

ESSAY 1

In the past, people spent their entire lives doing one job. But nowadays, they change their jobs frequently. Please give the reasons and your suggestions.

Though the experience of moving from one job to another can sometimes be distressing or even traumatic, thousands of employees move from one job to another in rapid succession every year. Conventional reasons people give for job hopping include lousy bosses, miserable salaries and hostile work environments. Yet the fundamental reason has always been hidden and thus ignored by the general public.

The job hopping frenzy can be attributed mainly to the remarkable social changes taking place nowadays. The 21st century is characterized by the rapid rate of change. Nations around the world are experiencing dramatic shifts in their political, economic and social structures. These shifts have radically changed how people view job hopping. The days when being on a progressive career path meant staying at the same company for life are long gone. Neither employers nor employees directly link long service with loyalty now. Employers no longer think that the number of employers an individual has worked for provided the best measure of loyalty. Instead, they now place more emphasis on ensuring that employees are engaged and committed during the time they spend with them, believing this is more likely to deliver results. This means there is scope for employees to switch jobs with relative ease and take charge of their own progression and development at their own pace.

Despite the irresistible and irretrievable social change, there are things that HR managers can do to improve the current situation. It should be noticed that sometimes employees choose to leave because they find that the jobs or the workplaces are far from what they have expected. The working hours are not as promised, training or promotions don't come through, and managers may have misrepresented pay offers. To narrow expectations, HR managers should sample job experiences before the interview to give job candidates a more complete picture about working in the company.

单词注释

distressing [dɪ'stresɪŋ] *adj.* 使苦恼的, 使烦恼的
traumatic [trɔ:'mætɪk] *adj.* 痛苦的
succession [sək'seʃən] *n.* 连续, 连续性
lousy ['laʊzi] *adj.* 非常糟的, 极坏的
miserable ['mɪzərəbl] *adj.* 少得可怜的, 太少的
hostile ['hɒstəl] *adj.* 有阻碍的, 不利的
fundamental [ˌfʌndə'mentl] *adj.* 根本的, 基本的

frenzy ['frenzi] *n.* 疯狂
progressive [prə'ɡresɪv] *adj.* 稳步发展的, 进步的
irresistible [ˌɪrɪ'zɪstəbl] *adj.* 不可抵抗的, 不能压制的
irretrievable [ˌɪrɪ'tri:vəbl] *adj.* 不能挽回的, 不能复原的
come through 传出, 公布
misrepresent [ˌmɪs,reprɪ'zent] *v.* 歪曲, 不实地叙述
sample ['sæmpl] *vt.* 取样, 采样

ESSAY 2

What are the main tasks of universities: to offer students knowledge and skills essential for their future career, or to provide students with access to knowledge itself? What do you think university education should contain?

Universities around the world are now facing the problem of how to efficiently use their resources to serve a larger population of students that are more culturally and socially diversified. To solve the problem, universities should be perfectly aware of their main tasks: providing students with easy access to knowledge and, at the same time, encouraging them to make active contribution to the advancement of human knowledge.

Universities should, first of all, be learning communities where knowledge is not only disseminated but also advanced. As full-fledged members of this community, students should not be information recipients who learn the knowledge in a passive way. Instead, they should be challenged to achieve their potential and, indeed, to excel. Therefore, rather than focus merely on knowledge dissemination and transfer, universities should contrive to provide learning conditions that encourage students to remain curious, to value diversity in opinions and perspectives, and to think critically and communicate effectively. In this way, students can gain problem-solving experience and confidence.

Furthermore, universities will never attain their goals if they tailor all their courses or programs to meet the needs of specific employers or occupational sectors. Today's social environment is more dynamic and turbulent than ever before. Only those graduates who possess certain personality traits and can do well in diversified situations can distinguish themselves from other job applicants.

In order to fulfill the main tasks of universities, university education should contain amply opportunities for independent learning which can cultivate students who are more likely to adapt to the changing society. Students can also learn to exercise their autonomy more effectively, and they may clarify their own professional interests while learning in an independent way.

单词注释

diversified [daɪ'vɜːsɪfaɪd] *adj.* 多样化的

perfectly ['pɜːfɪktli] *adv.* 很, 完全, 十分

access to 有权使用

advancement [əd'vɑːnsmənt] *n.* 前进, 进步

disseminate [dɪ'semɪneɪt] *v.* 散布, 传播

full-fledged *adj.* 完全合格的

passive ['pæsɪv] *adj.* 被动的

excel [ɪk'sel] *v.* 超越, 胜过他人

perspective [pə'spektɪv] *n.* 观点, 看法

tailor ['teɪlə(r)] *v.* 专门为...制作

dynamic [daɪ'næmɪk] *adj.* 动态的

turbulent [tɜːbjələnt] *adj.* 动荡的

autonomy [ɔː'tɒnəmi] *n.* 自主, 自主权

ESSAY 3

Should government pay for medical care and education? Why?

State officials and general public have been for years pondering the pros and cons of relying solely on the government for the funding of medical care and education without reaching any definite conclusion. As far as I'm concerned, we should contrive to achieve an appropriate balance of government and personal funding for medical care and education.

First of all, funding of medical care solely by the government can lead to adverse consequences. The advent of the aging society has been accompanied by an increasing demand for medical care. Apparently the government alone can shoulder the onerous financial burden imposed by the medical care of the elderly. As a matter of fact, the balance of cost sharing will inevitably shift dramatically toward the young tax payers, as the government will definitely resort to tax revenue. The sole funding system of the government thus translates into more taxes paid to the government.

Second, the cost of education should be balanced between the individual and the government, as education drives out progress toward a better life both personally and collectively. One of the most important outcomes of education is learning how to learn continuously. Well-educated individuals are not only prepared for well-paying jobs, but they are also able to cope with changes. When a country undergoes change and growth, it relies on its people to adapt and prepare themselves for new opportunities. Every country thus counts on the existence of a pool of civilized citizens to lead the social and economic development. Without a large number of well-educated people in a country, the collective capacity to grow would be severely diminished.

To sum up, the cost of medical care and education should be distributed between the government and the citizens. What is of ultimate importance is that the government make this decision thoughtfully and ensure that the proportion is appropriate.

单词注释

ponder ['pɒndə(r)] *v.* 沉思, 考虑

pros and cons 正反面, 事物的利与弊

contrive [kən 'traɪv] *v.* 设法做...

adverse ['ædvɜ:s] *adj.* 不利的, 有害的, 反面的

consequence ['kɒnsɪkwəns] *n.* 结果

advent ['ædvɛnt] *n.* 出现, 到来

apparently [ə 'pærəntli] *adv.* 表面上

onerous ['əʊnərəs] *adj.* 繁重的, 费力的

collectively [kə 'lektɪvli] *adv.* 全体地, 共同地

continuously [kən 'tɪnjuəsli] *adv.* 不断地, 持续地

undergo [ʌndə 'gəʊ] *vt.* 经历, 经受

severely [sɪ 'vɪəli] *adv.* 十分严重地

diminish [dɪ 'mɪnɪʃ] *v.* (使)减少, (使)变小

thoughtfully ['θɔ:tfəli] *adv.* 深思地, 仔细地

ESSAY 4

What is it in the mass media that has negative effects on teenagers and what measures should governments take to solve this problem?

The 20th century has witnessed unprecedented advancement in virtually all fields of daily life, and the mass media is no exception. However, everything comes at a price. While we enjoy all the conveniences brought by new ways of disseminating information, our teenagers are adversely affected. There is too much in the media that is harmful to young people.

To begin with, the mass media has become a source of violent scenes and gruesome reports. Today's television programs, for example, are filled with violence and gory sights. Studies have shown that by the age of 18, children, on average, have watched 7000 robberies, 5000 murders and 3000 car chases on TV. What is more, crimes and criminals are often glorified; the victims and sufferings are usually ignored in those programs, for audiences are more interested in the fighting action than the dire consequences.

Also, the availability of adult-only videos and sexually explicit pictures on magazines and various websites contributes greatly to the increase in teenage sexual activities and abortion rate. Girls, as well as boys, are now influenced by stories where teenagers fell in love at first sight and enjoyed passionate love affairs without any commitment, responsibility or health concerns. As a result, they start to experiment with sex at an ever-earlier age.

Impulsive and easily influenced as young people are, they are constantly tricked by advertisements in all forms of media to purchase unnecessary products or spend hours practicing some new ways of keeping fit, which leads to a vast waste of time and money. Moreover, the omnipresent adverts tempt youngsters to pursue luxurious lifestyles, which are not only unrealistic but also likely to lead teenagers astray.

Prompt measures should be taken to minimize the harmful effects of the media. Stricter censorship code should be implemented regarding the content of television programs and other forms of media. Besides, access to pornography is to be strictly controlled. For instance, children should be barred from Internet cafés and denied access to certain websites. Most importantly, governments should conduct massive educational programs to inform teenagers of the truth about sex, crimes and advertising. Children need to be taught how to distinguish realities from illusions.

单词注释

- witness ['wɪtnəs] *v.* 见证
- unprecedented [ʌn 'presɪdəntɪd] *adj.* 空前的
- advancement [əd 'vɑ:nsmənt] *n.* 前进, 进步
- virtually ['vɜ:tʃuəli] *adv.* 事实上, 实际上
- exception [ɪk 'sepʃn] *n.* 除外, 例外
- convenience [kən 'vi:niəns] *n.* 便利, 方便
- disseminate [dɪ 'semɪnət] *v.* 散布, 传播
- teenager ['ti:neɪdʒə(r)] *n.* 十几岁的青少年
- adversely ['ædvɜ:sli] *adv.* 不利地, 有害地
- violent ['vaɪələnt] *adj.* 暴力的, 强暴的
- gruesome ['gru:səm] *adj.* 可怕的, 恐怖的, 令人厌恶的
- gory ['gɔ:ri] *adj.* 血淋淋的, 残暴的
- violence ['vaɪələns] *n.* 暴力, 暴虐
- chase [tʃeɪs] *n.* 追赶, 追击
- criminal ['krɪmɪnl] *n.* 罪犯, 犯罪者
- glorified ['glɔ:rɪfaɪd] *adj.* 美其名的, 变荣耀的
- audience ['ɔ:diəns] *n.* 听众, 观众
- dire ['daɪə] *adj.* 可怕的
- availability [ə'veɪlə'bɪləti] *n.* 可获得性
- explicit [ɪks 'plɪsɪt] *adj.* 外在的, 清楚的, 不隐晦的
- abortion [ə'bɔ:ʃjən] *n.* 流产, 堕胎
- passionate ['pæʃənət] *adj.* 充满激情的
- commitment [kə'mɪtmənt] *n.* 许诺, 承担义务
- impulsive [ɪm 'pʌlsɪv] *adj.* 冲动的
- omnipresent [ɔ'mnɪ 'preznt] *adj.* 无所不在的
- luxurious [lʌg 'zʊəriəs] *adj.* 奢侈的, 豪华的
- astray [əs 'treɪ] *adv.* 迷途地, 入歧途地
- censorship ['sensəʃɪp] *n.* 审查
- implement ['ɪmplɪmənt] *v.* 贯彻, 实施, 执行
- pornography [pɔ:'nɒgrəfi] *n.* 色情文学, 淫秽作品
- illusion [ɪ'lju:ʒn] *n.* 幻想

ESSAY 5

Nowadays computers are widely used in education. As a result, some people think teachers no longer play important roles in classrooms. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Invented less than a hundred years ago, computers are now used everywhere, even inside classrooms. While teachers remain more or less the same, computers are doubling in speed and capability every four years. In light of the increasing presence and importance of computers in classrooms, people can't help wondering whether teachers are as important as they once were. As far as I am concerned, teachers still play a major role and are still of great importance.

It is well known that computers are better at repetitive work but incapable of creative thinking. However advanced they may be, computers are nothing more than human contrivances, programmed to perform certain tasks. They are unable to deal with students with different background. Needless to say, a classroom is a place where individual attention and creativity matter most. Therefore, computers are no better than other tools used by teachers and couldn't possibly undermine the roles played by them.

It might be argued that in terms of accuracy and the amount of information, computers outshine humans; but to make a good teacher means far more than being an encyclopedia where one can access all relevant information. Indeed, a good teacher organizes and inspires the students, putting them into different groups and sharing with them his or her own experience and understanding of a certain subject. Instead of being the source of knowledge, a teacher is more like a guide who shows students the right path towards their destination.

Besides, the interaction between students and teachers is vital for the learning. According to most education authorities, real learning occurs during the discussion and sharing of ideas with one's teacher and classmates, which is a task beyond the power of computers. Moreover, a teacher is there to monitor every slight change in students' attitude, to respond to and encourage them whenever they show signs of frustration and impatience. Without this kind of interaction, education is unimaginable.

In conclusion, despite the increasing presence of computers inside classrooms, teachers are just as essential, if not more so, as instructors were in the past. Some inherent drawbacks make it impossible for computers to replace teachers in classrooms where creative thinking and interpersonal skills are vital to ensure success.

单词注释

repetitive [rɪ'petətɪv] *adj.* 重复的, 反复性的
incapable [ɪn'keɪpəbl] *adj.* 无能力的, 不能的
contrivance [kən'traɪvəns] *n.* 发明物
creativity [ˌkri:ɪ'eɪtɪvəti] *n.* 创造力, 创造
undermine [ˌʌndə'maɪn] *v.* 破坏
outshine [aʊt'ʃaɪn] *v.* 比...更亮, 使相形见绌
encyclopedia [ɪn,sɜ:klə'pi:diə] *n.* 百科全书

◆ destination [ˌdestɪ'neɪʃən] *n.* 目的地
◆ frustration [frʌs'treɪʃn] *n.* 沮丧, 懊恼
◆ unimaginable [ˌʌnɪ'mædʒɪnəbl] *adj.* 想不到的, 不可思议的
◆ drawback [ˈdrɔ:bæk] *n.* 缺点, 不利条件
◆ inherent [ɪn'hɪərənt] *adj.* 固有的, 内在的
◆ interpersonal [ˌɪntə'pɜ:sənəl] *adj.* 人与人之间的

ESSAY 6

Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject. Do you agree or disagree?

Since the feminist movement, females have been enjoying increasingly equal opportunities as males do. They account for nearly half of college student population. Some people thus demand complete equality in all subjects in terms of student number. I am, however, strongly against this proposal.

To begin with, the enrolment of men or women in each major should be dependent upon their respective academic performances and overall abilities, rather than some unrealistic percentage quota. Girls usually don't do well in science and thus have little chance of competing against boys in the math department. Similarly, it is hard to find boys studying education, for many of them just don't have the verbal skills or patience to become qualified teachers. Given the differences in their inherent abilities, it is right to expect boys and girls to have separate academic pursuits.

Besides, the natural interests of both sexes should be taken into consideration when we approach this issue. By compelling some girls to study engineering merely to increase the female percentage, universities are forcing them to work against their natural inclination while denying other boys the chance of pursuing their real interests. In general, it is as hard, for example, to persuade male students to learn embroidery as it is to coax a girl to study anatomy. Therefore, students should be given the freedom as to what subjects they would like to learn.

Education being a preparation for their future careers, universities should mark the fact that certain jobs are gender-specific. Take most manual work for example. It is physically unrealistic for a woman to be a construction worker, a plumber or a firefighter. At the same time, men can hardly succeed as nurses or kindergarten teachers. Understandably, gender differences shall be taken into consideration while students are still in college.

It's neither realistic nor necessary to recruit the same number of male and female students. It is not an issue of equality but a matter of choice. Given the difference in abilities and preferences, students shall be given the right to choose for themselves rather than be subject to certain arbitrary quotas stipulating the number of students for each sex.

单词注释

proposal [prə'pəuzl] *n.* 提议, 建议

enrolment [ɪn'raʊlmənt] *n.* 登记, 入学

dependent [dɪ'pendənt] *adj.* 依靠的, 由...决定的

respective [rɪs'pektɪv] *adj.* 分别的, 各自的

quota ['kwɒtə] *n.* 配额, 限额

verbal ['vɜ:bl] *adj.* 口头的

inherent [ɪn'hɪərənt] *adj.* 固有的, 内在的, 与生俱来的

pursuit [pə'sju:t] *n.* 追求

compelling [kəm'pelɪŋ] *adj.* 强制的, 强迫的; 引人注目的

inclination [ɪn'kleɪ'nɪʃən] *n.* 倾斜, 弯曲, 倾度; 倾向; 爱好
pursue [pə'sju:z] *vt.* 追赶, 追踪, 追击·追求; 继续; 从事

embroidery [ɪm'brɔɪdəri] *n.* 刺绣品, 刺绣; 粉饰, 装饰
coax [kəʊks] *v.* 哄; 耐心使...

anatomy [ə'nætəmi] *n.* 剖析, 解剖学

plumber ['plʌmbə] *n.* 水管工人

firefight ['faɪəfaɪt] *n.* 交火, 火战, 炮战

kindergarten ['kɪndəgɑ:tɪn] *n.* 幼儿园

recruit [rɪ'krɜ:t] *n.* 新兵, 新分子, 新会员 *vt.* 使恢复

equality [i'kwɒləti] *n.* 等同性, 同等, 平等, 相等, 等式

arbitrary ['ɑ:bɪtrəri] *adj.* 任意的; 武断的, 独裁的, 专断的

stipulate ['stɪpjuleɪt] *v.* 规定, 明确要求

ESSAY 7

Some people think that children should learn to compete, but others think that children should be taught to co-operate so that they could become more useful adults. State some reasons for both views and give your opinion.

Growing up in a world with ever-increasing population, many children are taught to compete with each other from their earliest memory so as to surpass others. Although this practice is embraced by many, others remain unconvinced of its merits. They insist that for children to achieve greater things in their adulthood they should learn how to co-operate with others.

Those in favour of the 'competition approach' argue that competition skills have to be instilled into the children from an early age if they are to merely survive in their future life. Indeed, fierce competition starts from primary school where all students vie to get better grades in order to enter a prestigious university later on. This is followed by constant pressure to outshine one's co-workers if career advancement is to be achieved. Moreover, instead of being an unavoidable nuisance, competition should be embraced, for it is the driving force behind all our progress. Understandably, people tend to perform better when they strive to beat their opponents, which is the very reason why most athletes run faster in critical races than they do in their training.

On the other hand, opponents of this view also have their reasons. To begin with, to survive and prosper, either at school or in society, co-operation is essential. No one can solely rely on his own talents to achieve academic success. In fact, many key factors that contribute to one's scholastic achievement such as the instruction from teachers and the exchange of ideas with classmates require co-operation and interpersonal skills. The need to work with and assist each other is also reflected in every organization, be it a company or a laboratory, where teamwork is a prerequisite for all job seekers. Furthermore, if children are taught how to cooperate well with others, they are more likely to establish rapport wherever they go. By helping each other toward the same goal, people form genuine friendship.

Personally, I encourage kids to co-operate with each other. In a world where people become increasingly interdependent, it is imperative to teach our children how to work with rather than against each other.

单词注释

surpass [sə'pɑ:s] *v.* 超越, 胜过

embrace [ɪm'breɪs] *v.* 拥抱, 欣然接受

• unconvinced [ˌʌnkən'vɪnst] *adj.* 不信服的

• merit [ˈmerɪt] *n.* 优点, 价值 *v.* 有益于

• adulthood [ˈædʌlthʊd] *n.* 成人期

• fierce [fɪəs] *adj.* 凶猛的, 猛烈的, 暴躁的

primary [ˈpraɪməri] *adj.* 第一位的, 主要的, 初步的

vie [vaɪ] *v.* 竞争

prestigious [pre'stɪdʒəs] *adj.* 享有声望的, 声望很高的

nuisance [ˈnju:sns] *n.* 讨厌的人或东西

strive [straɪv] *v.* 努力, 奋斗

opponent [ə'pəʊnənt] *n.* 对手, 反对者

prosper [ˈprɒspə] *v.* 成功, 兴隆, 昌盛

essential [ɪ'senʃl] *adj.* 本质的, 实质的, 基本的

• solely [ˈsəʊli] *adv.* 独自地, 单独地

• scholastic [skə'læstɪk] *adj.* 学校的, 学校教育的

• prerequisite [ˌpri:'rekwəzɪt] *n.* 先决条件 *adj.* 首要必备的

• seeker [ˈsi:kə] *n.* 搜索者, 探求者

• genuine [ˈdʒenjuɪn] *adj.* 真实的, 真正的

• interdependent [ɪntə'dɛpəndənt] *adj.* 相互依赖的, 互助的

• imperative [ɪm'perətɪv] *adj.* 绝对必要的

ESSAY 8

The culture of different countries are becoming increasingly similar, so there is no point for people to go traveling abroad for they could have the same experience at home. Do you agree or disagree?

Granted that cultures in various countries start to resemble one another, which is by no means to a large extent, it is still worthwhile to travel to other countries to appreciate what can only be obtained on a foreign soil.

Superficially, the world's culture is merging faster than we expected or could tolerate. That is partly why people get the same experience no matter where they go. If travel means to get on a plane, to stay in some hotel, to go to some museums and to do some shopping, then it could be quite alike in all the major cities around the world. But traveling should not be limited to this narrow sense. It means much more and therefore renders each trip a new experience.

To travel is to get to know the local people. People may wear the same kind of clothes, eat the same kinds of food and do similar jobs, but they are different from country to country. An ordinary Chinese could hardly believe that a totally stranger in America will dismantle his own bike and replace your ruptured tyre with one of his own if he has never been to that country. Media reports and second-hand information can never compare with your personal interaction with the local people during your stay there.

Apart from knowing the people, traveling affords you incomparable opportunities to appreciate the natural beauties of a foreign country. Admittedly, the Internet, satellite TV and multi-media technology are bringing the world closer to us. It is now easy to view exotic landscapes on a screen in the comfort of your home; virtue reality technology promises three dimensional experiences at the touch of a fingertip. However, is this vicarious experience really satisfying? Hardly. Travel brings us closer to nature, the wonders of which can only be truly appreciated first hand.

There is hope that technology will one day supply all the experiences we ever wish to have, which sounds exhilarating yet perhaps also disconcerting—it reminds me of the movie *The Matrix*. Also people will remain unique enough to excite our desire to meet them in person.

单词注释

resemble [rɪ'zembəl] *vt.* 像, 类似
worthwhile [ˌwɜːθ'waɪl] *adj.* 值得做的, 值得出力的
obtain [əb'teɪn] *v.* 获得
superficially [ˌsu:pə'fiʃli] *adv.* 浅薄地
tolerate ['tɒləreɪt] *vt.* 忍受, 容忍
render ['rendə] *vt.* 呈递, 归还
dismantle [dɪs'mæntl] *v.* 拆除
rupture ['rʌptʃə(r)] *v.* 破裂, 裂开 *n.* 破裂

incomparable [ɪn'kɒmprəbəl] *adj.* 无与伦比的, 不能比较的
admittedly [əd'mɪtɪdli] *adv.* 公认地, 诚然
landscape [ˈlændskeɪp] *n.* 风景, 山水画 *v.* 美化
virtue ['vɜːtʃuː] *n.* 德行, 美德
dimensional [daɪ'menʃnl] *adj.* 空间的
vicarious [vɪ'keəriəs] *adj.* 代理人的
exhilarating [ɪg'zɪləreɪtɪŋ] *adj.* 令人喜欢的
disconcerting [ˌdɪskən'sɜːtɪŋ] *adj.* 令人不安的, 令人惊惶的
excite [ɪk'saɪt] *vt.* 刺激, 使兴奋

ESSAY 9

Some people think that people will forget their own tradition and history because they no longer wear their traditional costumes. Do you agree or disagree?

In cities around China, western style clothes of all sorts are worn by people, to the extent that many people under a certain age are no longer sure what constitutes our traditional costumes. This, however, doesn't indicate that they are losing touch with their history and tradition.

People's preference to certain kinds of apparel has little to do with their attachment to their history and tradition. Consumers' choices to purchase or wear certain clothes are often influenced by fashion. Each year, the fashion industry is coming up with new types of clothes, sometimes unnecessarily, to maintain the huge profits. Men, as well as women, fall victim to this enticement.

The abandoning of traditional clothes is sometimes necessitated by the changing lifestyle. As far as China is concerned, the gowns worn two hundred years ago would certainly get in the way in our daily life today. The hectic life most people lead nowadays requires costumes that can offer comfort and convenience. This is more a matter of practicality than of preference.

Therefore, people forgo traditional costumes solely out of other considerations; it hardly contributes to forgetting their history and custom. Traditional costume is only one reminder of one's tradition, nothing more. Education plays a far more important role in enhancing one's understanding of one's history and culture. Sometimes, the more we let go, the more we can retain.

Thus, we need not to be alarmed that traditional clothes don't find favor with many people, especially the young. It is by no means a betrayal of the past or tradition. History and tradition should be borne in mind rather than merely put on our body.

单词注释

constitute [ˈkɒnstɪtju:t] *vt.* 组成, 任命

indicate [ˈɪndɪkeɪt] *vt.* 指出, 显示, 象征

preference [ˈprefərəns] *n.* 偏爱, 优先选择

apparel [əˈpærəl] *n.* 衣服, 装饰

attachment [əˈtætʃmənt] *n.* 附件, 依恋, 拥护

influence [ˈɪnfluəns] *n.* 影响, 感化 *vt.* 影响, 改变

enticement [ɪnˈtaɪsmənt] *n.* 诱惑, 怂恿, 引诱

necessitate [nəˈsesɪteɪt] *v.* 成为必要

hectic [ˈhektɪk] *adj.* 脸上发红 *n.* 脸红

practicality [ˌpræktɪˈkælətli] *n.* 实用性

forgo [fɔːˈgəʊ] *vt.* 作罢, 放弃

reminder [rɪˈmaɪndə(r)] *n.* 提醒的人, 暗示

enhance [ɪnˈhɑːns] *vt.* 提高, 增强 *v.* 提高

betrayal [bɪˈtreɪəl] *n.* 出卖, 辜负

ESSAY 10

Traditional food is undergoing great changes and being replaced by new diets. What do you think are the reasons and what do you think about this phenomenon?

People in different countries have quite different traditional food. Even for people in the same region, the food they enjoy today is far from the same as those consumed by their grandparents. The trend is accelerating.

Scientific and technological development is the driving force behind this change. Our ancestors used to produce and preserve food without the benefit of modern technology, which often results in some ingenious ways of handling food. But with the demise of those special skills and the advance of food technology, food is produced quite differently nowadays. For example, whereas we now put a premium on fresh vegetables, people in the past often ate pickles because it was otherwise impossible to preserve vegetables for a long time.

The change in lifestyle also contributes to the change in traditional food. The fast-paced modern life allows employees little time to cook meals. Thus, many choose fast foods for breakfast and lunch and eat a full meal for supper. As a result, those time-consuming traditional food is replaced by ready made, easy-to-cook convenient foods.

Lastly, the traditional food is also challenged by imported diets from other countries. Global economic integration has allowed restaurants to be opened in foreign countries. Restaurants catering to different nationalities provide city residents with a wide range of choices. Under the influence of exotic diet, traditional foods invariably experiences some changes and makes certain adjustments so as to have a broader appeal.

While it is a pity to lose some traditional foods to foreign imports, it is too sentimental if we hang on blindly to traditional food just for the sake of keeping the tradition. Change often means improvement. It is hardly wise to always eat the same food regardless of the changing lifestyle and technology.

单词注释

consume [kən'sju:m] *v.* 消耗
accelerate [ək'seləreɪt] *v.* 加速
preserve [prɪ'zɜ:v] *v.* 保护
ingenious [ɪn'dʒɪ:niəs] *adj.* 独特的
demise [dɪ'maɪz] *n.* 死亡 *vt.* 让渡
premium ['pri:mɪəm] *n.* 额外费用, 奖金
pickle ['pɪkl] *n.* 腌渍品 *vt.* 腌, 泡
lastly ['lɑ:stli] *adv.* 最后, 终于

integration [ɪntɪ'greɪʃn] *n.* 综合
resident ['rezɪdənt] *n.* 居民 *adj.* 居住的
influence ['ɪnfluəns] *n./vt.* 影响
exotic [ɪg'zɒtɪk] *adj.* 异国情调的
adjustment [ə'dʒʌstmənt] *n.* 调整, 调节
appeal [ə'pi:l] *n.* 吸引力
sentimental [sɛntɪ'mentl] *adj.* 感伤的
blindly ['blaɪndli] *adv.* 盲目地

ESSAY 11

Some people think the Olympic Games will no longer play an important role in the 21st century, and the 2004 game should be the last one. Do you agree or disagree?

The Olympic Games has been with us for centuries. It was only interrupted by the world wars. Despite all its imperfections, it never fails to catch the heart and imagination of millions around the globe. It will and should last for centuries to come.

People get to know each other through the Olympic Games. There is a saying, if people can meet on the field of sports they won't want to meet on the battle field. Every four years, athletes from five continents get together to participate in the summer games. Billions around the world tune in to watch those athletes compete more against themselves than against their rivals in their unrelenting drive towards personal best. It is one of those rare occasions when people from different nations and backgrounds are engaged in the same activities and able to form genuine friendship.

In addition, enormous economic benefits are generated by the Olympic Games, not only for the host nations but other countries as well. A country's tourism, international trade and global status can get a tremendous boost by hosting the Olympic Games, which partly explains the intensity of the competition as countries vie for the right to host the Olympic Games. For the world at large, the game also serves to promote business in related fields, such as advertising, sports wears and soft drinks.

Admittedly, critics may be upset by the problems related to these international events, bribery, drug abuse, unfair competition, to name but a few. However, these are by no means inherent, and can be remedied. There is nothing wrong with the game itself; it's the management that leaves much to be desired.

In short, the Olympic Games is going to play even greater roles in the coming century. We shall have the Games as long as we play sports. There is, of course, no end to the improvement of the Olympic Games.

单词注释

imperfection [ˌɪmpə'fekʃn] *n.* 不足, 缺陷

continent [ˈkɒntɪnənt] *n.* 大陆, 陆地

rival [ˈraɪvl] *n.* 竞争者 *v.* 竞争

unrelenting [ˌʌnrɪ'lentɪŋ] *adj.* 不宽恕的

genuine [ˈdʒenjʊn] *adj.* 真实的, 真正的

tourism [ˈtuəɪzəm] *n.* 观光事业, 游览

status [ˈsteɪtəs] *n.* 身份, 地位, 情形

tremendous [trə'mendəs] *adj.* 极大的, 巨大的

boost [bu:st] *n.* 增长, 提高

intensity [ɪn'tensəti] *n.* 强烈, 亮度

bribery [ˈbrɪbəri] *n.* 行贿, 受贿, 贿赂

abuse [ə'bjuz] *v.* 滥用 [ə'bjʊ:s] *n.* 滥用, 虐待

unfair [ˌʌn'feə(r)] *adj.* 不公平的

inherent [ɪn'hɪərənt] *adj.* 固有的, 内在的

remedy [ˈremədi] *v.* 治疗, 补救

ESSAY 12

In most parts of the world, the volume of traffic is growing at an alarming rate. Discuss the main traffic problems in your country, their causes and possible solutions.

As the largest developing country, China is enjoying rapid economic growth, the evidence of which can be seen in all major cities whose streets are teeming with thousands of vehicles of all kinds. Unfortunately, traffic problems invariably ensue.

City dwellers are most vexed by traffic congestion. One can be stuck in the traffic for hours during rush hours in Guangzhou where I live. Cars and buses often advance at a snail pace even outside rush hours because there are always some cars ignoring traffic rules, holding up hundreds of cars. Worse still, accidents are increasing daily. With more cars on road, it becomes harder to navigate your vehicle out of a collision course with other cars, bikes, or people. Each year thousands die or get injured in traffic accidents, not to mention the incalculable property damage.

Traffic accidents and congestion need not to be a necessary evil. Something can be done to reduce them. To begin with, measures should be taken to reduce private car ownership. Increased taxes on gasoline will do well to dampen many people's enthusiasm for buying a car. In addition, most traffic wardens need to be posted in busy intersections to regulate the flow of traffic. Most accidents occur because people start to take chances when there isn't a policeman around. Accidents can be vastly reduced if all of us abide by traffic rules. A well developed public transport system is the ultimate solution. Cheap and reliable, public transport offers comfortable rides to everyone. It is the most energy and space efficient way to travel in cities unless all people choose to walk or ride bikes, which seems unlikely.

Progress often has its casualties and prices to pay. The promise of speed and safety offered by private cars is becoming harder to fulfill each day. Sound planning and measures are required to tackle traffic problems.

单词注释

teem [ti:m] v. 充满
ensue [in'sju:] v. 随之而来
vex [veks] v. 激怒
snail [sneɪl] n. 蜗牛
navigate ['nævigeɪt] v. 航行

congestion [kən'dʒestʃən] n. 堵塞
dampen ['dæmpən] v. 泼冷水
abide [ə'baɪd] v. 遵守
casualty ['kæʒuəlti] n. 死亡

ESSAY 13

The world of work is changing rapidly. People today no longer take one job for life. Discuss the causes of these changes. What suggestions would you make for young people to prepare themselves for the work in future?

Job hopping is more common in developed countries like America or France. But even in countries traditionally renowned for job security or life-long employment, people are getting used to employment change. The causes are manifold.

On the employers' side, many of them no longer offer adequate pensions and fringe benefits to their long-time employees. Thus, employees see no point in working there all the time and are ready to leave because the financial loss will be inconsequential. Besides, long-time employees are no longer highly valued by the management. Many companies prefer a 'change of blood' from time to time to maintain their competitiveness and vitality. Older workers are replaced because they long lost their enthusiasm for work and hamper innovation by always doing things the old way.

However, employees also have their reasons to seek new employment. Most of them would leave a job when they feel there is nothing to learn doing that job. Due to intense competitions, people see the need to improve their abilities and competitiveness by acquiring as much work experience as possible. Moreover, people nowadays are more concerned about their interest in work. The first job they find may be boring but an indispensable stepping stone towards worthier employment. More often than not, they never know what they are after until they find it. The promise of better things to come keeps them hopping from one job to another.

My advice to young people would be to follow your heart. Life is very long; there is no point sticking to one job unless you really enjoy it. Try until you get the job where your interest lies. Besides, everything changes over time, including you and your interest. So when you feel the urge to change, go for it.

单词注释

hop [hɒp] *v.* 单脚跳, (鸟、蛙等)跳跃

job hopping 跳槽

renowned [rɪ'naʊnd] *adj.* 著名的

fringe [frɪndʒ] *n.* 边缘

inconsequential [ɪn,kɒnsɪ'kwɛnʃl] *adj.* 无足轻重的

competitiveness [kəm'petɪtɪvɪnɪs] *n.* 竞争力

vitality [vaɪ'tæləti] *n.* 活力, 生命力

enthusiasm [ɪn'θju:ziæzəm] *n.* 狂热, 热心

hamper ['hæmpə] *vi.* 妨碍

innovation [ɪnə'veɪʃən] *n.* 创新

indispensable [ɪndɪs'pensəbl] *adj.* 不可或缺的

ESSAY 14

As science and technology contribute most to the development of society, science students should get more financial support from government than students in other fields (eg. business, language, etc.). To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Never in history was science and technology so emphasized as in modern society. One is most likely to get a scholarship for graduate study overseas if he or she majors in science or technology. However, this lopsided emphasis seems ungrounded.

It is quite debatable that science and technology contribute more to human progress. Notwithstanding the achievements and miracles made possible by science, numerous issues cannot be solved by science or technology. Social issues such as juvenile delinquency, racial discrimination and moral degradation are all beyond the scope of science. Modern people are more often plagued by problems of the heart, instead of the body. The material wealth generated by science and technology often pales against the peace of mind brought by art or literature.

Besides, the amount of financial aid should be based on the students' academic performance. How much financial support a student is to receive should be determined on an individual basis. Grants or scholarships should not be lavished upon those without real interest in or dedication to a scholarly pursuit, whereas those with real potential should be offered adequate financial support lest they get distracted by working part time to pay for their education. No matter what major they are in, the foremost criteria for receiving financial aid should be their academic potential. Thus, it is not justified to favor science majors more than other students.

In a larger sense, all subjects are vital to human progress. It will be a hopeless attempt to compare the importance of each subject. Financial support should be granted to those with real potential.

单词注释

lopsided [ˈlɒpˈsaɪdɪd] *adj.* 不平衡的
debatable [dɪˈbeɪtəbl] *adj.* 可争议的
notwithstanding [ˌnɒtwɪθˈstændɪŋ] *prep.* 虽然, 尽管
miracle [ˈmɪrəkl] *n.* 奇迹, 奇事
juvenile [ˈdʒuːvənəl] *adj.* 青少年的
delinquency [dɪˈlɪŋkwənsɪ] *n.* 行为不良
discrimination [dɪˌskrɪmɪˈneɪʃn] *n.* 歧视

degradation [ˌdeɡrəˈdeɪʃən] *n.* 堕落
plague [ˈpleɪɡ] *vt.* 折磨; 使苦恼
lavish [ˈlævɪʃ] *v.* 浪费
dedication [ˌdedɪˈkeɪʃən] *n.* 投入
lest [lest] *conj.* 唯恐, 以免, 免得
distract [dɪˈstrækt] *vt.* 分散, 转移
foremost [ˈfɔːməʊst] *adj.* 最先的; 最重要的
criteria [kraɪˈtɪəriə] *n.* 标准

ESSAY 15

Nowadays people can use computers to talk, learn and communicate without leaving home. There is a danger that it will cause more isolation and a lack of communication among people. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Invented some 60 years ago, computers have already transformed the way most of us live. The advent of the Internet opens up the possibility of communicating and interacting via the computer. With more time spent on computers and less with each others, people start to fear the dehumanizing effect of this wonderful human contrivance. This inordinate concern is quite groundless.

One doesn't necessarily become isolated if he spends most of his time alone using a computer. Isolation only occurs when one is obsessed by his own affair and cares nothing about anything else. Indeed, many feel isolated and lonely in the midst of crowds or even while talking to others because they are trapped in their own world or because others are in theirs. Alienation of people is not caused by how little they talk or meet each other but by the lack of interest in our fellow creatures and the world at large. Hence, computers actually help to prevent isolation by bringing every possible field of interest onto the screen. Everything is at the touch of a fingertip. You can broaden your interests and enrich your life by accessing whatever and whoever you are interested in.

As far as communication is concerned, the using of computers is by no means detrimental. In primeval times our ancestors communicated by a simple system of shouts and gestures. Then spoken and written languages developed. We now prefer emails to ordinary letters. Our mode of communication is forever changing. Why should computers be singled out as particularly deleterious? What matters is not whether or not we communicate in the orthodox or traditional ways but the very fact that we do communicate. Indeed, computer technology facilitates the exchange of ideas and information. The Internet keeps us linked to each other all the time. Apart from the usual emails, chat rooms and forums, tele-conferencing is being employed daily to enhance communication. Communication is made easy by technology, which promises infinite possibilities ahead.

Thus, communication and isolation must not be defined in a narrow sense. Problems arise not from technological development but from people themselves. Computer is but a tool, the misuse of which it is not responsible for.

单词注释

transform [træns'fɔ:m] *vt.* 改变
advent [ædvənt] *n.* 出现, 到来
via [vaɪə; 'vi:ə] *prep.* 通过, 经由
dehumanize [di:'hju:mənaɪz] *vt.* 使失掉人性, 使成兽性
contrivance [kən'traɪvəns] *n.* 发明
inordinate [ɪn'ɔ:dɪnət] *adj.* 过量的
isolation [aɪsə'leɪʃən] *n.* 分离

obsess [əb'ses] *vt.* 迷住, 使困扰
alienation [aɪ'li:ə'neɪʃən] *n.* 疏远
detrimental [ˌdetrɪ'mentl] *adj.* 有害的
primitive [prɪ'mɪtɪv] *adj.* 原始的, 远古的
ancestor [ˌænsəstə] *n.* 祖先, 祖宗
deleterious [ˌdelə'tɪəriəs] *adj.* 有害的
orthodox [ˌɔ:θədɒks] *adj.* 正统的, 传统的
infinite [ɪ'nfɪnət] *adj.* 无限的

ESSAY 16

Some people think that machine translation is highly developed in today's society. Therefore it is not necessary for children to learn a foreign language. What's your opinion?

It will be good news for school children when they are told that foreign language is no longer a required subject because translation can all be done by machines. But is it wise to be so optimistic even after taking account of the advance in machine translation? Personally, I rather doubt it.

Computer-aided translation is far from doing a satisfactory job at the present stage of development. Machine translation has encountered seemingly insurmountable obstacles when dealing with written language. For example, it is having a hard time recognizing rhetorical expressions such as metaphors, puns and irony, which, it must be admitted, can sometimes present problems to common readers as well. When it comes to interpreting spoken languages, machine translation is further crippled by the mediocre performance of speech recognition technology. Thus, translators and interpreters are in no danger of losing their jobs in the foreseeable future.

Moreover, even if machine translation were able to eradicate all the language barriers between peoples, would there be no point in learning foreign languages? By no means, in the process of studying a language, one gets interested in its people, its culture, and its society. By understanding their language, we start to understand the people, for the language often exerts a subtle influence upon its people. What's more, each language is unique. The beauty of a language is what fascinates the students. French is known to be a romantic language; Chinese is renowned for its flexibility; Japanese for its politeness. All those distinctions would be lost if they are translated into one's own language.

The happy scenes in *Star Trek* where people from different planets can communicate comfortably with a 'translation machine' still belong to science fiction. And I would still encourage students to learn foreign languages even after such machines are made available.

单词注释

required [rɪ'kwaɪəd] *adj.* 必需的
optimistic [ˌɒptɪ'mɪstɪk] *adj.* 乐观的
insurmountable [ˌɪnsə'maʊntəbl] *adj.* 不能克服的, 不能超越的
rhetorical [rɪ'tɒrɪkl] *adj.* 修辞的
metaphor ['metəfə] *n.* [修辞] 隐喻, 暗喻
pun [pʌn] *n.* 双关语
irony ['aɪərəni] *n.* 反语, 讽刺

cripple ['kripl] *vt.* 削弱
mediocre [ˌmi:di'əʊkə] *adj.* 不太好的, 平庸的
foreseeable [fɔ:'si:əbl] *adj.* 可预知的, 能预测的
eradicate [ɪ'rædɪkeɪt] *vt.* 根除
exert [ɪg'zɜ:t] *vt.* 施加(影响等)
subtle ['sʌtl] *adj.* 难以捉摸的, 微妙的
flexibility [ˌfleksə'bɪləti] *n.* 灵活性
distinction [dɪs'tɪŋkʃən] *n.* 特征; 差别

ESSAY 17

Some people say that the age of books has passed; information can be accessed via videos, computers, television, films and so forth. Other people think books and written words will still be essential for information dissemination and education. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Books have been with us for thousands of years. Are they going to become obsolete like so many other products once deemed indispensable? Under the onslaught of technology progress, books seem increasingly outdated. However, the total numbers of books published each year is increasing defiantly.

It must be admitted that books are increasingly being replaced by other types of storage devices. Books are not suited for the storage of video and audio materials. Besides, compact disks and other new storage devices outstrip books in terms of storage capacity, cost effectiveness and user friendliness. It is said that all the books in an average library can be stored in dozens of compact disks, which also allow the user to search, copy, and paste, all with a few strokes of the keyboard. Interaction between the reader and material is also made possible by computer technology.

Meanwhile, there are strong signs that books are going to remain with us for a long time. Books are by far the most convenient way to disseminate information. Just count the number of magazines published each day around the world. They are cheap, easy to carry and don't require electricity. Besides, a book allows you to read at your own pace: you can pause to ponder when necessary or you can skip some tedious parts. Books are tangible and give you a sense of achievement when you finish one whereas the completion of an e-book affords less satisfaction.

We can rest assured that books would and should not be replaced by some novel electronic devices. We have seen the folly of such doom day predictions for the radio with the advent of television. The fact remains that different types of media actually complement rather than replace each other. There is every possibility that books will remain and improve as time goes by.

单词注释

obsolete ['ɒbsəli:t] *adj.* 荒废的, 陈旧的
indispensable [ɪndɪs 'pensəbl] *adj.* 不可缺少的
onslaught ['ɒnslɔ:t] *n.* 冲击
defiantly [dɪ 'faɪntli] *adv.* 挑战地, 对抗地
compact [kəm 'pækt] *adj.* 紧凑的, 紧密的
outstrip [aʊt 'stri:p] *vt.* 超过
paste [peɪst] *vt.* 粘贴
keyboard ['ki:bɔ:d] *n.* 【计】键盘

disseminate [dɪ 'semɪneɪt] *vt.* 散布
ponder ['pɒndə] *vt.* 沉思, 考虑
tedious ['ti:diəs] *adj.* 单调乏味的, 沉闷的
tangible ['tændʒəbl] *adj.* 切实的
whereas [(h)weər 'æz] *conj.* 然而, 反之
folly ['fɒli] *n.* 愚蠢, 荒唐事
complement ['kɒmplɪmənt] *vt.* 补充, 补足

ESSAY 18

Television is dangerous because it destroys the family tie and community spirit. It is said by some that television absorbs so much of people's time that they have no time to talk to each other. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

Ask someone what he did last night and you will often get the answer that he or she was watching television. Yes, TV has made itself seemingly indispensable in the modern society, providing hours of entertainment each day. However, all these recreations come at a price.

Contrary to what people expect, TV alienates family members by absorbing their time and attention which can otherwise be given to each other. Superficially, the parents and children who sit in front of a TV are supposed to spend some quality time together. But in fact, they are glued to the screen, receiving passively what is offered by the producers. There is no lively discussions, no exchange of views, but only occasional fights over which channel to watch. The time spent watching TV could have been used far more effectively to communicate with each other and strengthen family ties.

People's social life is also affected by the advent of television. Before the age of television, people used to socialize more in the community. After dinner, men would get together to discuss work and politics while women exchanged gossips. Close community ties often can't withstand the onslaught of TV programs, which induces people to shut the door, sit on the couch and stare at the screen. People become less likely to play a game of chess or basketball with their neighbors. TV has robbed them of other more worthwhile activities.

Television by itself is not detrimental to improving family ties and community spirit. However, our undue dependency upon it alienates us from our loved ones and neighbors. Nothing would please me more than to see TV be given its proper treatment.

单词注释

indispensable [ˌɪndɪsˈpensəbl] *adj.* 不可缺少的

recreation [ˌrekrɪˈeɪʃ(ə)n] *n.* 消遣, 娱乐

contrary [ˈkɒntrəri] *adj.* 相反的

alienate [ˈeɪljəneɪt] *vt.* 疏远

superficially [ˌsuːpəˈfɪʃəli] *adv.* 表面上地

glue [ɡluː] *vt.* (全神贯注地)盯着看

occasional [əˈkeɪʒnəl] *adj.* 偶然的

strengthen [ˈstreŋθən] *vt.* 加强, 巩固

advent [ˈædvənt] *n.* 到来

socialize [ˌsəʊʃəlaɪz] *v.* 使社会化

gossip [ˈɡɒsɪp] *n.* 闲话, 闲谈

withstand [wɪðˈstænd] *vt.* 抵挡, 经受住

onslaught [ˈɒnslɔːt] *n.* 冲击

induce [ɪnˈdjuːs] *vt.* 劝诱, 促使

detrimental [ˌdetrɪˈmentl] *adj.* 有害的

undue [ˌʌnˈdjuː] *adj.* 不适当的

ESSAY 19

People who do not know how to use computer will become more and more disadvantageded. State the disadvantages and what action governments should take.

It has been predicted by some futurists that people in future will be divided into two categories: the technologically savvy and the technologically illiterate. Needless to say, the latter will become underprivileged and manipulated. Notwithstanding some exaggeration, this is true for the computer illiterate.

Without adequate computer skills, finding employment may prove increasingly challenging. Invented just 50 years ago, the computer is becoming an integral part in all fields of business, from banking to shoe making. Computers are used to write reports, analyze data and design products. No wonder computer skills are now taken for granted by employers just as the ability to read and write. Apart from a few manual jobs, most positions require a fair command of computer.

Additionally, the computer illiterate will encounter problems in daily life. So extensively are computers used that it is impossible not to come into contact with them in everyday life. When you go to an ATM to withdraw some money, you have to operate on a computer. When you want to find a book in a library, you are faced with a computer. Lacking computer skill, you can't even send an email, which leads us to the most alarming consequence of being a computer illiterate.

Lagging behind your peers is the most devastating result. The ignorance of computer severely curtails your chances for personal development. Your education and job will get nowhere if you fail to tap into the enormous potentials offered by computer. Even your personal relationship will suffer because you can't use the Internet to keep in touch with your friends. While others are making progress, you are standing still.

Much needs to be done by the government to help this disadvantaged group. Education is the best medicine. Preferably, computer training should be made compulsory and free of charge for the students and enough training centers should be set up to provide low-cost training for adults.

单词注释

predict [pri'dikt] *vt.* 预知, 预言

futurist ['fju:tʃərɪst] *n.* 未来学家

category ['kætəgəri] *n.* 类别

savvy ['sævi] *n.* 实际知识, 技能

illiterate [ɪ'lɪtərɪt] *adj.* 不识字的, 文盲的

underprivileged [ˈʌndə'prɪvɪlɪdʒd] *adj.* 被剥夺基本权力的

manipulate [mə'nɪpjʊleɪt] *vt.* (熟练地)操作

exaggeration [ɪg,zædʒə'reɪʃən] *n.* 夸张, 夸大之词

integral [ɪ'ɪntɪgrəl] *adj.* 完整的, 整体的

additionally [ə'dɪʃənəli] *adv.* 加之, 又

encounter [ɪn'kaʊntə] *v.* 遭遇, 遇到

extensively [ɪks'tensɪvli] *adv.* 广阔地

alarming [ə'la:mɪŋ] *adj.* 惊动人的, 令人担忧的

peer [piə] *n.* 同等的人, 同辈

devastating [ˈdevəsteɪtɪŋ] *adj.* 毁灭性的, 破坏力极强的

curtail [kɜ:'teɪl] *vt.* 缩减, 减少(经费等)

enormous [ɪ'nɔ:məs] *adj.* 巨大的

disadvantaged [dɪsəd'vɑ:ntɪdʒd] *adj.* 弱势的, 处境不利的

preferably [ˈprefərəbli] *adv.* 更适宜

compulsory [kəm'pʌlsəri] *adj.* 必须做的, 必修的

ESSAY 20

Scientific and technological advances bring benefits to our daily life. However, most scientists are no longer able to find the solutions to the problems they have created. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Time and again, science and technology has created wonders and even miracles, thus fortifying our belief in it. But is this belief sometimes so taken for granted as to blind us to its limits? Can science solve everything? I am afraid there might not be a simple answer.

It must be realized that in the process of solving problems, scientists also create problems, the solutions of which are often beyond their reach. To do them justice, it is not always possible to predict the results and bring everything under control. For example, after setting up a nuclear power plant, scientists are unable to find an ideal way to treat nuclear waste, nor are they able to eliminate the threat posed by radio activity. Thus in many fields, science and technology is far from providing perfect solutions.

However, given enough time, science will prevail. Numerous examples can be found in favour of this argument. Notwithstanding some failures, what people created by employing science and technology is beyond the wildest dreams of our ancestors. We have split the atoms; we have landed on the moon. Numerous diseases are eradicated thanks to modern medical science. What baffles scientists today would be tackled in the future.

Of course, there are limits and scientists are not omnipotent. There will always be problems waiting to be tackled because of the very nature of our infinite universe. But without resort to divine power, science is the best tool in our quest for the understanding and mastering of the world. Failure is only temporary and a step towards the ultimate success.

单词注释

miracle ['mɪrəkl] *n.* 奇迹, 奇事

fortify ['fɔ:tɪfaɪ] *vt.* 加强

process [prə'ses] *n.* 过程

justice ['dʒʌstɪs] *n.* 正义, 正当

ideal [ai'diəl] *adj.* 理想的

eliminate [ɪ'lɪmɪneɪt] *vt.* 排除, 消除

pose [pəuz] *vt.* 造成, 引起

prevail [prɪ'veɪl] *vi.* 流行, 盛行

ancestor ['ænsɪstə] *n.* 祖先, 祖宗

eradicate [ɪ'rædɪkeɪt] *vt.* 根除

baffle ['bæfl] *vt.* 困惑, 阻碍

tackle ['tækl] *vt.* 处理, 应付

omnipotent [ɒm'nɪpətənt] *adj.* 全能的, 无所不能的

infinite ['ɪnfɪnɪt] *adj.* 无穷的

resort [rɪ'zɔ:t] *vi.* 求助, 诉诸

divine [dɪ'veɪn] *adj.* 神的, 神圣的

ultimate ['ʌltɪmɪt] *adj.* 最后的, 最终的

ESSAY 21

Intelligent robots will be more widely used in the future. Is this a blessing or a curse? What is your opinion?

Robots in science fictions and movies are depicted as either our servants or our enemies, but seldom our friends. Though I don't believe they will rebel against or win a war against us, the using of robots could lead to rather undesirable consequences.

As has happened when industrial machinery was first introduced, the extensive use of intelligent robots is likely to cause vast unemployment. Numerous workers, not only those working with their hands but also those working with their brains, will lose their jobs when robots learn to handle their work. Other things being equal, robots are preferred by employers on account of their reliability, cost effectiveness and the unlikelihood of going on strikes. Assemble lines and computers, for instance, have already taken jobs from thousands of employees. Thus, people in the future will have to vie with robots in their quest for a job.

Having said all that, it must be pointed out that mankind will always find its way. In a large sense, robots are just another human invention, nothing more. There is no sound reason that we would be overwhelmed by this contrivance. The benefits robots can bring are enormous. To begin with, robots can be assigned to work in dangerous and harsh environments. With their physical and mechanical superiority over humans, robots are suited for exploring deep oceans, the moon and even human blood vessels, which offers infinite possibilities for medical treatment. Moreover, the reliability and incorruptibility of intelligent robots are invaluable in our fight against corruption. To err is human, but rarely robots. Bribery and peer pressure don't work for robots.

As I see it, robots are not different from other human inventions, which are never perfect. Someone will always be adversely affected, but the benefits far outweigh its damages. Thus we should learn to adapt.

单词注释

fiction [ˈfɪkʃən] *n.* 虚构, 编造, 小说
depict [dɪˈpɪkt] *vi.* 描述, 描写
undesirable [ˌʌndɪˈzaɪərəbl] *adj.* 不受欢迎的
consequence [ˈkɒnsɪkwəns] *n.* 结果
reliability [rɪˈlɪəbɪlɪtɪ] *n.* 可靠性
effectiveness [ɪˈfektɪvnis] *n.* 效力
unlikelihood [ˌʌnˈlaɪklɪhʊd] *n.* 未必有, 不可信
vie [vaɪ] *v.* 竞争
overwhelm [ˌəʊvəˈwelm] *vi.* 彻底击败, 击溃
contrivance [kənˈtraɪvəns] *n.* 发明物
harsh [hɑːʃ] *adj.* (条件) 艰苦的, 恶劣的

mechanical [mɪˈkænikl] *adj.* 机械的, 机械制的
superiority [sjuː(ɪ)ɪəriˈɔːrɪtɪ] *n.* 优越
vessel [ˈvesl] *n.* 管
incorruptibility [ˌɪnkəˈrʌptəˈbɪlətɪ] *n.* 不腐败, 清廉
invaluable [ɪnˈvæljuəbl] *adj.* 无价的, 价值无法衡量的
corruption [kəˈrʌpʃən] *n.* 腐败, 贪污
bribery [ˈbrɪəbəri] *n.* 贿赂
peer pressure 同辈间的压力, 同龄人间的压力
adversely [ədˈvɜːsli] *adv.* 逆地, 反对地
outweigh [aʊtˈweɪ] *vi.* 在重量(或价值等)上超过
adapt [əˈdæpt] *vi.* 适应

ESSAY 22

The reason why some families don't buy television set is that the parents want their children to spend more time on creative thinking or even inventions. Agree or disagree?

All parents want the best for the children. Some of them make every decision for their kids to the extent that they don't even allow their children to watch TV with the hope that they might be more creative. I can hardly endorse this kind of practice.

In the first place, the right to watch TV should not be denied by the parents in this fashion. Notwithstanding their good intention, those parents fail to take into consideration the opinions of their children. More likely than not, youngsters enjoy watching TV. By depriving kids of this right enjoyed by most other children, the parents are at the risk of creating tension within the family. Backlashes might be expected when kids are forced to engage in some creative activities while others are watching TV. In their eagerness to guide their children every step of the way, parents sometimes ignore the kids' natural inclination. Unfortunately, it is always a bad idea to work against one's nature.

Secondly, it is a dubious claim that watching TV damages one's creativity. Actually, TV plays a positive role in the intellectual and mental development of children. Of course, many programs are not suited for children, but there are numerous others which help to develop kids' imagination and creativity. Cartoons and commercials, to name just two. Indeed, many artistic and creative people attribute their success partly to what they watched as a child. What's more, TV programs often become the topics of mutual interest when kids talk with each other. With no knowledge of any TV program, one is likely to feel isolated from his peers.

It is always wise not to impose too much upon one's children, especially when it comes to something so close to their heart as watching TV. Contrary to common belief, a proper selection of programs is conducive to the development of creativity.

单词注释

endorse [ɪn'dɔ:s] *vt.* 赞同, 支持
notwithstanding [ˌnɒtwɪθ'stændɪŋ] *prep.* 虽然, 尽管 *adv.* 尽管
consideration [kən'sɪdə'reɪʃən] *n.* 体谅, 考虑
youngster ['jʌŋstə] *n.* 青年, 少年
deprive [dɪ'praɪv] *vt.* 剥夺, 使丧失
tension ['tenʃən] *n.* 紧张(状态), 不安
backlash ['bæklæʃ] *n.* 强烈反对
eagerness ['i:gənɪs] *n.* 热心
inclination [ɪŋkli'neɪʃn] *n.* (思想或行为的) 倾向

dubious ['dju:bɪəs] *adj.* 可疑的
intellectual [ˌɪntɪ'lektʃʊəl] *adj.* 智力的
numerous ['nju:mərəs] *adj.* 众多的, 许多的
imagination [ɪˌmædʒɪ'neɪʃən] *n.* 想像
cartoon [kɑ:'tu:n] *n.* 卡通片
commercial [kə'mɜ:ʃəl] *n.* 商业广告
artistic [ɑ:'tɪstɪk] *adj.* 艺术的
attribute [ə'trɪbjʊ(:)t] *vt.* 归因于
mutual ['mju:tʃʊəl; 'mju:tʃuəl] *adj.* 相互的
isolated [ˌaɪsəleɪtɪd] *adj.* 隔离的, 孤立的
conducive [kən'dju:sɪv] *adj.* 有益于

ESSAY 23

Newspaper, radio, television and computer each has its merits and drawbacks. What is the most efficient means of acquiring information? Give your reasons.

Modern people are blessed with so many means of acquiring information that some of us feel overwhelmed by the outpouring of vast amount of information. Once so promising, the Internet has not replaced all other types of media because it is not superior to others under all circumstances. Efficiency depends on many factors.

Newspaper certainly requires the least of its readers. So long as you can read you can pick up a newspaper and enjoy. It can be read in the office, on the bus or even in the bathroom. It also offers in-depth report on various events which can rarely be found on radio or TV. Being printed on paper, newspaper is friendly to eyes.

However, if one wants to see as well as to read about the events, TV is the best choice. After all, one sight is worth a thousand words. Sometimes it is hard to really comprehend something until one sees it with his own eyes. Take last year's tsunami for example. The TV coverage brought the terror of the catastrophe to the hearts of millions, prompting the international community to take urgent relief measures.

Of course, computer is the most efficient if one wants to search for something that happened two weeks ago. Unlike newspaper, radio or TV, which is usually devoted to recent events, a computer provides access to a wealth of information. Virtually everything is accessible at the touch of a fingertip.

Thus we see that different types of media complement each other. Each has its strength and weakness and is most efficient in some way.

单词注释

acquire [ə'kwairə(r)] *vt.* 获得, 学到
overwhelm [ˌoʊvə'welm] *vt.* 淹没, 覆没
outpouring [ˌaʊtpɔːrɪŋ] *n.* 倾泻, 流出
promising [ˈprɒmɪsɪŋ] *adj.* 有希望的, 有前途的
superior [sjuː'piəriə(r)] *adj.* 较高的
circumstance [ˈsɜːkəmstəns] *n.* 环境, 情况
various [ˈvɛəriəs] *adj.* 不同的, 各种各样的
comprehend [ˌkɒmpri'hend] *vt.* 领会, 理解
tsunami [tsuː'nɑːmi] *n.* 海啸

catastrophe [kə'tæstrəfi] *n.* 大灾难, 大祸
relief [rɪ'liːf] *n.* (痛苦等的)减轻
virtually [ˈvɜːtʃuəli] *adv.* 事实上, 实质上
accessible [ək'sesəbl] *adj.* 易接近的, 可到达的
fingertip [ˈfɪŋgətɪp] *n.* 指尖
media [ˈmiːdiə] *n.* 媒体
complement [ˈkɒmplɪmənt] *n.* 补足物 *vt.* 补助
efficient [ɪ'fɪfɪnt] *adj.* (直接)生效的, 有效率的

ESSAY 24

Some people think science contributes more to the society; others believe subjects such as language or business make a bigger contribution. What's your opinion?

Science is a rather broad category. In this essay, science refers to natural science as opposed to social science, which also includes economic and business theory. While all subjects contribute to the progress of mankind, science should get the most credits.

Without doubt, social science, such as philosophy, language, and economics, is of great importance to civilization. Natural science, in its modern sense, came into being only in the past few decades. Before that, philosophy provided explanation for most natural occurrences. Basic theories and practices in business and trade did much to increase the material wealth of our society. Of course, spoken and written languages made possible the development of all other subjects.

However, all these cannot be compared with the wonders and miracles created by natural science. As per its very definition, natural science deals with nature. It is our ways to understand and tap our mother nature. Through science and technology, we made numerous inventions that vastly improve and facilitate our daily life, from cars, computers, to cell phones. It is beyond the wildest dreams of our ancestors, who didn't enjoy the benefits of modern science, that men can see each other thousands of miles apart.

What is even more important is that scientific method is transforming our ways of thinking. We are becoming more objective in our assessment of issues we encounter in our life. Science is the weapon against superstition and tyranny. It has taught people the right way to approach a problem—no supposition or assertion can be valid unless it can be proved by experiments. This way of thinking can assure continuing progress in all our undertakings.

Thanks to science, mankind keeps making progress both materially and spiritually. Natural science and social science are both employed in our everlasting quest toward the total understanding of the world, neither of which can be discarded.

单词注释

category ['kætəgəri] *n.* 种类, 类别
opposed [ə'pəʊzd] *adj.* 反对的, 敌对的
credit ['kredit] *n.* 信任, 信用
philosophy [fɪ'lɒsəfi] *n.* 哲学, 哲学体系
occurrence [ə'kʌrəns] *n.* 发生, 出现
practice ['præktɪs] *n.* 实行, 实践
compare [kəm'peə] *v.* 比较, 相比 *n.* 比较
miracle ['mɪrəkl] *n.* 奇迹, 奇事
definition [ˌdefɪ'nɪʃn] *n.* 定义, 解说
numerous ['nju:mərəs] *adj.* 众多的, 许多的
vastly ['vɑ:stli] *adv.* 广大地, 许多
facilitate [fə'sɪlɪteɪt] *vt.* 推动, 帮助
ancestor ['ænsɪstə] *n.* 祖先, 祖宗

apart [ə'pɑ:t] *adv.* 分离, 相距
scientific [ˌsaɪəntɪ'fɪk] *adj.* 科学的
transform [træns'fɔ:m] *vt.* 转换, 改变
assessment [ə'sesmənt] *n.* 估价, 评估
superstition [ˌsju:pə'stɪʃn] *n.* 迷信
supposition [ˌsʌpə'zɪʃn] *n.* 假定, 假设
assertion [ə'sɜ:ʃn] *n.* 主张, 断言
valid [ˈvælɪd] *adj.* 有效的, 有根据的
experiment [ɪks'perɪmənt] *n.* 实验, 试验
undertaking [ˌʌndə'teɪkɪŋ] *n.* 事业
spiritually [ˌspɪrɪtʃuəli] *adv.* 精神上地
everlasting [ˌevə'lɑ:stɪŋ] *adj.* 永恒的, 持久的
discard [dɪs'kɑ:d] *vt.* 丢弃, 抛弃

ESSAY 25

Modern technology has greatly influenced people's ways of entertainment, making people less creative. Do you agree or disagree?

Entertainment has undergone enormous change since the advent of modern science and technology. Reading, watching traditional operas and playing chess no longer have much appeal. The latest science and technologies are employed to satisfy our ever increasing desire for sensual pleasure. While enjoying unprecedented thrills brought by technology, we are becoming less creative as an unfortunate result.

Take the most popular form of recreation among younger people—computer games for example. It must be admitted that there are all sorts of games catering to people of different ages and gender and some even claim to be educational. But the truth remains that people are attracted to games mainly because of the graphic and audio effects. Swiftly abandoned are those games that demand too much cerebral activities because games are meant to be relaxing and entertaining. Thus, to play most games one only has to use his reflects; there is hardly any thinking involved, let alone creative thinking.

TV does an even better job at diminishing our creativity. The average amount of time devoted to watching TV makes it a major factor in our intellectual and mental development. When people watch TV, they just passively take in what is presented on the screen. Their eyes are riveted on the screen; their minds go blank. Besides, there is no time for them to pause to reflect and think. Gradually, the habit of passively taking in everything without thinking is reinforced. The appeal of TV lies in the fact that it asks almost nothing of its audience.

Traditional recreation, on the other hand, helps to develop our creativity. Reading is a case in point. To read a book one has to not only comprehend the sentences but also take in the real meaning. The reader is not distracted by unnecessary pictures or sounds but focused on the writer's chain of thoughts. He can read at his own pace, constantly evaluating, accepting or rejecting the author's ideas. It is a really thought-provoking process. Moreover, reading excites our imagination. When reading a novel for example, the reader has to conjure up pictures based on the written words; it is like 'watching a silent film' in one's mind. The director of that 'film' is the reader himself.

People's creativity is essential to any society. The decline in creativity can be partly attributed to modern ways of entertainment. By providing almost everything, they leave no room for the audience to think for themselves.

单词注释

undergo [ˌʌndə'gəʊ] *vt.* 经历, 遭受
opera [ˈɒpərə] *n.* 歌剧
appeal [ə'pi:l] *n.* 吸引力
desire [dɪ'zaɪə] *vt./n.* 愿望, 期望
sensual [ˈsensʃuəl] *adj.* 肉欲的, 色情的
unprecedented [ˌʌn'presɪdəntɪd] *adj.* 空前的
thrill [θrɪl] *n.* 刺激
recreation [ˌrekrɪ'eɪʃn] *n.* 消遣, 娱乐
educational [ˌedʒu'keɪʃənl] *adj.* 教育的, 教育性的
graphic [ˈgræfɪk] *adj.* 绘画似的, 图解的
swiftly [ˈswɪftli] *adv.* 很快地, 即刻

cerebral [ˈserɪbrəl] *adj.* 脑的, 大脑的
reflect [rɪ'flekt] *n.* 反射, 反映
passively [ˈpæsiʋli] *adv.* 被动地, 顺从地
riveted [ˈrɪvɪtɪd] *adj.* 用铆钉钉牢的
reinforce [ˌri:ɪn'fɔ:s] *vt.* 加强, 使…加强
evaluate [ɪ'væljueɪt] *v.* 评价, 评估
reject [rɪ'dʒekt] *vt.* 拒绝
provoke [prə'vəʊk] *vt.* 使…产生; 引起(某种情感等)
conjure [ˈkʌndʒə(r)] *v.* 召唤, 使…呈现于脑中, 想起
decline [dɪ'klaɪn] *n.* 下降, 下倾
creativity [ˌkri:ɪ'eɪtɪvəti] *n.* 创造力

ESSAY 26

Some parents maintain that co-education is better for their children while others believe it is better if boys and girls go to single-sex school. Discuss.

There is almost no single-sex school in China where male and female are equal under most circumstances. However, there have been schools catering exclusively to boys or girls in most western countries. Experience in both types of school can be rewarding.

Co-education seems the natural mode of education. Males and females are not separated unless absolutely necessary. They can ride on the same bus, eat at the same restaurant and work in the same company. There is no justification to set up separate schools. Besides, co-ed schools help to reduce the prejudice against the opposite sex. By mingling with one another on a daily basis, boys and girls can relinquish the stereotype view about the other sex. They will find that a girl can be as brave as any boy and that gossiping is also common among boys. Thus, we are equal. Lastly, co-education is usually preferred because it resembles the real world. After their graduation, those students won't have difficulty adjusting to a world where the opposite sex also exists because they have learnt how to tolerate, appreciate and cooperate with each other in school.

On the other hand, single-sex schools have their unique appeals as well. Safety is regarded as the foremost reason for choosing those schools, especially girls' schools. It is safe to send one's kids to a place where they won't be seduced, molested or even assaulted by the other sex. Of course, this is to assume that none of the teachers and staff is criminally inclined. In addition, the students can focus more on their study. Free from the burden of co-existing harmoniously with the opposite sex, boys and girls often turn their attention to scholarly pursuits. This might explain why many prominent scientists went to single-sex school at one time or another. Last but definitely not the least, single-sex school bars the possibility of the much-dreaded puppy love among students. This is reassuring as long as the parents have no qualm about their children being driven to homosexuality.

It might be gathered from the above that each type of school has its strength and weakness. Co-ed school seems a nature choice for many, while single-sex school may be more suited for some. It rather depends on the individual.

单词注释

maintain [meɪn'teɪn] *vt.* 维持, 维修; 继续; 供养; 主张
circumstance [ˈsɜ:kəmstəns] *n.* 环境, 境况
rewarding [rɪ'wɔ:dɪŋ] *adj.* 有益的, 值得的
justification [ˌdʒʌstɪfɪ'keɪʃn] *n.* 认为有理, 认为正当; 理由; 辩护
prejudice against 对...偏见
mingle with 和...混合
stereotype [ˈsteriətaɪp] *n.* 陈腔滥调, 老套
gossip [ˈɡɒsɪp] *n.* 闲话, 闲谈
resemble [rɪ'zembəl] *vt.* 像, 类似

seduce [sɪ'dju:s] *v.* 诱使堕落
molest [mə'lest] *vt.* 骚扰, 调戏
assault [ə'sɔ:lt] *v.* 攻击, 袭击
inclined [ɪn'klaɪnd] *adj.* 倾向...的
harmoniously [hɑ:'məʊniəsli] *adv.* 和谐地, 调和地
prominent [ˈprɒmɪnənt] *adj.* 卓越的, 显著的, 突出的
dread [dred] *n.* 恐惧, 恐怖; 可怕的人(或物) *v.* 惧怕; 担心
reassuring [rɪ:ə'ʃʊərɪŋ] *adj.* 安心的, 可靠的
qualm [kwɔ:m; kwɑ:m] *n.* 顾虑, 不安
puppy love 早恋
homosexual [ˌhəʊmə'sekʃʊəl] *adj.* 同性恋的 *n.* 同性恋者

ESSAY 27

Many schools are troubled by students' behavioral problems. What are the causes? What solutions do you recommend?

According to my former teacher from America, China probably boasts the best students in terms of orderly behavior. But I still find it hard to tolerate some students both in and outside the classroom. The situation seems to be deteriorating in China. The causes are many folds.

In the first place, children today are generally spoiled. Since China implemented the one-child policy, most families are allowed only one kid, who is usually regarded as the apple of parents' eye. Together with two maternal and paternal grandparents, parents go too far in the attempt to provide their child with everything. Hence, the kid is used to getting what they want. Taking their parents' love for granted, those kids become unappreciative and self-centered. They tend to show little respect for their teachers, regarding them as nothing more than paid employees hired by their parents.

Being an only child, he or she is also likely to have trouble dealing with classmates in school. With no experience of sharing and compromising with one's siblings, one lacks the necessary interpersonal skill to get along with one's classmates in school, where dozens of students mingle with each other on a daily basis. Had they been taught to be more considerate of others' needs and rights, they would not engage so readily in arguing or fighting with each other.

Peer pressure is by no means the smallest reason for students' behavior problems. A boy is often jeered at and called mummy's boy by other boys if he is obedient and causes no trouble. In their mind, teenagers, boys at least, should be rebellious and follow no orders. Therefore, many of them assume an indifferent air towards their teachers, parents and classmates. Study becomes unimportant for them; they are too engrossed in getting a few cheers from their peers for being manly, daring, and cool. No wonder they intentionally cause some trouble from time to time. Attention and admiration is what they are after.

It will always be hard to shape the younger generation according to the standards of the older. However, some steps can be taken to address those problems. Giving the youth more responsibility and less privilege would certainly help. Having them work together on a more regular basis can help enhance the understanding and harmony between students.

单词注释

boast [bəʊst] *v.* 自夸, 以有...而自豪
tolerate [ˈtɒləreɪt] *vt.* 忍受, 容忍
deteriorate [dɪˈtɪəriəreɪt] *v.* (使)恶化
implement [ˈɪmplɪmənt] *vt.* 贯彻, 实现, 执行
maternal [məˈtɜːnl] *adj.* 母亲的, 像母亲的, 母性的
paternal [pəˈtɜːnl] *adj.* 父亲的, 像父亲的
unappreciative [ˌʌnəˈpriːʃətɪv] *adj.* 不欣赏的, 不欣赏的
compromise [ˈkɒmprəmaɪz] *n.* 妥协, 折衷 *v.* 妥协, 折衷
interpersonal [ˌɪntəˈpɜːsənl] *adj.* 人与人之间的, 关于人与人之间关系的

mingle with 和...混合
considerate [kənˈsɪdərɪt] *adj.* 考虑周到的, 体贴的
peer [pɪə(r)] *n.* 同龄人
jeer [dʒiə] *v.* 嘲笑
obedient [əˈbiːdiənt] *adj.* 服从的, 顺从的
rebellious [rɪˈbeljəs] *adj.* 反叛的, 叛逆的
indifferent [ɪnˈdɪfrənt] *adj.* 漠不关心的
engrossed [ɪnˈgrəʊst] *adj.* 全神贯注的
manly [ˈmænli] *adj.* 男子气概的, 果断的 *adv.* 具有男子气概地
address [əˈdres] *v.* 设法解决, 处理, 对付
enhance [ɪnˈhɑːns] *vt.* 提高, 增强

ESSAY 28

Should the teacher in physical education class encourage the students to be more competitive or urge them to cooperate with one another? What is your opinion?

Competition is everywhere. We can get a most vivid taste of it when we watch the Olympic Games, where the best of athletes try their utter most to outdo each other. So it seems natural that students should learn to compete at an early age.

A sense of competition can certainly bring about improvement, which explains why one can run faster when he is running with other runners. Most people are lazy by nature and easily contented. They require some kind of incentives in the form of victory over others or humiliation when defeated. Without competition they will lose their drive to better themselves.

However, competition is not the sole driving force toward excellence. Cooperation is more essential to success. Most sports require cooperation between all team members, football, basketball, for example. To defeat another team, all team members must work together, adjusting to and communicating with each other. The total synergy is far more important than the strength of an individual player. A case in point is the Chinese National Football Team. It is generally agreed that its chronic poor performance is more due to its collective strategy than the skills of individual player. After all, rarely can one accomplish much all by himself.

Besides, compared to competition, cooperation gives a greater impetus to progress. Whereas the urge to improve provided by competition is based on personal gratification, i.e. the seeking of glory and victory and the avoidance of pain and humiliation, that of cooperation is grounded on one's devotion to a common goal. To put it simply, to compete one often works for himself; to cooperate one works for others. One will try his uttermost because his performance will affect others' and because he can't bear the thought of letting others down.

Indeed, aside from physical education classes, students are daily engaged in competition and cooperation. While giving competition its due credits, we should encourage students to cooperate with each other because success is not achieved by defeating others but improving ourselves.

单词注释

competitive [kəm'petətɪv] *adj.* 竞争的

cooperate with 与...合作

improvement [ɪm'pru:vmənt] *n.* 改进, 进步

contented [kən'tentɪd] *adj.* 满足的, 心安的

incentive [ɪn'sentɪv] *n.* 动机

humiliation [hju:mɪli'eɪʃn] *n.* 羞辱, 蒙羞

excellence [ˈeksələns] *n.* 优秀, 卓越; 优点, 美德

synergy [ˈsɪnədʒi] *n.* 协同作用, 配合

chronic [ˈkrɒnɪk] *adj.* 慢性的; 延续很长的

performance [pə'fɔ:məns] *n.* 成绩, 表现

strategy [ˈstrætɪdʒi] *n.* 策略

accomplish [ə'kɒmplɪʃ] *vt.* 完成, 达到, 实现

impetus [ɪ'mpɪtəs] *n.* 推动力; 促进

whereas [weə'ræz] *conj.* 然而, 反之; 鉴于

gratification [ˌgrætɪfɪ'keɪʃn] *n.* 满意

devote to 把...献给; 把...专用于

uttermost [ˈʌtəməʊst] *n.* 极端, 最大限度

due [dju:] *n.* 应得物; 应有的权利 *adj.* 应得的, 应付的

credit [ˈkredɪt] *n.* 优点; 信用; 声望, 荣誉

Which is a better place for the aged, home or nursing home?

In light of the growing number of senior citizens in many countries, the caring for elderly people is becoming harder to tackle. Some aged people can afford paid nurses and maids to look after their needs at home, but many others are not so fortunate. To them, a nursing home seems an ideal place.

To begin with, staying at a nursing home makes good financial sense. Some state-owned nursing homes are free of charge. Even for those that do require a small admission fee, the cost is low when you take into consideration the daily expenses incurred when one lives all by oneself. At the nursing home, everything can be purchased at wholesale prices. You don't have to do your own shopping or pay the electricity bill.

More importantly, a nursing home can provide professional care for those having trouble looking after themselves. Elderly people are prone to sudden attacks of various diseases. There is no telling when they would require help. If they live alone or even with their partners, there is every likelihood that they won't react effectively enough to an emergency. The stakes are too high to allow for even one mistake. Thus, it is wise to go to a nursing home where you will be monitored and attended to by professionals.

An even stronger argument in favor of nursing homes is the sense of community created there. Living alone, the aged usually feel lonely and sad. Even those living with their children often find themselves depressed because of the generation gap. By living in a nursing home, one can meet and talk to people of one's own age. There is a wealth of shared memory and common interest. They can take their mind off their own troubles and concerns and become part of the community, which means a lot to their mental health.

Staying at home is a good choice only for some people. For the vast majority of the senior citizens, nursing homes are ideal places to spend the rest of their lives in. Of course, much needs to be done to improve the conditions of the numerous poorly-managed nursing homes.

单词注释

tackle ['tækəl] *vt.* 应付(难事等), 处理, 解决
 maid [meɪd] *n.* 女仆
 fortunate ['fɔ:tʃənɪt] *adj.* 幸运的
 admission fee 入会费
 wholesale ['həʊlseɪl] *n.* 批发 *adj.* 批发的; [喻] 大规模的
 be prone to 有...的倾向, 易于
 likelihood ['laɪklihʊd] *n.* 可能, 可能性

emergency [ɪ'mɜ:dʒənsɪ] *n.* 紧急情况, 突然事件, 非常时刻
 argument ['ɑ:gjʊmənt] *n.* 争论; 辩论, 论据, 论点
 depressed [dɪ'prest] *adj.* 沮丧的
 generation gap 代沟
 community [kə'mju:nəti] *n.* 公社, 团体; 社会; (政治)共同体; 共有, 一致
 mental health 心理健康
 numerous ['nju:mərəs] *adj.* 众多的, 许多的, 无数的

ESSAY 30

It is said that life is becoming increasingly stressful for most people. What is the reason of this phenomenon and how could this problem be solved?

Most people would say life is improving, except those in Africa or living in the throes of regional conflicts. But at the same time, life is becoming ever more stressful, leading to ten of thousands of suicides each year. It is high time that we pinpoint the causes and come up with some solutions.

Work is a main source of stress for most people. With the unemployment rate running high in even the most affluent countries, job security is becoming less and less guaranteed. To keep their jobs, people are compelled to work longer hours and achieve better performances. Getting ahead in the workplace becomes our priority, to the extent that we think about it all the time and can never really relax or take a break. Even for those with secure jobs, promotions and better salaries are irresistible, forever coaxing them to try their uttermost.

The relationship with one's fellow human being also adds to one's stress. People are becoming more isolated nowadays, not only from strangers but even from close relatives and friends. Everyone is engrossed in his or her own affair with no energy for or interest in what happens to other people. Real communication between people is on the decline. As a result, emotions get bottled up. People are more linked by economic interests than emotional needs. Genuine friendship becomes hard to find; even marriages are purely based on financial considerations. It seems that we face the world alone every day. No wonder people tend to feel the whole weight of the world on their shoulders.

While the right amount of pressure is often beneficial, the stress experienced by most people is detrimental both physically and mentally. Work and material wealth are far overrated and need to be put into its proper perspective. In addition, people need to improve their relationship with others around them, be it a colleague, a loved one, or a total stranger by really communicating with and caring for each other.

单词注释

stressful ['stresfl] *adj.* 产生压力的, 使紧迫的

phenomenon [fɪ 'nɒmɪnən] *n.* 现象

throe [θrəu] *n.* 剧痛

in the throes of 正处于, 正忙于

regional ['rɪ:dʒənəl] *adj.* 地方的, 地域性的

suicide ['su:saɪd] *n.* 自杀

pinpoint ['pɪnpɔɪnt] *v.* 准确解释

unemployment ['ʌnɪm'plɔɪmənt] *n.* 失业, 失业人数

affluent ['æfluənt] *adj.* 富裕的

compel [kəm'pel] *v.* 强迫, 迫使, 强要

priority [praɪ'ɔrɪti] *n.* 最重要的事, 首要事情, 优先, 优先权

irresistible [,ɪrɪ'zɪstəbl] *adj.* 不可抵抗的, 极诱人的

uttermost ['ʌtəməʊst] *n.* 极端, 最大限度

coax [kəʊks] *v.* 哄骗

isolated ['aɪsələtɪd] *adj.* 隔离的, 孤立的

engrossed [ɪn'grəʊst] *adj.* 全神贯注的

detrimental [,detrɪ'mentl] *adj.* 有害的

mentally ['mentəli] *adv.* 精神上; 智力上

ESSAY 31

Happiness is considered important by all people. Why is it hard to define happiness? What are the factors that are necessary to achieve happiness?

Upon reading this essay question, I recalled the article learned in Grade Three entitled 'What Is Happiness', in which the author presents various interpretations of happiness by different people. Alas, happiness still defies definition even today. The reasons are quite obvious.

Happiness means different things for different people. It is not the same as pure pleasure, which may be brought by eating when you are hungry or taking a rest when you are tired. Happiness is more related with the individual's set of mind. One can be happy while enduring great physical pain or he may still feel sad even though he is the king. Thus, for a doctor, happiness means curing his patients; for a scientist, finding the truth; a criminal, getting away with his crime. There is no single definition.

Besides, happiness takes on different meaning as people progress through life. As a child, one regards vacations or holidays as the happiest days. For a grown-up, career success and personal achievement can bring the most happiness. When one gets old, he or she will be the happiest to watch their grand children grow up. It is hard to define something that changes all the time.

By and large, all people can be happy. Contrary to common belief, happiness depends very little on material wealth. Rather, it depends on our attitude. If we are content with who we are and what we already have, we can be happy no matter how unlikely it seems according to worldly standards. Unrealistic goals (often unworthy goals) and our failures to achieve them are the ultimate causes for unhappiness. Peace of mind is essential to achieving happiness.

单词注释

factor ['fæktə] *n.* 因素, 要素

recall [rɪ 'kɔ:l] *vt.* 回忆, 回想, 记起

interpretation [ɪn'tɜ:pri'teɪʃn] *n.* 解释, 阐明

defy [dɪ 'faɪ] *vt.* 不服从, 挑衅, 违抗

obvious ['ɒbvɪəs] *adj.* 明显的, 显而易见的

criminal ['krɪmɪnəl] *n.* 罪犯, 犯罪者

definition [ɪ'defɪ'nɪʃn] *n.* 定义, 释义

contrary to 与...相反

attitude ['ætɪtju:d] *n.* 态度, 看法, 意见

worldly ['wɜ:ldli] *adj.* 世俗的, 世间的

unworthy [ʌn 'wɜ:ði] *adj.* 不值得的

ultimate ['ʌltɪmət] *adj.* 最后的, 最终的; 根本的

be essential to 对...必要的

ESSAY 32

Advertising adversely affects young people, so it should be strictly limited. Do you agree or not?

Advertising is ubiquitous. Wherever you go, you are likely to see or hear some forms of advertising, usually for a certain product or service. In fact, some adverts are used to raise public awareness or to educate people. As I see it, most commercial adverts should be placed under strict control or banned.

For one thing, advertisements often withhold the truth from the public. In order to sell more products, advertisements are designed with no concern for the truth. Some of them are outrageous lies, while most of them exaggerate the benefits and hide or downplay the drawbacks of a certain product. Consumers can't see the whole picture. Being given to impulsive actions and inexperienced in worldly affairs, young people are often the first to fall victim to those misleading adverts.

For another, most adverts advocate an unhealthy way of life. In most newspaper advertisements or TV commercials people are depicted as leading an exciting and romantic life. Attractive men and women can transform their lives after they used such and such products. But real life is not like that. Daily life is apt to be much simpler and uneventful. As it often happens, young people often get too carried away by the daily onslaught of advertising and become unsatisfied with their lives. They start to try out various products, imitate the trendy lifestyle portrayed in commercials and squander time and money on luxuries.

Additionally, advertising adds to the anxiety of the young. Already under lots of pressure, the young are being told all kinds of problems they are to have if they don't use certain products or services. You are going to lose your attraction to your husband if you don't use our perfume; you are going to lose your health if you don't take our calcium tablets three times a day. What a bunch of lies! Indeed, it is widely agreed that many so called 'diseases' are created by advertisers—they try to find some problems with us at first and then offer the solution with their products. It is nothing more than a tricky business strategy.

Although credits should be given to commercial advertisements for informing the public, strict control should be imposed to rid them of the usual misrepresentation of the truth. Adverts must be truthful or banned altogether.

单词注释

adversely ['ædvɜ:sli] *adv.* 负面地

ubiquitous [ju:'bɪkwɪtəs] *n.* 广告

advert [æd'vɜ:t] *n.* 广告

withhold [wɪð'həʊld] *vt.* 拒绝给, 不给

outrageous [aʊt'reɪdʒəs] *adj.* 骇人的, 无法容忍的

exaggerate [ɪg'zædʒəreɪt] *v.* 夸大, 夸张

drawback ['drɔ:bæk] *n.* 缺点

impulsive [ɪm'pʌlsɪv] *adj.* 冲动的

depict [dɪ'pɪkt] *vt.* 描述, 描写

such and such 某种

be apt to 倾向于

uneventful [,ʌnɪ'ventfl] *adj.* 平淡的, 平凡的

carry away 运走, 使失去自制力

onslaught ['ɒnslɔ:t] *n.* 冲击

imitate ['ɪmɪteɪt] *vt.* 模仿, 仿效

commercial [kə'mɜ:ʃl] *n.* 商业广告

squander ['skwɒndə] *v.* 浪费

anxiety [æŋ'zæɪəti] *n.* 忧虑, 焦急

perfume ['pɜ:fju:m] *n.* 香水

calcium tablet 钙片

tricky ['trɪki] *adj.* 狡猾的

impose [ɪm'pəʊz] *vt.* 强制实行, 强加

rid [rɪd] *vt.* 使摆脱, 使去掉

ESSAY 33

More and more women go out to work. Hence, it is the governments' responsibility to provide daycare service for the children of working mother, free of charge. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

China is one of those countries where women usually work fulltime after marriage. The caring for the children in those families can sometimes be a problem. But as of today, there has not been any childcare centers providing free service. I see no justification for those centers.

There is no point in treating working mothers differently from other workers. Some would say that working mothers are burdened by both the family and the work. But that is something they should sort out for themselves. They can choose to work shorter hours and ask their husbands to help take care of the children. By choosing to work while being a mother, they should be prepared to make extra efforts. After all, their hard work will pay off because working mothers are always looked upon with admiration and respect.

Besides, it won't be fair for non-working mothers if their children cannot enjoy the same free service. Mothers should be treated equally no matter whether they work or not. It might be argued that working mothers pay taxes and should therefore enjoy some privileges. But should non tax-payers be denied those benefits? Shouldn't the unemployed receive any money from the government? Social welfare should be extended equally to those who are in need, regardless of their tax contribution.

Therefore, I am in favour of providing free child care for all the children, not just those of working mothers, if the government can afford it. Otherwise, the caring of the children remains to be the responsibility of individual families.

单词注释

hence [hens] *adv.* 因此, 从此
responsibility [rɪˌspɒnsəˈbɪləti] *n.* 责任, 职责
justification [ˌdʒʌstɪfɪˈkeɪʃn] *n.* 辩护, 认为有理, 认为正当; 理由
burdened [ˈbɜːdn̩d] *adj.* 负荷的, 受重负的
sort out 挑选出, 想出解决办法
pay off 报复, 赢利

admiration [ˌædmə'reɪʃn] *n.* 钦佩, 赞美, 羡慕
privilege [ˈprɪvəlɪdʒ] *n.* 特权, 特别待遇
deny [dɪˈnaɪ] *v.* 否认, 拒绝
benefit [ˈbenɪfɪt] *n.* 利益, 好处
social welfare 社会福利
in favour of 支持...的活动
otherwise [ˈʌðəwaɪz] *adv.* 否则的话

ESSAY 34

Is it fair that sports professionals earn much more money than people in other important professions? Give reasons for both sides of the argument and your opinion.

It is often reported that one or another sport star just signed a multi-million dollar contract shooting a TV commercial. Those reports often fill someone with admiration and others with indignation. 'That guy gets millions by kicking a ball!' you will often hear people say. But is the money earned really that easily?

It is by no means easy money. The astronomical salaries are only enjoyed by a tiny portion of all athletes. The competition is fierce, even brutal, among the professionals. To get ahead one has to undergo years of systematic training and even then one will find himself far from succeeding. For every Olympic champion, there are countless others who tried almost as hard but failed to make their names known. Besides, sport is not a life long career and an athlete's professional life is often shortened by injuries and accidents. One can only maintain his peak performance and salary for a certain period. They do their jobs at the risk of their health and limbs. Profession sport is demanding both physically and mentally.

However, it is also argued that professional athletes as a group are paid too much and the exceptionally high salaries for top athletes cannot be justified. Competition is intense in all professions. Sports should not be singled out as particularly demanding. Indeed many jobs require years of education and training. To become an expert usually requires life-long dedication. But we don't see top police officers, professors or even doctors paid in the millions. In addition, objectively speaking, sport is less important than many other professions. It serves no practical purposes other than providing entertainment. The salary and attention enjoyed by athletes are out of proportion.

From my point of views, those sports professionals don't deserve what they get. Undue attention and importance have been given to sports. I would like to see other more important professions get more recognition and financial rewards.

单词注释

professional [prə'feʃənl] *n.* 专业人员

argument ['ɑ:gjumənt] *n.* 争论, 辩论; 论据, 论点

shooting ['ʃu:tɪŋ] *n.* 拍摄

astronomical [ˌæstrə'nɒmɪkl] *adj.* 庞大无法估计的

portion ['pɔ:ʃn] *n.* 一部分; 一份

athlete ['æθli:t] *n.* 运动员

brutal ['bru:tɪl] *adj.* 残忍的, 兽性的

undergo [ˌʌndə'gəʊ] *vt.* 经历, 遭受, 忍受

injury ['ɪndʒəri] *n.* 伤害

limb [lɪm] *n.* 肢, 臂, 腿

demanding [dɪ'mɑ:ndɪŋ; (US)dɪ'mændɪŋ] *adj.* 过分要求的, 苛求的

exceptional [ɪk'sepʃənl] *adj.* 例外的; 异常的

dedication [ˌdedɪ'keɪʃn] *n.* 贡献, 奉献

objectively [əb'dʒektɪvli] *adv.* 客观地

entertainment [ˌentə'teɪnmənt] *n.* 娱乐, 娱乐表演

proportion [prə'pɔ:ʃn] *n.* 比例, 均衡

undue [ˌʌn'dju:ɪ] *adj.* 不适当的

recognition [ˌrekəg'nɪʃn] *n.* 赞誉, 承认

ESSAY 35

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of people traveling abroad to work for a certain period of time.

Going abroad to study and work has become the dream of most students in China. In fact, the reason for taking this exam is to meet the admission requirement of most British universities. However, when I take a moment to reflect the prospect of working abroad upon graduation, I see challenges as well as opportunities.

For most Chinese, working abroad means a better salary. The average income in China is only one tenth of that enjoyed by employees in most western countries. We often hear stories that so and so also made millions abroad. Financial consideration is certainly on the mind of those working overseas. Apart from the financial reward, there is the added benefit of improving one's overall ability. Western countries are leading the world in science and management. By mingling and cooperating with one's colleagues on a daily basis, one gets to really understand the people and culture. Besides, working experience in a foreign country is often highly valued, at least in China. To put it in a Chinese way, to work abroad is to be gilded. You will be treated as a foreign expert when you return home. In fact, that is why most oversea students choose to advance their career at home.

However, it is not without its drawbacks. The separation from family members can be most trying for many people working in a foreign land. Only very few people go abroad with their wives and kids; most of them went by themselves. Having few friends, expatriates often feel lonely and some even suffer nervous breakdown. Besides, immigrant workers are not often treated friendly. The local people sometimes blame unemployment on those workers. Resentment and hostility are not uncommon in countries like France and Japan. It is hard for foreign workers to fit in. They will always be regarded as outsiders.

Having said all that, I still look forward to working abroad, should there be the chance. All the inconveniences are to be put up with because the experience is a rewarding one.

单词注释

disadvantage [ˌdɪsədˈvɑːntɪdʒ] *n.* 不利, 不利条件; 缺点, 劣势
reflect [rɪˈflekt] *v.* 反省, 细想; 反射; 反映; 表现
prospect [ˈprɒspekt] *n.* 景色; 前景, 前途
overall [ˈəʊvəɹəl] *adj.* 全部的, 全面的
advance [ədˈvɑːns] *v.* 前进; 提前; 预付
gilded [ˈgɪldɪd] *adj.* 镀金的
trying [ˈtraɪɪŋ] *adj.* 难受的; 费劲的; 令人厌烦的
expatriate [ˌeksˈpætriət] *vt.* 逐出国外, 脱离国

籍, 放逐 *n.* 亡命国外者
nervous breakdown [医] 神经失常
resentment [rɪˈzentmənt] *n.* 怨恨, 愤恨
hostility [hɒˈstɪləti] *n.* 敌意, 恶意, 不友善, 敌对, 对抗, 反对
fit in 融入
outsider [ˌaʊtˈsaɪdə] *n.* 外来者
inconvenience [ˌɪnkənˈviːniəns] *n.* 麻烦, 不方便之处

ESSAY 36

Waste disposal presents increasing problems, especially in urban areas. What do you think are the causes? Give some suggestion to the government and individuals on how to reduce the amount of rubbish.

I didn't have a clear idea of how much garbage we produce each day until I saw a landfill on television where truckloads after truckloads of rubbish were dumped each day. If things go on without control, there will be no place for mankind in the future.

All the garbage is man-made. The extensive use of dispensable items is the main culprit. Recent decades have seen a ten-fold increase in the amount of waste produced in major cities around China. Fifty percent of that garbage is dispensable items such as plastic bags and food boxes, most of which are not biodegradable. In our quest for convenience, we give no thoughts to environmental friendliness.

The problem is compounded by the poor efforts we made at recycling. Many of the things we throw out can be recycled, which not only reduced the amount of rubbish we produce but make sound economic sense. Actually, huge profits could be made by reclaiming waste products. However, many people don't see the importance of recycling or bother to throw a recyclable item to the garbage bin marked 'recyclable'.

Lastly, rapid population growth in urban areas is also responsible for the increase of garbage. Each year, millions of immigrant workers from rural areas swarm into big cities in search of work. Not regarding the city as their home, they often have no qualm doing some damage to the environment by throwing rubbish everywhere, which often made garbage collection and disposal impossible. Consequently, some garbage is left unattended for months.

Measures can and should be taken to address this issue. People should be educated to increase their environmental awareness. Incentives should be given by the government to encourage citizens to reduce the use of disposable items and recycle as much as possible. If possible, more factories and companies should move to the countryside to prevent the influx of immigrant workers to the cities. While these may cause some inconveniences, we will be amply rewarded with a better environment.

单词注释

disposal [dɪ'spəʊzl] *n.* 处理, 处置, 布置

present [prɪ'zent] *vt.* 提出, 呈现

individual [ˌɪndɪ'vɪdʒʊəl] *n.* 个人, 个体 *adj.* 个别的, 单独的

truckload [ˈtrʌkləʊd] *n.* 一货车的容量

landfill [ˈlændfɪl] *n.* 垃圾场

dispensable [dɪ'spensəbl] *adj.* 不是必要的; 一次性的

decade [ˈdekeɪd] *n.* 十年, 十

biodegradable [ˌbaɪəʊdɪ'ɡreɪdəbl] *adj.* 生物所能分解的, 能降解的

compound [kəm'paʊnd] *v.* 使...严重, 使...恶化

profit [ˈprɒfɪt] *n.* 利润, 益处, 得益

reclaim [rɪ'kleɪm] *vt.* 要求归还, 回收

recycle [rɪ'saɪkl] *v.* 使再循环, 反复应用 *n.* 再生, 重复利用

immigrant [ˈɪmɪgrənt] *n.* 移民, 侨民

swarm into 涌入

rural [ˈrʊərəl] *adj.* 乡下的, 田园的

qualm [kwɔ:m; kwɔ:m] *n.* 疑虑, 考虑

consequently [ˈkɒnsɪkwəntli] *adv.* 从而, 因此

unattended [ˌʌnə'tend(ɪ)d] *adj.* 没人照顾的; 未被注意的

influx [ˈ(ɪ)nflʌks] *n.* 流入

ESSAY 37

Statistics show that cities are increasing in size. What do you think are the causes and possible consequences?

Most cities are expanding in terms of population and land area. City residents are daily reminded of this growth by the erection of new high-rise buildings and the extended bus routes. Generally a good thing, the expansion of a city is not often welcomed.

The influx of immigrant workers is the biggest reason behind city expansion. Lured by the prospect of employment and a better life in big cities, people from poorer regions come in millions. In order to accommodate an increasing number of people, cities are forced to expand. In addition, the expansion is also necessitated and fuelled by rapid economic growth. Most cities are also centers for trade and industry, the development of which requires the use of land. Vast stretches of land has to be used to improve the infrastructure.

This kind of growth may lead to dire consequences. Population growth almost invariably causes traffic congestion. The building of new roads often lags far behind the increase in the number of cars and city dwellers. As a result, people can be trapped in cars for up to an hour during rush hours. Worse still, a huge population often puts too much pressure on city's infrastructure. Many newly arrived immigrant workers live in appalling conditions, sharing a room with four or five people. The local people also experience a decline in public service because it was designed only for a certain number of people. Last but not least, urban sprawl often causes severe environmental damage. Trees, fields and even villages have to be sacrificed because of the unrelenting pace of urban sprawl. The only defensive against it is a balanced development of all regions, both urban and rural.

单词注释

expand [ɪk'spænd] *vt.* 扩张 *vi.* 张开; 发展
extend [ɪk'stend] *v.* 扩充, 延伸
erection [ɪ'rekʃn] *n.* 直立, 竖起; 建筑物
high-rise *adj.* (建筑物)超高层的, 高楼的
resident [ˈrez(ɪ)dənt] *n.* 居民
influx [ˈ(ɪ)nflʌks] *n.* 流入
lure [lʊə] *v.* 诱惑

prospect [ˈprɒspekt] *n.* 前景; 前途; 期望
accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] *v.* 容纳
necessitate [nə'sesɪteɪt] *v.* 成为必要
dire [ˈdaɪə(r)] *adj.* 可怕的
decline [dɪ'klaɪn] *v.* 下降
unrelenting [ˌʌnrɪ'lentɪŋ] *adj.* 毫不留情的

ESSAY 38

There are more and more cars in cities. Hence, pedestrians and cyclists are endangered by heavy traffic. Gardens and streets give way to car parks and highways. How can city planners satisfy all people's needs?

Each day tens of thousands of people die from traffic accidents in cities worldwide, a regrettable and wasteful loss of human lives. With cars increasing daily, new roads and parking lots are forever taking the place of gardens and streets. Careful planning and necessary measures can best serve the interest of all people.

A well-developed public transport system is the ultimate way to reduce the number of cars on the road. Extensive and efficient subway systems and bus services could provide cheap and comfortable drives for everyone even in rush hours, vastly reducing the total number of cars on the road. Besides, environmental damages are also kept at the minimum, for it is the most energy-efficient method to convey huge numbers of people from place to place.

In addition, there is often room for improvement when it comes to city planning. Better planning could make the best use of existing roads without further encroachment on the already scarce parks, gardens or squares. For instance, more underground car parks and overpasses should be built in order to reserve the ground for trees and gardens.

Lastly, more traffic wardens should be posted and traffic lights set up so as to regulate the flow of traffic, the result of which could be a decrease in the number of traffic incidents because most accidents occur when the drivers decide to take chances as there is no policeman around. Pedestrians also need to be reminded to observe traffic rules by keeping to pavements and sidewalks.

Most of the human loss and property damage caused by traffic accidents are avoidable if people choose to give up a little bit of their convenience for the sake of others. Harmony can only be achieved by balancing the needs of all people.

单词注释

reduce [r(ɪ)'dju:s] *v.* 减少

ultimate [ˈʌltɪmət] *adj.* 最后的, 最终的; 根本的

minimum [ˈmɪnɪməm] *adj.* 最小值

convey [kən'veɪ] *v.* 运送

encroachment [ɪn'krəʊtʃmənt] *n.* 侵蚀; 侵犯

scare [skeə(r)] *adj.* 缺乏的, 不足的; 稀有的

overpass [ˈəʊvəpɑ:s] *n.* 天桥

regulate [ˈregjuleɪt] *vt.* 管制, 控制

pavement [ˈpeɪvmənt] *n.* 人行道

property [ˈprɒpəti] *n.* 财产

ESSAY 39

Many people think that countries have a moral obligation to help each other, while others argue that the aid money is misspent by the governments that receive it, so international aid should not be given to the poor countries. Discuss.

Billions of dollars each year are given out as aid to poor countries in the hope of relieving the sufferings of their people. Whenever and wherever natural disasters strike, people from all countries never hesitate to offer help and assistance to the victims. However, some people fear these kinds of good will and generosity are being abused by some governments.

There is no point in giving aid because aid money is misused and never reaches the intended recipients. It is the poor that need help. Unfortunately, due to their social and economic status, they have no access to foreign aid once it is brought in through official channels. North Korea, for instance, receives millions of dollars each year, but thousands still starve to death. The cause of this, as revealed in some independent studies, is that a large portion of the donation was spent on the army and very little went to the poor. More alarmingly, international aid sometimes, instead of alleviating sufferings, backfires on the people if the money were used by the dictators to consolidate their rule. The government might use the money to build its army and police force; those with close ties with government officials might use a portion of it to seek profits for themselves, often at the expense of public interest.

However, notwithstanding possible misuses, abuses or side effects, rich countries are morally responsible for assisting poor nations. Developed countries accumulate great wealth not only by the hard work and ingenuity of their people but, to some degree, at the expense of other countries' economic well-being. For instance, many former colonies were exploited economically by former empires such as Britain and France and are still plagued by unfair trade relations, whereby they serve as suppliers of natural resources and markets for expensive end products. Besides, rich countries often call themselves civilized nations. If they are to really live up to their names, how could they refuse to aid the poor who are suffering in poverty and languishing in misery? Creatures of a kind often help each other wherever possible, which is happening in the animal world all the time. As human beings, how can we stand by when other people are struggling merely to survive? Our human decency forbids it!

As Bertrand Russell puts it: there are two kinds of tragedy, one caused by nature and the other by ourselves. We are now in a position to conquer most natural disasters if the rich and powerful nations choose to do so. Also, I'd like to see measures taken to prevent the misuse of international aid.

单词注释

relieve [r(i)'li:v] *v.* 减轻

strike [stra(ɪ)k] *vt.* 到达; 侵袭

hesitate ['hez(ɪ)te(ɪ)t] *v.* 犹豫, 踌躇; 不愿

victim ['v(ɪ)kt(ɪ)m] *n.* 受害人; 牺牲者

generosity [,dʒenə'rosəti] *n.* 慷慨, 宽大

abuse [ə'bju:z] *v.* 滥用

recipient [rɪ'sɪpiənt] *n.* 领取人

alleviate [ə'li:vie(ɪ)t] *v.* 缓解

dictator [dɪk'teɪtə(r)] *n.* 暴君

consolidate [kən'sɒldɪt] *v.* 加强

backfire [,bæk'faɪə(r)] *v.* 起反作用

portion ['pɔ:ʃn] *n.* 部分

accumulate [ə'kju:mjəleɪt] *v.* 积累

plague [pleɪ(ɪ)g] *v.* 困扰

languish ['læŋgwɪʃ] *v.* 受苦

ESSAY 40

Creative artists should be given the freedom to express their ideas (through words, pictures, music or films). However, some people think government should impose certain restrictions on them. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In a real democracy people should enjoy the freedom of speech. Everyone should be able to freely express his or her ideas and views. This kind of freedom must not be curtailed when it comes to artistic creations.

Freedom of speech is a basic right for all citizens, more so for artists. The ideas of an artist are often expressed not in his speeches but through his artistic work. Everyone should have the right to tell the truth and his true feelings. The denying of freedom is a kind of oppression. Only a government without the mandate of its people would fear free speech. All dictators, for examples, never allow the people to criticize the government.

Art is all but impossible without the freedom of expression. Art is a reflection of the real world: artists reproduce the world as they see it. An artist may choose any part of the world as his subject and approach from his unique angle. No two artists perceive the world in quite the same way. If restrictions are imposed on certain areas and subjects, if artists can only approach an issue in ways approved by the authority, and if they are in fear of being thrown into prison by truly expressing their ideas, art ceases to be art.

Of course, artists should abide by the law while enjoying the freedom of expression. Therefore, their art work cannot be pornographic for example. They must not slander other people or spread vicious lies. Freedom doesn't mean doing whatever you like but doing whatever you like so long as you don't infringe on others' freedom or rights.

Therefore, governments should not impose censorship or restrictions on artistic creation. Artist should have their freedom of expression as long as this freedom is not used as an excuse for illegal activities.

单词注释

curtail [kə:'teɪl] *v.* 削减

oppression [ə'preʃn] *n.* 压迫

criticize ['krɪtɪsaɪz] *v.* 批评, 责备

reflection [rɪ'flekʃn] *n.* 反映

unique [ju'ni:k] *adj.* 独特的

perceive [pə'si:v] *vt.* 察觉 *v.* 感知, 感到

approve [ə'pru:v] *v.* 批准

pornographic [ˌpɔ:nə'græf(ɪ)k] *adj.* 淫秽的

slander ['slɑ:ndə] *n.* 诽谤

vicious ['vɪʃəs] *adj.* 恶意的

infringe [(ɪ)n'fr(ɪ)ndʒ] *v.* 侵犯

ESSAY 41

Most countries spend large amount of money on weapons to defend themselves though they are not at war. Some believe those countries should spend the money to help poor countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Last year, the defense expenditure of the United States exceeds 200 billion US dollars. If half of that money were used to help the poor, we would see a vast increase in the quality of their life. Alas, most countries are lukewarm in their efforts to help the poor, which is most deplorable to me.

People around the world have a moral obligation to help each other. Even animals often do this. As civilized men, can we stand by and do nothing while our fellow creatures are struggling in misery? National defense is given priority in most countries, which is a clear indication of our mutual hostility towards each other—we feel the need to guard and fight against one other. How ironic it is that instead of helping, we spend vast amount of money and resource on making sure that we will not be harmed by others. Granting some historical reasons, religious or ideological differences, human decency requires us to look after the interest of all people on earth, not just that of ourselves.

What's more, the assistance given to other countries by us often proves beneficial to ourselves in the long run. Economic globalization and integration makes nations increasingly interdependent. Rarely can one country develop all by itself. Any nation relies on others for raw materials or markets for end products. It is in the interest of rich countries that poor nations achieve economic growth because the increased purchase power in those countries may in turn give a boost to world economy. Therefore, aiding the poor makes economic as well as moral sense.

In short, peace and development is certainly the theme of this century. Priority should be given to assisting the poor both at home and abroad rather than national defense.

单词注释

- ◆ expenditure [ɪk'spendɪtʃə(r)] *n.* 支出
- ◆ exceed [(ɪ)k'si:d] *v.* 超过
- ◆ lukewarm [ˌlu:k'wɔ:m] *adj.* 微热的
- ◆ deplorable [d(ɪ)'plɔ:rəbl] *adj.* 可叹的
- ◆ obligation [ˌɒblɪ'geɪʃn] *n.* 责任
- ◆ priority [praɪ'ɒrəti] *n.* 优先, 重点
- ◆ hostility [hɒ'stɪləti] *n.* 敌意
- ◆ ideological [ˌɪdɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl] *adj.* 意识形态的
- ◆ integration [ˌɪntɪ'greɪʃn] *n.* 一体化
- ◆ interdependent [ˌɪntədɪ'pendənt] *adj.* 相互依赖的, 互助的

ESSAY 42

How to measure a country's success? Some say it depends on the quality of citizens' life, but others say it means a prosperous economy. What's your opinion?

Success is a universal goal for all people and nations. It often defies definition. It is hard to measure personal and national success. A nation's success in particular depends on many factors.

Equality is a main factor in measuring a nation's success. A nation may enjoy great material wealth yet remains a failure. Indeed, inequality exists in all countries to some degree. There is an old Chinese saying which goes: trouble is caused not by poverty but inequality. If people are discriminated against because of their gender, income or social status, resentment and hostility between different classes will grow. The oppressed and underprivileged will struggle for equality, culminating often in social unrest or even civil wars. A sound political and judicial system is required to ensure equality among the people. It should be considered the proudest achievement of any nation.

Apart from that, success should be gauged by a country's contribution to the international community. Ours is a global village whose villagers are all interrelated and interdependent. Each nation is just one member of the global family. One is supposed to look after the interest of one's relatives. However, many a time we have witnessed aggression and war against other nations in the quest for power and money. However mighty those invaders become, their history will forever be tinted with wickedness and humiliation. The luxury enjoyed by the conquerors or exploiters inspires no admiration, only contempt and hatred. Truly noble are those nations who extend a helping hand to others with no strings attached and no ulterior motives.

Success is forever pursued by nations as well as individuals. All too often people mistake success for economic success, which is rather deplorable. Among the factors contributing to real success, a booming economy is an inconsequential one.

单词注释

- defy [dɪ'faɪ] v. 抗拒
- inequality [ˌɪnɪ'kwɒləti] n. 不平等
- discriminate [dɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt] v. 歧视, 区别
- resentment [rɪ'zentmənt] n. 反感
- underprivileged [ˌʌndə'prɪvələdʒd] adj. 被剥夺基本权利的; 穷困的; 下层社会的
- culminate [ˈkʌlmɪneɪt] v. 达到顶峰
- gauge [geɪdʒ] v. 衡量
- aggression [ə'ɡresʃn] n. 扩张
- quest [kwɛst] n. 寻求
- invader [ɪn'veɪdə(r)] n. 侵略者
- tint [tɪnt] v. 给...着色
- wickedness ['wɪkɪdnɪs] n. 邪恶, 不道德
- humiliation [hju:mɪli'eɪʃn] n. 羞辱, 蒙羞
- contempt [kən'tempt] n. 鄙视
- hatred ['hætrɪd] n. 憎恨, 敌意, 仇恨
- ulterior [ʌl'tɪəriə] adj. 隐秘的
- inconsequential [ɪn,kɒnsɪ'kwɛnʃl] adj. 不合逻辑的, 不合理的

ESSAY 43

Education is of vital importance to individual development and social progress. What should education consist of in order to fulfill both ends?

Educational expenditure in most developed countries, the United States, for instance, often outstrips that in other areas. From this we can see the importance attached to education. Teachers and educators in China are enjoying better salaries as people start to reap the benefits from a highly educated workforce. Ideally, education should contribute to personal advancement and social development.

To achieve personal growth and success, one needs in-depth knowledge in a certain discipline. Every branch of knowledge is worth pursuing provided that you don't merely scratch the surface. No real interest can be fostered by just dipping into a subject. Without interest, learning becomes not a pleasure, but a burden to be endured for the sake of getting a diploma, which is often a prerequisite to a decent job. To really develop one's abilities, one needs to focus on his or her major. Enormous amount of time and energy are required to pursue a discipline or a perfect skill. Unfortunately, college students in China are often distracted by taking many irrelevant courses in which they are not remotely interested. It is the experts and specialists that prevail in the increasingly competitive society. Of course, it is also essential to have a general knowledge of relevant subjects because many disciplines are interrelated.

To promote social progress, schools need to provide moral and ethical education. The development of a society calls for genuine cooperation and harmony among its people. No society can develop if all its citizens are engaged in a rat race for personal gains with no regard for each other. With a lowering of moral and ethical standard, people start to scramble for their personal interest at all cost. Fraud, bribery and corruption become rampant. Therefore, people need to be educated morally, ethically and psychologically. It is not enough for one to become powerful; one should be a good man above anything else. Just think about the untold atrocities caused by those evil men wielding enormous power.

Education is a lifelong process, the importance of which can be hardly exaggerated. As things stand now, there is always room for improvement. A well-balanced education will be most conducive to individual and social progress.

单词注释

vital [ˈvaɪ(t)l] *adj.* 生命的; 很重要的
advancement [ədˈvɑːnsmənt] *n.* 前进; 促进
contribute [kənˈtrɪbjʊt] *v.* 贡献; 资助
in-depth [ɪnˈdepθ] *adj.* 深入的; 彻底的
discipline [ˈdɪsəplɪn] *n.* 纪律; 训练; 学科
diploma [dɪˈpləʊmə] *n.* 文凭, 毕业证书
scratch [skrætʃ] *vt.* 抓; 擦伤
endure [ɪnˈdʒʊə] *v.* 忍受; 持久, 耐久
prerequisite [ˌpriːˈrekwəzɪt] *n.* 先决条件, 前提
decent [ˈdiːsnt] *adj.* 正当的, 正经的

• ethical [ˈeθɪkəl] *adj.* 伦理的, 道德的
• scramble [ˈskræmbəl] *vi.* 爬; 争夺
• harmony [ˈhɑːməni] *n.* 协调, 和睦; 调和
• fraud [frɔːd] *n.* 欺骗, 骗人的事
• rampant [ˈræmpənt] *adj.* 繁茂的; 蔓延的; 猖獗的; 猛烈的
• psychologically [ˌsaɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkli] *adv.* 心理上地
wield [wiːld] *vt.* 支配; 控制; 挥动, 使用, 熟练地操作, 有效地运用
atrocious [əˈtrɒsɪs] *n.* 凶恶, 暴行

ESSAY 44

It is right that college graduates earn higher salaries than the less well-educated in the community. But they should also pay the full cost of their study. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

College graduates in China are having a hard time getting employed, more often than not, even on quite unappealing terms. It began to dawn on people that college education is no guarantee for decent jobs. Besides, even if the assumption that better education means better jobs were true, it is still wrong not to provide any financial assistance to students.

In reality, college graduates are far from enjoying higher salaries than those without a diploma. Actually, an employee should be rewarded as per his or her contribution to the company, which should be measured by using objective criteria as much as possible. Besides, one's performance at work often doesn't have much to do with the amount of education one receives except in some knowledge-intensive fields. All too often, skilled blue collar workers who haven't finished high school are paid much better than degree holders. Work experience, interpersonal skills and teamwork are far more valued by employers. Long gone are the days when college education guarantees enviable salaries.

Contrary to common belief, college education is much more than an investment made by the individual in the hope of getting higher return upon graduation. Education is essential to social progress. A university does not and should not act as a career training center, whose aim is merely to prepare students for the work ahead. Rather, college education cultivates the mind of the student and improves one's overall abilities. With more people receiving higher education, the whole nation benefits in numerous ways. This has been testified in the developed countries, all of which put a premium on education. Thus, it is fitting that gifted students with potentials not be barred from universities simply because they cannot foot the bill.

Although college education no longer automatically translates into decent salaries, its appeals to youngsters have never been stronger. Adequate grants and scholarships should be set aside to alleviate the financial burdens of those underprivileged students.

单词注释

unappealing [ˌʌnə'pi:l(r)ɪŋ] *adj.* 不动人的, 无魅力的

terms [tɜ:mz] *n.* 条件

guarantee [ˌgʌərən'ti:] *vt.* 保证, 承诺; 确定; 保护

assumption [ə'sʌmpʃn] *n.* 假定, 设想

reward [r(r)'wɔ:d] *vt.* 报答, 酬劳, 奖赏

criteria [kraɪ'tɪəriə] *n.* 标准; 准则; 规律

knowledge-intensive [ˌnɒlɪdʒɪn'tensɪv] *adj.* 知识密集的

interpersonal [ˌɪntə'pɜ:sənəl] *adj.* 人与人之间的; 人际关系的

numerous [ˈnju:mərəs] *adj.* 极多的, 为数众多的

essential [ɪ'senʃəl] *adj.* 必要的, 必不可少的, 基本的; 本质的

testify [ˈtest(r)faɪ] *vi.* 证实, 证明; 郑重宣言; 提供证据

premium [ˈpri:mɪəm] *n.* 奖赏, 酬金; 保险金; 额外费用

bar [bɑ:(r)] *vt.* 妨害; 禁止

foot the bill 支付费用

automatically [ˌɔ:tə'mætɪkəlɪ] *adv.* 自动地

appeal [ə'pi:l] *vi.* 有感染力

grant [grɑ:nt] *vt.* 赐予, 授予特权

scholarship [ˈskɒləʃɪp] *n.* 奖学金

alleviate [ə'li:vɪe(r)t] *vt.* 使减轻, 缓和

underprivileged [ˌʌndə'prɪvələdʒd] *adj.* 贫穷的, 下层社会的

ESSAY 45

Some people say that the positive effects of advertising outweigh its negative effects. Do you agree or disagree?

Advertising is ubiquitous. Wherever you go and whatever you read, you are likely to be bombarded by adverts touting some products or services. Is the unsolicited, seemingly wholesome information beneficial or detrimental?

It would be wrong to deny advertising any credit. The yearly turnover of this industry indicates its importance in the business world. Without adverts, it would be much harder for consumers to learn about new products. Indeed, world economy would be much less developed.

Notwithstanding all that, advertising influence most people adversely. It advocates an unhealthy and wasteful lifestyle. In an attempt to cash in on every new product, copywriters are employed to come up with eye-catching adverts. Most of these ads portray the new product as trendy and almost indispensable. Sure enough, many people discard the old products and purchase the latest model, which often turns out only fractionally superior to the older one. The fashion industry is a case in point. Thanks to its advertising, women and some men are coaxed to throw out their clothes bought a year ago because they are out of style.

In addition, adverts may lead to inordinate anxiety and worries. There are two main tactics used in the advertising industry to persuade and convince people: one is to appeal to our desire for pleasure and the other is to take advantage of our fear. Many adverts solemnly assume a scientific tone and warn consumers of certain terrible but overlooked ailments and then offer the cure. In fact, it is agreed that many diseases are created by advertisement, many of which are without solid scientific basis. Apart from that, most adverts intentionally exaggerate or mislead the audience by implying dire consequences if their products are not used. A man is in danger of losing his job if he doesn't partake in a certain program; a woman is likely to lose the affection of her husband if she doesn't use certain kind of perfume. Adverts put strain on our already high-strung nerve by feeding us all kinds of potential or invented problems.

Despite its big role in modern society, advertising needs to be strictly regulated and restricted because the strategies employed in advertising is becoming increasingly insidious and vicious.

单词注释

- ◆ outweigh [ˌaʊt 'weɪ] *vt.* 重过, 胜过
- ◆ ubiquitous [ˌju: 'b(ɪ)kw(ɪ)təs] *adj.* 无所不在的
- ◆ bombard [bɒm 'bɑ:d] *vt.* 炮轰; 质问; 攻击某人
- ◆ unsolicited [ˌʌnsə 'lɪsɪtɪd] *adj.* 多余的, 多事的; 自发的, 主动提出的
- ◆ seemingly [ˌsi:mɪŋli] *adv.* 表面上, 看起来
- ◆ detrimental [ˌdetr(ɪ)'mentl] *adj.* 有害的, 伤害的; 不利的
- ◆ credit [ˌkred(ɪ)t] *n.* 名誉; 赞同, 赞许
- ◆ notwithstanding [ˌnɒt wɪθ 'stændɪŋ] *adv.* 虽然, 即使
- ◆ adversely [ˌædvɜ:sli] *adv.* 有敌意地, 不利地
- ◆ attempt [ə 'tempt] *vt.* 尝试, 企图
- ◆ cash in on 靠...赚钱; 乘机利用
- ◆ copywriter [ˌkɒpɪraɪtə(r)] *n.* 广告撰稿人
- ◆ eye-catching *adj.* 吸引目光的
- ◆ portray [pɔ: 'treɪ] *vt.* 描绘, 描写
- ◆ indispensable [ˌɪndɪ 'spensəbl] *adj.* 不可缺少的, 必需的; 义务的; 不可避免的
- ◆ fractionally [ˌfrækʃənli] *adv.* 部分地, 碎片地
- ◆ coax [kəʊks] *vt.* 劝诱; 哄骗, 以劝诱取得
- ◆ inordinate [ɪn 'ɔ:dɪnət] *adj.* 过度的, 无节制的
- ◆ partake [pɑ: 'teɪk] *v.* 参与; 分享; 吃, 喝
- ◆ affection [ə 'fekʃən] *n.* 爱, 爱好
- ◆ exaggerate [ɪg 'zædʒəreɪt] *vt.* 夸大, 夸张
- ◆ insidious [ɪn 'sɪdiəs] *adj.* 狡诈的, 阴险的

ESSAY 46

Many people are afraid of leaving their house because of crime. Some think more actions should be taken to prevent crime, but others think little can be done. What is your view?

Crime has been around since time immemorial. Like war, crime is not likely to be totally eradicated, if history is any judge. Some might even say that it is an integral part of our universe, where balance must be achieved by the co-existence of opposing forces. However, I see no reason why crime cannot be largely prevented, if not exterminated.

Education is the first thing we can do to reduce crime. Take China for example. Seventy per cent of criminal offences were committed by the poorly educated who often didn't realize that they were breaking the law. In some rural villages it is still common practice to settle disputes by force. The concept of law is far from self-evident or widely accepted even among city dwellers. People need to be taught what constitutes a crime and what penalty or punishment would follow. But more importantly, people need to form the habit of resorting to law when problems arise.

Apart from that, effective law enforcement can make a great difference. More often than not people get frustrated and take things into their own hands because the judicial system fails to protect them or solve their problems. Bureaucracy, inefficiency and corruption are not uncommon in most countries. If police brutality go on unchecked, if some policemen can be bribed to offer protection to petty criminals, if murderers can get away unpunished because of their powerful connections, people will lose heart. Law enforcement is as essential as law itself.

To ultimately prevent crime, we have to dive into the root of crime. Though Christians assert that all men are sinful, the supposedly inherent sin doesn't necessarily lead to crime. There is no such a thing as a born criminal. Most people turn to crime as a last resort. It is a gradual process, starting from bad behavior to misconduct, wrongdoing and culminating in felony. Poverty, social inequality and racial discrimination are often causes of criminal acts. Given a secure life, few people would risk their liberty or life.

It would seem optimistic to claim that crimes can be reduced at a time when the crime rates in most countries are actually rising. However, effective education and law enforcement can make a difference. The day will come when everyone is so provided for that there is no point to commit a crime.

单词注释

immemorial [ɪmə'mɔ:riəl] *adj.* 太古的, 极古的; 无法追忆的

integral [ɪn'tɪgrəl] *adj.* 整体的, 不可或缺的

eradicate [ɪ'rædɪkeɪt] *vt.* 根除, 消灭

co-existence *n.* 共存, 同时存在, 和平共处

exterminate [ɪk'stɜ:mɪneɪt] *vt.* 扑灭, 消灭, 根绝

offence [ə'fens] *n.* 犯罪, 冒犯, 过错

self-evident [ˌself'evɪdənt] *adj.* 自明的

constitute [kən'stɪtju:t] *vt.* 构成, 组成; 任命

penalty [ˈpenəlti] *n.* 刑罚, 罚款; 报应

resort [rɪ'zɔ:t] *vi.* 诉诸; 常去; 滞留

enforcement [ɪn'fɔ:smənt] *n.* 执行, 强制

frustrated [frʌ'streɪtɪd, 'frʌ-] *adj.* 挫败的, 失意的

bureaucracy [bjʊə'rɒkrəsi] *n.* 官僚, 官吏

inefficiency [ɪnɪ'fɪʃənsi] *n.* 无效率, 无能

brutality [bru:'tæləti] *n.* 残忍, 无慈悲, 野蛮的行为

ultimately [ˌʌltɪmətli] *adv.* 最后, 终于

misconduct [mɪs'kɒndʌkt] *n.* 办错, 渎职; 行为不端

wrongdoing [ˈrɒŋdu:ɪŋ; 'rɔ:ŋ-] *n.* 坏事, 不道德行为

culminate [ˈkʌlmɪneɪt] *vt.* 使到绝顶, 使达到高潮

felony [ˈfeləni] *n.* 重罪

discrimination [dɪˌskrɪmɪ'neɪʃn] *n.* 差别, 歧视, 辨别力

optimistic [ˌɒptɪ'mɪstɪk] *adj.* 乐观的, 乐观主义的, 乐天的

provide for 供养

ESSAY 47

Many people believe that subjects such as music or sports are not useful. Thus school should concentrate on subjects that offer better career prospect. What is your opinion?

In a few days' time, the yearly College Entrance Exam is to be held in China. Achieving a high score in the exam is no longer enough for the long-suffering students, who also face the task of choosing a suitable major. As might be expected, many universities are setting up new departments that offer job-oriented courses or expanding existing ones to enhance their enrollment. As far as I am concerned this lopsided emphasis is not justified.

Career prospect is on most people's mind when choosing a major, but this can hardly justify the overemphasis on certain disciplines. It is not the goal of education to provide job trainings to students. Education aims to improve one's all-round abilities. It is a gradual process, a cultivation of the mind, which is not easily measured or even perceived. It is short-sighted to concentrate on certain subjects that are supposed to be in great demand. More haste, less speed. There is no way one can acquire all the skills and expertise needed for work through college education. Internal training at workplace is always necessary.

Besides, profession skill is not the only thing valued by employers. Indeed, it is hardly the most important consideration. One's overall ability is more regarded. A successful candidate must possess the right personality, adequate interpersonal skills and the willingness to learn. Only a well-balanced education can ensure all-around development. Employers are increasingly bored and put down by those graduates who know very little outside their major. Music, sports and other neglected subjects can benefit us in ways we never expected.

Ironically, the overemphasis of certain subjects often backfires. In China, for example, fueled by steady economic growth, most universities rush to set up departments like Accounting, Finance, International Trade, Law and so on. As a result, the demand for those majors falls behind the supply—thousands of students fail to get employed. In the meantime, there is a shortage of highly-educated and qualified workers in some 'unpopular' fields.

Therefore, this kind of imbalance is doing damage to both the individual and society at large. In fact, each subject is just as important as any other. One can excel in any field if he is dedicated enough.

单词注释

- concentrate [ˈkɒnsntreɪt] *vi.* 集中, 专心
- long-suffering [ˌlɒŋ ˈsʌfəriŋ] *adj.* 坚忍的
- suitable [ˈsu:təbl̩] *adj.* 适当的, 适宜的, 相配的
- enhance [ɪnˈhɑ:ns] *vt.* 提高, 加强, 增加
- enrollment [ɪnˈrɔ:lmənt] *n.* 登记, 注册, 入伍
- lopsided [ˌlɒp ˈsaɪdɪd] *adj.* 倾向一方的, 不平衡的
- emphasis [ɪmˈfæsɪs] *n.* 强调, 加强
- overemphasis [ˌoʊvər ˈemfæsɪs] *n.* 过分的强调
- cultivation [ˌkʌltɪˈveɪʃn] *n.* 教化, 培养, 耕作
- all-around [ˌɔ:l ˈraʊnd] *adj.* 全面的, 综合性的
- perceive [pəˈsi:v] *vt.* 感觉, 认知, 理解
- short-sighted *adj.* 眼光短浅的
- acquire [əˈkwaɪə(r)] *vt.* 获得, 学到
- expertise [ˌekspɜ:ˈti:z] *n.* 专家的意见, 专门技术
- candidate [ˈkændɪdɪt] *n.* 候选人, 投考者
- backfire [bækˈfaɪə(r)] *vi.* 产生事与愿违的不良效果
- ironically [əɪˈrɒnɪkli] *adv.* 讽刺地, 反讽地
- excel [ɪkˈsel] *vt.* 胜过, 优于
- accounting [əˈkaʊntɪŋ] *n.* 会计学, 清算账目
- dedicate [ˈdedɪkeɪt] *vt.* 献出, 贡献

ESSAY 48

Each year some languages die out. Some say this is good because fewer languages would make communication easier and relieve people of the burden of learning foreign languages. Do you agree or disagree?

It is said that sixty percent of the languages that ever existed have already become extinct. This would not be much lamented by most people except those linguists or archeologists. Indeed, some people regard this as a healthy sign that the world is integrating.

As far as learning foreign languages is concerned, it is indeed good news on the face of it. But, following the same logic, biologist would wish to have more extinct species because that means a lighter workload. The truth is far from it. They are advocating the protection of endangered species. Similarly, fewer languages don't necessarily mean better communication unless all languages are forsaken except a lingua franca. As long as several languages are used, there will always be language barriers.

The loss of languages is akin to that of history and culture. A nation's history and culture are largely recorded in its language, both verbal and written. With the demise of a language, the history and tradition are gradually forgotten, which is often irreparable. Scientists nowadays are trying in vain to decipher those ancient languages to get a glimpse at what life was like millenniums ago. How much easier it would become if the languages were still used today.

The loss is regrettable because languages are closely linked to people's ways of thinking. Our thoughts are described in our languages and hinted maybe in artistic works. People speak different languages and think in different ways. To really understand their way of thinking, one needs to comprehend their languages. Each language is unique. For instance, Chinese is known for its flexibility, Japanese for its politeness, French its beauty. Different languages really complement each other.

As that of dinosaurs, the extinction of certain languages is just as lamentable. As a language dies out, the door to a unique history, culture and beauty is closed. The world becomes much duller as a result.

单词注释

- ◆ lament [lə'ment] *vt.* 哀悼 *vi.* 悔恨, 悲叹
- ◆ linguist [ˈlɪŋgwɪst] *n.* 语言学家
- ◆ archeologist [ˌɑ:kɪ'ɒlədʒɪst] *n.* 考古学家
- ◆ integrate [ˈɪntɪɡreɪt] *vt.* 使成整体, 使一体化
- ◆ extinct [ɪk'stɪŋkt] *adj.* 熄灭的, 灭绝的
- ◆ advocate [ˈædvəkeɪt] *n.* 提倡者, 鼓吹者 *vt.* 提倡, 鼓吹
- ◆ forsake [fə'seɪk] *vt.* 放弃, 抛弃
- ◆ lingua franca 混合语, 通用语
- ◆ akin [ə'kɪn] *adj.* 同族的, 类似的
- ◆ verbal [ˈvɜ:bl] *adj.* 口头的
- ◆ demise [dɪ'maɪz] *n.* 死亡
- ◆ irreparable [ɪ'repərəbəl] *adj.* 不能挽回的
- ◆ in vain 徒然地
- ◆ decipher [dɪ'saɪfə(r)] *vt.* 译解(密码等), 解释
- ◆ glimpse [ɡlɪmps] *n.* 一瞥, 一看
- ◆ regrettable [rɪ'ɡretəbəl] *adj.* 可叹的, 可惜的
- ◆ hint [hɪnt] *v.* 暗示, 提示
- ◆ flexibility [ˌfleksə'bɪləti] *n.* 灵活性
- ◆ dinosaur [ˈdaɪnəsɔ:(r)] *n.* 恐龙
- ◆ lamentable [ˌlæməntəbəl] *adj.* 令人惋惜的

Is distant learning as effective as school education?

Thanks to the development of the computer and the Internet, distant learning has been made available to most people. It does much to promote education in remote areas, where regular schooling is hardly possible. The possibilities opened up by distant learning seem infinite.

In some aspects, it even surpasses school education. Through e-learning, people can tap into a wider variety of courses which transcend the distance of time and space. It is indeed like universities without borders. Coupled with multi-media technology, distant learning can provide us with a virtual classroom, with the teacher lecturing from the podium and others sitting beside you. For those who cannot attend school it is the best choice.

However, at the present stage of development, distant learning is still inferior to school education. The freedom offered by distant learning actually backfires on the students. Many cannot follow through a course because they are not committed enough. Unlike school education, distant learning follows no strict schedule. Students themselves decide everything. Understandably, this kind of freedom is often abused. It is regrettable but true that most students lack perseverance and need to be constantly reminded or even goaded to finish a course.

Another drawback is the lack of face-to-face interaction. Researches have shown that people learn best not by cramming text books but by communicating with teachers and classmates. It is the discussion, the debates, and the exchange of ideas that really count. Through daily interaction, fellow students exert a subtle but significant influence over each other. People are less likely to get inspired or motivated when they take a course over the Internet. Besides, distant learning often adds to one's loneliness.

Though imperfect, distance learning has greatly benefited many people. But it is still a complement to normal education, at least for now.

单词注释

- available [ə'veɪləbl̩] *adj.* 有用的, 可得到的
- remote [rɪ'məʊt] *adj.* 遥远的, 偏僻的
- possibility [ɪ'pɒsə'bɪləti] *n.* 可能性, 可能的事
- surpass [sə'pɑ:s] *vt.* 超越, 凌驾, 胜过
- variety [və'reəri] *n.* 多样, 种类, 品种
- couple ['kʌpl] *vt.* 加倍, 使成双, 使成婚
- multi-media 多媒体
- podium ['pɒdiəm] *n.* 指挥台
- inferior [ɪn'fɪəriə(r)] *adj.* 次等的, 较低的 *n.* 低下的人, 次品
- committed [kə'mɪtɪd] *adj.* 致力 (于某主义、主张) 的, 奉献的
- abuse [ə'bju:s] *n.* 滥用, 恶习, 辱骂 [ə'bju:z] *vt.* 滥用, 辱骂, 虐待
- constantly ['kɒnstəntli] *adv.* 不变地, 不断地, 时常地
- goad [gəʊd] *n.* 刺棒, 激励物 *vt.* 用刺棒驱赶, 激励, 煽动
- drawback ['drɔ:bæk] *n.* 缺点
- interaction [ɪntər'ækʃən] *n.* 互动
- cram [kræm] *vt.* 塞满, 填满, 猛吃 *vi.* 贪吃
- subtle ['sʌtl] *adj.* 敏感的, 精细的, 狡猾的, 细微的
- motivate ['məʊtɪveɪt] *vt.* 给与动机, 刺激, 促动
- debate [dɪ'beɪt] *n.* 辩论, 讨论

ESSAY 50

Some say that children should obey their parents and teachers, while others believe that too much control will not help to prepare children for their adult life. Discuss both sides of the views.

The relation between parents and children varies from time to time and place to place. But the general trend seems to be that children are becoming less likely to obey blindly. This has caused much uneasiness on the part of parents and teachers.

In their opinion, children have a duty to obey their elders. Raised and taken care of by their parents, children should do as they are told to show their gratitude and respect for the elders. This is a tradition in many cultures. Besides, the elders always want the best for their children. No parents would intentionally harm their kids and thus there is no point in objecting their bidding. More importantly, youngsters often cannot make informed decision on their own. Being young and inexperienced, children are prone to indiscretion. On many occasions, they need guidance and advice from their parents or teachers.

On the other hand, too much control is certainly detrimental to children's future development. Sooner or later children need to make decisions on their own. If they have been taught to obey orders since they can remember, they gradually lose the ability and desire to form their own opinion. Such kids would never be given positions with responsibilities because they are accustomed to following instead of issuing instructions. Besides, only a totalitarian society will demand total obedience. It is contrary to democratic principles which take account of all people's opinions and interests. Tyrannical parents are in danger of starting a vicious circle: when their children become parents themselves, they also become tyrants.

It is not easy to get along with one's parents or kids. It is unwise to be overprotective or overindulgent. As with most things, moderation seems the best policy. Any high-handed approach is likely to breed another generation of tyrannical parents.

单词注释

blindly [ˈblaɪndli] *adv.* 轻率地, 盲目地
uneasiness [ˌʌnˈi:zɪnəs] *n.* 不舒适, 不安, 局促
gratitude [ˈgrætɪtʃu:d] *n.* 感激之情
object [ˈɒbdʒɪkt] *n.* 物体, 目标, 目的
[əbˈdʒekt] *vi.* 反对, 拒绝, 抗议
bidding [ˈbɪdɪŋ] *n.* 命令, 邀请, 出价
informed [ɪnˈfɔ:md] *adj.* 见多识广的
inexperienced [ˌɪnɪkˈspɪəriənst] *adj.* 无经验的, 不熟练的
indiscretion [ˌɪndɪˈskreʃn] *n.* 不慎重, 轻率
detrimental [ˌdetrɪˈmentl] *adj.* 有害的

position [pəˈzɪʃn] *n.* 位置, 地位, 身份
totalitarian [təʊˌtæləˈteəriən] *adj.* 极权主义的 *n.* 极权主义者
obedience [əˈbi:diəns] *n.* 服从, 顺从, 忠实
vicious [ˈviʃəs] *adj.* 邪恶的, 堕落的, 品行不端的
tyrant [ˈtaɪrənt] *n.* 暴君, 暴虐统治者
overindulgent [ˌəʊvərɪnˈdʌldʒənt] *adj.* 过度放任的, 过分任性的, 放纵的
moderation [ˌmɒdəˈreɪʃən] *n.* 缓和, 适度, 温和
high-handed [ˌhaɪˈhændɪd] *adj.* 高压的, 不容分说的, 横暴的
breed [bri:d] *n.* 种类, 品种 *vi.* 养育, 引起, 饲养
tyrannical [trɪˈrænikl] *adj.* 暴虐的, 压制的, 残暴的

ESSAY 51

Some think we can acquire knowledge from news reports. Others believe we cannot trust journalists. What do you think? What important qualities should a journalist have?

It is estimated that seventy percent of what we read is newspaper. We get most of the information from reporters and journalists. However, they are not doing a good job at present.

News reports often don't show us the whole picture. All too often news coverage must bow to political pressure. Take the coverage of the Iraqi War for example. In the United States, American victories are always reported, with only brief mentions of American and Iraqi civilian casualties. In Europe, where most people are against the war, on the contrary, news reports are focused on civilian casualties and rebel activities. It is hard to remain completely impartial even for the most independent news agencies. As a result, some facts are suppressed while others are highlighted. The readers are being sold journalists' preferences and views, rather than objective information.

Worse still, in order to survive in this intensely competitive industry, reporters often seek to captivate rather than inform the readers. Consequently, sensationalism prevails. The readers are daily fed with reports about celebrities: their divorces, their dresses, their diets and so on. Trivialism invariably ensues. Do the public really need to know who is dating who? Apart from that, news events often get dramatized. Journalists are catering to our sensual desire for excitement and entertainment. Thus, most reports involve some violence or conflicts. Many newspapers read like a litany of disasters. The really informative reports are cut out.

A real journalist should be objective. He has the duty to report the truth and only the truth. He must not be swayed by pressure or bias. Additionally, he should not give way to commercialism. An event should only be reported if it is worthy and informative.

单词注释

bow [baʊ] *v.* 鞠躬, 弯腰; 屈服

casualty [ˈkæʒuəlti] *n.* 伤亡

rebel [ˈreɪbəl] *n.* 造反者, 叛逆者

impartial [ɪmˈpɑːʃl] *adj.* 公正的

suppress [səˈpres] *vt.* 压抑

highlight [ˈhaɪlaɪt] *vt.* 加亮, 使显著

preference [ˈprefərəns] *n.* 偏好

captivate [ˈkæptɪveɪt] *vt.* 吸引

sensationalism [senˈseɪʃənəlɪzəm] *n.* 耸人听闻

prevail [prɪˈveɪl] *vi.* 流行

celebrity [səˈleɪbrəti] *n.* 名人

ensue [ɪnˈsjuː] *vi.* 紧随其后

trivialism [ˈtrɪvɪəlɪzəm] *n.* 琐碎, 平凡

dramatize [ˈdræmətaɪz] *vt.* 戏剧地表现

sensual [ˈsensjuəl] *adj.* 肉欲的, 色情的; 世俗的

litany [ˈlɪtəni] *n.* 冗长而枯燥的故事

sway [sweɪ] *v.* 摇摆, 摇动

commercialism [kəˈmɜːʃlɪzəm] *n.* 商业主义, 重商主义

ESSAY 52

Each year, crime committed by young people is on the rise. What are the reasons? Suggest some solutions.

In most countries, the crime rate among young people is rising. More alarmingly, youngsters are more involved in organized crimes and felonies. Something must be done to curb this trend.

Many juvenile delinquents commit crimes out of ignorance. Without due education at school or at home, teenagers often don't have the slightest idea of what constitutes a criminal offence. They regard it natural to settle a problem with violence. They are easily manipulated. For example, many are coaxed to sell drugs at discos, which seems to them a harmless part-time job. Not until they are caught by the police do they find out it is illegal.

The violence and crimes portrayed in the mass media certainly contribute to juvenile delinquency. Children are easily influenced. They imitate the people around them. Tuning on TV, they are daily exposed to vast amount of violence and bloodiness. Some programs even inadvertently teach people how to commit a crime because every step of the crime is described in detail. In addition, violence and criminals are often glorified in the mass media. The shooting and fighting seem manly and cool to the young. No wonder some of them have no qualm about trying it themselves.

Last but not least, many of those under-aged criminals go astray because of the lack of communication. They often have uncaring parents who don't bother to find out what is happening to their kids. Gradually, those kids learn to take things into their own hands. They usually become introvert and sensitive. By and by, they develop hostility towards most people except a few like-minded pals. Lonely and angry, they are apt to vent their wrath on their unhappy victims.

It can be seen from the above that most of the crimes can be prevented. The causes are largely man-made. Through adequate education and communication, the young can become law-abiding citizens. Also, stricter censorship should be enforced to cut out the unhealthy influence from the mass media.

单词注释

felony ['feləni] *n.* 重罪

curb [kɜ:b] *vt.* 压制

juvenile ['dʒu:vənəɪl] *adj.* 青少年

delinquent [dɪ'liŋkwənt] *n.* 失职者, 违法者

due [dju:] *adj.* 恰当的

manipulate [mə'nɪpjuleɪt] *v.* 操纵

coax [kəʊks] *v.* 教唆

illegal [i'li:gl] *adj.* 非法的

portray [pɔ:'treɪ] *v.* 描绘

bloodiness ['blʌdɪnɪs] *n.* 残酷, 残忍, 血腥

inadvertently [,ɪnəd'vɜ:təntli] *adj.* 非故意的

glorify ['glɔ:rɪfaɪ] *vt.* 美化

manly ['mænli] *adj.* 男子气概的

qualm [kwɔ:m, kwə:m] *n.* 不安

astray [ə'streɪ] *adv.* 迷途地, 入歧途地

introvert ['ɪntrəvɜ:t] *n.* 性格内向的人

hostility [hɒ'stɪləti] *n.* 敌意, 恶意

like-minded *adj.* 具有相似意向或目的的

apt [æpt] *adj.* 易于...的, 有...倾向的

vent [vent] *v.* 放出, 排出, 发泄

wrath [rɔ:θ] *n.* 愤怒

censorship ['sensəʃɪp] *n.* 审查机构, 审查制度

ESSAY 53

Some people think that traditional culture is being damaged as it is used as a tool to make money in the tourism industry. Others think it is the only way to preserve and protect culture and tradition. Discuss and state your opinion.

Many people today enjoy the pleasure of traveling around the world and appreciating exotic cultures and landscapes. Tourism industry generates billions of dollars each year. But this has sparked fear that traditional culture is being paid as a price.

Such concerns are not groundless. In pursuit of profit, local governments rush to set up more tourist attractions. Large stretches of land are being used to build amusement parks, hotels and restaurants, forcing thousands of aboriginal people out of their ancestral homes. Those who remained are often employed in the tourism industry, acting as guides for the sightseers. In addition, local tradition and culture are also under the onslaught of foreign cultures brought by the influx of tourists. Tourists bring with them their cultures and traditions which are often exotic and thus appealing. In order to appear trendy, many people start to imitate those travelers and lose interest in their own traditions.

However, others believe that instead of damaging, tourism actually promotes and protects traditional culture. The daily interaction between the locals and travelers will make them more aware of their unique cultures. They often start to appreciate and cherish their own traditions because outsiders are fascinated by their seemingly ordinary way of doing things. One fails to perceive the beauty if he sees it every day. Tourism often highlights the local custom. Besides, tourism contributes to local revenue. Money is required to maintain buildings of historical and cultural value. Traditional industries can also be subsidized by tourism income.

The way I see it, tourism can do much to promote tradition and culture. Indeed, what captivates tourists is not only the beautiful scenery but also the local tradition. Of course, everything should be done to keep the collateral damage at a minimum.

单词注释

- appreciate [ə'pri:ʃieɪt] *vt.* 赏识, 鉴赏; 感激
- exotic [ɪg'zɒtɪk] *adj.* 异国情调的, 外来的; 奇异的
- landscape [ˈlændʃeɪp] *n.* 风景, 山水画; 地形
- generate [ˈdʒenə'reɪt] *vt.* 产生, 发生
- spark [spɑ:k] *n.* 火花, 火星, 闪光 *vi.* 闪烁 *vt.* 发动
- concern [kən'sɜ:n] *vt.* 涉及, 关系到 *n.* (利害)关系; 关心, 关注
- groundless [ˈgraʊndləs] *adj.* 无根据的, 没有理由的
- pursuit [pə'sju:t] *n.* 追求
- stretch [stretʃ] *v.* 伸展, 伸长 *n.* 一段时间, 一段路程, 伸展
- aboriginal [ˌæbə'ɹɪdʒɪnəl] *adj.* 土著的, 原来的 *n.* 土著居民
- ancestral [æn'sestrəl] *adj.* 祖先的, 祖传的
- sightseer [ˈsaɪtsi:ə(r)] *n.* 观光客
- onslaught [ˈɒnslɔ:t] *n.* 冲击
- influx [ˈɪnflʌks] *n.* 流入
- appealing [ə'pi:lɪŋ] *adj.* 吸引人的; 哀诉似的, 恳求似的
- trendy [ˈtrendi] *n.* 新潮人物, 穿着时髦的人 *adj.* 流行的
- imitate [ˈɪmɪteɪt] *vi.* 模仿, 仿效; 仿制, 仿造
- interaction [ˌɪntər'ækʃən] *n.* 交互作用, 互动
- unique [ju:'ni:k] *adj.* 唯一的; 独特的
- fascinate [ˈfæsɪneɪt] *vt.* 使着迷, 使神魂颠倒
- perceive [pə'si:v] *vt.* 察觉, 感知, 感到, 认识到
- subsidize [ˈsʌbsɪdaɪz] *v.* 资助, 津贴
- captivate [ˈkæptɪveɪt] *vt.* 迷住, 迷惑
- collateral [kə'lætərəl] *adj.* 间接的

ESSAY 54

Some think students can learn more effectively in groups, while others think they should study alone. What are the benefits of each method? Which one do you think is more effective?

From kindergarten to college, students are always grouped together. Indeed, they spend so much time in groups that they long for some private moments. Some students prefer to study in a group, while others would like to study by themselves. It rather depends on the individual.

Group learning can profit those who are gregarious in nature. When you study in a group with your classmates by your side, you can consult them if you encounter any problem. Sometimes a word or two from others can save you hours of pondering. The exchange of ideas can benefit all parties involved. Additionally, one will be favourably influenced when she or he is put in a group. Seeing others working diligently, one will feel uneasy if she or he doesn't follow suit. This is especially helpful for those weak-minded students who need to be constantly reminded and encouraged.

On the other hand, it is also beneficial to study alone. Studying alone, one will not be distracted by others. Study is a mental activity, which requires high levels of concentration. Distraction is the bane of thinking. Someone even goes so far as to suggest the removal of all possible distractions: turning off cell phones, shutting doors and curtains and putting away all irrelevant items. Besides, it helps to develop our independent thinking. When there is no one to consult or confer with, one is forced to think for himself. Indeed, independent judgment and thinking are highly regarded these days. Moreover, when you are a lone wolf, you enjoy freedom. You can choose when and where to start your work. You can follow your own pace; no one would interfere. You can decide when and whether to take a break. In a word, you are your own boss.

Personally, I would like to study by myself whenever possible. In fact, I intentionally avoided evening study sessions during high school. I treasure the freedom when studying alone.

单词注释

- ◆ kindergarten [ˈkɪndəɡɑ:tɪn] *n.* 幼儿园
- ◆ gregarious [grɪˈɡeəriəs] *adj.* 社交的, 群居的
- ◆ consult [kənˈsʌlt] *v.* 商量, 商议, 请教
- ◆ encounter [ɪnˈkaʊntə] *v.* 遭遇, 遇到
- ◆ ponder [ˈpɒndə(r)] *v.* 沉思, 考虑
- ◆ exchange [ɪksˈtʃeɪndʒ] *n.* 交换, 调换
- ◆ influence [ˈɪnfluəns] *vi.* 影响, 改变
- ◆ diligently [ˈdɪlɪdʒəntli] *adv.* 勤勉地, 坚持不懈地
- ◆ beneficial [ˌbenɪˈfɪʃl] *adj.* 有益的, 受益的
- ◆ distracted [dɪˈstræktɪd] *adj.* 心烦意乱的
- ◆ irrelevant [ɪˈreləvənt] *adj.* 不相关的
- ◆ bane [beɪn] *n.* 毒药; 祸害
- ◆ independent [ˌɪndɪˈpendənt] *adj.* 独立自主的, 不受约束的
- ◆ confer [kənˈfɛː] *vi.* 协商, 交换意见
- ◆ lone wolf 喜欢单独行动的人, 孤僻的人
- ◆ removal [rɪˈmu:vəl] *n.* 移动; 免职; 切除
- ◆ interfere [ˌɪntəˈfɪə(r)] *vi.* 干涉, 干预

ESSAY 55

People are now able to perform everyday tasks such as shopping, banking and business transactions without meeting others face to face. What are the effects on both the individual and the society?

Things have really changed. Only six years ago I had to pay a typist to type my graduation paper because I couldn't use a computer. Today, I spend more than ten hours each day banging on the keyboard. The changes in our ways of doing things have far reaching implications.

On the individual side, technical advance brought unprecedented conveniences but also certain problems. Time is saved when people choose to shop online instead of roaming shopping malls. Distant learning brings online courses onto our computer screens, which benefits numerous people. By and large, people are better informed than before. However, all this comes at a price. To say the very least, the heavy reliance on computer printing leads to a decline in our handwriting. It is reported that 40 per cent of teenagers in Japan cannot write many commonly used Japanese characters because most homework is typewritten. Graver still is the alienation and estrangement between people caused by the extensive use of machinery. We gradually lose sight of the connection between people when most of our daily contacts are with a machine. We are connected with our humanity; we need to feel the presence of our fellow creatures.

Similarly the society as a whole also experiences this kind of mixed blessing. On one hand, science and technology contributes to economy growth, generating enormous material wealth. Machines are usually more reliable than humans. They are easier to monitor, maintain and manage. The society grows seemingly steadier as a result. However, problems are lurking. Identity crisis is occurring in most societies. Everything is so sterile that it is hard to find common ground between people. The sense of community is lost for many people because they rarely see or interact with each other.

Though exhilarating, changes can sometimes overwhelm us. At present, most technological developments only aim to address our physical needs. In fact, our mental and spiritual life need more attention.

单词注释

- typist [ˈtaɪpɪst] *n.* 打字员
- bang [bæŋ] *v.* 发巨响; 重击
- implication [ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃən] *n.* 牵连; 含意; 暗示
- unprecedented [ˌʌnˈpresɪdntɪd] *adj.* 空前的
- mall [mɔ:l] *n.* 购物商场, 商业街
- reliance [rɪˈlaɪəns] *n.* 信任, 依靠
- decline [dɪˈklaɪn] *vi.* 下倾; 下降; 下垂
- character [ˈkærɪktə] *n.* 特性, 性质
- alienation [ˈeɪliəneɪʃn] *n.* 疏远, 转让
- estrangement [ɪˈstreɪlɪdʒmənt] *n.* 疏远
- extensive [ɪkˈstensɪv] *adj.* 广大的, 广阔的, 广

泛的

- machinery [məˈʃɪ:nəri] *n.* 机器, 机械
- humanity [ˈhju:mənəti] *n.* 人性; 人类
- blessing [ˈblesɪŋ] *n.* 祝福
- reliable [rɪˈlaɪəbl] *adj.* 可靠的, 可信赖的
- sterile [ˈsterɪl] *adj.* 贫瘠的; 不育的; 毫无结果的
- interact [ɪntərˈækt] *vi.* 互相作用, 互相影响
- exhilarating [ɪgˈzɪləreɪtɪŋ] *adj.* 令人喜欢的, 使人愉快的
- overwhelm [ˌəʊvəˈwelɪm] *vt.* 淹没, 覆没; 压倒
- spiritual [ˈspɪrɪtʃuəl] *adj.* 精神上的
- convenience [kənˈvi:niəns] *n.* 便利, 方便

ESSAY 56

The government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to reduce the amount of violent crimes in the society. Do you agree or disagree?

On my way home last night I passed several boys apparently fighting and chasing each other in a backyard. A glance at the TV nearby told me that they were imitating a fight scene on TV. How unwholesome! People are daily bombarded by violence and crimes on TV or in films. Something must be done before it is too late.

Those TV and film producers may doggedly defend themselves, saying that their production is true to life. Violent crimes exist in daily life and it is wrong to keep a blind eye to them. It would do the public no good if the harsh realities and unpleasantness of the world were brushed away. They even claim credits for educating the public and depicting reality. But is it really so?

The effects of violent programs on people have been borne out by facts. Crime rate, especially juvenile delinquency, is on the rise. And criminals are becoming more ruthless and cruel. How can we account for all this? Violence on TV or in films is the main culprit. Just as romantic stories can induce gentle feelings, violence rouses our aggressiveness. By the age of 20, most young people have watched thousands of killings, robberies and shootings on TV. They become desensitized. They learn to regard violence as commonplace.

Not only should we reduce the amount of violence on TV but the way violence is portrayed should also be regulated. At present, some crimes and criminals are glorified. Criminals are often portrayed as highly capable and cool guys on the wrong side of the law. Some of them even excite admiration from the young. Fighting scenes are often shot in slow motion, always stylistic and thrilling, concealing the consequent sufferings and damages. No wonder some people resort to violence and crime. It is glorifying and consequence-free, which is by no meaning the real case.

Therefore, it is paramount that the amount of violence be reduced on TV and in films. There are numerous ways to attract audience without catering to the lowest desire for power and aggression.

单词注释

- bombard [bɒm'ba:d] *vt.* 炮轰; 轰击
- violence ['vaɪələns] *n.* 猛烈, 强烈; 暴力
- doggedly ['dɒɡɪdli] *adv.* 固执地, 顽强地
- harsh [hɑ:ʃ] *adj.* 粗糙的; 荒芜的; 苛刻的
- unpleasantness [ʌn'plezntnəs] *n.* 煞风景的事, 不愉快的事
- depict [dɪ'pɪkt] *vt.* 描述, 描写
- juvenile ['dʒu:vənəl] *adj.* 青少年的; 幼稚的
n. 青少年
- delinquency [dɪ'lɪŋkwənsi] *n.* 行为不良, 错失
- ruthless ['ru:θləs] *adj.* 无情的, 残忍的
- culprit ['kʌlprɪt] *n.* 犯人, 罪犯
- aggressive [ə'ɡresɪv] *adj.* 好斗的; 有闯劲的; 侵略性的
- desensitize [ˌdi:'sensətaɪz] *vt.* 减少感光性; 使不敏感
- commonplace ['kɒmənpleɪs] *n.* 平凡的事, 平常话 *adj.* 平凡的
- regulate ['regjuleɪt] *vt.* 管制, 控制; 调节, 校准
- glorified ['glɔ:rɪfaɪd] *adj.* 美其名的, 变荣耀的
- stylistic [stai'lɪstɪk] *adj.* 风格的, 文体的
- thrilling ['θrɪlɪŋ] *adj.* 毛骨悚然的; 颤动的, 发抖的
- conceal [kən'si:l] *vt.* 隐藏, 隐瞒
- consequent [ˌkɒnsɪkwənt] *adj.* 作为结果的, 随之发生的
- paramount [ˌpærəmaʊnt] *adj.* 首要的
- aggression [ə'ɡreɪʃn] *n.* 进攻, 侵略

ESSAY 57

Children are currently having extra classes after normal lessons. What are the positive and negative effects? What is your opinion?

In China, people have been talking about lightening learning load for years. Yet, the students' schoolbags are getting heavier by the year. It is common now for kids to spend six and a half days in school each week, sitting through one extra class after another.

Although banned by the Ministry of Education, extra classes are thought to be beneficial by most teachers and parents. To them, the more, the merrier. By spending more time in class, all students can improve their academic performances to some extent. Extra classes can be used for quizzes or exercises, to which there never seems to be an end. In addition, having extra classes at school prevent students from wasting their time. Released from school, many kids start to relax with a vengeance by playing computer games or watching TV all day. For those poorly motivated pupils, extra classes may prove particularly beneficial.

However, students often don't get much out of those classes. What counts here is quality rather than quantity. Indeed, many kids fall asleep during those classes, and others daydream half the time. The plethora of lessons only adds to their boredom. As we all know, the cultivation of one's interest is of great importance. Besides, students need some time to follow their own interest. The assembly-line-style education undermines their independent thinking. Individuality is ignored in classrooms because all students are taught the same thing. In fact, top students and average students learn at different paces. Thus, the former often feels underfed while the latter has difficulty digesting what is taught in class.

I am strongly against having extra classes. Indeed I would like students to have fewer classes. Interest is the best teacher. Hardly can interest be fostered by taking extra classes.

单词注释

- schoolbag ['sku:l bæg] *n.* 书包
- ban [bæŋ] *n.* 禁令 *vt.* 禁止, 取缔(书刊等)
- ministry ['mɪnɪstri] *n.* (政府的)部门
- beneficial [,benɪ 'fɪʃl] *adj.* 有益的, 受益的
- academic [,ækə 'demɪk] *adj.* 学院的; 理论的
- performance [pə 'fɔ:məns] *n.* 履行, 执行; 成绩; 性能; 表演, 演奏
- vengeance ['vendʒəns] *n.* 复仇, 报仇
- motivated ['məʊtɪveɪtɪd] *adj.* 有根据的; 有动机的, 由...推动的
- daydream ['deɪdri:m] *n.* 白日梦 *vi.* 做白日梦
- plethora ['pleθərə] *n.* 过剩, 过多; 多血症
- boredom ['bɔ:dəm] *n.* 厌倦
- cultivation [,kʌltɪ 'veɪʃən] *n.* 培养, 教养; 耕作
- assembly-line 流水线
- undermine ['ʌndə 'maɪn] *vt.* 逐渐损害
- independent [ɪnɪ 'pendənt] *n.* 中立派, 无党派者 *adj.* 独立自主的
- underfed [,ʌndə 'fed] *adj.* 未喂饱的; 营养不良的
- digest ['daɪdʒest] *n.* 分类, 摘要 [daɪ 'dʒest] *vi.* 消化, 融会贯通
- foster ['fɔ:stə] *vt.* 养育, 抚育 *n.* 养育者, 鼓励者

ESSAY 58

Young children should stay in kindergartens or nursery schools so that their mothers can return to work earlier. Do you agree?

Though equal, men and women have different roles in society. It has always been the wife's responsibility and hopefully pleasure to take care of the kids. Fortunately, kindergartens and nursery school can now relieve some of the burden of caring for the young.

By sending kids to nursery schools, mothers have the chance to continue their full-time jobs. It is too great a sacrifice for women to abandon their career for the sake of their children. Indeed, raising a child and working full-time need not interfere with each other. It can be easily managed by taking kids to kindergartens in the morning and picking them after work. There is no harm done if mothers and their children spend some time apart.

In fact, even for those mothers without career ambition, kindergartens would still be a good choice because most of them are staffed by professional nurses and instructors whose expertise is unmatched by most mothers. It will be perfectly safe to entrust a child to a nursery school. Actually, those schools are better prepared than most mothers to cope with emergencies. Some first-time mothers lack the knowledge and experience to provide adequate child care.

The time spend in a kindergarten also makes educational sense. Kindergarten is a good preparation for school. By partaking in various lessons and activities, children cannot only acquire some knowledge but also get a taste of what school is like. Besides, by mingling with other kids on a daily basis they can improve their social skills, the absence of which would severely hinder their future development.

Though emotionally demanding, it would be wise for mothers to send their kids to kindergartens where the children are in professional hands. Kindergartens can be viewed as an extension of and preparation for primary schools.

单词注释

kindergarten [ˈkɪndəɡɑ:tɪn] *n.* 幼儿园

nursery [ˈnɜ:səri] *n.* 托儿所

relieve [rɪˈli:v] *vt.* 减轻, 解除

care for 照顾, 照料

sacrifice [ˈsækrɪfaɪs] *n.* 牺牲

abandon [əˈbændən] *vi.* 放弃, 舍弃

interfere [ɪntəˈfɪə(r)] *vi.* 干涉, 干预

ambition [æmˈbɪʃn] *n.* 野心, 雄心

staff [stɑ:f] *vt.* 为...配备人员

professional [prəˈfeʃənl] *n.* 专业人员 *adj.* 专业的

expertise [ˌekspəˈti:z] *n.* 专家的意见; 专门技术

unmatched [ˌʌnˈmætʃt] *adj.* 无比的, 无法匹敌的

entrust [ɪnˈtrʌst] *vy.* 委托

partake [pɑ:ˈteɪk] *vi.* 参与, 参加

mingle [ˈmɪŋɡl] *v.* (使)混合; 相交往

hinder [ˈhɪndə] *vt.* 阻碍, 打搅

extension [ɪksˈtenʃn] *n.* 延长, 扩充; 范围

primary school 小学

ESSAY 59

People now spend much time and money on their appearance and pay more attention to their dressing. Give reasons and your opinion on this.

It is reported that the money spent on cosmetic in the United States each year amounts to \$ 200 billion, which is enough to feed all the people in Africa for two months. Alas, Africans go on starving to death despite all the talks about relieving poverty. Why is appearance so much regarded by some people?

Though it may sound harsh, the driving force behind the undue emphasis on one's appearance is vanity. Understandably, everyone is attracted to beauty and repelled by ugliness. None of us would wish to become less attractive. But our vanity may lead to excessive attention to our face and figure. Some even resort to plastic surgeries to beautify themselves, often at the risk of their health or even life. As it often happens, time and money are spent and pains are endured for no nobler reasons than to satisfy their vain self-esteem.

The changes in social mores also shape our attitude toward appearance. Different cultures treat appearance differently. In Muslim countries for example, women are covered up in shawls when they go out; men all wear similar clothes. Naturally, they don't care much about how they look. In other societies, however, women are judged by their appearance. Women are supposed to be attractive and sexy while men should be virile and worldly. There is no contending with social expectation and peer pressure: most people have no choice but conform.

The inordinate attention paid to appearance-and dressing is deplorable to me. I regard it as shallow and vain. The pursuit of beauty should be carried out in our mind but not over our face or body. What really counts is not what meets the eye. Priorities should be given to things of real importance. It pains me to see that so many of us get distracted by this lopsided emphasis on appearance.

单词注释

cosmetic [kɒz'metɪk] *n.* 化妆品 *adj.* 化妆用的

alas [ə'læs] *int.* 唉

appearance [ə'piərəns] *n.* 出现, 露面; 外貌

harsh [hɑ:ʃ] *adj.* 粗糙的; 荒芜的; 苛刻的

undue [ʌn'dju:] *adj.* 不适当的

vanity ['væntɪ] *n.* 空虚, 虚荣

understandably [ʌndə'stændəbli] *adv.* 可理解地

repel [rɪ'pel] *vt.* 击退, 抵制

ugliness ['ʌɡlɪnəs] *n.* 丑陋

excessive [ɪk'sesɪv] *adj.* 过多的, 过分的

resort [rɪ'zɔ:t] *vi.* 求助; 常去 *n.* 凭借, 手段

endure [ɪn'djuə(r)] *v.* 耐久, 忍耐

noble ['nəʊbl] *adj.* 高贵的, 华丽的

vain [veɪn] *adj.* 徒然的, 无益的; 虚荣的

esteem [ɪs'ti:m] *vt.* 把...看作; 尊敬 *n.* 尊敬, 尊重

mores ['mɔ:reɪz] *n.* 风俗, 习惯

Muslim ['mʊzɪlm] *n.* 穆斯林, 穆罕默德信徒

shawl [ʃɔ:l] *n.* 披肩, 围巾

virile ['vɪraɪl] *adj.* 男性的, 男的

worldly ['wɜ:ldli] *adj.* 世间的

contend [kən'tend] *v.* 斗争, 竞争; 主张

peer [pɪə(r)] *n.* 同等的人; 贵族 *vi.* 凝视, 窥视

conform [kən'fɔ:m] *vt.* 使一致, 使遵守, 使顺从 *adj.* 一致的

inordinate [ɪn'ɔ:dɪnət] *adj.* 过度的

deplorable [dɪ'plɔ:rəbl] *adj.* 可叹的

shallow ['ʃæləʊ] *adj.* 浅的, 浅薄的

priority [praɪ'ɔ:rɪti] *n.* 优先, 优先权

lopsided [lɒp'saɪdɪd] *adj.* 倾向一方的, 不平衡的

ESSAY 60

Many people believe that we have developed into a 'throw-away society' which is filled with plastic bags and rubbish. Do you agree or disagree?

It is indeed true that everything comes at a price. We are paying through the nose in terms of environmental damage for the conveniences we enjoy nowadays. The world is becoming a throw-away society, where the amount of garbage is increasing daily.

Of course, disposable items have to be used under some circumstances. Indeed, it is imperative to use disposable needles and syringes in hospitals to prevent contagion among patients. It would also be preferable if throw-away plates and spoons are used in restaurants out of sanitary consideration. At present those low-cost disposable plates and spoons are far from comfortable and biodegradable. Even so, they are used on a huge scale in China and many other countries.

Yet, disposable items are not only used in the medical and catering industry. They are virtually everywhere. There was a time when things were built to last, when durability was highly regarded. Today, people don't want to use the same thing all the time even if it is in perfect order. We have become less sentimental or nostalgic, which reveals itself not only in our discarding of old things but also in our reduced reluctance to abandon old friends. To many, everything is dispensable.

Recycling seems the only way to prevent the total inundation of the planet by the garbage produced over generations. People are unlikely to give up their conveniences easily. The demand of goods will increase inexorably, putting more strain on garbage disposal. Therefore, recycling offers the best hope. Not only miraculous but also essential is the idea of turning wastes into treasures. It is estimated that 60 percent of rubbish can be recycled quite economically. With improved technology, recycling will make more economical and environmental sense in the days to come.

The throw-away society, as some call it, is mainly the result of technological development and our change of attitude. The conviction that nothing will last is reinforced by the constant changes brought by technology. Without going into the rights and wrongs of this attitude, I am convinced that recycling is essential to the survival of mankind in the future.

单词注释

pay through the nose 支付高昂的价格

syringe [ˈsɪrɪndʒ] *n.* 注射器

disposable [dɪsˈpəʊzəbl] *adj.* 可任意使用的

imperative [ɪmˈperətɪv] *n.* 命令, 诫命; 需要
adj. 命令的, 强制的

contagion [kənˈteɪdʒən] *n.* 传染, 传染病, 蔓延

preferable [ˈprefərəbl] *adj.* 更可取的, 更好的

sanitary [ˈsæntɪəri] *adj.* (有关)卫生的, (保持)清洁的

biodegradable [ˌbaɪəʊdɪˈɡreɪdəbl] *adj.* 能生物分解的

catering [ˈkeɪtərɪŋ] 提供饮食

durability [ˌdʒʊərəˈbɪləti] *n.* 经久, 耐久

sentimental [ˌsentɪˈmentl] *adj.* 感伤性的, 感情脆弱的

nostalgic [nɒˈstældʒɪk] *adj.* 乡愁的, 怀旧的

discard [dɪsˈkɑːd] *vi.* 丢弃, 抛弃

reluctance [rɪˈlʌktəns] *n.* 不愿, 勉强

dispensable [dɪsˈpensəbl] *adj.* 不是必要的, 可有可无的

inundation [ɪˌnʌnˈdeɪʃn] *n.* 泛滥; 洪水

inexorably [ɪnˈeksərəbl] *adv.* 无情地, 冷酷地

disposal [dɪsˈpəʊzl] *n.* 处理, 处置

miraculous [mɪˈrækjələs] *adj.* 奇迹的, 不可思议的

conviction [kənˈvɪkʃn] *n.* 深信, 确信; 定罪

reinforce [ˌriːɪnˈfɔːs] *vi.* 加强, 增援, 补充 *vi.* 求援

survival [səˈvaɪvl] *n.* 生存, 幸存, 残存

ESSAY 61

Some people agree that all kinds of jobs should be equally open to men and women. Others think that some jobs should only be suitable for men and women respectively. Discuss and give your opinion.

Many of us would be a little amused at the sight of a male nurse and be upset by the presence of a female soldier. Yet, even the last bastion of male dominance—the navy is giving way to equal rights consideration. The stereotype male and female roles at workplace seem to be fading.

Equal rights advocates are hailing the fact that more jobs are opening to both men and women. In their opinion, it is a manifestation of equality. Why should women be barred from some jobs merely because of their gender? It is blatant discrimination against the underprivileged sex, which is rooted in the male chauvinistic view that men are superior to women. As it often turns out, women can do just as well, if not better, in virtually all kinds of work. Tasks requiring physical strength can now be done by machines, so female's weaker physique is not an issue here. Conversely, of course, there is no such a job that only a woman can do. What dissuades men from taking certain jobs is often stereotyped male self-perception, which deems certain professions as below their dignity. Indeed, a lot of talent is wasted when one sex choose not to pursue certain careers. Unfortunately, in many fields such as science and politics, female is still sharply under-represented. How many Madam Curies can the world turn out if we dispose of this long-held unjustified attitude?

It must not be taken, however, that we should have equal number of males and females doing any kind of work. It is a matter of individuality rather than gender. Some people, male or female, are naturally unfit for politics; some may never make good athletes; still some will find teaching repulsive. Thus, before embarking on a career, both sexes need to take account of their interests, abilities, inclination, temperament and so on.

Equal job opportunity for both sexes is not so much desirable as unavoidable. Developed nations are feeling the strain as a large portion of their talents (usually females) remain untapped. Jobs should be offered to whoever qualified regardless of the gender.

单词注释

amused [ə'mju:zd] *adj.* 愉快的, 开心的, 好玩的

bastion ['bæstɪən] *n.* 堡垒, 阵地工事

dominance ['dɒmɪnəns] *n.* 优势; 统治

stereotype ['steriətaɪp] *n.* 陈腔滥调, 老套

advocate ['ædvəkeɪt] *n.* 提倡者

['ædvəkert] *vt.* 提倡, 鼓吹

manifestation [,mænɪfes'teɪʃən] *n.* 显示, 表现; 示威运动

equality [i'kwɒləti] *n.* 等同性, 同等, 平等

gender ['dʒendə] *n.* 性别

blatant ['bleɪtənt] *adj.* 显眼的; 喧嚣的, 吵闹的

discrimination [dɪ'skrɪmɪ'neɪʃn] *n.* 辨别, 区别, 识别力

underprivileged [,ʌndə'prɪvəlɪdʒd] *adj.* 被剥夺基本权利的; 穷困的

chauvinistic [,tʃəʊvɪ'nɪstɪk] *adj.* 盲目爱国的, 沙文主义的

superior [su:'piəriə(r)] *adj.* 较高的, 上级的; 优秀的 *n.* 长者, 高手, 上级

physique [fi'zi:k] *n.* (男子的) 体格, 体形

conversely ['kɒnvɜ:sli] *adv.* 相反地, 逆地

dissuade [dɪ'sweɪd] *vt.* 劝阻

perception [pə'sepʃn] *n.* 理解, 感知, 感觉

deem [di:m] *v.* 认为, 相信

unjustified [,ʌn'dʒʌstɪfaɪd] *adj.* 未被证明为正确的

individuality [,ɪndɪvɪdʒu'æləti] *n.* 个性, 个人的特性

repulsive [rɪ'pʌlsɪv] *adj.* 排斥的, 令人厌恶的

inclination [,ɪnklɪ'neɪʃn] *n.* 倾斜, 倾度; 倾向

temperament ['tempərəmənt] *n.* 气质, 性情

untapped [,ʌn'tæpt] *adj.* 未打开的; 未开发的

ESSAY 62

Nowadays college students or even high school students start to work at a younger age. Do you think that it is a positive or negative development?

Adults often regard their school years as the best time of their lives. However, mankind is apt to forget pain once it is passed. It was actually not easy to be a student, even more so nowadays. Skyrocketing tuition fees and slowing economy compel students to work harder and earlier.

It is a rather unsavory trend. Some students begin working part-time at the tender age of fourteen. Regardless of its legality, the job options can be reasonably expected. Most work as salespersons, which not only exhausts them physically, but also interferes with their study. Even for those under better working conditions, say private tutors, part-time jobs invariably rob them of their precious time.

However, be that as it may, I still regard this as a positive development. Some good must come out of our mental and physical exertions, provided that they are not excessive. By taking intellectually challenging jobs students learn to apply what they are taught in class to real life. Even pure manual work can cultivate students' hardiness, discipline and will power. Provided that competition is to get fiercer, they need to know what life is really like earlier rather than later, a taste of which can be got through working. In addition, these early working experiences are conducive to their future career. Part-time jobs often lead to internship and eventually to full-time employment. The work experience is valuable in itself. It teaches a person how to fit into an organization, how to work with others and how to deal with disgruntled customers. Working is often a most demanding yet rewarding experience.

Sooner or later, we have to fend for ourselves. So why wait until the last minute? Working on a part-time basis prepares us to step out of the Ivory Tower and into the real world.

单词注释

- positive ['pɒzətɪv] *adj.* 肯定的, 积极的
- negative ['negətɪv] *n.* 否定; 负数; 底片 *adj.* 否定的
- apt [æpt] *adj.* 易于…的, 有…倾向的
- skyrocket [skaɪrɒkɪt] *v.* 猛涨
- tuition [tʃu 'tʃn] *n.* 学费
- compel [kəm 'pɛl] *vt.* 强迫, 迫使
- unsavory [,ʌn 'seɪvəri] *adj.* 令人讨厌的; 难吃的
- tender ['tendə] *adj.* 嫩的, 温柔的, 软弱的
- legality [li: 'gæləti] *n.* 合法; 墨守成规, 法律上的义务
- reasonably ['ri:zənəbli] *adv.* 适度地, 相当地
- salesperson ['seɪlspɜ:sn] *n.* 售货员
- tutor ['tʃu:tə(r)] *n.* 家庭教师, (大学)指导教师

- invariably [ɪn 'veəriəbli] *adv.* 不变地, 总是
- be that as it may 尽管如此
- exertion [ɪg 'zɜ:ʃn] *n.* 尽力, 努力; 发挥; 行使, 运用
- excessive [ɪk 'sesɪv] *adj.* 过多的, 过分的, 额外的
- manual ['mænjuəl] *n.* 手册, 指南 *adj.* 体力的, 手动的
- cultivate ['kʌltɪveɪt] *vt.* 培养; 耕作
- hardiness ['hɑ:dɪnəs] *n.* 耐久力, 顽强
- fierce [frɛs] *adj.* 凶猛的; 激烈的
- conducive [kən 'dju:sɪv] *adj.* 有益于…的
- internship ['ɪntɜ:nʃɪp] *n.* (美)实习医师, 实习医师期
- valuable ['væljuəbl] *adj.* 贵重的, 有价值的, 颇有价值的
- disgruntled [dɪs 'grʌntld] *adj.* 不满的, 不高兴的
- demanding [dɪ 'mɑ:ndɪŋ] *adj.* 过分要求的, 苛求的

ESSAY 63

Some people think that bicycle is the best way to travel from place to place. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the bicycle.

Nowhere are bikes more widely used than in China. About 300 million bikes are being used daily around the country, mainly for transport purposes. Indeed, I would certainly cycle to work if I lived nearer to my workplace.

Riding a bike contributes to our health. At the very least, cycling burns calories. In fact, it does much more. Cycling helps to train our hand-eye-foot coordination and sharpens our sense of balance. It is easy to learn and not physically demanding. It is probably the best sport for overweight people. Besides, the air will be a lot cleaner if more people choose to use bikes instead of cars. Bicycle is the most environment-friendly means of transport except for walking, which has the intolerable downside of being too slow. Actually, due to traffic congestion, cycling is often the quickest way to reach your destination. Apart from being clean and quick, cycling is safe. This means safety for ourselves and others. In light of the actual speed at which a bike usually travels, the likelihood of a collision with pedestrians and fellow cyclists is minimal. Even in the event of such an accident, people involved usually get away with a few scratches at the worst.

Having said that, a more critical rider may find a bike less than satisfactory. For example, it can't shield against rain or dust; the saddle is often uncomfortable. Besides, bikes are unfit for long distance travel. After all, most people can't ride more than 20 miles at a stretch.

Taken all together, the bicycle is indeed a brilliant human invention. Unlike many other devices, bike reinforces our reliance on ourselves both physically and mentally. This never fails to fascinate me.

单词注释

nowhere ['nəʊhweə(r)] *adv.* 无处, 到处都无

calorie ['kæləri] *n.* 卡路里

overweight [,əʊvə 'weɪt] *n.* 超重

intolerable [ɪn 'tɒlərəbl] *adj.* 无法忍受的, 难耐的

downside ['daʊnsaɪd] *n.* 底侧, 下降趋势 *adj.* 底侧的

congestion [kən 'dʒestʃn] *n.* 拥塞; 充血

collision [kə 'lɪʒən] *n.* 碰撞, 冲突

pedestrian [pə 'destriən] *n.* 步行者

scratch [skrætʃ] *n.* 乱写; 刮擦声; 抓痕

shield [ʃi:ld] *n.* 防护物, 护罩, 盾

saddle ['sædl] *n.* 鞍, 鞍状物 *v.* 承受

stretch [stretʃ] *v.* 伸展, 伸长 *n.* 一段时间

reinforce [,ri:ɪn 'fɔ:s] *vt.* 加强, 增援, 补充

fascinate ['fæsɪneɪt] *vt.* 使着迷, 使神魂颠倒

ESSAY 64

Modern technology gives people more free time, but actually they are busier than before. Do you agree or disagree?

Like me, most people are busy all day long. There never seems to be a free moment. It is indeed ironic that the so-called time-saving devices actually take up more of our time. We are reluctant to turn everything off and take a moment with ourselves.

Mankind is unlikely to lead a more leisurely life in the foreseeable future because science and technology won't ease our burden too much. Though touted as energy-saving, touch-button devices, most of inventions only open up the possibility of performing certain tasks simultaneously. Before the advent of cell phone, people wouldn't think of calling others while walking. Thus, they didn't have to endure the annoyance of answering the phone in the middle of something. It seems that technology makes our lives more efficient but not necessarily more leisurely, far from it actually. The moment we push the 'print' key, we don't lean back and relax but turn our attention to something else.

Then, an optimist would laugh at the above assertion. Can't we just relax and call it a day? We are in control of our own schedules. We don't need to do extra work if we don't want to do so. But the truth is far from that. Contrary to common belief, a large portion of what we do is not determined by ourselves. At work, we are told what to do; at home we are influenced by family members. In short, we are influenced by peer pressure and social expectation. Even if one is strong-minded enough to turn off everything, he usually can't afford to do so because of the competition he faces. Very few can remain indifferent to what is embraced by all and what is expected of them. Besides, new technologies can be very alluring. They bring about conveniences and even wonders. Once hooked, few can resist the urge to use them to the full.

Fortunately or unfortunately, mankind is always pushing for something better. Tantalizing successes always loom ahead. Having tasted the wonders of advanced technologies, we cannot do without them. Hence we become increasingly busy.

单词注释

- ironic [aɪəˈrɒnɪk] *adj.* 说反话的, 讽刺的
- tout [taʊt] *v.* 吹捧
- simultaneously [ˌsɪmlɪˈteɪniəsli] *adv.* 同时地
- assertion [əˈsɜːʃn] *n.* 主张, 断言, 声明
- call it a day 完成一天的工作, 收工
- peer [pɪə(r)] *n.* 同等的人; 贵族
- indifferent [ɪnˈdɪfərənt] *adj.* 冷漠的
- embrace [ɪmˈbreɪs] *vt.* 拥抱; 包含
- alluring [əˈluəriŋ] *adj.* 迷人的, 吸引人的, 诱惑的
- push for 为...奋力争取, 强烈地要求
- tantalizing [ˈtæntələɪzɪŋ] *adj.* 非常着急的
- loom [luːm] *v.* 隐现; 迫近
- hence [hens] *adv.* 因此, 从此

Many people think that education is losing its value. Do you agree or disagree?

The number of college students is increasing yearly despite the increasing tuition fees, which are clearly beyond the means of low income families. This kind of investment in terms of time and money seems to have given sufficient proof to the value of college education. Yet, it is feared that education, or at least college education, is 'devaluating'.

The claim can be justified only in a narrow sense. It is true that college graduates are experiencing trouble landing decent jobs and that the financial return of the investment in college education seems to be declining. It is also said that many students play truant regularly and only cram before final exams. They attend a university only to get a degree or even to have a good time. Yet, all these are simply the students' own fault or that of poor education quality. A good education is always invaluable.

College is a place where one can pursue one's own interests. There are professors to guide and inspire you; there are laboratories to provide first-hand experience; there are numerous books waiting to be perused. Prior to college, students often focus on acquiring a general knowledge of various subjects, but college allows them to dive into their majors. Deep and enduring interest can never be cultivated by merely scratching the surface. Besides, students are grouped with like-minded classmates, the interaction with whom adds impetus to their academic pursuit. By talking, sharing and cooperating with one's peers, one often gets inspired and encouraged and acquires a different perspective.

Education can bring personal improvement in ways other than scholastic achievement. Look at the huge difference between the educated and illiterate. Education is not merely the imparting of knowledge but also the cultivation of the mind, with the latter being more intangible and subtle. The uneducated tend to be ill-mannered, rude or even vulgar. We acquire our moral sense when we are taught the heroic deeds of great men and the atrocities caused by evil ones. Left to ourselves, we often subscribe to the pragmatic view of 'ends justify means' and regard nobility and sacrifice as hypocritical.

Therefore, instead of losing its value, education will become all the more essential in a world where we are in danger of being overwhelmed by the conflicts and competitions among ourselves.

单词注释

- ◆ devalueate [di:'vælju:et] *v.* (使)贬值
- ◆ decent [di:'sɪnt] *adj.* 正派的, 体面的; 有分寸的
- ◆ truant [tru:'ɔ:nt] *n.* 逃避责任者
- ◆ cram [kræm] *v.* 填满
- ◆ pursue [pə'sju:z] *v.* 追求; 从事
- ◆ peruse [pə'ru:z] *v.* 细读
- ◆ cultivated [kʌl'ti'veitɪd] *adj.* 耕耘的; 有教养的
- ◆ impetus [ɪm'pɪtəs] *n.* 推动力, 促进
- ◆ perspective [pə'spektɪv] *n.* 观点; 洞察力
- ◆ scholastic [skə'læstɪk] *adj.* 学校的, 学校教育的
- ◆ illiterate [ɪ'lɪtərɪt] *n.* 文盲 *adj.* 不识字的, 没受教育的
- ◆ impart [ɪm'pɑ:t] *v.* 给予; 传授; 告知, 透露
- ◆ intangible [ɪn'tændʒəbl] *adj.* 难以理解的; 无形的
- ◆ subtle [sʌtl] *adj.* 狡猾的; 敏感的, 微妙的
- ◆ vulgar [vʌlgə(r)] *adj.* 粗俗的, 庸俗的; 普通的
- ◆ atrocity [ə'trɒsɪti] *n.* 残暴, 暴行, 凶恶
- ◆ subscribe [səb'skraɪb] *v.* 捐款; 订阅; 签署(文件); 赞成
- ◆ pragmatic [præg'mætɪk] *adj.* 务实的; 实用主义的, 实际的
- ◆ hypocritical [hɪpə'krɪtɪkl] *adj.* 伪善的, 伪善者的
- ◆ all the more 更加

ESSAY 66

Shopping has become a favorite pastime for some young people. Do we need to encourage the young to do something more useful in their free time? What is your opinion?

Ever larger shopping malls are propping up everywhere in cities to accommodate a growing number of shoppers consisting mainly of young people. For some, shopping is no longer something we do because we need something, but a recreation, an end in itself. Some even spend hours each day roaming from one store to another. It is a consolation this pastime is still largely confined to the fair sex.

Shopping for its own sake is a waste of both time and money. Indeed, most men cannot understand or endure the 'pleasure' of shopping. With nothing particularly in mind, women forge ahead tirelessly or even effortlessly, with their long-suffering boyfriends or husbands trailing behind and asking vainly to take a break. Since there is no apparent aim, women often try on numerous dresses, shoes or perfumes without buying anything. What possible good can come out of this? Some might argue that they can improve their taste and become more fashion-savvy. But it is not worth the time and energy.

Apart from stealing our time, shopping has a more insidious effect. It advocates a luxurious lifestyle. Ever glitzy are those shopping malls with a plethora of goods often beyond the means of ordinary consumers. Hence, most of us go window-shopping to admire those flashy things with exorbitant prices. The more shopping we do, the more we long for those luxuries. We start to envy those rich enough to enjoy luxuries. Making money becomes our primary goal. When we can't get it by legitimate means, some of us will get it by hook or crook. 'We desire what we can see' as the famous line in *The Silence of the Lamb* aptly puts it. So why get ourselves daily tempted?

There are worthier things to do than shopping. I would recommend reading. Read whatever you like as much as possible. Personally, I prefer biography and history books. Then we should do more community service. Instead of focusing on what we want, we should concentrate on what others want. As it often turns out, happiness comes from our harmonious relationships with others rather than material prosperity.

单词注释

- prop [prɒp] v. 支撑
- accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] vt. 供应; 能容纳
- recreation [rekreɪ'eɪʃn] n. 消遣, 娱乐
- consolation [,kɒnsə'leɪʃn] n. 安慰, 起安慰作用的人或事物
- confined [kən'faɪnd] adj. 被限制的
- the fair sex 女性
- forge [fɔ:dʒ] v. 稳步前进; 铸造; 伪造
- long-suffering adj. 坚韧的; 能忍耐的
- perfume ['pɜ:fju:m] n. 香味, 芳香; 香水
- savvy ['sævi] n. 知道, 了解
- insidious [ɪn'sɪdiəs] adj. 隐伏的; 阴险的
- glitzy ['glɪtzi] adj. 闪光的, 耀眼的, 眩目的
- plethora ['pleθərə] n. 过剩, 过多; 多血症
- flashy ['flæʃi] adj. 浮华的
- exorbitant [ɪg'zɔ:brɪtənt] adj. 过度的, 过高的, 昂贵的
- legitimate [lɪ'dʒɪtɪmət] adj. 合法的, 合理的; 正统的
- hook [huk] n. 陷阱; 钩
- crook [kruk] n. 骗子; 钩状物
- by hook and crook 不择手段地
- aptly [æptli] adv. 适当地, 适宜地
- biography [baɪ'ɒɡrəfi] n. 传记
- prosperity [prɒs'perəti] n. 繁荣

ESSAY 67

Is it necessary to forbid smoking? State your opinion and reasons.

Despite the knowledge that smoking is a potential killer, cigarette use is on the rise in most countries. Indeed, people are lighting up at a younger age. Twenty per cent of boys in secondary schools in Guangzhou smoke occasionally. Though unlikely to ban cigarette smoking altogether, it is imperative to forbid public smoking.

Public smoking is a health threat to others, especially the non-smokers. It is scientifically verified that second-hand smokers are four times more likely to develop lung cancer than smokers and 20 times more likely than non-smokers. Smokers may have the right to inflict their own bodies but must not impair the health of others. Indeed, some people, asthma sufferers for example, are allergic to tobacco smoke. Then we have many ladies who simply cannot stand the smell of cigarettes. In exercising one's own liberty, one must never infringe on that of others.

Additionally, smoking is a potential fire hazard. It is estimated by the National Fire Department that 30 per cent of fire was caused by unextinguished cigarette butts. How many lives have to be lost and houses burnt down before we come to our senses and realize that from time to time some people will manage to discard an unextinguished cigarette butt in the wrong place and at the wrong time? Given the fallible nature of mankind, it is always safer to ban public smoking altogether.

Moreover, even private smoking should be dissuaded. People smoke out of many reasons. Some do it because it is cool; some do it out of curiosity; still some smoke to keep their weight down. However, smoking is never the solution it promises to be. Its perceived benefits are illusionary and transient. The euphoria produced by cigarette is akin to that generated by alcohol or drugs, an escape from reality at best.

Thus it is in the interest of the public and the smokers themselves that public smoking should be banned. Those against the using of drugs should be able to see the rationale of forbidding smoking.

单词注释

- imperative [ɪm'perətɪv] *adj.* 命令的, 强制的
- inflict [ɪn'flɪkt] *v.* 使遭受(损伤等)
- impair [ɪm'peə] *v.* 损害
- asthma [ˈæsmə] *n.* 哮喘
- allergic [ə'li:ɜ:dʒɪk] *adj.* 过敏的, 患过敏症的
- infringe [ɪn'frɪndʒ] *v.* 破坏, 侵犯; 违反
- cigarette butt 烟头
- unextinguished [ˌʌnɪks'tɪŋgwɪʃt] *adj.* 未扑灭的, 未止息的
- fallible [ˈfæləbl] *adj.* 易错的, 可能犯错的
- dissuade [dɪ'swɛd] *vt.* 劝阻
- perceive [pə'si:v] *v.* 察觉; 感知, 感到
- transient [ˈtrænzɪənt] *adj.* 短暂的 *n.* 瞬时现象
- euphoria [ju:'fɔ:riə] *n.* 欣快
- akin [ə'kɪn] *adj.* 同族的, 类似的
- at best 最多
- rationale [ˌræʃə'nɑ:l] *n.* 基本原理

ESSAY 68

Education used to be a period of schooling. But now people regard it as a lifelong process. Do you agree or disagree?

The word education usually refers to formal education, starting from primary school to college or further still. But learning is something we do all the time and at all ages. So in a larger sense, education, or learning, should last a lifetime.

To really master a subject one needs to devote his whole life to it. In nearly all fields, the accumulation of knowledge through the generations makes it impossible for any individual, even the most gifted ones, to become an expert in just a few years. Any academic or scholastic achievement requires years of hard work and persistence. Even if we have no scholastic pursuits and just do an ordinary job, we still need years to perfect certain skills to excel or even to survive at the workplace because all the repetitive work are now handled by machines and we are supposed to tackle tasks that require a certain amount of skill and knowledge.

Besides, science and technology is advancing at breathtaking speed. It is estimated that the total amount of knowledge doubles every 20 years and the speed is accelerating. Fifty percent of what we learn at college will become outdated in ten years' time. Indeed, change is omnipresent. It can overwhelm us if we don't learn to adapt. If a man a century ago were revived today, he would not be able to perform many of the daily tasks. He has to learn how to use the TV, the computer, the ATM, etc.

In fact, lifelong education is desirable to many people. It is not an unavoidable chore but a pleasure. This kind of education need not be very formal and rigid. We can pick up a book and read a few pages at our leisure; we can turn on the computer and watch a live demonstration. It depends on us and can be a refreshing experience. It is human nature to explore and satisfy our seemingly insatiable curiosity.

It is indeed never too old to learn. The changing world and intensifying competitions require it. Besides, mankind is inherently curious and knowledge-hungry.

单词注释

accumulation [əˌkju:mjə'leɪʃn] *n.* 积累, 堆积
scholastic [skə'læstɪk] *adj.* 学校的, 学校教育的
breathtaking ['breθteɪkɪŋ] *adj.* 惊人的, 惊险的
accelerate [ək'seləreɪt] *v.* 加速, 促进
omnipresent [ˌɒmni'prezənt] *adj.* 无所不在的
overwhelm [ˌoʊvə'welɪm] *vt.* 淹没; 制服, 压倒
adapt [ə'dæpt] *vt.* 使适应
revive [ri'vaɪv] *v.* (使)苏醒, (使)复兴, (使)复活

chore [tʃɔː] *n.* 家务杂事
at one's leisure 在闲暇时
refreshing [rɪ'freʃɪŋ] *adj.* 提神的, 凉爽的; 使人喜欢的
rigid ['rɪdʒɪd] *adj.* 刚性的, 严厉的
insatiable [ɪn'seɪʃəbl] *adj.* 不知足的, 贪得无厌的
curiosity [ˌkjʊəri'ɒsəti] *n.* 好奇心
intensify [ɪn'tensɪfaɪ] *v.* 加强; 强化
inherently [ɪn'hɪərəntli] *adv.* 天性地; 固有地

ESSAY 69

People have different hobbies such as collecting stamps or wood carving. Why are hobbies important to us? How can we benefit from having hobbies?

Former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill once said that to be really happy and safe one ought to have two or three hobbies. Hobbies usually vary from person to person. However, this doesn't prevent us from reaping its benefits.

Hobbies are beneficial because they are a genuine source of fun and pleasure. Many people are doing uninteresting jobs for the sake of money. Work gives them no satisfaction apart from financial reward. They need to find some interest in life to absorb their attention and energy and above all to have fun. This kind of fun cannot be had by going to the cinema or taking a trip abroad, which brings nothing more than fleeting sensual pleasure. Real hobbies and interests can bring about abiding happiness.

A hobby is also an antidote to stress. Due to increasing social competition, most of us are victims of stress-related problems. We keep worrying about problems at work even outside working hours. A hobby serves to alleviate our stress and anxiety by engrossing our attention. We often forget our problems when we are preoccupied with our hobbies, which also increase our self-esteem. Low self-esteem is usually caused by our inability to pursue our dreams, to follow our hearts. When trapped in an unworthy job, we subconsciously blame ourselves for the lack of courage to break the shackles of society and seek freedom. Thus we need a hobby to be ourselves.

To best avail ourselves of our hobbies, we should associate with others who have similar hobbies. It is said that man can never be happy all by himself because the loneliness would be too much to bear if he has not a soul to share with. Hence, try to form genuine friendship, broaden your interests and become less self-centered.

单词注释

- ◆ hobby ['hɒbi] *n.* 业余爱好
- ◆ reap [ri:p] *v.* 收获
- ◆ uninteresting [ʌn 'intrəstɪŋ] *adj.* 无趣的, 令人厌倦的
- ◆ absorb [əb 'sɔ:b] *vt.* 吸收, 吸引
- ◆ fleeting ['fli:tɪŋ] *adj.* 飞逝的; 短暂的
- ◆ sensual ['sensʃuəl] *adj.* 感观的
- ◆ abiding [ə 'baɪdɪŋ] *adj.* 持久的
- ◆ antidote ['æntɪdaɪt] *n.* 矫正方法
- ◆ victim ['vɪktɪm] *n.* 受害人, 牺牲者
- ◆ alleviate [ə 'li:vɪeɪt] *vt.* 减轻
- ◆ stress [stres] *n.* 重压, 逼迫
- ◆ engrossing [ɪn 'grəʊs] *v.* 吸引
- ◆ preoccupied [pri 'ɒkjupaɪd] *adj.* 全神贯注的
- ◆ pursue [pə 'sju:] *vt.* 追赶, 追踪
- ◆ shackle ['ʃækl] *n.* 手铐, 脚镣, 桎梏
- ◆ avail oneself of 利用
- ◆ genuine ['dʒenjuɪn] *adj.* 真实的, 真正的

What are the advantages of marrying at an early and old age respectively?

It is China's official policy to advocate late marriage. In fact the minimum marriage age is 20 for woman 22 for man. Such an age limit is non-existent in some countries where people get married as young as 13 and as old as 90 years old. There is no optimal age for marriage.

An early marriage is usually based on genuine love. Even if the couple is not each other's first boyfriend or girlfriend, he or she usually regards love as the paramount reason for marriage. They are not likely to be swayed by financial or political considerations. By marrying young, people can get the kind of emotional support earlier rather than later. A happy marriage can provide the most happiness. Emotionally secured, the young couple can focus more on their careers and other undertakings. And if they choose to, they can have kids and enjoy the pleasure of watching them grow.

Meanwhile, a late marriage is also rewarding. By allowing oneself more time to choose one's ideal partner, one is more likely to find the right person, thus reducing the likelihood of divorce. With the passing of each year, one gets more mature and less inclined to rash actions. They have waited so long, so they would get it right. Besides, they are often financially secured and relatively successful in their career. They are in a better position to start a family than when they were young.

More often than not, when and where you get married depends on things beyond your control. Most people are seeking the right person and the right time. But when it comes, don't hesitate.

单词注释

respectively [rɪ'spektɪvli] *adv.* 分别地, 各个地
 advocate [ˈædvəkeɪt] *v.* 提倡, 鼓吹
 optimal [ˈɒptɪmə] *adj.* 最佳的, 最理想的
 genuine [ˈdʒenjuɪn] *adj.* 真实的; 真正的
 paramount [ˈpærəmaʊnt] *adj.* 极为重要的
 sway [sweɪ] *v.* 摇摆, 摇动
 consideration [kən,sɪdə'reɪʃn] *n.* 体谅; 考虑

secure [sɪ'kjʊə(r)] *v.* 保护, 使安全
 rewarding [rɪ'wɔːdɪŋ] *adj.* 有回报的, 有益的
 ideal [aɪ'diːəl] *n.* 理想 *adj.* 理想的
 mature [mə'tʃʊər] *adj.* 成熟的
 inclined [ɪn'klaɪnd] *adj.* 倾向...的
 rash [ræʃ] *adj.* 轻率的, 匆忙的
 hesitate [ˈhezɪteɪt] *v.* 犹豫, 不愿

ESSAY 71

Should people doing different jobs have holidays at different time of the year? What is your opinion?

More and more people choose to avoid the holiday seasons to go traveling because tourist sites are invariably overcrowded during public holidays. To enjoy yourselves you need to take a vacation when most people are working. Apart from public holidays, employees should be allowed an annual holiday at the time they choose.

The idea of people in different professions having holidays at different time is often out of necessity. Places such as hospitals, fire departments and even restaurants should be in operation all year long. Thus, their employees must partake in some kind of rotating vacation system, whereby each of them takes some days off by turn and on an irregular basis. Besides, some jobs are only seasonal. Teachers, for example, enjoy summer and winter holidays. In many lines of business, there is a peak season and a trough season. It is only reasonable to allow workers to take some days off when the business is slack.

In addition, this kind of liberal attitude toward holidays can reduce the strains on public facilities during the holiday seasons. As things stand now, it is a nightmare to travel during public holidays, for there will be throngs of people everywhere. It is hard to get tickets, book rooms or even to find decent eateries. The infrastructure is not adequate enough to cope with the influx of tourists swarming to certain numbers of scenic spots. With separate holidays becoming the norm, people can better enjoy their vacations.

The ideal way would be for the employees to decide the time and duration of the holidays, provided that it doesn't interfere with the running of the business. People themselves know when they would most enjoy a vacation. It is ultimately a personal matter and should be left to our own discretion if possible.

单词注释

- invariably [ɪn'veəriəbli] *adv.* 不变地, 总是
- overcrowd [ˌoʊvə'kraʊd] *vt.* 容纳过多的人, 使过度拥挤
- annual [ˈænjuəl] *adj.* 一年一次的, 每年的
- profession [prə'feɪʃn] *n.* 职业; 专业
- operation [ˌɒpə'reɪʃn] *n.* 运转, 操作, 实施
- partake [pɑ:'teɪk] *vt.* 分担, 共享
- irregular [ɪ'regjʊlə(r)] *adj.* 不规则的, 无规律的
- slack [slæk] *adj.* 冷清的, 萧条的
- liberal [ˈlɪbərəl] *adj.* 不拘泥的
- strain [streɪn] *n.* 过度的疲劳; 紧张
- nightmare [ˈnaɪtmɛə(r)] *n.* 梦魇, 噩梦
- throng [θrɒŋ] *n.* 群集
- decent [ˈdi:snt] *adj.* 正派的; 端庄的
- eatery [ˈi:təri] *n.* <美>餐馆, 食堂
- infrastructure [ˈɪnfɹəstrʌktʃə(r)] *n.* 基础设施
- influx [ˈɪnflʌks] *n.* 流入
- swarm [swɔ:m] *v.* 涌往
- scenic [ˈsi:nɪk] *adj.* 景色优美的
- norm [nɔ:m] *n.* 标准, 规范
- duration [dju'reɪʃn] *n.* 持续时间, 为期
- interfere [ɪntə'fɪə(r)] *vi.* 干涉, 干预
- discretion [dɪ'skreɪʃn] *n.* 判断力

ESSAY 72

Some people like to risk their lives in some dangerous sports such as mountain climbing. Some say rescuers need not risk their own lives to save those trapped on mountain peaks and that people should be responsible for their own lives. What is your opinion?

People are indeed different. Some are not brave enough to play football while others are attracted to danger and excitement. However, dangerous sports can really live up to its name. People get injured or killed in these sports. Are they heroes or eccentrics asking for trouble?

Most of them don't choose extreme sport for fame or money. They do it because it fascinates them. They are certainly brave but not necessarily heroes. Like anyone else, they should be responsible for their own choice and look after themselves shall they ever in danger. However, this doesn't mean we need not try to rescue them at all cost.

After all, it is not their fault that they are trapped on a mountain side. It may be attributed to adverse weather condition or some mechanical malfunction. They should not be blamed for things beyond their control. It is true that they are responsible for their lives, but we have a duty to help each other. It is a moral issue. Our humanity demands that we render a helping hand to whoever in need whenever we can. That is what makes us human—indeed even animals of different species sometimes assist each other.

When it comes to whether we should risk our lives to save their lives, no one should be required to risk his or her life no matter how worthy the cause is. Those who choose to take the risk do it out of their nobility and decency. It is the highest form of moral virtue when people do something because it is right despite the risks involved. Hats off to those heroes who willingly risk their lives for others. We should take every precaution to ensure a smooth rescue operation, but we shouldn't forbid them to make the greatest sacrifice for the sake of others.

There will always be those who inadvertently cost other people's lives. And there will always be those who trade their own lives for those of others. To be saved is human; to save, divine.

单词注释

rescuer [ˈreskjʊə] *n.* 救助者

trap [træp] *vt.* 使落入险境, 使陷入困境

responsible [rɪˈspɒnsəbl] *adj.* 有责任的, 负责的

eccentric [ɪkˈsentrɪk] *n.* 行为古怪的人

extreme [ɪksˈtri:m] *adj.* 极端的

fame [feɪm] *n.* 名声, 名望

fascinate [ˈfæsɪneɪt] *vt.* 使着迷

rescue [ˈreskjʊ:] *vt.* 援救, 营救

adverse [ˈædvɜ:s] *adj.* 不利的, 有害的

mechanical [məˈkæni:kəl] *adj.* 机械的, 机械制的

malfunction [ˌmælˈfʌŋkʃn] *n.* 故障

moral [ˈmɒrəl] *adj.* 道德的, 精神的

humanity [hjuˈmænəti] *n.* 人性; 人类

decency [ˈdi:snsi] *n.* 庄重

precaution [priˈkɔ:ʃn] *n.* 预防, 警惕, 防范

inadvertently [ˌɪnədˈvɜ:təntli] *adv.* 不注意地

divine [dɪˈvaɪn] *adj.* 神的, 神圣的

ESSAY 73

Radio will be replaced by other forms of mass media such as TV or the Internet. Do you agree or disagree?

It is some people's pastime to make predictions about the future. But actually no one can be absolutely certain about what tomorrow will bring. As per my experience, some aspects of our life change, but slowly. Listening to the radio, for instance, will remain with us for a long time to come.

Radio is not likely to be replaced soon or at all because it is the most convenient way to acquire information. You don't have to be literate and you don't have to stare at a screen. Even if you are visually impaired, your enjoyment of it will not be affected a bit. Unlike TV or even newspaper, radio is never intrusive. We can focus on our main task and listen to the radio simultaneously without being distracted. Its presence is like that of a gentleman, ever in the background and responsive to our needs.

By providing audio information only, radio leaves much room for imagination. When we watch TV, we passively take in the moving images. Though pictures are more direct and detailed, they fail to excite our thoughts or imagination. The photo of the Great Wall can show us how it looks like from the angle of the photographer, whereas our imagination can conjure up a really majestic construction (though perhaps inaccurate), its history, its function, and its builders—there is no limit to our imagination. To really experience something in a vicarious way, one has to image it.

On a more tangible side, radio has its unique advantages. It is cheap and portable. Some radio can now be fitted into a pen and carried around all the time, conveying a variety of programs. The best radio costs no more than a thousand yuan.

It is undeniable that radio is facing increasing competition from other forms of media. It needs to improve in terms of program variety and reception quality. But its longevity is beyond doubt.

单词注释

- ▶ pastime [ˈpɑːstaɪm] *n.* 消遣, 娱乐
- ▶ prediction [prɪˈdɪkʃn] *n.* 预言, 预测
- ▶ as per 按照
- ▶ literate [ˈlɪtərɪt] *adj.* 有文化的, 有读写能力的
- ▶ visually [ˈvɪʒuəli] *adv.* 在视觉上地, 真实地
- ▶ impair [ɪmˈpeə] *vt.* 损害; 使弱
- ▶ intrusive [ɪnˈtruːsɪv] *adj.* 打扰的; 插入的
- ▶ simultaneously [ˌsɪmɪlˈteɪniəsli] *adv.* 同时地
- ▶ conjure [ˈkɒndʒə] *v.* 变戏法; 想像
- ▶ majestic [məˈdʒestɪk] *adj.* 宏伟的, 庄严的
- ▶ vicarious [vɪˈkeəriəs] *adj.* 间接感受到的
- ▶ tangible [ˈtæŋdʒəbl] *adj.* 切实的
- ▶ portable [ˈpɔːtəbl] *adj.* 轻便的; 手提(式)的, 便携式的
- ▶ undeniable [ˌʌndɪˈnɑːəbl] *adj.* 不可否认的
- ▶ longevity [lɒnˈdʒevəti] *n.* 寿命; 持久

ESSAY 74

What are the problems for people living and working in the countryside? What should the government do to solve them?

City residents often crave for a life in the countryside, where the air is purer and people friendlier. But when one does settle in the rural area, he starts to complain, sometimes guiltily, about the downsides of a rural life. I regret to say the countryside has more to offer besides the idyllic pleasures.

Those living outside cities must be content with fewer career opportunities. Businesses and industries are largely concentrated in major cities; even small cities don't have much of a share, let alone the countryside. The job options in the countryside are rather limited, often having something to do with agriculture. Even if one wishes to open a business by himself, he is less likely to succeed because of the poor business environment in rural regions.

Then some would say that the countryside is a place to live not work in. But it doesn't do very well even in this respect. Though possessing superior natural environment, the countryside is often notorious for its lack of amenities, facilities and public service. Without the concentration of a large population, it is not economically viable to provide large-scale public service or build facilities that are commonplace in urban areas. For instance, one may have to wait for days before a plumber comes to fix a ruptured water pipe or drive hours to reach a clinic. In fact, rural inhabitants are known for their hardiness and self-reliance.

Isolation and loneliness are often associated with a rustic life. The countryside is still sparsely populated, with people living miles away from each other. You are lucky to see a soul or two a day. All too often you only have your family and pets for company. Although the telephone and Internet allow you to contract the outside world, you will still feel alienated for lack of face-to-face interaction.

For those seeking a quiet life, the countryside is the best place. But for most people, the outlook is not so rosy. As it often turns out, a sojourn in the countryside from time to time allows you to get the best of both worlds.

单词注释

crave for 渴望

guiltily [ˈɡɪltɪli] *adv.* 有罪地; 自责地

downside [ˈdaʊnsaɪd] *n.* 不利方面

idyllic [ɪˈdɪlɪk] *adj.* 田园的; 简朴且无忧无虑的

be content with 满足于

superior [suːˈpɪəriə(r)] *adj.* 较好的, 更好的

notorious [nəʊˈtɔːriəs] *adj.* 声名狼藉的

amenity [əˈmɪːnəti] *n.* 宜人, 舒适

facility [fəˈsɪləti] *n.* 设备, 设施

viable [ˈvaɪəbl] *adj.* 可行的

plumber [ˈplʌmbə] *n.* 水管工人

rupture [ˈrʌptʃə(r)] *v.* 破裂, 裂开

hardiness [ˈhɑːdməs] *n.* 耐久力; 顽强

self-reliance [ˌselfrɪˈlaɪns] *n.* 自立

isolation [ˌaɪsəˈleɪʃn] *n.* 隔绝, 孤立, 隔离

sparsely [ˈspɑːsli] *adv.* 稀疏地, 稀少地

rosy [ˈrəʊzi] *adj.* 光明或愉快的; 乐观的

sojourn [ˈsɒdʒən] *n.* 逗留

ESSAY 75

Some people say that we should not encourage sports games among schools because they lead to competition rather than cooperation. To what extent do you agree with it?

Sports games among schools are common nowadays. Most schools have football, basketball and other teams to take on the challenges of other schools. Unfortunately there have been reports on hostility and even violence resulting from inter-school sports events. But this is not reasonable enough to ban sports games among schools.

The claim that sports lead to competition rather than cooperation is only a lame argument. It is true that students often go all out to beat their opponents and feel mortified when defeated. But when the game is over they often shake hands or even hug each other because there is no ill will, no disdain or condescension. Everything is done fair and square. When they part with each other, they are left with respect for the other side and maybe they wish for another game. The much-dreaded vicious competition and animosity are always the result of unfair games or rogue teams, which are few and far between and don't represent the whole picture.

On the contrary, those games are conducive to cooperation and progress. When such an event is organized, all students often participate in one way or another. They are united by a single aim: to defeat the opponents and have a good time. They start to cooperate and help each other; a sense of community begins to grow. In addition, given the nature of mankind, no great progress is to be expected without some external or internal pressure. Competition is often desirable because it leads to progress. The desire to win is a strong incentive to push for one's limit. The sense of honour acts as a powerful drug to assuage pain and fatigue.

Measures should be taken to curb the occasional violence related to inter-school games. But we need not have any qualms about championing such events, for the competitions on the sports field always contribute to progress and cooperation.

单词注释

- hostility [hɒs'tɪləti] *n.* 敌意, 恶意; 对抗
- lame [leɪm] *adj.* 无说服力的
- mortify ['mɔ:tɪfaɪ] *v.* 使丢脸, 使经受羞辱
- hug [hʌg] *v.* 拥抱
- ill will 憎恶, 恶意
- disdain [dɪs'deɪn] *n.* 轻蔑, 蔑视, 鄙弃
- condescension [ˌkɒndɪ'senʃn] *n.* 谦虚, 屈尊
- vicious [ˈvɪʃəs] *adj.* 可恶的; 凶残的
- animosity [ˌænɪ'mɒsəti] *n.* 仇恨, 憎恶

- conducive [kən'dʌktɪv] *adj.* 有传导性的; 能传导的
- desirable [dɪ'zʌərəəbl] *adj.* 合意的; 令人想要的
- incentive [ɪn'sentɪv] *n.* 动机
- assuage [ə'sweɪdʒ] *vt.* 缓和, 减轻; 镇定
- fatigue [fə'ti:g] *n.* 疲乏, 疲劳
- curb [kɜ:b] *v.* 抑制, 控制
- qualm [kwɔ:m, kwɔ:m] *n.* 疑虑
- champion [ˈtʃæmpiən] *v.* 捍卫, 支持

ESSAY 76

Some people regard animals as pets while others see them as a source of food and clothing. What is your opinion?

It is sometimes hard to comprehend the true nature of our existence until we let ourselves loose into the wilderness, where species of all kinds co-exist in good order. Then we will realize that mankind is but a part of nature, being only one species among the myriad of creatures.

Bearing this in mind, I would regard animals as my fellow creatures and treat them on an equal basis. Just as we have our human rights, animals should also enjoy animal rights. I, for one, won't take unfair advantage of an animal. Only a bully would shoo off a dog standing in his way. Wherever possible there need not be any use of force between humans and animals. Understandably, the relationship between man and his fellow creatures is a complex one, just like the relationship among people. Some animals will become our friends and companions; some will turn into our foes; still many may never come into contact with any of us.

However, there is one role that can only be played by plants and animals: being our food. This is actually a very poignant issue. Some religions, Buddhism for instant, explicitly forbid the killing and eating of animals. Vegetarians also preach the sanctity of animal life. These assertions, however, cannot bear close analysis. If the sanctity of life is indeed universally valued then we must starve to death because the life of vegetables should not be forfeited either. Thus revealed was the inconsistency of those absolute moralists. Alas, it is rather ironic that to maintain one life, some lives have to be sacrificed.

We have superior powers over most animals. We are on top of the food chain. We have the capacity to exterminate an entire species. On the other hand we can choose to treat animals as equals. Indeed, I would advocate equal treatment to all things, living or unliving. There should be no destruction of anything unless absolutely necessary.

单词注释

comprehend [ˌkɒmpri'hend] *vt.* 领会, 理解
loose [lu:s] *v.* 从…的压力或义务中解放出来
wilderness [ˈwɪldənəs] *n.* 荒野, 荒地
myriad [ˈmɪrɪəd] *n.* 无数
bully [ˈbʊli] *n.* 欺凌弱小者
understandably [ˌʌndə'stændəbli] *adv.* 可理解地
complex [ˈkɒmpleks] *adj.* 复杂的
companion [kəm'pæniən] *n.* 同伴, 共事者
foe [fəʊ] *n.* 反对者, 敌人
poignant [ˈpɔɪnjənt] *adj.* 令人痛苦的; 辛辣的;

尖锐的
Buddhism [ˈbʊdɪzəm] *n.* 佛教
vegetarian [ˌvedʒə'teəriən] *n.* 素食者
preach [pri:tʃ] *v.* 鼓吹
sanctity [ˈsæŋktəti] *n.* 神圣; 尊严
assertion [ə'sɜ:ʃn] *n.* 断言, 声称
forfeit [ˈfɔ:fit] *vt.* 没收; 丧失
moralist [ˈmɒrəlɪst] *n.* 道德家, 卫道士
ironic [ai'ronɪk] *adj.* 说反话的, 讽刺的
exterminate [ɪk'stɜ:mɪneɪt] *v.* 消除

ESSAY 77

Some people believe that damage to the environment is an inevitable consequence of the improvement of living standards. What is your opinion?

The city where I live is increasingly teeming with high-rise apartment buildings. As can be expected, trees are cut down to make room for those constructions. People are daily plagued by air and noise pollution as a result of the booming economy. As things now stand, we are paying too dear a price for the development.

Even the most developed countries are troubled by environmental issue. In fact, the more developed a nation is, the severer the problem. To sustain a prosperous economy, factories and companies have to be in full operation and the workforce putting in long hours. Industrial wastes cost a lot to be disposed of. The huge energy consumption depletes the natural resources at an unsustainable rate. There is every sign that the environment must be sacrificed to some extent for the sake of world economy. However, we are making a blunder by equating economic prosperity with better living standards.

A better life should be a life closer to nature. What we are now working so hard for is a mass-produced, standardized, seemingly comfortable life. It is true that we can now have computers, cars and larger houses, but something more valuable is being lost. We can no longer breathe clean air, have a quiet walk in the woods or even look at the stars because they are being obscured by smog and artificial light at night.

Hence, we need to curb the frantic pace of development in order to protect the environment and ironically to improve the quality of life. Our science and technology should be directed to creating harmony between mankind and nature. A better environment means much more than material comforts. Besides, by slowing down a little bit, people's lives become less stressful. To have a better life, we need to take it easy.

The currently environmental damage is the consequence of our misguided conception that material wealth is tantamount to a better life. Environmental protection won't stand in the way of our pursuit of a really better life.

单词注释

teem [ti:m] *v.* 充满; 大量出现
plague [pleɪg] *vi.* 折磨, 使苦恼
booming [ˈbu:mɪŋ] *adj.* 急速发展的
severe [sɪˈviə(r)] *adj.* 严重的
deplete [dɪˈpli:t] *vi.* 耗尽, 使衰竭
unsustainable [ˌʌnsəˈsteɪnəbl] *adj.* 无法支撑的, 无法维持的
blunder [ˈblʌndə] *n.* 大错, 失误

equate [ɪˈkweɪt] *vi.* 使相等, 视为平等 *vi.* 等同
standardized [ˈstændədaɪzd] *adj.* 标准的; 定型的
artificial [ˌɑ:tɪˈfɪʃl] *adj.* 人造的
frantic [ˈfræntɪk] *adj.* 狂乱的, 疯狂的
ironical [aɪˈrɒnɪkəl] *adj.* 讽刺的, 用反语的
misguided [ˌmɪsˈgaɪdɪd] *adj.* 被误导的, 误入歧途的
tantamount [ˈtæntəmaʊnt] *adj.* 等价的

ESSAY 78

The spread of English and growth of international tourism have some negative effects on countries' languages and traditional culture. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

English is now spoken, with various degrees of accuracy, in more than 60 countries. In China alone, more than 200 million people are engaged in the learning of the language, which is made easier by the interaction with millions of traveling native speakers of English. There is no need to be alarmed by the enthusiasm for English or the influx of tourists.

The dominance of our mother tongue will not be detracted by the spread of English. We learn English out of academic, diplomatic, commercial or other practical considerations because English is the preferred language when communicating with most foreigners. Few of us deem it superior to Chinese. No one will forgo Chinese and concentrate on English only. In fact, we use Chinese all the time among ourselves. Besides, if need be, one is totally capable of being bilingual. Many people in Northern Europe are bilingual or even multilingual. Actually, learning a foreign language helps one to appreciate his or her native tongue. Without comparison, many of us would never see the beauty and uniqueness of Chinese.

The development of international tourism is in line with globalization. It will certainly affect our culture but not necessarily for the worse. Tourists from all over the world bring with them their cultures and traditions, many of which may seem exotic and appealing. Some of it will no doubt be picked up by the locals. This is regarded by some as an encroachment on our traditions. But I'd rather call it the enrichment of our culture. After all, culture is and should not be static; it is constantly changing even without outside influence. There is no need to blindly stick to traditional culture; whatever is outdated or obsolete needs to go.

As the daily world integrates, we need to communicate and travel around. The assimilation of the new doesn't necessarily result in the loss of the old. Foreign culture and language and its national counterpart actually complement each other.

单词注释

accuracy ['ækjərəsi] *n.* 精确性, 正确度
enthusiasm [in 'θju:ziæzəm] *n.* 狂热, 热心
influx ['ɪnflʌks] *n.* 流入, 汇集
detract [di 'trækt] *v.* 转移
diplomatic [,diplə 'mætɪk] *adj.* 外交的, 老练的
multilingual [,mʌlti 'lɪŋgwəl] *adj.* 使用多种语言的
uniqueness [ju 'ni:kənəs] *n.* 唯一性, 独特性

exotic [ɪg 'zɒtɪk] *adj.* 异国情调的, 外来的
appealing [ə 'pi:lɪŋ] *adj.* 吸引人的, 令人心动的
encroachment [in 'krəʊtʃmənt] *n.* 侵蚀, 侵犯
enrichment [in 'rɪtʃmənt] *n.* 丰富
integrate ['ɪntɪgreɪt] *v.* 结合
assimilation [ə ,sɪmɪ 'leɪʃn] *n.* 同化
counterpart ['kaʊntəpɑ:t] *n.* 相似物, 对应的人(东西)
complement ['kɒmplɪmənt] *vi.* 补助, 补足

ESSAY 79

Traditional art is a sign of civilization. Do you think government should subsidize musicians, painters, actors or opera companies? What should the government do?

China has a long history of over 5000 years and a fine tradition of art and literature. Deplorably, much of it has been irrevocably lost. There is something that the government can do to reverse the trend.

Some forms of subsidy should be given to those artists and organizations who are dedicated to traditional art. Though generally highbrow, many traditional art forms have lost their popularity and are facing extinction. There were formerly around 300 types of operas across China, including the well-known Beijing Opera, Cantonese Opera and so on. Regrettably, they cannot compete with imported popular arts and only a handful of them are occasionally performed and watched mainly by those over 40 years old. Their total demise would be an incalculable loss because they are the highest forms of art, incorporating singing, dancing and stage fighting. And this is just one of those art forms that are endangered due to the altered popular taste and competition from imported arts. Financial aid from the government is needed to ensure the survival of those arts.

Apart from providing subsidies, more measures can be taken to facilitate the development of traditional arts. Effective education and promotion can make a difference. Most of the young don't have the slightest idea of what traditional art is owing to the lack of education in this respect. The mass media is saturated with popular arts and offers no alternative. People's taste is largely shaped by the mass media. Given a taste of traditional arts, many would start to appreciate them. It is wrong to suppose that traditional arts have no place in the modern world. In many countries where they are given due attention, tradition arts are still flourishing or even dominant. The popularity of popular arts has much to do with the enormous amount of money spent on its promotion.

It is not viable nor sensible to preserve all tradition art forms. When its time comes, no elixir can save it. But those that have stood the test of time and have real artistic values should be preserved and promoted.

单词注释

deplorable [dɪ'plɔ:rəbl] *adj.* 可叹的
irrevocably [ɪ'revəkəblɪ] *adv.* 不能取消地, 不能撤回地
reverse [rɪ'veɜ:s] *vt.* 颠倒, 倒转
subsidy ['sʌbsədi] *n.* 补助金, 津贴
dedicate ['dedɪkeɪt] *vt.* 献(身), 致力
highbrow ['haɪbraʊ] *adj.* 关于正统艺术思想的
popularity [ˌpɒpjʊ'lærəti] *n.* 普及, 流行; 声望
extinction [ɪks'tɪŋkʃn] *n.* 消失, 消灭

regrettably [rɪ'gretəblɪ] *adv.* 遗憾地, 可悲地
incalculable [ɪn'kælkjʊləbl] *adj.* 数不尽的
incorporate [ɪn'kɔ:pəreɪt] *v.* 合并
saturate ['sætʃəreɪt] *vt.* 使饱和; 使充满
alternative [ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv] *n.* 可供选择的東西
due [dju:] *adj.* 应得的
viable [ˈvaɪəbl] *adj.* 可行的
elixir [ɪ'lɪksə(r)] *n.* 不老长寿药, 万能药

ESSAY 80

Many people think that painting and music do not directly improve the quality of people. Therefore, government should not spend too much money on artistic projects. Do you agree or disagree?

The government is entrusted by the people to act for the common good. An ideal government should take care of all its citizens. When this could not be done, the government should try to address the pressing needs of most of its people. Hence, artistic projects should not be its priorities.

Art may be the highest form of enjoyment. It addresses our psychological, mental and spiritual needs. It cannot be replaced by anything else. However, it should not take precedence when other more pressing needs are left unattended. Hunger, poverty, crime and regional conflicts are still plaguing millions around the world. Even in developed countries people are still troubled by social injustice and environmental problems. It is hard to exalt our soul when our body is being tormented. Let us first tackle the problems of the body.

To eradicate poverty should be a global priority. Millions in African alone starve to death each year not because of natural disasters but simply because they cannot afford any food. If the developed and so-called civilized nations would only allocate one percent of their gross domestic product to alleviate poverty, the poor would all be guaranteed adequate food. Alas, they choose not to do so, claiming they have other priorities. What could possibly be more important than saving lives? Refusing to prevent death is almost equal to committing homicide. In addition, poverty often breeds other evils: child labour, social unrest, violent crimes and so on.

To ensure equality among people should be another priority. Equality is a recognition that we are all created by the miracles of the universe. The brotherhood of mankind demands equal treatment of each individual. Discrimination and injustice are the bane of society. They breed hostility and hatred among people. Its damage even exceeds that of poverty. When people feel repressed and exploited, they will want to rebel and to assert their due status. Revolution and war would ensue, as happened time and again in our recorded history.

It is in vain to preach about art to refugees, who would most like to be fed first. Basic problems should be tackled first before we take on the lofty undertaking of art.

单词注释

- ♦ entrust [ɪn'trʌst] *v.* 委托
- ♦ address [ə'dres] *v.* 处理
- ♦ pressing [ˈpresɪŋ] *adj.* 紧迫的
- ♦ priority [praɪ'ɔrəti] *n.* 优先, 优先权
- ♦ psychological [ˌsaɪkə'lɒdʒɪkl] *adj.* 心理(上)的
- ♦ unattended [ˌʌnə'tendɪd] *adj.* 没人照顾的; 未被注意的
- ♦ injustice [ɪn'dʒʌstɪs] *n.* 不公平
- ♦ plague [pleɪg] *vt.* 折磨, 使苦恼
- ♦ exalt [ɪg'zɔ:lt] *v.* 提高, 提升
- ♦ torment [ˈtɔ:ment] *v.* 折磨
- ♦ eradicate [ɪ'rædɪkeɪt] *v.* 根除
- ♦ adequate [ˈædɪkwət] *adj.* 适当的; 足够的
- ♦ homicide [ˈhɒmɪsaɪd] *n.* 杀人
- ♦ unrest [ʌn'rest] *n.* 动荡的局面
- ♦ miracle [ˈmɪrəkl] *n.* 奇迹, 奇事
- ♦ brotherhood [ˈbrʌðəhʊd] *n.* 手足情谊, 兄弟关系
- ♦ bane [beɪn] *n.* 祸根
- ♦ repress [rɪ'pres] *vt.* 抑制; 镇压
- ♦ preach [pri:tʃ] *v.* 鼓吹
- ♦ lofty [ˈlɒfti] *adj.* 高耸的; 崇高的
- ♦ undertaking [ˌʌndə'teɪkɪŋ] *n.* 事业, 企业

ESSAY 81

Today, many students take the course International News in secondary school. Some say it is a waste of time. Discuss and state your opinion.

Students in China are often too busy to watch TV or read newspapers to the extent that many of them don't have the faintest ideas about what is happening in other countries. Some people are alarmed by this and urge students to study International News at high school, but others regard it as an unnecessary burden for the students.

Many claim that students are doing all right without much knowledge about the outside world. Events in other nations are not relevant and thus to distract students from their academic pursuit. Besides, many of the international news are nothing but government propaganda aiming to deceive the international community for political reasons, for the freedom of press is denied in many nations. Moreover, today's news reports are largely profit-driven. Sensationalism and tabloid journalism become increasingly prevalent. Events with real newsworthiness are left out because they do not cater to popular tastes.

However, despite all its imperfections, it is still well worth students' time to study International News, provided that worthy events are reported with a fair degree of accuracy. Our understanding of the world would be incomplete if we are ignorant of the happenings around the globe. Globalization and integration lead to more interdependency among nations. A local event is likely to have global repercussions. As potential pillars of society, high school students must not live in this insular condition, which often leads to bigotry and narrow-mindedness. Cooperation among different peoples starts with mutual understanding. Additionally, the knowledge of the outside world often leads to deeper insight into our own society. We start to cherish peace and prosperity when we see reports on war and famine tormenting millions in other lands. News about presidential elections help students understand our democracy better.

An insular life inside Ivory Towers could only turn out graduates with utopian ideals for and distorted ideas about our world. To find out the truth, one has to open his eyes to what's really happening in the world.

单词注释

- ◆ faint [feɪnt] *adj.* 暗淡的, 模糊的
- ◆ alarm [ə'laɪm] *vt.* 恐吓, 警告
- ◆ propaganda [ˌprɒpə'gændə] *n.* 宣传
- ◆ profit-driven *adj.* 追求利润的
- ◆ sensationalism [sen'seɪʃənəlɪzəm] *n.* 哗众取宠; 危言耸听
- ◆ tabloid [ˈtæblɔɪd] *n.* 小报
- ◆ prevalent [ˈprevələnt] *adj.* 普遍的, 流行的
- ◆ cater [ˈkeɪtə] *v.* 迎合
- ◆ accuracy [ˈækjərəsi] *n.* 精确性, 正确度
- ◆ integration [ˌɪntɪ'greɪʃən] *n.* 结合
- ◆ interdependency [ˌɪntədɪ'pendənsi] *n.* 互相依赖
- ◆ repercussion [ˌrɪːpə'kʌʃn] *n.* 弹回; 反响
- ◆ pillar [ˈpɪlə(r)] *n.* 柱子, 栋梁
- ◆ insular [ˌɪnsjələ(r)] *adj.* 与世隔绝的
- ◆ bigotry [ˈbɪgətəri] *n.* 固执, 顽固
- ◆ narrow-mindedness *n.* 气量小, 小心眼
- ◆ famine [ˈfæmɪn] *n.* 饥荒
- ◆ torment [ˈtɔːmənt] *n.* 痛苦 *v.* 折磨
- ◆ presidential [ˌprezɪ'denʃl] *adj.* 总统的
- ◆ utopian [ju:'təʊpiən] *adj.* 乌托邦的, 理想化的
- ◆ distort [dɪs'tɔːt] *vt.* 扭曲, 歪曲

ESSAY 82

If you have enough money, will you use it to buy a house or to start a business?

If I am wealthy enough to afford either a house or a business, I will definitely choose to buy a business for the simple reason that business investment means a lot more to me than a secured living place does.

A house brings with it all the comforts of and amenities of modern architecture, but a business promises much more. A business means an opportunity to make more money and to taste the joy of success. If I have invested in a business, I will strive to make the undertaking a success. During the process I may experience ups and downs, the happiness of gaining new customers and the frustration of losing profits. Yes, there are risks involved. I may be able to make a fortune but there is also the possibility of going bankrupt, but that's exactly the way I will choose to live—to make the best of what I have.

The relaxing environment of a house discourages me to meet new challenges and compels me to settle for an easy and secured life. After I have invested most of my savings in a business, I will be driven to try my uttermost; otherwise I may wind up having no place to live in. It is obvious that a business is something that puts me in an insecure position. But such a feeling of insecurity will in turn goad me to explore my full potential and struggle for prominence.

A business is evidently a better option for me than a house, for I am still young and need to strive rather than to relax. I prefer the excitement of running a business to the comfort of staying at home.

单词注释

- afford [ə'fɔ:d] *vt.* 提供; 买得起, 供应得起
- definitely [ˈdefɪnətli] *adv.* 明确地, 确切地
- investment [ɪn'vestmənt] *n.* 投资, 可获利的东西
- secured [sɪ'kjʊəd] *adj.* 安全的, 可靠的
- amenity [ə'mi:nəti] *n.* 令人愉快的事物; 舒适
- strive [straɪv] *v.* 努力, 奋斗, 力争
- frustration [frʌs'treɪʃn] *n.* 挫败, 挫折; 受挫
- bankrupt [ˈbæŋkrʌpt] *n.* 破产者 *adj.* 破产的
- discourage [dɪs'kʌrɪdʒ] *vt.* 使气馁; 阻碍
- compel [kəm'pel] *vt.* 强迫, 迫使
- uttermost [ˈʌtəməʊst] *n.* 极端, 最大限度
- insecure [ɪn'sɪ'kjʊə(r)] *adj.* 不可靠的, 不安全的
- insecurity [ɪn'sɪ'kjʊərəti] *n.* 不安全, 不安全感
- goad [gəʊd] *vt.* 用刺棒驱赶; 驱策, 激励
- explore [ɪks'plɔ:] *v.* 探险; 探测, 探究
- prominence [ˈprɒmɪnəns] *n.* 突出, 显著; 突出物
- prefer [prɪ'fɜ:] *vt.* 更喜欢, 宁愿

ESSAY 83

It is better to be a member of a group than to be the leader of a group. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Give your reasons.

Every organization consists of a leader and some members. Each of them plays an important yet different role in the group. As an individual, I find it more beneficial to be a leader than a member of the group. The reasons are quite obvious.

Being a leader is more conducive to personal growth. The role of a leader involves much responsibility and decision-making. This means you must engage yourself in a wide range of activities and learning. In doing so, your ability to tackle difficult problems and handle complex situations can be developed. Take myself for example. Before I was promoted to Branch Manager three years ago, I was only an ordinary teacher with little responsibilities or accomplishment. But the experience of being a manager has turned me into a capable and efficient leader.

Moreover, as a leader, one can establish more rewarding connections with influential people. Managers and department heads, for the nature of their work, tend to have more interactions with their peers or superiors, who are themselves leaders. These connections with influential people can lead to more career opportunities and pave the way for their future career. Besides, by consorting with people with superior minds or experiences, one often gets inspired and acquires different perspectives of and insights into things. By contrast, a member of a group often lacks these kinds of opportunities.

Without losing sight of the importance of teamwork and the contribution made by each member of a group, we should give due credits to the leader of the group. He is the one that holds the group together and in turn he reaps the benefits of his position in terms of personal growth and career development.

单词注释

consist [kən'sɪst] *vi.* 由…组成, 在于
individual [ˌɪndɪˈvɪdʒjuəl] *n.* 个人, 个体
beneficial [ˌbenɪˈfɪʃl] *adj.* 有益的, 受益的
conducive [kən'dju:sɪv] *adj.* 有益于…的
involve [ɪn'vɒlv] *vt.* 包括
tackle [ˈtækəl] *vt.* 固定; 应付
accomplishment [ə'kɒmplɪʃmənt] *n.* 成就, 完成; 技艺
capable [ˈkeɪpəbl] *adj.* 有能力的, 能干的
rewarding [rɪ'wɔ:dɪŋ] *adj.* 有回报的, 有益的

influential [ˌɪnfluˈenʃl] *adj.* 有影响的, 有势力的
peer [pɪə(r)] *n.* 同等的人, 同龄人
pave [peɪv] *v.* 铺(路)
consort [ˈkɒnsɔ:t] *vi.* 陪伴, 结交
perspective [pə'spektɪv] *n.* 观点, 看法
contrast [kən'trɑ:st] *vt.* 使与…对比, 使与…对照
lack [læk] *vt.* 缺乏, 没有
opportunity [ˌɒpə'tju:nəti] *n.* 机会, 时机
reap [ri:p] *v.* 收割; 收获

ESSAY 84

Some people say that children should spend their leisure time on educational activities. Some people believe it is dangerous to put too much pressure on children. What is your opinion?

Compared with their parents, children today are very lucky. An average school student spends some 25 hours per week on leisure activities, not to mention the summer and winter vacations. But competition is getting fiercer, both at school and in the job market. These children really need to spend more time on their study if they wish to succeed in life. From my point of view, more educational activities will benefit the kids in at least two aspects.

For one thing, better academic performance contributes a great deal to children's future careers. Ours is a world full of competitions. In China, only 40 percent of high school graduates are admitted to universities and still less college graduates can land decent jobs after graduation. Even within a company, people vie with one another for better positions. In order to survive and prevail in all these competitions, children need to work the hardest they can when they are young. The knowledge and skills they obtain will give them a big competitive advantage at the workplace.

For another, studying a wide range of subjects leads to an earlier start in one's career. Everyone is inherently gifted in one area or another. But the gift often lay dormant until stumbled upon and cultivated with conscious efforts. If children are encouraged to study more in their leisure time, they will expose themselves to various disciplines. Such exposure helps identify their career interest earlier than other kids. With such a head start, these children are more likely to succeed in life.

It might be argued that it is dangerous to put too much pressure on children. But actually educational activities are not necessarily associated with pressure or stress. Outdoor study tours and instructive games, for example, are welcomed by younger and older kids alike. When we incorporate an element of recreation into education, study can become great fun.

单词注释

- leisure [ˈleɪʒə(r)] *n.* 空闲, 闲暇, 悠闲, 安逸
- competition [ˌkɒmpɪˈtɪʃn] *n.* 竞争, 竞赛
- ◆ fierce [fiəs] *adj.* 凶猛的, 猛烈的; 热烈的
- ◆ admitted [ədˈmɪtɪd] *adj.* 被承认的, 被确认无疑的
- ◆ decent [ˈdiːsnt] *adj.* 正派的, 端庄的
- ◆ graduation [ˌgrædʒuˈeɪʃn] *n.* 毕业, 毕业典礼; 刻度
- vie [vaɪ] *v.* 竞争
- prevail [prɪˈveɪl] *vi.* 流行, 盛行; 获胜, 成功
- ◆ obtain [əbˈteɪn] *vi.* 获得, 得到
- ◆ inherently [ɪnˈhɪərəntli] *adv.* 天性地, 固有地
- ◆ dormant [ˈdɔːmənt] *adj.* 睡眠状态的, 静止的; 隐匿的
- ◆ stumble [ˈstʌmbl] *v.* 绊脚; 蹒跚而行
- ◆ cultivate [ˈkʌltɪveɪt] *vi.* 耕耘; 培养
- ◆ instructive [ɪnˈstrʌktɪv] *adj.* 有益的; 教育性的
- ◆ incorporate [ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt] *vi.* 合并

ESSAY 85

Some people think that in order to improve the quality of education, high school students should be encouraged to evaluate and criticize their teachers, but other people maintain that such evaluation and criticism may cause loss of respect for teachers and discipline. What do you think?

Students are nowadays regarded as the most important element of education. So students in some high schools now enjoy the right to evaluate and criticize their teachers to guarantee better teaching from the instructors. Naturally, such practice draws criticism from many conservatives who insist that evaluation and criticism from students interfere with the normal teaching process.

They do have their reasons. Firstly, teachers have a syllabus to follow and criticism from students may prevent it from being implemented. Second, negative evaluation from the students could harm the relationship between teachers and students. And excessive criticism may even breed resentment and hostility at schools.

Though not entirely groundless, these concerns are just unfounded worries. If students are not allowed to evaluate or criticize the teacher, it is hard for the teacher to find out what the students think or what they need. Without proper feedback from the students, the classroom becomes a place where students are crammed with knowledge considered useful, yet in fact, of little benefit or interest to them. Though the syllabus is set by the school authorities and has long been followed by most teachers, it may as well be altered if it no longer reflects the need of students. Besides, evaluation and criticism are themselves effective forms of communication, which should be welcomed by teachers because they will benefit a lot when their minds are open to the ideas and honest opinions of the youngsters. Those who feel ashamed to be criticized by their students or are afraid of losing their respect should adopt a more positive attitude instead of being excessively defensive and self-conscious.

Of course, students' assessments of their teachers may not always be objective or make sense, given that they are still young and impulsive. But I believe their opinions deserve our attention if we are to have a more effective and productive education system.

单词注释

evaluate [ɪ'vælju:et] *vi.* 评价; 估计
maintain [meɪn'teɪn] *vi.* 维持; 维修; 继续
discipline [dɪ'sɪplɪn] *n.* 纪律; 学科
instructor [ɪn'strʌktə(r)] *n.* 教师, <美>讲师
conservative [kən'sɜ:vətɪv] *adj.* 保守的, 守旧的
n. 保守派
interfere [ɪn'tə'fɪə(r)] *vi.* 干涉, 干预, 妨碍
syllabus ['sɪləbəs] *n.* 课程提纲
implement ['ɪmplɪmənt] *vi.* 贯彻, 执行
excessive [ɪk'sesɪv] *adj.* 过多的, 过分的; 额外的
breed [brɪ:d] *v.* (使)繁殖; 教养

resentment [rɪ'zentmənt] *n.* 怨恨, 愤恨
hostility [hɒs'tɪləti] *n.* 敌意, 恶意, 不友善, 敌对
groundless ['graʊndləs] *adj.* 无根据的, 没有理由的
unfounded [ʌn'faʊndɪd] *adj.* 没有理由的; 未建立的
cram [kræm] *v.* 填满
alter ['ɔ:lteɪ(r)] *v.* 改变
youngster ['jʌŋstə(r)] *n.* 年青人, 少年
ashamed [ə'ʃeɪmd] *adj.* 惭愧的, 羞耻的
excessively [ɪk'sesɪvli] *adv.* 过分地, 非常地
assessment [ə'sesmənt] *n.* 估价
impulsive [ɪm'pʌlsɪv] *adj.* 冲动的

ESSAY 86

Choosing a suitable career is a problem that faces many young people. What are the reasons? What suggestion would you give to them to help them make the right decision?

Each day, over a thousand job hunters swarm into the South China Employment Service (SCES), one of the largest placement services in town, either to present themselves to potential employers or to have their resumes entered in the database of SCES. In Guangzhou alone, there are about ten large-scale employment services and still many smaller ones, all of which are earning good money thanks to the growing number of job seekers in recent years.

Things were quite different thirty years ago, when most people hold one job all the time. Today, however, it is much harder to find a suitable job. The booming economy has created stark disparity in personal incomes, with some jobs considerably better paid than others. Hence, people change their jobs more often, in the hope of becoming better off with their new employers. What is more, the fierce competitions between business firms also lead to the dismissal of incapable employees. They have no choice but seek another job. All these contribute to the increase in the number of job-hoppers.

Outlined below are some of my suggestions to the young people who desire a successful career. To begin with, it is wise to remember that learning is a life-long process which is not limited to school education. Without constant learning, one may easily fall behind the times. Young people should understand that in addition to knowledge and skills, the ability to learn is also essential to their future development.

Besides, youngsters should get mentally prepared for the possible frustrations they may encounter while hunting for jobs. They may have to change a number of jobs before finding the most suitable one. While everybody is of some value to the society, it takes time for their value to be recognized by the community, or even by themselves. Provided that sustained effort is made, everybody will succeed in one profession or another.

Work is likely to become more demanding, and competition fiercer, but as long as we are fully prepared, the prospect looks good for all of us.

单词注释

- ◆ swarm [swɔ:m] *v.* 涌往, 挤满
- ◆ seeker ['si:kə(r)] *n.* 搜索者, 探求者
- ◆ suitable ['su:təbl] *adj.* 适当的; 相配的
- ◆ booming ['bu:mɪŋ] *adj.* 急速发展的
- ◆ stark [stɑ:k] *adj.* 刻板的; 十足的
- ◆ disparity [dɪs'pærəti] *n.* 不一致, 不同, 不等
- ◆ considerably [kən'sɪdərəblɪ] *adv.* 相当地
- ◆ hence [hens] *adv.* 因此; 从此
- ◆ dismissal [dɪs'mɪsl] *n.* 免职, 解雇
- ◆ incapable [ɪn'keɪpəbl] *adj.* 无能力的, 不能的
- ◆ hopper ['hɒpə] *n.* 单足跳者
- ◆ outline ['aʊtlaɪn] *n.* 大纲, 轮廓, 略图 *vt.* 概述, 略述
- ◆ mentally ['mentəli] *adv.* 精神上, 智力上; 在内心
- ◆ frustration [frʌs'treɪʃn] *n.* 挫败, 挫折; 受挫
- ◆ sustained [səs'teɪnd] *adj.* 持续不变的, 相同的
- ◆ demanding [dɪ'mɑ:ndɪŋ] *adj.* 过分要求的, 苛求的
- ◆ prospect ['prɒspekt] *n.* 景色; 前景, 前途; 期望

ESSAY 87

Many parents use punishment to teach their kids the differences between right and wrong. They think punishment is necessary in helping them learn the distinction. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these parents? What kind of punishments would you recommend?

Educating the children is a headache for many young parents. Some of them resort to punishment in order to hammer home some lessons to their kids. As far as I am concerned, while there are numerous other ways to educate a child, punishment is sometimes necessary.

It is true that commendation and incentives in return for good behavior can also help the child distinguish the right from the wrong. Yet by doing so, parents will be sending a misleading message to the kids that wrongdoings do not lead to punishment. Consequently, the kids never learn the lessons. Punishment is preferable because it leaves deep impressions on the wrongdoers. Such is human nature that we all strive to attain happiness in life and avoid pain and suffering; the latter is often the strongest driving force behind our behaviors. As often as not, we are willing to sacrifice happiness simply to minimize our ordeals. Thus punishment is more effective than any other disciplinary approach. Without the deterrent of punishment, the incentive may have little effect because the benefits that kids gain from behaving wrongly can be much more tempting than the award offered by their parents.

Given that punishment is essential in shaping a child's character, how can we do it properly? Physical punishment is out of the question because for one thing, children are too young to take full responsibility for their misbehaviors, for another, punishing children with violence will only lead to more violence, fear and traumas. It must be remembered that the purpose of punishment is not to hurt the kid, but rather, to point out the mistakes and prevent further recurrence or relapse. In fact, there are some kinds of harmless punishment that can carry the lessons home. For example, parents can forbid them to do things they really like such as playing games, watching TV, or going to parties, or make them do some housework like washing the dishes for a month. I believe these types of punishment will touch their soul instead of merely their bodies and thus can be more effective.

单词注释

distinction [dɪs'tɪŋkʃn] *n.* 区别, 差别; 级别; 特性
resort [rɪ'zɔ:t] *vi.* 求助, 诉诸, 采取; 常去
hammer home 反复灌输
commendation [ˌkɒmən'deɪʃn] *n.* 赞扬, 称赞
incentive [ɪn'sentɪv] *n.* 动机 *adj.* 激励的
misleading [mɪs'li:dlɪŋ] *adj.* 易误解的, 令人误解的
consequently ['kɒnsɪkwəntli] *adv.* 从而; 因此
preferable ['prefrəbl] *adj.* 更可取的, 更好的,

更优越的
impression [ɪm'preʃn] *n.* 印象; 感想
wrongdoer [rɒŋdu:ə(r)] *n.* 做坏事的人
as often as not 往往
ordeal [ɔ:'di:l] *n.* 严酷的考验, 痛苦的经验, 折磨
disciplinary [ˌdɪsəplɪnəri] *adj.* 训练的, 训诫的; 规律的
deterrent [dɪ'terənt] *n.* 威慑
trauma [ˈtrɔ:mə] *n.* [医] 外伤, 损伤
recurrence [rɪ'kʌrəns] *n.* 复发, 重现; 循环
relapse [rɪ'læps] *n.* 复发, 回复原状

ESSAY 88

Some people say that telling the truth is not always essential, and that it is necessary to tell lies sometimes. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give specific reasons to support your ideas.

'Liar, liar, pants on fire,' goes an old saying. We have been told not to lie since childhood, but as we grow up, we find that everybody tells lies from time to time. In fact, I believe lies do seem a sensible choice on some occasions.

Some white lies certainly serve some purposes. We all have had experience of toiling at something for a long while but making no apparent progress. What we need in such circumstances is encouragement, which may sometimes come from lies instead of the truth. Take language learning for example. The process of learning a language, especially a foreign language, is a long and arduous one. The learner may often feel that no progress has been made despite all his efforts. If, at this point, someone tells him that his English is much better than before—even though it may not be true—he will soon regain his confidence and continue his learning with a more positive attitude. But if what he hears is the harsh truth—little progress can be seen in his English—chances are that he will soon lose heart and give it up altogether. Thus we see that telling lies can sometimes be beneficial.

Lies may also be told so as to cushion the blow or shield people from harsh realities. It is, for example, often wiser not to tell some terminally ill patients that they are dying in three weeks and nothing could be done to prolong their lives because many would be devastated by the news and even suffer a nervous breakdown, which often leads to further deterioration. 'Ignorance is kind' goes the old saying.

Of course, we should not lie unless absolutely necessary. Before telling untruth, we need to ask ourselves: am I doing this for the sake of other or out of our own consideration? Will others thank us for being so considerate or will they feel betrayed? We need to be very careful about telling lies because nobody enjoys being lied to and dishonesty often ruins long-established relationships.

单词注释

sensible ['sensəbl] *adj.* 有感觉的; 明智的
toil [tɔɪl] *n.* 辛苦, 苦工 *vi.* 苦干
apparent [ə 'pærənt] *adj.* 显然的; 外观上的
arduous ['ɑ: dʒuəs] *adj.* 费劲的, 辛勤的; 险峻的
despite [dɪs 'paɪt] *prep.* 不管, 尽管, 不论
regain [rɪ 'geɪn] *v.* 收回, 恢复; 重新获得
confidence ['kɒnfɪdəns] *n.* 信心
positive ['pɒzətɪv] *adj.* 肯定的; 积极的
harsh [hɑ:ʃ] *adj.* 粗糙的; 荒芜的; 苛刻的
altogether [,ɔ:l'tə'geðə(r)] *adv.* 完全地, 总而言之
beneficial [,benɪ 'fɪʃl] *adj.* 有益的, 受益的

cushion ['kʊʃən] *n.* 垫子 *v.* 加衬垫; 减缓; 保护
blow [bləʊ] *n.* 殴打, 突然的打击
terminally ['tɜ:mɪnli] *adv.* 末尾; 一定时期地
prolong [prə 'lɒŋ] *vt.* 延长, 拖延
devastate ['devəsteɪt] *vt.* 毁坏
breakdown ['breɪkdaʊn] *n.* 崩溃; 衰弱
deterioration [dɪ,tɪəriə'reɪʃn] *n.* 变坏, 退化, 堕落
ignorance ['ɪgnərəns] *n.* 无知, 不知
untruth [,ʌn'tru:θ] *n.* 假话
considerate [kən 'sɪdərət] *adj.* 考虑周到的
dishonesty [dɪs 'ɒnɪsti] *n.* 不诚实, 不老实; 欺骗, 欺诈

ESSAY 89

Some say that students with similar academic abilities should be put in one class. Others believe a class should include students with different academic performances. Discuss.

In most schools students are grouped randomly into classes. No account is taken of their academic performances or personal preferences. This practice has been widely hailed as reflecting the principle of equality. It is also asserted by school authorities that most students benefit from these arrangements.

The class certainly becomes more diversified when students with dissimilar talents are put together. It helps to prevent the classroom from turning into a dull place, where people all have the same predilections and abilities. There is more chance of cooperation among these youngsters because they are often masters in some subjects and laymen in others. They complement each other and often reach win-win solutions by rendering each other help in separate fields. Moreover, such an array of different talents rarely fails to offer new perspectives, which are otherwise unattainable. When a math student sees a circle, he thinks about its diameter and things like that, but an art student would ponder on its symbolic meaning of being a completion.

However, grouping together students with similar proficiency has its unique appeals. It will be easier to meet the needs of all students since they are similarly inclined. The teachers won't have to take into account the receptive ability of each individual and adjust his syllabus and lesson schedule to ensure no one is left behind. This kind of adjustment often leads to lukewarm class participation from top students. Besides, with students performing on the same level, harmony is often guaranteed among students. No one would be jeered at for being obtuse or foolish. Students can easily get along with each other on equal terms.

Neither arrangement can accommodate the needs of all students, and it seems hard to get the best of both worlds. A sensible approach would be to take into account students' academic performance and personality.

单词注释

randomly ['rændəmli] *adv.* 随便地, 未加计划地
hail [heɪl] *vi.* 致敬, 招呼
equality [i 'kwɒləti] *n.* 等同性, 同等, 平等
assert [ə 'sɜ:t] *v.* 断言, 声称
diversified [daɪ 'vɜ:sɪfaɪd] *adj.* 多变化的, 各种的
dissimilar [dɪ 'sɪmɪlə(r)] *adj.* 不同的, 相异的
predilection [,pri:di 'leɪkʃn] *n.* 爱好, 偏袒
layman ['leɪmən] *n.* 外行
complement ['kɒmplɪmənt] *vi.* 补助, 补足
render ['rendə(r)] *vi.* 呈递; 归还; 实施
perspective [pə 'spektɪv] *n.* 远景; 前途; 看法, 观点
unattainable [,ʌnə 'teɪnəbl] *adj.* 难到达的, 做不到的

diameter [daɪ 'æmɪtə(r)] *n.* 直径
ponder ['pɒndə(r)] *v.* 沉思, 考虑
symbolic [sɪm 'bɒlɪk] *adj.* 象征的; 符号的
proficiency [prə 'fɪʃnsi] *n.* 熟练, 精通; 熟练程度
inclined [ɪn 'klaɪnd] *adj.* 倾向...的
receptive [rɪ 'septɪv] *adj.* 善于接受的, 能接纳的
syllabus ['sɪləbəs] *n.* 课程提纲
lukewarm [,lu:k 'wɔ:m] *adj.* 冷淡的
harmony ['hɑ:məni] *n.* 协调, 融洽
jeer [dʒɪə(r)] *v.* 嘲弄, 戏弄
obtuse [əb 'tju:s] *adj.* 钝的, 愚蠢的, 迟钝的
accommodate [ə 'kɒmədeɪt] *vi.* 适应
personality [,pɜ:sə 'næləti] *n.* 个性, 人格; 人物

ESSAY 90

Some say it is impossible for a woman to work full-time and remain a good mother. So they should be paid by the government to stay at home to raise the children. What is your opinion?

Asked to choose from one's family and career, men often pick the latter whereas women opt for the former. Women are often devoted mothers if not wives. Many career women are somewhat estranged from their children. But actually working full-time and being a good mother is not incompatible.

Of course, in child's infancy, the mother needs to be there to feed and care for the baby. As a matter of fact, most companies offer maternity leave of up to one year to female employees. After the first precarious year when even the slightest mistake or negligence on the mother's side might lead to permanent damage to the baby's health or development, mothers can safely entrust their children to a grandparent, a babysitter or a nursery. Actually, compared with first-time mothers, a nursery is better at providing child care because it is often staffed with professional nurses and instructors, whose expertise is unmatched by most mothers.

Being a good mother doesn't mean being there all the time. The amount of time spent with your children is not what counts most; the quality of it is. There is no need to stay with your children all the time; they need to be left alone sometimes and spend time with their pals. Time spent apart may actually bring the mother and the child closer because children after the age of two or three don't often always prefer the company of their mothers; they like to mingle with their peers. Hence, for working mothers, a day care center seems the best place to send their children to.

Mothers are just as entitled to career advancement as fathers. Working mothers have every chance of being good mothers, as proven by countless single mothers who are doing very well working and caring for their children at the same time. Financial and other forms of assistance should be given by the government to all mothers.

单词注释

opt [ɒpt] *v.* 选择

estranged [ɪ'streɪndʒd] *adj.* 疏远的, 不和的

incompatible [ɪn'kəm'pætəbl] *adj.* 性质相反的, 矛盾的

infancy [ɪnfənsi] *n.* 幼年

maternity [mə'tɜ:nəti] *n.* 母性 *adj.* 孕妇的, 产妇的

precarious [pri'keəriəs] *adj.* 不稳定的

negligence [ˈneglɪdʒəns] *n.* 疏忽

permanent [ˈpɜ:mənənt] *adj.* 永久的, 持久的

nursery [ˈnɜ:səri] *n.* 托儿所

expertise [ˌekspɜ'ti:z] *n.* 专家的意见; 专门技术

unmatched [ˈʌn'mætʃt] *adj.* 无比的, 无匹敌的; 不相配的

mingle [ˈmɪŋɡl] *v.* (使)混合

entitled [ɪn'taɪtlɪd] *adj.* 有资格的

ESSAY 91

Your character is strongly influenced by the place where you grew up. In what ways can growing up in a city or in the countryside influence one's character? Please give your view.

Where you are dropped, as the saying goes, is who you are. Though possessing individuality, people often share some collective traits unique to the place where they live. The English are known for being conservatives; the French for being romantic; the Italian, optimistic. Places make people.

Growing up in the countryside helps to cultivate one's self-reliance. Infrastructure and public service being inadequate, rural residents often do things for themselves. It is not uncommon to see them fix their own cars, mend fences or even build their own houses. Self-dependence grows out of necessity into a habit. Compared with city dwellers, people from the countryside are less ambitious as a result of the slower pace of life. There is no rival business to compete with, no constant fear of losing your job. You only focus on the land, the crops and the harvest. It is a simpler, less complicated life. But there is also a downside. A rural life often leads to provincialism. Villagers tend to become conservative and biased because they seldom mingle with people from all walks of life. Change seems to them unnecessary and threatening; they prefer to do things the old way.

People raised in a city are often competitive and ambitious. They have been engaged in competitions with their peers since an early age: vying with others to enter a better school, scrambling for a better seat on the bus, striving to get a promotion. To survive and get ahead in the generally overcrowded cities, they must be aggressive or at least assertive. Money and fame mean a lot to them. And due to this kind of constant struggle, they are prone to selfishness and snobbishness. They are compelled to look out for their own interest first and then maybe that of others. The disparity in income and position reinforces people's class consciousness. The upper class, that is the rich and powerful, are respected; the lower class are often despised, inwardly at least. Seeing phony beggars on the roadside every day, most people are hardened into indifference.

These generalizations are accurate only to certain degrees. People's character can be attributed to many factors, the environment being only one of them. Our conscious efforts can make the biggest difference. As the saying goes, we are molded by our own hands.

单词注释

individuality [ˌɪndɪˌvɪdʒuːˈæləti] *n.* 个性, 个人的特性

trait [treɪt] *n.* 显著的特点, 特性

optimistic [ˌɒptɪˈmɪstɪk] *adj.* 乐观的

reliance [rɪˈlaɪəns] *n.* 信任, 信心; 依靠

infrastructure [ˌɪnfɪˈstrʌktʃə(r)] *n.* 基础设施

dweller [ˈdweɪlə(r)] *n.* 居住者, 居民

rival [ˈraɪvl] *v.* 竞争, 对抗, 相匹敌

downside [ˈdaʊnsaɪd] *n.* 不利的方面

provincialism [prəˈvɪnʃlɪzəm] *n.* 地方风尚

vie [vaɪ] *v.* 竞争

scramble [ˈskræmbəl] *vi.* 攀缘; 争夺

assertive [əˈsɜːtɪv] *adj.* 断定的; 过分自信的

prone [prəʊn] *adj.* 倾向于

snobbishness [ˈsnɒbɪʃnəs] *n.* 势利

disparity [dɪˈspærəti] *n.* 不一致, 不同, 不等

reinforce [ˌriːɪnˈfɔːs] *vt.* 加强; 增援; 补充

consciousness [ˈkɒnʃənsəs] *n.* 意识, 知觉; 自觉, 觉悟

despise [dɪsˈpaɪz] *vi.* 轻视

inwardly [ˈɪnwədli] *adv.* 在内部地; 思想上, 本质上

phony [ˈfəʊni] *adj.* 假冒的 *n.* 假冒者

indifference [ɪnˈdɪfrəns] *n.* 不关心

generalization [ˌdʒenərəleɪˈzeɪʃn] *n.* 一般化, 概括; 广义性

mold [məʊld] *n.* 模子, 铸型 *vi.* 浇铸, 塑造

ESSAY 92

Many people believe that women make better parents than men and that is why they have greater role in raising children in most societies. Others claim that men are just as good as women at parenting. State your point of view.

Women are thought to be better parents, but nowadays many daughters are closer to their fathers. To me, this is not the result of Electra complex but because males can also excel at parenting.

It must be admitted that women are generally better parents. This has something to do with their disposition. Women are usually caring, gentle and patient. Their special bond with the children often cannot be understood by men. Their better verbal and communication skills also help to endear them to the children, especially when they are young. So it is easy for a mother to outdo her husband at raising children. However, their victory is not always guaranteed.

Men can also be tender and loving. They often entertain deep affection towards their kids though they may not show it in an explicit way. They may seem cold, strict and uncaring, but when they are really understood, they gain kids' love and respect. Unlike a mother's love which is tender and profuse, a father's love is subtle and profound. The time spent between a father and his children may be brief but productive, and often involves some heart-to-heart talk about work, people and life.

In fact, male influence is essential but sometimes lacking because fathers are often busy supporting the family. Kids raised by a single mother often suffer from a lack of confidence. They often feel insecure. The courage and hardiness of a father can nourish similar traits in a child.

Fathers are often not very much involved in raising children because of their work. In fact, they are just as capable of becoming good parents. They can often exert a unique influence on their children.

单词注释

Electra complex 恋父情结

disposition [ˌdɪspəˈzɪʃən] *n.* 气质, 性情

caring [ˈkeərɪŋ] *adj.* 关心的, 有同情心的

verbal [ˈvɜːbəl] *adj.* 口头的

endear [ɪnˈdɪə(r)] *vt.* 使亲密, 使受钟爱

outdo [ˌaʊtˈduː] *v.* 胜过

explicit [ɪksˈplɪsɪt] *adj.* 外在的, 清楚的; 直率的

profuse [prəˈfjuːs] *adj.* 极其丰富的

subtle [ˈsʌtl] *adj.* 微妙的, 不易察觉的

profound [prəˈfaʊnd] *adj.* 深刻的, 意义深远的

confidence [ˈkɒnfɪdəns] *n.* 信心

insecure [ɪnˈsɪkjʊə(r)] *adj.* 无保障的, 不安全的

hardiness [ˈhɑːdɪnəs] *n.* 耐久力; 顽强

nourish [ˈnʌrɪʃ] *vt.* 滋养; 培养

ESSAY 93

There are lots of difficulties for the new students on the first day in a high school or college because they feel lonely. What are the difficulties they may face on the first day? What can the school or college do to solve these problems?

It is always hard to adapt to new environments. Children often have to be cajoled to spend their first day in elementary school. Even for high school or college students, the first day at school can still be a problem. Only a few can pass that day totally undisturbedly.

There is a lot to do on the first day. They must get registered, find their dorms, check out the class schedule and so on. These tasks can be exhausting because there are always queues to stand in. Being unfamiliar with the campus, those freshmen would have trouble finding their way around. Even with the help of parents, most of them take several days just to settle down.

Apart from those physical challenges, there are psychological ones. Loneliness is always experienced during the first few days. Having no friends, those freshmen will actually feel lonely. And this feeling is intensified by their unfamiliarity with the place. Everything seems strange to them. The more optimistic ones would set out to explore a bit, while others keep to themselves and begin to think about their old friends and schools.

Most of them are further troubled by a sense of uncertainty. Any change is likely to bring fear and worry. We are used to the old ways and naturally resent any alteration. Those students don't know if they can get along with their classmates or whether they can do well academically. They long for a better tomorrow but fear it will turn out worse than yesterday.

Those problems are natural but not unavoidable. Something can be done by the school as well as the students. It will make a great difference if the school can simplify the registration procedure and provide better orientation programs. Students can dispel their loneliness and get to know each other if the school can arrange some activities for each class.

单词注释

adapt [ə'dæpt] *vt.* 使适应

cajole [kə'dʒəʊl] *vt.* 以甜言蜜语哄骗

undisturbedly [ˌʌndɪ'stɜːbdli] *adv.* 没受到干扰地, 安静地

registered [ˈredʒɪstəd] *adj.* 已注册的, 已登记的

dorm [dɔːm] *n.* 宿舍(=dormitory)

queue [kjuː] *n.* 行列, 队列; 长队

psychological [ˌsaɪkə'lɒdʒɪkl] *adj.* 心理(上)的

intensify [ɪn'tensɪfaɪ] *vt.* 加强 *vi.* 强化

optimistic [ˌɒptɪ'mɪstɪk] *adj.* 乐观的

resent [rɪ'zent] *v.* 愤恨, 怨恨

alteration [ˌɔːltə'reɪʃən] *n.* 变更, 改变

academically [ˌækə'demɪkli] *adv.* 学术上, 学理上

unavoidable [ˌʌnə'vɔɪdəbl] *adj.* 不可避免的

procedure [prə'siːdʒə(r)] *n.* 程序, 手续

orientation [ˌɔːrɪən'teɪʃn] *n.* 方向, 方位; 定位

dispel [dɪ'spel] *vt.* 驱散, 驱逐, 使消散

ESSAY 94

Some people think that their children's life will be different from their own. What is your opinion?

Things are constantly changing. Our life is no exception. It has been changing since our ancestors first walked the earth, and the pace is accelerating. The last two centuries has brought more changes to our life than all other centuries put together. However, that claim rather depends on what kind of change is being discussed.

Many elements of life remain constant throughout the history. Our children will still be attending school; they will still be working full-time after graduation; they will still be getting married and having kids. Our moral sense and value system will not change much in the near future. The political system is not likely to alter much when our children become adults. In some sense, life will be more or less the same.

However, some form of change is inevitable and often welcomed. The life of the children rarely resembles that of the parents because they often have different professions and place of residence. In China, for example, many people manage to move to the cities from the countryside, thus leading a rather different life from their parents. Besides, the level of education also determines our lifestyle. As a general rule, children are often better educated than their parents.

Apart from these specific reasons for a change in life, there are general ones. Scientific and technological advance will change our life in ways hard to predict now. One hundred years ago, no one could have envisaged the spread of the Internet. Likewise, even the most gifted science fiction writer can only guess what tomorrow will bring. Only change itself is guaranteed.

Life is going to change a lot externally, but internally it will remain pretty much the same. Any attempts to predict the future will be futile. But one thing is certain, that is, the future is in our hands.

单词注释

exception [ɪk'sepʃn] *n.* 除外, 例外
ancestor [ˈænsɪstə] *n.* 祖先, 祖宗
accelerate [æk'seləreɪt] *v.* 加速, 促进, 催化
moral [ˈmɔrəl] *adj.* 道德(上)的, 精神的
inevitable [ɪn'evɪtəbl] *adj.* 不可避免的, 必然的
resemble [rɪ'zembəl] *vt.* 像, 类似
residence [ˈrezɪdəns] *n.* 居住; 住处

envisage [ɪn'vɪzɪdʒ] *v.* 想像, 设想
guarantee [ˌgærən'ti:] *vt.* 保证, 担保
externally [eks'tɜ:nli] *adv.* 外表上, 外形上
internally [ɪn'tɜ:nli] *adv.* 在内; 在中心
predict [prɪ'dɪkt] *v.* 预知, 预言, 预报
futile [ˈfju:təl] *adj.* 无用的, 无效果的

ESSAY 95

Today some people have to work away from their family. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

For most people, sacrifices have to be made in order to do jobs. To earn a living, we force ourselves to stick to dull jobs. To keep our position, we do what is required and go wherever needs to be. It is common for people to leave their families and work elsewhere.

People become more concentrated on their work when they are away from home. Apart from making a few calls to make sure everything is all right, one is not distracted by the day-to-day family concerns. There won't be any kid nagging him to play basketball together or any wife demanding some quality time together. Having no family members to spend time with, one often stays longer at the workplace and gives more thought to his work at hand. Moreover, this kind of separation from one's family often motivates him to excel at work in the hope of ending this separation by getting a promotion or a transfer. The desire to be reunited with one's spouse or kids can be a strong incentive for better job performance.

However, while enjoying better performance at work, those working apart from their family are subject to attacks of loneliness. When the work is done, they often return to their empty apartment alone, with no loved ones to greet or open the door for them. Spending time with friends can only slightly alleviate their nostalgia, which can be trying from time to time. To combat nostalgia, most people turn to work. They put in longer hours and stay at the office on weekends. Gradually, they become workaholic. This, we should note, is rather innocuous compared with other possible consequences of long-term separation. Living in separate places for a stretched period of time is likely to cause family crisis. Without proper management, distance often leads to alienation. This is true for husbands and wives as well as parents and kids. As time goes by, their feelings toward each other gradually fade; they begin turning to someone else for solace.

Whenever possible we should avoid working away from home. For those unfortunate enough to work this way, more attention should be given to maintaining family ties instead of reaching career goals.

单词注释

concentrated ['kɒnsentretɪd] *adj.* 全力以赴的
distracted [dɪs'træktɪd] *adj.* 心烦意乱的
nagging ['næɡɪŋ] *adj.* 唠叨的 *n.* 唠叨
separation [sepə'reɪʃn] *n.* 分离, 分开
reunite ['ri:ju:'naɪt] *v.* (使)再结合
spouse [spauz] *n.* 配偶(指夫或妻)
incentive [ɪn'sentɪv] *n.* 激励

alleviate [ə'li:vɪeɪt] *vt.* 使易于忍受; 减轻
nostalgia [nɒs'tældʒə] *n.* 思乡, 乡愁
workaholic [,wɜ:kə'hɒlɪk] *n.* 工作狂, 工作迷
innocuous [ɪ'nɒkjʊəs] *adj.* 无害的, 无伤大雅的
stretch [streɪtʃ] *v.* 延续; 伸长
alienation [,eɪliə'neɪʃn] *n.* 疏远
solace ['sɒləs] *n.* 安慰, 慰藉

ESSAY 96

Foods are produced more cheaply today by using improved fertilizers and machinery. However, some of the methods used in agriculture are dangerous to human health and local communities. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

The way we produce and preserve food is becoming increasingly efficient. In developed countries, only two percent of the population is engaged in agriculture, yet they are able to feed the entire nation. However, this kind of technology-intensive agriculture also has its side effects.

The extensive use of pesticides and other chemicals poses alarming health threats. Needless to say, pesticides are poisons strong enough to kill pests but supposedly safe enough to be swallowed by men. But, it is not actually the case. Even after we banned the use of evidently noxious chemicals such as DDT, those commonly used pesticides still send thousands of people to hospitals each year. There is no such a thing as an edible pesticide. That is why we should always wash before eating any fresh vegetable or fruit. However, not all pesticides are soluble to water. So, good luck!

Other more insidious effects are emerging recently. Scientists have established the correlation between the declined fertility rate and the use of fertilizer. It turns out that fertilizer and fodder contain certain hormones that are largely responsible for the increased infertility rate among men. In addition, those hormones also lead to precocity. The potential health threats posed by some novel food technologies such as genetically engineered food are hard to determine.

Large-scale farming is becoming unsustainable because it is not energy efficient and damages the environment. Farm machines consume huge amount of gasoline or diesel each year. This accelerates the depletion of unrenovable energy sources. Furthermore, like other vehicles, farm machines cause pollution. The rivers, forests and air are being polluted by the fuel-burning machines on farms.

As far as food is concerned, quantity should not be the only thing we aim at. Sadly, we are producing ever larger amount of junk food each year. Modern faming methods need to be closely examined and improved because our health is at stake here.

单词注释

- preserve [prɪ'zɜ:v] *vt.* 保存, 保持
- intensive [ɪn'tensɪv] *adj.* 密集的
- extensive [ɪks'tensɪv] *adj.* 广大的, 广泛的
- pesticide ['pestɪsaɪd] *n.* 杀虫剂
- supposedly [sə'pəʊzɪdli] *adv.* 据说, 据传
- swallow ['swɒləʊ] *vi.* 咽 *vi.* 吞下, 咽下
- noxious ['nɒksjəs] *adj.* 有害的
- edible ['edɪbl] *adj.* 可食用的
- soluble ['sɒljəbl] *adj.* 可溶的, 可溶解的
- insidious [ɪn'sɪdiəs] *adj.* 潜在的, 隐状的
- correlation [ˌkɒrə'leɪʃn] *n.* 相互关系, 相关(性)
- fertility [fə'tɪləti] *n.* 可生育性
- fertilizer ['fɜ:təlaɪzə(r)] *n.* 肥料
- fodder ['fɒdə] *n.* 饲料, 草料
- hormone ['hɔ:məʊn] *n.* 荷尔蒙, 激素
- infertility [ˌɪnfə'tɪləti] *n.* 不肥沃; 不育
- precocity [prɪ'kɒsɪti] *n.* 早熟, 早成
- novel ['nɒvəl] *adj.* 新奇的
- unsustainable [ˌʌnsə'steɪnəbl] *adj.* 不能持续的, 无法维持的
- diesel ['di:zl] *n.* 柴油
- depletion [dɪ'pli:ʃn] *n.* 损耗
- unrenovable [ˌʌnrɪ'nju:əbl] *adj.* 不可更新的
- junk [dʒʌŋk] *n.* 垃圾

ESSAY 97

Many old buildings are protected by law because they are part of a nation's history. However, some people think they should be knocked down to make way for new ones because people need houses and offices. How important is it to maintain old buildings? Should history stand in the way of progress?

For countries with a long history there is always some conflict between the new and the old. In cities in particular, buildings are constantly torn down and replaced with higher ones so as to accommodate the ever increasing population. Unfortunately, many historic buildings become victims of these development projects.

Demolishing old buildings often leads to irreparable loss. Architecture from the past is often linked with certain historic events, the description of which may sometimes be found in history books. But our understanding of such episodes would be greatly improved by visiting the tangible remnants from the past. Buildings are part of the legacy bestowed by our ancestors to whom we show our respect by preserving their constructions. Once torn down, those legacies are gone for ever.

Besides, most ancient buildings are of great artistic and aesthetic value. The sheer fact that they have stood the vicissitudes of centuries says something about its building technique. Indeed, the construction method of the Pyramid and the Great Wall has baffled modern architects. Many of the art works inside those buildings fill people with wonder and attract tourists from around the globe. The grandeur of those buildings is still unsurpassed today.

Actually, the old and the new need not be in mortal conflict. They can co-exist in harmony. Of course, those buildings without historic or artistic value should be torn down. The rest may need some restoration to rule out safety problems. The world would be a duller place if there were only modern buildings, which more or less resemble one another.

单词注释

- accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] *vt.* 为...提供住处
- demolish [dɪ'mɒlɪʃ] *vt.* 毁坏, 拆毁
- irreparable [ɪ'repərəbl] *adj.* 不能挽回的
- episode [ˈepɪsəʊd] *n.* 一段情节; 一个事件
- tangible [ˈtændʒəbl] *adj.* 切实的; 可见的
- remnant [ˈremnənt] *n.* 残余
- legacy [ˈlegəsi] *n.* 遗赠(物), 遗产
- bestow [brɪ'stəʊ] *vt.* 给予; 安放
- aesthetic [i:s'θetɪk] *adj.* 美学的, 审美的
- sheer [ʃɪə(r)] *adj.* 全然的, 纯粹的
- vicissitude [vɪ'sɪsɪtju:d] *n.* 兴衰; 枯荣; 变迁
- baffle [ˈbæfl] *vt.* 困惑; 为难
- architect [ˈɑ:kɪtekt] *n.* 建筑师
- grandeur [ˈgrændʒə] *n.* 庄严, 伟大
- unsurpassed [ˌʌnsə'pɑ:st] *adj.* 无比的, 卓越的
- mortal [ˈmɔ:tl] *adj.* 必死的; 极端的
- harmony [ˈhɑ:məni] *n.* 协调, 融洽
- restoration [ˈrestə'reɪʃn] *n.* 修整, 修复
- resemble [rɪ'zembəl] *vt.* 像, 类似

ESSAY 98

The mass media, including television, radio and newspapers, have great influence in shaping people's ideas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

Many of us like to think ourselves wise and unbiased because we are not gullible and view the world objectively. In fact, even for avid readers of books, 90 percent of their daily information comes from the mass media. The mass media has become the sole source of information for most people. No wonder we lack independent thinking.

Our reliance on the mass media is, to some degree, unavoidable. It is impossible for us to always acquire first-hand knowledge. In fact, there is often no such need. Knowledge is handed down from one generation to another. It is accumulative. This makes science possible. In fact our whole civilization is based on the cooperation and coordination of individuals who take care of their respective work. Thus, people in the mass media industry are entrusted by the public to provide and disseminate information. They are like an extension of our eyes, ears and hands.

The power of the media is more evident in democratic countries. In a country where freedom of speech and reporting is guaranteed, the mass media is often looked upon favorably. By and large, it plays a major role in promoting good causes and exposing wrongdoings of all sorts. Any decent organization, including the government, have to consider the public fallout before planning anything distasteful. Ideally, the mass media acts as a monitoring device, ready to expose any ugly business. Scandals such as the Watergate scandal would have been covered up without effective independent journalism. In the same way, momentum could be gathered for worthy undertakings.

Thanks to technological development, the mass media is becoming more convincing than ever. One may doubt something if he only reads it in the newspaper—the author may write whatever he likes, but to see it on TV leaves little room for doubting. There will be interviews with relevant people, a neighbor, a relative or a police officer, corroborating each other's statement. Then again, all major news agencies run similar stories. The audience have no reason to doubt the authenticity. Thus, we form our 'informed' opinion based on what we gather from media reports.

As I said before, our opinions have to be based on facts, which are always second-hand information. The mass media is the biggest information provider for most people. For better or worse, our opinion is going to be shaped by the mass media.

单词注释

unbiased [ˌʌn 'bi:əst] *adj.* 不带偏见的

gullible ['gʌləbl] *adj.* 轻易相信他人的

avid ['ævɪd] *adj.* 热衷的, 酷爱的

reliance [rɪ 'laɪəns] *n.* 依赖

accumulative [ə 'kju:mjələtɪv] *adj.* 积累的

respective [rɪ 'spektɪv] *adj.* 各自的

disseminate [dɪ 'semɪneɪt] *v.* 传播

decent ['di:snt] *adj.* 体面的

fallout ['fɔ:laut] *n.* 影响, 后果

authenticity [ˌɔ:θen 'tɪsəti] *n.* 真实性

ESSAY 99

Surveillance cameras are now installed in many shops and supermarkets to prevent shoplifting. But many people are against this because they think it is a disregard of privacy. What are your views about this?

Troubled by shoplifting and various forms of sabotage, shop owners around the world are taking measures to guard their stores. Security guards are posted at entrances and exits; people are assigned to monitor surveillance cameras. But the omnipresence of those cameras is under growing criticism—it is seen as an intrusion upon one's privacy.

It is now hard to do things unobserved. Wherever you go, there is always some possibility that you are being watched and even recorded. It is quite embarrassing to be caught sneezing on camera for instance. And many people feel uneasy before a camera, let alone a hidden one. The fact that our every move is being monitored makes people nervous. What we do and how we act should be our own business so long as they are legal. Unsolicited filming is a violation of our privacy.

However, that claim is one-sided. If possible, it would be better not to have electronic surveillance. But as things now stand, it has become a necessary nuisance. It is ineffective and costly to use human surveillance, which was used up till now and commonly accepted. No one would criticize the watchful eyes of a shop assistant or grandly assert their right not to be monitored. Yet most people cannot tolerate video cameras. In fact, there is no justification for that. How can we deny the shop owners' right to watch the customers on their premises? They are entitled to protect their properties and should be allowed to any lawful means to do so.

The downside of video surveillance is often negligible. What is embarrassing in a social context remains so with or without overhead cameras. People should behave themselves in public places such as supermarkets. It is not the right place to have an intimate moment with your lover not because there are cameras but because it is a public place. Actually, aside from its role in combating crimes, video surveillance often does service to ordinary citizens. Many a time was a distraught customer given his lost keys because the whole thing was caught by the camera. And many lives were saved when some elderly people were struck by heart attacks and would have been left unattended to, had it not been for the sweeping gaze of a surveillance camera.

As I see it, video surveillance is another tool against crime and capable of being misused. But those cameras are necessary. By and large, they work against the criminals rather than the public.

单词注释

surveillance [sɜ: 'veɪləns] *n.* 监控

shoplifting ['ʃɒplɪftɪŋ] *n.* 冒充顾客在店里偷窃

sabotage ['sæbətɑ:ʒ] *v.* 蓄意破坏

assign [ə 'saɪn] *v.* 指派, 分派

omnipresence ['ɒmni 'prezəns] *n.* 无处不在

unsolicited [,ʌnsə 'lɪsɪtɪd] *adj.* 不请自来的

nuisance ['nju:snəs] *n.* 让人讨厌的东西

premises ['premɪsɪz] *n.* 经营场所

intimate ['ɪntɪmət] *adj.* 亲密的

distraught [dɪ 'strɔ:t] *adj.* 心急如焚的

ESSAY 100

It is sometimes said that borrowing money from a friend can harm or damage the friendship. Do you agree? Why or why not? Use specific reasons to explain your view.

There is an old Chinese saying to the effect that an accurate account of debts should always be kept even among brothers. In China at least, borrowing money has become a taboo subject: people steer clear of it whenever possible because one often gets humiliated by failing to borrow the money. Loaning money is becoming rare even among cronies.

Personally, I cannot accept the claim that one risks his friendship if he borrows money from his friends. The friends discussed here refer to real friends. By nature, friends are supposed to be there for you and help each other out. The assistance rendered to a friend can be as small as a gentle nudge or as great as saving one's life. All is done unconditionally and spontaneously. We don't object to borrowing our friends' car, yet somehow we treat money differently. In fact, there is no justification for this kind of special treatment. Money is just another favor your real friends are to grant you. They will lend you the money if they can reasonably do so, otherwise they will say sorry. There are no hard feelings.

If anything, this only serves to strengthen their friendship. Even real friends are sometimes not convinced of the authenticity of their friendship. They don't know how good a friend the other person is because there is never a chance to test their friendship. A friend in need is a friend indeed. Those who lend and repay you money are those to be trusted because money can bring out the best and worst in most people. I once lend RMB 30 yuan to a college classmate but was told by others that I wouldn't get the money back because he was notorious for not paying back. However, I thought he was an honest man by heart and trusted him. Sure enough, I got my money back and we became friends.

There are friends who fall out over disputes about money. However, can we call them real friends? It is over money matters that trust and friendship are built and reciprocated.

单词注释

to the effect that 大意是

taboo [tə'bu:] *n.* 禁忌

steer clear of 闪避

humiliate [hju:'mli:ɪt] *v.* 羞辱

crony ['krəʊni] 好友, 密友

spontaneous [spɒn'teɪniəs] *adj.* 自发的

somehow ['sʌmhaʊ] *adv.* 不知何故

justification [,dʒʌstɪfɪ 'keɪʃn] *n.* 理由, 辩护

if anything 如果有什么的话

notorious [nəʊ 'tɔ:riəs] *adj.* 恶名昭著的

dispute [dɪs 'pju:t] *n.* 争论, 争吵

reciprocate [rɪ 'sɪprəkeɪt] *v.* 回应

ESSAY 101

If a five-year old commits a crime, should his/her parents take the responsibility and how should the parents be punished? What should be the age of a child when parents no longer take the responsibility for his or her behavior?

I almost didn't believe it when I was told one wouldn't be prosecuted if he/she broke the law because he/she was only ten years old. Frankly speaking, I was a little exhilarated because I had just had a fight with a classmate and would very much like to do him some damage. But I finally decided against this because it was morally wrong and my parents would be punished on my behalf. It is a universal practice that the parents take the blow when their underage children commit crimes.

As guardians of their children, the parents should be responsible for their children's behavior. Children below a certain age often rely on their parents to distinguish between the right and wrong. They are significantly influenced by their parents and often imitate them. Apart from educating their children, the parents are also responsible for keeping the kids from bad company, for counseling and helping their children at the first sign of trouble to prevent any rash actions taken by their kids. The parents' failure to prevent kids from breaking the law constitutes negligence in itself and should therefore incur punishment. If parents were not responsible for their children's wrongdoing, some criminally inclined parents may exploit this and force their kids to commit crimes on their behalf, availing themselves of kids' immunity from prosecution.

It is hard to determine the proper punishment for the parents. They are not the ones who are actually breaking the law. They are only partially responsible for what happened. Classmates, teachers, friends, and the society at large all contribute something to the going astray of those juvenile delinquents. The parents have jobs to do and cannot watch the kids 24 hours a day. Kids may turn criminals despite all the teaching they get from their parents; the reasons are many-fold. Parents should not be singled out to assume full responsibility. Hence, each case should be carefully examined before proper punishment can be decided upon.

It is actually hard to decide when a person can be seen as entirely independent. The age may be different for each individual. The commonly accepted age 18 probably applies to most people. It is an age when we are fully developed intellectually, mentally and hopefully, psychologically. We are supposed to be sensible enough to consider the consequences of our own behavior. But as I said, individuality should be taken into account when making this kind of judgment.

单词注释

- ♦ prosecute [ˈprɒsɪkjʊ:t] v. 起诉
- ♦ exhilarated [ɪgˈzɪləreɪtɪd] adj. 欣喜的
- ♦ underage adj. 未达到法定年龄的
- ♦ distinguish [dɪsˈtɪŋɡwɪʃ] v. 区分
- ♦ imitate [ˈɪmɪteɪt] v. 模仿
- ♦ negligence [ˈneglɪdʒəns] n. 失职, 疏忽
- ♦ avail [əˈveɪl] v. 利用

- astray [əˈtreɪ] adv. 误入歧途
- assume [əˈsjʊ:m] v. 承担
- ♦ intellectual [ˌɪntəˈlektʃuəl] adj. 智力的
- ♦ psychologically [ˌsaɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkli] adv. 心理上
- ♦ sensible [ˈsensəbl] adj. 明智的
- ♦ consequence [ˈkɒnsɪkwəns] n. 后果

ESSAY 102

Participating in a sport is as important for psychological health and social development as it is for physical conditions. What is your opinion?

A stroll around any park will bring you face to face with people doing exercises in early mornings. The young as well as the old are becoming more health-conscious and are spending more time in gyms after work. Doing sports is certainly beneficial in many ways.

The most obvious is the physical benefit. Sports make us fitter, quicker and stronger. Physical exertion is conducive to our health. It has been proven scientifically that regular exercise is a weapon against illness and aging. Indeed, many maladies are the results of lack of physical exercise.

The benefits do not end there. Sport is a character builder. Sport invariably involves some exertion and discomfort. It trains our willpower. To win a game we have to be determined and perseverant. To outdo others or ourselves, we have to push our limits and conquer all difficulties. We come to know that there is always room for improvement. Then, failures are also common in sport. We learn to adjust to new conditions, to assess our weaknesses and to gather strength from our defeats. The fast-moving nature of most sport also helps us to become quick-witted and decisive.

By participating in team sport, we learn to work with others. In sport fields, individual ambition takes second place to team objective. Every team member is working towards a common goal. To achieve this goal, cooperation and coordination are essential. Members must work as a team and achieve the maximum synergy even if that means someone has to make certain sacrifices. For instance, a cyclist may take the leading position for half of the game and then drop out so as to ensure the victory of his teammate.

Like art, sport is a good way to train ourselves psychologically as well as physically. I myself have often experienced the uplifting effects of sport.

单词注释

- stroll [strɔ:l] *n.* 漫步
- conducive [kən'dju:sɪv] *adj.* 有益于…的
- malady ['mælədi] *n.* 疾病
- perseverant [,pɜ:sɪ 'vɪərənt] *adj.* 顽强的

- assess [ə'ses] *v.* 衡量, 评价
- ambition [æm 'bɪʃn] *n.* 野心
- coordination [kəʊ,ɔ:di 'neɪʃn] *n.* 协调, 配合
- uplifting [,ʌp 'lɪftɪŋ] *adj.* 振奋的

ESSAY 103

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages. Give reasons for your answer.

Nuclear technology is a two-edged weapon. Millions have benefited from nuclear energy. However, the world has seen its destructive power when two atomic bombs were detonated on the Japanese soil. Luckily for us, no further nuclear bombs have exploded in populated areas so far.

Nuclear weapon is bound to cut us sooner or later. Nuclear deterrent may seem effective but is ultimately hazardous. More than twenty countries now possess nuclear weapons and only a few of them have signed treaties that promise never to use nuclear weapons unless under nuclear attack. What if those countries get into wars against each other? Will they refrain from using nuclear bombs when conventional weapons fail to bring victory? There is no guarantee! Moreover, what if one of those bombs got into the hands of terrorists or fanatics? Would they hesitate to use the bomb when their demands are not met? Nuclear weapon is like a time bomb, which is bound to set off unless dismantled.

By its very nature, nuclear weapon will cause disasters. It is against other humans, not aliens from outer space nor wild animals on earth that nuclear weapons are designed. They are capable of wiping out an entire city or nation. No one should be entrusted with such great power because power is apt to be abused. We are always tempted to use the power we have for our own purposes. One way or another, we all give in to that temptation. God wields absolute power and he wiped out the entire mankind save the Noah's Ark. The stakes are too high here to allow even one mistake.

Nuclear energy is entirely another matter. Peaceful usage of nuclear technology means using the technology for the good of mankind not against it. There are, of course, problems at this stage such as waste disposal and safety problems. But with time, all those technical problems can be solved.

Technology itself is amoral. It can either serve or cut us. How we use it depends on ourselves. We need to guard ourselves from the urge to abuse excessive power because more often than not we are our own biggest enemy.

单词注释

- ◆ two-edged *adj.* 双刃的
- ◆ atomic [ə'tɒmɪk] *adj.* 原子的, 原子能的
- ◆ detonate [ˈdetəneɪt] *v.* 引爆
- ◆ deterrent [dɪ'tɜːrənt] *n.* 威慑
- ◆ ultimately [ˌʌltɪmətli] *adv.* 根本上, 基本上
- ◆ hazardous [ˈhæzədəs] *adj.* 危险的
- ◆ treaty [ˈtriːti] *n.* 条约
- ◆ dismantle [dɪs'mæntl] *v.* 拆除
- ◆ alien [ˈeɪliən] *n.* 外星人
- ◆ apt [æpt] *adj.* 倾向于…的
- ◆ temptation [temp'teɪʃn] *n.* 诱惑
- ◆ wield [wɪːld] *v.* 掌握, 拥有; 行使
- ◆ amoral [ˌeɪ'mɔrəl] *adj.* 不分是非的

ESSAY 104

Are famous people treated unfairly by the media? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives?

Press freedom allows journalists to report nearly everything. But nothing receives more press coverage than the famous: movie stars, top athletes, models and so on. This kind of inordinate attention intrudes upon their private lives and should be curbed.

People, including celebrities, have the right to keep their private life private, which should be respected by nosy reporters. It is their right not to tell you what kind of food they are eating or what books they are reading. They have the right to 'remain silent'. Who they are dating is their own business and they can choose whether or not to divulge that information. When they are not inclined to be interviewed or photoed, they should be left alone. The tragic death of Princess Diana reveals once again how much damage those nosy paparazzi can cause. There are many famous people being molested by incessant media attention.

The famous are often the victims of sensationalism and tabloid journalism. They are being used to attract more audience and to boost the sales. The stories about celebrities may have no newsworthiness in an objective sense but usually cater to popular tastes. People are naturally curious and particularly love to read about and see the rich and the famous. They like to find in them what is lacking in their own ordinary lives. They want to experience some vicarious pleasure and excitement of their trendy life. The intrusion upon the privacy of the rich is profit-driven on the side of mass media and a touch of voyeurism on the side of common readers.

There are, however, some people who do seek the limelight. They pride themselves on the amount of attention they get and would even create some scandals to get on the headlines. There is no need to protect their privacy. But for the vast majority, the famous or the common, privacy should not be intruded upon.

单词注释

- ◆ inordinate [ɪn 'ɔːdɪnət] *adj.* 过量的
- ◆ intrude [ɪn 'truːd] *v.* 侵犯
- ◆ divulge [dɪ 'vʌldʒ] *v.* 透露
- ◆ paparazzi [ˌpæpə 'rætsɪ] *n.* 狗仔队
- ◆ incessant [ɪn 'sesnt] *adj.* 不断的
- ◆ sensationalism [sen 'seɪʃənəlɪzəm] *n.* 耸人听闻的手法, 哗众取宠
- ◆ tabloid [ˈtæblɔɪd] *n.* 小报
- ◆ vicarious [vɪ 'keəriəs] *adj.* 间接受到的
- ◆ trendy [ˈtrendi] *adj.* 流行的
- ◆ voyeurism [vɔɪə 'zɔɪzəm] *n.* 窥探癖
- ◆ limelight [ˈlaɪmlaɪt] *n.* 公众焦点
- ◆ scandal [ˈskændl] *n.* 丑闻

ESSAY 105

Some countries allow women to join the armed forces, while some others think that armed forces such as navy or army don't suit women. Do you agree or disagree?

In ancient times, women were thought to bring bad luck to the military and were not allowed anywhere near the army. Nowadays a small number of women work in organizations affiliated to the armed forces, but mainly involved in the logistics or other civilian work. As far as I am concerned, the army or navy is not suited for the fair sex.

A life in the army is physically demanding for a woman. Indeed, many men can hardly cope with the vigorous training and drilling. It is true that we have female athletes who undergo intensive training daily, but what is required in the army goes against women's nature. Being a soldier, you must learn how to kill other people. Most women would readily learn how to defend themselves but would balk when it comes to killing. Many are disturbed by the sight of blood and unable to handle a gun or dagger. Only under extreme circumstances would they find the nerve to pull the trigger. Only very few women can make good soldiers.

The psychological effects of a military career could be devastating. Combating experience is traumatic for most people. Many veterans suffer from post-war syndrome. The bloodiness and cruelty of war often haunts them for the rest of their lives despite their efforts to put the past behind. Even in times of peace, soldiers are trained for war. Daily exposure to the violence and harshness, which is routine in the army, may cause damage to their mental health.

War and fighting may be mankind's unavoidable folly. By and large, men are its executioners and victims. It is sad enough that men are being exposed to the worst in mankind: cruelty, violence, wickedness and so on. Let's spare our fair sex, as much as possible, the evil of the world. We must not all become desensitized and dehumanized. Some of us need to remain caring and gentle. The female is a balancing factor toward the good. Our children need to have at least one parent who is loving and considerate.

单词注释

- ◆ affiliated [ə'fɪliətɪd] *adj.* 附属的
- ◆ logistics [lɒ'dʒɪstɪks] *n.* 后勤
- ◆ fair sex 女性
- ◆ balk [bɔ:k] *v.* 畏缩
- ◆ nerve [nɜ:v] *n.* 勇气
- ◆ trigger ['trɪgə] *n.* 扳机
- ◆ psychological [ˌsaɪkə'lɒdʒɪkəl] *adj.* 心理的
- ◆ devastating [ˌdevəsteɪtɪŋ] *adj.* 破坏性的
- ◆ combat [ˈkɒmbæt] *v.* 战斗, 搏斗, 抗击
- ◆ traumatic [trɔ:'mætɪk] *adj.* 创伤的, 痛苦的
- ◆ veteran [ˈvetərən] *n.* 老兵, 退伍军人
- ◆ syndrome [ˈsɪndrəʊm] *n.* 症状
- ◆ bloodiness [ˈblʌdnɪs] *n.* 残酷, 血腥
- ◆ cruelty [ˈkru:əlti] *n.* 残忍, 残酷
- ◆ haunt [hɔ:nt] *v.* 时常出现, 萦绕
- ◆ harshness [ˈhɑ:ʃnɪs] *n.* 粗糙的事物
- ◆ folly [ˈfɒli] *n.* 愚蠢行为
- ◆ executioner [ˌɛksɪ'kju:ʃənə] *n.* 死刑执行人, 刽子手
- ◆ wickedness [ˈwɪkɪdnɪs] *n.* 邪恶, 不道德
- ◆ desensitize [ˌdi:'sensɪtaɪz] *v.* 变得不敏感
- ◆ dehumanize [di:'hju:mənaɪz] *v.* 使失去人性

ESSAY 106

Many people think it's wrong to lock animals up in zoos because it is cruel and serves little purpose. But others think that the animals in zoos can bring happiness to people, especially the kids. What is your opinion?

It is now hard to find a city without a zoo. It is the place that you bring your kids to on weekends. The animals in zoos always appeal to people of all ages. But I regard zoos as a form of imprisonment for our fellow creatures.

Some might argue the life in a zoo is a secured and leisurely one: they are well protected and given enough to eat. What else could the animals want? Freedom! We are denying those creatures freedom, which we hold dearest to our heart. 'Give me liberty or give me death,' said Patrick Henry before the American Civil War. To be caged and fed is not what animals want but what is convenient for us. Animals long for their natural way of life even if that means to be eaten by their predators. To deprive them of that is cruelty on our part.

Besides, the caged animals in zoos are not what they really are. They look like wild animals but act like tamed ones. They have lost much of their instincts because they are not allowed to roam the land, to prey for food or to fend for themselves. They are removed from their natural habitats to man-made domiciles. A zoo is not a place where you can get a real glimpse of wild animals.

To put animals in zoos is another reflection of our wrongful attitude towards nature. We have no respect for nature, which is sacrificed and altered to our advantage. We cut down trees for timber and slaughter animals for food. When exploiting nature, we give no thought to its balance, the damage of which poses potential threat to our life. Global warming is a case in point. We need to curb our urge to do things our way and start to live in harmony with our fellow creature.

If we really want to see wild animals, we should go to them instead of imprisoning them. In fact, in some national parks animals do freely roam the land and people get a chance to see what they are really like.

单词注释

- appeal [ə'pi:l] *v.* 吸引
- imprisonment [im'prizənmənt] *n.* 关押
- secured [sɪ'kjʊəd] *adj.* 安全的
- liberty [lɪ'bəti] *n.* 自由
- cage [keɪdʒ] *vt.* 关入笼中; 放到笼里
- predator [ˈpredətə] *n.* 掠夺者; 食肉动物
- deprive [dɪ'praɪv] *v.* 剥夺
- cruelty [ˈkru:əlti] *n.* 残忍, 残酷
- tame [teɪm] *vt.* 驯养; 驯服
- instinct [ˈɪnstɪŋkt] *n.* 本能
- roam [rəʊm] *v.* 奔驰
- prey [preɪ] *v.* 捕猎
- fend for oneself 照顾自己
- habitat [ˈhæbrɪtæt] *n.* 栖息地
- domicile [ˈdɒmɪsaɪl] *n.* 住所, 住宅
- glimpse [glɪmps] *n.* 一瞥, 一看
- alter [ˈɔ:lteɪ] *v.* 改变
- timber [ˈtɪmbə(r)] *n.* 木材
- slaughter [ˈslɔ:tə] *v.* 屠宰; 残杀
- curb [kɜ:b] *v.* 抑制

ESSAY 107

Nowadays doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients but concentrate more on all patients' health, no matter how rich they are. Give your view.

Doctors in China often envy the high income enjoyed by physicians in the west. In fact, qualified doctors are often amply rewarded financially. With the national medical bill increasing three folds in the past ten years, they have every chance to get really rich. But, money should never be their priority.

Being a doctor should not be merely a job but a sacred calling. Saving lives and curing patients should be doctors' duty and privilege because they are trained and entrusted to do so and are respected for doing so. Doctors are in a unique position to alleviate human sufferings. They are rewarded not only financially for doing this; they feel valued and appreciated when they see the smiling faces of cured patients and their families. Money cannot buy this kind of peace of mind. Indeed, money earned from treating rich patients while their destitute counterparts are denied medical treatment would always haunt doctors' conscience.

If money becomes their main objective, dire consequence will ensue. Professional ethics will be discarded in the pursuit of money. All too often we have seen risky but lucrative operations performed by unscrupulous doctors in order to pocket the fee. Unnecessary tests are often carried out because doctors who prescribe those test get part of the fee. In China, some doctors receive kickback from pharmaceutical companies for prescribing their medicines, leaving patients with exorbitant medical bills. These doctors are not only money-oriented but also law breakers. Of course, they are not representative of doctors in general. But if financial rewards become the sole objective of all doctors, similar practice will become rampant in the medical industry. Standards and services will be sacrificed for higher profits. Doctors will turn their attention to making money instead of honing their skills and doing research.

Greed for money often robs people of their humanity. Ample examples can be found in that respect. Who can guarantee that no deadly virus would be intentionally created by some rogue doctors so as to sell his anti-virus serum? Patients' well-being always should be the paramount consideration for the doctors.

单词注释

- plastic surgery 整形手术
- qualified ['kwɒlɪfɪd] *adj.* 合格的
- priority [praɪ 'ɒrɪtɪ] *n.* 优先权
- sacred ['seɪkrɪd] *adj.* 神圣的
- unique [ju 'ni:k] *adj.* 独特的
- alleviate [ə 'lɪvɪəɪt] *v.* 减少
- haunt [haʊnt] *v.* 困扰
- dire ['daɪə(r)] *adj.* 严重的
- ensue [ɪn 'sju:] *vi.* 跟着发生
- lucrative ['lu:kreɪtɪv] *adj.* 获利多的
- unscrupulous [ʌn 'skru:pjələs] *adj.* 无道德的
- prescribe [prɪ 'skraɪb] *v.* 开药
- kickback ['kɪkbæk] *n.* 回扣, 酬金
- pharmaceutical [,fɑ:mə 'su:tɪkl] *adj.* 制药的
- exorbitant [ɪg 'zɔ:bitənt] *adj.* 过高的, 昂贵的
- rampant ['ræmpənt] *adj.* 泛滥的
- hone [həʊn] *v.* 磨炼, 打造; 使完美
- rogue [rəʊg] *n.* 流氓, 无赖
- serum ['sɪərəm] *n.* 浆液
- paramount ['pærəmaʊnt] *adj.* 至高无上的

ESSAY 108

Should criminals be punished with lengthy jail terms or re-educated and rehabilitated, using community service programs for instance, before being reintroduced to society?

Crime is on the rise in most countries. No country is happily free of it. Laws are made to define criminal acts and determine proper punishment. Different crimes deserve different penalties, ranging from a fine to death penalty. But by and large, we should aim at reintroducing those inmates to the society upon release.

We need to make sure that criminals no longer pose threat to the society. Although there is no guarantee what an individual will do when he is out of prison, there are ways to minimize the risk. Death penalty would seem the safest way to protect the public, but it is cruel and should be the last resort. Life imprisonment should be meted out to those incorrigible felons unlikely to forgo criminal acts. But for the majority of the convicts, jail time is not the best option.

Lengthy time behind bars is not the best way to ensure public safety because most of the criminals will be released one day or another. Our goal to punish wrongdoers is not to seek revenge, which the victims' families and friends would certainly like, but to prevent further damage. There is no real revenge in the world; what is done cannot be undone; the perished loved one is gone forever whatever we do to the killer. Revenge is an emotional approach, not a sensible one. To be truly noble you must 'love thy enemy'. We need to do something to prevent similar tragedies from occurring. And re-education is our best bet.

We only increase criminals' bitterness and criminal inclination by locking them up or maltreating them. Most inmates can be re-educated through the right approach. By showing them the damages they have caused, the forgiveness from the victims and a totally different life they otherwise could have lead, many would repent their past. After all, given the alternative, no one would voluntarily seek a life of crime. Whenever possible they should be given a chance. To err is human; to forgive divine. They may once again become law-abiding citizens.

Of course, it is never easy to transform a fallen soul. It might be easier to just lock them up. But it is in our society's interest to re-educate the criminals.

单词注释

criminal [ˈkrɪmɪnəl] *n.* 罪犯

lengthy [ˈleŋθi] *adj.* 漫长的

jail term 服刑期

rehabilitate [ˌrɪːəˈbɪlɪteɪt] *v.* 使(身体)康复, 使复原

deserve [dɪˈzɜːv] *v.* 应得

inmate [ˈɪnmeɪt] *n.* 犯人

pose [pəʊz] *v.* 构成

minimize [ˈmɪnɪmaɪz] *v.* 最小化

resort [rɪˈzɔːt] *n.* 凭借; 手段

imprisonment [ɪmˈprɪzənmənt] *n.* 关押

mete out 给予

incorrigible [ɪnˈkɒrɪdʒəbl] *adj.* 无可救药的, 屡教不改的

felon [ˈfelən] *n.* 重犯

convict [ˈkɒnvɪkt] *n.* 罪犯

revenge [rɪˈvendʒ] *v.* 报复

bitterness [ˈbɪtənɪs] *n.* 苦味; 辛酸, 苦难

inclination [ˌɪnklɪˈneɪʃən] *n.* 倾向, 爱好

maltreat [ˌmælˈtri:t] *vt.* 虐待

repent [rɪˈpent] *v.* 忏悔

err [ɜː(r)] *vi.* 犯错, 做错

divine [dɪˈvaɪn] *adj.* 神的, 神圣的

ESSAY 109

Many schools demand that the students should wear uniform. Some people think that such a practice undermines students' personality and individuality. What do you think?

Most schools in China mandate the wearing of uniforms, which are seen as a symbol of the schools. I started wearing them when I was in the fifth grade and enjoyed the experience.

Students are in no danger of losing their individuality by wearing uniforms. The kind of clothes we wear is only a slight indication of our personality, which is largely revealed by the way we speak and act. Our character is not likely to be affected by what we wear. Uniform is only a part of our external appearance. You can have quite different experience with similarly uniformed sales girls: one rude; the other patient. No matter what we wear, we will remain different from each other because each of us is unique.

Uniform gives the students a sense of community. All sorts of people wear uniforms: the police, the doctors, shop assistants, etc. It tells others and themselves who they are. Having others in similar attire makes it easy for us to fit in. Due to their age, students in particular feel the need to identify a community. They are afraid of being left alone. Wearing the same uniform is at least one thing in common they have with their peers.

Besides, students don't have to decide what is proper for school if they all wear uniforms. This saves them a lot of time and trouble. And students won't engage in some vain and vicious competition about who has got the best clothing. Moreover, uniform is especially beneficial to those underprivileged families with limited means. Kids from those families will not be jeered at for wearing inferior clothes.

Uniform acts as an equalizer, contributing to the equality among students. It also gives them a sense of identity. So it is worth the students' while to forgo their preference for certain clothes and put on a uniform.

单词注释

undermine [ˌʌndə'maɪn] *v.* 破坏

mandate [ˈmændɪt] *v.* 要求

individuality [ˌɪndɪˌvɪdʒu'æləti] *n.* 个性

slight [slaɪt] *adj.* 轻微的

indication [ˌɪndɪ'keɪʃn] *n.* 显示

attire [ə'taɪə(r)] *n.* 衣服

vicious [ˈvɪʃəs] *adj.* 恶的, 不道德的

underprivileged [ˌʌndə'prɪvələdʒd] *adj.* 穷困的, 下层社会的

jeer [dʒɪə(r)] *v.* 嘲弄, 戏弄

inferior [ɪn'fɪəriə(r)] *adj.* 低级的

equalizer [ˈi:kwəlaɪzə] *n.* 使相等的东西, 平衡装置

forgo [fɔ:'gəʊ] *v.* 放弃

ESSAY 110

Thanks to modern technology, people are living a longer life. Is it a good thing or a bad one? State your opinion.

Longevity is sought for by generation upon generation. Many emperors of the past even commissioned alchemists to produce elixir of life. While immortal life may be too much for us to handle properly, a long life is certainly in our best interest.

Advanced age doesn't necessarily mean senility. With more years after the usual span of life, the elderly can embark on whatever their heart desires. They have a lifetime of skills and experiences behind them and can use them to their advantage. In fact, most politicians are over 60. Ronald Reagan was still the President of the United States at 79. Goethe wrote *Foust* when he was 80. With time on their hand, they can pursue their own interest, do something for the community or simply enjoy life. Their senior years may be their happiest period because they have enjoyed the pleasures and sorrows of life and gained whatever insights that could be possible got. Never would they understand and enjoy life better.

Their prolonged life also benefits others. Senior citizens are often far from unproductive. Though usually retired, most of them often do things for the common good. They ask no pay and simply enjoy the sense of being needed and appreciated. With their insights and experiences, they are often good counsels to the young, cautioning them about the shortsightedness of some of their undertakings. Besides, their spending can also stimulate the economy.

It is true that elderly people are physically weaker and more vulnerable to diseases. But what counts is not the body but the mind. Except those with mental disease, the old are generally wiser than the young. Often enough, life begins at 60.

单词注释

- ◆ longevity [lɒn'dʒevəti] *n.* 长命, 长寿
- ◆ emperor [ˈempərə] *n.* 皇帝, 君主
- ◆ commission [kə'mɪʃn] *vt.* 委任, 任命
- ◆ alchemist [ˈælkəmɪst] *n.* 炼金术士
- ◆ elixir [ɪˈlɪksə(r)] *n.* 不老长寿药, 万能药
- ◆ immortal [ɪˈmɔ:təl] *adj.* 不会死亡的
- ◆ senility [səˈnɪləti] *n.* 衰老
- ◆ span [spæn] *n.* 期限, 一段时间
- ◆ embark [ɪmˈbɑ:k] *v.* 采取行动
- ◆ prolong [prəˈlɒŋ] *vt.* 延长, 拖延
- ◆ unproductive [ˌʌnpɹəˈdʌktɪv] *adj.* 无益的; 产量少的
- ◆ counsel [ˈkaʊnsəl] *n.* 忠告, 建议
- ◆ vulnerable [ˈvʌlnərəbl] *adj.* 脆弱的, 易受...伤害的

What are the advantages and disadvantages of getting married with a foreigner?

Cross-border marriages are becoming more common in China now. We often envy those who are married to foreigners. Marrying someone from another country does have its appeals.

Foreigners are often thought to be more romantic. French, for instance, are known for their knack to maintain romance after marriage; while people in China or many other Asian countries take a more practical approach to married life. Besides, cross-border marriages offer one unique insight into another culture and tradition. They allow people to understand each other and help to reduce the prejudice among people from different races. Those marriages also offer good prospects for their children, who will grow up enjoying the best of both worlds. They usually become bilingual, to say the very least. It is also said that mixed-blood often enjoy intellectual gifts.

However, there are downsides as well. Unless one of them is fluent in the other's language, the couple is going to encounter communication barriers, which often tend to be an easier obstacle for them to surmount. What is more insurmountable is their differences of opinions. Raised in different background and culture, their beliefs, ideas and attitudes are apt to differ. For instance, a Chinese mother may think her western husband callous when he cuts off financial support when their kids enter college. It is often hard to really understand, let alone to reach a compromise with each other. And the kids may be torn between these conflicting ideas. They may have a hard time finding their own identity. They seem unable to fit in either culture.

There is no guarantee that a marriage will work, whether it is one with a foreigner or not. But again, like anything else, marriage is not perfect. I won't even suggest that you weight the benefits against drawbacks because a marriage is not a financial deal where sensibility reigns.

单词注释

cross-border [ˈkrɒsbɔːdə] *adj.* 跨国的

appeal [əˈpiːl] *n.* 魅力, 吸引力

romantic [rəʊˈmæntɪk] *adj.* 浪漫的

knack [næk] *n.* 诀窍

approach [əˈprəʊtʃ] *n.* 方法

insight [ˈɪnsaɪt] *n.* 洞察力

reduce [rɪˈdjuːs] *v.* 减少

prejudice [ˈpreɪdʒudɪs] *n.* 偏见

prospect [ˈprɒspekt] *n.* 前景

bilingual [ˌbaɪˈlɪŋɡwəl] *adj.* 能说两种语言的

downside [ˈdaʊnsaɪd] *n.* 弊端

insurmountable [ˌɪnsəˈmaʊntəbl] *adj.* 不可逾越的

callous [ˈkæləs] *adj.* 无情的, 冷淡的

sensibility [ˌsensəˈbɪləti] *n.* 敏感性

reign [reɪn] *vi.* 支配; 盛行; 占优势

Are women suitable to become police officers? Give your reasons and examples.

Female police officers are not uncommon these days in many countries. Feminist movement certainly gives a boost to women's presence in the police force. And their job performances largely justify that presence.

In fact, unlike what is shown on TV, police work depends much more on our brain than on our brawn. It doesn't matter if you cannot run two miles under 15 minutes. If so, most officers after middle age would lose their jobs. What count here are the investigative skills and expertise, which can be cultivated in both sexes. Indeed, in many cases, policewomen outdo their male counterparts because they are more patient and pay more attention to details.

Female officers are also better at making inquiries. People are often taciturn before a burly policeman because they feel insecure and fear they might get into trouble. But the presence of a policewoman often reassures them and puts them at ease. Besides, women are often better listeners than men. They are better at extracting and taking in information from people.

Moreover, their sensitivity allows them to relate to people more easily. Men are inherently less sympathetic than women, especially after they are hardened by years of police work. Women, on the other hand, always show their sympathy toward the victims. They will bring a humanitarian touch to the police work and will get more cooperation from the public as a result.

Men certainly have superior physical strength, which may come handy when chasing the bad guys. But much of the police work is not that drastic. Women are often good at seeking cooperation, which is essential to police work. Therefore, a police force consisting of both male and female officers can best serve the public.

单词注释

- ◆ feminist [ˈfemənɪst] *n.* 女权主义者
- ◆ boost [bu:st] *n.* 推动
- ◆ brawn [brɔ:n] *n.* 体力
- ◆ cultivate [ˈkʌltɪveɪt] *v.* 培养
- ◆ counterpart [ˈkaʊntəpa:t] *n.* 职位相当的人, 对应的人或物
- ◆ inquiry [ɪnˈkwɪəri] *n.* 询问
- ◆ taciturn [ˈtæsɪtʃɪn] *adj.* 沉默寡言的
- ◆ burly [ˈbɜ:li] *adj.* 魁伟的, 结实的
- ◆ extract [ɪkˈstrækt] *v.* 析取, 吸取
- ◆ sensitivity [ˌsensɪˈtɪvəti] *n.* 敏感, 灵敏性
- ◆ inherently [ɪnˈhɪərəntli] *adv.* 天生地
- ◆ sympathetic [ˌsɪmpəˈθetɪk] *adj.* 有同情心的
- ◆ humanitarian [ˌhju:mənɪˈteəriən] *n.* 人道主义者
- ◆ handy [ˈhændi] *adj.* 唾手可得的, 容易取得的
- ◆ drastic [ˈdræstɪk] *adj.* 激烈的
- ◆ consist [kənˈsɪst] *v.* 包含

ESSAY 113

Some people think that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that people in the country have healthy lifestyles. Other people believe that individuals should be free to decide their own lifestyles. Please give your own opinion.

The last two decades witnessed an alarming rise in the proportion of adults with unhealthy lifestyles. Smoking, alcohol misuse and obesity have substantially increased the risk of developing some of the most debilitating chronic diseases. Most people understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle in the prevention of disease and the delay in the deterioration in their health. They also know that lifestyle changes and choices can be critical in determining their health and lifespan. Yet news reports reveal that less than 15% of the population around the globe practices a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, the role of the government in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle is difficult yet inescapable.

We know that unhealthy lifestyles may result from a lack of self-discipline. Nevertheless, many factors, including economic status, education, genetics, social factors, culture and media, contribute to the high number of people who have adopted lifestyles that undermine their health. The answer to the prevalence of unhealthy lifestyles lies beyond the scope of the influence of any individual citizen, any non-government organization or any sector to address on its own. The government of a country can play a stewardship role in public health, providing leadership and drawing in players from across many sectors. The government may also work collectively across departments and with other share holders on legislation, regulation and taxation levers, to support activities that promote healthy eating, physical activity and healthy weights.

Admittedly, governments should never curtail the freedom of the citizens to choose their own lifestyles. But too often people are unaware of the unhealthy habits they have acquired because they hardly stop to observe their own lifestyles. Government efforts are therefore essential to enhance citizens' healthy awareness.

On the basis of the above-mentioned arguments, we can conclude that government is well positioned to help citizens break the habits that undermine their health and thus it plays a key role in the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

单词注释

alarming [ə'la:mɪŋ] *adj.* 使人惊慌的; 令人担忧的

alcohol [ˈælkəhɒl] *n.* 酒精, 酒

misuse [ˌmɪs'ju:s] *n.* 误用, 滥用

obesity [əʊ'bi:səti] *n.* 肥胖

substantially [səb'stænʃəli] *adv.* 相当大地

debilitate [dɪ'bɪlɪteɪt] *vt.* 使衰弱, 使虚弱

chronic [ˈkrɒnɪk] *adj.* 慢性的

deterioration [dɪ'tɪəriə'reɪʃn] *n.* 变坏, 恶化

genetics [dʒə'netɪks] *n.* 遗传特性

prevalence [ˈprevələns] *n.* 流行

stewardship [ˈstju:ədʃɪp] *n.* (服务员的)职位或工作

collectively [kə'lektɪvli] *adv.* 全体地, 共同地

shareholder [ˈʃeəhəʊldə] *n.* 股东; 利益相关者

legislation [ˌledʒɪs'leɪʃn] *n.* 立法

regulation [ˌregju'leɪʃn] *n.* 规则, 规章

admittedly [əd'mɪtɪdli] *adv.* 诚然, 无可否认地

curtail [kɜ:'teɪl] *vt.* 剥夺