



2021下半年阅读

瑞斯拜四级讲义

四六级我只看瑞斯拜

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TEXT1

The wallet is heading for extinction. As a day-to-day essential, it will die off with the generation who read print newspapers. The kind of shopping where you hand over notes and count out change in return now happens only in the most minor of our retail encounters, like buying a bar of chocolate or a pint of milk, from a corner shop. At the shops where you spend any real money, that money is increasingly abstracted. And this is more and more true, the higher up the scale you go. At the most cutting-edge retail stores Victoria Beckham on Dover Street, for instance you don't go and stand at any kind of cash register, when you decide to pay. The staff are equipped with ipads to take your payment while you relax on a sofa.

Which is nothing more or less than excellent service, if you have the money. But across society, the abstraction of the idea of cash makes me uneasy. Maybe I'm just old-fashioned. But earning money isn't quick or easy for most of us. Isn't it a bit weird that spending it should happen in half a blink (眨眼) of an eye? Doesn't a wallet—that time-honoured Friday-night feeling of pleasing, promising fatness—represent something that matters?

But I'll leave the economics to the experts. What bothers me about the death of the wallet is the change it represents in our physical environment. Everything about the look and feel of a wallet—the way the fastenings and materials wear and tear and loosen with age, the plastic and paper and gold and silver, and handwritten phone numbers and printed cinema tickets—is the very opposite of what our world is becoming. The opposite of a wallet is a smartphone or an iPad. The rounded edges, cool glass, smooth and unknowable as a pebble (鹅卵石). Instead of digging through pieces of paper and peering into corners, we move our fingers left and right. No more counting out coins. Show your wallet, if you still have one. It may not be here much longer.

46. What is happening to the wallet?

- A) It is disappearing.
- C) It is becoming costly.
- B) It is being fattened.
- D) It is changing in style.

47. How are business transactions done in big modern stores?

- A) Individually.
- C) In the abstract.
- B) Electronically.
- D) Via cash register.

48. What makes the author feel uncomfortable nowadays?

- A) Saving money is becoming a thing of the past.
- B) The pleasing Friday-night feeling is fading.
- C) Earning money is getting more difficult.
- D) Spending money is so fast and easy.

49. Why does the author choose to write about what's happening to the wallet?

- A) It represents a change in the modern world.
- B) It has something to do with everybody's life.
- C) It marks the end of a time-honoured tradition.
- D) It is the concern of contemporary economists.

50. What can we infer from the passage about the author?

- A) He is resistant to social changes.
- B) He is against technological progress.
- C) He feels reluctant to part with the traditional wallet.
- D) He feels insecure in the ever-changing modern world.

阅读答案：ABDAC

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TEXT2

It's late in the evening: time to close the book and turn off the computer. You're done for the day. What you may not realize, however, is that the learning process actually continues—in your dreams.

It might sound like science fiction, but researchers are increasingly focusing on the relationship between the knowledge and skills our brains absorb during the day and the fragmented, often bizarre imaginings they generate at night. Scientists have found that dreaming about a task we've learned is associated with improved performance in that activity (suggesting that there's some truth to the popular notion that we're "getting" a foreign language once we begin dreaming in it). What's more, researchers are coming to recognize that dreaming is an essential part of understanding, organizing and retaining what we learn.

While we sleep, research indicates, the brain replays the patterns of activity it experienced during waking hours, allowing us to enter what one psychologist calls a neural (神经的) virtual reality. A vivid example of such replay can be seen in a video researchers made recently about sleep disorders. They taught a series of dance moves to a group of patients with conditions like sleepwalking, in which the sleeper engages in the kind physical movement that does not normally occur during sleep. They then videotaped the subjects as they slept. Lying in bed, eyes closed, one female patient on the tape performs the dance moves she learned earlier.

This shows that while our bodies are at rest, our brains are drawing what's important from the information and events we've recently encountered, then integrating that data into the vast store of what we already know. In a 2010 study, researchers at Harvard Medical School reported that college students who dreamed about a computer maze (迷宫) task they had learned showed a 10-fold improvement in their ability to find their way through the maze compared with participants who did not dream about the task.

Robert Stickgold, one of the Harvard researchers, suggests that studying right before bedtime or taking a nap following a study session in the afternoon might increase the odds of dreaming about the material. Think about that as your head hits the pillow tonight.

51. What is scientists' finding about dreaming?

- A) It involves disconnected weird images.
- B) It resembles fragments of science fiction.
- C) Dreaming about a learned task betters its performance.
- D) Dreaming about things being learned disturbs one's sleep.

52. What happens when one enters a dream state?

- A) The body continues to act as if the sleeper were awake.
- B) The neural activity of the brain will become intensified.
- C) The brain behaves as if it were playing a virtual reality video game.
- D) The brain once again experiences the learning activities of the day.

53. What does the brain do while we are sleeping?

- A) It systematizes all the data collected during the day.
- B) It substitutes old information with new data.
- C) It processes and absorbs newly acquired data.
- D) It classified information and places it in different files.

54. What does Robert Stickgold suggest about enhancing learning?

- A) Having a little sleep after studying in the day.
- B) Staying up late before going to bed.
- C) Having a dream about anything.
- D) Thinking about the odds of dreaming about the material.

55. What can be inferred about dreaming from the passage?

- A) We may enhance our learning through dreaming.
- B) Dreaming improves your language ability.
- C) All sleepwalkers perform dance moves when they are sleeping.
- D) Taking a nap after learning can help you find the way through the maze.

TEXT3

Americans spend billions of dollars each year trying to change our weight with diets, gym memberships and plastic surgery.

Trying to live up to the images of “perfect” models and movie heroes has a dark side: anxiety and depression, as well as unhealthy strategies for weight loss or muscle gain. It also has a financial cost. Having an eating disorder boosts annual health care costs by nearly US\$2,000 per person.

Why is there both external and internal pressure to look “perfect”? One reason is that society rewards people who are thin and healthy looking. Researchers have shown that body mass index is related to wages and income. Especially for women, there is a clear penalty at work for being overweight or obese. Some studies have also found an impact for men, though a less noticeable one.

While the research literature is clear that labor market success is partly based on how employers and customers perceive your body image, no one had explored the other side of question. Does a person's own perception of body image matter to earnings and other indicators of success in the workplace?

Our recently published study answered this question by tracking a large national random sample of Americans over a critical time period when bodies change from teenage shape into adult form and when people build their identities.

As in other research, women in our sample tend to over-perceive their weight—they think they're heavier than they are—while men tend to under-perceive theirs.

We found no relationship between the average person's self-perception of weight and labor market outcomes, although self-perceived weight can influence self-esteem (自尊心), mental health and health behaviors.

While the continued gender penalty in the labor market is frustrating, our finding that misperceived weight does not harm workers is more heartening.

Since employers' perception of weight is what matters in the labor market, changing discrimination laws to include body type as a category would also help. Michigan is the only state that prohibits discrimination on the basis of weight and height. We believe expanding such protections would make the labor market more fair and efficient.

46. What does the author say may have an adverse impact on people?

- A) Undergoing plastic surgeries in pursuit of beauty.
- B) Imitating the lifestyles of heroes and role models.
- C) Striving to achieve perfection regardless of financial cost.
- D) Attempting to meet society's expectation of appearance.

47. What have researchers found out about people's earnings?

- A) They are closely related to people's social status.
- B) They have to do with people's body weight and shape.
- C) They seem to matter much less to men than to women.
- D) They may not be equal to people's contributions.

48. What does the author's recent study focus on?

- A) Previous literature on indicators of competitiveness in the workplace.
- B) Traits that matter most in one's pursuit of success in the labor market.
- C) Whether self-perception of body image impacts one's workplace success.
- D) How bosses' perception of body image impacts employees' advancement.

49. What is the finding of the author's recent research?

- A) Being overweight actually does not do much harm to the overall well-being of employees.
- B) People are not adversely affected in the workplace by false self-perception of body weight.
- C) Self-esteem helps to combat gender inequality in the workplace.
- D) Gender inequality continues to frustrate a lot of female employees.

50. What does the author think would help improve the condition in the labor market?

- A) Banning discrimination on the basis of employees' body image.
- B) Expanding protection of women against gender discrimination.
- C) Helping employees change their own perception of beauty.
- D) Excluding body shape as a category in the labor contract

TEXT4

The work-life balance is dead. By this, I'm not advocating that you should give up your pursuit of having a fulfilling career and a thriving personal life, and I'm definitely not saying that you have to give up one to have the other. I also acknowledge that we have a work-life problem, but I'm arguing that the concept of balance has never been helpful, because it's too limiting. You see, our language makes a difference, and how we refer to things matters because it affects our thinking and therefore our actions.

At the minimum, most of us work because we want to be able to support ourselves, our families, and the people around us. In the ideal world, we're all doing work that we're proud of and that provides meaning and purpose to us. But even if your job doesn't give you shivers of joy each new day, working is a part of what each of us does and the contribution we make to society. When you separate work and life, it's a little bit harder to make that connection. But when you think of work as part of a full life and a complete experience, it becomes easier to see that success in one aspect often supports another.

Losing your balance and falling isn't pleasant. A goal to balance suggests that things could quickly get off the balance, and that causes terrible outcomes. It's more constructive to think of solutions that continue to evolve over shifts in life and work. Rather than falling or failing, you may have good days or better days or not-so-good days. These variations are normal, and it's more useful to think of life as something that is ever evolving and changing, rather than a high-risk enterprise where things could go wrong with one misstep.

How we talk to ourselves matters, and how we talk about issues makes a difference. Let's bury "work-life balance" and think bigger and better about work-life fulfillment to do a little less balancing and a lot more living.

51. What does the author suggest by saying “The work-life balance is dead”?

- A) The hope of achieving a thriving life is impossible to realize.
- B) The pursuit of a fulfilling career involves personal sacrifice.
- C) The imbalance between work and life simply doesn't exist anymore
- D) The concept of work-life balance contributes little to a fulfilling life.

52. What does the author say about our use of language?

- A) It impacts how we think and behave.
- B) It changes with the passage of time.
- C) It reflects how we communicate.
- D) It differs from person to person.

53. What does the author say we do in an ideal world?

- A) We do work that betters the lives of our families and friends.
- B) We do work that gives us bursts of joy each new day.
- C) We do meaningful work that contributes to society.
- D) We do demanding work that brings our capacity into full play.

54. What does the author say about life?

- A) It is cyclical.
- B) It is dynamic.
- C) It is fulfilling.
- D) It is risky.

55. What does the author advise us to do?

- A) Make life as simple as possible.
- B) Talk about balance in simpler terms.
- C) Balance life and work in a new way.
- D) Strive for a more filling life.

TEXT5

When is cleaning was a crime? When you' re doing it to create art, obviously. A number of street artists around the world have started expressing themselves through a practice known as reverse graffiti (涂鸦). They find dirty surfaces and paint them with images or messages using cleaning brushes or pressure hoses (高压水管) . Either way, it's the same principle: the image is made by cleaning away the dirt. Each artist has their own individual style but all artists share a common aim: to draw attention to the pollution in our cities. The UK ' s Paul Curtis, better known as Moose, operates around Leeds and London and has been commissioned by a number of companies to make reverse graffiti advertisements.

Brazilian artist, Alexandre Orion, turned one of Sao Paulo's transport tunnels into an amazing wall painting in 2006 by getting rid of the dirt. Made up of a series of white skulls (颅骨), the painting reminds drivers of the effect their pollution is having on the planet. “Every motorists sits in the comfort of their car, but they don't give any consideration to the price their comfort has for the environment and consequently for themselves,” says Orion.

The anti-pollution message of the reverse graffiti artists confuses city authorities since the main argument against graffiti is that it spoils the appearance of both types of property: public and private. This was what Leeds City Council said about Moose's work: “Leeds residents want to live in clean and attractive neighbourhoods. We view this kind of advertising as environmental damage and will take strong action against it.” Moose was ordered to “clean up his act.” How was he supposed to do this: by making all property he had cleaned dirty again?

As for the Brazilian artist' s work, the authorities were annoyed but could find nothing to charge him with. They had no other option but to clean the tunnel—but only the parts Alexandre had already cleaned. The artist merely continued his campaign on the other side. The city officials then decided to take drastic action. They not only cleaned the whole tunnel but every tunnel in Sao Paulo.

46. What do we learn from the passage about reverse graffiti?

- A) It uses paint to create anti-pollution images.
- B) It creates a lot of trouble for local residents.
- C) It causes lots of distraction to drivers.
- D) It turns dirty walls into artistic works.

47. What do reverse graffiti artists try to do?

- A) Publicise their artistic pursuit.
- B) Beautify the city environment.
- C) Raise public awareness of environmental pollution.
- D) Express their dissatisfaction with local governments.

48. What do we learn about Brazilian artist Alexandre Orion?

- A) He was good at painting white skulls.
- B) He chose tunnels to do his graffiti art.
- C) He suggested banning all polluting cars.
- D) He was fond of doing creative artworks.

49. What does the author imply about Leeds City Council's decision?

- A) It is simply absurd.
- B) It is well-informed.
- C) It is rather unexpected.
- D) It is quite sensible.

50. How did Sao Paulo city officials handle Alexandre Orion's reverse graffiti?

- A) They made him clean all the tunnels in Sao Paulo.
- B) They took drastic action to ban all reverse graffiti.
- C) They charged him with polluting tunnels in the city.
- D) They made it impossible for him to practice his art.

TEXT6

The practice of paying children an allowance became popular in America about 100 years ago. Nowadays, American kids on average receive about \$800 per year in allowance. But the vast majority of American parents who pay allowance tie it to the completion of housework. Although many parents believe that paying an allowance for completing chores benefits their children, a range of experts expressed concern that tying allowance very closely to chores may not be ideal. In fact, the way chores work in many households worldwide points to another way.

Suniya Luthar, a psychologist, is against paying kids for chores. Luthar is not opposed to giving allowances, but she thinks it's important to establish that chores are done not because they will lead to payment, but because they keep the household running. Luthar's suggested approach to allowance is compatible with that of writer Ron Lieber, who advises that allowances be used as a means of showing children how to save, give, and spend on things they care about. Kids should do chores, he writes, "for the same reason adults do, because the chores need to be done, and not with the expectation of compensation."

This argument has its critics, but considering the way chores are undertaken around the world may change people's thinking. Professor David Lancy of Utah State University has studied how families around the world handle chores. At about 18 months of age, Lancy says, most children become eager to help their parents, and in many cultures, they begin helping with housework at that age. They begin with very simple tasks, but their responsibilities gradually increase. And they do these tasks without payment. Lancy contrasts this with what happens in America.

"We deny our children's bids to help until they are 6 or 7 years old," Lancy says, "when many have lost the desire to help and then try to motivate them with payment. The solution to this problem is not to try to use money as an incentive to do housework, but to get children involved in housework much earlier, when they actually want to do it."

51. What do some experts think about paying children for doing chores?

- A) It may benefit children in more ways than one.
- B) It may help children learn the worth of labor.
- C) It may not turn out to be the best thing to do.
- D) It may not be accepted by low-income parents.

52. According to Suniya Luthar, doing chores will help children learn to ____.

- A) share family responsibilities
- B) appreciate the value of work
- C) cultivate the spirit of independence
- D) manage domestic affairs themselves

53. What does Ron Lieber think should be the goal of giving children allowances?

- A) To help to strengthen family ties.
- B) To teach them how to manage money.
- C) To motivate them to do more housework.
- D) To show parents' appreciation of their help.

54. What does David Lancy say about 18-month-olds?

- A) They have a natural instinct to help around the house.
- B) They are too young to request money for what they do.
- C) They should learn to understand family responsibilities.
- D) They need a little incentive to get involved in housework.

55. What does David Lancy advise American parents to do?

- A) Set a good example for children in doing housework.
- B) Make children do housework without compensation.
- C) Teach children how to do housework.
- D) Accept children's early bids to help.

TEXT7

Three children in every classroom have a diagnosable mental health condition. Half of these are behavioural disorders, while one third are emotional disorders such as stress, anxiety and depression, which often become outwardly apparent through self-harm. There was an astonishing 52 per cent jump in hospital admissions for children and young people who had harmed themselves between 2009 and 2015.

Schools and teachers have consistently reported the scale of the problem since 2009. Last year, over half of teachers reported that more of their pupils experience mental health problems than in the past. But teachers also consistently report how ill-equipped they feel to meet pupils' mental health needs, and often cite a lack of training, expertise and support from the National Health Service (英国国家医疗服务体系).

Part of the reason for the increased pressure on schools is that there are now fewer 'early intervention (干预)' and low-level mental health services based in the community. Cuts to local authority budgets since 2010 have resulted in a significant decline of these services, despite strong evidence of their effectiveness in preventing crises further down the line.

The only way to break the pressures on both mental health services and schools is to reinvest in early intervention services inside schools.

There are strong arguments for why schools are best placed to provide mental health services. Schools see young people more than any other service, which gives them a unique ability to get to hard-to-reach children and young people and build meaningful relationships with them over time. Recent studies have shown that children and young people largely prefer to see a counsellor in school rather than in an outside environment. Young people have reported that for low-level conditions such as stress and anxiety, a clinical setting can sometimes be daunting (令人却步的).

There are already examples of innovative schools which combine mental health and wellbeing provision with a strong academic curriculum. This will, though, require a huge cultural shift. Politicians, policymakers, commissioners and school leaders must be brave enough to make the leap towards reimagining schools as providers of health as well as education services.

46. What are teachers complaining about?

- A) There are too many students requiring special attention.
- B) They are under too much stress counselling needy students.
- C) Schools are inadequately equipped to implement any intervention.
- D) They lack the necessary resources to address pupils' mental problems.

47. What do we learn from the passage about community health services in Britain?

- A) They have deteriorated due to budget cuts.
- B) They facilitate local residents' everyday lives.
- C) They prove ineffective in helping mental patients.
- D) They cover preventative care for the local resident.

48. Where does the author suggest mental health services be placed?

- A) At home.
- B) At school.
- C) In hospitals.
- D) In communities.

49. What do we learn from the recent studies?

- A) Students prefer to rely on peers to relieve stress and anxiety.
- B) Young people are keen on building meaningful relationships.
- C) Students are more comfortable seeking counselling in school.
- D) Young people benefit from various kinds of outdoor activities.

50. What does the author mean by a cultural shift (Line 2, Para. 6)?

- A) Simplification of schools' academic curriculums.
- B) Parents' involvement in schools' policy-making.
- C) A change in teachers' attitudes to mental health.
- D) A change in the conception of what schools are.

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TEXT8

Picture this: You're at a movie theater food stand loading up on snacks. You have a choice of a small, medium or large soda. The small is \$3.50 and the large is \$5.50. It's a tough decision: The small size may not last you through the whole movie, but \$5.50 for some sugary drink seems ridiculous. But there's a third option, a medium soda for \$5.25. Medium may be the perfect amount of soda for you, but the large is only a quarter more. If you're like most people, you end up buying the large (and taking a bathroom break midshow).

If you're wondering who would buy the medium soda, the answer is almost no one. In fact, there's a good chance the marketing department purposely priced the medium soda as a decoy (诱饵), making you more likely to buy the large soda rather than the small.

I have written about this peculiarity in human nature before with my friend Dan Ariely, who studied this phenomenon extensively after noticing pricing for subscriptions (订阅) to The Economist. The digital subscription was \$59, the print subscription was \$125, and the print plus digital subscription was also \$125. No one in their right mind would buy the print subscription when you could get digital as well for the same price, so why was it even an option? Ariely ran an experiment and found that when only the two "real" choices were offered, more people chose the less-expensive digital subscription. But the addition of the bad option made people much more likely to choose the more expensive print plus digital option.

Brain scientists call this effect "asymmetric dominance" and it means that people gravitate toward the choice nearest a clearly inferior option. Marketing professors call it the decoy effect, which is certainly easier to remember. Lucky for consumers, almost no one in the business community understands it.

The decoy effect works because of the way our brains assign value when making choices. Value is almost never absolute; rather, we decide an object's value relative to our other choices. If more options are introduced, the value equation changes.

51. Why does the author ask us to imagine buying food in the movie theater?

- A) To illustrate people's peculiar shopping behavior.
- B) To illustrate the increasing variety of snacks there.
- C) To show how hard it can be to choose a drink there.
- D) To show how popular snacks are among movie fans.

52. Why is the medium soda priced the way it is?

- A) To attract more customers to buy it.
- B) To show the price matches the amount.
- C) To ensure customers drink the right amount of soda.
- D) To make customers believe they are getting a bargain.

53. What do we learn from Dan Ariely's experiment?

- A) Lower-priced goods attract more customers.
- B) The Economist's promotional strategy works.
- C) The Economist's print edition turns out to sell the best.
- D) More readers choose the digital over the print edition.

54. For what purpose is "the bad option" (Line 7, Para.3) added?

- A) To cater to the peculiar needs of some customers.
- B) To help customers to make more rational choices.
- C) To trap customers into buying the more pricey item.
- D) To provide customers with a greater variety of goods.

55. How do we assess the value of a commodity, according to the passage?

- A) By considering its usefulness.
- B) By comparing it with other choices.
- C) By taking its quality into account.
- D) By examining its value equation.

TEXT9

Boredom has, paradoxically, become quite interesting to academics lately. In early May, London's Boring Conference celebrated seven years of delighting in dullness. At this event, people flocked to talks about weather, traffic jams and vending-machine sounds, among other sleep-inducing topics.

What, exactly, is everybody studying? One widely accepted psychological definition of boredom is "the distasteful experience of wanting, but being unable, to engage in satisfying activity." But how can you quantify a person's boredom level and compare it with someone else's? In 1986, psychologists introduced the Boredom Proneness Scale, designed to measure an individual's overall tendency to feel bored. By contrast, the Multidimensional State Boredom Scale, developed in 2008, measures a person's feelings of boredom in a given situation.

Boredom has been linked to behavior issues including inattentive driving, mindless snacking, excessive drinking, and addictive gambling. In fact, many of us would choose pain over boredom. One team of psychologists discovered that two-thirds of men and a quarter of women would rather self-administer electric shocks than sit alone with their thoughts for 15 minutes. Researching this phenomenon, another team asked volunteers to watch boring, sad, or neutral films, during which they could self-administer electric shocks. The bored volunteers shocked themselves more and harder than the sad or neutral ones did.

But boredom isn't all bad. By encouraging self-reflection and daydreaming, it can spur creativity. An early study gave participants abundant time to complete problem-solving and word-association exercises. Once all the obvious answers were exhausted, participants gave more and more inventive answers to combat boredom. A British study took these findings one step further, asking subjects to complete a creative challenge (coming up with a list of alternative uses for a household item). One group of subjects did a boring activity first, while the others went straight to the creative task. Those whose boredom pumps had been primed were more productive.

In our always-connected world, boredom may be a hard-to-define state, but it is a fertile one. Watch paint dry or water boil, or at least put away your smartphone for a while, and you might unlock your next big idea.

46. When are people likely to experience boredom, according to an accepted psychological definition?

- A) When they don't have the chance to do what they want.
- B) When they don't enjoy the materials they are studying.
- C) When they experience something unpleasant.
- D) When they engage in some routine activities.

47. What does the author say boredom can lead to?

- A) Determination.
- C) Mental deterioration.
- B) Concentration.
- D) Harmful conduct.

48. What is the finding of one team of psychologists in their experiment?

- A) Volunteers prefer watching a boring movie to sitting alone deliberating.
- B) Many volunteers choose to hurt themselves rather than endure boredom.
- C) Male volunteers are more immune to the effects of boredom than females.
- D) Many volunteers are unable to resist boredom longer than fifteen minutes.

49. Why does the author say boredom isn't all bad?

- A) It stimulates memorization.
- C) It may promote creative thinking.
- B) It allows time for relaxation.
- D) It may facilitate independent learning.

50. What does the author suggest one do when faced with a challenging problem?

- A) Stop idling and think big.
- C) Look around oneself for stimulation.
- B) Unlock one's smartphone.
- D) Allow oneself some time to be bored.

TEXT10

Forests in countries like Brazil and the Congo get a lot of attention from environmentalists, and it is easy to see why. South America and sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing deforestation on an enormous scale: every year almost 5 million hectares are lost. But forests are also changing in rich Western countries. They are growing larger, both in the sense that they occupy more land and that the trees in them are bigger. What is going on?

Forests are spreading in almost all Western countries, with the fastest growth in places that historically had rather few trees. In 1990 28% of Spain was forested; now the proportion is 37%. In both Greece and Italy, the growth was from 26% to 32% over the same period. Forests are gradually taking more land in America and Australia. Perhaps most astonishing is the trend in Ireland. Roughly 1% of that country was forested when it became independent in 1922. Now forests cover 11% of the land, and the government wants to push the proportion to 18% by the 2040s.

Two things are fertilising this growth. The first is the abandonment of farmland, especially in high, dry places where nothing grows terribly well. When farmers give up trying to earn a living from farming or herding, trees simply move in. The second is government policy and subsidy. Throughout history, governments have protected and promoted forests for diverse reasons, ranging from the need for wooden warships to a desire to promote suburban house-building. Nowadays forests are increasingly welcome because they suck in carbon pollution from the air. The justifications change, the desire for more trees remains constant.

The greening of the West does not delight everyone. Farmers complain that land is being taken out of use by generously subsidised tree plantations. Parts of Spain and Portugal suffer from terrible forest fires. Others simply dislike the appearance of forests planted in neat rows. They will have to get used to the trees, however. The growth of Western forests seems almost as unstoppable as deforestation elsewhere.

51. What is catching environmentalists' attention nowadays?

- A) Rich countries are stripping poor ones of their resources.
- B) Forests are fast shrinking in many developing countries.
- C) Forests are eating away the fertile farmland worldwide.
- D) Rich countries are doing little to address deforestation.

52. Which countries have the fastest forest growth?

- A) Those that have newly achieved independence.
- B) Those that have the greatest demand for timber.
- C) Those that used to have the lowest forest coverage.
- D) Those that provide enormous government subsidies.

53. What has encouraged forest growth historically?

- A) The government's advocacy.
- B) The favourable climate.
- C) The use of wood for fuel.
- D) The green movement.

54. What accounts for our increasing desire for forests?

- A) Their unique scenic beauty.
- B) Their capability of improving air quality.
- C) Their use as fruit plantations.
- D) Their stable supply of building materials.

55. What does the author conclude about the prospects of forestation?

- A) Deserts in sub-Saharan Africa will diminish gradually.
- B) It will play a more and more important role in people's lives.
- C) Forest destruction in the developing world will quickly slow down.
- D) Developed and developing countries are moving in opposite directions.

TEXT11

A growing number of U.S. bike riders are attracted to electric bikes for convenience, health benefits and their fun factor. Although ebikes first appeared in the 90s, cheaper options and longer-lasting batteries are breathing new life into the concept.

Established bike companies and startups are embracing ebikes to meet demand. About 34 million ebikes were sold worldwide last year, according to data from eCycleElectric Consultants. Most were sold in Europe and China, where the bikes already have exploded in popularity. Recently, the U.S. market has grown to 263,000 bikes, a 25% gain from the prior year.

The industry is benefiting from improved batteries as suppliers over the years developed technology for laptops, smartphones and electric cars. In 2004, the price of batteries used on ebikes fell, spurring European sales.

But lower cost options are emerging, too. This month, three U.S. bikeshare companies, Motivate, LimeBike and Spin, announced electric bicycles will be added to their fleets. New York-based Jump Bikes is already operating an electric bikeshare in Washington, D.C., and is launching in San Francisco Thursday. Rides cost \$ 2 for 30 minutes.

The system works like existing dockless bikeshare systems, where riders unlock bikes through a smartphone app. “This is the beginning of a long-term shift away from regular pedal(踏板) to electric bikes,” said Jump Bikes CEO Ryan Rzepecki. “When people first jump on an ebike, their face lights up. It’s exciting and joyful in a way that you don’t get from a regular bike.”

Two years ago, CEO Chris Cocalis of Pivot Cycles, which sells high-end mountain bikes, found that U.S. bike shops weren’t interested in stocking ebikes. Some retailers warned Cocalis that they’d drop the brand if it came out with an electric bike.

Now that sales are taking off, the vast majority of bike dealers are asking Cocalis when he’ll make an ebike available. “There’s tremendous opportunity to get a generation of people for whom suffering isn’t their thing,” Cocalis said. “Ebike riders get the enjoyable part of cycling without the massive suffering of climbing huge hills.”

46. What do we learn from the passage about ebikes?

- A) Their health benefits and fun values outweigh their cost.
- B) They did not catch public attention in the United States until the 1990s.
- C) They did not become popular until the emergence of improved batteries.
- D) Their widespread use is attributable to people's environmental awareness.

47. What brought about the boost in ebike sales in Europe at the beginning of the century?

- A) Updated technology of bike manufacture.
- B) The falling prices of ebike batteries.
- C) Changed fashion in short-distance travel.
- D) The rising costs for making electric cars.

48. What is the prospect of the bike industry according to Ryan Rzepecki?

- A) More will be invested in bike battery research.
- B) The sales of ebikes will increase.
- C) It will profit from ebike sharing.
- D) It will make a difference in people's daily lives.

49. What prevented Chris Cocalis from developing ebikes sooner?

- A) Retailers' refusal to deal in ebikes.
- B) High profits from conventional bikes.
- C) Users' concern about risks of ebike riding.
- D) His focus on selling costly mountain bikes.

50. What makes Chris Cocalis believe there is a greater opportunity for ebike sales?

- A) The further lowering of ebike prices.
- B) The public's concern for their health.
- C) The increasing interest in mountain climbing.
- D) The younger generation's pursuit of comfortable riding.

TEXT12

The terms “global warming” and “climate change” are used by many, seemingly interchangeably. But do they really mean the same thing?

Scientists shaped the history of the terms while attempting to accurately describe how humans continue to alter the planet. Later, political strategists adopted the terms to influence public opinion.

In 1975, geochemist Wallace Broecker introduced the term “climate change” in an article published by Science. In 1979, a National Academy of Sciences report used the term “global warming” to define increases in the Earth’s average surface temperature, while “climate change” more broadly referred to the numerous effects of this increase, such as sea-level rise and ocean acidification(酸化).

During the following decades, some industrialists and politicians launched a campaign to sow doubt in the minds of the American public about the ability of fossil-fuel use, deforestation and other human activities to influence the planet’s climate.

Word use played a critical role in developing that doubt. For example, the language and polls expert Frank Luntz wrote a memo encouraging the use of “climate change” because the phrase sounded less scary than “global warming,” reported the Guardian.

However, Luntz’s recommendation wasn’t necessary. A Google Ngram Viewer chart shows that by 1993 climate change was already more commonly used in books than global warming. By the end of the next decade both words were used more frequently, and climate change was used nearly twice as often as global warming.

NASA used the term “climate change” because it more accurately reflects the wide range of changes to the planet caused by increasing amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The debate isn’t new. A century ago, chemist Svante Arrhenius started one of the first debates over the potential for humans to influence the planet’s climate. Arrhenius calculated the capability of carbon dioxide to trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere, but other chemists disagreed. Some argued that humans weren’t producing enough greenhouse gases, while others claimed the effects would be tiny. Now, of course, we know that whatever you call it, human behavior is warming the planet, with grave consequences ahead.

51. Why did politicians use the two terms “global warming” and “climate change”?

- A) To sway public opinion of the impact of human activities on Earth.
- B) To more accurately describe the consequences of human activities.
- C) To win more popular votes in their campaign activities.
- D) To assure the public of the safety of existing industries.

52. As used in a National Academy of Sciences report, the term “climate change” differs from “global warming” in that .

- A) it sounds less vague
- B) it looks more scientific
- C) it covers more phenomena
- D) it is much closer to reality

53. What did industrialists of the late 20th century resort to in order to mislead Americans?

- A) Made-up survey results.
- C) False research findings.
- B) Hired climate experts.
- D) Deliberate choice of words.

54. Why did NASA choose the term “climate change”?

- A) To obtain more funds.
- B) For greater precision.
- C) For political needs.
- D) To avoid debate.

55. What is the author’s final conclusion?

- A) Global warming is the more accurate term.
- B) Accuracy of terminology matters in science.
- C) Human activities have serious effects on Earth.
- D) Politics interferes with serious scientific debate.

阅读答案：ACDBC

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