's prosperity.

(276 words)





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WE 71. Place of growth/成长的地方

Do you think the place where a person grew up helps him/her in accomplishing goals in life? Do you agree or disagree?

你认为一个人成长的地方对他/她实现人生目标 有帮助吗?你同意还是不同意?

The controversial issue in respect of successful people and their native region, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether the place where a person grew up has an impact on the person's accomplishment, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that people's growing environment has some influence on what they experience, which may facilitate their success. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that with easy access to information and knowledge every corner around the world, each individual is entitled to do everything he needs to achieve their goals. That is to say, the area that humankind grew up does not have any effect on their success.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that people's hardworking and unswerving qualities outweigh all eternal factors. We may cite a convincing example of a qualitative analysis conducted by an eminent sociologist. Final results revealed that there is a fairly clear relationship between the humankind success and their efforts. Furthermore, a determination has a significant effect and its essential for obtaining the goals rather than just their local place.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that the determination and quality of their efforts have a significant influence on the people accomplishment rather than just the regions' effect. Despite how developed and rich the region is, people's success depends largely on their own efforts.

(265 words)





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WE 72. Place of growth/成长的地方

题目1: Many people think that regions affect successful person. What is your opinion about native region and accomplished person's influence on the region he belongs to? Explain with Example.

题目2: A person 's life is defined by the place where he grows. Use an example of a success person to illustrate this point of view.

许多人认为地区会影响一个人的成功。你如何看待成功者的出生地和成长地区给他带来的影响?给出解释和举例。

一个人的一生是由他生长的地方所决定的。用 一个成功人士的例子来说明你对这个观点的看 法。

The controversial issue in respect of <u>successful people</u> / <u>person's life</u> and their native region, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether the place where a person grew up has an effect on the person's accomplishment, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that people's growing environment has some influence on what they experience, which may facilitate their success. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that with easy access to information and knowledge every corner around the world, each individual is entitled to do everything he needs to achieve their goals. That is to say, the area that humankind grew up does not have any effect on their success.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that people's hardworking and unswerving qualities outweigh all eternal factors. We may cite a convincing example of Jack Ma, a famous Chinese businessman who achieved all his success only because of his hardworking and novel ideas. Furthermore, a determination has a significant effect and its essential for obtaining the goals rather than just their local place.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that the determination and quality of their efforts have a significant influence on the people accomplishment rather than just the regions' effect. Despite how developed and rich the region is, people's success depends largely on their own efforts.

(259 words)





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WE 73. Language/语言

Learning a new language at an early age is helpful for children. Is it more positive for their future aspect or have some adverse effects? Agree or disagree?

从小学习一门新语言对孩子是有帮助的。这对他们未来的发展是更积极的,还是有消极影响的? 同意或不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether learning a new language at an early age should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on children. While it is possible to claim that children should enjoy their childhood, I am of the opinion that language learning should take place as soon as possible.

To start with, it is undeniable that early language education may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that it would pose a heavy burden to children. As we all know, language learning is not that easy. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that children should totally understand their own language and culture first. Studying a foreign language may make children give up or fed up their own language or culture.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of preschool language education have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that new languages are beneficial for all-aged children because it helps children learn more knowledge apart from their mother tongue. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that more than 67% of Chinese children started learning a second language from the age of two. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that children have the talent of learning languages faster than adults, which won't take too much effort. From my own experience, my younger sister is a faster learner in terms of English speaking.

To conclude, although some believe that learning a language too early will have some adverse effects for children's future, I am strongly convinced that parents should provide opportunities for learning languages to their children.

(276 words)





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WE 74. Role model/榜样

题目 1: Successful sports stars and glamorous film stars act as role models for youngsters. Do you support this or not?

人树立了榜样。你是否支持这个观点?

成功的体育明星和魅力四射的电影明星为年轻

题目 2: Is imitating celebrities in sports and movies

模仿体育名人和电影明星是好是坏?

good or bad?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether <u>successful sports stars and glamorous film stars acting as role models</u> / <u>imitating celebrities in sports and movies</u> should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on youngsters. While it is possible to claim that role models can demonstrate confidence and ambition, especially in the face of hardship, I am of the opinion that negative behavior will also be imitated.

To start with, it is undeniable that treating celebrities as role models may have some positive impacts. Firstly, it is claimed that athletes serve as good exemplars for how to lead a healthy lifestyle and they represent positive qualities and virtues. Moreover, there are also arguments that those sports and film stars can provide behavioral guidance in terms of charity, public image and avoiding coarse language or violence.

However, those who argue for the downsides of copying their behaviors have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that many celebrities give messages of pretty appearance and wealthy lifestyle. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that many fans spend too much money on purchasing their idols' products or imitating their dressing, despite their limited financial power. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that every person has a unique growing environment and life experience, which cannot be replicated, so star's deeds have no reference value. From my own experience, I desire to be associated with celebrities outweighs the desire to be with family when I was young.

To conclude, although some believe that role models should be someone who has high visibility on media platforms, I am strongly convinced that bad behaviors such as drug or alcohol abuse could also be imitated. (280/285 words)



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WE 75. Travel & Study/旅行和学习

题目 1: Travel to study is overrated; we have brilliant scholars who studied locally. Is travel really required for higher studies?

题目 2: The value of travel is highly overrated; one can become scholar without leaving home. To what extent do you agree or disagree the travel is a necessary component of a quality education?

题目 3: Is travel a necessary component of education or not? Will scholar sitting at home have more knowledge than one who travels?

旅行中学习这件事被过高评价了,我们有许多优秀的学者是在当地学习的,所以高等教育真的需要将旅行和学习相结合吗?

旅行的价值被大大高估了;一个人不离开家就能成为学者。你在多大程度上同意或不同意旅行是素质教育的必要组成部分?

旅行是否是教育的必要组成部分?坐在家里的学 者会比旅行的人有更多的知识吗?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether travelling should be viewed as a necessary way for scholars to achieve higher goals. While it is possible to claim that travel is an essential component of quality education, I am of the opinion that there is a variety of ways to study in these days.

To start with, it is undeniable that taking a trip may have some positive impacts. Firstly, it is claimed that travelling may help scholars relax, which could further inspire them to think of some new ideas in their field. Moreover, there are also arguments that it can provide scholars with the opportunity to understand and adapt to a new environment and they can learn about native cultures, languages, traditions and values.

However, those who argue for the unnecessary of travelling have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that scholars can get access to all kinds of knowledge through the internet nowadays. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that the technology of visual reality (VR) and visual environment (VE) can help researchers experience almost the same scenery, and observe their studying object almost as vivid as the real things. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that in many fields, such as astronomy and microbiology, travelling is impossible, but experts still make outstanding contributions, which means travelling is not a must.

To conclude, although some believe that travelling is a good way to boost academic performance, I am strongly convinced that studying can take place anytime or anywhere.

(264 words)





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WE 76. English language/英语语言

Do you think English will remain to be a global 尽管已经全球化了,你认为英语仍将会是全球使 language despite globalization? 用的主要语言吗?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether English should be viewed as a global language in spite of globalization. While it is possible to claim that English is losing its dominance these days, I am of the opinion that we still need to accept how widespread it is in this world.

To start with, it is undeniable that people are less likely to choose English as their second language recently. Firstly, it is claimed that more people choose to study the language they are interested in rather than English due to the widespread of other cultures. Moreover, there are also arguments that Chinese is becoming more and more popular and governments and corporations sponsor Kongzi college which can teach Chinese to immigration and local people.

However, those who argue for the leading position of English have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that an increasing number of the population is learning English and communicating in it around the world. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that most of the highend technology is based on English, for example, the coding languages in IT industry, which means English is irreplaceable within the short term. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that human beings need a global language in modern times, but it is unnecessary to "invent" a new common language.

To conclude, although some believe that other languages are becoming as important as English such as Chinese, I am strongly convinced that English is widely used nowadays and would be still useful for the future. (268 words)





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WE 77. Parental responsibility/父母的职责

Parents should be held legally responsible for their children's acts. What is your opinion? Support it with personal examples.

父母应对孩子的行为负法律责任。你的意见是什么?用个人的例子来支持它。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether parents should have a responsibility towards their child's upbringing. While it is possible to claim that children's behaviours are influenced by many factors not only parents, I am of the opinion that parents should be the first line of law enforcement for children.

To start with, it is undeniable that the causes of children's behaviour are very complicated. Firstly, it is claimed that parents cannot stay with children 24 hours a day, and many different things such as school, internet, and peers have an impact on children's acts and personalities. Moreover, there are also arguments that every individual is independent of their unique characteristics, parents may influence children but cannot determine everything they do.

However, those who argue for the parents' legal responsibility for their kids have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that parents are guardians of their children, especially those under age 18, so it is their legal responsibilities to guide and educate their children. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that children under the age of 18 are not yet mature enough to be aware of consequences and legislation. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that children will mimic what their parents do at home, consciously and unconsciously, so parents are supposed to be responsible for their behaviours. From my own experience, what my parents did has a huge effect on me until now.

To conclude, although some believe that children should assume the full responsibilities themselves, I am strongly convinced that parents should still step up to the plate.

(275 words)





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WE 78. Competitive environment/竞争环境

A competitive environment in school and university would bring excellence and need to be encouraged.

Agree or disagree?

学校中的竞争环境将激励学生竞争学习表现更 好,这种竞争需要被鼓励。同意或不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether a competitive environment should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on students. While it is possible to claim that competition does inspire students' hard work, I am of the opinion that it also brings too much peer pressure, which should be discouraged.

To start with, it is undeniable that a competitive environment may have some positive impacts. Firstly, it is claimed that students in universities and schools perform better in their studies when there is a competition between them. There is a healthy fight among the students to get higher marks in the exams. Moreover, there are also arguments that it will help students adapt to the fierce competition in the workplace in advance.

However, those who argue for the downsides of the competition have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that It will push students and teachers focus on those easily-observed aspects of education, such as test scores, which is not always beneficial to students' growth. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that 56% of college students put more emphasis on exams rather than extra-curricular activities. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that study and education in school should emphasize and enhance the cooperating ability instead of competition.

To conclude, although some believe that a competitive environment can bring the excellence and success in the young students, I am strongly convinced that the management should not encourage such environment because it has more disadvantages than advantages, based on what has been discussed above. (268 words)





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WE 79. Learning/学习

With enough amount of motivation and practice, people can learn anything that the experts teach in the classroom. Agree or not?

有了足够的动力和实践行动,人们可以学到专家在课堂上教的任何东西。同意与否?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether students can attain knowledge outside the classroom as long as they have the right amount of motivation and practice. While it is possible to claim that motivation is the crucial element in setting and achieving goals, I am of the opinion that classroom education and training are necessary.

To start with, it is undeniable that classroom learning may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that schooling is limited to bookish knowledge only and sometimes cannot be applied in real life. Moreover, there are also arguments that motivation is important to learning because engaging in learning and absorbing knowledge is an active process requiring learner's conscious effort. What the individual requires is to set goals and exert some effort whether he is in the classroom or not.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of learning in the classroom have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that the school education system is completed. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that the knowledge from school is usually more reliable and professional, as schools are monitored by the standards. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that people normally have a limited social or life circle, which may only provide a limited amount of knowledge, which would restrict their consideration in some circumstances, such as property developments or businesses set-up.

To conclude, although some believe that there are numerous of knowledge and skills that need to be learnt from practical experience, I am strongly convinced that classroom training is still the best way to obtain a better academic performance.

(279 words)





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WE 80. Illiteracy/文盲

The illiteracy of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. Agree or Disagree?

21世纪的文盲不是指那些不会读写的人,而是那些不会学习、不学习和重学的人。同意或不同意?

The controversial issue in respect of the new definition of 'illiterate', in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether a literate should be someone who has the capacity to learn, and if circumstances dictate, unlearn and re-learn, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that an illiterate would be someone's inability to read, write and understand because we can read the meaning on the dictionary. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that people should learn new things because the advancement of technology has revolutionized the way people do things. For example, emails and online social networks have altered the way human communicate. Without the ability to relearn new things, people would be behind the time and become illiterate.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that continuous learning is imperative for each individual regardless of age and social status. As such, failing to update with the latest knowledge would result in declining productivity and efficiency, leading to a loss of jobs. We may cite a convincing example of the research conducted by China Daily that in the field of computer science, new findings are invented every day and if the engineers are not catching up with the changes, he would become illiterate in his own field.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that the illiterate of the 21st century will not be those cannot read and write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn. (280 words)





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WE 81. Educational purpose/教育目标

Some people think educational purpose is to have a better life in the future; others argue that its aim is only for a self-improvement. What is your opinion? Your essay should base on your own experiences and examples.

一些人认为教育的目的是为了将来有更好的生活;其他人则认为它的目的只是为了实现自我提高。你的意见是什么?你的写作应该基于你自己的经验和例子。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether educational purpose should be viewed as a path to the better life or the better self. While it is possible to claim that education is only about finding a decent job, I am of the opinion that the fulfilment of one's hopes and ambitions is the major role of education.

To start with, it is undeniable that the purpose of education is to train the workforce of the coming future. Firstly, it is claimed that we could obtain knowledge and skills from education, which enables us to find good employment and have a better living standard. Moreover, there are also arguments that most of the students tend to study different courses in order to secure high paid jobs without considering their own interests.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of treating the education a way of life have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that education with understanding and purpose can be more beneficial. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that someone likes to do photography might struggle with engineering, therefore, choice of education must be associated with the type of a person's personality and his goals. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that students who pursue degree courses according to their own aims are found to be more successful and happy in lives.

To conclude, although some believe that education brings a good job and money, I am strongly convinced that the aim of education should be student's self-fulfilment needs because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(279 words)





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WE 82. University education/大学教育

Sole aim of university education is to make students ready for employment. What is your opinion?

大学教育的唯一目的是使学生为就业做好准备。你的意见是什么?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether educational purpose should be viewed as a path to the better employment. While it is possible to claim that education is only about finding a decent job, I am of the opinion that the fulfilment of one's hopes and ambitions is the major role of university education.

To start with, it is undeniable that the purpose of tertiary education is to train the workforce of the coming future. Firstly, it is claimed that we could obtain knowledge and skills from education, which enables us to find good employment and have a better living standard. Moreover, there are also arguments that most of the students tend to study different courses in order to secure high paid jobs without considering their own interests.

However, those who argue for the downsides of making the better employment the sole purpose of education have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that education with understanding and purpose can be more beneficial. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that someone likes to do photography might struggle with engineering, therefore, choice of education must be associated with the type of a person's personality and his goals. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that students who pursue degree courses according to their own aims are found to be more successful and happy in lives.

To conclude, although some believe that education brings a good job and money, I am strongly convinced that the aim of education should be student's self-fulfilment needs because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(278 words)



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WE 83. Scientific knowledge/科学知识

Pursue scientific knowledge, for knowledge itself or for practical use, which one is the most important reason. 追求科学知识,是为了知识本身还是为了实际应 用,哪一个是最重要的原因。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether scientific knowledge should be viewed as knowledge itself or practical use. While it is possible to claim that scientific intelligence is important in human knowledge, others are of the opinion that how it should be applied in a particular field is more crucial.

To start with, it is undeniable that scientific knowledge can provide people with development in learning their world and the whole universe. Firstly, it is claimed that knowledge itself is the foundation and root for any breakthrough of human's innovation and technological progress. For example, mathematics itself seems to have no practical use, but it is a prerequisite and theoretical basis for almost all the scientific and technological field. Moreover, there are also arguments that it is vital for people to acquire highly sophisticated knowledge of science in order to pursue professions.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of the application of scientific understanding have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that practical use is the final destination and purpose of all knowledge. It is the practical benefits accompanying knowledge that human pursue. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that few people care about physics, but we all live on practical needs of this science, such as communication technologies. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that not only can the burgeoning information technology today support people to overcome any limits but it also assists other fields to improve by use of scientific knowledge.

To conclude, the impact of scientific knowledge in human wisdom and the way that knowledge is used in a particular area should be equally important.

(285 words)





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WE 84. Sports and games/运动和游戏

Sports and games create disturbance in students' life because students cannot fully concentrate on their studies. To what extent do you agree or disagree? 运动和游戏给学生的生活带来了干扰,因为学生不能完全集中精力在学习上。你在多大程度上同意或不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether sports and games should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on students. While it is possible to claim that children can be distracted by those recreational activities, I am of the opinion that they need to achieve study-life balance by doing sports and games.

To start with, it is undeniable that spending too much time on entertainment may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that students will have less time on study if they are disturbed by too many extracurricular activities. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that technology is sources of interruptions in student life. More students are getting overweight and dealing with obesity, diabetes and heart diseases these days.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of sports and games have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that students' communication with peers and social skills will be enhanced. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that students who are interested in outdoor activities can make more friends. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that participating in sports and games can develop their potentials in different areas, helping them building confidence, which is beneficial for their study. From my own experience, I learned a sense of team spirit when I was playing basketball in high school.

To conclude, although some believe that sports and games create disturbance in students' life, I am strongly convinced that they are essential parts because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(271 words)





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WE 85. Mass media/大众传媒

The mass media, including TV, radio and newspapers, influences our society and shapes our opinions and characters. What is your opinion?

大众传媒,包括电视、广播和报纸,会影响我们的社会,塑造我们的观点和性格。你的意见是什么?

The controversial issue in respect of mass media, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether it has an impact on our society, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that it has been proliferated among different groups of people such as politicians who give their opinions to the public through national TV channels due to the fact that they want to express their personal value. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that the undeniable usefulness of the media in almost instantly providing information about events around the world is largely taken for granted. That is to say, in our dependence on the media, we have allowed them to mould our notions and opinions of events, places and people.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that the media are also influential in the way they facilitate the spread of culture and lifestyle. We may cite a convincing example of so-called 'global youth culture', in which one finds young people around the world displaying a common interest in music, clothing styles and films. As a result, these mass media have an extravagant power to convince on the matter which they wanted to.

To put it in a nutshell, we may safely draw the conclusion that these mass media have an extravagant power to convince on the matter which they wanted to. Despite the fact that it is a spectacular way to spread knowledge and information, it induces us to listen to them, follow them and act in a certain way.

(284 words)





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WE 86. Information revolution/信息革命

Information revolution has changed the way of mass communications and had some negative and positive effects on individual lives as well as on society. To what extent do you agree or disagree? 信息革命改变了大众传播的方式,对个人生活和社会都产生了一些积极和消极的影响。你在多大程度上同意或不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether the information revolution should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that it has brought the world closer together and made it a global village, I am of the opinion that it also brings some risks to our life.

To start with, it is undeniable that information technology not only allows us to share ideas quickly and efficiently but also brings down barriers of geographic boundaries. Firstly, it is claimed that it helps people from different cultures to exchange views and ideas, thus increasing awareness and reducing prejudice. Moreover, there are also opinions that communication has also become cheaper, quicker, and more efficient. We can now do face-to-face communication with the help of video conferencing at anytime and anywhere.

However, those who argue for the downsides of information revolution have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it has decreased the privacy of individuals. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that from cell phone to email hacking, people are worried about their private information, which could be stolen and misused. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that communication on social networking websites has weakened the connectivity between people because people now tend to interact with each other via sending messages rather than direct communication, which reduces the sense of togetherness among people.

To conclude, although some believe that advanced technologies can make our world a better place, I am strongly convinced that the information can also be abused, which can lead to rumours and even create violence.

(278 words)





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WE 87. Mass Media/大众媒体

Any new technological development in the recent years is a boon or curse for the society in general. Do you agree or disagree that Mass Media, Like TV, Radio and Newspaper have a huge impact on people, especially young generation?

近年来,任何新技术的发展对整个社会来说都是 有好有坏的。你是否同意像电视、广播和报纸这 样的大众媒体对人们有巨大的影响,尤其是对年 轻一代?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether technological advancements should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that it has a negative influence on society, I am of the opinion that technology makes human life easier and save their time. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that the latest technology may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that these forms of mass media and social media have taken over people's spare time in terms of physically and mentally. For example, 60% of Chinese who spend spare time on these devices have suffered from various health problems. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that it has decreased the privacy of individuals.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of new technologies have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that this will benefit younger generations by allowing them to perform efficient and effective tasks. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that 82% of young people check the news on their electronic devices daily. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that it helps people from different cultures to exchange views and ideas, thus increasing awareness and reducing prejudice.

To conclude, although some believe that technological developments are harmful to society, I am strongly convinced that they can make our world a better place based on what has been discussed above. (262 words)





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WE 88. Communication/沟通

Communication has changed significantly in the last

10 years. Discuss pros and cons impacts.

在过去的 10 年里,人们的沟通方式发生了巨大的变化。讨论它的利弊影响。

In recent times, the matter of communication revolution has aroused a wide-spread attention among our society. While some people claim that it has brought the world closer together and made it a global village, others are convinced that it also brings some risks to our life. In this essay, I will analyse the advantages together with the disadvantages by presenting both personal and objective examples.

It is worth noting that there exist a number of drawbacks of changing our ways of communication. To begin with, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is that the information age has decreased the privacy of individuals. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that from cell phone to email hacking, people are worried about their private information, which could be stolen and misused. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that communication on social networking websites has weakened the connectivity between people.

However, on the contrary, obvious advantages of new communication methods are equally significant, and thus must not be neglected. On the one hand, new technology not only allows us to share ideas quickly and efficiently but also brings down barriers of geographic boundaries. More specifically, it helps people from different cultures to exchange views and ideas, thus increasing awareness and reducing prejudice. There are also opinions that communication has also become cheaper, quicker, and more efficient. For instance, we can now do face-to-face communication with the help of video conferencing at anytime and anywhere.

In conclusion, while many people are worried about the risks of changing the way we communicated before, I personally believe that advanced communication technologies can make our world a better place. (280 words)





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WE 89. Invention/发明

In the past 100 years, there are many inventions such as antibiotics, airplanes and computer. What do you think is the most important invention for the past 100 years? Why?

在过去的 100 年里,有许多发明,如抗生素,飞机和电脑。你认为过去 100 年最重要的发明是什么?为什么?

A lot of technological advancements have been taken place till now. In my opinion, computers are considered as the most revolutionary invention for the development of human beings in this century.

Firstly, computers are very efficient and easy to use that they become a part of everyone's life. People can do everything on computers which save their time and effort. Information technology has made our world as a global village. Computer applications such as Skype helps people to do face to face conversation with their kin and kith at anytime and anywhere.

Secondly, computer enhances the students' interest and intimacy towards their studies. They can watch recorded video tutorials to clear their doubts in any field. It has propelled research and science forward faster than ever before. We cannot even imagine any research project without these devices today. Computers are also the primary tool for data collection, storage and analysis in an array of fields such as nuclear technology, biotechnology and statistics.

Finally, computers are used in almost all fields for any purpose such as entertainment, education, and any type of job. For example, you can use computers to play video games, watch movies, listen to music or chat on the internet for entertainment. In education or any job, you can use them for video conferences, PowerPoint presentations or just using their basic features discussed in the first point.

Therefore, computers are the greatest invention of all time because they reduce your time consumption on your activities, you can save your information and edit it anytime, and they let you do almost everything you need. Computers have become the most powerful tool ever created.

(274 words)





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WE 90. Daily invention/日常发明

Talk about the pros / cons of this era as is full of daily invention. Any recent invention that you think proved beneficial or detrimental to society.

谈论这个日常充满发明的时代的利与弊。讲述最近你认为对社会有益或有害的任何发明。

In recent times, the matter of technological inventions has aroused a wide-spread attention among our society. There are both pros and cons of these daily inventions. In this essay, I will analyse the advantages together with the disadvantages by presenting both personal and objective examples.

It is worth noting that there exist a number of drawbacks of new technologies. To begin with, one of the most pressing problems in this regard is that people now are spending too much time in front of computers or using smartphones. More specifically, we prefer chatting hours on social media with a stranger rather than talking to one sitting next to us.

However, on the contrary, obvious advantages of daily inventions are equally significant, and thus must not be neglected. On the one hand, the Internet is full of tons of information which can be retrieved in a click. Also, advanced farming tools have helped farmers in increasing productivity and greatly reduced their workload.

In my opinion, computers are considered as the most revolutionary invention for the development of human beings in this century. Firstly, computers are very efficient and easy to use that they become a part of everyone's life. People can do everything on computers which save their time and effort. Secondly, the computer enhances the students' interest and intimacy towards their studies.

In conclusion, while many people are worried about the addiction to new technologies, I personally believe that daily inventions have played a pivotal role in making human life more efficient.

(251 words)





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WE 91. New things/新事物

What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in an era in which new things are constantly being invented? 生活在一个新事物不断被发明的时代有什么优点和缺点?

In recent days, the problem of new inventions has aroused a heated discussion. Some people claim that the development of the technology would cause serious pollutions, such as air pollutions and water pollutions while I hold the opinion that living in an era in which new things are constantly being invented makes our life convenient.

To start, I do admit that many positions would be occupied by automatic robots from production lines, which is much more economic than the cost of labor. This would lead to serious unemployment problems. Another possible reason may be that people prefer not to do outdoor exercises and finally have physical and mental problems. For example, many people, especially teenagers are addicted to computer games, which lead to strain on eyes and obesity.

However, there are many reasons why I view new technologies as a huge step forward. For one thing, online tools and software provide people with instant communication with friends worldwide. In other words, electronic communication brings down geographic barrier vastly. Furthermore, a recent research released on New York Times has demonstrated that over eighty percent of people around the world can easily get access to whatever they want, and gain knowledge timely by global learning. Besides, take myself as an example, I use computers with multi-tasking features every day since modern working mode and daily life increasingly rely on developed science and technologies.

Based on what have been discussed above, despite of the fact that some people argue that excessive reliance on new technologies may bring some negative impacts, it is safe to draw the conclusion that scientific achievement changes our life greatly in a positive way.

(275words)





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WE 92. Technology/技术

The advance of technology affects daily life. Mention a recent tech and elaborate the pros and cons and justify. 科技的进步影响着人们的日常生活。提及最近的 一项技术,并详细说明其优缺点和合理性。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether technology advancement should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that technology comes with problems, I am of the opinion that it makes our life better. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing the pros and cons of computers.

To start with, it is undeniable that computers may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that overuse of computer not only causes strain on eyes which leads to poor eyesight but also affects people's health and wellbeing and causes several other diseases. For instance, according to the recent research, around 40% of American children are suffering from obesity and the root cause of this is that they spend on an average of four hours per day in front of the computer.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of computers have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that computers have propelled research and science forward faster than ever before. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that information technology has made our world as a global village. Computer applications such as skype help people to do face to face conversations with their kin and kith at anytime and anywhere. From my own experience, I was able to see my parents in China via video call when I was in Sydney.

To conclude, although some believe that computers raise health issues among the users, I am strongly convinced that computers are the most revolutionary invention for the development of human beings. (272 words)





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WE 93. Television/电视

Television has many useful functions to play in everyone's life, for some its relaxation, for some it is companion. Discuss your viewpoint and support your answer with examples and discussion point. 电视在每个人的生活中都有许多有用的功能,对 一些人来说是放松,对一些人来说是陪伴。讨论 你的观点,并用例子和讨论点来支持你的答案。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether television should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that television may have some drawbacks, I am of the opinion that it affects people's life in a positive way. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that television may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that people tend to waste time in front of television, instead of working on their goals and ambitions. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that staring at television for long hours is harmful to the eyes.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of television have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it increases mental horizon and keeps people updated about current events. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that over 50% of American population rely on news on television for daily information. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that television is a good company to those who do not work, like housewives, lonely old people. From my own experience, compared with radio, everything on television is more lifelike, vivid and real.

To conclude, although some believe that people waste too much time on television. I am strongly convinced that television is a great invention for both entertainment and information access, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(263 words)





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WE 94. Communication tools/聊天工具

What are the positive and negative aspects of the connection to outside world including mobile phone, email and social networking?

人们与外界的联系,包括手机、电子邮件和社交 网络,它们积极和消极的方面是什么?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether connection to outside world should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that mobile phone, email and social networking distract student from academic research, I believe that access to Internet provides people with updated information around the world. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that excessive exposure to Internet may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that social networking may reveal confidential information to strangers, which may cause a fraud or pose a threat to the owners' life and property securities. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that the information in social media can sometimes be faked, which is difficult to verify and recognise.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of social applications have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that it is more convenient for employees to cooperate globally, which not only increases the working efficiency but also contributes to the globalization of the world. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that the working efficiency in enterprises worldwide has dramatically increased over the past decades. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that it creates an opportunity to recognize people from different backgrounds through Skype or Facebook.

To conclude, although some believe that connection to global world may lead to distractions, I am strongly convinced that modern communication tools have benefited our life greatly to some extent because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(285 words)





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WE 95. Social media/社会媒体

What are the pros and cons of staying connected on 在社交媒体上保持 24 小时联系的好处和坏处是 social media for 24 hours a day? 什么?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether staying connected on social media all day long should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that it provides great convenience and efficiency, I am of the opinion that staying online without breaks can be harmful. I shall explain reasons and give advantages and disadvantages of social media.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that for someone who doesn't keep regular 9-to-5 work hours, the ability to get things done at any time of the day or night is a huge advantage for them. Besides, another merit can be instant access to information. For small business owners, there are a huge range of ways customers can engage with a business, and being connected means that their questions, complaints and feedback can be received and actioned immediately.

However, there are many reasons why being "always on" is detrimental, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that whether it's a phone call that interrupts a meeting, or a notification that breaks your concentration, technology can crash productivity if it's not managed right. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that the pressure to be available and able to work 24/7 can really wear people down without the right boundaries in place. That is to say, the boundaries between work, home and social circles have been blurred by wireless connections and mobile devices.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that staying on social media for too long is detrimental in mental health and productivity.

(276 words)





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WE 96. Internet/互联网

Does the advent of internet change the role of teacher? To what extent do you agree?

互联网的出现是否会改变教师的角色?你在多大程度上同意它?

The controversial issue in respect of internet's influence on education, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether the internet has changed teachers' role, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that the expertise of a teacher in how to explain and adapt complex concepts to different individuals can hardly be mimicked by a computer, no matter how sophisticated its software is. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that at higher educational level, the online resources such as open universities offering free courses, provide them with an ever-accessible source of information, that otherwise would not be at hand.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that the internet delivers better learning outcomes in that computer has made learning more interactive, fun and easy. The mere activity of touching and exploring this device constitutes an enjoyable task for a kid. As a result, this accompanied with a relaxing environment, interactive software, usually conduces to the better grasping of knowledge. Take myself as an example, I past 8 on my PTE test via learning on the online platform.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that the appearance of internet changed the role of teacher in educational context, despite the fact that some of the sophisticated teaching by teachers cannot be imitated.

(251 words)



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WE 97. Newspapers/报纸

There is no need of newspapers in modern world. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

现代世界不需要报纸。你在多大程度上同意或不

同意?

The controversial issue in respect of the demand of newspapers, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether the role of newspapers has become obsolete, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that the smell of the ink, the rustle of the pages flipping through your fingers, all of which make reading a wonderful experience. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that newspapers issuance can cause tens of thousands of trees being cut down each year, which seriously breaks the ecosystem. That is to say, conventional newspapers consume natural resources in an unnecessary way.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that the trend of reading news on the Internet is booming throughout the world in that reading online news sites is not only easily accessible, but also it costs people a minimal price. We may cite a convincing example of accessibility of online news. News posted online will be existing for a long time. As a result, people can read it whenever they want, whereas newspaper is published on daily basis, so it's impossible for readers to know the earlier news.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that traditional newspapers will see to its end due to it is no longer up-to-date, despite the fact that some people may enjoy reading physical newspapers.

(256 words)





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WE 98. Extreme sports/极限运动

Extreme sports like skiing, water rafting etc. are dangerous and should these be banned. Do you agree or disagree? Explain with examples.

滑雪、漂流等极限运动是危险的,应该被禁止。 你同意还是不同意?解释和举例。

The controversial issue in respect of extreme sports, nowadays, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether extreme sports should be banned, people's notions vary from one another. Some people claim that extreme sports are dangerous. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that extreme sports like skiing, water rafting are harmful to our physical health due to the fact that extreme sports may causes strain on our joints. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be noticed that it is unlikely that we will get injured from extreme sports, as long as we are properly protected. For example, when we do the bungee jumping, we would be safely fastened to prevent any possible injuries.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that extreme sports can help us to meet new people who have same lifestyle like we do because extreme sports can help to build our confidence, to make us more fearless and energetic. Another possible reason may be that challenging ourselves practices the ability of stress tolerance, and improves our performance when dealing with emergencies. Take myself as an example, I need to pay more attention to control the directions when skiing. As a result, I feel more concentrated on my daily goal.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that extreme sports should not be banned. Despite the fact that they are physical demanding, challenging ourselves can greatly change our life in a positive way.

(269 words)





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WE 99. Extreme sports/极限运动

Discuss the pros and cons of extreme sports.

讨论极限运动的利弊。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether extreme sports should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that extreme sports include certain risks, I am of the opinion that people can benefit from doing such exercises. I shall explain reasons and give advantages and disadvantages of extreme sports.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that extreme sports are highly risky, which may cause physical damages to our body; Besides, extreme sports require special equipment, which may be expensive to purchase and add extra financial burdens to players. From my own experience, I injured my left knee ligament during skiing, and was later confirmed with ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) rupture which took me 9 months to recover.

However, there are many reasons why extreme sports are beneficial, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that extreme sports can help us to meet new people who have same lifestyle like we do. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that extreme sports can help to build our confidence, to make us more fearless. That is to say, extreme sports can help to build our body and make us stronger both mentally and physically.

To conclude, although some believe that extreme sports should be banned, I am strongly convinced that extreme sports can be a positive impact on people, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(250 words)





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WE 100. Get married or job before graduated/毕业前结婚或工作

题目 1: It is argued that getting married before finishing school or getting a job is not a good choice.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

题目 2: It is usually foolish to get married before

completing your studies and getting established in a

good job? Do you agree or disagree?

有人认为在毕业前结婚或着找工作不是一个好的选择。你在多大程度上同意或不同意?

在完成学业、找到一份好工作之前结婚通常是愚蠢的。你同意还是不同意?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate on whether people should get married before graduation or start a career. While it is possible to claim that people all have their free choices, I am of the opinion that we need to establish solid financial ground before starting a family.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that having a family or being married can be a motivation to push people to study harder and to find a better job because now they are having a family to support. Besides, being married means that partners can help each other in terms of study, daily life or career, so people don't have to face life problems all by themselves. Take myself as an example, my girlfriend and I helped each other on academic study after we got married.

However, there are many reasons why having a degree or a job is necessary for getting married, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that one may not be mentally mature enough to enter into a marriage before finishing school or having a job, or to get ready to be responsible to the family. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that being into marriage or having a family too early may be distractions to people's study or career. That is to say, people who are not graduated or employed are normally not financially independent. They may be still supported by their parents.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that getting married without having a job or the ability to find one to support a family is not wise.

(279 words)





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WE 101. Wealth and joy/财富和快乐

Different people get success in different fields. Some people work long hours to get success, but others feel that spend free time for joy than wealth. Which style closely related to you? Explains your views.

不同的人在不同的领域获得成功。有些人工作很 长时间获得成功,但其他人觉得花空闲时间是为 了快乐而不是财富。哪种风格和你更像?解释你 的观点。

The controversial issue in respect of wealth and joy, nowadays, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether staff should spend more time on working to achieve success, people's notions vary from one another. Some people feel that spending free time for joy than wealth. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that people who working long hours are likely to get success in their field since they devote themselves to their careers. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It is undeniable that working too hard or too long can be jeopardizing to our health. For instance, sitting or staring at the screen at offices would let people feel uncomfortable. Besides, a recent research released on New York Times has demonstrated that excessive working can eventually cause physical and psychological diseases, such as neck pains and mental disorders.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that people need to release pressure and recover from high-intensive working state. As a result, outdoor activities are their best options as they can not only gain much happiness but also maintain their mental and physical health. Besides, take myself as an example, I prefer to spend free time for joy than wealth because money is only useful when there is time and place to spend it.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that joy and recreation are far more weighted than career achievement. Despite the fact that different people get success in different fields, life is not all about making money or being successful.

(281 words)





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WE 102. Effective people/高效的人

Some effective people like repetitive routine, such as eating the same food, do you like this way?

一些高效的人喜欢重复的例行公事,比如吃同样的食物,你喜欢这样吗?

The controversial issue in respect of repetitive routine, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether effectiveness is related to repetitive routine, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue, although some people claim that they are accustomed to eating the same food.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that people would become more productive and effective on repetitive operations, such as manual labour and engineering inspections, which would always make people have a sense of self-discipline. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that repetitive life patterns make life boring. To be more specific, human beings are not designed to do same things over and over again, and we need something new to refresh our brain.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that creativity is a crucial factor on the development of many companies and organizations. As a result, it is essential for both employers and employees to generate new ideas, and put them into practice. That is the only way to keep competitive in the modern business environment. Besides, take me as an example, repetitive routine such as eating the same food may not be able to give me the nutrition that my body needs.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that duplication may lead to loss in creativity. Despite the fact that repetition is linked to working effectiveness and efficiency, I am strongly convinced that the development of society requires multiple and variable elements. (274 words)





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WE 103. Work/工作

Nowadays, people spend too much time at work to the extent that they hardly have time for their personal life. Discuss.

现在,人们花太多的时间在工作上,以至于他们几乎没有时间进行个人生活。讨论这个现象。

The controversial issue in respect of balance between work and life, nowadays, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether staff should work hard to achieve success, people's notions vary from one another. Some people claim that this phenomenon is not good for their personal life. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that people who working long hours are likely to get success in their field since they devote themselves to their careers. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It is undeniable that working too hard or too long can be jeopardizing to our health. For instance, sitting or staring at the screen at offices would let people feel uncomfortable. Besides, a recent research released on New York Times has demonstrated that excessive working can eventually cause physical and psychological diseases, such as neck pains and mental disorders.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that people need to release pressure and recover from high-intensive working state. As a result, outdoor activities are their best options as they can not only gain much happiness but also maintain their mental and physical health. Besides, take myself as an example, I believe that money is only useful when there is time and place to spend it, and I prefer to spend more time to keep my family accompany.

To put it in a nutshell, considering all the factors above, we may safely draw the conclusion that joy and recreation are far more weighted than career achievement. Despite the fact that different people get success in different fields, life is not all about making money or being successful.

(286 words)





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WE 104. Unhealthy life/不健康生活

Nowadays, many people live an unhealthy life. List some unhealthy lifestyles and give some advice to deal with them 现在,许多人过着不健康的生活。列出一些不健康的生活方式,并给出一些建议来解决它们。

In recent days, the problem of unhealthy lifestyles has aroused a heated discussion. There are many reasons responsible for this problem and we need to take some measures to relieve the problems. In this essay, I shall give some examples and provide feasible solutions for them.

To start, sleeping too late at night is one of the most obvious problems, which will lead to many negative results, such as increase in the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Take my friend John as an example, he suffered heart attack due to staying up too late for work, and the symptoms was not caused only by sleeping too late, but also being extremely tired in overtime. Therefore, it is no doubt that people should have a well-designed plan for their daily work, so to ensure that they can work or study in a more efficient way and to leave enough time for sleeping.

Furthermore, the use of computers or smartphones also plays a significant role in unhealthy lifestyle problems. It not only that people's eyesight can be impaired, but also the radiation that poses an invisible treat to body health in long term. Therefore, it is advisable that people should sometimes switch from computer works to paper based works. And we should give our eyes enough rest between each segment of time of work.

Based on the previous analysis, although there might be some convenience of modern lifestyles to some extent, it is still reasonable to take health care for benefits in the long run.

(252 words)





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WE 105. Lifestyle/生活方式

Lifestyle affects health. How should health/ medical 生活方式影响健康。卫生/医疗部门应如何回应? department respond?

In recent days, the controversial issue in respect of health problems related to lifestyles has aroused a heated discussion. There are many reasons responsible for this problem. As a result, medical departments or health sections need to take some measures to relieve the problems.

To start, the lack of health consciousness is one of the most obvious problems, which will lead to many negative results. Take my friend John as an example he felt uncomfortable after excessive exercise, but he did not notice that he should ask help for doctors. Therefore, to develop the public awareness, the medical department should do more public advertisements on how to maintain physical and mental health in public places, such as bus stops, hospitals and schools. It is also their responsibilities to build more sport facilities, providing enough places for citizens to do daily exercise.

Furthermore, access to medical knowledge and treatments also play a significant role in public health. For example, a recent research conducted by New York Times has revealed that over fifty percent of residents in rural areas claims that it is not easy to obtain medical information. As a result, health departments should hold regular seminars about how to remain healthy and provide free lectures on basic knowledge of healthy lifestyles including daily meals, sleeping time and exercise frequency. Furthermore, medical departments should use the government taxes to reduce the medicine or supplements prices so that people can have easier access to essential medical treatments.

Based on the previous analysis, although it might be tough to solve the health problems, it is still reasonable to take medical reform for benefits in the long run.

(273 words)





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WE 106. Cultural shock/文化冲击

Cultural shock is a new worry concern for less immigration. What are the possible opinions to eradicate this issue?

对于移民减少的问题,文化冲击是一个新的担忧。有什么可能的观点来根除这个问题?

The controversial issue in respect of less immigration, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. The causes of this are various, and the most eye-catching one is cultural shock, and there are a number of measures need to be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that different living habits and manners are the first and most important reason. This is because same behavior can be seen as friendly in one country but aggressive in another due to cultural difference. As a result, governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent cultural shock from increasing, such as introducing cultural courses to help local people understand the cultures of immigrants, which can reduce the cultural shork and indirectly avoid the conflicts between locals and new immigrants.

Additionally, lack of understanding and awareness of foreign countries also play a significant role in cultural shock. Therefore, public organizations also have a part to play. Therefore, it is advisable that governments should do their jobs to develop public awareness about the cultural differences. For example, neighbourhood cooperative schemes can help people from different cultural backgrounds to know each other and to eliminate the cultural barrier as much as possible. Besides, individuals should also have a more open mind in term of dealing with cultural shock. We should see things from different perspectives.

To put it in a nutshell, despite the fact there might be diverse causes of reduction in immigration, it is imperative that both governments and individuals work together to combat these problems.

(263 words)





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WE 107. Generosity/慷慨

What does generosity mean to you?

慷慨对你来说意味着什么?

The controversial issue in respect of generosity, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether it should be encouraged, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue. I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument and explain the meaning of generosity.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that being generosity to the poor may discourage their will to work harder and support themselves. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that generosity has many different definitions. It has its financial meaning. There are people, especially children, in developing countries who need financial support for their education or medication. In order to help them, many entrepreneurs and philanthropists donate money to help those in need.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that it can also be a kindness. Those who have a kind heart or who can forgive things that are not easily forgiven by others can be seen as generous people. For instance, if someone can forgive a person who had severe harm or cause a significant loss to him or her, that is the case of generosity. From my own experience, I was once forgiven by a very generous stranger who was hit by my bicycle when I was riding by accident.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that generosity means a number of positive qualities in a person, despite the fact that it is no suppose be seen as granted.

(273 words)





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WE 108. Failure and success/失败和成功

What is your view on the idea that it takes failure to achieve success? 你如何看待经历失败后才能成功?

The controversial issue in respect of failure, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether failure leads to success, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue. I shall explain my point of view and explain reasons.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that failure can destroy one's confidence and motive. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that when people have learned some new skills, they need to put them into practice to verify whether these skills would lead to success. As there are always some aspects or details that we did not understand correctly, and there are still some unexpected problems to deal with, it is common for us to experience failure before achieving final success.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that people learn lessons from their failure. When they have failed once from one mistake, they will not make the same mistake again. That is to say, what does not kill you makes you stronger. Failure can also be the training for a person's mentality. People learn lessons from their failure. When they have failed once from one mistake, they will not make the same mistake again. From my own experience, I tried two times to achieve 88 score in PTE test, the first time is a great lesson for me.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that failure does help one to achieve success, despite the fact that some may be easily discouraged by it.

(275 words)





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WE 109. Actions speak louder than words/行动比言语更响亮

What do you think of the saying "Actions speak louder than words."? Give your views or any relevant example with your own experience.

你觉得"行动比语言更响亮"这句话怎么样?用你自己的经验给出你的观点或任何相关的例子。

The controversial issue in respect of personal performance, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether actions speak louder than words, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue. I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that smooth talkers can make their ways by only bragging. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that people would always make a promise or set many long-term goals for their life. However, achieving these objects requires much self-motivation, persistence and a positive attitude to take action every day, which is much more difficult than just saying simple words but doing nothing.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that it is quite difficult for people to change their habits, to vary their daily routines, and even get rid of their laziness. That is to say, actions show much more of a person's commitment than words. With practical actions, you can alter your behaviours or do something to make your dreams become true. From my own experience, reviewing on a daily basis with strict self-discipline is what helped me to past PTE test, rather than posting words on social medias about how much effort I will make.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that actions always tell one's will better than just saying, despite the fact that it takes determination and persistence to do things. (268 words)





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WE 110. Voting/投票

题目 1: In some countries around the world, voting is compulsory. Do you agree with the notion of compulsory voting?

在世界上的一些国家,投票是强制性的。你同 意强制投票的概念吗?

题目 2: If voting is compulsory in democratic society, what conclusions can we draw about Nature of democracy?

如果投票在民主社会是强制性的,我们能对民主的本质得出什么结论?

The controversial issue in respect of voting, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether voting should be a compulsory duty of citizens, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that the most beneficial aspect of compulsory voting is an informed citizen, an enhanced caliber of representatives and better decisions. The system as a whole not only benefits offices but also benefits all individuals. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that the government cannot force or threaten citizens with fines to cast their votes. Instead of seeing voting as a civic duty, we should see it a civic right. While citizens may exercise their civil rights, they are not compelled to.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that many of countries penalize their citizen for failing to participate in an election which does not seems right because people may not have an interest in politics or they are busy, or they simply don't care whoever wins or loses. As a result, making a voting system mandatory does not make sense for a democratic nation. That is to say, compulsory may encourage voters to vote for candidates they have no knowledge of, in order to simply fulfil their legal obligations.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that making voting mandatory for citizens will not facilitate in democratic elections, despite the fact that it forces people to spare time on voting. (272 words)





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WE 111. Global issue/全球问题

The world's governments and organizations are facing a lot of issues. Which do you think is the most pressing problem for the inhabitants on our planet and give the solution?

世界各国政府和组织都面临着许多问题。你认为对我们地球的居民来说,最紧迫的问题是什么?

The controversial issue in respect of climate change, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. The causes of this are various, and there are a number of measures need to be taken to solve this problem.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that the melting glaciers in the South Pole, forest fires and ozone hole is the first and most important reason. This is because climate change have caused several serious consequences such as the global warming. We may cite a convincing example of polar bears. The number of existing polar bears, according to a research conducted by Harvard University, has dropped 50% during the last decade. As a result, governments should ensure that adequate legislation and controls are in place that will prevent issues related with climate change, such as rare species extinction.

Additionally, big companies and organizations also play a significant role in climate change. Therefore, they also have a part to play. Therefore, it is advisable that companies switch to eco-friendly production methods, and purchase materials which are conducive to the environment. Besides, Environmental Conservation Organizations should run campaigns to promote environmental awareness of citizens, and positively accelerate international cooperation among countries in the world. For example, a recent research conducted by New York Times has revealed that since 2000, companies invested in sustainable energy such as wind energy and solar power, have achieved over one third increase in their financial performances on average.

To put it in a nutshell, despite the fact there might be diverse causes of climate change, it is imperative that both governments and companies work together to combat these problems.

(271 words)





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WE 112. Human behaviour/人类的行为

Some people believe law changes human behavior, 有人认为法律改变人的行为,你同意还是不同do you agree or disagree? 意?

The controversial issue in respect of human behaviour, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether law can change our behaviour, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that laws can control and regulate human's actions by imposing a sense of fear among people. For example, people who are caught smuggling drugs in Singapore will face death penalty, therefore such activities hardly take place there. Besides, law stands for the righteous and just scale in human society, with the punishment it imposes on offense conducts, it can discourage people from committing illegal activities. Take myself as an example, I was taught in schools to obey law no matter what I do.

However, there are many reasons why law's influence on human behavior is limited and the most obvious one lies in the fact that human nature and behaviour are inborn qualities, which can be controlled using various regulations, but cannot be changed, therefore individuals still act according to their desires. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that people are aware of the traffic law, which requires us to follow the traffic signals and wear seat belts when we are on roads, but road accidents have never been stopped.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that human behavior is based on its nature and cannot be altered by law.

(260 words)





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WE 113. Building/建筑

It is important to preserve the beautiful buildings of 保护美丽的旧建筑是很重要的,你对此同意还是 past. Do you agree or disagree? 不同意?

The controversial issue in respect of traditional architectures, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether these ancient buildings should be preserved, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that after so many years, the construction quality of old buildings can be a concern. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that old buildings can be protected in tandem with progress. For example, in many circumstances we see old historic buildings being renovated whilst maintaining their original characteristics, and being used for modern purposes.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that these structures provide an insight into the history of our country, showing us how people many centuries ago lived their lives. Without them, we could only learn by books, and it can be sad this were the only way to see them. As a result, on a more practical level, many of these buildings provide important income to a country as many tourists visit them in great numbers. That is to say, by studying and learning about our history, we understand more about the world we live in, and this helps us to build a better future.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that traditional architecture preservation is necessary, despite the fact that it may cost certain amount of money.

(253 words)





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WE 114. Xenophobia /仇外

Xenophobia has accelerated rapidly in the western countries. According to you what solutions can be proposed by government and individuals?

西方国家的仇外心理迅速加剧。你认为政府和个人对此可以提出什么解决方案?

In recent days, the problem of **xenophobia** has aroused a heated discussion. There are many reasons responsible for this problem and we need to take some measures to relieve the problems. In this essay, I shall give some examples and provide feasible solutions for them.

To start, hostility against foreigners is one of the most obvious problems, which will lead to many negative results, such as discrimination even violence. Take my friend John as an example, he was assaulted in a shopping mall just because he was a foreigner. Therefore, it is no doubt that punishing the perpetrators sends a clear message that xenophobia is unacceptable. Government should talk with its citizens and educate them about these historical facts, and this will help prevent future outbursts of xenophobia.

Furthermore, diversity also plays a significant role in xenophobia. It not only that the government can make a difference, but also individuals can handle xenophobia at their level. They should get organized and united and put up their issues with the concerned authorities. People who look different, speak different languages, or have different customs can appear threatening to those who are used to only one ethnic group, lifestyle or set of behaviours. In this era of globalization, one should be ready to embrace diversity. Therefore, it is advisable that people can take the help from media and social networking sites to spread awareness about the harmful effects of xenophobia.

Based on the previous analysis, although there might be some convenience of hatred against foreigners to some extent, it is still reasonable to take efforts from both the government and individuals for benefits in the long run.

(275 words)





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WE 115. The work of gender/工作性别

Most high-level jobs are done by men. Should governments encourage that a certain percentage of these jobs be reserved for women? What is your opinion?

大多数高级别职位都由男性担任。政府是否应该鼓励将这些工作的一定比例留给妇女?你的意见是什么?

The controversial issue in respect of gender equality in workforce, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether some high-level positions should be reserved for females, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that promotion is mostly given to candidates with competence. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that in the view of some experts, there is a majority of research which shows that abilities of women and man are the same. So, there should be no reason to prevent women from getting a good position.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that when women hold some high-level jobs, it is not only making the equality in work but also can get some advantages from that. In some points of view, women are more sensitive than men, so it is probable that they could make a reasonable decision in some case. As a result, if women hold the high position in work or government, they will fight for women right such as giving more opportunities for female gender or putting forward a great many ideas to protect.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that certain policies should be made to keep positions at high-level in professional field for woman, despite the fact that it may cost certain amount of money.

(253 words)





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WE 116. Society problem/社会问题

Current problems facing society deserve high priority for funding rather than research for likely future issues. agree or disagree? 社会目前面临的问题应该优先考虑资金,而不是研究未来可能出现的问题。同意或不同意?

The controversial issue in respect of society's problems, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether current problems need more financial aids than future issues, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the opponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that the problem of poverty, unemployment, terrorism, pollution has becoming a leading concern on earth. Therefore, government should expenditure on these problems first. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that future issues, such as space travel is the responsibility of government for the welfare of people on earth because when the research would be done then it would definitely aid to humankind such as scientist would find out the treatment about incurable diseases and can save the precious life of person by the doctors or specialists.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that due to the increased in population, we need more habitable space and the researchers can invent several other things which can prove beneficial for homo sapiens, if the government spend money on space travel. As a result, natural resources that are going to scarce on the earth can be found and on other planets, but resources such as fossil fuels, minerals and water are important to live on earth because without these resources life cannot last.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that future issues should be treated with the same priority as current problems in terms of funding, despite the fact that it takes time to see the return.

(278 words)





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WE 117. Group's ideology/群体意识形态

In a war of ideas, it is people who get killed. Does a common man suffer from a group's ideology? Express your opinion, and support the same with reasons and examples.

在思想的战争中,被杀害的是人。一个普通人是 否会受群体意识形态的影响?表达你的观点,并 用理由和例子来支持。

The controversial issue in respect of different ideologies, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether common people suffer from a group's ideology, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that a man lives on his own can choose where to live. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that a group's viewpoints always influence others in both positive and negative ways and often lead to social disharmony for which a common man suffers, for instance terrorism based on religion leads to hatred and racist attacks against every sophisticated person belong to that religion.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that governments sometimes roll out policies which are not in favour of the public. Despite the negative responses from people, such projects find its place in governments' agenda. Such decisions are forced onto the public. Such cases form the perfect example of a common man sufferings from a group's ideology. As a result, a group's ideology is followed by most of the population, governments, or other groups who find common concerns and interest as of group. Such groups tend to work towards their member's betterment and gain.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that the majority's ideology can make an ordinary person suffer, despite the fact that people can choose to leave.

(254 words)





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WE 118. Decision making process/决策制定过程

Organizations involve employees in decision making process of their products and services.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both.

组织让员工参与产品和服务的决策过程。讨论它们的优点和缺点。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether employees should participate in companies' decision making. While it is possible to claim that extreme sports include certain risks, I am of the opinion that people can benefit from doing such exercises. I shall explain reasons and give advantages and disadvantages of employee participation.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that employers may feel becoming less important in their employees' eyes, even replaceable, which, can jeopardize the solidarity of the company. Besides, it can be time-consuming when making decisions especially in large companies or organizations. From my own experience, employees who work on the front lines often lack a comprehensive sense of the whole business, thus their thoughts can be biased.

However, there are many reasons why decentralizing can be beneficial, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that employers can obtain a variety of opinions on one single decision. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that employers would be more professional in particular areas, such as product design and logistics, and their opinions are far more valuable and useful than any other people's in these areas. That is to say, employees will become more motivated when implementing decisions that they have contributed to.

To conclude, although some believe that employees should be kept out of decision making, I am strongly convinced that their contribution can be favourable, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(251 words)





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WE 119. Decision making process/决策制定过程

Company's top-level authorities should get their employees in decision-making process. Discuss your viewpoint on this and support your answer with examples.

公司高层应该让员工参与决策过程。讨论你的观点,并用例子来支持你的答案。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether employees should participate in companies' decision making. While it is possible to claim that extreme sports include certain risks, I am of the opinion that people can benefit from doing such exercises. I shall explain reasons and give advantages and disadvantages of employee participation and provide examples.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that employers may feel becoming less important in their employees' eyes, even replaceable, which, can jeopardize the solidarity of the company. Besides, it can be time-consuming when making decisions especially in large companies or organizations. From my own experience, employees who work on the front lines often lack a comprehensive sense of the whole business, thus their thoughts can be biased.

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To conclude, although some believe that employees should be kept out of decision making, I am strongly convinced that their contribution can be favourable, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(255 words)





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WE 120. Tourism/旅游业

In underdeveloped countries, tourism has disadvantages and can be said the opposite as well.

在非发达国家,旅游业是有不利之处,但也可以 说是相反的。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether tourism brings more benefits than damage. While it is possible to claim that tourism can boom economic growth, I am of the opinion that it imposes detrimental effects on the nature. I shall explain reasons and give advantages and disadvantages of tourism.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that tourism can bring economic benefits to these countries, and the governments can use the money to help people to build up a better life. Besides, it facilitates in publicizing local culture and enhancing cultural communication. From my own experience, I got to know about some national characteristics of some minority group in remote areas.

However, there are many reasons why tourism is detrimental on local environment, and the most obvious one lies in the fact that normally the natural resorts in underdeveloped countries are rather primitive, and the ecosystem in these countries can be very fragile. Therefore, the tourists from other countries can potentially damage the local environment. In addition, a recent research conducted by Harvard University has shown that cultural erosion from developed countries often occurs in countries who economically rely on tourism. For example, there has been a huge transition in young people's sense of beauty towards western countries in Asian.

To conclude, although some believe that tourism boosts a country's economy, I am strongly convinced that it comes with worse consequences that have been ignored for years, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(255 words)



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WE 121. Tourism/旅游业

In less developed countries, tourism has developed significantly in the last decade, discuss the disadvantages and advantages

在欠发达国家,旅游业在过去的十年中有了显著的发展,讨论其缺点和优点

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether tourism brings more benefits than damage. While it is possible to claim that tourism can boom economic growth, I am of the opinion that it imposes detrimental effects on the nature. I shall explain reasons and give advantages and disadvantages of tourism.

To begin with, it is an indisputable fact that tourism can bring economic benefits to these countries, and the governments can use the money to help people to build up a better life. Besides, it facilitates in publicizing local culture and enhancing cultural communication. From my own experience, I got to know about some national characteristics of some minority group in remote areas.

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(255 words)





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WE 122. Company reputation/公司名誉

Should marketing for consumer goods companies like clothing and food focus on reputation or on short term strategies like discount and special offers? and in what ways this can impact on their reputation? Why?

服装和食品等消费品公司的市场营销应该更注 重声誉,还是注重折扣和特价等短期策略?什么 方式会影响它们的声誉?为什么?

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether companies should focus on reputation over short-term profits. While it is possible to claim that sales means victory, I am of the opinion that reputation should be treated with higher priority than just performance. I shall discuss how this will affect companies' reputation and explain reasons.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that for some products with less technologies or some products which are not easily updated and changed, short term strategies may have a great influence to customers' decision. The dish towel or spoons can be taken as a vivid example. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that providing frequent discount would lower the customers' expectations to these companies as no one would purchase these good at full prices any more.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that companies should pay more attention to their reputation rather than short term strategies, as many customers would focus on the quality and the patterns of products. As a result, it is important for companies to establish a brand image through marketing methods including product advertisements and company cooperation. That is to say, companies focus on their reputation would make their short-term strategies more carefully, taking the consumers' interest into consideration.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that reputation determines a company's prospects, despite the fact that short-term performance may be in line with the director's interest. (251 words)





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WE 123. Over packaged/过度包装

Do you think consumer should avoid over packaged products or it is responsibility of producer to avoid extra packaging of products? Give your views or any relevant example with your own experience.

你认为消费者应该避免过度包装的产品,还是生产者有责任避免给产品过度包装?用你自己的经验给出你的观点或任何相关的例子。

The controversial issue in respect of over packaging, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether consumers should avoid too much packaging, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue. I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument and give examples.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that it is the consumers who are paying the cost of these packages, which is far more than the initial value of the products inside. And over-packaging means more materials and more pollution to the environment, especially those plastic packages. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that only large companies with financial assurance have the ability to improve their packaging. Besides, the quality of packaging also reflects the willingness that the producers have to their customers.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that as a common marketing strategy, delicate packaging of products can raise customers' interests, and shows more information through vivid pictures instead of boring words. For example, customer would prefer to buy the products with a picture of real products on the surface. From my own experience, ugly packaging would often reduce my desire of buying, no matter what the product is.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that sufficient packaging provides great convenience, despite the fact that it may increase the cost of production.

(256 words)





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WE 124. Advertisements in school/学校的广告

Some people think placing advertisements in schools is a great resource for public schools that need additionally funding, but others think it exploits children by treating them as a captive audience for corporate sponsors.

有些人认为在学校投放广告对于需要额外资金 的公立学校来说是一种很好的资源,但也有人认 为这是在利用孩子,把他们当作公司赞助商的忠 实观众。

Nowadays, there is an ongoing debate between people on whether placing commercials in schools should be viewed as a positive or negative impact on people. While it is possible to claim that it deserves more funding. I am of the opinion that it represents a negative impact on school children. In this essay, I shall explain my point of view by analysing both sides of the argument.

To start with, it is undeniable that advertising in schools may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that children are too young to make right judgements and decisions, and they can be potentially misled by those advertisements. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that some advertisements may contain induced contents, such as intake of junk food, committing crimes and sex implications, which may harm children's physical and mental health.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of commercials have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that some advertisements that relevant to students' study and daily life can be introduced to schools. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that other than increasing fund for schools, some stationary advertising can introduce different types of products to students, which can help them to make a reasonable decision for selecting products, such as pens and backpacks.

To conclude, although some believe that advertising in schools has negative effects on students, I am strongly convinced that it brings convenience and benefits in an economic sense, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(265 words)





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WE 125. Industrialization/工业化

In the 18th century due to industrialization a lot of people migrated to developed countries. This affected lifestyle and increased major problems in developed countries. Do you believe that industrial revolution was the main factor for problems in developed nation?

18世纪,由于工业化,许多人移居至发达国家。 这影响了发达国家的生活方式并增加了主许多 问题。你认为工业革命是发达国家出现问题的主 要原因吗?

The controversial issue in respect of industrial revolution, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether it is the main cause of problems in developed countries, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

Admittedly, it is commonly acknowledged that industrial revolution brought prosperity in some western nations. Nevertheless, the argument is not persuasive as it stands. It should be pointed out that industrial revolution requires machines that burn fossil fuels to produce goods and transport them to elsewhere in the world, which causes severe environmental problems including air pollution, water pollution and massive garbage that cannot be degraded in industrialized countries. Furthermore, some problems, such as the greenhouse gas emission and desertification have become the most serious global environmental problems.

In addition, it is an indisputable fact that industrialization leads the migration to developed countries, which causes the situation that people from different cultural backgrounds may have conflicts and disagreements. For example, as industrialized countries consist on recruiting talents from developing countries, the shortage of talented workers in developing countries becomes increasingly serious. From my own experience, a lot of people with great working qualifications have moved from China to western countries.

Based on what have been discussed above, it is safe to draw the conclusion that many problems developed countries are facing now are originated from the industrial revolution, despite the fact that globalization has made these problems even more complicated.

(253 words)





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WE 126. Public funding/公共资金

Space travel is fantastic these days, but there are many issues – such as environmental problems – that we should be focusing on. What are your views on the allocation of public funding?

现在的太空旅行非常棒,但是也有很多问题 ——比如环境问题——这是我们应该关注的。 你对公共资金的分配有何看法?

The controversial issue in respect of allocation of public funding, in today's society, has launched a heated debate. When it comes to whether space travel deserve more funding than environmental problems, people's notions vary from one another. As far as I am concerned, I tend to be the proponent in regard to this issue.

To start with, it is undeniable that space travel may have some downsides. Firstly, it is claimed that there are many solid wastes emitted to the space every year, including broken spare parts of spaceships and some general waste. Moreover, there are also concerns about the fact that these wastes would keep on floating in the universe at a high speed, which would cause severe damage and fatal crush to the spaceships.

However, those who argue for the positive impacts of space travel have a different view. Firstly, the most obvious argument lies in the fact that the constructions of the spaceships such as the coating and materials should be strictly selected and produced to meet the requirement of air pressure and the thermodynamics. For instance, according to the research conducted by China Daily that there has been reports on spaceships damaged by space garbage. Furthermore, it should also be taken into account that professionals still need funds to do the research and develop emergency measures to decrease the potential risks

To conclude, although some believe that environmental deserves more funding, I am strongly convinced that the government should put more money on projects related to space travel, because it has more advantages than disadvantages, based on what has been discussed above.

(266 words)

