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2018 考研英语真题

节选自：Editorial Board

Robots Versus the Middle Class

Bloomberg Opinion

❖ Among the annoying challenges facing the middle class is one that will probably go unmentioned in the next presidential campaign:What happens when the robots come for their jobs?

❖ Don't dismiss that possibility entirely. About half of U.S. jobs are at high risk of being automated, according to a University of Oxford study, with the middle class disproportionately squeezed. Lower-income jobs like gardening or day care don't appeal to robots. But many middle-class occupations-trucking, financial advice, software engineering — have aroused their interest, or soon will. The rich own the robots,so they will be fine.

❖ This isn't to be alarmist. Optimists point out that technological upheaval has benefited workers in the past. The Industrial Revolution didn't go so well for Luddites whose jobs were displaced by mechanized looms, but it eventually raised living standards and created more jobs than it destroyed. Likewise, automation should eventually boost productivity, stimulate demand by driving down prices, and free workers from hard, boring work. But in the medium term, middle-class workers may need a lot of help adjusting.

❖ The first step, as Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee argue in The Second Machine Age,should be rethinking education and job training. Curriculums - from grammar school to college- should evolve to focus less on memorizing facts

and more on creativity and complex communication. Vocational schools should do a better job of fostering problem-solving skills and helping students work alongside robots. Online education can supplement the traditional kind. It could make extra training and instruction affordable. Professionals trying to acquire new skills will be able to do so without going into debt.

❖ The challenge of coping with automation underlines the need for the U.S. to revive its fading business dynamism: Starting new companies must be made easier. In previous eras of drastic technological change, entrepreneurs smoothed the transition by dreaming up ways to combine labor and machines. The best uses of 3D printers and virtual reality haven't been invented yet.The U.S. needs the new companies that will invent them.

❖ Finally, because automation threatens to widen the gap between capital income and labor income, taxes and the safety net will have to be rethought.Taxes on low-wage labor need to be cut, and wage subsidies such as the earned income tax credit should be expanded: This would boost incomes, encourage work, reward companies for job creation, and reduce inequality.

❖ Technology will improve society in ways big and small over the next few years, yet this will be little comfort to those who find their lives and careers upended by automation. Destroying the machines that are coming for our jobs would be nuts. But policies to help workers adapt will be indispensable.

1.Who will be most threatened by automation?

[A] Leading politicians.

[B] Low-wage laborers.

[C] Robot owners.

[D] Middle-class workers.

2.Which of the following best represent the author's view?

[A]Worries about automation are in fact groundless.

[B] Optimists' opinions on new tech find little support.

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[C] Issues arising from automation need to be tackled.

[D] Negative consequences of new tech can be avoided.

3. Education in the age of automation should put more emphasis on _____

[A] creative potential.

[B] job-hunting skills.

[C] individual needs.

[D] cooperative spirit.

4.The author suggests that tax policies be aimed at _____

[A] encouraging the development of automation.

[B] increasing the return on capital investment.

[C] easing the hostility between rich and poor.

[D] preventing the income gap from widening.

5. In this text, the author presents a problem with _____

[A] opposing views on it.

[B] possible solutions to it.

[C] its alarming impacts.

[D] its major variations.

篇章分析2   A Rise in Critical Skills for Sharing News Online

2019 考研英语真题

节选自： The Christian Science Monitor

A rise in critical skills for sharing news online

By The Monitor's Editorial Board

❖   A new survey by Harvard University finds more than two-thirds of young

   Americans disapprove of President Trump's use of Twitter. The implication is

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that Millennials prefer news from the White House to be filtered through other source, not a president's social media platform.

❖ Most Americans rely on social media to check daily headlines.Yet as distrust has risen toward all media, people may be starting to beef up their media literacy skills. Such a trend is badly needed. During the 2016 presidential campaign, nearly a quarter of web content shared by Twitter users in the politically critical state of Michigan was fake news, according to the University of Oxford.And a survey conducted for Buzz Feed News found 44 percent of Facebook users rarely or never trust news from the media giant.

❖ Young people who are digital natives are indeed becoming more skillful at separating fact from fiction in cyberspace. A Knight Foundation focus- group survey of young people between ages 14 and 24 found they use "distributed trust" to verify stories. They cross-check sources and prefer news from different perspectives – especially those that are open about any bias. "Many young people assume a great deal of personal responsibility for educating themselves and actively seeking out opposing viewpoints," the survey concluded.

❖ Such active research can have another effect. A 2014 survey conducted in Australia, Britain, and the United States by the University of Wisconsin-Madison found that young people's reliance on social media led to greater political engagement.

❖ Social media allows users to experience news events more intimately and immediately while also permitting them to re-share news as a projection of their values and interests.This forces users to be more conscious of their role in passing along information. A survey by Barna research group found the top reason given by Americans for the fake news phenomenon is "reader error," more so than made-up stories or factual mistakes in reporting. About a third say the problem of fake news lies in "misinterpretation or exaggeration of actual news" via social media.

❖ In other words, the choice to share news on social media may be the heart of the issue. "This indicates there is a real personal responsibility in counteracting this problem," says Roxanne Stone, editor in chief at Barna Group.

❖ So when young people are critical of an over-tweeting president, they reveal a mental discipline in thinking skills – and in their choices on when to share on social media.

1. According to the Paragraphs 1 and 2, many young Americans cast doubts on _____

[A] the justification of the news-filtering practice.

[B] people's preference for social media platforms.

[C] the administrations ability to handle information.

[D] social media was a reliable source of news.

2. The phrase "beef up"(Line 2, Para. 2) is closest in meaning to _____.

[A] sharpen

[B] define

[C] boast

[D] share

3. According to the knight foundation survey, young people _____

[A] tend to voice their opinions in cyberspace.

[B] verify news by referring to diverse resources.

[C] have s strong sense of responsibility.

[D] like to exchange views on "distributed trust".

4. The Barna survey found that a main cause for the fake news problem is _____

[A] readers outdated values.

[B] journalists' biased reporting.

[C] readers' misinterpretation.

[D] journalists' made-up stories.

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

[A] A Rise in Critical Skills for Sharing News Online

[B] A Counteraction Against the Over-tweeting Trend

[C] The Accumulation of Mutual Trust on Social Media

[D] The Platforms for Projection of Personal Interests

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