

考研英语 英语一 2018年 Text 4

USPS需要的不只是权宜之计

审题划出关键点，精准定位，提高正确率：

36. The financial problem with the USPS is caused partly by _____
37. According to Paragraph 2, the USPS fails to modernize itself due to _____
38. The long-standing complaint by the USPS and its unions can be addressed by _____
39. In the last paragraph, the author seems to view legislators with _____
40. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?
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段1

①The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) continues to bleed red ink. ②It reported a net loss of \$5.6 billion for fiscal 2016, the 10th straight year its expenses have exceeded revenue. ③Meanwhile, it has more than \$120 billion in unfunded liabilities, mostly for employee health and retirement costs. ④There are many reasons this formerly stable federal institution finds itself on the verge of bankruptcy. ⑤Fundamentally, the USPS is in a historic squeeze between technological change that has permanently decreased demand for its bread-and-butter product, first-class mail, and a regulatory structure that denies management the flexibility to adjust its operations to the new reality.

【段1】 _____

段1生词：

- net loss 净亏损
- fiscal adj. _____
- the 10th straight year 连续第10年
- straight adj. 连续的，不间断的；直的，笔直的；直率的
- exceed v. 超过

- revenue n. _____
- unfunded liabilities 无资金准备的负债
- liability n. 债务；责任，义务；倾向，可能性
liable adj. 有责任的，有义务的；有…倾向的
- federal institution 联邦机构
- on the verge of... 在……的边缘；濒临于，接近于……
- bankruptcy n. 破产，倒闭
- fundamentally adv. 根本地，从根本上；基础地
fundamental adj. 基本的，根本的 n. 基本原理，基本原则
- squeeze n./v. 挤压，榨取；拮据，短缺
- bread-and-butter product 基本产品，主要产品
- regulatory adj. _____
regulate v. _____
regulation n. _____
- deny sb. sth. 拒绝某人做某事，使某人无法做某事
- flexibility n. _____
flexible adj. _____
- adjust... to... _____

段2

①And interest groups ranging from postal unions to greeting-card makers exert self-interested pressure on the USPS's ultimate overseer—Congress—insisting that whatever else happens to the Postal Service, aspects of the status quo they depend on get protected. ②This is why repeated attempts at reform legislation have failed in recent years, leaving the Postal Service unable to pay its bills except by deferring vital modernization.

【段1-2】 _____

段2生词：

- interest groups _____
- range from... to... _____
- exert pressure on... _____
- ultimate adj. 极限的, 最终的, 根本的
ultimately adv. 最后; 根本上
- overseer n. 监督者
- congress n. 国会
- status quo 现状
- repeated attempts 反复的尝试
- legislation n. _____
legislator n. _____
legislate v. _____
- defer v. 延期, 推迟
- vital adj. 极重要的, 必不可少的
- modernization n. 现代化, 现代化的事物

段3

①Now comes word that everyone involved—Democrats, Republicans, the Postal Service, the unions and the system's heaviest users—has finally agreed on a plan to fix the system. ②Legislation is moving through the House that would save USPS an estimated \$28.6 billion over five years, which could help pay for new vehicles, among other survival measures. ③Most of the money would come from a penny-per-letter permanent rate increase and from shifting postal retirees into Medicare. ④The latter step would largely

offset the financial burden of annually pre-funding retiree health care, thus addressing a long-standing complaint by the USPS and its unions.

【段3】

段3生词：

- Democrat n. 民主党人；民主主义者
- Republican n. 共和党人；共和主义者
- heaviest users 极重度用户
- vehicle n. 交通工具；传播媒介，手段
- retiree n. 退休人员
- offset v. _____
- financial burden 财政负担，经济负担
- pre-fund v. 预筹资金
- retiree health care 退休人员医疗保健
- address v. _____
- long-standing adj. 长期存在的

段4

①If it clears the House, this measure would still have to get through the Senate—where someone is bound to point out that it amounts to the bare, bare minimum necessary to keep the Postal Service afloat, not comprehensive reform. ②There's no change to collective bargaining at the USPS, a major omission considering that personnel accounts for 80 percent of the agency's costs. ③Also missing is any discussion of eliminating Saturday letter delivery. ④That common-sense change enjoys wide public support and would save the USPS \$2 billion per year. ⑤But postal special-interest groups seem to have killed it, at least in the House. ⑥The emerging consensus around the bill is a sign that legislators are getting frightened about a politically embarrassing short-term

collapse at the USPS. ⑦It is not, however, a sign that they're getting serious about transforming the postal system for the 21st century.

【段4】 _____

段4生词：

- the House 众议院
- the Senate 参议院
- be bound to do sth. 一定，肯定要做某事
- amount to... 等同于，相当于，达到；总计
- bare adj. 勉强的
- keep... afloat 使.....浮在水面（文中指“经济上维持下去”）
- comprehensive reform _____
- collective bargaining 集体谈判
- omission n. 遗漏；省略，删节
- eliminate v. _____
- consensus n. _____
- embarrassing adj. _____
- collapse n. 崩溃，瓦解，倒塌
- transform v./n. _____
- transformation n. _____

36. The financial problem with the USPS is caused partly by _____

- [A] its unbalanced budget.
- [B] its rigid management.
- [C] the cost for technical upgrading.
- [D] the withdrawal of bank support.

我的答案：_____ 正确答案：_____

定位原文在哪段？ _____

选项A、B和C的正误原因？ _____

静姐的“填坑指南”： _____

37. According to Paragraph 2, the USPS fails to modernize itself due to _____

[A] the interference from interest groups.

[B] the inadequate funding from Congress.

[C] the shrinking demand for postal service.

[D] the incompetence of postal unions.

我的答案： _____ 正确答案： _____

根据原文中的哪句话可以判断出答案？ _____

静姐的“填坑指南”：注意题干对应原文的同义改写，

题干的the USPS fails to modernize itself = 原文的 _____，

题干的due to = 原文的 _____。

38. The long-standing complaint by the USPS and its unions can be addressed by _____

[A] removing its burden of retiree health care.

[B] making more investment in new vehicles.

[C] adopting a new rate-increase mechanism.

[D] attracting more first-class mail users.

我的答案： _____ 正确答案： _____

定位原文在哪段？ _____

根据原文中的哪句话可以判断出答案？ _____

静姐的“填坑指南”：本题的关键是题干定位，注意同义改写（主被动互换）。

39. In the last paragraph, the author seems to view legislators with _____

[A] respect.

[B] tolerance.

[C] discontent.

[D] gratitude.

我的答案：_____ 正确答案：_____

每个选项分别是什么意思？_____

根据原文中的哪句话可以判断出答案？_____

静姐的“填坑指南”：_____

40. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

[A] The USPS Starts to Miss Its Good Old Days

[B] The Postal Service: Keep Away from My Cheese

[C] The USPS: Chronic Illness Requires a Quick Cure

[D] The Postal Service Needs More than a Band-Aid

我的答案：_____ 正确答案：_____

选项A和C的正误原因？_____

静姐的“填坑指南”：_____