

2014-12-1 passage 1

The rise of the Internet has been one of the most transformative developments in human history, comparable in impact to the invention of the printing press and the telegraph. Over two billion people worldwide now have access to vastly more information than ever before, and can communicate with each other instantly, often using Web-connected mobile devices they carry everywhere. But the Internet's tremendous impact has only just begun.

"Mass adoption of the Internet is driving one of the most exciting social, cultural, and political transformations in history, and unlike earlier periods of change, this time the effects are fully global," Schmidt and Cohen write in their new book, *The New Digital Age*.

Perhaps the most profound changes will come when the five billion people worldwide who currently lack Internet access get online. The authors do an excellent job of examining the implications of the Internet revolution for individuals, governments, and institutions like the news media. But if the book has one major shortcoming, it's that the authors don't spend enough time applying a critical eye to the role of Internet businesses in these sweeping changes.

In their book, the authors provide the most authoritative volume to date that describes--and more importantly predicts--how the Internet will shape our lives in the coming decades. They paint a picture of a world in which individuals, companies, institutions, and governments must deal with two realities, one physical, and one virtual.

At the core of the book is the idea that technology is neutral, but people aren't." By using this concept as a starting point, the authors aim to move beyond the now familiar optimist vs. pessimist dichotomy (对立观点) that has characterized many recent debates about whether the rise of the Internet will ultimately be good or bad for society. In an interview with *TIME* earlier this week, Cohen said although he and his co-author are optimistic about many aspects of the Internet, they're also realistic about the risks and dangers that lie ahead when the next five billion people come online, particularly with respect to personal privacy and state surveillance (监视).

56. In what way is the rise of the Internet similar to the invention of the printing press and the telegraph?

- A) It transforms human history.
- B) It facilitates daily communication.
- C) It is adopted by all humanity.
- D) It revolutionizes people's thinking.

57. How do Schmidt and Cohen describe the effects of the Internet?

- A) They are immeasurable.
- B) They are worldwide
- C) They are unpredictable.
- D) They are contaminating.

58. In what respect is the book *The New Digital Age* considered inadequate?

- A) It fails to recognize the impact of the Internet technology.
- B) It fails to look into the social implications of the Internet.

- C) It lacks an objective evaluation of the role of Internet businesses
 - D) It does not address the technical aspects of Internet communication.
59. What will the future be like when everybody gets online?
- A) People will be living in two different realities
 - B) People will have equal access to information.
 - C) People don't have to travel to see the world.
 - D) People don't have to communicate face to face.
60. What does the passage say about the authors of The New Digital Age?
- A) They leave many questions unanswered concerning the Internet.
 - B) They are optimistic about the future of the Internet revolution.
 - C) They have explored the unknown territories of the virtual world.
 - D) They don't take sides in analyzing the effects of the Internet

2012-12-1 passage 2

In 1950, a young man would have found it much easier than it is today to get and keep a job in the auto industry. And in that year the average autoworker could meet monthly mortgage (抵押贷款) payments on an average home with just 13.4 percent of his take-home pay. Today a similar mortgage would claim more than twice that share of his monthly earnings.

Other members of the autoworker's family, however, might be less inclined to trade the present for the past. His retired parents would certainly have had less economic security back then. Throughout much of the 1960s, more than a quarter of men and women age 65 and older lived below the poverty level, compared to less than 10 percent in 2010.

In most states, his wife could not have taken out a loan or a credit card in her own name. In 42 states, a homemaker had no legal claim on the earnings of her husband. And nowhere did a wife have legal protection against family violence.

Most black workers would not want to return to a time when, on average, they earned 40 percent less than their white counterparts (职位相对的人), while racially restrictive agreements largely prevented them from buying into the suburban neighborhoods being built for white working-class families.

Today, new problems have emerged in the process of resolving old ones, but the solution is not to go back to the past. Some people may long for an era when divorce was still hard to come by. The spread of no-fault divorce has reduced the bargaining power of whichever spouse is more interested in continuing the relationship. And the breakup of such marriages has caused pain for many families.

The growing diversity of family life comes with new possibilities as well as new challenges. According to a recent poll, more than 80 percent of Americans believe that their current family is as close as the one in which they grew up, or closer. Finding ways to improve the lives of the remaining 20 percent seems more realistic than trying to restore an imaginary golden age.

61. What do we learn about American autoworkers in 1950?
- A) They had less job security than they do today.
 - B) It was not too difficult for them to buy a house.
 - C) Their earnings were worth twice as much as today.
 - D) They were better off than workers in other industries.
62. What does the author say about retired people today?
- A) They invariably long to return to the golden past.
 - B) They do not depend so much on social welfare.
 - C) They feel more secure economically than in the past.
 - D) They are usually unwilling to live with their children.
63. Why couldn't black workers buy a house in a white suburban neighborhood?
- A) They lacked the means of transportation.
 - B) They were subjected to racial inequality.
 - C) They were afraid to break the law.
 - D) They were too poor to afford it.
64. What is the result of no-fault divorce?
- A) Divorce is easier to obtain.
 - B) Domestic violence is lessened.
 - C) It causes little pain to either side.
 - D) It contributes to social unrest.
65. What does the author suggest society do?
- A) Get prepared to face any new challenges.
 - B) Try to better the current social security net.
 - C) Narrow the gap between blacks and whites.
 - D) Improve the lives of families with problems.

- 56. B) It facilitates daily communication.
- 57. B) They are worldwide.
- 58. C) It lacks an objective evaluation of the role of Internet businesses.
- 59. A) People will be living in two different realities.
- 60. D) They don't take sides in analyzing the effects of the Internet.
- 61. B) It was not too difficult for them to buy a house.
- 62. C) They feel more secure economically than in the past.
- 63. B) They were subjected to racial inequality.
- 64. A) Divorce is easier to obtain.
- 65. D) Improve the lives of families with problems.

2014-12-2 passage 1

New Yorkers are gradually getting used to more pedaling (骑车的) passengers on those shining blue Citi Bikes. But what about local bike shops? Is Citi Bike rolling up riders at their expense?

At Gotham Bikes in Tribeca, manager W. Ben said the shop has seen an increase in its overall sales due to the bike-share program. "It's getting more people on the road," he said. James Ryan, an employee at Danny's Cycles in Gramercy also said Citi Bike is a good option for people to ease into biking in a city famed for its traffic jams and aggressive drivers. "They can try out a bike without committing to buying one," he said.

Rentals are not a big part of the business at either Gotham Bikes or Danny's Cycles. But for Frank's Bike Shop, a small business on Grand St., the bike-share program has been bad news. Owner Frank Arroyo said his rental business has decreased by 90% since Citi Bike was rolled out last month. Arroyo's main rental customers are European tourists, who have since been drawn away by Citi Bikes.

However, Ben said the bike-share is good for bike sales at his shop. "People have used the bike-share and realized how great it is to bike in the city, then decide that they want something nicer for themselves," he noted.

Christian Farrell of Waterfront Bicycle Shop, on West St. just north of Christopher St., said initially he was concerned about bike-share, though, he admitted, "I was happy to see people on bikes."

Farrell's early concerns were echoed by Andrew Crooks, owner of NYC Velo, at 64 Second Ave. "It seemed like a great idea, but one that would be difficult to implement," Crooks said of Citi Bike. He said he worried about inexperienced riders' lack of awareness of building rules and strong negative reaction from non-cyclists. However, he said, it's still too early to tell if his business has been impacted.

While it's possible bike-share will cause a drop in business, Crooks allowed that the idea is a positive step forward for New York City.

56. What is the author's chief concern about the increasing use of Citi Bikes in New York?

- A) How non-cyclists will respond to it.
- B) Whether local bike shops will suffer.
- C) Whether local bike businesses will oppose it.
- D) How the safety of bike riders can be ensured.

57. What happened to Gotham Bikes as a result of the bike-share program?

- A) It found its bike sales unaffected.
- B) It shifted its business to rentals.
- C) It saw its bike sales on the rise.
- D) It rented more bikes to tourists.

58. Why is the bike-share program bad news for Frank's Bike Shop?

- A) It cannot meet the demand of the bike-share program.

- B) Its customers have been drawn away by Citi Bikes.
 - C) Its bike prices have to be lowered again and again.
 - D) It has to compete with the city's bike rental shops.
59. Why did Andrew Crooks think that the bike-share program would be difficult to execute?
- A) Inexperienced riders might break biking rules.
 - B) Conflicts might arise among bike rental shops.
 - C) Traffic conditions might worsen in the downtown area.
 - D) There are not enough lanes to accommodate the bikes.
60. What is the general attitude of local bike shops towards Citi Bike?
- A) Wait-and-see.
 - B) Negative.
 - C) Indifferent.
 - D) Approving.

2014-12-2 passage 2

Various studies have shown that increased spending on education has not led to measurable improvements in learning. Between 1980 and 2008, staff and teachers at U.S. public schools grew roughly twice as fast as students. Yet students showed no additional learning in achievement tests.

Universities show similar trends of increased administration personnel and costs without greater learning, as documented in Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa's recent book *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*.

A survey shows that 63% of employers say that recent college graduates don't have the skills they need to succeed and 25% of employers say that entry-level writing skills are lacking.

Some simplistically attribute the decline in our public education system to the drain of skilled students by private schools, but far more significant events were at work.

Public schools worked well until about the 1970s. In fact, until that time, public schools provided far better education than private ones. It was the underperforming students who were thrown out of public schools and went to private ones.

A prominent reason public schools did well was that many highly qualified women had few options for working outside the house other than being teachers or nurses. They accepted relatively low pay, difficult working conditions, and gave their very best.

Having such a large supply of talented women teachers meant that society could pay less for their services. Women's liberation opened up new professional opportunities for women, and, over time, some of the best left teaching as a career option, bringing about a gradual decline in the quality of schooling.

Also around that time, regulations, government, and unions came to dictate pay, prevent adjustments, and introduce bureaucratic (官僚的) standard for advancement. Large education bureaucracies and unions came to dominate the landscape, confusing activity with achievement. Bureaucrats regularly rewrite curriculums, talk nonsense about theories of education, and require

ever more administrators. The end result has been that, after all the spending, students have worse math and reading skills than both their foreign peers and earlier generations spending far less on education--as all the accumulating evidence now documents.

61. What do we learn from various studies on America's public education?
- A) Achievement tests have failed to truly reflect the quality of teaching.
 - B) Public schools lack the resources to compete with private schools.
 - C) Little improvement in education has resulted from increased spending.
 - D) The number of students has increased much faster than that of teachers.
62. How do some people explain the decline in public education?
- A) Government investment does not meet schools' needs.
 - B) Skilled students are moving to private schools.
 - C) Qualified teachers are far from adequately paid.
 - D) Training of students' basic skills is neglected.
63. What was a significant contributor to the past glory of public schools?
- A) Well-behaved students.
 - B) Efficient administration.
 - C) Talented women teachers.
 - D) Generous pay for teachers.
64. Why did some of the best women teachers leave teaching?
- A) New career opportunities were made available to them by women's liberation.
 - B) Higher academic requirements made it difficult for them to stay in their jobs.
 - C) They were unhappy with the bureaucratic administration in their schools.
 - D) The heavy teaching loads left them little time and energy for family life.
65. What does the author think is one of the results of government involvement in education?
- A) Increasing emphasis on theories of education.
 - B) Highly standardized teaching methods.
 - C) Students' improved academic performance.
 - D) An ever-growing number of administrators.

- 56. B) Whether local bike shops will suffer.
- 57. C) It saw its bike sales on the rise.
- 58. B) Its customers have been drawn away by Citi Bikes.
- 59. A) Inexperienced riders might break biking rules.
- 60. D) Approving.
- 61. C) Little improvement in education has resulted from increased spending.
- 62. B) Skilled students are moving to private schools.
- 63. C) Talented women teachers.
- 64. A) New career opportunities were made available to them by women's liberation.
- 65. D) An ever-growing number of administrators.

2014-12-3 passage 1

Children are a delight. They are our future. But sadly, hiring someone to take care of them while you go to work is getting more expensive by the year.

Earlier this month, it was reported that the cost of enrolling an infant or small kid at a childcare center rose 3% in 2012, faster than the overall cost of living. There are now large strips of the country where daycare for an infant costs more than a tenth of the average married couple's income.

This is not necessarily a new trend, but it is a somewhat puzzling one. The price of professional childcare has been rising since the 1980s. Yet during that time, pay for professional childcare workers has stood still. Actually caregivers make less today, in real terms, than they did in 1990. Considering that labor costs are responsible for up to 80% of a daycare center's expenses, one would expect flat wages to have meant flat prices.

So who's to blame for higher childcare costs?

Childcare is a carefully regulated industry. States lay down rules about how many children each employee is allowed to watch over, the space care centers need per child, and other minute details. And the stricter the regulations, the higher the costs. If it has to hire a caregiver for every two children, it can't really achieve any economies of scale on labor to save money when other expenses go up. In Massachusetts, where childcare centers must hire one teacher for every three infants, the price of care averaged more than \$16,000 per year. In Mississippi, where centers must hire one teacher for every five infants, the price of care averaged less than \$5,000.

Unfortunately, I don't have all the daycare-center regulations handy. But I wouldn't be surprised if as the rules have become more elaborate, prices have risen. The tradeoff (交换) might be worth it in some cases; after all, the health and safety of children should probably come before cheap service. But certainly, it doesn't seem to be an accident that some of the cheapest daycare available is in the least regulated South.

56. What problem do parents of small kids have to face?

- A) The ever-rising childcare prices.
- B) The budgeting of family expenses.
- C) The balance between work and family.
- D) The selection of a good daycare center.

57. What does the author feel puzzled about?

- A) Why the prices of childcare vary greatly from state to state.
- B) Why increased childcare prices have not led to better service.
- C) Why childcare workers' pay has not increased with the rising childcare costs.
- D) Why there is a severe shortage of childcare professionals in a number of states.

58. What prevents childcare centers from saving money?

- A) Steady increase in labor costs.
- B) Strict government regulations.

- C) Lack of support from the state.
 - D) High administrative expenses.
59. Why is the average cost of childcare in Mississippi much lower than in Massachusetts?
- A) The overall quality of service is not as good.
 - B) Payments for caregivers there are not as high.
 - C) Living expenses there are comparatively low.
 - D) Each teacher is allowed to care for more kids.
60. What is the author's view on daycare service?
- A) Caregivers should receive regular professional training.
 - B) Less elaborate rules about childcare might lower costs.
 - C) It is crucial to strike a balance between quality and costs.
 - D) It is better for different states to learn from each other.

2012-12-3 passage 2

Alex Pang's amusing new book *The Distraction Addiction* addresses those of us who feel panic without a cellphone or computer. And that, he claims, is pretty much all of us. When we're not online, where we spend four months annually, we're engaged in the stressful work of trying to get online.

The Distraction Addiction is not framed as a self-help book. It's a thoughtful examination of the dangers of our computing overdose and a historical overview of how technological advances change consciousness. A "professional futurist", Pang urges an approach which he calls "contemplative (沉思的) computing." He asks that you pay full attention to "how your mind and body interact with computers and how your attention and creativity are influenced by technology."

Pang's first job is to free you from the common misconception that doing two things at once allows you to get more done. What is commonly called multitasking is, in fact, switch-tasking, and its harmful effects on productivity are well documented. Pang doesn't advocate returning to a pre-Internet world. Instead, he asks you to "take a more ecological (生态的) view of your relationships with technologies and look for ways devices or media may be making specific tasks easier or faster but at the same time making your work and life harder."

The Distraction Addiction is particularly fascinating on how technologies have changed certain fields of labor--often for the worse. For architects, computer-aided design has become essential but in some ways has cheapened the design process. As one architect puts it, "Architecture is first and foremost about thinking...and drawing is a more productive way of thinking" than computer-aided design. Somewhat less amusing are Pang's solutions for kicking the Internet habit. He recommends the usual behavior-modification approaches, familiar to anyone who has completed a not smoking program. Keep logs to study your online profile and decide what you can knock out, download a program like Freedom that locks you out of your browser, or take a "digital Sabbath (安息日)": "Unless you're a reporter or emergency-department doctor, you'll discover that your world doesn't fall apart when you go offline."

61. Alex Pang's new book is aimed for readers who _____

- A) find their work online too stressful
- B) go online mainly for entertainment
- C) are fearful about using the cell phone or computer
- D) can hardly tear themselves away from the Internet

62. What does Alex Pang try to do in his new book?

- A) Offer advice on how to use the Internet effectively.
- B) Warn people of the possible dangers of Internet use.
- C) Predict the trend of future technological development.
- D) Examine the influence of technology on the human mind.

63. What is the common view on multitasking?

- A) It enables people to work more effectively.
- B) It is in a way quite similar to switch-tasking.
- C) It makes people's work and life even harder.
- D) It distracts people's attention from useful work.

64. What does the author think of computer-aided design?

- A) It considerably cuts down the cost of building design.
- B) It somewhat restrains architects' productive thinking.
- C) It is indispensable in architects' work process.
- D) It can free architects from laborious drawing.

65. What is Alex Pang's recommendation for Internet users?

- A) They use the Internet as little as possible.
- B) They keep a record of their computer use time.
- C) They exercise self-control over their time online.
- D) They entertain themselves online on off-days only.

56. A) The ever-rising childcare prices.
57. C) Why childcare workers' pay has not increased with the rising childcare costs.
58. B) Strict government regulations.
59. D) Each teacher is allowed to care for more kids.
60. B) Less elaborate rules about childcare might lower costs.
61. D) can hardly tear themselves away from the Internet
62. D) Examine the influence of technology on the human mind.
63. A) It enables people to work more effectively.
64. B) It somewhat restrains architects' productive thinking.
65. C) They exercise self-control over their time online.

2015-06-1 passage 1

If you think a high-factor sunscreen (防晒霜) keeps you safe from harmful rays, you may be wrong. Research in this week's Nature shows that while factor 50 reduces the number of melanomas (黑瘤) and delays their occurrence, it can't prevent them. Melanomas are the most aggressive skin cancers. You have a higher risk if you have red or blond hair, fair skin, blue or green eyes, or sunburn easily, or if a close relative has had one. Melanomas are more common if you have periodic intense exposure to the sun. Other skin cancers are increasingly likely with long-term exposure.

There is continuing debate as to how effective sunscreen is in reducing melanomas--the evidence is weaker than it is for preventing other types of skin cancer. A 2011 Australian study of 1,621 people found that people randomly selected to apply sunscreen daily had half the rate of melanomas of people who used cream as needed. A second study, comparing 1,167 people with melanomas to 1,101 who didn't have the cancer, found that using sunscreen routinely, alongside other protection such as hats, long sleeves or staying in the shade, did give some protection. This study said other forms of sun protection not sunscreen seemed most beneficial. The study relied on people remembering what they had done over each decade of their lives, so it's not entirely reliable. But it seems reasonable to think sunscreen gives people a false sense of security in the sun.

Many people also don't use sunscreen properly--applying insufficient amounts, failing to reapply after a couple of hours and staying in the sun too long. It is sunburn that is most worrying--recent research shows five episodes of sunburn in the teenage years increases the risk of all skin cancers.

The good news is that a combination of sunscreen and covering up can reduce melanoma rates, as shown by Australian figures from their slip-slop-slap campaign. So if there is a heat wave this summer, it would be best for us, too, to slip on a shirt, slop on (抹上) sunscreen and slap on a hat.

56. What is people's common expectation of a high-factor sunscreen?

- A) It will delay the occurrence of skin cancer.
- B) It will protect them from sunburn.
- C) It will keep their skin smooth and fair.
- D) It will work for people of any skin color.

57. What does the research in Nature say about a high-factor sunscreen?

- A) It is ineffective in preventing melanomas.
- B) It is ineffective in case of intense sunlight.
- C) It is ineffective with long-term exposure.
- D) It is ineffective for people with fair skin.

58. What do we learn from the 2011 Australian study of 1,621 people?

- A) Sunscreen should be applied alongside other protection measures.
- B) High-risk people benefit the most from the application of sunscreen.

- C) Irregular application of sunscreen does women more harm than good.
D) Daily application of sunscreen helps reduce the incidence of melanomas.
59. What does the author say about the second Australian study?
- A) It misleads people to rely on sunscreen for protection.
B) It helps people to select the most effective sunscreen.
C) It is not based on direct observation of the subjects.
D) It confirms the results of the first Australian study.
60. What does the author suggest to reduce melanoma rates?
- A) Using both covering up and sunscreen.
B) Staying in the shade whenever possible.
C) Using covering up instead of sunscreen.
D) Applying the right amount of sunscreen.

2015-06-2 passage 2

Across the rich world, well-educated people increasingly work longer than the less-skilled. Some 65% of American men aged 62-74 with a professional degree are in the workforce, compared with 32% of men with only a high-school certificate. This gap is part of a deepening divide between the well-educated well-off and the unskilled poor. Rapid technological advance has raised the incomes of the highly skilled while squeezing those of the unskilled. The consequences, for individuals and society, are profound.

The world is facing an astonishing rise in the number of old people, and they will live longer than ever before. Over the next 20 years the global population of those aged 65 or more will almost double, from 600 million to 1.1 billion. The experience of the 20th century, when greater longevity(长寿) translated into more years in retirement rather than more years at work, has persuaded many observers that this shift will lead to slower economic growth, while the swelling ranks of pensioners will create government budget problems.

But the notion of a sharp division between the working young and the idle old misses a new trend, the growing gap between the skilled and the unskilled. Employment rates are falling among younger unskilled people, whereas older skilled folk are working longer. The divide is most extreme in America, where well-educated baby-boomers(二战后生育高峰期出生的美国人) are putting off retirement while many less-skilled younger people have dropped out of the workforce.

Policy is partly responsible. Many European governments have abandoned policies that used to encourage people to retire early. Rising life expectancy(预期寿命), combined with the replacement of generous defined-benefit pension plans with less generous defined-contribution ones, means that even the better-off must work longer to have a comfortable retirement. But the changing nature of work also plays a big role. Pay has risen sharply for the highly educated, and those people continue to reap rich rewards into old age because these days the educated elderly are more productive than the preceding generation. Technological change may well reinforce that shift:

the skills that complement computers, from management knowhow to creativity, do not necessarily decline with age.

61. What is happening in the workforce in rich countries?

- A) Younger people are replacing the elderly.
- B) Well-educated people tend to work longer.
- C) Unemployment rates are rising year after year.
- D) People with no college degree do not easily find work.

62. What has helped deepen the divide between the well-off and the poor?

- A) Longer life expectancies.
- B) A rapid technological advance.
- C) Profound changes in the workforce.
- D) A growing number of the well-educated.

63. What do many observers predict in view of the experience of the 20th century?

- A) Economic growth will slow down.
- B) Government budgets will increase.
- C) More people will try to pursue higher education.
- D) There will be more competition in the job market.

64. What is the result of policy changes in European countries?

- A) Unskilled workers may choose to retire early.
- B) More people have to receive in-service training.
- C) Even wealthy people must work longer to live comfortably in retirement.
- D) People may be able to enjoy generous defined-benefits from pension plans.

65. What is characteristic of work in the 21st century?

- A) Computers will do more complicated work.
- B) More will be taken by the educated young.
- C) Most jobs to be done will be the creative ones.
- D) Skills are highly valued regardless of age.

- 56. B) It will protect them from sunburn.
- 57. A) It is ineffective in preventing melanomas.
- 58. D) Daily application of sunscreen helps reduce the incidence of melanomas.
- 59. C) It is not based on direct observation of the subjects.
- 60. A) Using both covering up and sunscreen.
- 61. B) Well-educated people tend to work longer.
- 62. B) A rapid technological advance.
- 63. A) Economic growth will slow down.
- 64. C) Even wealthy people must work longer to live comfortably in retirement.
- 65. D) Skills are highly valued regardless of age.

2015-06-2 passage 1

The endless debate about “work-life balance” often contains a hopeful footnote about stay at home dads. If American society and business won’t make it easier on future female leaders who choose to have children, there is still the ray of hope that increasing numbers of full-time fathers will. But based on today’s socioeconomic trends, this hope is, unfortunately, misguided.

It’s true that the number of men who have left work to do their thing as full-time parents has doubled in a decade, but it’s still very small: only 0.8% of married couples where the stay-at-home father was out of the labor force for a year. Even that percentage is likely inflated by men thrust into their caretaker role by a downsizing. This is simply not a large enough group to reduce the social stigma(污名) and force other adjustments necessary to supporting men in this decision, even if only for a relatively short time.

Even shorter times away from work for working fathers are already difficult. A study found that 85 % of new fathers take some time off after the birth of a child--but for all but a few, it’s a week or two at most. Meanwhile, the average for women who take leave is more than 10 weeks.

Such choices impact who moves up in the organization. While you’re away, someone else is doing your work, making your sales, taking care of your customers. That can’t help you at work. It can only hurt you. Women, of course, face the same issues of returning after a long absence. But with many more women than men choosing to leave the workforce entirely to raise families, returning from an extended parental leave doesn’t raise as many eyebrows as it does for men.

Women would make more if they didn’t break their earning trajectory(轨迹) by leaving the workforce, or if higher-paying professions were more family friendly. In the foreseeable future, stay-at-home fathers may make all the difference for individual families, but their presence won’t reduce the numbers of high potential women who are forced to choose between family and career.

56. What gives women a ray of hope to achieve work life balance?

- A) More men taking an extended parental leave.
- B) People’s changing attitudes towards family.
- C) More women entering business management.
- D) The improvement of their socioeconomic status.

57. Why does the author say the hope for more full-time fathers is misguided?

- A) Women are better at taking care of children.
- B) Many men value work more than their family.
- C) Their number is too small to make a difference.
- D) Not many men have the chance to stay at home.

58. Why do few men take a long parental leave?

- A) A long leave will have a negative impact on their career.
- B) They just have too many responsibilities to fulfill at work.
- C) The economic loss will be too much for their family to bear.
- D) They are likely to get fired if absent from work for too long.

59. What is the most likely reaction to men returning from an extended parental leave?

- A) Jealousy.
- B) Surprise.
- C) Admiration.
- D) Sympathy.

60. What does the author say about high-potential women in the not-too-distant future?

- A) They will benefit from the trend of more fathers staying at home.
- B) They will find high-paying professions a bit more family-friendly.
- C) They are unlikely to break their career trajectory to raise a family.
- D) They will still face the difficult choice between career and children.

2015-06-2 passage 2

Some of the world's most significant problems never hit headlines. One example comes from agriculture. Food riots and hunger make news. But the trend lying behind these matters is rarely talked about. This is the decline in the growth in yields of some of the world's major crops. A new study by the University of Minnesota and McGill University in Montreal looks at where, and how far, this decline is occurring.

The authors take a vast number of data points for the four most important crops: rice, wheat, corn and soybeans(大豆). They find that on between 24 % and 39 % of all harvested areas, the improvement in yields that took place before the 1980s slowed down in the 1990s and 2000s.

There are two worrying features of the slowdown. One is that it has been particularly sharp in the world's most populous(人口多的) countries, India and China. Their ability to feed themselves has been an important source of relative stability both within the countries and on world food markets. That self-sufficiency cannot be taken for granted if yields continue to slow down or reverse.

Second, yield growth has been lower in wheat and rice than in corn and soybeans. This is problematic because wheat and rice are more important as foods, accounting for around half of all calories consumed. Corn and soybeans are more important as feed grains. The authors note that "we have preferentially focused our crop improvement efforts on feeding animals and cars rather than on crops that feed people and are the basis of food security in much of the world. "

The report qualifies the more optimistic findings of another new paper which suggests that the world will not have to dig up a lot more land for farming in order to feed 9 billion people in 2050, as the Food and Agriculture Organization has argued.

Instead, it says, thanks to slowing population growth, land currently ploughed up for crops might be able to revert(回返) to forest or wilderness. This could happen. The trouble is that the forecast assumes continued improvements in yields which may not actually happen.

61. What does the author try to draw attention to?

- A) Food riots and hunger in the world.
- B) News headlines in the leading media.
- C) The decline of the grain yield growth.

- D) The food supply in populous countries.
62. Why does the author mention India and China in particular?
- A) Their self-sufficiency is vital to the stability of world food markets.
 - B) Their food yields have begun to decrease sharply in recent years.
 - C) Their big populations are causing worldwide concerns.
 - D) Their food self-sufficiency has been taken for granted.
63. What does the new study by the two universities say about recent crop improvement efforts?
- A) They fail to produce the same remarkable results as before the 1980s.
 - B) They contribute a lot to the improvement of human food production.
 - C) They play a major role in guaranteeing the food security of the world.
 - D) They focus more on the increase of animal feed than human food grains.
64. What does the Food and Agriculture Organization say about world food production in the coming decades?
- A) The growing population will greatly increase the pressure on world food supplies.
 - B) The optimistic prediction about food production should be viewed with caution.
 - C) The slowdown of the growth in yields of major food crops will be reversed.
 - D) The world will be able to feed its population without increasing farmland.
65. How does the author view the argument of the Food and Agriculture Organization?
- A) It is built on the findings of a new study.
 - B) It is based on a doubtful assumption.
 - C) It is backed by strong evidence.
 - D) It is open to further discussion.

- 56. A) More men taking an extended parental leave.
- 57. C) Their number is too small to make a difference.
- 58. A) A long leave will have a negative impact on their career.
- 59. B) Surprise.
- 60. D) They will still face the difficult choice between career and children.
- 61. C) The decline of the grain yield growth.
- 62. A) Their self-sufficiency is vital to the stability of world food markets.
- 63. D) They focus more on the increase of animal feed than human food grains.
- 64. D) The world will be able to feed its population without increasing farmland.
- 65. B) It is based on a doubtful assumption.

2015-06-3 passage 1

Junk food is everywhere. We're eating way too much of it. Most of us know what we're doing and yet we do it anyway.

So here's a suggestion offered by two researchers at the Rand Corporation: Why not take a lesson from alcohol control policies and apply them to where food is sold and how it's displayed?

"Many policy measures to control obesity (肥胖症) assume that people consciously and rationally choose what and how much they eat and therefore focus on providing information and more access to healthier foods," note the two researchers.

"In contrast," the researchers continue, "many regulations that don't assume people make rational choices have been successfully applied to control alcohol, a substance--like food--of which immoderate consumption leads to serious health problems. "

The research references studies of people's behavior with food and alcohol and results of alcohol restrictions, and then lists five regulations that the researchers think might be promising if applied to junk foods. Among them:

Density restrictions: licenses to sell alcohol aren't handed out unplanned to all comers but are allotted (分配) based on the number of places in an area that already sell alcohol. These make alcohol less easy to get and reduce the number of psychological cues to drink.

Similarly, the researchers say, being presented with junk food stimulates our desire to eat it. So why not limit the density of food outlets, particularly ones that sell food rich in empty calories? And why not limit sale of food in places that aren't primarily food stores?

Display and sales restrictions: California has a rule prohibiting alcohol displays near the cash registers in gas stations, and in most places you can't buy alcohol at drive-through facilities. At supermarkets, food companies pay to have their wares in places where they're easily seen. One could remove junk food to the back of the store and ban them from the shelves at checkout lines. The other measures include restricting portion sizes, taxing and prohibiting special price deals for junk foods, and placing warning labels on the products.

56. What does the author say about junk food?

- A) People should be educated not to eat too much.
- B) It is widely consumed despite its ill reputation.
- C) Its temptation is too strong for people to resist.
- D) It causes more harm than is generally realized.

57. What do the Rand researchers think of many of the policy measures to control obesity?

- A) They should be implemented effectively.
- B) They provide misleading information.
- C) They are based on wrong assumptions.
- D) They help people make rational choices.

58. Why do policymakers of alcohol control place density restrictions?

- A) Few people are able to resist alcohol's temptations.
- B) There are already too many stores selling alcohol.

- C) Drinking strong alcohol can cause social problems.
 - D) Easy access leads to customers' over-consumption.
59. What is the purpose of California's rule about alcohol display in gas stations?
- A) To effectively limit the density of alcohol outlets.
 - B) To help drivers to give up the habit of drinking.
 - C) To prevent possible traffic jams in nearby areas.
 - D) To get alcohol out of drivers' immediate sight.
60. What is the general guideline the Rand researchers suggest about junk food control?
- A) Guiding people to make rational choices about food.
 - B) Enhancing people's awareness of their own health.
 - C) Borrowing ideas from alcohol control measures.
 - D) Resorting to economic, legal and psychological means.

2015-06-3 passage 2

Kodak's decision to file for bankruptcy (破产) protection is a sad, though not unexpected, turning point for a leading American corporation that pioneered consumer photography and dominated the film market for decades, but ultimately failed to adapt to the digital revolution.

Although many attribute Kodak's downfall to "complacency(自满)," that explanation doesn't acknowledge the lengths to which the company went to reinvent itself. Decades ago, Kodak anticipated that digital photography would overtake film--and in fact, Kodak invented the first digital camera in 1975--but in a fateful decision, the company chose to shelf its new discovery to focus on its traditional film business.

It wasn't that Kodak was blind to the future, said Rebecca Henderson, a professor at Harvard Business School, but rather that it failed to execute on a strategy to confront it. By the time the company realized its mistake, it was too late.

Kodak is an example of a firm that was very much aware that they had to adapt, and spent a lot of money trying to do so, but ultimately failed. Large companies have a difficult time switching to new markets because there is a temptation to put existing assets into the new businesses.

Although Kodak anticipated the inevitable rise of digital photography, its corporate culture was too rooted in the successes of the past for it to make the clean break necessary to fully embrace the future. They were a company stuck in time. Their history was so important to them. Now their history has become a liability.

Kodak's downfall over the last several decades was dramatic. In 1976, the company commanded 90% of the market for photographic film and 85% of the market for cameras. But the 1980s brought new competition from Japanese film company Fuji Photo, which undermined Kodak by offering lower prices for film and photo supplies. Kodak's decision not to pursue the role of official film for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics was a major miscalculation. The bid went instead to Fuji, which exploited its sponsorship to win a permanent foothold in the marketplace.

61. What do we learn about Kodak?
- A) It went bankrupt all of a sudden.
 - B) It is approaching its downfall.
 - C) It initiated the digital revolution in the film industry.
 - D) It is playing the dominant role in the film market.
62. Why does the author mention Kodak's Invention of the first digital camera?
- A) To show its early attempt to reinvent itself.
 - B) To show its effort to overcome complacency.
 - C) To show its quick adaptation to the digital revolution.
 - D) To show its will to compete with Japan's Fuji Photo.
63. Why do large companies have difficulty switching to new markets?
- A) They find it costly to give up their existing assets.
 - B) They tend to be slow in confronting new challenges.
 - C) They are unwilling to invest in new technology.
 - D) They are deeply stuck in their glorious past.
64. What does the author say Kodak's history has become?
- A) A burden.
 - B) A mirror.
 - C) A joke.
 - D) A challenge.
65. What was Kodak's fatal mistake?
- A) Its blind faith in traditional photography.
 - B) Its failure to see Fuji Photo's emergence.
 - C) Its refusal to sponsor the 1984 Olympics.
 - D) Its overconfidence in its corporate culture.

- 56. B) It is widely consumed despite its ill reputation.
- 57. C) They are based on wrong assumptions.
- 58. D) Easy access leads to customers' over-consumption.
- 59. D) To get alcohol out of drivers' immediate sight.
- 60. C) Borrowing ideas from alcohol control measures.
- 61. B) It is approaching its downfall.
- 62. A) To show its early attempt to reinvent itself.
- 63. D) They are deeply stuck in their glorious past.
- 64. A) A burden.
- 65. C) Its refusal to sponsor the 1984 Olympics.

2015-12-1 passage 1

When it's five o'clock, people leave their office. The length of the workday, for many workers, is defined by time. They leave when the clock tells them they're done.

These days, the time is everywhere: not just on clocks or watches, but on cell-phones and computers. That may be a bad thing, particularly at work. New research shows that clock-based work schedules hinder morale (士气) and creativity.

Clock-timers organize their day by blocks of minutes and hours. For example: a meeting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., a research from 10 a.m. to noon, etc. On the other hand, task-timers have a list of things they want to accomplish. They work down the list, each task starts when the previous task is completed. It is said that all of us employ a mix of both these types of planning.

What, then, are the effects of thinking about time in these different ways? Does one make us more productive? Better at the tasks at hand? Happier? In experiments conducted by Tamar Avnet and Anne-Laure Sellier, they had participants organize different activities--from project planning, holidays hopping, to yoga--by time or to-do list to measure how they performed under "clock time" vs "task time." They found clock timers to be more efficient but less happy because they felt little control over their lives. Task timers are happier and more creative, but less productive. They tend to enjoy the moment when something good is happening, and seize opportunities that come up.

The researchers argue that task-based organizing tends to be undervalued and under-supported in business culture. Smart companies, they believe, will try to bake more task-based planning into their strategies.

This might be a small change to the way we view work and the office, but the researchers argue that it challenges a widespread characteristic of the economy: work organized by clock time. While most people will still probably need, and be, to some extent, clock-timers, task-based timing should be used when performing a job that requires more creativity. It'll make those tasks easier, and the task-doers will be happier.

56. What does the author think of time displayed everywhere?

- A) It makes everybody time-conscious.
- B) It is a convenience for work and life.
- C) It may have a negative effect on creative work.
- D) It clearly indicates the fast pace of modern life.

57. How do people usually go about their work according to the author?

- A) They combine clock-based and task-based planning.
- B) They give priority to the most urgent task on hand.
- C) They set a time limit for each specific task.
- D) They accomplish their tasks one by one.

58. What did Tamar Avnet and Anne-Laure Sellier find in their experiments about clock-timers?

- A) They seize opportunities as they come up.
- B) They always get their work done in time.

- C) They have more control over their lives.
D) They tend to be more productive.
59. What do the researchers say about today's business culture?
- A) It does not support the strategies adopted by smart companies.
B) It does not attach enough importance to task-based practice.
C) It places more emphasis on work efficiency than on workers' lives.
D) It aims to bring employees' potential and creativity into full play.
60. What do the researchers suggest?
- A) Task-based timing is preferred for doing creative work.
B) It is important to keep a balance between work and life.
C) Performing creative jobs tends to make workers happier.
D) A scientific standard should be adopted in job evaluation.

2015-12-2 passage 2

Martha Stewart was charged, tried and convicted of a crime in 2004. As she neared the end of her prison sentence, a well-known columnist wrote that she was "paying her dues," and that "there is simply no reason for anyone to attempt to deny her right to start anew."

Surely, the American ideal of second chances should not be reserved only for the rich and powerful. Unfortunately, many federal and state laws impose post-conviction restrictions on a shockingly large number of Americans, who are prevented from ever fully paying their debt to society.

At least 65 million people in the United States have a criminal record. This can result in severe penalties that continue long after punishment is completed.

Many of these penalties are imposed regardless of the seriousness of the offense or the person's individual circumstances. Laws can restrict or ban voting, access to public housing, and professional and business licensing. They can affect a person's ability to get a job and qualification for benefits.

In all, more than 45 000 laws and rules serve to exclude vast numbers of people from fully participating in American life.

Some laws make sense. No one advocates letting someone convicted of pedophilia (恋童癖) work in a school. But too often collateral (随附的) consequences bear no relation to public safety. Should a woman who possessed a small amount of drugs years ago be permanently unable to be licensed as a nurse?

These laws are also counterproductive, since they make it harder for people with criminal records to find housing or land a job, two key factors that reduce backsliding.

A recent report makes several recommendations, including the abolition of most post-conviction penalties, except for those specifically needed to protect public safety. Where the penalties are not a must, they should be imposed only if the facts of a case support it.

The point is not to excuse or forget the crime. Rather, it is to recognize that in America's vast

criminal justice system, second chances are crucial. It is in no one's interest to keep a large segment of the population on the margins of society.

61. What does the well-known columnist's remark about Martha Stewart suggest?

- A) Her past record might stand in her way to a new life.
- B) Her business went bankrupt while she was in prison.
- C) Her release from prison has drawn little attention.
- D) Her prison sentence might have been extended.

62. What do we learn from the second paragraph about many criminals in America?

- A) They backslide after serving their terms in prison.
- B) They are deprived of chances to turn over a new leaf.
- C) They receive severe penalties for committing minor offenses.
- D) They are convicted regardless of their individual circumstances.

63. What are the consequences for many Americans with a criminal record?

- A) They remain poor for the rest of their lives.
- B) They are deprived of all social benefits.
- C) They are marginalized in society.
- D) They are deserted by their family.

64. What does the author think of the post-conviction laws and rules?

- A) They help to maintain social stability.
- B) Some of them have long been outdated.
- C) They are hardly understood by the public.
- D) A lot of them have negative effects on society.

65. What is the author's main purpose in writing the passage?

- A) To create opportunities for criminals to reform themselves.
- B) To appeal for changes in America's criminal justice system.
- C) To ensure that people with a criminal record live a decent life.
- D) To call people's attention to prisoners' conditions in America.

- 56. C) It may have a negative effect on creative work.
- 57. A) They combine clock-based and task-based planning.
- 58. D) They tend to be more productive.
- 59. B) It does not attach enough importance to task-based practice.
- 60. A) Task-based timing is preferred for doing creative work.
- 61. A) Her past record might stand in her way to a new life.
- 62. B) They are deprived of chances to turn over a new leaf.
- 63. C) They are marginalized in society.
- 64. D) A lot of them have negative effects on society.
- 65. B) To appeal for changes in America's criminal justice system.

2015-12-2 passage 2

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.

This 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-honored 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.

56. What is happening to the wallet?

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

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

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

58. 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.

59. 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-honored tradition.
 - D) It is the concern of contemporary economists.
60. 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.

2015-12-2 passage 2

Everybody sleeps, but what people stay up late to catch--or wake up early in order not to miss--varies by culture.

From data collected, it seems the things that cause us to lose the most sleep, on average, are sporting events, time changes, and holidays.

Around the world, people changed sleep patterns thanks to the start or end of daylight savings time. Russians, for example, began to wake up about a half-hour later each day after President Vladimir Putin shifted the country permanently to "winter time" starting on October 26.

Russia's other late nights and early mornings generally correspond to public holidays. On New Year's Eve, Russians have the world's latest bedtime, hitting the hay at around 3:30 am.

Russians also get up an hour later on International Women's Day, the day for treating and celebrating female relatives.

Similarly, Americans' late nights, late mornings, and longest sleeps fall on three-day weekends.

Canada got the least sleep of the year the night it beat Sweden in the Olympic hockey (冰球) final.

The World Cup is also chiefly responsible for sleep deprivation (剥夺). The worst night for sleep in the U. K. was the night of the England-Italy match on June 14. Brits stayed up a half-hour later to watch it, and then they woke up earlier than usual the next morning thanks to summer nights, the phenomenon in which the sun barely sets in northern countries in the summertime. That was nothing, though, compared to Germans, Italians, and the French, who stayed up around an hour and a half later on various days throughout the summer to watch the Cup.

It should be made clear that not everyone has a device to record their sleep patterns; in some of these nations, it's likely that only the richest people do. And people who elect to track their sleep may try to get more sleep than the average person. Even if that's the case, though, the above findings are still striking. If the most health-conscious among us have such deep swings in our shut-eye levels throughout the year, how much sleep are the rest of us losing?

61. What does the author say about people's sleeping habits?
- A) They are culture-related.
 - B) They affect people's health.

- C) They change with the seasons.
 - D) They vary from person to person.
62. What do we learn about the Russians regarding sleep?
- A) They don't fall asleep until very late.
 - B) They don't sleep much on weekends.
 - C) They get less sleep on public holidays.
 - D) They sleep longer than people elsewhere.
63. What is the major cause for Europeans' loss of sleep?
- A) The daylight savings time.
 - B) The colorful night life.
 - C) The World Cup.
 - D) The summertime.
64. What is the most probable reason for some rich people to use a device to record their sleep patterns?
- A) They have trouble falling asleep.
 - B) They want to get sufficient sleep.
 - C) They are involved in a sleep research.
 - D) They want to go to bed on regular hours.
65. What does the author imply in the last paragraph?
- A) Sleeplessness does harm to people's health.
 - B) Few people really know the importance of sleep.
 - C) It is important to study our sleep patterns.
 - D) Average people probably sleep less than the rich.

- 56. A) It is disappearing.
- 57. B) Electronically.
- 58. D) Spending money is so fast and easy.
- 59. A) It represents a change in the modern world.
- 60. C) He feels reluctant to part with the traditional wallet.
- 61. A) They are culture-related.
- 62. C) They get less sleep on public holidays.
- 63. C) The World Cup.
- 64. B) They want to get sufficient sleep.
- 65. B) Few people really know the importance of sleep.

2015-12-3 passage 1

Could you reproduce Silicon Valley elsewhere, or is there something unique about it?

It wouldn't be surprising if it were hard to reproduce in other countries, because you couldn't reproduce it in most of the US either. What does it take to make a Silicon Valley?

It's the right people. If you could get the right ten thousand people to move from Silicon Valley to Buffalo, Buffalo would become Silicon Valley.

You only need two kinds of people to create a technology hub (中心): rich people and nerds (痴迷科研的人).

Observation bears this out. Within the US, towns have become star up hubs if and only if they have both rich people and nerds. Few startups happen in Miami, for example, because although it's full of rich people, it has few nerds. It's not the kind of place nerds like.

Whereas Pittsburgh has the opposite problem: plenty of nerds, but no rich people. The top US Computer Science departments are said to be MIT, Stanford, Berkeley, and Carnegie-Mellon. MIT yielded Route 128. Stanford and Berkeley yielded Silicon Valley. But what did Carnegie-Mellon yield in Pittsburgh? And what happened in Ithaca, home of Cornell University, which is also high on the list?

I grew up in Pittsburgh and went to college at Cornell, so I can answer for both. The weather is terrible, particularly in winter, and there's no interesting old city to make up for it, as there is in Boston. Rich people don't want to live in Pittsburgh or Ithaca. So while there're plenty of hackers (电脑迷) who could start startups, there's no one to invest in them.

Do you really need the rich people? Wouldn't it work to have the government invest in the nerds? No, it would not. Startup investors are a distinct type of rich people. They tend to have a lot of experience themselves in the technology business. This helps them pick the right startups, and means they can supply advice and connections as well as money. And the fact that they have a personal stake in the outcome makes them really pay attention.

56. What do we learn about Silicon Valley from the passage?

- A) Its success is hard to copy anywhere else.
- B) It is the biggest technology hub in the US.
- C) Its fame in high technology is incomparable.
- D) It leads the world in information technology.

57. What makes Miami unfit to produce a Silicon Valley?

- A) Lack of incentive for investment.
- B) Lack of the right kind of talents.
- C) Lack of government support.
- D) Lack of famous universities.

58. In what way is Carnegie-Mellon different from Stanford, Berkeley and MIT?

- A) Its location is not as attractive to rich people.
- B) Its science departments are not nearly as good.
- C) It does not produce computer hackers and nerds.

D) It does not pay much attention to business startups.

59. What does the author imply about Boston?

A) It has pleasant weather all year round.

B) It produces wealth as well as high-tech.

C) It is not likely to attract lots of investors and nerds.

D) It is an old city with many sites of historical interest.

60. What does the author say about startup investors?

A) They are especially wise in making investments.

B) They have good connections in the government.

C) They can do more than providing money.

D) They are rich enough to invest in nerds.

2015-12-3 passage 2

It's nice to have people of like mind around. Agreeable people boost your confidence and allow you to relax and feel comfortable. Unfortunately, that comfort can hinder the very learning that can expand your company and your career.

It's nice to have people agree, but you need conflicting perspectives to dig out the truth. If everyone around you has similar views, your work will suffer from confirmation bias (偏颇).

Take a look at your own network. Do your contacts share your point of view on most subjects? If yes, it's time to shake things up. As a leader, it can be challenging to create an environment in which people will freely disagree and argue, but as the saying goes: From confrontation comes brilliance.

It's not easy for most people to actively seek conflict. Many spend their lives trying to avoid arguments. There's no need to go out and find people you hate, but you need to do some self-assessment to determine where you have become stale in your thinking. You may need to start by encouraging your current network to help you identify your blind spots.

Passionate, energetic debate does not require anger and hard feelings to be effective. But it does require moral strength. Once you have worthy opponents, set some ground rules so everyone understands responsibilities and boundaries. The objective of this debating game is not to win but to get to the truth that will allow you to move faster, farther, and better.

Fierce debating can hurt feelings, particularly when strong personalities are involved. Make sure you check in with your opponents so that they are not carrying the emotion of the battles beyond the battle field. Break the tension with smiles and humor to reinforce the idea that this is friendly discourse and that all are working toward a common goal.

Reward all those involved in the debate sufficiently when the goals are reached. Let your sparring partners (拳击陪练) know how much you appreciate their contribution. The more they feel appreciated, the more they'll be willing to get into the ring next time.

61. What happens when you have like-minded people around you all the while?

A) It will help your company expand more rapidly.

- B) It will create a harmonious working atmosphere.
 - C) It may prevent your business and career from advancing.
 - D) It may make you feel uncertain about your own decisions.
62. What does the author suggest leaders do?
- A) Avoid arguments with business partners.
 - B) Encourage people to disagree and argue.
 - C) Build a wide and strong business network.
 - D) Seek advice from their worthy competitors.
63. What is the purpose of holding a debate?
- A) To find out the truth about an issue.
 - B) To build up people's moral strength.
 - C) To remove misunderstandings.
 - D) To look for worthy opponents.
64. What advice does the author give to people engaged in a fierce debate?
- A) They listen carefully to their opponents' views.
 - B) They show due respect for each other's beliefs.
 - C) They present their views clearly and explicitly.
 - D) They take care not to hurt each other's feelings.
65. How should we treat our rivals after a successful debate?
- A) Try to make peace with them.
 - B) Try to make up the differences.
 - C) Invite them to the ring next time.
 - D) Acknowledge their contribution.

56. A

57. B.

58. A.

59. D

60. C.

61. C.

62. B.

63. A

64. D.

65. D.

2016-06-1 passage 1

Declining mental function is often seen as a problem of old age, but certain aspects of brain function actually begin their decline in young adulthood, a new study suggests.

The study, which followed more than 2,000 healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 60, found that certain mental functions—including measures of abstract reasoning, mental speed and puzzle-solving—started to dull as early as age 27.

Dips in memory, meanwhile, generally became apparent around age 37.

On the other hand, indicators of a person's accumulated knowledge—like performance on tests of vocabulary and general knowledge—kept improving with age, according to findings published in the journal *Neurobiology of Aging*.

The results do not mean that young adults need to start worrying about their memories. Most people's minds function at a high level even in their later years, according to researcher Timothy Salthouse.

"These patterns suggest that some types of mental flexibility decrease relatively early in adulthood, but that the amount of knowledge one has, and the effectiveness of integrating it with one's abilities, may increase throughout all of adulthood if there are no diseases," Salthouse said in a news release.

The study included healthy, educated adults who took standard tests of memory, reasoning and perception at the outset and at some point over the next seven years.

The tests are designed to detect *subtle* (细微的) changes in mental function, and involve solving puzzles, recalling words and details from stories, and identifying patterns in collections of letters and symbols.

In general, Salthouse and his colleagues found, certain aspects of *cognition* (认知能力) generally started to decline in the late 20s to 30s.

The findings shed light on normal age-related changes in mental function, which could aid in understanding the process of *dementia* (痴呆), according to the researchers.

"By following individuals over time," Salthouse said, "we gain insight in cognition changes, and may possibly discover ways to slow the rate of decline."

The researchers are currently analyzing the study participants' health and lifestyle to see which factors might influence age-related cognitive changes.

46. What is the common view of mental function?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| A) It varies from person to person. | C) It gradually expands with age. |
| B) It weakens in one's later years. | D) It indicates one's health condition. |

47. What does the new study find about mental functions?

- A) Some diseases inevitably lead to their decline.
B) They reach a peak at the age of 20 for most people.
C) They are closely related to physical and mental exercise.

D) Some of them begin to decline when people are still young.

48. What does Timothy Salthouse say about people's minds in most cases?

- A) They tend to decline in people's later years.
- B) Their flexibility determines one's abilities.
- C) They function quite well even in old age.
- D) Their functioning is still a puzzle to be solved.

49. Although people's minds may function less flexibly as they age, they _____.

- A) may be better at solving puzzles
- B) can memorize things with more ease
- C) may have greater facility in abstract reasoning
- D) can put what they have learnt into more effective use

50. According to Salthouse, their study may help us _____.

- A) find ways to slow down our mental decline
- B) find ways to boost our memories
- C) understand the complex process of mental functioning
- D) understand the relation between physical and mental health

2016-06-1 passage 2

The most important thing in the news last week was the rising discussion in Nashville about the educational needs of children. The *shorthand* (简写) educators use for this is "pre-K"—meaning instruction before kindergarten—and the big idea is to prepare 4-year-olds and even younger kids to be ready to succeed on their K-12 journey.

But it gets complicated. The concept has multiple forms, and scholars and policymakers argue about the shape, scope and cost of the ideal program.

The federal Head Start program, launched 50 years ago, has served more than 30 million children. It was based on concepts developed at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College by Susan Gray, the legendary pioneer in early childhood education research.

A new Peabody study of the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K program reports that pre-K works, but the gains are not sustained through the third grade. It seems to me this highlights quality issues in elementary schools more than pre-K, and indicates longer-term success must connect pre-K with all the other issues related to educating a child.

Pre-K is controversial. Some critics say it is a luxury and shouldn't be free to families able to pay. Pre-K advocates insist it is proven and will succeed if integrated with the rest of the child's schooling. I lean toward the latter view.

This is, in any case, the right conversation to be having now as Mayor Megan Barry takes office. She was the first candidate to speak out for strong pre-K programming. The important thing

is for all of us to keep in mind the real goal and the longer, bigger picture.

The weight of the evidence is on the side of pre-K that early *intervention* (干预) works. What government has not yet found is the political will to put that understanding into full practice with a sequence of smart schooling that provides the early foundation.

For this purpose, our schools need both the talent and the organization to educate each child who arrives at the schoolhouse door. Some show up ready, but many do not at this critical time when young brains are developing rapidly.

51. What does the author say about pre-kindergarten education?

- A) It should cater to the needs of individual children.
- B) It is essential to a person's future academic success.
- C) Scholars and policymakers have different opinions about it.
- D) Parents regard it as the first phase of children's development.

52. What does the new Peabody study find?

- A) Pre-K achievements usually do not last long.
- B) The third grade marks a new phase of learning.
- C) The third grade is critical to children's development.
- D) Quality has not been the top concern of pre-K programs.

53. When does the author think pre-K works the best?

- A) When it is accessible to kids of all families.
- B) When it is made part of kids' education.
- C) When it is no longer considered a luxury.
- D) When it is made fun and enjoyable to kids.

54. What do we learn about Mayor Megan Barry?

- A) She knows the real goal of education.
- B) She is a mayor of insight and vision.
- C) She has once run a pre-K program.
- D) She is a firm supporter of pre-K.

55. What does the author think is critical to kids' education?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| A) Teaching method. | C) Early intervention. |
| B) Kids' interest. | D) Parents' involvement. |

46. B) It weakens in one's later years.
- 47.D) Some of them begin to decline when people are still young.
- 48.C) They function quite well even in old age.
- 49.D) can put what they have learnt into more effective use
- 50.A) find ways to slow down our mental decline
- 51.C) Scholars and policymakers have different opinions about it.
52. A) Pre-K achievements usually do not last long.
53. B) When it is made part of kids ' education.
- 54.D) She is a firm supporter of pre-K.
- 55.C) Early intervention.

2016-06-2 passage 1

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly sophisticated, there are growing concerns that robots could become a threat. This danger can be avoided, according to computer science professor Stuart Russell, if we figure out how to turn human values into a programmable code.

Russell argues that as robots take on more complicated tasks, it's necessary to translate our morals into AI language.

For example, if a robot does chores around the house, you wouldn't want it to put the pet cat in the oven to make dinner for the hungry children. "You would want that robot preloaded with a good set of values," said Russell.

Some robots are already programmed with basic human values. For example, mobile robots have been programmed to keep a comfortable distance from humans. Obviously there are cultural differences, but if you were talking to another person and they came up close in your personal space, you wouldn't think that's the kind of thing a properly brought-up person would do.

It will be possible to create more sophisticated moral machines, if only we can find a way to set out human values as clear rules.

Robots could also learn values from drawing patterns from large sets of data on human behavior. They are dangerous only if programmers are careless.

The biggest concern with robots going against human values is that human beings fail to do sufficient testing and they've produced a system that will break some kind of *taboo* (禁忌).

One simple check would be to program a robot to check the correct course of action with a human when presented with an unusual situation.

If the robot is unsure whether an animal is suitable for the microwave, it has the opportunity to stop, send out *beeps* (嘟嘟声), and ask for directions from a human. If we humans aren't quite sure about a decision, we go and ask somebody else.

The most difficult step in programming values will be deciding exactly what we believe is moral, and how to create a set of ethical rules. But if we come up with an answer, robots could be good for humanity.

46. What does the author say about the threat of robots?

- A) It may constitute a challenge to computer programmers.
- B) It accompanies all machinery involving high technology.
- C) It can be avoided if human values are translated into their language.
- D) It has become an inevitable peril as technology gets more sophisticated.

47. What would we think of a person who invades our personal space according to the author?

- A) They are aggressive.
- B) They are outgoing.
- C) They are ignorant.
- D) They are ill-bred.

48. How do robots learn human values?
- A) By interacting with humans in everyday life situations.
 - B) By following the daily routines of civilized human beings.
 - C) By picking up patterns from massive data on human behavior.
 - D) By imitating the behavior of properly brought-up human beings.
49. What will a well-programmed robot do when facing an unusual situation?
- A) Keep a distance from possible dangers.
 - B) Stop to seek advice from a human being.
 - C) Trigger its built-in alarm system at once.
 - D) Do sufficient testing before taking action.
50. What is most difficult to do when we turn human values into a programmable code?
- A) Determine what is moral and ethical.
 - B) Design some large-scale experiments.
 - C) Set rules for man-machine interaction.
 - D) Develop a more sophisticated program.

2016-06-2 passage 2

Why do some people live to be older than others? You know the standard explanations: keeping a moderate diet, engaging in regular exercise, etc. But what effect does your personality have on your *longevity* (长寿)? Do some kinds of personalities lead to longer lives? A new study in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* looked at this question by examining the personality characteristics of 246 children of people who had lived to be at least 100.

The study shows that those living the longest are more outgoing, more active and less *neurotic* (神经质的) than other people. Long-living women are also more likely to be sympathetic and cooperative than women with a normal life span. These findings are in agreement with what you would expect from the evolutionary theory: those who like to make friends and help others can gather enough resources to make it through tough times.

Interestingly, however, other characteristics that you might consider advantageous had no impact on whether study participants were likely to live longer. Those who were more self-disciplined, for instance, were no more likely to live to be very old. Also, being open to new ideas had no relationship to long life, which might explain all those bad-tempered old people who are fixed in their ways.

Whether you can successfully change your personality as an adult is the subject of a longstanding psychological debate. But the new paper suggests that if you want long life, you should strive to be as outgoing as possible.

Unfortunately, another recent study shows that your mother's personality may also help determine your longevity. That study looked at nearly 28,000 Norwegian mothers and found that

those moms who were more anxious, depressed and angry were more likely to feed their kids unhealthy diets. Patterns of childhood eating can be hard to break when we're adults, which may mean that kids of depressed moms end up dying younger.

Personality isn't *destiny* (命运), and everyone knows that individuals can learn to change. But both studies show that long life isn't just a matter of young physical health but of your mental health.

51. The aim of the study in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* is _____.

- A) to see whether people's personality affects their life span
- B) to find out if one's lifestyle has any effect on their health
- C) to investigate the role of exercise in living a long life
- D) to examine all the factors contributing to longevity

52. What does the author imply about outgoing and sympathetic people?

- A) They have a good understanding of evolution.
- B) They are better at negotiating an agreement.
- C) They generally appear more resourceful.
- D) They are more likely to get over hardship.

53. What finding of the study might prove somewhat out of our expectation?

- A) Easy-going people can also live a relatively long life.
- B) Personality characteristics that prove advantageous actually vary with times.
- C) Such personality characteristics as self-discipline have no effect on longevity.
- D) Readiness to accept new ideas helps one enjoy longevity.

54. What does the recent study of Norwegian mothers show?

- A) Children's personality characteristics are invariably determined by their mothers.
- B) People with unhealthy eating habits are likely to die sooner.
- C) Mothers' influence on children may last longer than fathers'.
- D) Mothers' negative personality characteristics may affect their children's life spans.

55. What can we learn from the findings of the two new studies?

- A) Anxiety and depression more often than not cut short one's life span.
- B) Longevity results from a combination of mental and physical health.
- C) Personality plays a decisive role in how healthy one is.
- D) Health is in large part related to one's lifestyle.

- 46. C. It can be avoided if human values are translated into their language.
- 47.D. They are ill-bred.
- 48.C. By picking up patterns from massive data on human behavior.
- 49. B. Stop to seek advice from a human being.
- 50.A. Determine what is moral and ethical.
- 51.A. to see whether people's personality affects their life span
- 52.D. They are more likely to get over hardship.
- 53.C. Such personality characteristics as self discipline have no effect on longevity.
- 54.D. Mothers' negative personality characteristics may affect their children's life spans.
- 55.B. Longevity results from a combination of mental and physical health.

2016-06-3 passage 1

Attitudes toward new technologies often fall along generational lines. That is, generally, younger people tend to outnumber older people on the front end of a technological shift.

It is not always the case, though. When you look at attitudes toward driverless cars, there doesn't seem to be a clear generational divide. The public overall is split on whether they'd like to use a driverless car. In a study last year, of all people surveyed, 48 percent said they wanted to ride in one, while 50 percent did not.

The fact that attitudes toward self-driving cars appear to be so steady across generations suggests how transformative the shift to driverless cars could be. Not everyone wants a driverless car now—and no one can get one yet—but among those who are open to them, every age group is similarly engaged.

Actually, this isn't surprising. Whereas older generations are sometimes reluctant to adopt new technologies, driverless cars promise real value to these age groups in particular. Older adults, especially those with limited mobility or difficulty driving on their own, are one of the classic use-cases for driverless cars.

This is especially interesting when you consider that younger people are generally more interested in travel-related technologies than older ones.

When it comes to driverless cars, differences in attitude are more pronounced based on factors not related to age. College graduates, for example, are particularly interested in driverless cars compared with those who have less education: 59 percent of college graduates said they would like to use a driverless car compared with 38 percent of those with a high-school diploma or less.

Where a person lives matters, too. More people who lived in cities and suburbs said they wanted to try driverless cars than those who lived in rural areas.

While there's reason to believe that interest in self-driving cars is going up across the board, a person's age will have little to do with how self-driving cars can become mainstream. Once driverless cars are actually available for sale, the early adopters will be the people who can afford to buy them.

46. What happens when a new technology emerges?

- A) It further widens the gap between the old and the young.
- B) It often leads to innovations in other related fields.
- C) It contributes greatly to the advance of society as a whole.
- D) It usually draws different reactions from different age groups.

47. What does the author say about the driverless car?

- A) It does not seem to create a generational divide.
- B) It will not necessarily reduce road accidents.
- C) It may start a revolution in the car industry.
- D) It has given rise to unrealistic expectations.

48. Why does the driverless car appeal to some old people?
- A) It saves their energy.
 - B) It helps with their mobility.
 - C) It adds to the safety of their travel.
 - D) It stirs up their interest in life.
49. What is likely to affect one's attitude toward the driverless car?
- A) The location of their residence.
 - B) The field of their special interest.
 - C) The amount of training they received.
 - D) The length of their driving experience.
50. Who are likely to be the first to buy the driverless car?
- A) The seniors.
 - B) The educated.
 - C) The wealthy.
 - D) The tech fans.

2016-06-3 passage 2

In *agrarian*(农业的), pre-industrial Europe, "you'd want to wake up early, start working with the sunrise, have a break to have the largest meal, and then you'd go back to work," says Ken Albala, a professor of history at the University of the Pacific. "Later, at 5 or 6, you'd have a smaller supper."

This comfortable cycle, in which the rhythms of the day helped shape the rhythms of the meals, gave rise to the custom of the large midday meal, eaten with the extended family. "Meals are the foundation of the family," says Carole Counihan, a professor at Millersville University in Pennsylvania, "so there was a very important interconnection between eating together" and strengthening family ties.

Since industrialization, maintaining such a slow cultural metabolism has been much harder, with the long midday meal shrinking to whatever could be stuffed into a lunch bucket or bought at a food stand. Certainly, there were benefits. Modern techniques for producing and shipping food led to greater variety and quantity, including a tremendous increase in the amount of animal protein and dairy products available, making us more vigorous than our ancestors.

Yet plenty has been lost too, even in cultures that still live to eat. Take Italy. It's no secret that the Mediterranean diet is healthy, but it was also a joy to prepare and eat. Italians, says Counihan, traditionally began the day with a small meal. The big meal came at around 1 p.m. In between the midday meal and a late, smaller dinner came a small snack. Today, when time zones have less and less meaning, there is little tolerance for offices' closing for lunch, and worsening traffic in cities means workers can't make it home and back fast enough anyway. So the formerly small supper after sundown becomes the big meal of the day, the only one at which the family has a chance to

get together. "The evening meal carries the full burden that used to be spread over two meals," says Counihan.

51. What do we learn from the passage about people in pre-industrial Europe?
- A) They had to work from early morning till late at night.
 - B) They were so busy working that they only ate simple meals.
 - C) Their daily routine followed the rhythm of the natural cycle.
 - D) Their life was much more comfortable than that of today.
52. What does Professor Carole Counihan say about pre-industrial European families eating meals together?
- A) It was helpful to maintaining a nation's tradition.
 - B) It brought family members closer to each other.
 - C) It was characteristic of the agrarian culture.
 - D) It enabled families to save a lot of money.
53. What does "cultural metabolism" (Line 1, Para. 3) refer to?
- A) Evolutionary adaptation.
 - B) Changes in lifestyle.
 - C) Social progress.
 - D) Pace of life.
54. What does the author think of the food people eat today?
- A) Its quality is usually guaranteed.
 - B) It is varied, abundant and nutritious.
 - C) It is more costly than what our ancestors ate.
 - D) Its production depends too much on technology.
55. What does the author say about Italians of the old days?
- A) They enjoyed cooking as well as eating.
 - B) They ate a big dinner late in the evening.
 - C) They ate three meals regularly every day.
 - D) They were expert at cooking meals.

46. D)It usually draws different reactions from different age groups.
47. A)It does not seem to create a generational divide.
48. B)It helps with their mobility.
49. A)The location of their residence.
50. C) The wealthy.
51. C)Their daily routine followed the rhythm of the natural cycle.
- 52.B)It brought family members closer to each other.
53. D) Pace of life.
54. B)It is varied, abundant and nutritious.
- 55.A)They enjoyed cooking as well as eating.

2016-12-1 passage 1

As a person who writes about food and drink for a living, I couldn't tell you the first thing about Bill Perry or whether the beers he sells are that great. But I can tell you that I like this guy. That's because he plans to ban tipping in favor of paying his servers an actual living wage.

I hate tipping.

I hate it because it's an obligation disguised as an option. I hate it for the post-dinner math it requires of me. But mostly, I hate tipping because I believe I would be in a better place if pay decisions regarding employees were simply left up to their employers, as is the custom in virtually every other industry.

Most of you probably think that you hate tipping, too. Research suggests otherwise. You actually love tipping! You like to feel that you have a voice in how much money your server makes. No matter how the math works out, you persistently view restaurants with voluntary tipping systems as being a better value, which makes it extremely difficult for restaurants and bars to do away with the tipping system.

One argument that you tend to hear a lot from the pro-tipping crowd seems logical enough: the service is better when waiters depend on tips, presumably because they see a benefit to successfully veiling their contempt for you. Well, if this were true, we would all be slipping a few 100 dollar bills to our doctors on the way out their doors, too. But as it turns out, waiters see only a tiny bump in tips when they do an exceptional job compared to a passable one. Waiters, keen observers of humanity that they are, are catching on to this; in one poll, a full 30% said they didn't believe the job they did had any impact on the tips they received.

So come on, folks: get on board with ditching the outdated tip system. Pay a little more up-front for your beer or burger. Support Bill Perry's pub, and any other bar or restaurant that doesn't ask you to do drunken math.

46. What can we learn about Bill Perry from the passage?

A) He runs a pub that serves excellent beer. C) He gives his staff a considerable sum for tips.

B) He intends to get rid of the tipping practice. D) He lives comfortably without getting any tips.

47. What is the main reason why the author hates tipping?

- A) It sets a bad example for other industries.
- B) It adds to the burden of ordinary customers.
- C) It forces the customer to compensate the waiter.
- D) It poses a great challenge for customers to do math.

48. Why do many people love tipping according to the author?

- A) They help improve the quality of the restaurants they dine in.
- B) They believe waiters deserve such rewards for good service.
- C) They want to preserve a wonderful tradition of the industry.
- D) They can have some say in how much their servers earn.

49. What have some waiters come to realize according to a survey?

- A) Service quality has little effect on tip size.
- C) Tips make it more difficult to please customers.
- B) It is in human nature to try to save on tips.
- D) Tips benefit the boss rather than the employees.

50. What does the author argue for in the passage?

- A) Restaurants should calculate the tips for customers.
- B) Customers should pay more tips to help improve service.
- C) Waiters deserve better than just relying on tips for a living.
- D) Waiters should be paid by employers instead of customers.

2016-12-1 passage 2

In the past, falling oil prices have given a boost to the world economy, but recent forecasts for global growth have been toned down, even as oil prices sink lower and lower. Does that mean the link between lower oil prices and growth has weakened?

Some experts say there are still good reasons to believe cheap oil should heat up the world economy. Consumers have more money in their pockets when they're paying less at the pump. They spend that money on other things, which stimulates the economy.

The biggest gains go to countries that import most of their oil like China, Japan, and India. But doesn't the extra money in the pockets of those countries' consumers mean an equal loss in oil-producing countries, cancelling out the gains? Not necessarily, says economic researcher Sara Johnson. "Many oil producers built up huge reserve funds when prices were high, so when prices fall they will draw on their reserves to support government spending and *subsidies* (补贴) for their consumers."

But not all oil producers have big reserves. In Venezuela, collapsing oil prices have sent its economy into free-fall.

Economist Carl Weinberg believes the negative effects of plunging oil prices are overwhelming the positive effects of cheaper oil. The implication is a sharp decline in global trade, which has plunged partly because oil-producing nations cannot afford to import as much as they used to.

Sara Johnson acknowledges that the global economic benefit from a fall in oil prices today is likely lower than it was in the past. One reason is that more countries are big oil producers now, so the nations suffering from the price drop account for a larger share of the global economy.

Consumers, in the U.S. at least, are acting cautiously with the savings they're getting at the gas pump, as the memory of the recent great recession is still fresh in their mind. And a number of oil-producing countries are trimming their gasoline subsidies and raising taxes, so the net savings for global consumers is not as big as the oil price plunge might suggest.

51. What does the author mainly discuss in the passage?

- A) The reasons behind the plunge of oil prices.

- B) Possible ways to stimulate the global economy.
 - C) The impact of cheap oil on global economic growth.
 - D) The effect of falling oil prices on consumer spending.
52. Why do some experts believe cheap oil will stimulate the global economy?
- A) Manufacturers can produce consumer goods at a much lower cost.
 - B) Lower oil prices have always given a big boost to the global economy.
 - C) Oil prices may rise or fall but economic laws are not subject to change.
 - D) Consumers will spend their savings from cheap oil on other commodities.
53. What happens in many oil-exporting countries when oil prices go down?
- A) They suspend import of necessities from overseas.
 - B) They reduce production drastically to boost oil prices.
 - C) They use their money reserves to back up consumption.
 - D) They try to stop their economy from going into free-fall.
54. How does Carl Weinberg view the current oil price plunge?
- A) It is one that has seen no parallel in economic history.
 - B) Its negative effects more than cancel out its positive effects.
 - C) It still has a chance to give rise to a boom in the global economy.
 - D) Its effects on the global economy go against existing economic laws.
55. Why haven't falling oil prices boosted the global economy as they did before?
- A) People are not spending all the money they save on gas.
 - B) The global economy is likely to undergo another recession.
 - C) Oil importers account for a larger portion of the global economy.
 - D) People the world over are afraid of a further plunge in oil prices.

- 46.B) He intends to get rid of the tipping practice.
- 47.C) It forces the customer to compensate the waiter.
- 48.D) They can have some say in how much their servers earn.
- 49. A) Service quality has little effect on tip size.
- 50. D) Waiters should be paid by employers instead of customers.
- 51. C) The impact of cheap oil on global economic growth
- 52.D) Consumers will spend their savings from cheap oil on other commodities
- 53.C) They use their money reserves to back up consumption.
- 54.B) Its negative effects more than cancel cut its positive effects
- 55. A) People are not spending all the money they save on gas.

2016-12-2 passage 1

“Sugar, alcohol and tobacco,” economist Adam Smith once wrote, “are commodities which are nowhere necessities of life, which have become objects of almost universal consumption, and which are, therefore, extremely popular subjects of taxation.”

Two and a half centuries on, most countries impose some sort of tax on alcohol and tobacco. With surging obesity levels putting increasing strain on public health systems, governments around the world have begun to toy with the idea of taxing sugar as well.

Whether such taxes work is a matter of debate. A preliminary review of Mexico’s taxation found a fall in purchases of taxed drinks as well as a rise in sales of untaxed and healthier drinks. By contrast, a Danish tax on foods high in fats was abandoned a year after its introduction, amid claims that consumers were avoiding it by crossing the border to Germany to satisfy their desire for cheaper, fattier fare.

The food industry has, in general, been firmly opposed to such direct government action. Nonetheless, the renewed focus on waistlines means that industry groups are under pressure to demonstrate their products are healthy as well as tasty.

Over the past three decades, the industry has made some efforts to improve the quality of its offerings. For example, some drink manufacturers have cut the amount of sugar in their beverages. Many of the reductions over the past 30 years have been achieved either by reducing the amount of sugar, salt or fat in a product, or by finding an alternative ingredient. More recently, however, some companies have been investing money in a more ambitious undertaking: learning how to adjust the fundamental make-up of the food they sell. For example, having salt on the outside, but none on the inside, reduces the salt content without changing the taste.

While reformulating *recipes* (配方) is one way to improve public health, it should be part of a multi-sided approach. The key is to remember that there is not just one solution. To deal with obesity, a mixture of approaches — including reformulation, taxation and adjusting portion sizes — will be needed. There is no silver bullet.

46. What did Adam Smith say about sugar, alcohol and tobacco?

- A) They were profitable to manufacture.
- B) They were in ever-increasing demand.
- C) They were subject to taxation almost everywhere.
- D) They were no longer considered necessities of life.

47. Why have many countries started to consider taxing sugar?

- A) They are under growing pressure to balance their national budgets.
- B) They find it ever harder to cope with sugar-induced health problems.
- C) The practice of taxing alcohol and tobacco has proved both popular and profitable.
- D) The sugar industry is overtaking alcohol and tobacco business in generating profits.

48. What do we learn about Danish taxation on fat-rich foods?

- A) It did not work out as well as was expected.
- B) It gave rise to a lot of problems on the border.

- C) It could not succeed without German cooperation.
D) It met with firm opposition from the food industry.
49. What is the more recent effort by food companies to make foods and drinks both healthy and tasty?
- A) Replacing sugar or salt with alternative ingredients.
B) Setting a limit on the amount of sugar or salt in their products.
C) Investing in research to find ways to adapt to consumers' needs.
D) Adjusting the physical composition of their products.
50. What does the author mean by saying, at the end of the passage, "There is no silver bullet" (Line 4, Para. 7) ?
- A) There is no single easy quick solution to the problem.
B) There is no hope of success without public cooperation.
C) There is no hurry in finding ways to solve the obesity problem.
D) There is no effective way to reduce people's sugar consumption.

2016-12-2 passage 2

You may have heard some of the fashion industry horror stories: models eating tissues or cotton balls to hold off hunger, and models collapsing from hunger-induced heart attacks just seconds after they step off the runway.

Excessively skinny models have been a point of controversy for decades, and two researchers say a model's body mass should be a workplace health and safety issue. In an editorial released Monday in *the American Journal of Public Health*, Katherine Record and Bryn Austin made their case for government regulation of the fashion industry.

The average international runway model has a body mass index (BMI) under 16 — low enough to indicate starvation by the World Health Organization's standard. And Record and Austin are worried not just about the models themselves, but about the vast number of girls and women their images influence.

"Especially girls and teens," says Record. "Seventy percent of girls aged 10 to 18 report that they define perfect body image based on what they see in magazines." That's especially worrying, she says, given that *anorexia* (厌食症) results in more deaths than does any other mental illness, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

It's commonly known that certain diseases are linked with occupations like lung disease in coal miners. Professional fashion models are particularly vulnerable to eating disorders resulting from occupational demands to maintain extreme thinness.

Record's suggestion is to prohibit agents from hiring models with a BMI below 18.

In April, France passed a law setting lower limits for a model's weight. Agents and fashion houses who hire models with a BMI under 18 could pay \$82,000 in fines and spend up to 6 months in jail. Regulating the fashion industry in the United States won't be easy, Record says. But with the new rules in France, U.S. support could make a difference. "A designer can't survive

without participating in Paris Fashion Week”, she says, adding, “Our argument is that the same would be true of New York Fashion Week.”

51. What do Record and Austin say about fashion models’ body mass?

- A) It has caused needless controversy. C) It is the focus of the modeling business.
- B) It is but a matter of personal taste. D) It affects models’ health and safety.

52. What are Record and Austin advocating in the Monday editorial?

- A) A change in the public’s view of female beauty.
- B) Government legislation about models’ weight.
- C) Elimination of forced weight loss by models.
- D) Prohibition of models eating non-food stuff.

53. Why are Record and Austin especially worried about the low body mass index of models?

- A) It contributes to many mental illnesses.
- B) It defines the future of the fashion industry.
- C) It has great influence on numerous girls and women.
- D) It keeps many otherwise qualified women off the runway.

54. What do we learn about France’s fashion industry?

- A) It has difficulty hiring models. C) It allows girls under 18 on the runway.
- B) It has now a new law to follow. D) It has overtaken that of the United States.

55. What does Record expect of New York Fashion Week?

- A) It will create a completely new set of rules. C) It will differ from Paris Fashion Week.
- B) It will do better than Paris Fashion Week. D) It will have models with a higher BMI.

- 46. C) They were subject to taxation almost everywhere.
- 47. B) They find it ever harder to cope with sugar-included health problems.
- 48. A) It did not work out as well as was expected.
- 49. D) Adjusting the physical composition of their products.
- 50. A) There is no single easy quick solution to the problem.
- 51. D) It affects model's health and safety.
- 52. B) Government legislation about model's weight.
- 53. C) It has great influence on numerous girls and women.
- 54. B) It has now a new law to follow.
- 55. D) It will have models with a higher BMI

2017-06-1 passage 1

The Urbanization -- migration away from the suburbs to the city center -- will be the biggest real estate trend in 2015, according to a new report.

The report says America's urbanization will continue to be the most significant issue affecting the industry, as cities across the country imitate the walkability and transit-oriented development making cities like New York and San Francisco so successful.

As smaller cities copy the model of these "24-hour cities," more affordable versions of these places will be created. The report refers to this as the coming of the "18-hour city," and uses the term to refer to cities like Houston, Austin, Charlotte, and Nashville, which are "positioning themselves as highly competitive, in terms of livability, employment offerings, and recreational and cultural facilities."

Another trend that looks significant in 2015 is that America's largest population group *Millennials* (千禧一代), will continue to put off buying a house. Apartments will retain their appeal for a while for Millennials, haunted by what happened to home-owning parents.

This trend will continue into the 2020s, the report projects. After that, survey respondents disagree over whether this generation will follow in their parents' footsteps, moving to the suburbs to raise families, or will choose to remain in the city center.

Another issue affecting real estate in the coming year will be America's failing infrastructure. Most roads, bridges, transit, water systems, the electric grid, and communications networks were installed 50 to 100 years ago, and they are largely taken for granted until they fail.

The report's writers state that America's failure to invest in infrastructure impacts not only the health of the real-estate market, but also our ability to remain globally competitive.

Apart from the specific trends highlighted above, which cause some investors to worry, the report portrays an overall optimism borne by the recent healthy real-estate "upcycle" and improving economy. Seventy-four percent of the respondents surveyed report a "good to excellent" expectation of real-estate profitability in 2015. While excessive optimism can promote bad investment patterns, resulting in a real-estate "bubble," the report's writers downplay that potential outcome in that it has not yet occurred.

46. According to the new report, real estate development in 2015 will witness_____.

- A) an accelerating speed
- B) a shift to city centers
- C) a new focus on small cities
- D) an ever-increasing demand

47. What characterizes "24-hour cities" like New York?

- A) People can live without private cars.
- B) People are generally more competitive.
- C) People can enjoy services around the clock.
- D) People are in harmony with the environment.

48. Why are Millennials reluctant to buy a house?

- A) They can only afford small apartments.
- B) The house prices are currently too high.

- C) Their parents' bad experience still haunts them.
D) They feel attached to the suburban environment.
49. What might hinder real estate development in the U.S.?
A) The continuing economic recession in the country.
B) The lack of confidence on the part of investors.
C) The fierce global competition.
D) The worsening infrastructure.
50. How do most of the respondents in the survey feel about the U.S. real-estate market in 2015?
A) Pessimistic. B) Hopeful. C) Cautious. D) Uncertain.

2017-06-1 passage 2

The brain is a seemingly endless library, whose shelves house our most precious memories as well as our lifetime's knowledge. But is there a point where it reaches capacity?

The answer is no, because brains are more sophisticated than that. Instead of just crowding in, old information is sometimes pushed out of the brain for new memories to form.

Previous behavioural studies have shown that learning new information can lead to forgetting. But in a new study, researchers demonstrated for the first time how this effect occurs in the brain.

In daily life, forgetting actually has clear advantages. Imagine, for instance, that you lost your bank card. The new card you receive will come with a new personal identification number (PIN). Each time you remember the new PIN, you gradually forget the old one. This process improves access to relevant information, without old memories interfering.

And most of us may sometimes feel the frustration of having old memories interfere with new, relevant memories. Consider trying to remember where you parked your car in the same car park you were at a week earlier. This type of memory (where you are trying to remember new, but similar information) is particularly vulnerable to interference.

When we acquire new information, the brain automatically tries to *incorporate* (合并) it within existing information by forming associations. And when we *retrieve* (检索) information, both the desired and associated but irrelevant information is recalled.,

The majority of previous research has focused on how we learn and remember new information. But current studies are beginning to place greater emphasis on the conditions under which we forget, as its importance begins to be more appreciated.

A very small number of people are able to remember almost every detail of their life. While it may sound like an advantage to many, people with this rare condition often find their unusual ability burdensome.

In a sense, forgetting is our brain's way of sorting memories, so the most relevant memories are ready for retrieval. Normal forgetting may even be a safety mechanism to ensure our brain doesn't become too full.

51. What have past behavioural studies found about our brain?

- A) Its capacity actually knows no limits.
 - B) It grows sophisticated with practice.
 - C) It keeps our most precious memories until life's end.
 - D) New information learned pushes old information out.
52. What is the benefit of forgetting?
- A) It frees us from painful memories.
 - B) It helps slow down our aging process.
 - C) It facilitates our access to relevant information.
 - D) It prevents old information from forming associations.
53. What is the emphasis of current studies of memory?
- A) When people tend to forget.
 - B) What contributes to forgetting.
 - C) How new technology hinders memory capacity.
 - D) Why learning and forgetting are complementary.
54. What do people find about their rare ability to remember every detail of their life?
- A) It adds to the burden of their memory.
 - B) It makes their life more complicated.
 - C) It contributes to their success in life.
 - D) It constitutes a rare object of envy.
55. What does the passage say about forgetting?
- A) It can enlarge our brain capacity.
 - B) It helps get rid of negative memories.
 - C) It is a way of organising our memories.
 - D) It should not cause any alarm in any way.

- 46. B) a shift to city centers.
- 47. C) People can enjoy services around the clock.
- 48. C) Their parents' bad experience still haunts them.
- 49. D) The worsening infrastructure.
- 50. B) Hopeful.
- 51. D) New information learned pushes old information out.
- 52. C) It facilitates our access to relevant information.
- 53. B) What contributes to forgetting.
- 54. A) It adds to the burden of their memory.
- 55. C) It is a way of organising our memories.

2017-06-2 passage 1

The phrase almost completes itself: midlife crisis. It's the stage in the middle of the journey when people feel youth vanishing, their prospects narrowing and death approaching.

There's only one problem with the *cliche* (套话). It isn't true.

"In fact, there is almost no hard evidence for midlife crisis other than a few small pilot studies conducted decades ago," Barbara Hagerty writes in her new book, *Life Reimagined*. The vast bulk of the research shows that there may be a pause, or a shifting of gears in the 40s or 50s, but this shift "can be exciting, rather than terrifying".

Barbara Hagerty looks at some of the features of people who turn midlife into a rebirth. They break routines, because "autopilot is death". They choose purpose over happiness — having a clear sense of purpose even reduces the risk of Alzheimer's disease. They give priority to relationships, as careers often *recede* (逐渐淡化).

Life Reimagined paints a picture of middle age that is far from gloomy. Midlife seems like the second big phase of decision-making. Your identity has been formed; you've built up your resources; and now you have the chance to take the big risks precisely because your foundation is already secure.

Karl Barth described midlife precisely this way. At middle age, he wrote, "the sowing is behind; now is the time to reap. The run has been taken; now is the time to leap. Preparation has been made; now is the time for the venture of the work itself."

The middle-aged person, Barth continued, can see death in the distance, but moves with a "measured haste" to get big new things done while there is still time.

What Barth wrote decades ago is even truer today. People are healthy and energetic longer. We have presidential candidates running for their first term in office at age 68, 69 and 74. A longer lifespan is changing the narrative structure of life itself. What could have been considered the beginning of a descent is now a potential turning point—the turning point you are most equipped to take full advantage of. (2017-06-2 Passage1)

46. What does the author think of the phrase "midlife crisis"?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A) It has led to a lot of debate. | B) It is widely acknowledged. |
| C) It is no longer fashionable. | D) It misrepresents real life. |

47. How does Barbara Hagerty view midlife?

- | | |
|---|---|
| A) It may be the beginning of a crisis. | B) It can be a new phase of one's life. |
| C) It can be terrifying for the unprepared. | D) It may see old-age diseases approaching. |

48. How is midlife pictured in the book *Life Reimagined*?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A) It can be quite rosy. | B) It can be burdensome. |
| C) It undergoes radical transformation. | D) It makes for the best part of one's life. |

49. According to Karl Barth, midlife is the time _____.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A) to relax | B) to mature |
| C) to harvest | D) to reflect |

50. What does the author say about midlife today?

- | |
|---|
| A) It is more meaningful than other stages of life. |
| B) It is likely to change the narrative of one's life, |
| C) It is more important to those with a longer lifespan. |
| D) It is likely to be a critical turning point in one's life. |

2017-06-2 passage 2

In spring, chickens start laying again, bringing a welcome source of protein at winter's end. So it's no surprise that cultures around the world celebrate spring by honoring the egg.

Some traditions are simple, like the red eggs that get baked into Greek Easter breads. Others elevate the egg into a fancy art, like the heavily jewel-covered "eggs" that were favored by the Russians starting in the 19th century.

One ancient form of egg art comes to us from Ukraine. For centuries, Ukrainians have been drawing complicated patterns on eggs. Contemporary artists have followed this tradition to create eggs that speak to the anxieties of our age: Life is precious, and delicate. Eggs are, too.

"There's something about their delicate nature that appeals to me," says *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast. Several years ago, she became interested in eggs and learned the traditional Ukrainian technique to draw her very modern characters. "I've broken eggs at every stage of the process—from the very beginning to the very, very end."

But there's an appeal in that vulnerability. "There's part of this sickening horror of knowing you're walking on the edge with this, that I kind of like, knowing that it could all fall apart at any second." Chast's designs, such as a worried man alone in a tiny rowboat, reflect that delicateness.

Traditional Ukrainian decorated eggs also spoke to those fears. The elaborate patterns were believed to offer protection against evil.

"There's an ancient legend that as long as these eggs are made, evil will not prevail in the world," says Joan Brander, a Canadian egg-painter who has been painting eggs for over 60 years, having learned the art from her Ukrainian relatives.

The tradition, dating back to 300 B.C., was later incorporated into the Christian church. The old symbols, however, still endure. A decorated egg with a bird on it, given to a young married couple, is a wish for children. A decorated egg thrown into the field would be a wish for a good harvest. (2017-06-2 Passage2)

51. Why do people in many cultures prize the egg?

- A) It is a welcome sign of the coming of spring.
- B) It is their major source of protein in winter.
- C) It can easily be made into a work of art.
- D) It can bring wealth and honor to them.

52. What do we learn about the decorated "eggs" in Russia?

- A) They are shaped like jewel cases.
- B) They are cherished by the rich.
- C) They are heavily painted in red.
- D) They are favored as a form of art.

53. Why have contemporary artists continued the egg art tradition?

- A) Eggs serve as an enduring symbol of new life.
- B) Eggs have an oval shape appealing to artists.
- C) Eggs reflect the anxieties of people today.
- D) Eggs provide a unique surface to paint on.

54. Why does Chast enjoy the process of decorating eggs?

- A) She never knows if the egg will break before the design is completed.
- B) She can add multiple details to the design to communicate her idea.
- C) She always derives great pleasure from designing something new.
- D) She is never sure what the final design will look like until the end.

55. What do we learn from the passage about egg-painting?

- A) It originated in the eastern part of Europe.
- B) It has a history of over two thousand years.
- C) It is the most time-honored form of fancy art.
- D) It is especially favored as a church decoration.

Passage1

46. D

47. B

48. C

49. B

50. D

Passage2

51. A

52. D

53. C

54. A

55. B

2017-06-3 passage 1

Shoppers in the UK are spending less money on toilet paper to save money, research has shown.

Penny-pinching UK consumers choose cheaper products from discounters such as Aldi and Lidl rather than luxury alternatives.

This has wiped 6% off the value of the soft tissue paper market in the UK. It has shrunk from £1.19 billion in 2011 to £1.12 billion in 2015, according to a new report from market research company Mintel. Furthermore, the future of the market looks far from rosy, with sales expected to fall further to £1.11 billion in 2016.

In the last year alone, despite an increase in the UK population and a subsequent rise in the number of households, sales of toilet paper fell by 2%, with the average household reducing their toilet roll spending from £43 in 2014 to £41 in 2015.

Overall, almost three in five people say they try to limit their usage of paper—including facial tissue and kitchen roll—to save money. “Strength, softness and thickness remain the leading indicators of toilet paper quality, with just a small proportion of consumers preferring more luxurious alternatives, such as those with flower patterns or perfume,” said Mintel analyst Jack Duckett. “These extra features are deemed unnecessary by the majority of shoppers, which probably reflects how these types of products are typically more expensive than regular toilet paper, even when on special offer.”

While consumers are spending less on toilet paper, they remain fussy—in theory at least—when it comes to paper quality. Top of Britons’ toilet paper wish list is softness (57%) followed by strength (45%) and thickness (36%).

One in 10 buyers rank toilet rolls made from recycled paper among their top considerations, highlighting how overall the environment is much less of a consideration for shoppers than product quality. In a challenge for manufacturers, 81% of paper product users said they would consider buying recycled toilet tissue if it were comparable in quality to standard paper.

(2017-06-3 Passage1)

46. The market sales of toilet paper have decreased because .

- A) Britons have cut their spending on it
- B) its prices have gone up over the years
- C) its quality has seen marked improvement
- D) Britons have developed the habit of saving

47. What does the author think of the future of the tissue paper market in the UK?

- A) It will expand in time.
- B) It will remain gloomy.
- C) It will experience ups and downs.
- D) It will recover as population grows.

48. What does Jack Duckett say about toilet paper?

- A) Special offers would promote its sales.
- B) Consumers are loyal to certain brands.
- C) Luxurious features add much to the price.

D) Consumers have a variety to choose from.

49. What do we learn about Britons concerning toilet paper?

- A) They are particular about the quality of toilet paper.
- B) They emphasize the strength of toilet paper the most.
- C) They prefer cheap toilet paper to recycled toilet paper.
- D) They reject using toilet paper with unnecessary features.

50. What can we infer from the last paragraph?

- A) More and more Britons buy recycled toilet paper to protect the environment.
- B) Toilet paper manufacturers are facing a great challenge in promoting its sales.
- C) Toilet paper manufacturers compete with one another to improve product quality.
- D) Environmental protection is not much of a concern when Britons buy toilet paper.

2017-06-3 passage 2

“One of the reasons I find this topic very interesting is because my mom was a smoker when I was younger , ” says Lindson-Hawley, who studies tobacco and health at the University of Oxford.

By studying about 700 adult smokers, she found out that her mom quit the right way—by stopping abruptly and completely.

In her study, participants were *randomly* (随机地) assigned to two groups. One had to quit abruptly on a given day, going from about a pack a day to zero. The other cut down gradually over the course of two weeks. People in both groups used *nicotine* (尼古丁) patches before they quit, in addition to a second form of nicotine replacement, like gum or spray. They also had talk therapy with a nurse before and after quit day.

Six months out, more people who had quit abruptly had stuck with it—more than one-fifth of them, compared to about one-seventh in the other group. Although these numbers appear low, it is much higher than if people try without support.

And the quit rates were particularly convincing given that before the study started, most of the people had said they’d rather cut down gradually before quitting. “If you’re training for a marathon, you wouldn’t expect to turn up and just be able to run it. And I think people see that for smoking as well. They think, ‘ Well , if I gradually reduce, it’s like practice , ’ ” says Lindson-Hawley. But that wasn’t the case. Instead of giving people practice, the gradual reduction likely gave them *cravings* (瘾) and withdrawal symptoms before they even reached quit day, which could be why fewer people in that group actually made it to that point. “Regardless of your stated preference, if you’re ready to quit, quitting abruptly is more effective,” says Dr. Gabriela Ferreira. “When you can quote a specific number like a fifth of the patients were able to quit, that’s compelling. It gives them the encouragement, I think, to really go for it, ” Ferreira says.

People rarely manage to quit the first time they try. But at least, she says, they can maximize the odds of success. (2017-06-3 Passage2)

51. What does Lindson-Hawley say about her mother?

- A) She quit smoking with her daughter’s help.
- B) She succeeded in quitting smoking abruptly.
- C) She was also a researcher of tobacco and health.

- D) She studied the smoking patterns of adult smokers.
52. What kind of support did smokers receive to quit smoking in Lindson-Hawley's study?
- A) They were given physical training.
 - B) They were looked after by physicians.
 - C) They were encouraged by psychologists.
 - D) They were offered nicotine replacements.
53. How does Dr. Gabriela Ferreira view the result of Lindson-Hawley's experiment?
- A) It is idealized.
 - B) It is unexpected.
 - C) It is encouraging.
 - D) It is misleading.
54. The idea of "a marathon" (Line 2, Para. 5) illustrates the popular belief that quitting smoking
- A) is something few can accomplish
 - B) needs some practice first
 - C) requires a lot of patience
 - D) is a challenge at the beginning
55. What happens when people try to quit smoking gradually?
- A) They find it even more difficult.
 - B) They are simply unable to make it.
 - C) They show fewer withdrawal symptoms.
 - D) They feel much less pain in the process.

Passage1

46. A

47. B

48. C

49. A

50. D

Passage2

51. B

52. D

53. C

54. B

55. A

2017-12-1 passage 1

That people often experience trouble sleeping in a different bed in unfamiliar surroundings is a phenomenon known as the “first-night” effect. If a person stays in the same room the following night they tend to sleep more soundly. Yuka Sasaki and her colleagues at Brown University set out to investigate the origins of this effect.

Dr. Sasaki knew the first-night effect probably has something to do with how humans evolved. The puzzle was what benefit would be gained from it when performance might be affected the following day. She also knew from previous work conducted on birds and dolphins that these animals put half of their brains to sleep at a time so that they can rest while remaining alert enough to avoid *predators* (捕食者). This led her to wonder if people might be doing the same thing. To take a closer look, her team studied 35 healthy people as they slept in the unfamiliar environment of the university’s Department of Psychological Sciences. The participants each slept in the department for two nights and were carefully monitored with techniques that looked at the activity of their brains. Dr. Sasaki found, as expected, the participants slept less well on their first night than they did on their second, taking more than twice as long to fall asleep and sleeping less overall. During deep sleep, the participants’ brains behaved in a similar manner seen in birds and dolphins. On the first night only, the left *hemispheres* (半球) of their brains did not sleep nearly as deeply as their right hemispheres did.

Curious if the left hemispheres were indeed remaining awake to process information detected in the surrounding environment, Dr. Sasaki re-ran the experiment while presenting the sleeping participants with a mix of regularly timed *beeps* (蜂鸣声) of the same tone and irregular beeps of a different tone during the night. She worked out that, if the left hemisphere was staying alert to keep guard in a strange environment, then it would react to the irregular beeps by stirring people from sleep and would ignore the regularly timed ones. This is precisely what she found.
(2017-12-1 Passage1)

46. What did researchers find puzzling about the first-night effect?
- A) To what extent it can trouble people. C) What circumstances may trigger it.
B) What role it has played in evolution. D) In what way it can be beneficial.
47. What do we learn about Dr. Yuka Sasaki doing her research?
- A) She found birds and dolphins remain alert while asleep.
B) She found birds and dolphins sleep in much the same way.
C) She got some idea from previous studies on birds and dolphins
D) She conducted studies on birds’ and dolphins’ sleeping patterns.
48. What did Dr. Sasaki do when she first did her experiment?
- A) She monitored the brain activity of participants sleeping in a new environment.
B) She recruited 35 participants from her Department of Psychological Sciences.
C) She studied the differences between the two sides of participants’ brains.
D) She tested her findings about birds and dolphins on human subjects.
49. What did Dr. Sasaki do when re-running her experiment?
- A) She analyzed the negative effect of irregular tones on brains.
B) She recorded participants’ adaptation to changed environment.
C) She exposed her participants to two different stimuli.
D) She compared the responses of different participants.

50. What did Dr. Sasaki find about the participants in her experiment?

- A) They tended to enjoy certain tones more than others.
- B) They tended to perceive irregular beeps as a threat.
- C) They felt sleepy when exposed to regular beeps.
- D) They differed in their tolerance of irregular tones.

2017-12-1 passage 2

It's time to reevaluate how women handle conflict at work. Being overworked or over-committed at home and on the job will not get you where you want to be in life. It will only slow you down and hinder your career goals.

Did you know women are more likely than men to feel exhausted? Nearly twice as many women than men ages 18-44 reported feeling "very tired" or "exhausted", according to a recent study.

This may not be surprising given that this is the age range when women have children. It's also the age range when many women are trying to balance careers and home. One reason women may feel exhausted is that they have a hard time saying "no." Women want to be able to do it all volunteer for school parties or cook delicious meals-and so their answer to any request is often "Yes, I can."

Women struggle to say "no" in the workplace for similar reasons, including the desire to be liked by their colleagues. Unfortunately, this inability to say "no" may be hurting women's health as well as their career.

At the workplace, men use conflict as a way to position themselves, while women often avoid conflict or strive to be the peacemaker, because they don't want to be viewed as aggressive or disruptive at work. For example, there's a problem that needs to be addressed immediately, resulting in a dispute over should be the one to fix it. Men are more likely to face that dispute from the perspective of what benefits them most, whereas women may approach the same dispute from the perspective of what's the easiest and quickest way to resolve the problem-even if that means doing the boring work themselves.

This difference in handling conflict could be the deciding factor on who gets promoted to a leadership position and who does not. Leaders have to be able to delegate and manage resources wisely – including staff expertise. Shouldering more of the workload may not earn you that promotion. Instead, it may highlight your inability to delegate effectively. (2017-12-1 Passage2)

51. What does the author say is the problem with women?

- A) They are often unclear about the career goals to reach.
- B) They are usually more committed at home than on the job.
- C) They tend to be over-optimistic about how far they could go.
- D) They tend to push themselves beyond the limits of their ability.

52. Why do working women of child-bearing age tend to feel drained of energy?

- A) They struggle to satisfy the demands of both work and home.
- B) They are too devoted to work and unable to relax as a result.
- C) They do their best to cooperate with their workmates.
- D) They are obliged to take up too many responsibilities.

53. What may hinder the future prospects of career women?

Passage 1

46. D

47. C

48. A

49. C

50. B

Passage 2

51. D

52. A

53. A

54. C

55. B

2017-12-2 passage 1

Nobody really knows how big Lagos is. What's indisputable is that it's growing very quick. Between now and 2050, the urban population of Africa could triple. Yet cities in sub-Saharan Africa not getting richer the way cities in the rest of the world have. Most urban Africans live in *slums*(贫民窟); migrants are often not much better off than they were in the countryside. Why?

The immediate problem is poverty. Most of Africa is urbanizing at a lower level of income than other regions of the world did. That means there's little money around for investment that would make cities liveable and more productive. Without upgrades and new capacity, bridges, roads and power systems are unable to cope with expanding populations. With the exception of South Africa, the only light rail metro system in sub-Saharan Africa is in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Traffic jam leads to expense and unpredictability, things that keep investors away.

In other parts of the world, increasing agricultural productivity and industrialization went together. More productive farmers meant there was a surplus that could feed cities; in turn, that created a pool of labour for factories. But African cities are different. They are too often built around consuming natural resources. Government is concentrated in capitals, so is the money. Most urban Africans work for a small minority of the rich, who tend to be involved in either *cronyish*(有裙带关系的) businesses or politics. Since African agriculture is still broadly unproductive, food is imported, consuming a portion of revenue.

So what can be done? Though African countries are poor, not all African cities are. In Lagos, foreign oil workers can pay as much as \$ 65,000 per year in rent for a modest apartment in a safe part of town. If that income were better taxed, it might provide the revenue for better infrastructure. If city leaders were more accountable to their residents, they might favour projects designed to help them more. Yet even as new roads are built, new people arrive. When a city's population grows by 5% a year, it is difficult to keep up. (2017-12-2 Passage1)

46. What do we learn from the passage about cities in sub-Saharan Africa?

- A) They have more slums than other cities in the world.
- B) They are growing fast without becoming richer.
- C) They are as modernized as many cities elsewhere.
- D) They attract migrants who want to be better off.

47. What does the author imply about urbanization in other parts of the world?

- A) It benefited from the contribution of immigrants.
- B) It started when people's income was relatively high.
- C) It benefited from the accelerated rise in productivity.
- D) It started with the improvement of people's livelihood.

48. Why is sub-Saharan Africa unappealing to investors?

- A) It lacks adequate transport facilities.
- B) The living expenses there are too high.
- C) It is on the whole too densely populated.
- D) The local governments are corrupted.

49. In what way does the author say African cities are different?

- A) They have attracted huge numbers of farm labourers.

- B) They still rely heavily on agricultural productivity.
- C) They have developed at the expense of nature.
- D) They depend far more on foreign investment.

50. What might be a solution to the problems facing African cities?

- A) Lowering of apartment rent.
- B) Better education for residents.
- C) More rational overall planning.
- D) A more responsible government.

2017-12-2 passage 2

It's time to reevaluate how women handle conflict at work. Being overworked or over-committed at home and on the job will not get you where you want to be in life. It will only slow you down and hinder your career goals.

Did you know women are more likely than men to feel exhausted? Nearly twice as many women than men ages 18-44 reported feeling "very tired" or "exhausted", according to a recent study.

This may not be surprising given that this is the age range when women have children. It's also the age range when many women are trying to balance careers and home. One reason women may feel exhausted is that they have a hard time saying "no." Women want to be able to do it all volunteer for school parties or cook delicious meals-and so their answer to any request is often "Yes, I can."

Women struggle to say "no" in the workplace for similar reasons, including the desire to be liked by their colleagues. Unfortunately, this inability to say "no" may be hurting women's health as well as their career.

At the workplace, men use conflict as a way to position themselves, while women often avoid conflict or strive to be the peacemaker, because they don't want to be viewed as aggressive or disruptive at work. For example, there's a problem that needs to be addressed immediately, resulting in a dispute over should be the one to fix it. Men are more likely to face that dispute from the perspective of what benefits them most, whereas women may approach the same dispute from the perspective of what's the easiest and quickest way to resolve the problem-even if that means doing the boring work themselves.

This difference in handling conflict could be the deciding factor on who gets promoted to a leadership position and who does not. Leaders have to be able to delegate and manage resources wisely – including staff expertise. Shouldering more of the workload may not earn you that promotion. Instead, it may highlight your inability to delegate effectively. (2017-12-2 Passage2)

51. What does the author say is the problem with women?

- A) They are often unclear about the career goals to reach.
- B) They are usually more committed at home than on the job.
- C) They tend to be over-optimistic about how far they could go.
- D) They tend to push themselves beyond the limits of their ability.

52. Why do working women of child-bearing age tend to feel drained of energy?

- A) They struggle to satisfy the demands of both work and home.

- B) They are too devoted to work and unable to relax as a result.
 - C) They do their best to cooperate with their workmates.
 - D) They are obliged to take up too many responsibilities.
53. What may hinder the future prospects of career women?
- A) Their unwillingness to say “no”.
 - B) Their desire to be considered powerful.
 - C) An underestimate of their own ability.
 - D) A lack of courage to face challenges.
54. Men and woman differ in their approach to resolving workplace conflicts in that _____.
- A) women tend to be easily satisfied
 - B) men are generally more persuasive
 - C) men tend to put their personal interests first
 - D) women are much more ready to compromise
55. What is important to a good leader?
- A) A dominant personality.
 - C) The courage to admit failure
 - B) The ability to delegate.
 - D) A strong sense of responsibility.

Passage1

46. D

47. C

48. A

49. C

50. B

Passage2

51. D

52. A

53. A

54. C

55. B

2017-12-3 passage 1

Aging happens to all of us, and is generally thought of as a natural part of life. It would seem silly to call such a thing a “disease.”

On the other hand, scientists are increasingly learning that aging and biological age are two different things, and that the former is a key risk factor for conditions such as heart disease, cancer and many more. In that light, aging itself might be seen as something treatable, the way you would treat high blood pressure or a vitamin deficiency.

Biophysicist Alex Zhavoronkov believes that aging should be considered a disease. He said that describing aging as a disease creates incentives to develop treatments.

“It unties the hands of the *pharmaceutical*(制药的)industry so that they can begin treating the disease and not just the side effects,” he said.

“Right now, people think of aging as natural and something you can’t control,” he said. “In academic circles, people take aging research as just an interest area where they can try to develop interventions. The medical community also takes aging for granted, and can do nothing about it except keep people within a certain health range.”

But if aging were recognized as a disease, he said, “It would attract funding and change the way we do health care. What matters is understanding that aging is curable.”

“It was always known that the body accumulates damage,” he added. “The only way to cure aging is to find ways to repair that damage. I think of it as preventive medicine for age-related conditions.”

Leonard Hayflick, a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, said the idea that aging can be cured implies the human lifespan can be increased, which some researchers suggest is possible. Hayflick is not among them.

“There’re many people who recover from cancer, stroke, or heart disease. But they continue to age, because aging is separate from their disease,” Hayflick said. “Even if those causes of death were eliminated, life expectancy would still not go much beyond 92 years.” (2017-12-3 Passage1)

46. What do people generally believe about aging?

- A) It should cause no alarm whatsoever.
- B) They just cannot do anything about it.
- C) It should be regarded as a kind of disease.
- D) They can delay it with advances in science.

47. How do many scientists view aging now?

- A) It might be prevented and treated.
- B) It can be as risky as heart disease.
- C) It results from a vitamin deficiency.
- D) It is an irreversible biological process.

48. What does Alex Zhavoronkov think of “describing aging as a disease”?

- A) It will prompt people to take aging more seriously.
- B) It will greatly help reduce the side effects of aging.
- C) It will free pharmacists from the conventional beliefs about aging.
- D) It will motivate doctors and pharmacists to find ways to treat aging.

49. What do we learn about the medical community?

- A) They now have a strong interest in research on aging.

- B) They differ from the academic circles in their view on aging.
- C) They can contribute to people's health only to a limited extent.
- D) They have ways to intervene in people's aging process.

50. What does Professor Leonard Hayflick believe?

- A) The human lifespan cannot be prolonged.
- B) Aging is hardly separable from disease.
- C) Few people can live up to the age of 92.
- D) Heart disease is the major cause of aging.

2017-12-3 passage 2

Female applicants to postdoctoral positions in geosciences were nearly half as likely to receive excellent letters of recommendation, compared with their male counterparts. Christopher Intagliata reports.

As in many other fields, gender bias is widespread in the sciences. Men score higher starting salaries, have more *mentoring* (指导), and have better odds of being hired. Studies show they're also perceived as more competent than women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. And new research reveals that men are more likely to receive excellent letters of recommendation, too.

"Say, you know, this is the best student I've ever had," says Kuheli Dutt, a social scientist and diversity officer at Columbia University's Lamont campus. "Compare those excellent letters with a merely good letter: 'The candidate was productive, or intelligent, or a solid scientist or something that's clearly solid praise,' but nothing that singles out the candidate as exceptional or one of a kind."

Dutt and her colleagues studied more than 1,200 letters of recommendation for postdoctoral positions in geoscience. They were all edited for gender and other identifying information, so Dutt and her team could assign them a score without knowing the gender of the student. They found that female applicants were only half as likely to get outstanding letters, compared with their male counterparts. That includes letters of recommendation from all over the world, and written by, yes, men and women. The findings are in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

Dutt says they were not able to evaluate the actual scientific qualifications of the applicants using the data in the files. But she says the results still suggest women in geoscience are at a potential disadvantage from the very beginning of their careers starting with those less than outstanding letters of recommendation.

"We're not trying to assign blame or criticize anyone or call anyone conscious sexist. Rather, the point is to use the results of this study to open up meaningful dialogues on implicit gender bias, be it at a departmental level or an institutional level or even a discipline level." Which may lead to some recommendations for the letter writers themselves. (2017-12-2 Passage2)

51. What do we learn about applicants to postdoctoral positions in geosciences?

- A) There are many more men applying than women.
- B) Chances for women to get the positions are scarce.
- C) More males than females are likely to get outstanding letters of recommendation.
- D) Male applicants have more interest in these positions than their female counterparts.

52. What do studies about men and women in scientific research show?
- A) Women engaged in postdoctoral work are quickly catching up.
 - B) Fewer women are applying for postdoctoral positions due to gender bias.
 - C) Men are believed to be better able to excel in STEM disciplines.
 - D) Women who are keenly interested in STEM fields are often exceptional.
53. What do the studies find about the recommendation letters for women applicants?
- A) They are hardly ever supported by concrete examples.
 - B) They contain nothing that distinguishes the applicants.
 - C) They provide objective information without exaggerate.
 - D) They are often filled with praise for exceptional applicants.
54. What did Dutt and her colleagues do with the more than 1, 200 letters of recommendation?
- A) They asked unbiased scholars to evaluate them.
 - B) They invited women professionals to edit them.
 - C) They assigned them randomly to reviewers.
 - D) They deleted all information about gender.
55. What does Dutt aim to do with her study?
- A) Raise recommendation writers' awareness of gender bias in their letters.
 - B) Open up fresh avenues for women post-doctors to join in research work.
 - C) Alert women researchers to all types of gender bias in the STEM disciplines.
 - D) Start a public discussion on how to raise women's status in academic circles.

Passage1

46. B

47. A

48. D

49. C

50. A

Passage2

51.C

52.C

53.B

54.D

55.A

2018-06-1 passage 1

Losing your ability to think and remember is pretty scary. We know the risk of *dementia* (痴呆症) increases with age. But if you have memory slips, you probably needn't worry. There are pretty clear differences between signs of dementia and age-related memory loss.

After age 50, it's quite common to have trouble remembering the names of people, places and things quickly, says Dr. Kirk Daffner of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The brain ages just like the rest of the body. Certain parts shrink, especially areas in the brain that are important to learning, memory and planning. Changes in brain cells can affect communication between different regions of the brain. And blood flow can be reduced as blood vessels narrow.

Forgetting the name of an actor in a favorite movie, for example, is nothing to worry about. But if you forget the plot of the movie or don't remember even seeing it, that's far more concerning, Daffner says.

When you forget entire experiences, he says, that's "a red flag that something more serious may be involved." Forgetting how to operate a familiar object like a microwave oven, or forgetting how to drive to the house of a friend you've visited many times before can also be signs of something going wrong.

But even then, Daffner says, people shouldn't panic. There are many things that can cause confusion and memory loss, including health problems like temporary stoppage of breathing during sleep, high blood pressure, or depression, as well as *medications* (药物) like antidepressants.

You don't have to figure this out on your own. Daffner suggests going to your doctor to check on medications, health problems and other issues that could be affecting memory. And the best defense against memory loss is to try to prevent it by building up your brain's *cognitive* (认知的) reserve, Daffner says.

"Read books, go to movies, take on new hobbies or activities that force one to think in novel ways," he says. In other words, keep your brain busy and working. And also get physically active, because exercise is a known brain booster. (2018-6-1 Passage1)

46. Why does the author say that one needn't be concerned about memory slips?

- A. Not all of them are symptoms of dementia.
- B. They occur only among certain groups of people.
- C. Not all of them are related to one's age.
- D. They are quite common among fifty-year-olds.

47. What happens as we become aged according to the passage?

- A. Our interaction skills deteriorate.
- B. Some parts of our brain stop functioning.
- C. Communication within our brain weakens.
- D. Our whole brain starts shrinking.

48. Which memory-related symptom should people take seriously?

- A. Totally forgetting how to do one's daily routines.
- B. Inability to recall details of one's life experiences.
- C. Failure to remember the names of movies or actors.
- D. Occasionally confusing the addresses of one's friends.

49. What should people do when signs of serious memory loss show up?

- A. Check the brain's cognitive reserve.
- B. Stop medications affecting memory.
- C. Turn to a professional for assistance.
- D. Exercise to improve their well-being.

50. What is Dr. Daffner's advice for combating memory loss?

- A. Having regular physical and mental checkups.
- B. Taking medicine that helps boost one's brain.
- C. Engaging in known memory repair activities.
- D. Staying active both physically and mentally.

2018-06-1 passage 2

A letter written by Charles Darwin in 1875 has been returned to the Smithsonian Institution Archives (档案馆) by the FBI after being stolen twice.

"We realized in the mid-1970s that it was missing," says Effie Kapsalis, head of the Smithsonian Institution Archives. "It was noted as missing and likely taken by an *intern* (实习生), from what the FBI is telling us. Word got out that it was missing when someone asked to see the letter for research purposes," and the intern put the letter back. "The intern likely took the letter again once nobody was watching it."

Decades passed. Finally, the FBI received a tip that the stolen document was located very close to Washington, D.C. Their art crime team recovered the letter but were unable to press charges because the time of limitations had ended. The FBI worked closely with the Archives to determine that the letter was both authentic and definitely Smithsonian's property.

The letter was written by Darwin to thank an American geologist, Dr. Ferdinand Vandever Hayden, for sending him copies of his research into the geology of the region that would become Yellowstone National Park.

The letter is in fairly good condition, in spite of being out of the care of trained museum staff for so long. "It was luckily in good shape," says Kapsalis, "and we just have to do some minor things in order to be able to unfold it. It has some glue on it that has colored it slightly, but nothing that will prevent us from using it. After it is repaired, we will take digital photos of it and that will be available online. One of our goals is to get items of high research value or interest to the public online."

It would now be difficult for an intern, visitor or a thief to steal a document like this. "Archiving practices have changed greatly since the 1970s," says Kapsalis, "and we keep our high value documents in a safe that I don't even have access to." (2018-6-1 Passage2)

51. What happened to Darwin's letter in the 1970s?

- A. It was recovered by the FBI.
- B. It was stolen more than once.
- C. It was put in the archives for research purposes.
- D. It was purchased by the Smithsonian Archives.

52. What did the FBI do after the recovery of the letter?

- A. They proved its authenticity.
- B. They kept it in a special safe.

- C.They arrested the suspect immediately.
 - D.They pressed criminal charges in vain.
- 53.What is Darwin's letter about?
- A.The evolution of Yellowstone National Park.
 - B.His cooperation with an American geologist.
 - C.Some geological evidence supporting his theory.
 - D.His acknowledgement of help from a professional.
- 54.What will the Smithsonian Institution Archives do with the letter according to Kapsalis?
- A.Reserve it for research purposes only.
 - B.Turn it into an object of high interest.
 - C.Keep it a permanent secret.
 - D.Make it available online.
- 55.What has the past half century witnessed according to Kapsalis?
- A.Growing interest in rare art objects.
 - B.Radical changes in archiving practices.
 - C.Recovery of various missing documents.
 - D.Increases in the value of museum exhibits.

Passage 1

46. A

47. C

48. A

49. C

50. D

Passage 2

51. B

52. A

53. D

54. D

55. B

2018-06-2 passage 1

Living in an urban area with green spaces has a long-lasting positive impact on people's mental well-being, a study has suggested. UK researchers found moving to a green space had a sustained positive effect, unlike pay rises or promotions, which only provided a short-term boost. Co-author Mathew White, from the University of Exeter, UK, explained that the study showed people living in greener urban areas were displaying fewer signs of depression or anxiety. "There could be a number of reasons," he said, "for example, people do many things to make themselves happier: they strive for promotion or pay rises, or they get married. But the trouble with those things is that within six months to a year, people are back to their original baseline levels of well-being. So, these things are not sustainable; they don't make us happy in the long term. We found that for some *lottery* (彩票) winners who had won more than £ 500,000 the positive effect was definitely there, but after six months to a year, they were back to the baseline."

Dr. White said his team wanted to see whether living in greener urban areas had a lasting positive effect on people's sense of well-being or whether the effect also disappeared after a period of time. To do this, the team used data from the British Household Panel Survey compiled by the University of Essex.

Explaining what the data revealed, he said: "What you see is that even after three years, mental health is still better, which is unlike many other things that we think will make us happy." He observed that people living in green spaces were less stressed, and less stressed people made more sensible decisions and communicated better.

With a growing body of evidence establishing a link between urban green spaces and a positive impact on human well-being, Dr. White said, "There's growing interest among public policy officials, but the trouble is who funds it. What we really need at a policy level is to decide where the money will come from to help support good quality local green spaces." (2018-6-2 Passage1)

46. According to one study, what do green spaces do to people?

- A. Improve their work efficiency.
- B. Add to their sustained happiness.
- C. Help them build a positive attitude towards life.
- D. Lessen their concerns about material well-being.

47. What does Dr. White say people usually do to make themselves happier?

- A. Earn more money.
- B. Settle in an urban area.
- C. Gain fame and popularity.
- D. Live in a green environment.

48. What does Dr. White try to find out about living in a greener urban area?

- A. How it affects different people.
- B. How strong its positive effect is.
- C. How long its positive effect lasts.
- D. How it benefits people physically.

49. What did Dr. White's research reveal about people living in a green environment?

- A. Their stress was more apparent than real.
- B. Their decisions required less deliberation.
- C. Their memories were greatly strengthened.
- D. Their communication with others improved.

50. According to Dr. White, what should the government do to build more green spaces in cities?

- A. Find financial support.
- B. Improve urban planning.
- C. Involve local residents in the effort.
- D. Raise public awareness of the issue.

Passage Two

2018-06-2 passage 2

You probably know about the Titanic, but it was actually just one of three *state-of-the-art* (先进的) ocean ships back in the day. The Olympic class ships were built by the Harland & Wolff ship makers in Northern Ireland for the White Star Line company. The Olympic class included the Olympic, the Britannic and the Titanic. What you may not know is that the Titanic wasn't even the flagship of this class. All in all, the Olympic class ships were marvels of sea engineering, but they seemed cursed to suffer disastrous fates.

The Olympic launched first in 1910, followed by the Titanic in 1911, and lastly the Britannic in 1914. The ships had nine decks, and White Star Line decided to focus on making them the most luxurious ships on the water.

Stretching 269.13 meters, the Olympic class ships were wonders of naval technology, and everyone thought that they would continue to be so for quite some time. However, all suffered terrible accidents on the open seas. The Olympic got wrecked before the Titanic did, but it was the only one to survive and maintain a successful career of 24 years. The Titanic was the first to sink after famously hitting a huge iceberg in 1912. Following this disaster, the Britannic hit a naval mine in 1916 and subsequently sank as well.

Each ship was coal-powered by several boilers constantly kept running by exhausted crews below deck. Most recognizable of the ship designs are the ship's smoke stacks, but the fourth stack was actually just artistic in nature and served no functional purpose. While two of these ships sank, they were all designed with double *hulls* (船体) believed to make them "unsinkable", perhaps a mistaken idea that led to the Titanic's and the Britannic's tragic end.

The Olympic suffered two crashes with other ships and went on to serve as a hospital ship and troop transport in World War I. Eventually, she was taken out of service in 1935, ending the era of the luxurious Olympic class ocean liners. (2018-6-2 Passage2)

51. What does the passage say about the three Olympic class ships?

- A. They performed marvellously on the sea. B. They could all break the ice in their way.
C. They all experienced terrible misfortunes. D. They were models of modern engineering.

52. What did White Star Line have in mind when it purchased the three ships?

- A. Their capacity of sailing across all waters. B. The utmost comfort passengers could enjoy.
C. Their ability to survive disasters of any kind. D. The long voyages they were able to undertake.

53. What is said about the fourth stack of the ships?

- A. It was a mere piece of decoration. B. It was the work of a famous artist.
C. It was designed to let out extra smoke. D. It was easily identifiable from afar.

54. What might have led to the tragic end of the Titanic and the Britannic?

- A. Their unscientific designs.
B. Their captains' misjudgment.
C. The assumption that they were built with the latest technology.
D. The belief that they could never sink with a double-layer body.

55. What happened to the ship Olympic in the end?

- A. She was used to carry troops. B. She was sunk in World War I.
C. She was converted into a hospital ship. D. She was retired after her naval service.

Passage 1

46. B

47. A

48. C

49. D

50. A

Passage 2

51. C

52. B

53. A

54. D

55. D

2018-06-3 passage 1

For thousands of years, people have known that the best way to understand a concept is to explain it to someone else. "While we teach, we learn," said Roman philosopher Seneca. Now scientists are bringing this ancient wisdom up-to-date. They're documenting why teaching is such a fruitful way to learn, and designing innovative ways for young people to engage in instruction.

Researchers have found that students who sign up to tutor others work harder to understand the material, recall it more accurately and apply it more effectively. Student teachers score higher on tests than pupils who're learning only for their own sake. But how can children, still learning themselves, teach others? One answer: They can tutor younger kids. Some studies have found that first-born children are more intelligent than their later-born *siblings* (兄弟姐妹). This suggests their higher IQs result from the time they spend teaching their siblings. Now educators are experimenting with ways to apply this model to academic subjects. They engage college undergraduates to teach computer science to high school students, who in turn instruct middle school students on the topic.

But the most cutting-edge tool under development is the "teachable agent"—a computerized character who learns, tries, makes mistakes and asks questions just like a real-world pupil. Computer scientists have created an *animated* (动画的) figure called Betty's Brain, who has been "taught" about environmental science by hundreds of middle school students. Student teachers are motivated to help Betty master certain materials. While preparing to teach, they organize their knowledge and improve their own understanding. And as they explain the information to it, they identify problems in their own thinking.

Feedback from the teachable agents further enhances the tutors' learning. The agents' questions compel student tutors to think and explain the materials in different ways, and watching the agent solve problems allows them to see their knowledge put into action.

Above all, it's the emotions one experiences in teaching that facilitate learning. Student tutors feel upset when their teachable agents fail, but happy when these virtual pupils succeed as they derive pride and satisfaction from someone else's accomplishment. (2018-6-3 Passage1)

46. What are researchers rediscovering through their studies?

- A) Seneca's thinking is still applicable today.
- B) Better learners will become better teachers.
- C) Human intelligence tends to grow with age.
- D) Philosophical thinking improves instruction.

47. What do we learn about Betty's Brain?

- A) It is a character in a popular animation.
- B) It is a teaching tool under development.
- C) It is a cutting-edge app in digital games.
- D) It is a tutor for computer science students.

48. How does teaching others benefit student tutors?

- A) It makes them aware of what they are strong at.
- B) It motivates them to try novel ways of teaching.
- C) It helps them learn their academic subjects better.
- D) It enables them to better understand their teachers.

49. What do students do to teach their teachable agents?

- A) They motivate them to think independently.

- B) They ask them to design their own questions.
 - C) They encourage them to give prompt feedback.
 - D) They use various ways to explain the materials.
50. What is the key factor that eases student tutors' learning?
- A) Their sense of responsibility.
 - B) Their emotional involvement.
 - C) The learning strategy acquired.
 - D) The teaching experience gained.

2018-06-3 passage 2

A new batch of young women—members of the so-called *Millennial* (千禧的) generation—has been entering the workforce for the past decade. At the starting line of their careers, they are better educated than their mothers and grandmothers had been—or than their young male counterparts are now. But when they look ahead, they see roadblocks to their success. They believe that women are paid less than men for doing the same job. They think it's easier for men to get top executive jobs than it is for them. And they assume that if and when they have children, it will be even harder for them to advance in their careers.

While the public sees greater workplace equality between men and women now than it did 20-30 years ago, most believe more change is needed. Among Millennial women, 75% say this country needs to continue making changes to achieve gender equality in the workplace, compared with 57% of Millennial men. Even so, relatively few young women (15%) say they have been discriminated against at work because of their gender.

As Millennial women come of age they share many of the same views and values about work as their male counterparts. They want jobs that provide security and flexibility, and they place relatively little importance on high pay. At the same time, however, young working women are less likely than men to aim at top management jobs: 34% say they're not interested in becoming a boss or top manager; only 24% of young men say the same. The gender gap on this question is even wider among working adults in their 30s and 40s, when many women face the trade-offs that go with work and motherhood.

These findings are based on a new Pew Research Center survey of 2,002 adults, including 810 Millennials (ages 18-32), conducted Oct. 7-27, 2013. The survey finds that, in spite of the dramatic gains women have made in educational attainment and labor force participation in recent decades, young women view this as a man's world—just as middle-aged and older women do.

(2018-6-3 Passage2)

51. What do we learn from the first paragraph about Millennial women starting their careers?
- A) They can get ahead only by striving harder.
 - B) They expect to succeed just like Millennial men.
 - C) They are generally quite optimistic about their future.
 - D) They are better educated than their male counterparts.
52. How do most Millennial women feel about their treatment in the workplace?
- A) They are the target of discrimination.
 - B) They find it satisfactory on the whole.
 - C) They think it needs further improving.

- D) They find their complaints ignored.
53. What do Millennial women value most when coming of age?
- A) A sense of accomplishment.
 - B) Job stability and flexibility.
 - C) Rewards and promotions.
 - D) Joy derived from work.
54. What are women in their 30s and 40s concerned about?
- A) The welfare of their children.
 - B) The narrowing of the gender gap.
 - C) The fulfillment of their dreams in life.
 - D) The balance between work and family.
55. What conclusion can be drawn about Millennial women from the 2013 survey?
- A) They still view this world as one dominated by males.
 - B) They account for half the workforce in the job market.
 - C) They see the world differently from older generations.
 - D) They do better in work than their male counterparts.

Passage 1

46. A

47. B

48. C

49. D

50. B

Passage 2

51. D

52. C

53. B

54. D

55. A

2018-12-1 passage 1

California has been facing a drought for many years now, with certain areas even having to pump freshwater hundreds of miles to their distribution system. The problem is growing as the population of the state continues to expand. New research has found deep water reserves under the state which could help solve their drought crisis. Previous drilling of wells could only reach depths of 1,000 feet, but due to new pumping practices, water deeper than this can now be *extracted* (抽取). The team at Stanford investigated the *aquifers* (地下蓄水层) below this depth and found that reserves may be triple what was previously thought.

It is profitable to drill to depths more than 1,000 feet for oil and gas extraction, but only recently in California has it become profitable to pump water from this depth. The aquifers range from 1,000 to 3,000 feet below the ground, which means that pumping will be expensive and there are other concerns. The biggest concern of pumping out water from this deep in the gradual settling down of the land surface. As the water is pumped out, the vacant space left is compacted by the weight of the earth above.

Even though pumping from these depths is expensive, it is still cheaper than *desalinating* (脱盐) the ocean water in the largely coastal state. Some desalination plants exist where feasible, but they are costly to run and can need constant repairs. Wells are much more reliable sources of freshwater, and California is hoping that these deep wells may be the answer to their severe water shortage.

One problem with these sources is that the deep water also has a higher level of salt than shallower aquifers. This means that some wells may even need to undergo desalination after extraction, thus increasing the cost. Research from the exhaustive study of groundwater from over 950 drilling logs has just been published. New estimates of the water reserves now go up to 2,700 billion cubic meters of fresh water. (2018-12-1 Passage 1)

46. How could California's drought crisis be solved according to some researchers?

- A) By building more reserves of groundwater.
- B) By drawing water from the depths of the earth.
- C) By developing more advanced drilling devices.
- D) By upgrading its water distribution system.

47. What can be inferred about extracting water from deep aquifers?

- A) It was deemed vital to solving the water problem.
- B) It was not considered worth the expense.
- C) It may not provide quality freshwater.
- D) It is bound to gain support from the local people.

48. What is mentioned as a consequence of extracting water from deep underground?

- A) The sinking of land surface. C) The damage to aquifers.
- B) The harm to the ecosystem. D) The change of the climate.

49. What does the author say about deep wells?

- A) They run without any need for repairs.
- B) They are entirely free from pollutants.
- C) They are the ultimate solution to droughts.
- D) They provide a steady supply of freshwater.

50. What may happen when deep aquifers are used as water sources?

- A) People's health may improve with cleaner water.
- B) People's water bills may be lowered considerably.
- C) The cost may go up due to desalination.
- D) They may be exhausted sooner or later.

2018-12-1 passage 2

The AlphaGo program's victory is an example of how smart computers have become.

But can artificial intelligence (AI) machines act ethically, meaning can they be honest and fair?

One example of AI is driverless cars. They are already on California roads, so it is not too soon to ask whether we can program a machine to act ethically. As driverless cars improve, they will save lives. They will make fewer mistakes than human drivers do. Sometimes, however, they will face a choice between lives. Should the cars be programmed to avoid hitting a child running across the road, even if that will put their passengers at risk? What about making a sudden turn to avoid a dog? What if the only risk is damage to the car itself, not to the passengers?

Perhaps there will be lessons to learn from driverless cars, but they are not super-intelligent beings. Teaching ethics to a machine even more intelligent than we are will be the bigger challenge.

About the same time as AlphaGo's triumph, Microsoft's 'chatbot' took a bad turn. The software, named Taylor, was designed to answer messages from people aged 18-24. Taylor was supposed to be able to learn from the messages she received. She was designed to slowly improve her ability to handle conversations, but some people were teaching Taylor racist ideas. When she started saying nice things about Hitler, Microsoft turned her off and deleted her ugliest messages.

AlphaGo's victory and Taylor's defeat happened at about the same time. This should be a warning to us. It is one thing to use AI within a game with clear rules and clear goals. It is something very different to use AI in the real world. The unpredictability of the real world may bring to the surface a troubling software problem.

Eric Schmidt is one of the bosses of Google, which own AlphaGo. He thinks AI will be positive for humans. He said people will be the winner, whatever the outcome. Advances in AI will make human beings smarter, more able and "just better human beings." (2018-12-1 Passage2)

51. What does the author want to show with the example of AlphaGo's victory?

- A) Computers will prevail over human beings.
- B) Computers have unmatched potential.
- C) Computers are man's potential rivals.
- D) Computers can become highly intelligent.

52. What does the author mean by AI machines acting ethically?

- A) They are capable of predicting possible risks.
- B) They weigh the gains and losses before reaching a decision.
- C) They make sensible decisions when facing moral dilemmas.
- D) They sacrifice everything to save human lives.

53. What is said to be the bigger challenge facing humans in the AI age?

- A) How to make super-intelligent AI machines share human feelings.
- B) How to ensure that super-intelligent AI machines act ethically.

- C)How to prevent AI machines doing harm to humans.
 - D)How to avoid being over-dependent on AI machines.
- 54.What do we learn about Microsoft's "chatbot" Taylor?
- A)She could not distinguish good from bad.
 - B)She could turn herself off when necessary.
 - C)She was not made to handle novel situations.
 - D)She was good at performing routine tasks.
55. What does Eric Schmidt think of artificial intelligence?
- A) It will be far superior to human beings.
 - B) It will keep improving as time goes by.
 - C) It will prove to be an asset to human beings.
 - D) It will be here to stay whatever the outcome.

Passage 1

46. B

47. B

48. A

49. D

50. C

Passage 2

51. D

52. C

53. B

54. A

55. C

2018-12-2 passage 1

Roughly the size of a soda can, sitting on a bookshelf, a relatively harmless gadget may be turning friends away from your home. The elephant in your living room is your Internet-connected security camera, a device people are increasingly using for peace of mind in their homes. But few stop to think about the effect these devices may have on house guests. Should you tell your friends, for instance, that they're being recorded while you all watch the big game together?

"It's certainly new territory, especially as home security cameras become easier to install," says Lizzie Post, president of the Emily Post Institute, America's foremost manners advisors. "I think it will be very interesting to see what *etiquette* (礼仪) emerges in terms of whether you tell people you have a camera or not, and whether guests have a right to ask that it be turned off, if it's not a security issue."

Post wants to make clear that she's not talking about legal rights, but rather personal preference. She also wants to explain that there are no right or wrong answers regarding manners on this front yet, because the technology is just now becoming mainstream. Besides, the Emily Post Institute doesn't dictate manners.

When it comes to security cameras, Post says it's a host's responsibility to make sure guests feel comfortable within their home. "I'm always a fan of being open and honest." For instance, if the host casually acknowledges that there is a camera in the room by telling a story about it, that may be enough to provide an opening for a guest to say if they are uncomfortable.

However, if a contractor is working in your home, you don't need to tell them that there are cameras watching. Then again, the air of accountability that the camera generates can also work in contractors' favor. "If anything does go wrong while they're in the house, they don't want to be blamed for it," she says. "In fact, the camera could be the thing that proves that they didn't steal the \$20, or knock the vase off the table." (2018-12-2 Passage1)

46. For what reason may your friends feel reluctant to visit your home?

- A) The security camera installed may intrude into their privacy.
- B) They don't want their photos to be circulated on the Internet.
- C) The security camera may turn out to be harmful to their health.
- D) They may not be willing to interact with your family members.

47. What does Lizzie Post say is new territory?

- A) The effect of manners advice on the public.
- B) Cost of applying new technologies at home.
- C) The increasing use of home security devices.
- D) Etiquette around home security cameras.

48. What is Lizzie Post mainly discussing with regard to the use of home security cameras?

- A) Legal rights.
- B) Moral issues
- C) Likes and dislikes of individuals.
- D) The possible impact on manners.

49. What is a host's responsibility regarding security cameras, according to Lizzie Post?

- A) Making their guests feel at ease.
- B) Indicating where they are.
- C) Turning them off in time.
- D) Ensuring their guests' privacy.

50. In what way can the home security camera benefit visitors to your home?

- A) It can satisfy their curiosity.

- B) It can prove their innocence.
- C) It can help them learn new technology.
- D) It can make their visit more enjoyable.

2018-12-2 passage 2

PepsiCo is to spend billions of dollars to develop drinks and snacks and reformulate existing ones with lower sugar, salt and fat, as consumers demand healthier options and regulatory pressure intensifies amid an obesity *epidemic* (流行病) .

The maker of Mountain Dew and Gatorade has been one of the earlier movers in the industry to offer products with reduced levels of unhealthy ingredients—PepsiCo claims a packet of its chips now contains less salt than a slice of white bread. However, its new 10-year plan makes clear it believes it still has a long way to go.

Shifting eating habits, including a sharp drop in consumption of sparkling drinks, have forced radical change on the industry. But those shifts have yet to be reflected in record obesity levels, which stand at 36.5% overall in the US.

Indra Nooyi, PepsiCo chairman, said the plan to make its products healthier was important for the company's growth. But on the subject of obesity, she pointed out that consumers' lifestyles have changed significantly, with many people being more *sedentary* (久坐不动的) not least because more time is spent in front of computers. She said PepsiCo's contribution was to produce healthier snacks that still tasted good.

“Society has to change its habits,” she added. “We can't do much to alter sedentary lifestyles, but we can provide consumers with great-tasting products, low in salt, sugar and fat. In the past we had to have a taste trade-off. But we're breaking that trade-off.”

PepsiCo's plan for its foods and drinks is based on guidelines from the World Health Organisation, which last week backed using taxes on sparkling drinks to reduce sugar consumption. Initiatives also include efforts to reduce its environmental impact, water consumption and materials used in packaging by 2025.

PepsiCo did not say exactly how much it planned to invest to reach its goals. However, Dr Mehmood Khan, chief scientific officer, said the company had doubled research and development spending in the past five years and was “committed to sustaining investment”, adding that companies cannot cost-cut their way to increasing sales. PepsiCo's research and development budget in 2015 was \$754 million. (2018-12-2 Passage2)

51. Why is PepsiCo making a policy change?

- A) To win support from the federal government.
- B) To be more competitive in the global market.
- C) To satisfy the growing needs for healthy foods.
- D) To invest more wisely in the soft drink industry.

52. What does PepsiCo think it will have to do in the future?

- A) Invest more to develop new snacks.
- B) Reduce levels of obesity in the US.
- C) Change consumers' eating habits.
- D) Keep on improving its products.

53. Why does PepsiCo plan to alter its products, according to Indra Nooyi?

- A) To ensure the company's future development.

- B) To adapt to its customers' changed taste.
 - C) To help improve its consumers' lifestyles.
 - D) To break the trade-off in its product design.
54. What does Indra Nooyi say about the obesity epidemic?
- A) It is mainly caused by overconsumption of snacks.
 - B) It results from high sugar and salt consumption.
 - C) It is attributable to people's changed lifestyles.
 - D) It has a lot to do with longer working hours.
55. What has PepsiCo been doing to achieve its objective?
- A) Studying WHO's guidelines.
 - B) Increasing its research funding.
 - C) Expanding its market overseas.
 - D) Cutting its production costs.

Passage 1

46. A

47. D

48. C

49. A

50. B

Passage 2

51. C

52. D

53. A

54. C

55. B

2018-12-3 passage 1

The latest in cat research reveals that the lovely animal seems to have a basic grasp on both the laws of physics and the ins and outs of cause and effect.

According to a newly published study, cats seem to be able to predict the location of hiding *prey* (猎物) using both their ears and an *inborn* (天生的) understanding of how the physical world works.

In a recent experiment, Japanese researchers taped 30 domestic cats reacting to a container that a team member shook. Some containers *rattled* (发出响声); others did not. When the container was tipped over, sometimes an object fell out and sometimes it didn't.

It turns out that the cats were remarkably smart about what would happen when a container was tipped over. When an object did not drop out of the bottom of a rattling container, they looked at it for a longer time than they did when the container behaved as expected.

"Cats use a causal-logical understanding of noise or sounds to predict the appearance of invisible objects," lead researcher Saho Takagi says in a press release. The researchers conclude that cats' hunting style may have developed based on their common-sense abilities to infer where prey is, using their hearing.

Scientists have explored this idea with other endearing creatures: babies. Like cats, babies appear to engage in what's called "preferential looking"—looking longer at things that are interesting or unusual than things they perceive as normal.

When babies' expectations are violated in experiments like the ones performed with the cats, they react much like their animal friends. Psychologists have shown that babies apparently expect their world to comply with the laws of physics and cause and effect as early as two months of age.

Does the study mean that cats will soon grasp the ins and outs of cause and effect? Maybe. Okay, so cats may not be the next physics faculty members at America's most important research universities. But by demonstrating their common sense, they've shown that the divide between cats and humans may not be that great after all. (2018-12-3 Passage1)

46. What do we learn from a newly published study about cats?

- A) They can be trained to understand the physical world.
- B) They know what kind of prey might be easier to hunt.
- C) They have a natural ability to locate animals they hunt.
- D) They are capable of telling which way their prey flees.

47. What may account for the cats' response to the noise from the containers?

- A) Their inborn sensitivity to noise.
- B) Their unusual sense of direction.
- C) Their special ability to perceive.
- D) Their mastery of cause and effect.

48. What is characteristic of the way cats hunt, according to the Japanese researchers?

- A) They depend on their instincts.
- B) They rely mainly on their hearing.
- C) They wait some time before attack.
- D) They use both their ears and eyes.

49. In what way do babies behave like cats?

- A) They focus on what appears odd.
- B) They view the world as normal.
- C) They do what they prefer to do.
- D) They are curious about everything.

50. What can we conclude about cats from the passage?

- A) They have higher intelligence than many other animals.
- B) They interact with the physical world much like humans.
- C) They display extraordinarily high intelligence in hunting.
- D) They can aid physics professors in their research work.

2018-12-3 passage 2

Imagine you enter a car with no steering wheel, no brake or accelerator *pedals* (踏板). Under a voice-activated command, you say an address. "The fastest route will take us 15.3 minutes. Should I take it?" You say "yes" and you are on your way. The car responds and starts moving all by itself. All you have to do is sit back and relax.

How weird would it be if, one day in the future, everyone had such a car? No crazy driving, no insults, no cutting in; traffic laws would be respected and driving much safer. On the other hand, imagine the cost savings for local police enforcement and town budgets without all those speeding and parking tickets.

A new technology has the potential to change modern society in radical ways. There's no question that self-driving vehicles could be an enormous benefit. The potential for safer cars means accident statistics would drop: some 94% of road accidents in the U.S. involve human error. Older drivers and visually-or physically-impaired people would gain a new level of freedom. Maintaining safe speeds and being electric, self-driving cars would drastically reduce pollution levels and dependency on non-renewable fuels. Roads would be quieter, people safer.

But we must also consider the impact of the new technology on those who now depend on driving for their livelihoods. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in May 2015 there were 505,560 registered school bus drivers. The American Trucking Association lists approximately 3.5 million professional truck drivers in the U.S.

The companies developing self-driving vehicles should be partnering with state and federal authorities to offer retraining for this massive workforce, many of whom will be displaced by the new technology. This is similar to what's happening in the coal and oil industries, a situation that fuels much of the current political discontent in this country.

New technologies will, and should, be developed. This is how society moves forward. However, progress can't be one-sided. It is necessary for the companies and state agencies involved to consider the ethical consequences of these potential changes to build a better future for all. (2018-12-3 Passage2)

51. What would be the impact of the extensive use of driverless cars?

- A) People would be driving in a more civilized way.
- B) It would save local governments a lot of money.
- C) More policemen would be patrolling the streets.
- D) Traffic regulations would be a thing of the past.

52. How would the elderly and the disabled benefit from driverless cars?

- A) They could enjoy greater mobility.
- B) They would suffer no road accidents.
- C) They would have no trouble driving.
- D) They could go anywhere they want.

53. What would be the negative impact of driverless cars?
- A) The conflict between labor and management would intensify.
 - B) The gap between various sectors of society would be widened.
 - C) Professional drivers would have a hard time adapting to new road conditions.
 - D) Numerous professional drivers would have to find new ways of earning a living.
54. What is the result of the introduction of new technologies in energy industries?
- A) Political dissatisfaction.
 - B) Retraining of employees.
 - C) Fossil fuel conservation.
 - D) Business restructuring.
55. What does the author suggest businesses and the government do?
- A) Keep pace with technological developments.
 - B) Make new technologies affordable to everyone.
 - C) Enable everyone to benefit from new technologies.
 - D) Popularize the use of new technologies and devices.

Passage 1

CDBAB

Passage 2

BADAC

2019-06-1 passage 1

In the classic marriage *vow* (誓约), couples promise to stay together in sickness and in health. But a new study finds that the risk of divorce among older couples rises when the wife—not the husband—becomes seriously ill.

“Married women diagnosed with a serious health condition may find themselves struggling with the impact of their disease while also experiencing the stress of divorce,” said researcher Amelia Karraker.

Karraker and co-author Kenzie Latham analyzed 20 years of data on 2,717 marriages from a study conducted by Indiana University since 1992. At the time of the first interview, at least one of the partners was over the age of 50.

The researchers examined how the *onset* (发生) of four serious physical illnesses affected marriages. They found that, overall, 31% of marriages ended in divorce over the period studied. The incidence of new *chronic* (慢性的) illness onset increased over time as well, with more husbands than wives developing serious health problems.

“We found that women are doubly vulnerable to marital break-up in the face of illness,” Karraker said. “They’re more likely to be widowed, and if they’re the ones who become ill, they’re more likely to get divorced.”

While the study didn’t assess why divorce is more likely when wives but not husbands become seriously ill, Karraker offers a few possible reasons. “Gender norms and social expectations about caregiving many make it more difficult for men to provide care to sick spouses,” Karraker said. “And because of the imbalance in marriage markets, especially in older ages, divorced men have more choices among prospective partners than divorced women.”

Given the increasing concern about health care costs for the aging population, Karraker believes policymakers should be aware of the relationship between disease and risk of divorce.

“Offering support services to spouses caring for their other halves may reduce marital stress and prevent divorce at older ages,” she said. “But it’s also important to recognize that the pressure to divorce may be health-related and that sick ex-wives may need additional care and services to prevent worsening health and increased health costs.” (2019-6-1 Passage1)

46. What can we learn about marriage vows from the passage?

- A) They may not guarantee a lasting marriage.
- B) They are as binding as they used to be.
- C) They are not taken seriously any more.
- D) They may help couples tide over hard times.

47. What did Karraker and co-author Kenzie Latham find about elderly husbands?

- A) They are generally not good at taking care of themselves.
- B) They can become increasingly vulnerable to serious illnesses.
- C) They can develop different kinds of illnesses just like their wives.
- D) They are more likely to contract serious illnesses than their wives.

48. What does Karraker say about women who fall ill?

- A) They are more likely to be widowed.
- B) They are more likely to get divorced.
- C) They are less likely to receive good care.
- D) They are less likely to bother their spouses.

49. Why is it more difficult for men to take care of their sick spouses according to Karraker?

- A) They are more accustomed to receiving care.
 - B) They find it more important to make money for the family.
 - C) They think it more urgent to fulfill their social obligations.
 - D) They expect society to do more of the job.
50. What does Karraker think is also important?
- A) Reducing marital stress on wives.
 - B) Stabilizing old couples's relations.
 - C) Providing extra care for divorced women.
 - D) Making men pay for their wives' health costs.

2019-06-1 passage 2

If you were like most children, you probably got upset when your mother called you by a *sibling's* (兄弟姐妹的) name. How could she not know you? Did it mean she loved you less?

Probably not. According to the first research to tackle this topic head-on, misnaming the most familiar people in our life is a common *cognitive* (认知的) error that has to do with how our memories classify and store familiar names.

The study, published online in April in the journal *Memory and Cognition*, found that the “wrong” name is not random but is invariably fished out from the same relationship pond: children, siblings, friends. The study did not examine the possibility of deep psychological significance to the mistake, says psychologist David Rubin, “but it does tell us who’s in and who’s out of the group.”

The study also found that within that group, misnamings occurred where the names shared initial or internal sounds, like Jimmy and Joanie or John and Bob. Physical resemblance between people was not a factor. Nor was gender.

The researchers conducted five separate surveys of more than 1,700 people. Some of the surveys included only college students; others were done with a mixed-age population. Some asked subjects about incidents where someone close to them—family or friend—had called them by another person’s name. The other surveys asked about times when subjects had themselves called someone close to them by the wrong name. All the surveys found that people mixed up names within relationship groups such as grandchildren, friends and siblings but hardly ever crossed these boundaries.

In general, the study found that undergraduates were almost as likely as old people to make this mistake and men as likely as women. Older people and this mistake and men as likely as women. Older people and women made the mistake slightly more often, but that may be because grandparents have more grandchildren to mix up than parents have children. Also, mothers may call on their children more often than fathers, given traditional gender norms. There was no evidence that errors occurred more when the misnamer was frustrated, tired or angry. (2019-6-1 Passage2)

51. How might people often feel when they were misnamed?
- A) Unwanted.
 - B) Unhappy.
 - C) Confused.
 - D) Indifferent.
52. What did David Rubin’s research find about misnaming?
- A) It is related to the way our memories work.
 - B) It is a possible indicator of a faulty memory.

C) It occurs mostly between kids and their friends.

D) It often causes misunderstandings among people.

53. What is most likely the cause of misnaming?

A) Similar personality traits.

B) Similar spellings of names.

C) Similar physical appearance.

D) Similar pronunciation of names.

54. What did the surveys of more than 1,700 subjects find about misnaming?

A) It more often than not hurts relationships.

B) It hardly occurs across gender boundaries.

C) It is most frequently found in extended families.

D) It most often occurs within a relationship groups.

55. Why do mothers misname their children more often than fathers?

A) They suffer more frustrations.

B) They become worn out more often.

C) They communicate more with their children.

D) They generally take on more work at home.

Passage 1

ADBAC

Passage 2

BADDC

2019-06-2 passage 1

According to the majority of Americans, women are every bit as capable of being good political leaders as men. The same can be said of their ability to dominate the corporate boardroom. And according to a new Pew Research Center survey on women and leadership, most Americans find women indistinguishable from men on key leadership traits such as intelligence and capacity for innovation, with many saying they're stronger than men in terms of being passionate and organized leaders.

So why, then, are women in short supply at the top of government and business in the United States? According to the public, at least, it's not that they lack toughness, management talent or proper skill sets.

It's also not all about work-life balance. Although economic research and previous survey findings have shown that career interruptions related to motherhood may make it harder for women to advance in their careers and compete for top executive jobs, relatively few adults in the recent survey point to this as a key barrier for women seeking leadership roles. Only about one-in-five say women's family responsibilities are a major reason why there aren't more females in top leadership positions in business and politics.

Instead, topping the list of reasons, about four-in-ten Americans point to a double standard for women seeking to climb to the highest levels of either politics or business, where they have to do more than their male counterparts to prove themselves. Similar shares say the *electorate*(选民)and corporate America are just not ready to put more women in top leadership positions.

As a result, the public is divided about whether the imbalance in corporate America will change in the foreseeable future, even though women have made major advances in the workplace. While 53% believe men will continue to hold more top executive positions in business in the future, 44% say it's only a matter of time before as many women are in top executive positions as men. Americans are less doubtful when it comes to politics: 73% expect to see a female president in their lifetime. (2019-6-2 Passage1)

46. What do most Americans think of women leaders according to a new Pew Research Center survey?

- A) They have to do more to distinguish themselves.
- B) They have to strive harder to win their positions.
- C) They are stronger than men in terms of willpower.
- D) They are just as intelligent and innovative as men.

47. What do we learn from previous survey findings about women seeking leadership roles?

- A) They have unconquerable difficulties on their way to success.
- B) They are lacking in confidence when competing with men.
- C) Their failures may have something to do with family duties.
- D) Relatively few are hindered in their career advancement.

48. What is the primary factor keeping women from taking top leadership positions according to the recent survey?

- A) Personality traits.
- B) Family responsibilities.
- C) Gender bias.
- D) Lack of vacancies.

49. What does the passage say about corporate America in the near future?

- A) More and more women will sit in the boardroom.
- B) Gender imbalance in leadership is likely to change.

- C)The public is undecided about whether women will make good leaders.
D)People have opposing opinions as to whether it will have more women leaders.
- 50.What do most Americans expect to see soon on America's political stage?
- A)A woman in the highest position of government.
B)More and more women actively engaged in politics.
C)A majority of women voting for a female president.
D)As many women in top government positions as men.

2019-06-2 passage 2

People have grown taller over the last century, with South Korean women shooting up by more than 20cm on average, and Iranian men gaining 16.5cm. A global study looked at the average height of 18-year-olds in 200 countries 1914 and 2014.

The results reveal that while Swedes were the tallest people in the world in 1914, Dutch men have risen from 12th place to claim top spot with an average height of 182.5cm. Latvian women. Meanwhile, rose from 28th place in 1914 to become the tallest in the world a century later, with an average height of 169.8cm.

James Bentham, a co-author of the research from Imperial College, London, says the global trend is likely to be due primarily to improvements in nutrition and healthcare. "An individual's genetics has a big influence on their height, but once you average over whole populations, genetics plays a less key role," he added.

A little extra height brings a number of advantages, says Elio Riboli of Imperial College. "Being taller is associated with longer life expectancy," he said. "This is largely due to a lower risk of dying of *cardiovascular* (心血管的) disease among taller people."

But while height has increased around the world, the trend in many countries of north and sub-Saharan Africa causes concern, says Riboli. While height increased in Uganda and Niger during the early 20th century, the trend has reversed in recent years, with height decreasing among 18-year-olds.

"One reason for these decreases in height is the economic situation in the 1980s," said Alexander Moradi of the University of Sussex. The nutritional and health crises that followed the policy of structural adjustment, he says, led to many children and teenagers failing to reach their full potential in terms of height.

Bentham believes the global trend of increasing height has important implications. "How tall we are now is strongly influenced by the environment we grew up in," he said. "If we give children the best possible start in life now, they will be healthier and more productive for decades to come." (2019-6-2 Passage2)

51. What does the global study tell us about people's height in the last hundred years?
- A) There is a remarkable difference across continents.
B) There has been a marked increase in most countries.
C) The increase in people's height has been quickening.
D) The increase in women's height is bigger than in men's.
52. What does James Bentham say about genetics in the increase of people's height?
- A) It counts less than generally thought.
B) It outweighs nutrition and healthcare.
C) It impacts more on an individual than on population.

- D) It plays a more significant role in females than in males.
53. What does Elio Riboli say about taller people?
- A) They tend to live longer. B) They enjoy an easier life.
C) They generally risk fewer fatal diseases. D) They have greater expectations in life.
54. What do we learn about 18-year-olds in Uganda and Niger?
- A) They grow up slower than their peers in other countries.
B) They are actually shorter than their earlier generations.
C) They find it hard to bring their potential into full play.
D) They have experienced many changes of government
55. What does James Bentham suggest we do?
- A) Watch closely the global trend in children's development.
B) Make sure that our children grow up to their full height.
C) Try every means possible to improve our environment.
D) Ensure our children grow up in an ideal environment.

Passage 1

DCBDA

Passage 2

BCABD

2019-06-3 passage 1

Most kids grow up learning they cannot draw on the walls. But it might be time to unlearn that training—this summer, group of culture addicts, artists and community organizers are inviting New Yorkers to write all over the walls of an old house on Governor’s Island.

The project is called Writing On It All, and it’s a participatory writing project and artistic experiment that has happened on Governor’s Island every summer since 2013.

“Most of the participants are people who are just walking by or are on the island for other reasons, or they just kind of happen to be there,” Alexandra Chasin, artistic director of Writing On It All, tells *Smithsonian.com*.

The 2016 season runs through June 26 and features sessions facilitated by everyone from dancers to domestic workers. Each session has a theme, and participants are given a variety of materials and prompts and asked to cover surfaces with their thoughts and art. This year, the programs range from one that turns the house into a collaborative essay to one that explores the meaning of exile.

Governor’s Island is a national historic landmark district long used for military purposes. Now known as “New York’s shared space for art and play,” the island, which lies between Manhattan and Brooklyn in Upper New York Bay, is closed to cars but open to summer tourists who flock for festivals, picnics, adventures, as well as these “legal *graffiti*(涂鸦)” Sessions.

The notes and art *scribbled*(涂画) on the walls are an experiment in self-expression. So far, participants have ranged in age from 2 to 85. Though Chasin says the focus of the work is on the activity of writing, rather than the text that ends up getting written, some of the work that comes out of the sessions has stuck with her.

“One of the sessions that moved me the most was state violence on black women and black girls,” says Chasin, explaining that in one room, people wrote down the names of those killed because of it. “People do beautiful work and leave beautiful messages.” (2019-6-3 Passage1)

46. What does the project Writing On It All invite people to do?

- A) Unlearn their training in drawing.
- B) Participate in a state graffiti show.
- C) Cover the walls of an old house with graffiti.
- D) Exhibit their artistic creations in an old house.

47. What do we learn about the participants in the project?

- A) They are just culture addicts.
- B) They are graffiti enthusiasts.
- C) They are writers and artists.
- D) They are mostly passers-by.

48. What did the project participants do during the 2016 season?

- A) They were free to scribble on the walls whatever came to their mind.
- B) They expressed their thoughts in graffiti on the theme of each session.
- C) They learned the techniques of collaborative writing.
- D) They were required to cooperate with other creators.

49. What kind of place is Governor’s Island?

- A) It is a historic site that attracts tourists and artists.
- B) It is an area now accessible only to tourist vehicles.
- C) It is a place in Upper New York Bay formerly used for exiles.
- D) It is an open area for tourists to enjoy themselves year round.

50. What does Chasin say about the project?

- A) It just focused on the sufferings of black females.
- B) It helped expand the influence of graffiti art.
- C) It has started the career of many creative artists.
- D) It has created some meaningful artistic works.

2019-06-3 passage 2

Online programs to fight depression are already commercially available. While they sound efficient and cost-saving, a recent study reports that they are not effective, primarily because depressed patients are not likely to engage with them or stick with them.

The study looked at computer-assisted *cognitive*(认知的) behavioral therapy(CBT) and found that it was no more effective in treating depression than the usual care patients receive from a primary care doctor.

Traditional CBT is considered an effective form of talk therapy for depression, helping people challenge negative thoughts and change the way they think in order to change their mood and behaviors. However, online CBT programs have been gaining popularity, with the attraction of providing low-cost help wherever someone has access to a computer.

A team of researchers from the University of York conducted a *randomized*(随机的) control trial with 691 depressed patients from 83 physician practices across England. The patients were split into three groups: one group received only usual care from a physician while the other two groups received usual care from a physician plus one of two computerized CBT programs. Participants were balanced across the three groups for age, sex, educational background, severity and duration of depression, and use of *antidepressants*(抗抑郁药).

After four months, the patients using the computerized CBT programs had no improvement in depression levels over the patients who were only getting usual care from their doctors.

“It’s an important, cautionary note that we shouldn’t get too carried away with the idea that a computer system can replace doctors and therapists,” says Christopher Dowrick, a professor of primary medical care at the University of Liverpool. “We do still need the human touch or the human interaction, particularly when people are depressed.”

Being depressed can mean feeling “lost in your own small, negative, dark world,” Dowrick says. Having a person, instead of a computer, reach out to you is particularly important in combating that sense of isolation. “When you’re emotionally vulnerable, you’re even more in need of a caring human being,” he says. (2019-6-3 Passage2)

51. What does the recent study say about online CBT programs?

- A) Patients may not be able to carry them through for effective cure.
- B) Patients cannot engage with them without the use of a computer.
- C) They can save patients trouble visiting physicians.
- D) They have been well received by a lot of patients.

52. What has made online CBT programs increasingly popular?

- A) Their effectiveness in combating depression.
- B) The low efficiency of traditional talk therapy.
- C) Their easy and inexpensive access by patients.
- D) The recommendation by primary care doctors.

53. What is the major finding by researchers at the University of York?
- A) Online CBT programs are no more effective than regular care from physicians.
 - B) The process of treating depression is often more complicated than anticipated.
 - C) The combination of traditional CBT and computerized CBT is most effective.
 - D) Depression is a mental condition which is to be treated with extreme caution.
54. What is Professor Dowrick's advice concerning online CBT programs?
- A) They should not be neglected in primary care.
 - B) Their effectiveness should not be overestimated.
 - C) They should be used by strictly following instructions.
 - D) Their use should be encouraged by doctors and therapists.
55. What is more important to an emotionally vulnerable person?
- A) A positive state of mind.
 - B) Appropriate medication.
 - C) Timely encouragement.
 - D) Human interaction.

Passage 1

CDBAD

Passage 2

ACABD

2019-12-1 passage 1

Professor Ashok Goel of Georgia Tech developed an artificially intelligent teaching assistant to help handle the enormous number of student questions in the online class, Knowledge-Based Artificial Intelligence. This online course is a core requirement of Georgia Tech's online Master of Science in Computer Science program. Professor Goel already had eight teaching assistants, but that wasn't enough to deal with the overwhelming number of daily questions from students.

Many students drop out of online courses because of the lack of teaching support. When students feel isolated or confused and reach out with questions that go unanswered, their motivation to continue begins to fade. Professor Goel decided to do something to remedy this situation and his solution was to create a virtual assistant named Jill Watson, which is based on the IBM Watson platform.

Goel and his team developed several versions of Jill Watson before releasing her to the online forums. At first, the virtual assistant wasn't too great. But Goel and his team sourced the online discussion forum to find all 40,000 questions that had ever been asked since the class was launched. Then they began to feed Jill with the questions and answers. After some adjustments, and sufficient time, Jill was able to answer the students' questions correctly 97% of the time. The virtual assistant became so advanced and realistic that the students didn't know she was a computer. The students, who were studying artificial intelligence, were interacting with the virtual assistant and couldn't tell it apart from a real human being. Goel didn't inform them about Jill's true identity until April 26. The students were actually very positive about the experience.

The goal of Professor Goel's virtual assistant next year is to take over answering 40% of all the questions posed by students on the online forum. The name Jill Watson will, of course, change to something else next semester. Professor Goel has a much rosier outlook on the future of artificial intelligence than, say, Elon Musk, Stephen Hawking, Bill Gates or Steve Wozniak.

(2019-12-1 Passage1)

46. What do we learn about Knowledge-Based Artificial Intelligence ?

- A) It is a robot that can answer students' questions.
- B) It is a course designed for students to learn online.
- C) It is a high-tech device that revolutionizes teaching.
- D) It is a computer program that aids student learning.

47. What problem did Professor Goel meet with ?

- A) His students were unsatisfied with the assistants.
- B) His course was too difficult for the students.
- C) Students' questions were too many to handle.
- D) Too many students dropped out of his course.

48. What do we learn about Jill Watson ?

- A) She turned out to be a great success.
- B) She got along pretty well with students.

- C)She was unwelcome to students at first.
D)She was released online as an experiment.
- 49.How did the students feel about Jill Watson?
- A)They thought she was a bit too artificial.
B)They found her not as capable as expected.
C) They could not but admire her knowledge.
D)they could not tell her from a real person.
- 50.What does Professor Goel plan to do next with Jill Watson?
- A)Launch different versions of her online.
B)Feed her with new questions and answers.
C)Assign her to answer more of students5 questions.
D)Encourage students to interact with her more freely.

2019-12-1 passage 2

Thinking small, being engaging, and having a sense of humor don't hurt. Those are a few of the traits of successful science crowdfunding efforts that emerge from a recent study that examined nearly 400 campaigns. But having a large network and some promotional skills may be more crucial.

Crowdfunding, raising money for a project through online appeals, has taken off in recent years for everything from making movies to producing water-saving gadgets. Scientists have tried to tap Internet donors, too, with mixed success. Some raised more than twice their goals, but others have fallen short of reaching even modest targets.

To determine what separates science crowdfunding triumphs from failures, a team led by science communications scholar Mike Schafer of the University of Zurich examined the content of the webpages for 371 recent campaigns.

Four traits stood out for those that achieved their goals, the researchers report in Public Understanding of Science. For one, they use a crowdfunding platform that specializes in raising money for science, and not just any kind of project. Although sites like Kickstarter take all comers, platforms such as Experiment.com, Medstartr.com and Petridish.org only present scientific projects. For another, they present the project with a funny video because good visuals and a sense of humor improved success. Most of them engage with potential donors, since projects that answered questions from interested donors fared better. And they target a small amount of money. The projects included in the study raised \$4000 on average, with 30% receiving less than \$1000. The more money a project sought, the lower the chance it reached its goal, the researchers found.

Other factors may also significantly influence a project5s success, most notably, the size of a scientist5s personal and professional networks, and how much a researcher promotes a project on their own. Those two factors are by far more critical than the content on the page. Crowdfunding can be part of researchers5 efforts to reach the public, and people give because "they feel a connection to the person,, who is doing the fundraising----- not necessarily to the science.

(2019-12-1 Passage2)

51.What do we learn about the scientists trying to raise money online for their projects?

A) They did not raise much due to modest targets. B) They made use of mixed fundraising strategies.

C) Not all of them achieved their anticipated goals. D) Most of them put movies online for the purpose.

52.What is the purpose of Mike Schafer's research of recent crowdfunding campaigns?

A) To create attractive content for science websites. B) To identify reasons for their different outcomes.

C) To help scientists to launch innovative projects. D) To separate science projects from general ones.

53.What trait contributes to the success of a crowdfunding campaign?

A) The potential benefit to future generations. B) Its interaction with prospective donors.

C) Its originality in addressing financial issues. D) The value of the proposed project.

54.What did the researchers think of the financial targets of crowdfunding projects?

A) They should be small to be successful. B) They should be based on actual needs.

C) They should be assessed with great care. D) They should be ambitious to gain notice.

55.What motivates people to donate in a crowdfunding campaign ?

A)The ease of access to the content of the webpage.

B)Their desire to contribute to the cause of science.

C)The significance and influence of the project itself.

D)Their feeling of connection to the scientists themselves.

Passage 1

BCADC

Passage 2

CBBAD

2019-12-2 passage 1

Textbooks represent an 11 billion dollar industry, up from \$8 billion in 2014. Textbook publisher Pearson is the largest publisher--of any kind--in the world.

It costs about \$1 million to create a new textbook. A freshman textbook will have dozens of contributors, from subject-matter experts through graphic and layout artists to expert reviewers and classroom testers. Textbook publishers connect professors, instructors and students in ways that alternatives, such as open e-textbooks and open educational resources, simply do not. This connection happens not only by means of collaborative development, review and testing, but also at conferences where faculty regularly decide on their textbooks and curricula for the coming year.

It is true that textbook publishers have recently reported losses, largely due to students renting or buying used print textbooks. But this can be chalked up to the excessively high cost of their books—which has increased over 1, 000 percent since 1977. A restructuring of the textbook industry may well be in order. But this does not mean the end of the textbook itself.

While they may not be as dynamic as an iPad, textbooks are not passive or lifeless. For example, over the centuries, they have simulated (模拟) dialogues in a number of ways. From 1800 to the present day, textbooks have done this by posing questions for students to answer inductively(归纳性地). That means students are asked to use their individual experience to come up with answers to general questions. Today's psychology texts, for example, ask: "How much of your personality do you think you inherited?" while ones in physics say: "How can you predict where the ball you tossed will land?"

Experts observe that "textbooks come in layers, something like an onion." For an active learner, engaging with a textbook can be an interactive experience: Readers proceed at their own pace. They "customize their books by engaging with different layers and linkages. Highlighting, Post-It notes, dog-ears and other techniques allow for further customization that students value in print books over digital forms of books. (2019-12-12 Passage1)

46. What does the passage say about open educational resources?

- A) They contribute to teaching as much as to learning.
- B) They don't profit as much as traditional textbooks do.
- C) They can't connect professors and students as textbooks do.
- D) They compete fiercely for customers with textbook producers.

47. What is the main cause of the publishers' losses?

- A) Failure to meet student need.
- B) Industry restructuring
- C) Emergence of e-books.
- D) Falling sales

48. What does the textbook industry need to do?

- A) reform its restructures
- B) cut its retail prices
- C) find replacements for printed textbooks

D)change its business strategy periodically

49.What are students expected to do in the learning process?

A)think carefully before answering each question.

B)ask questions based on their own understanding

C)answer question using their personal experience

D)give answers showing their respective personality

50.What do experts say about students using textbooks?

A)they can digitalize the prints easily

B)they can learn an interactive way

C)they can purchase customized versions

D)they can adapt the material themselves

2019-12-2 passage 2

When we think of animals and plants, we have a pretty good way of dividing them into two distinct groups: one converts sunlight into energy and the other has to eat food to make its energy. Well, those dividing lines come crashing down with the discovery of a sea (海虫)that's truly half animal and half plant. Its pretty incredible how it has managed to hijack the genes of the algae (藻类)on which it feeds.

The slugs can manufacture chlorophyll, the green pigment(色素) in plants that captures energy from sunlight, and hold these genes within their body. The term kleptoplasty is used to describe the practice of using

hijacked genes to create nutrients from sunlight. And so far, this green sea slug is the only known animal that can be truly considered solar-powered, although some animals do exhibit some plant-like behaviors. Many scientists have studied the green sea slugs to confirm that they are actually able to create energy from sunlight.

In fact, the slugs use the genetic material so well that they pass it on to their future generations. Their babies retain the ability to produce their own chlorophyll, though they can't generate energy from sunlight until they've eaten enough algae to steal the necessary genes, which they can't yet produce on their own.

"There's no way on earth that genes from an alga should work inside an animal cell," says Sidney Pierce from the University of South Florida. "And yet here, they do. They allow the animal to rely on sunshine for its nutrition. So if something happens to their food source, they have a way of not starving to death until they find more algae to eat.,,

The sea slugs are so good at gathering energy from the sun that they can live up to nine months without having to eat any food. They get all their nutritional needs met by the genes that they've hijacked from the algae. (2019-12-12 Passage2)

51.What is the distinctive feature of a sea slug?

A)It looks like both a plant and an animal.

- B) It converts some sea animals into plants.
- C) It lives half on animals and half on plants.
- D) It gets energy from both food and sunlight.

52. What enables the sea slug to live like a plant?

- A) The genes it captures from the sea plant algae.
- B) The mechanism by which it conserves energy.
- C) The nutrients it hijacks from other species.
- D) The green pigment it inherits from its ancestors

53. What does the author say about baby sea slugs?

- A) They can live without sunlight for a long time.
- B) They can absorb sunlight right after their birth.
- C) They can survive without algae for quite some time.
- D) They can produce chlorophyll on their own.

54. What does Sidney Pierce say about genes from an alga?

- A) They are stolen from animals like the sea slug.
- B) They can't function unless exposed to sunlight.
- C) They don't usually function inside animal cells.
- D) They can readily be converted to sea slug genes.

55. What do we learn about sea slugs from the passage?

- A) They behave the way most plant species do.
- B) They can survive for months without eating.
- C) They will turn into plants when they mature.
- D) They will starve to death without sunlight.

Passage 1

CDACB

Passage 2

DADCB

2019-12-3 passage 1

The fifth largest city in the US passed a significant soda tax proposal that will levy (征税)1.5cents per liquid ounce on distributors.

Philadelphia's new measure was approved by a 13 to 4 city council vote. It sets a new bar for similar initiatives across the country. It is proof that taxes on sugary drinks can win substantial support outside superliberal areas. Until now, the only city to successfully pass and implement a soda tax was Berkeley, California, in 2014.

The tax will apply to regular and diet sodas, as well as other drinks with added sugar, such as Gatorade and iced teas. It's expected to raise \$410 million over the next five years, most of which will go toward funding a universal pre-kindergarten program for the city.

While the city council vote was met with applause inside the council room, opponents to the measure, including soda lobbyists, made sharp criticisms and a promise to challenge the tax in court.

"The tax passed today unfairly singles out beverages — including low-and no-calorie choices, said Lauren Kane, spokeswoman for the American Beverage Association. "But most importantly, it is against the law. So we will side with the majority of the people of Philadelphia who oppose this tax and take legal action to stop it."

An industry-backed anti-tax campaign has spent at least \$4 million on advertisements. The ads criticized the measure, characterizing it as a "grocery tax."

Public health groups applauded the approved tax as a step toward fixing certain lasting health issues that plague Americans. "The move to recapture a small part of the profits from an industry that pushes a product that contributes to diabetes, obesity and heart disease in poorer communities in order to reinvest in those communities will surely be inspirational to many other places, said Jim Krieger, executive director of Healthy Food America. "Indeed, we are already hearing from some of them. It's not just Berkeley anymore.

Similar measures in California's Albany, Oakland, San Francisco and Colorado's Boulder are becoming hot-button issues. Health advocacy groups have hinted that even more might be coming.

(2019-12-3 Passage1)

46.What does the passage say about the newly-approved soda tax in Philadelphia?

- A)It will change the lifestyle of many consumers.
- B)It may encourage other US cities to follow suit.
- C)It will cut soda consumption among low-income communities .
- D)It may influence the marketing strategies of the soda business.

47.What will the opponents probably do to respond to the soda tax proposal?

- A)Bargain with the city council. B) Refuse to pay additional tax.
- C) Take legal action against it. D) Try to win public support.

48.What did the industry-backed anti-tax campaign do about the soda tax proposal?

- A)It tried to arouse hostile feelings among consumers.
- B) It tried to win grocers' support against the measure.
- C) It kept sending letters of protest to the media.
- D) It criticized the measure through advertising.

49.What did public health groups think the soda tax would do ?

- A)Alert people to the risk of sugar-induced diseases.
- B)Help people to fix certain long-time health issues.
- C)Add to the fund for their research on diseases.
- D)Benefit low-income people across the country.

50.What do we learn about similar measures concerning the soda tax in some other cities ?

- A)They are becoming rather sensitive issues.
- B)They are spreading panic in the soda industry.
- C)They are reducing the incidence of sugar-induced diseases.
- D)They are taking away a lot of profit from the soda industry.

2019-12-3 passage 2

Popping food into the microwave for a couple of minutes may seem utterly harmless, but Europe's stock of these quick-cooking ovens emit as much carbon as nearly 7 million cars, a new study has found. And the problem is growing. With costs falling and kitchen appliances becoming "status" items, owners are throwing away microwaves after an average of eight years. This is pushing sales of new microwaves which are expected to reach 135 million annually in the EU by the end of the decade.

A study by the University of Manchester calculated the emissions of CO₂—the main greenhouse gas responsible for climate change — at every stage of microwaves, from manufacture to waste disposal. "It is electricity consumption by microwaves that has the biggest impact on the environment, say the authors. The authors also calculate that the emissions from using 19 microwaves over a year are the same as those from using a car. According to the same study, efforts to reduce consumption should focus on improving consumer awareness and behavior. For example, consumers could use appliances in a more efficient way by adjusting the time of cooking to the type of food.

However, David Reay, professor of carbon management, argues that, although microwaves use a great deal of energy, their emissions are minor compared to those from cars. In the UK alone, there are around 30 million cars. These cars emit more than all the microwaves in the EU. Backing this up, recent data show that passenger cars in the UK emitted 69 million tons of CO₂ in 2015. This is 10 times the amount this new microwave oven study estimates for annual emissions for all the microwave ovens in the EU. Further, the energy used by microwaves is lower than any other

form of cooking. Among common kitchen appliances used for cooking, microwaves are the most energy efficient, followed by a stove and finally a standard oven. Thus, rising microwave sales could be seen as a positive thing. (2019-12-3 Passage2)

51. What is the finding of the new study?

- A) Quick-cooking microwave ovens have become more popular.
- B) The frequent use of microwaves may do harm to our health.
- C) CO₂ emissions constitute a major threat to the environment.
- D) The use of microwaves emits more CO₂ than people think.

52. Why are the sales of microwaves expected to rise?

- A) They are becoming more affordable.
- B) They have a shorter life cycle than other appliances.
- C) They are getting much easier to operate.
- D) They take less time to cook than other appliances.

53. What recommendation does the study by the University of Manchester make?

- A) Cooking food of different varieties.
- B) Improving microwave users' habits.
- C) Eating less to cut energy consumption.
- D) Using microwave ovens less frequently.

54. What does Professor David Reay try to argue?

- A) There are far more emissions from cars than from microwaves.
- B) People should be persuaded into using passenger cars less often.
- C) The UK produces less CO₂ than many other countries in the EU.
- D) More data are needed to show whether microwaves are harmful.

55. What does Professor David Reay think of the use of microwaves?

- A) It will become less popular in the coming decades.
- B) It makes everyday cooking much more convenient.
- C) It plays a positive role in environmental protection.
- D) It consumes more power than conventional cooking.

Passage 1

BCDBA

Passage 2

DABAC