

## 4.16 蛋学长精读 | 健康福利纠葛下的失业困局破局之路



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Health **benefits**: Working it out

健康福利纠葛下的失业困局破局之路

Britain at last takes aim at worklessness. But **labour's** other economic policies risk **undermining** its efforts

英国终于着手解决失业问题。但工党其他经济政策可能相互掣肘

【1】The **noblest** traditions of modern British **policymaking** were followed. First came **dithering**: worklessness from ill health rose **sharply** after the **pandemic**, but it was 18 months before Rishi Sunak's government took a **stab** at **tightening benefits** in response. By then, around 1m people of working age had fallen out of the **labour** force since 2019, mostly because of **supposed** poor health. His changes ended up being blocked by the **courts**—the **consultation** was deemed **insufficiently** thorough—though not before a **looming** election gave an excuse for further **delay**. **labour** won, and chose to **procrastinate** with a new long-term target: to get the working-age **employment** rate to 80%, a level Britain has never hit.

英国政府沿用了现代政策制定的典型套路。首先是举棋不

### 中文导读

英国终于着手解决失业问题。但工党其他经济政策可能相互掣肘

**benefits** /'benəfit/ n. 优势, 益处, 成效, 福利费(政府对失业者、病人等提供的补助金), (公司提供的) 福利, 奖金, (保险公司支付的) 给付, 保险金 v. 对(某人) 有用, 使受益, 得益于, 得利于 benefit 的第三人称单数和复数

**undermining** /,ʌndə'maɪnɪŋ/ v. 逐渐削弱(信心、权威等), 使逐步减少效力, 从根基处破坏, 挖...的墙脚 undermine 的现在分词 A mole can undermine the strongest rampart. 一只田鼠能毁掉最坚固的堡垒。

1

**noblest** /'nəʊblɪst/ adj. 高贵, 华丽 People adore him for his noble character. 人们因他高贵品质而敬爱他。

**policymaking** /'pɒlɪsi, meɪkɪŋ/ n. 政策制定, 决策 policymaking committees; policymaking decisions. 决策委员会; 制定政策的决定

**dithering** /'dɪðərɪŋ/ v. 犹豫不决, 踌躇 dither 的现在分词 For God's sake stop dithering and make up your mind! 看在上帝面上, 别再犹豫了, 快拿定主意吧!

**sharply** /'ʃɑːpli/ adv. 急剧地, 猛烈地, 尖刻地, 严厉地, 猛烈地, 急剧地, 突然大幅度地, 鲜明地, 明显地, 迅疾而突然地 The branch broke with a sharp crack. 树枝折断时发出刺耳的劈啪声。

**pandemic** /pæn'demɪk/ n. (全国或全球性) 流行病, 大流行病 adj. (疾病) 大流行的, 普遍的, 全世界的 pandemic influenza. 流感

**stab** /stæb/ v. (用刀等锐器) 戳, 捅, (用手指或尖物) 刺 n. 刺, 捅, 戳, 尝试, (刺、戳、捅) 的伤口, 突然一阵剧痛(或难受的感觉), 企图 I found a stab wound on his leg. 我在他的腿上发现一处刺伤。

**tightening** /'taɪtnɪŋ/ v. (使) 变紧, 更加牢固, 使更加严格, 加强 tighten 的现在分词 They tightened the loopholes in those acts. 他们堵住了那些法案中的漏洞。

**labour** /'leɪbə/ n. 劳动, (尤指) 体力劳动, 任务, (一段时间的) 工作, (统称) 劳工, 工人, 劳动力, 分娩期, 英国工党 vi. 努力做(困难的事), 干苦力活, 困难吃力地行进 The differences between manual labour and mental labour are diminishing in some developed countries. 在一些发达国家体力劳动和脑力劳动的差别正在缩小。

**supposed** /sə'pəʊzɪd/ adj. 误以为的, 误信的, 所谓的 v. (根据所知) 认为, 推断, 料想, 假定, 假设, 设想, (婉转表达) 我看, 要我说, 要不 suppose 的过去分词和过去式 Colorfast garments are not supposed to run. 不掉色的衣服应该不渗色的

**courts** /kɔːrts/ n. 法院, 法庭, 审判庭, 全体出庭人员, (尤指) 全体审判人员, (网球等的) 球场 v. (为有所求, 尤指寻求支持而) 试图取悦, 讨好, 争取, 试图获得, 博得, 招致, 酿成, 导致(不愉快的事) court 的第三人称单数和复数 The high

定：疫情后因健康问题导致的失业人数激增，但苏纳克政府在18个月后才着手收紧福利政策作为应对。截至此时，自2019年以来已有约100万适龄劳动人口因所谓健康问题退出劳动力市场。

尽管大选临近为进一步拖延政策改革提供了借口，但因政府在改革前未充分征求公众意见，他的改革最终仍被法院叫停。工党胜选后，选择以设定新的长期目标作为拖延改革的策略：将适龄就业率提升至80%，这是英国从未达到过的水平。

【2】Eventually, two things **concentrated** minds: a **genuine** need to make room for higher defence spending, and an **artificial** crisis. Rachel Reeves, the **chancellor**, had left too little **fiscal leeway** in her budget in October. What was **supposed** to be a **routine** economic-forecast update on March 26th has turned into a **scramble** for cash. Because Ms Reeves was in danger of **breaking** her self-imposed fiscal rules, finding money from welfare cuts suddenly became urgent. At last Britain decided to take a **proper** look at worklessness and the welfare system. Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading: Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished

最终，两件事促使政府集中精力：一是为增加国防开支腾出空间的实际需求，二是一场人为制造的危机。财政大臣雷切尔·里夫斯（Rachel Reeves）去年10月定下的预算太紧，没有留下多少机动空间。原定于3月26日进行的常规经济预测更新，已演变为一场紧急筹款行动。由于里夫斯可能违反自行设定的财政规则，通过削减福利筹措资金突然变得刻不容缓。英国终于决定彻底正视失业问题与福利体系的改革。

【3】Better late than never. On March 18th Liz Kendall, the welfare **secretary**, announced **reforms** to

**court judge quashed the decision of the lower court.** 高等法院的法官撤销了下级法院的裁决。

**consultation** /kɒnsəl'teɪʃ(ə)n/ n. 咨询, 商讨, 磋商, 商讨会, 协商会, (向专家请教的) 咨询会, (尤指) 就诊, 查找

**insufficiently** /,ɪnsə'fɪʃəntli/ adv. 不足的; 不足地 For the same reason, in the future, only the Treasury should engage in **insufficiently** collateralised lending. 出于同样原因, 未来应只有财政部可以参与担保不足的放贷行为。

**looming** /'lʊmɪŋ/ adj. (不希望或不愉快的事情) 逼近的, 正在逼近的 v. 逼近; 赫然耸现; 显得突出; (尤指) 令人惊恐地隐现 loom 的现在分词 n. 上现蜃景(光通过低层大气时发生异常折射而引起的一种海市蜃楼, 是地平以下物体的畸变影象) The foothills were **looming** ahead through the haze. 丘陵地带透过薄雾朦胧地出现在眼前。

**delay** /dɪ'leɪ/ v. 延迟, 推迟, 延期, 使迟到, 使耽搁, 使拖延 n. 延误, 延期, 耽搁, 延迟(或耽搁、拖延)的时间 The arrival of the train was **delayed**. 那列火车晚点到达。

**procrastinate** /prə(ɒ)'kræstɪneɪt/ vi. 拖延, 耽搁 While the inclination to **procrastinate** is common, one must fully consider the detrimental impact of unnecessary delays. 虽然拖延倾向, 人们应该充分考虑到不必要延误造成有害影响。

**employment** /ɪm'plɔɪm(ə)nt/ n. 工作, 职业, 受雇, 就业, 雇用, 使用 Many view **gainful employment** as a birthright. 许多人认为能获得职业是与生俱来的权利

## 2

**concentrated** /'kɒnsntreɪtɪd/ adj. 决心要做的, 全力以赴的, 浓缩的, 密集的, 集中的 v. 集中(注意力), 聚精会神, 使...集中(或集合、聚集), (使) 浓缩 concentrate 的过去分词和过去式 We **concentrated** on the task before us. 我们专注于眼前的任务

**genuine** /'dʒenjuɪn/ adj. 真正的, 真诚的, 真的, 名副其实的, 诚实的, 可信赖的 This medal is made of **genuine** gold. 这枚奖章是真金制成的。

**artificial** /ɑ:tɪ'fɪʃ(ə)l/ adj. 人造的, 人工的, 人为的, 假的, 非自然的, 虚假的, 假装的 Their cheerfulness seemed rather strained and **artificial**. 他们的快乐表情看上去很勉强而做作。

**chancellor** /'tʃɑ:ns(ə)lə/ n. 议长, (德国或奥地利的) 总理, (英国大学的) 名誉校长, (某些美国大学的) 校长, (用于英国某些高级政府官员的头衔) Britain's **chancellor** imposed a supertax on bankers' bonuses in Britain. 英国财大臣对英国银行业高管的奖金强征附加税。

**fiscal** /'fɪsk(ə)l/ n. 财政, 财政年度, 会计年度, 财政部长, (苏格兰等的) 检察官, (西班牙及葡萄牙的) 检察长, 印花税票 adj. 财政的, 国库的, 国家岁入的 The minister opened upon the **fiscal** question. 部长开始谈起财政问题。

**leeway** /'li:weɪ/ n. 自由活动的空间 How much **leeway** should parents give their children? 父母应该给孩子留多少自由的空间?

**routine** /ru:'ti:n/ n. 常规, 正常顺序, 生活乏味, 无聊, (演出中的) 一套动作, 一系列笑话(等), 例行程序 adj. 常规的, 例行公事的, 日常的, 平常的, 正常的, 毫不特别的, 乏味的, 平淡的



**benefits** that she says will save £5bn (\$6.5bn, 0.2% of GDP) annually by 2030 and get more Britons into work. That figure may gain a few **caveats** when the Office for Budget Responsibility, the **fiscal** watchdog, gives its own **assessment** later this month. Ms Kendall wants to reduce the **generosity** gap between health and non-health-related **benefits**, **tighten eligibility** and shift back towards the pre-**pandemic norm** of running assessments in person rather than over the phone. Alongside those cuts, Ms Kendall took **pains** to **emphasise**, would be £1bn extra to help pay for job-**seeking** support, and a **formal** “right to try”, to help **reassure claimants** that an unsuccessful go at working wouldn’t **punish** them.

亡羊补牢犹未晚。3月18日，福利大臣利兹·肯德尔（Liz Kendal）宣布推行福利改革，预计到2030年每年可节省50亿英镑（约合65亿美元，占GDP的0.2%），并推动更多英国人重返职场。不过，在预算责任办公室本月晚些时候发布评估时，这一目标的达成可能需要附加条件。肯德尔计划缩小健康与非健康福利的差距，严格审查资格，并恢复疫情前的当面评估方式。她特别强调，在实施福利削减的同时，政府将额外投入10亿英镑用于求职支持，并设立正式的“尝试权”制度，确保领取者可以放心尝试工作，即便失败了也不会因此丧失福利。

【4】All that adds up to a **sensible** package, and one that goes further than the previous government’s efforts. But though £5bn of savings is welcome, that is only a quarter of the £20bn rise in spending on those **benefits** that the government has forecast for the end of the decade. Such an increase is **alarming**, particularly since—with the exception of mental health—**surveys disagree** over whether Britons have actually grown **sicker** in the past few years. After the

The artists were going through their daily **routines**. 艺术家们正进行日常的练习活动。

**scramble** /ˈskræmb(ə)l/ v. (迅速而吃力地)爬，攀登，争抢，抢占，争夺，艰难地(或仓促地)完成，炒(蛋)，扰码，倒频，扰乱(思维)，命令(飞机)紧急起飞n. (尤指需要手脚并用的)艰难行走，爬，攀登，争抢，抢占，争夺，摩托车越野赛 **Cork scrambled a 1–0 win over Monaghan**. 科克费劲地以1比0战胜了莫那罕。

**breaking** /ˈbreɪkɪŋ/ v. (使)破，破坏，裂，碎，弄坏，损坏，坏掉，弄破，使流血n. 中断；休息；破裂；机会break的现在分词 **Things have been breaking well for them**. 他们的事情进展很顺利

**imposed** /ɪmˈpəʊzd/ v. 推行，采用(规章制度)，强制实行，迫使，把...强加于，使(别人)接受自己的意见impose的过去分词和过去式 **We are not to be imposed upon**. 我们是不会上当的。

**proper** /ˈprɒpə(r)/ adj. 适当的，正确的，恰当的，符合规则的，真正的，像样的，名副其实的，符合习俗(或传统)的，正当的，规矩的，严格意义上的，完全的，独具的n. [宗教][常用P-]特定节日等用的仪式，弥撒(祈祷、礼仪等)书的章节，特赞adv. 非常，好好地，完完全全地，彻底地 **The book hardly belongs to literature proper**. 这本书不好说是纯文学书。

### 3

**secretary** /ˈsekɹɪ(ə)rɪ/ n. 秘书，(俱乐部、社团等的)干事，文书，部长，大臣，助理 **My secretary is accurate in her typing**. 我的秘书打字准确无误。

**reforms** /ˈrɪfɔrm/ v. 改革，改进，改良，(使)改正，改造(行为)，(使)悔改n. 改革，变革，改良，改善reform的第三人称单数和复数 **These reforms are long overdue**. 这些改革早就该进行了。

**caveats** /ˈkæviæt/ n. 警告，告诫caveat的复数

**assessment** /əˈsesmənt/ n. 看法，评估，评定，核定，判定，核定的付款额 **What is your assessment of the situation?** 你对时局的看法如何？

**generosity** /dʒenəˈrɒsəti/ n. 慷慨，大方，宽宏大量 **You are always imposing on their generosity**. 你总是在利用别人的慷慨而占便宜

**tighten** /ˈtaɪt(ə)n/ v. 拧紧，加强，(使)变紧，更加牢固，使更加严格 **Take your spanner, and tighten the nut**. 把你的扳手拿来，把螺帽拧紧。

**eligibility** /ˌelɪdʒəˈbɪləti/ n. 资格；适当性，合格，合格性，参赛资格

**norm** /nɔ:m/ n. 标准，规范，常态，定额，正常行为，行为标准 **Of his age, the child is above the norm in arithmetic**. 在他那个年龄，这个孩子的算术能力是超过标准的。

**pains** /peɪnz/ n. (身体上的)疼痛，痛苦，苦恼，烦恼，讨厌的人(或事)，令人头痛的人(或事)v. 使痛苦，使苦恼pain复数 **Never inflict useless pain on dumb animals**. 切勿给不会说话的动物施加无谓的痛苦。

**emphasise** /ˈemfəsaɪz/ v. 强调，重视，着重，使突出 **The social democratic party emphasises that state is wheelsman not oarsman in the present**. 社会民主党强调国家只是社会经济生活的“掌舵者”而非“划船人”；

**seeking** /si:k/ v. 寻找，寻求，谋求，争取，(向人)请求seek的现在分词 **We are earnestly seeking after the truth**. 我们热切地追求真理。

**fierce** and **protracted** battle within **labour** to **propose** even these **reforms**, Ms Reeves and Ms Kendall are unlikely to want to **revisit** the issue.

这套改革总体而言是合理的，力度也超过了上届政府的尝试。然而，尽管50亿英镑的节支值得肯定，但这仅占政府预测本十年末福利支出增量（200亿英镑）的四分之一。这种增长态势令人警惕，尤其是除心理健康外，调查结果对英国人健康状况是否实际恶化莫衷一是。工党内部为推动这些改革已历经激烈而漫长的斗争，里夫斯和肯德尔显然不愿再触及这一议题。

【5】Unfortunately, they may have to. To see why, look at the **labour** market. One **troubling aspect** is that the recent rise in worklessness happened during an **exceptionally** strong jobs market. Unemployment hit a half-century low in 2022 and **vacancies** were the highest on record. But jobs are now harder to come by, and the **labour** market is **softening** fast. A **recession** could easily **exacerbate** the problem, and land another **cohort** on the sick rolls for good. Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading: Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished

不幸的是，他们可能不得不这么做。原因可从劳动力市场窥见一斑：尽管近期非就业人数增加发生在就业市场异常强劲时期（2022年失业率降至半世纪低点，职位空缺创纪录高位），但当前就业形势急转直下。

随着经济衰

退风险加剧，这一问题可能进一步恶化，导致更多人长期陷入非就业状态。

【6】To make matters worse, much of the rest of **labour**'s economic agenda is **aimed** at squeezing out the lower-paid jobs that are most likely to suit someone with a thin work history and health problems.

From April the rise in employers' National Insurance

**formal** /'fɔ:m(ə)l/ adj.正式的,适合正式场合的,正规的,庄重的,合乎规矩的,方式上的,整齐的n.<美>须穿礼服的社交集会,<口>夜礼服 **Less formally educated people can acquire professional competence.**接受比较非规教育的人可以学习专业技能。

**reassure** /ri:ə'ʃʊə/ vt.安抚,使...安心,打消...的疑虑 **They tried to reassure her, but she still felt anxious.**他们设法让她放心,可她还是焦虑不安。

**claimants** /'kleɪmənts/ n.要求者,索要者,(因失业等)领取救济金者**claimant**的复数 **The claimants allege that manufacturers failed to warn doctors that their drugs should be used only in limited circumstances.**索赔人声称生产商没有警告医生他们生产的药品只能在特定的条件下使用。

**punish** /'pʌnɪʃ/ vt.处罚,惩罚,对...判罪,判定...的处罚方式,责怪(自己),自责 **The child was punished for playing truant.**孩子因逃学受到惩罚。

4

**sensible** /'sensɪb(ə)l/ adj.明智的,理智的;合理的;敏感的;可注意到的,大得能看得到的,明显的;知道的,意识到的,认识了;切合实际的;(天平、温度计等)灵敏的;(服装等)实用的,不花哨的;实体的;有知觉的;感觉得到的,可觉察的;(衣服、鞋子)耐用的,朴素而实用的n.感觉得到的东西;敏感的人,善感的人 **She'll be amenable to any sensible suggestions.**任何合理的建议她都会接受的。

**alarming** /ə'la:mɪŋ/ adj.使人惊恐的,令人惊慌的,引起恐慌的v.使惊恐,使害怕,使担心,给(门等)安装警报器**alarm**的现在分词 **I am deeply perturbed by the alarming way the situation developing.**我对形势令人忧虑的发展深感不安。

**surveys** /sə'veɪz/ n.民意调查,民意测验,测量,勘测,测绘,(尤指为欲购房者所做的)房屋鉴定v.查看,审视,审察,总体研究,全面评述,概述,测量,勘测,测绘**survey**的第三人称单数和复数

**disagree** /dɪsə'ɡri:/ v.不同意,持不同意见,有分歧,不符,不一致 **There I have to disagree with you.**在那一点上我不同意你的意见。

**sicker** /'sɪkə/ adj.(身体或精神)生病的,有病的,想呕吐,恶心,晕船,晕机,晕车n.〈美俚〉【军】住院病人**sick**的较高级

**fierce** /fiəs/ adj.激烈的,凶猛的,猛烈的,凶狠的,强烈的,凶残的,狂热的,狂暴的,恶劣的 **He was frightened of the fierce dog.**他让这只凶猛的狗吓怕了。

**protracted** /prə'træktɪd/ adj.持久的,拖延的,延长的 **The war was protracted for four years.**战争拖延了四年。

**propose** /prə'pəʊz/ v.提议,建议,打算,希冀,计划,求婚,提名,提供(解释) **I have already proposed to Sarah.**我已经向萨拉求婚。

**revisit** /ri:'vɪzɪt/ vt.再访,重游,重提,再次讨论n.重访问,再参观 **he'll revisit old friends.**他将再去看看老朋友们。

5

**troubling** /'trʌblɪŋ/ adj.令人不安的 **He was highly adept at avoiding trouble.**他十分善于避开麻烦。

and a higher minimum wage will lift the cost of hiring some of the lowest-paid workers by around 5%. That could encourage a shift to fewer but better-paid and more productive jobs. It is unlikely to help many of Britain's workless find an **escape** route out of **benefits**.

雪上加霜的是，工党经济议程的其余部分大多旨在挤压低薪岗位，而这些岗位恰恰最适合工作履历薄弱且健康状况不佳的人群。从4月起，雇主国民保险税上调和最低工资标准提高将使雇佣部分低收入员工的成本增加约5%。这可能促使就业结构向更少但更高薪、高生产率的岗位转变，却难以帮助英国失业者摆脱福利依赖。

【7】In foreign policy, defence, infrastructure and more, Britain's government has recently **acquired** an **admirable** sense of direction and clarity. But on worklessness, **labour's** cross-cutting **instincts** have created a self-**defeating muddle**.

在外交政策、国防、基础设施等领域，英国政府近期展现出令人钦佩的方向感与明确性。然而在失业问题上，工党多线并行的本能却造就了自我挫败的政策乱局。

今日词汇

**current** ['kʌrənt]

n. 电流、水流；潮流、思潮

a. 当前的、现时发生的

考研出现次数：15+

考频：★★

考点回顾

阅读考点真题例句：

[例] Given the **current** divorce rate of nearly 50 percent, that amounts to millions of cases in the United States every year — a **virtual epidemic of failed conversation**. (2010年英语二28题)

[译] 考虑到美国现在的离婚率几乎高达50%，这相当于每年有上百万起离婚事件，可以说这是夫妻之间缺乏沟通在现实生活中引起的一场瘟疫。

## ②长难句

原文：Because Ms Reeves was in danger of breaking her self-imposed fiscal rules, **finding money from welfare cuts** suddenly **became urgent**.

分析：“Because Ms Reeves was in danger of breaking her self-imposed fiscal rules”为原因状语从句，阐述事件发生的原因，表明里夫

**aspect** /'æspekt/ n. 方面, 层面, 样子, 外观, 外表, 朝向, 方位, (动词的) 体 (如表示动作等发生一次或多次、已完成或正在进行) **The house's aspect was dark and unattractive.** 那幢房子的外观又黑又难看。

**exceptionally** /ik'sepʃənəli/ adv. 破例, (用于形容词和副词之前表示强调) 罕见, 特别, 非常, 只有在特殊情况下, 例外地 **an exceptionally severe frost** 特别严重的霜冻

**vacancies** /'vekənsi/ n. (职位的) 空缺, 空职, 空额, (旅馆等的) 空房, 空间, 无兴趣, 无主意, 空虚 **vacancy** 的复数 **The sign outside the motel said "No Vacancies".** 汽车旅馆外的招牌显示“客满”。

**softening** /'sɒfn/ v. (使) 变软, 软化, (使) 柔和, 和缓, (使) 态度缓和, 变温和, 变宽厚 **soften** 的现在分词 **This is a good fabric softener for woollens.** 这是一种很好的羊毛织物柔软剂。

**recession** /rɪ'seʃ(ə)n/ n. 经济衰退, 经济萎缩, 退后, 撤回 **The country was mired in recession.** 这个国家陷入了经济衰退的困境。

**exacerbate** /ɪg'zæsəbeɪt/ vt. 加剧, 使恶化, 使加重 **The drugs they gave her only exacerbated the pain.** 他们给她吃的药只是加重了她的痛楚。

**cohort** /'kəʊhɔ:t/ n. 同伙, (有共同特点或举止类同的) 一群人, 一批人, 支持者 **Dress simply, pursue nature but not flubdub. Mind the fashion of your age cohorts; be polite according to different occasion.** 衣着朴素, 追求自然而不是引人注目。留意与自己同等人的时尚, 根据不同的场合, 做到斯文有礼。

6

**aimed** /eɪmd/ v. 力求达到, 力争做到, 目的是, 旨在, 瞄准, 对准 **aim** 的过去分词和过去式 **The aim is to give people more power over their own lives.** 目的是让人们更能主宰自己的生命。

**escape** /ɪ'skeɪp/ v. 逃跑, (从监禁或管制中) 逃走, 逃出, (从不愉快或危险处境中) 逃脱, 摆脱, 逃避, 避免 (不愉快或危险的事物), 逃脱, 幸免于难, 被忘掉, 漏出, (不自觉地) 由...发出 **n.** 逃脱, 逃避, 逃避现实, 解脱, 消遣, 漏出, 渗出 (量) **The canary has escaped from the cage.** 那只金丝雀已从笼子里跑掉了。

7

**acquired** /ə'kwaiəd/ v. 收购, (通过努力、能力、行为表现) 获得, 获得, 得到 **acquire** 的过去分词和过去式 **adj.** 习得的, 已获得的, 已成习惯的 **Had he succeeded, he would have acquired a monopoly.** 如果他那时成功了, 他就会获得垄断地位。

**admirable** /'ædm(ə)rəb(ə)l/ **adj.** 好极了, 令人羡慕的, 可钦佩的, 值得赞赏的 **She had acted in ways that he found wholly admirable.** 他对她的行事方式佩服得五体投地。

**instincts** /'ɪnstɪŋkts/ n. 本能, 天性, 直觉 **instinct** 的复数

**defeating** /dɪ'fi:tɪŋ/ v. 击败, 战胜, 使困惑, 难住, 使失败, 阻挠, 挫败 **defeat** 的现在分词

**muddle** /'mʌd(ə)l/ n. 乱局, 困境, 糊涂, 混乱, 困惑, 乱七八糟, 茫然, (局面) 一团糟 **vt.** 弄乱, 搅混, 使困惑, 使糊涂, 混淆, 分不清 **I wish you wouldn't muddle my books.** 我希望你别把我的书搞乱了。



斯女士面临违反自己设定的财政规则的风险,“**finding money from welfare cuts**”为动名词短语,作句子的主语,“**became**”为系动词,“**urgent**”为表语,说明从削减福利中筹集资金这一行为变得紧迫。  
译文:由于里夫斯可能违反自行设定的财政规则,通过削减福利筹措资金突然变得刻不容缓。

原文: To make matters worse, **much of the rest of Labour's economic agenda is aimed at squeezing out the lower - paid jobs** **that** are most likely to suit someone with a thin work history and health problems.

分析:“To make matters worse”为插入语,起到递进说明,让情况描述更深入的作用。  
“**much of the rest of Labour's economic agenda**”是句子主语,“**is aimed at**”为谓语,“**squeezing out the lower - paid jobs**”是动名词短语作介词at的宾语。“**that** are most likely to suit someone with a thin work history and health problems”是定语从句,修饰先行词“the lower - paid jobs”,说明这些低薪工作的特点。  
译文:雪上加霜的是,工党经济议程的其余部分大多旨在挤压低薪岗位,而这些岗位恰恰最适合工作履历薄弱且健康状况不佳的人群。

### ③写作技巧

原文: First came dithering: worklessness from ill health rose sharply after the pandemic, but it was 18 months before Rishi Sunak's government **took a stab** at tightening benefits in response.

首先是举棋不定:疫情后因健康问题导致的失业人数激增,但苏纳克政府在18个月后才着手收紧福利政策作为应对。

“take a stab at”意思是“尝试;试图”,该短语以一种较为口语化且生动的方式表达了对某件事情进行尝试的动作。在写作中,使用“take a stab at”比单纯的“try”更具表现力,能让读者感受到尝试行为可能带有一定的不确定性或冒险性。与之类似的替换表达有“have a go at”“make an attempt at”“give it a shot”等。

例句:

He decided to have a go at writing a novel after years of reading.

经过多年的阅读后,他决定尝试写一部小说。

She made an attempt at solving the complex math problem but failed.

她试图解决这道复杂的数学题,但失败了。

Why don't you give it a shot and see if you like this new sport?

你为什么不尝试一下,看看是否喜欢这项新运动呢?

### ④背景知识

国民保险税(National Insurance):在英国,国民保险税是一种社会保障性质的税费。雇主需要为雇佣的员工缴纳这一税费,其征收旨在为诸如国家养老金、失业津贴等社会保障项目筹集资金。文章提到,自4月起,雇主国民保险税上

### ①短语

1. 原文: First came dithering: worklessness from ill health rose sharply after the pandemic, but it was 18 months before Rishi Sunak's government took a stab at tightening benefits in response.

词典: **take a stab at** 尝试; 试图

例句: He took a stab at fixing the broken faucet, but didn't succeed.

他尝试修理坏掉的水龙头,但没有成功。

2. 原文: By then, around 1m people of working age had fallen out of the labour force since 2019, mostly because of supposed poor health.

词典: **fall out of** 从.....中退出; 不再参与; 失去

例句: Many small businesses fell out of the market during the economic crisis.

许多小企业在经济危机期间退出了市场。

3. 原文: Eventually, two things concentrated minds: a genuine need to make room for higher defence spending, and an artificial crisis.

词典: **make room for** 为.....腾出空间; 给.....让路

例句: We need to make room for new ideas in this project.

我们需要在这个项目中为新想法留出空间。

4. 原文: Better late than never. On March 18th Liz Kendall, the welfare secretary, announced reforms to benefits...

词典: **better late than never** 迟做总比不做好

例句: He finally started working on his assignment. Well, better late than never.

他最终开始做作业了。嗯,迟做总比不做好。

5. 原文: Alongside those cuts, Ms Kendall took pains to emphasise, would be £1bn extra to help pay for job-seeking support...

词典: **take pains to emphasise** 努力强调; 煞费苦心地强调

例句: The teacher took pains to emphasise the importance of following the rules.

老师努力强调遵守规则的重要性。

6. 原文: All that adds up to a sensible package, and one that goes further than the previous government's efforts.

词典: **add up to** 总计达; 意味着; 归结为

例句: These small savings add up to a significant amount over time.

随着时间的推移,这些小额储蓄累积起来是一笔可观的数目。

7. 原文: Such an increase is alarming, particularly since—with the exception of mental health—surveys disagree over

调，这使得雇佣部分低收入员工的成本增加约 5%，进而对英国的就业结构和雇佣市场产生影响，也体现出这一税种的调整与英国劳动力市场、就业政策之间存在紧密联系。预算责任办公室（Office for Budget Responsibility）：作为英国的财政监督机构，预算责任办公室负责对政府的财政计划、经济预测进行独立评估。在文章里，福利大臣利兹·肯德尔宣布的福利改革，预计到 2030 年每年节省 50 亿英镑，而该办公室会在本月晚些时候给出自己的评估，其评估结果可能为改革目标的达成附加条件，凸显了它在英国财政政策制定和评估过程中发挥的关键作用。

#### ⑤段落大意

【1】决策拖沓：疫情后英国失业人数激增，政府政策推进迟缓且受阻

【2】危机倒逼：需增国防开支、面临财政危机，促使政府正视失业问题

【3】改革举措：福利大臣宣布福利改革，拟节省开支并助力民众就业

【4】成效局限：改革方案合理但节支有限，工党内部改革阻力较大

【5】市场隐忧：就业市场由盛转衰，经济衰退或加剧失业问题

【6】政策矛盾：工党部分经济议程挤压低薪岗位，不利于解决失业

【7】整体失衡：英国在多领域方向明确，但失业问题政策出现乱局

whether Britons have actually grown sicker in the past few years.

词典：with the exception of 除.....之外

例句：All the students passed the exam with the exception of Tom.

除了汤姆，所有学生都通过了考试。

8. 原文：But jobs are now harder to come by, and the labour market is softening fast.

词典：come by 得到；获得；找到

例句：Good jobs are not easy to come by these days.

如今好工作不容易找到。

