

## C1 高级别学术阅读 14

### 高级别考试阅读题型解题技巧 5

#### 篇章分析 1

#### The Guardian view on patient data: we need a better approach

2018 考研英语真题

节选自：The Guardian

The Guardian view on patient data: we need a better approach  
Editorial

- ❖ Any fair-minded assessment of the dangers of the deal between Britain's National Health Service (NHS) and DeepMind must start by acknowledging that both sides mean well. DeepMind is one of the leading artificial intelligence (AI) companies in the world. The potential of this work applied to healthcare is very great, but it could also lead to further concentration of power in the tech giants. It is against that background that the information commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, has issued her damning verdict against the Royal Free hospital trust under the NHS, which handed over to DeepMind the records of 1.6 million patients in 2015 on the basis of a vague agreement which took far too little account of the patients' rights and their expectations of privacy.
- ❖ DeepMind has almost apologized. The NHS trust has mended its ways. Further arrangements - and there may be many - between the NHS and DeepMind will be carefully scrutinised to ensure that all necessary permissions have been asked of patients and all unnecessary data has been cleaned. There are lessons about informed patient consent to learn. But privacy is not the only angle in this case and not even the most important. Ms Denham chose to concentrate the blame on the NHS trust, since under existing law it “controlled” the data and DeepMind

merely “processed” it. But this distinction misses the point that it is processing and aggregation, not the mere possession of bits, that gives the data value.

- ❖ The great question is who should benefit from the analysis of all the data that our lives now generate. Privacy law builds on the concept of damage to an individual from identifiable knowledge about them. That misses the way the surveillance economy works. The data of an individual there gains its value only when it is compared with the data of countless millions more.
- ❖ The use of privacy law to curb the tech giants in this instance feels slightly maladapted. This practice does not address the real worry. It is not enough to say that the algorithms DeepMind develops will benefit patients and save lives. What matters is that they will belong to a private monopoly which developed them using public resources. If software promises to save lives on the scale that drugs now can, big data may be expected to behave as a big pharma has done. We are still at the beginning of this revolution and small choices now may turn out to have gigantic consequences later. A long struggle will be needed to avoid a future of digital feudalism. Ms Denham's report is a welcome start.

1. What is true of the agreement between the NHS and DeepMind ?

- [A] It caused conflicts among tech giants.
- [B] It failed to pay due attention to patients' rights.
- [C] It fell short of the latter's expectations
- [D] It put both sides into a dangerous situation.

2. The NHS trust responded to Denham's verdict with \_\_\_\_\_

- [A] empty promises.
- [B] tough resistance.
- [C] necessary adjustments.
- [D] sincere apologies.

3. The author argues in Paragraph 2 that \_\_\_\_\_

- [A] privacy protection must be secured at all costs.  
[B] leaking patients' data is worse than selling it.  
[C] making profits from patients' data is illegal.  
[D] the value of data comes from the processing of it.

4. According to the last paragraph, the real worry arising from this deal is \_\_\_\_\_

- [A] the vicious rivalry among big pharmas.  
[B] the ineffective enforcement of privacy law.  
[C] the uncontrolled use of new software.  
[D] the monopoly of big data by tech giants.

5. The author's attitude toward the application of AI to healthcare is \_\_\_\_\_

- [A] ambiguous.  
[B] cautious.  
[C] appreciative.  
[D] contemptuous.

## 篇章分析 1      The Postal Service needs more than a Band-Aid

2019 考研英语真题

节选自： The Washington Post

The Post's View

Opinion

The Postal Service needs more than a Band-Aid

- ❖ The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) continues to bleed red ink. It reported a net loss of \$5.6 billion for fiscal 2016, the 10th straight year its expenses have exceeded revenue. Meanwhile, it has more than \$120 billion in unfunded liabilities, mostly for employee health and retirement costs. There are many bankruptcies.

Fundamentally, 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.

- ❖ And 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. This 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.
- ❖ Now 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. Legislation 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. Most of the money would come from a penny-per-letter permanent rate increase and from shifting postal retirees into Medicare. The 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 union.
- ❖ If 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. There's no change to collective bargaining at the USPS, a major omission considering that personnel accounts for 80 percent of the agency's costs. Also missing is any discussion of eliminating Saturday letter delivery. That common-sense change enjoys wide public support and would save the USPS \$2 billion per year. But postal special-interest groups seem to have killed it, at least in the House. The emerging consensus around the bill is a sign that legislators are getting frightened about a politically embarrassing short-term collapse at the USPS. It is not,

however, a sign that they're getting serious about transforming the postal system for the 21st century.

1. 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.

### 长难句分析

Fundamentally, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. In the last paragraph, the author seems to view legislators with \_\_\_\_\_

- [A] respect.
- [B] tolerance.

[C] discontent.

[D] gratitude.

5. 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

